



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MRS KICKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Justice Health

Ref: Budget Statement C, Output 1.2: Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Service

In relation to: provision of mental health care at the AMC and psychologist waiting times

- 1) How many detainees are currently receiving Step 1 levels of mental health care according to the 'Stepped Care Approach'?
  - a. How many are receiving Step 2 levels of mental health care?
  - b. How many are receiving Step 3 levels of mental health care?
  - c. How many are receiving Step 4 levels of mental health care?
  - d. How many are receiving Step 5 levels of mental health care?
- 2) How many detainees are on the waiting list to see a psychologist?
  - a. What is the longest amount of time someone who is currently on the waiting list has been waiting?
- 3) How many FTE positions are funded for the custodial mental health team?
- 4) How many of these roles are currently filled?

MS DAVIDSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- 1) Input from ACTCS regarding 1, 1a,
  - b. Custodial Health Primary Health and Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services provide primary mental health care including General Practitioner (GP) services for mild to moderate mental illness (Level 3) with tertiary access to psychiatric support; all detainees can access a GP. As detainees can access a GP for various reasons, a manual audit of all detainee's clinical records for a minimum of last six months would need to be undertaken to provide the detail requested, which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
  - c. Custodial Mental Health provides acute and specialist mental health care and high intensity services including psychiatric care and clinical management in cases of active or serious mental illness, and acute crisis mental health care (Level 4 - 5).

As of 7 September 2022, Custodial Mental Health provided psychiatric clinical management services (Level 4-5) to 36 detainees.
  - d. As of 7 September 2022, Custodial Mental Health had 20 detainees registered with the Assertive Response Team (ART) for acute mental health crisis care.
- 2) Custodial Mental Health psychologists provide clinical management and/or targeted psychological interventions to detainees accessing psychiatric clinical management services and those referred to the Assertive Response Team due to immediate concerns regarding suicide or

self-harm. There is not currently a waitlist for detainees registered with Custodial Mental Health to access a psychologist.

- a. Detainees identified by the Custodial Mental Health MDT as requiring psychological intervention would typically be seen by a psychologist within 7-14 days.
- 3) Custodial Mental Health staffing is subsumed within the broader Forensic Mental Health Services (FMHS). Currently, the staffing allocation from FMHS for Custodial Mental Health is 14FTE, with an additional 1.6FTE psychiatry.
- 4) Current staffing for Custodial Mental Health is 12.5FTE with 1.6FTE psychiatry.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 9 September 2022

By the Minister for Justice Health, Emma Davidson MLA