

Questions on notice

At p. 10: “Which is the correctional facility with the highest rate [of assaults]?”

CSNSW uses the counting rules and methods developed for the Commonwealth Productivity Commission’s Report on Government Services (ROGS) which includes counts of victims of any form of physical violence committed by inmates and excludes incidents where no physical injury occurred. The rate is calculated on the basis of assaults per 100 inmates. Rates are further separated into assaults on inmates versus assault on staff, as well as by correctional centre security levels. These calculations do not capture the severity of the assault or injuries, nor do they include any incident that does not become known to staff.

On the basis of these counting rules, CSNSW advises that in 2017-18 Wellington Correctional Centre had the greatest number of assaults on inmates (per 100 inmates of NSW facilities) with the security classification of an ‘open’ centre, while Tamworth had the greatest number among the ‘secure’ facilities. Broken Hill had the greatest number of assaults on staff per 100 inmates for open facilities, while the High Risk Management Centre had the highest rate of assaults on staff for secure facilities.

At p. 10: “Please provide on notice any more information you have about what you are doing with regards to monitoring prison cell size”.

The NSW Inspector of Custodial Services Inspection Standards for adult custodial services in NSW provide at 19.4 and 19.5 that there are no clear international standards on cell size. 9m² has been considered a satisfactory size for an individual cell and is now a de facto international norm. In line with the Inspection Standards, ICS may consider cell sizes when conducting centre inspections. Cell sizes were previously considered as part of the inspection *Full House: The growth of the inmate population in NSW*.¹ Whether or not space is adequate depends upon if it is being shared, how many hours a day inmates are locked inside, whether they have in-cell access to shower and toilet and ambient temperatures.²

¹ Inspector of Custodial Services, *Full House: The growth of the inmate population in NSW*, April 2015, p. 29-30

² Inspector of Custodial Services, *Inspection standards: For adult custodial services in New South Wales*, August 2014, p. 26, section 19.5