



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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### 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

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MRS KICKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Justice Health

Ref: Justice Health Hearing, Statement by the Executive Director of Mental Health, Justice Health, Alcohol and Drug Services at Canberra Health services

In relation to: resourcing from Justice Health to support the AMC Smoke Free Project

1. During the Justice Health hearing, the executive director of Mental Health, Justice Health, Alcohol and Drug Services at Canberra Health services, indicated that Justice Health was only supplying a single nurse to assist with smoking cessation. What will be the duties of this nurse?
  - a. Will Justice Health be supplying any additional resources such as lozenges, addiction counsellors or nicotine patches?

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

- 1) A Working Group meeting including stakeholders for Canberra Health Services and ACT Corrective Services has been scheduled for 8 September 2022 to discuss and confirm the roles and responsibilities of ACTCS and Justice Health Services (JHS), including the role of the JHS nurse. However, it is expected that the JHS nurse will facilitate the following:
  - Provide 'nursing intervention' such as, but not limited to, the provision of advice, counselling, and/or strategies to help people quit smoking;
  - Provide health information regarding the negative health effects of smoking including smoking related causes of death, disease, and disability;
  - Discuss the health and psychosocial benefits of quitting;
  - Support with the management of symptoms of nicotine withdrawal; and
  - Provide Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT).
- a. There is an allocated budget for counselling, psychology, and nursing support. These additional resources will be discussed and confirmed at the Working Group meeting scheduled for 8 September 2022.

It is important to acknowledge that generally there is little difference between the effectiveness of each type of NRT product in helping people quit smoking. For example, the lozenge is just as effective as the patch, while the gum is just as effective as the inhaler (inhalator) at increasing quitting chances. However, some NRT products may alleviate cravings quicker. In line with best practice, a combination of long-acting and short-acting NRT options will be made available to detainees.

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