



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Corrections

Reference: JACS Directorate

Hearing Date: 28/07/2026

In relation to: Corrections and Programs for detainees

Hearing: 28 July 2026

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Transcript provided: 30/07/2026

Answer Due: 06/08/2026

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: Okay. Do you have a schedule of what is offered at the AMC? Do you publish that anywhere, of classes that are offered, when they are offered, in the last—

Ms Thompson: I do, yes.

Dr Paterson: We can provide a list on notice to the committee of all the programs that are offered.

THE CHAIR: Committee. In the last 12 months, how frequent has, or in the last two years, how frequent, daily, weekly, what is the take-up rates and things like that.

Ms Thompson: Completion rates, yes. We can take that on notice.

THE CHAIR: One suggestion—

MR EMERSON: Can I add to that? Can I add to that with a few?

THE CHAIR: Sure.

MR EMERSON: Would you mind, as part of that, also providing any information about cancellations of programs, education, or recreational activities?

Ms Thompson: Yes. We collect that too.

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Ms Close: Yes, we can take that on notice.

Ms Thompson: On notice, yes.

MR EMERSON: Can you provide that and how many sessions have been cancelled, what proportion were counselled as opposed to went ahead across the different programs? That would be great. Thank you.

Ms Close: Yes, we can do that.

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

The following data addresses the information as requested:

- Table 1: Programs and services available to detainees in 2025-26
- Table 2: Criminogenic programs delivered in 2025/26
- Table 3: Total number of criminogenic program sessions cancelled in FY 2025/26 shown by cancellation reason
- Table 4: Total number of attendances for SMART Recovery in 2025/26 broken down by gender and Indigenous status
- Table 5: SMART Recovery – Inside Out program sessions cancelled FY 2025/26
- Table 6: Total number of people that participated in the Solaris Program with completion status for the 2025/26 financial year
- Table 7: Courses available to detainees in 2025-26
- Table 8: Number of detainees enrolled in Bringing Up Great Kids (BUGK) in 2025/26 shown by gender and indigenous status
- Table 9: Applications for the Transitional Release Program (TRP) in 2025-26 with status as of 30 June 2026, shown by gender and Indigenous status
- Table 10: Number of TRP participants by type of work in the reporting year
- Table 11: Number of individual program and service sessions provided to women detainees in 2025–26, by scheduled, delivered and cancelled sessions
- Table 12: Women participant completion of AMC programs for FY 25/26
- Table 13: Reasons Women participants did not complete the program
- Table 14: Number of referrals to SIU teams shown by the service referred to broken down by female non- Indigenous and Indigenous status.

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Programs and services available to detainees in 2025-26:

Table 1: Programs and services available to detainees in 2025-26

Program available to:	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Sentenced	Remanded
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) <i>Aims to help participants recover from alcoholism, following a 12-step program model of personal recovery.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Art of Living <i>Breathwork and mindful movement sessions promoting wellbeing and self-regulation</i>			X	X	X	X
Behind the Wheel <i>Aimed at promoting positive driving behaviours and road safety.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bringing Up Great Kids (BUGK) <i>Provides parents with the tools to connect with their children and build positive, healthy relationships.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
BreastScreen Australia <i>Promotes awareness and preventative health screening</i>			X	X	X	X
Culturally and linguistically Diverse (CALD) <i>Employment program, teaching CALD women how to search and apply for employment.</i>	X		X		X	X
Care Financial <i>Education sessions about budgeting, goal setting, dealing with debt and preparing for release. The program was followed by individual financial counselling sessions.</i>			X	X	X	X

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Program available to:	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Sentenced	Remanded
Cultural Art Program <i>Provides access to art room for detainees to engage in drawing, painting, etching and burning.</i>		X		X	X	X
Cultural Yarning Circle <i>Runs in collaboration with Yeddung Mura Good Pathways and Aboriginal Corporation.</i>		X		X	X	X
The Elder and Community Leader Visitation Program <i>Elders and Community Leaders attend the AMC to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, to connect them to culture and community.</i>		X		X	X	X
Intensive Case Management (iCan) Program <i>Program designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees and led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander case managers at Yeddung Mura to provide an assertive strategy towards intensive case management.</i>		X		X	X	X
Real Understanding of Self Help (RUSH) <i>A structured intervention that uses Dialectical Behaviour Therapy to support detainees with a history of suicidal and self-harming behaviour. The program consists of 20 sessions run once per week for both women and men. It is delivered by a psychologist and allied social health professionals both from Winnunga Nimmityjah.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
EQUIPS Addiction <i>This program is designed to address the addictive behaviour of eligible offenders and to provide participants</i>	X	X	X	X	X	

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Program available to:	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Sentenced	Remanded
<i>with a pathway to support services for addictive behaviours.</i>						
EQUIPS Aggression <i>This program is designed to increase participants' ability to manage difficult life events and minimise aggressive behaviour.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
EQUIPS Domestic and Family Violence <i>This program is based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy principles and strategies for behaviour change.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
EQUIPS Foundation <i>This is a general therapeutic program.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
Health Sessions (including sexual health) <i>Health information session, delivered by ACT Health and Canberra Sexual Health Centre</i>			X	X	X	X
Hepatitis ACT – Drop-in Clinic <i>Hepatitis testing, education and information sessions</i>			X	X	X	X
Street Law <i>Legal literacy sessions and drop-in clinic provided by Canberra Community Law</i>			X	X	X	X
New pathways (Maintenance) <i>Sex offender maintenance program, designed around exercises and activities focused on mitigating criminogenic needs in order to prevent relapse into sexual offending.</i>	X	X			X	
Nutrition Australia <i>Development of recipes and cooking demonstrations that</i>			X	X	X	X

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Program available to:	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Sentenced	Remanded
<i>include ingredients available on the AMC Cottage Buy-up list.</i>						
Office for Women <i>Information sessions about accessing Return-to-Work grant upon release into the community.</i>			X	X	X	X
Peer Mentor <i>Peer mentors are trained to support and motivate fellow detainees who are working towards common goals of recovery and rehabilitation.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prisoners Aid – Drop in clinic <i>To provide access and support, and referral follow-ups to detainees.</i>			X	X	X	X
Push Comes to Shove <i>Fitness and Yoga sessions to promote positive self-esteem building activities and healthy lifestyle.</i>			X	X	X	X
Resilient You <i>Equipping detainees with tools and strategies to increase resilience.</i>			X	X	X	X
Road Ready <i>An educational safe driving program.</i>			X	X	X	X
Sex Offender Program – Preparatory	X	X			X	
Sex Offender Program – Moderate	X	X			X	
Sex Offender Program – High Intensity	X	X			X	
Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT <i>Series of 5 information sessions about sexual and reproductive health.</i>			X	X	X	X

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Program available to:	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Sentenced	Remanded
Sexual Violence Legal Service <i>Fortnightly visits providing legal information and advice to women in custody</i>			X	X	X	X
Safety, Healthy and Affirming Relationships and Experiences (SHARE) - Pilot program	X	X	X	X	X	X
SMART Recovery Inside Out <i>A voluntary support group, specifically designed to support people in custody to manage problematic behaviours, including but not limited to alcohol and drug use.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
SOLARIS Therapeutic Community <i>A closed entry residential program for male detainees with alcohol and other drug dependency issues.</i>	X	X			X	X
The Shark Cage <i>Explores forms of abuse experienced by women and the relationship between abuse and human rights violations.</i>			X	X	X	X
Toora – Coming Home <i>Supporting women in and exiting the AMC with support and counselling.</i>			X	X	X	X
Toora – Counselling <i>Specialist counselling for women with issues such as trauma, domestic and family violence and mental health</i>			X	X	X	X
Women in Prison Legal Empowerment Session (WIPLES) <i>Canberra Community Law deliver information sessions and legal clinics to women at the AMC.</i>			X	X	X	X

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Program available to:	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male	Non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Female	Sentenced	Remanded
Women's Justice Network <i>Post-custody mentoring Pilot program, providing women nearing release with tailored guidance and support during and after their custody.</i>			X	X	X	X
Work Ready <i>A self-paced program that covers topics such as interview skills, professionalism in the workplace, communications skills and goal setting. This is available to detainees within the TRP.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	


CRIMINOGENIC PROGRAMS
Table 2: Criminogenic programs delivered in 2025/26

Program	Times held	People completed	People exited	Total enrolled
EQUIPS Addiction	7	55	17	72
EQUIPS Aggression	3	23	7	30
EQUIPS Domestic and Family Violence	5	41	3	44
EQUIPS Foundation	2	15	3	18
Sex Offender Program – Preparatory	1	6	1	7
Sex Offender Program – Moderate	1	7	0	7
Behind the Wheel	3	21	3	24
Total held	22	168	40	208

Table 3: Total number of criminogenic program sessions cancelled in FY 2025/26 shown by cancellation reason:

Cancelled Reason	Number
Movement Restricted/Lockdown	8
Facilitator in Training	6
Facilitator Short staffing	6
Total Sessions cancelled	20

A further three programs commenced in 2025-26 and are scheduled to conclude in 2026-27. As these programs had not concluded by 30 June 2026, their outcomes are not included in the above figures.

Table 4: Total number of attendances for SMART Recovery in 2025/26 broken down by gender and Indigenous status

Annual attendance	Male Non-Indigenous	Male Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Transgender – Non Indigenous	Female Non-Indigenous	Female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Total
Total	207	80	3	126	68	484

Table 5: SMART Recovery – Inside Out program sessions cancelled FY 2025/26

Cancelled Reason	Number
Movement Restricted/Lockdown	7
Facilitator in Training	4
Facilitator Short staffing	32
Insufficient participant numbers	1
Cultural event (i.e. funeral)	1
Total Sessions cancelled	45

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Table 6: Total number of people who participated in the Solaris Program with completion status for the 2025/26 financial year

2025-26	Male Non-Indigenous	Male Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Total
Graduated	18	8	26
Released	9	4	13
Exited – Breach of Rules	15	11	26
Exited – Safety	0	1	1
Exited - Voluntary	2	3	5
Exited – Lack of engagement	1	0	1
Ongoing	13	3	16
Total	58	30	88

In December 2025, Solaris transitioned from a closed to a rolling program, providing greater flexibility for participant entry and progression while supporting more efficient use of available beds within the AMC. A closed program is where participants must commence and end together. A rolling program allows participants to enter at any time, depending on their eligibility.

EDUCATION:

Table 7: Education Courses available to detainees in 2025-26

Course Name	Enrolled	Completed	No. Courses/Sessions Delivered	Comments
Apply Infection Prevention and Control Procedures	31	31	10 courses	CAT funding
Carpet and Hard Floor Cleaning	23	22	4 courses	
Certificate II Construction	90	21	3 courses	
Certificate III Business	15	4	1 course	
Course in Crystalline Silica Exposure Prevention	32	30	3 courses	
Course in Asbestos Awareness	29	28	2 courses	
Prepare and Serve Espresso Coffee	5	4	2 courses	
Prepare to Work Safely in the Construction Industry (White Card)	34	18	6 courses	
Apply WHS Policies and Procedures	19	15	2 courses	

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Course Name	Enrolled	Completed	No. Courses/Sessions Delivered	Comments
Working Safely from Heights	67	26	3 courses	
Provide First Aid	13	13	3 courses	
Provide Responsible Service of Alcohol	33	32	7 courses	
Provide Responsible Conduct of Gambling	8	8	5 courses	
Participate in Safe Food Handling	20	20	2 courses	
Participate in Safe Work Practices	30	29	8 courses	
Use Hygienic Practices for Food Safety	5	5	1 course	
Traffic Control	26	26	3 courses	CAT funding
Language Literacy Numeracy Assessments	74	74	6 courses	CAT funding
Barbering and Beauty Course	19	19	3 courses	CAT funding
TOTAL	573	425	74	

Participant numbers reflect detainees enrolled at the commencement of each course, with non-completion typically resulting from release from custody, withdrawal or classification changes that prevented course completion.

ACT Corrective Services also continued to support tertiary education through distance learning, with up to eight detainees enrolled in studies across two Australian universities during 2025-26.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

One Family Day was held during the April school holidays, providing children and young people with an opportunity to spend extended, quality time with their parent in custody. Families participated in a range of activities, including art and craft, cupcake decorating, face painting, and afternoon tea, creating meaningful opportunities to strengthen family connections.

Weekly playgroups provided ongoing opportunities for fathers to maintain and strengthen relationships with their children. The Bringing Up Great Kids parenting program was delivered three times across the year, with participation and completion rates varied across cohorts, with a total of 36 participants commencing the program and 14 successfully completing it.

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Table 8: Number of detainees enrolled in Bringing Up Great Kids (BUGK) in 2025/26 shown by gender and indigenous status

2025/26	Male non-indigenous	Male Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Female non-indigenous	Female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Enrolled	13	13	5	5
Completed	6	4	<5	<5

CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In 2026-27, ongoing funding has been provided for the Intensive Case Management (iCAN) Program, allowing it to transition from a pilot to a permanent service that further support efforts to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system. Early outcomes from the iCAN program are encouraging. Among 11 participants who returned to custody after release from the AMC, four (36%) spent longer in the community before re-entering custody than their historical average. Two participants who experienced a second return to custody also spent longer in the community than during previous release periods. Across 13 recorded returns to custody, 8 instances (62%) demonstrated reduced offence severity or offending behaviour compared to previous custody episodes. These results suggest the program is contributing to improved reintegration outcomes and reduced offending among a substantial proportion of participants.

Various culturally responsive programs continued to be delivered to support detainee rehabilitation, community connection and employment readiness. Initiatives included a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women's Employment Program, which helped participants develop skills to search for and apply for employment; a Cultural Art Program that provided opportunities for creative expression through various art forms; and a Cultural Yarning Circle delivered in partnership with Yedding Mura Good Pathways Aboriginal Corporation. The Elder and Community Leader Visitation Program also strengthened cultural connection by facilitating regular engagement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees and Elders and community leaders.

ACTCS Cultural Services also developed and launched an online Cultural Art Catalogue, creating opportunities for detainees to showcase and sell artwork produced through the AMC's cultural art program. The initiative supports rehabilitation, cultural connection, skill development and income generation, with up to 45 detainees participating each term.

TRANSITIONAL RELEASE PROGRAM (TRP) 2025-26

The Transitional Release Program (TRP) supported 22 detainees during 2025-26, comprising 21 men (including four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants) and one non-Indigenous woman.

As at 30 June 2026, 11 detainees remained active in the program, including 10 men (three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants) and one non-Indigenous woman.

Table 9: Applications for the Transitional Release Program (TRP) in 2025-26 with status as of 30 June 2026, shown by gender and Indigenous status

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TRC Application Outcomes	Male Non-Indigenous	Male First Nations	Female Non-Indigenous	Female First Nations	Total
Approved	4	2	0	0	6
Not approved	4	3	0	0	7
Total finalised applications	8	5	0	0	13
In progress	4	0	0	0	4

Table 10: Number of TRP participants by type of work in the reporting year

TRP Participants	July 25	Aug 25	Sept 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	March 26	April 26	May 26	June 26
Employed in the community	4	4	5	5	6	9	10	9	8	7	7	7
Employed within the AMC	8	6	8	9	9	7	5	5	5	3	2	2
Other commitments (i.e. Studying full time)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Total number of TRP participants	12	10	13	14	15	16	15	14	13	12	11	11

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Female detainees make up a relatively small cohort at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), and while there can be challenges providing services for small cohorts, the ACT Government is committed to ensuring they have equal access to the various programs and opportunities available.

While most educational courses are available to women detainees, it is acknowledged that access to some of these educational opportunities may be impacted by their smaller cohort numbers, the short average duration of stay for female detainees and the high proportion of remanded female detainees.

In addition to participation already highlighted above (SMART Recovery, Family programs and TRP), a range of recreational, cultural and personal development activities were also delivered throughout the year to women. In addition to those identified in the tables below, the following activities were also available:

- Healing from Within Program: Delivered by the Women's Justice Network, focusing on healing, personal growth and wellness.
- Push Comes to Shove Fitness and Yoga: Fitness and yoga sessions promoting healthy lifestyles, wellbeing and positive self-esteem.

Table 11: Number of individual program and service sessions provided to women detainees in 2025–26, by delivered, cancelled and total planned sessions

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Programs and activities	Sessions Delivered	Sessions Cancelled	Total Planned
Alcoholics Anonymous	45	0	45
ALO Art program	12	5	17
Art Mural	4	2	6
Art of Living	11	4	15
Breasts screen Aus	1	0	1
Bringing Up Great Kids	7	0	7
Canberra Community Law/Street Law	5	0	5
Care Financial – planned individual sessions	8	0	8
Care Financial Drop in	3	3	6
Christian Chapel	12	0	12
Christmas activities	9	1	10
Community Meetings	83	8	91
First Nation Chapel	15	3	18
Gardening Working Bee	1	0	1
Hairdressing service	40	6	46
Hepatitis ACT Testing	2	0	2
Justice Health sessions	4	0	4
Music Group	47	1	48
Office for Women Return to Work	4	2	6
Prisoners Aid (Drop in)	9	3	12
Prisoners Aid	40	9	49
Reintegration Drop-Ins	22	8	30
Roundabout Canberra Crochet project	3	3	6
RUSH	38	3	41
Sexual Violence Legal Service	17	8	25
SHARE program	9	3	12
Shark Cage	9	0	9
Sisters Inside	1	0	1
SMART	35	7	42
TOORA Coming Home	47	4	51
TOORA counselling	41	4	45
Womens' Justice Network (mentoring)	26	0	26
TOTAL	610	87	697

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Table 12: Women participant completion of AMC programs for FY 25/26

Program	Completed	Exited	Total
Behind the Wheel W1 2025	7	0	7
EQUIPS Addiction W1 2025	4	3	7

Table 13: Reasons Women participants did not complete the program

Program	Exited - Behaviour	Exited – non-attendance	Exited - Released	Other – Program cancellation	Total
Behind the Wheel W1 2025					0
EQUIPS Addiction W1 2025		2	1		3

Table 14: Number of referrals to the Supports and Interventions Unit teams shown by the service referred to broken down by female non- Indigenous and Indigenous status.

Referral for	Female non-indigenous	Female First Nations	Total
1:1 counselling	9	3	12
Welfare reviews	37	19	56
Adjustment to custody	4	1	5
Complex and Intensive Intervention supports	1	4	5
Disability Liaison Officer - AMC	6	6	12
NDIS support from the Disability and Complex Care team	4	3	7
Total referrals received	61	36	97

Detainees continued to have access to a range of wellbeing, cultural and recreational activities that supported personal development, social connection and positive engagement while in custody. These included spiritual and pastoral care services across a range of faiths and cultural groups, as well as structured activities for detainees in the Accommodation Crisis Unit (ACU), including art, mindfulness, library access, board games, horticulture, cooking, basic life skills development and physical exercise. ACT Corrective Services does not routinely record participation data for these non-program and recreational activities. As a result, participant numbers for 2025-26 cannot be accurately calculated without a manual review of a large volume of records, which would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

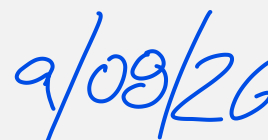
Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



By the Minister for Corrections, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Date:



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