



D18/631603

23 August 2018

The Hon Bruce Notley-Smith MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament of New South Wales
Parliament House
Macquarie House
Sydney NSW 2000

Email: pac@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Notley-Smith

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 2018 in which you seek further details in relation to two specific recommendations from the Auditor-General's performance audit report – *Therapeutic programs in prison*.

Please see below additional information on audit recommendations 1 and 4.

Recommendation 1

- 1. The response to the audit noted that Corrective Services NSW uses individual and correctional centre level assessments to inform system-wide analysis to 'plan and schedule program and service delivery'.**
 - Can you clarify how individual and correctional centre assessments assist CSNSW in addressing any system-wide gaps regarding the delivery of therapeutic programs? For example, how would this data inform systematic planning and provision of programs for sex offenders and/or violent offenders?**

Response:

CSNSW utilises data to prioritise access to programs for those offenders that are the highest risk and pose the greatest risk to the community; and by sentence length, those offenders that are about to be released are targeted prior to others serving longer sentences.

CSNSW applies multiple treatments to support offenders. This includes case management, other forms of intervention, release planning, education and vocational training, as well as supervision on release. These all contribute to address attitudes that may support crime, and promote desistance.

It is the combination of multiple strategies that best reduces risk, not one type of group-based program.

Within this framework CSNSW uses assessments of risk of re-offending, as well as needs, to identify the services and programs that individual offenders should participate in.

More specifically all individual and correctional centre assessments are entered into OIMS. Once in OIMS, CSNSW uses this information to identify inmates who might be eligible for services and programs and the time period within which this is required. Specific to the example used, CSNSW can review how many sex offenders there are within correctional centres, what their level of assessed risk of reoffending is, and consequently what treatment program they are best suited for (eg high intensity CUBIT or moderate intensity CORE). Once CSNSW know how many sex offenders require particular treatments, it can then review this information against release dates.

CSNSW also uses data to plan future needs to calculate how many sex offenders will require treatment at a given point of time in the future and can then use this information to plan its resources and also ensure that each sex offender (who might not be treated for a number of years) instead is able to focus on all other areas of their case plan (eg mental illness, literacy/numeracy, vocational skills, etc).

The State funded reducing reoffending initiative of expanding programs through external facilitators has seen an increase of around 25% of additional programs being delivered in the community. The NEXUS reintegration service is also ensuring that all inmates receive information and support to address release planning needs.

2. The response to the audit noted that the enhancement to the EQUIPS Custodial Management Master Summary Support was subject to a proof of concept paper, due at the end of the financial year. The response also noted that a full completion date was unknown.

- **What is the estimated completion date of the proof of concept paper?**
- **What is the estimated approval date of the proof of concept paper?**
- **Does CSNSW have an update regarding an estimated completion date of the changes set out in the paper, if approved?**
- **Does CSNW have an update regarding the implementation costs of the paper?**

Response:

The proof of concept paper has been completed and will be tabled at the next Strategies to Reduce Reoffending (SRR) Steering Committee on 23 August 2018 for discussion and direction.

The proof of concept paper discusses implications and recommendations for continued best practice of the enhanced Custodial Case Management.

Further work on costs will be considered if recommendations receive approval.

These implications and recommendations will be discussed at the SRR Steering Committee and if accepted, appropriate actions plans will be developed.

Recommendation 4

- 1. The response to the audit noted that CSNSW is working with BOCSAR to undertake evaluations regarding reducing reoffending, and that an evaluation plan was before the Minister for Corrections.**
 - **What has been the progress of that evaluation plan?**
 - **Will CSNSW publicly report on this evaluation plan?**

Response:

Justice NSW has produced a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Strategies to Reduce Reoffending (Attachment 1). This Framework articulates the evaluation strategy for the relevant CSNSW programs including, EQUIPS, the High Intensity Program Units and the Custodial Case Management. The evaluation strategy is comprehensive and includes process, impact and economic evaluation.

CSNSW has commissioned a large number of program evaluations that will be undertaken by a range of evaluators, including the Corrections Research, Evaluation and Statistics (CRES) unit within CSNSW, BOCSAR and tertiary institutions (Attachment 2).

If you require any further information in relation to this matter please contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



PETER SEVERIN
COMMISSIONER

cc: Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood, Secretary, Department of Justice