



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

Addressed to: Attorney-General

Redirected to: Minister for Corrections

Reference: AMC Safety

Hearing: 22/07/2026

In relation to: Justice Housing Program

Question received: 27/07/2026

Redirection: Minister for Corrections

Answer Due: 13/08/2026

- (1) What is the number and type of properties currently in the: a) justice housing program; b) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Accommodation Program?
- (2) What will these grow to with the funding provided in the 2026-27 budget (including forward estimates)?
- (3) What have been the numbers of properties in these programs for each of the last 4 years?
- (4) What information can you provide regarding the demand for properties in these programs (eg. a waiting list or other expressions of demand).

Ms Caitlin Tough MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) a) The Justice Housing Program (JHP) has ten three-bedroom properties, with a total capacity for 30 occupants. The JHP service provider works with residents to help them source and transition into other long-term accommodation through the provision of case management support. This support supplements other services with which an individual may be engaged, such as outreach or counselling services.

b) The Transitional Accommodation Program (TAP) includes two properties, with a maximum capacity of four occupants. The TAP operates in collaboration with Yeddung Mura and is only available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men exiting custody.

(2) The funding provided in the 2026/2027 budget supports a continuation of the program rather than an expansion.

(3) As per the answer to Question (1)

(4) As at 31 July, there was one vacant bed in the JHP program (and none in the TAP program). On that date, the *suitability* list included 64 JHP applicants who met eligibility criteria and had been found suitable through the application process; however, did not have a confirmed release date. TAP had five applicants in the same position. Not having a confirmed release date can be due to awaiting a listing for a bail application, where a bail application is listed for a date within approximately two weeks, or awaiting decision for release on a parole order.

Rooms are allocated and held for people with an imminent or a possible release date within approximately the next two-week period. Their entry to the program requires a bail decision from the court or release decision from the Sentence Administration Board – and whilst accommodation may be a factor in their current custody circumstance, it should not be assumed that they would be released but for the fact they do not have suitable accommodation.

Should a person be found suitable for the program and **not be** released within the two-week average, the room will be reallocated to the next suitable applicant. The reason ACTCS assesses a high number of people is to minimise any vacancy time within the program and to ensure those who may have a contributing factor of homelessness to their custody order are able to address this by demonstrating suitability for JHP or TAP at the time of their imminent court/SAB appearance, potentially increasing their chance of release (noting other risk factors may contribute to any court/SAB decision).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:



By the Minister for Corrections, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Date:

13/8/26