



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Peter Muir, Chair of the Official Visitors Board, ACT Official Visitors

In relation to: Official Visitors Board and rehabilitation services in AMC

Hearing: 30 July 2025

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Transcript provided: 1 August 2025

Answer Due: 8 August 2025

Peter Muir took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Please note that as witnesses, you are protected by parliamentary privilege and bound by its obligations. You must tell the truth. Giving false or misleading evidence will be treated as a serious matter and may be considered contempt of the Assembly.

As we are not inviting opening statements, we will proceed to questions. Now, in your 2023-24 annual report, you noted the high rate of recidivism in the ACT and commented that the Alexander Maconochie Centre has insufficient education and employment programs and that there is also limited transitional release support. May I ask, have you matched the type and level of rehabilitation services in the AMC now and identified the most important areas where increased or improved services could be provided?

Mr Muir: We will take that question on notice.

Tristan Ray: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

It is outside Official Visitors (OVs) role to map services.

Based on observations and feedback from detainees and staff, improvements could include:

- provision of a wider range of education and work programs catering to a range of interests
- a greater range of programs and options for remanded detainees
- better coordination so that court ordered programs mandated as a part of sentencing are available to detainees at AMC in a reasonable timeframe

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- better resourcing of the education team to allow greater attention and support for detainees completing distance education
- adequate staffing to allow programs and activities to remain open rather than closing due to staff shortages
- better resourced and more flexible community work placement support through the transitional release phase allowing detainees to source work they can continue after leaving AMC.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:



Date: 7 August 2025

By the Chair, Official Visitors Board, Peter Muir