

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020

Questions taken on notice

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

MINISTER FOR COUNTER TERRORISM AND CORRECTIONS

Hearing: Monday 9 September 2019

Answers due by: Thursday 3 October 2019

ANSWERS

Question 1 (page 3)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **What percentage of offenders are subject to electronic monitoring as part of ICO regimes?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I would have to take the percentage on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

As at 9 September 2019, 3.7% of offenders on ICOs were subject to electronic monitoring.

Question 2 (page 4)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Did he complete his court-ordered psychiatric treatment and court-ordered drug and alcohol assessment as per the terms of the ICO?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

This matter is subject on an internal review and further details are not available at this time.

Question 3 (page 5)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I am interested also not only in the public concerns but also in the family concerns. This person has a family with three children and he was given an ICO knowing that he is affected by drugs, knowing his personality with his assessments and so forth. **What other orders were given to ensure that his family—the children—are protected?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I would have to seek advice on that. Commissioner?

Commissioner SEVERIN: Again, I cannot refer to—I would have to take the detail on notice in terms of his interaction with family.

Answer

I am advised:

This matter is subject on an internal review and further details are not available at this time.

Question 4 (page 6)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Just to clarify, **did Mr Rahman complete his court-ordered psychiatric treatment and court-ordered drug and alcohol assessment as per the terms of his ICO? Did that occur?** It would be good to get an answer to that this afternoon if we could.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I think the commissioner has made it quite clear that we will take that on notice and provide the information to the committee.

Answer

I am advised:

This matter is subject on an internal review and further details are not available at this time.

Question 5 (page 6)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Did Mr Rahman pass—for want of a better word—all of the random drug and alcohol testing that he was subject to?**

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Point of order—

Commissioner SEVERIN: Again, I need to take the detail of that on notice.

The CHAIR: Excuse me, Mr Severin. A point of order has been taken.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: The specifics of the case have been taken on notice.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I want to be clear with the witness about the type of information I would like this afternoon. That is the type of information I would like this afternoon.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Is there a timeline now? Does it have to be this afternoon?

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: It would be good to get some answers to this as soon as possible.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I am very happy to provide information to the committee in a timely manner where it is appropriate. We will get onto that for you today.

The CHAIR: If possible, you can supply the information after lunch perhaps.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That would be preferable.

The CHAIR: It is really up to you.

Answer

I am advised:

This matter is subject on an internal review and further details are not available at this time.

Question 6 (page 7)

The CHAIR: I will just stop you there for a second. **Minister, can you shed any light on why those particular geographic restrictions and not others were imposed? Why would you control him in eight local council areas but not the rest?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: We have spoken with the victims and with people who have serious issues with the release of this individual. They have formed part of the conditions of his parole. I will ask the commissioner why geographic restrictions would be imposed from a technical or operational point of view.

Commissioner SEVERIN: Without referring to this particular case where I do not know the exact details, the general restrictions are applicable where either the parole authority gets submissions from registered victims who request such restrictions because they do not want the perpetrator to come anywhere near the place where they live. Generally, it also involves the places where the offences were committed—the local government areas—and any other area that is of any concern to the parole authority as a result of reports that would have been made by Community Services NSW or any other party to proceedings. Certainly, we can ascertain the exact reason from the details of the order that the parole authority made and provide that on notice.

The CHAIR: It would be good if you could take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

The geographic restrictions were placed on Rees by the State Parole Authority (SPA). SPA took into consideration a number of factors including submissions by registered victims.

Question 7 (page 7)

The CHAIR: **How did Damien Peters get his off and get away?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I would need to get the details of the particular case. I have not got it at the front of my head.

The CHAIR: Can you take that on notice, please?

Answer

I am advised:

Police at the time indicated that the offender used some form of cutting tool to work through the device's strap and remove it.

Question 8 (page 9)

The CHAIR: That raises the interesting question, **Minister, how much does it cost to monitor and control him in the community as opposed to what it will cost the taxpayer**

to keep him in custody? I am not expecting you to answer that off the top of your head—maybe Commissioner Severin has a feel for it?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: From memory, it is about \$41 per day to monitor someone electronically.

The CHAIR: Obviously from what you are saying, there is a lot more to it than just electronic bracelets on his ankle?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Yes, very much so.

Commissioner SEVERIN: For the supervision component, I would have to take the details of the exact costs of that on notice given the complexity of some of his conditions, but again what is also very important to us is not only to manage him with those conditions but also to ensure that the victims regain some confidence or gain some confidence in the way this person is being managed in the community.

Answer

I am advised:

An offender subject to an Extended Supervision Order incurs higher costs than most offenders subject to community-based supervision. It is estimated Community Corrections supervision costs for an offender such as Guider would be approximately \$150 per day. In addition, Electronic Monitoring costs are \$41 per day.

The average cost of keeping a prisoner in gaol is \$180 to \$190 per day.

Question 9 (page 9)

The CHAIR: **Minister, is it true that there are at least eight murderers living in our community right now and the Government knows exactly where they are?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I would have to take that on notice. Commissioner?

Commissioner SEVERIN: I do not have the exact number. There are certainly some persons in the community on parole who have been convicted of murder.

The CHAIR: Yes, those are the ones I am talking about.

Commissioner SEVERIN: The exact number I would have to take on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

At 18 September 2019 there were a total of 72 offenders under parole orders who had been convicted of murder.

Question 10 (page 9)

The CHAIR: **And is it true that the number of murderers living in our community has been increasing in the past four years?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Again, I would have to take that on notice, so the comparison between four years ago and today.

Answer

I am advised:

The number of parolees convicted of murder living in the community as at 30 June each year has increased from 67 in 2015 to 72 in 2019.

Question 11 (page 11)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Thank you, Mr Severin. Just before we go onto Parklea, just a few more questions on the ICOs. **Minister, are there any communications**

between your department and the courts as to the maximum number of offenders that can or will be able to be electronically monitored?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: It is an operational issue.

Commissioner SEVERIN: As I mentioned, the exact number of devices that we currently have available, I need to take on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

Corrective Services reviews the need for additional monitoring devices as required.

Question 12 (page 12)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: So the now two—there were three—convicted murderers living with vulnerable elderly people at the Garrawarra Centre are no longer subject to any supervision by Corrective Services NSW?

Commissioner SEVERIN: That is correct.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Mr Townsend, when he was at the centre, engaged in violent behaviour and is now back in custody. Is that correct?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Yes.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Were you briefed about the violent behaviour that he engaged in?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I was not personally briefed but my colleagues would have been of course.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Do you know whether he was violent towards other residents or staff at the facility?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I do not have that information.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Could you take it on notice?

Commissioner SEVERIN: I can take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

If the Mental Health Review Tribunal is concerned that a forensic patient is in breach of their conditions of release, which would include endangering the safety of others, the Tribunal can issue an order for the person to be detained in either a mental health facility, correctional centre or other place. Mr Townsend was returned to custody after his placement at Garrawarra was reviewed by the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Question 13 (page 13)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Are the two convicted murderers still at the centre, Mr Goodridge and Mr Chong, able to participate in those outings on the Government-funded bus?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I am happy to seek that information for you but this has got nothing to do with Corrections. We have made it quite clear that we have no oversight here whatsoever. You might as well ask the agriculture Minister; he has got as much responsibility in this area.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **So there are convicted murderers living with vulnerable elderly people and your suggestion is that I ask the agriculture Minister what the conditions of their—**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: No. You might as well be asking the agriculture Minister because he has as much to do with this as we do. I am happy to take it on notice. I am happy to pick the phone up to the Department of Health on your behalf and seek that information—I am here to help. I am just letting you know that we would have no oversight on that.

Answer

I am advised:

Any forensic patient's access to the community is governed by the orders of the Mental Health Review Tribunal, combined with an individual risk assessment made on the day of community access.

Question 14 (page 14)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **What I am interested in, Minister, is how many are on ICOs?**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **What percentage of people on ICOs are subject to electronic monitoring?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I will have to take that on notice.

Commissioner SEVERIN: We have already done that. I think the question was asked earlier and I have taken it on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

I refer to the answer to question 1.

Question 15 (page 15)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **It would be good to know how many days the SOG has been on site at Parklea since April this year?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: The exact days I would have to provide you on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

SOG have been on site at Parklea to provide assistance and training on more than 40 occasions since April 2019.

Question 16 (page 16)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **For how long is this period that you have instructed that they be there?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: About another two to three weeks, I would say, right now. I will keep that, obviously, not finally determined until I am satisfied now that we have a base level operation that clearly can move forward in the way it is intended to. We have had incidents—the Minister spoke about that. We have had incidents that have raised, through some media reporting, public reaction. We have also got a contractual framework that is a lot tighter than we had before. So they are chargeable incidents and we levy charges against the operator as we have done already as a result of a death in custody and two instances where there was a discharge in error, which is another charge event. There are four charge events under the contract: one is discharge in error, one is an escape, one is death in custody and the other one is a riot. In this particular case we have had one death in custody other than from natural causes, which obviously is still subject to coronial investigation. But it is a charge event and we had two events where a person's sentence calculation was wrong, which is certainly, in the context of the private sector, a first where we now really charge a penalty.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Commissioner they set two people free before their terms expired.

Commissioner SEVERIN: No, sorry, they let one out a little while late. I need to get the detail of the exact case because we do have discharging errors and I have given you—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Prisoners normally know their discharge date.

Commissioner SEVERIN: No, no. We are talking about bail issues, et cetera. We are talking about a remand centre here. I will get the details. I will take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

SOG staff are scheduled to remain at Parklea to mentor MTC staff until Sunday 29 September.

In the first case, an inmate was released on 3 May 2019 after receiving bail at Penrith Local court. However, he should have remained in custody due to an outstanding matter before Parramatta District Court. He was returned to custody on 9 May 2019.

In the second case, an inmate who was serving concurrent sentences where the non-parole periods overlapped remained in custody longer than he should have. The State Parole Authority (SPA) refused parole on the first sentence, however, MTC-Broadspectrum, understood the SPA decision applied to the second sentence as well. SPA clarified on 19 June 2019 that its decision applied only to the first sentence which expired on 7 June 2019. The inmate was released (on parole) on 19 June 2019 when he should have been released on 7 June 2019.

Question 17 (page 19)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Is it true that about 8,000 people are detoxing from methamphetamine in custody in any given year?** That was the data.

Commissioner SEVERIN: That is not a number that I have available to me. I need to take that on notice, if I can even answer it.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Minister, if two-thirds of the inmates coming into New South Wales prisons have a history of methamphetamine use, what proportion of inmates are getting drug and alcohol treatment for methamphetamine?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Just give me one moment. Thank you for your patience.

Commissioner SEVERIN: I have just been advised that we do not have a specific percentage just for methamphetamine. We do, obviously, have numbers that I can make available and I am happy to take that on notice—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **What is the overall percentage, Mr Severin?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: —for drug and alcohol treatment programs for those who present the highest risk of drug and alcohol abuse. The exact number I would have to take on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

Justice Health provides health related detoxification services in publicly operated correctional centres.

I understand that the figure provided is an estimate based on offenders' responses to a 2015 Justice Health survey and extrapolated to the total flow of offenders into CSNSW custody. Based on more recent CSNSW data, the percentage of offenders who have self-reported withdrawing from ICE in custody was approximately 9.2% of the total reception population which equated to 1,195 people in 2016.

CSNSW directs its resources towards those that pose the greatest risk of re-offending and greatest harm to the community.

A table of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs delivered by CSNSW 2018/19 is attached (**TAB A**).

Question 18 (page 20)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **What proportion of the 1,900 inmates who went in with an addiction problem to the EQUIPS program came out with their addiction problem resolved? It is a simple question.**

Commissioner SEVERIN: The resolve would manifest itself obviously post-discharge or during subsequent testing in custody. We do not have statistics that correlate those two but I can certainly take on notice and see if there are any correlations that we make in relation to those participating in an intervention program and the subsequent taking of drugs or alcohol.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But surely you do that. How could you possibly roll out a program with 1,900 people going into it for drug and alcohol addiction problems and not have a follow-through assessment process?

Commissioner SEVERIN: We certainly do but your question was specifically asked for reuse of any drugs and alcohol.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: No, I asked if it worked? **Of the 1,900 people who went in, how many had their addiction problem fixed?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I will take that on notice.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: We will take that on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: That is not a complicated question; it is the most obvious question out of the program, is it not?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: We will take it on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

A pre and post measure of drug dependency for inmates completing EQUIPS Addiction has not been undertaken at this time.

It should be noted cognitive behavioural therapy-based programs are not a 'cure' for drug addiction. Desistance from substance use, or related offending behaviour, is a complex phenomenon which involves many other factors that work alongside programs.

Participants may develop better coping strategies to deal with their substance use in cognitive behavioural therapy-based programs. However, lapses and relapses are very common and it can take many attempts before behaviour change occurs.

Question 19 (page 25)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The concerns are that a young person, highly medicated, intellectually disabled, suffering self-harm, says a few words about ISIS and bang, they are targeted and labelled as a terrorist and sent down that extreme response path. **Are you saying, Mr Coutts-Trotter, that has not happened?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am happy to take any specific scenario on notice—or outside an open discussion and follow that through. But in my mind, the scenario you have described is not one that should trigger CVE response.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Do you agree with that, Minister? That those circumstances should not trigger a CVE response?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I would have to see the particulars. Now that you have raised it, I will seek advice as well but if it is an appropriate response—again, I have not seen the incident report. If it is an appropriate response to what occurred—

Answer

I am advised:

Youth Justice advises that a single statement by a young person does not warrant a CVE response.

All Youth Justice frontline staff have been given Radicalisation and Extremism Awareness Program (REAP) training. This training provides staff with an understanding of the indicators of radicalisation and violent extremism, and how to record and report these matters.

If a young person is determined to be a risk of radicalisation, appropriate intervention measures are put in place.

Question 20 (page 26)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **How much of that has been delivered to the NSW Police Force?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I will have to take that on notice.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I think I have a note here, Minister. It is \$12.1 million over four years to implement the National Facial Biometric Matching Capability provided for in the 2018-19 budget.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **How many persons of interest have been identified with this \$52.6 million program?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Question 21 (page 27)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **When is it going to be switched on? You must know that. When is The Capability going to be switched on and people in New South Wales will have all of their New South Wales government data provided to the Feds for facial recognition? When is it going to be turned on?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am happy to take that on notice. From memory, because these matters are reported up through the State Counter Terrorism Committee of officials, which in turn reports through to Minister Roberts and other Ministers, the Commonwealth needed to authorise a framework that enabled the exchange of that information. I am happy to take it on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Including whether or not that framework has been identified and whether or not the privacy protections are in place, Mr Coutts-Trotter?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Happy to take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Question 22 (page 27)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Could you take on notice what the proposed error rate will be—or the identification rate, perhaps that is the positive way of doing it. **What will the proposed identification rate be for The Capability?**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Happy to take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Question 23 (page 27)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: In material provided to us under freedom of information in the Government Information (Public Access) Act [GIPAA] laws, the funding allocation for PRISM reduced over the past three years. **Do you want to provide on notice what the actual funding for PRISM is?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I certainly can, yes.

Answer

I am advised:

From 2015/16 to 2017/18 funding of PRISM was provided through the Commonwealth:

- 2015/16 \$598,789
- 2016/17 \$200,123
- 2017/18 \$221,800

Since 2018/19 the NSW Government is funding PRISM exclusively. Around \$2.5m per annum has been allocated for the PRISM program and to fund enhanced programs and services at the High Risk Management Correctional Centre.

Question 24 (page 28)

Commissioner SEVERIN: It is one that encourages offenders to develop alternative strategies to think, but also to actually engage in very proactive behaviours around work and around education, which is quite different to the cognitive behavioural therapy-based programs for sex offenders and violent offenders. PRISM has been evaluated by Adrian Cherney, who is a very pre-eminent expert in countering violent extremism research. It has early signs it is very effective. However, it is one—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Will you table that evaluation with the Committee, Commissioner?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: It is on the public record, his report. So, yes, I can certainly give the source.

Answer

I am advised:

The evaluation is publicly available at:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/1057610X.2019.1577016>

Question 25 (page 30)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I would like to go back to the \$47 million that the Minister was talking about. In 2015 Mike Baird announced a \$47 million package to fight violent extremism. **Is the COMPACT funding allocated from that funding?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes it is. It is a slightly over \$9 million component of the \$47 million.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: A \$9 million component?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **And the \$15 million that was allocated to deliver expert teams across schools, including 200 extra counsellors, has that program been delivered?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, to the best of my knowledge. From memory, that is \$21 million of the \$47 million which was provided to the New South Wales Department of Education for that and other initiatives.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **Is that \$9 million broken down into any particular services? What is it broken down into?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, it is. I inquired as to whether the individual elements of the COMPACT program, the funded initiatives, were available publicly. I am told they are. I think they have been published but we are happy to provide a full list to the Committee on notice.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: So you will take that on notice, okay?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes.

Answer

I am advised:

(1) The NSW Government's \$47 million Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) package seeks to limit the spread and influence of all forms of violent extremism, divert at-risk individuals and disengage violent extremists. NSW CVE programs include COMPACT, a \$9.2 million community grants program which aims to promote social cohesion and community harmony.

(2) In November 2015, the NSW Government allocated \$21.4 million over four years towards initiatives to tackle anti-social and extremist behaviour in all NSW schools. The School Communities Working Together Program provides support to specialist teams to promote social cohesion in NSW schools and their communities. The teams provide a range of student wellbeing and support services to prevent students from being influenced by anti-social and extremist behaviour. As at 8 August 2019, 236 additional counselling positions had been established, increasing the total number of positions to 1,026.

Question 26 (page 31)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **I have an article here that says, despite costing millions of dollars to set up, New South Wales counterterrorism Minister David Elliott says the Step Together service has received five calls. This is a news piece that I can make available if you like?**

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: When?

Ms WALKER: That is certainly not the information that we have.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: As I say, over 24 months to 4 July the numbers I just gave you are the numbers that we have got and have been fact checked.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **This is inaccurate, is that right?**

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: It is old. He is not even the Minister any more.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I know that. When he was a Minister, this is over 24 months.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: They are just giving you up-to-date stats.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: The newspaper article says that as a result of the death of NSW Police Force accountant Curtis Chang this hotline was established. This is a hotline, according to the article.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Okay. I do not think that is the Step Together helpline.

Ms WALKER: Just to be really clear, the Step Together is the support and helpline. That is the helpline I described earlier that is for family members who are seeing changes in behaviour from their family members or other professionals, particularly caseworkers or social workers, who are seeing things that concern them about the behaviour of their clients.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Which is distinct from at a national level. The National Security Hotline is designed to be a reporting mechanism for criminal or terrorist-related activity. I am happy to have a look at the Minister's comments on notice and provide you with a response.

Answer

I am advised:

A list of COMPACT Program funded initiatives and partners is available on the Multicultural NSW website: https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/communities/compact/compact_program/

Question 27 (page 34)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Commissioner, in answers given on notice earlier this year it became clear that as at 1 January 2019 there were 558 women prisoners with dependent children, 266 of whom had dependent children aged under five years of age. **What is being done to ensure those families stay together and those children do not get swept up into out-of-home care and foster families while the women are in prison?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: There are a range of initiatives aimed at women, particularly Aboriginal women, to which I am happy to refer. That being said, clearly the focus on women offenders is one that is at the centre of initiatives that are currently being further developed as part of our reducing reoffending strategies. We well and truly are committed to do a lot more for women offenders than we were able to do in the past.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Commissioner, I refer specifically to Jacaranda Cottages, which is often put forward as one of the solutions. **How many women inmates and children can actually use Jacaranda Cottages at any one time?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Answering the question on Jacaranda first. Jacaranda Cottages is obviously limited to minimum security classified inmates. That is certainly one area where I believe we need to have a look at broadening the minimum security arrangements to look also at options for medium or higher classified women. We have about seven children there at the moment who are permanently with their mothers. I am happy to take the exact number on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

The Jacaranda Cottages can accommodate 16 mothers at any one time.

Question 28 (page 35)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Commissioner, of the women in prison in the last financial year how many had an identified mental illness?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

Of the 2,643 women received in CSNSW correctional centres in 2018/19, a total of 2,524 were asked if they had ever been treated or medicated for a mental health issue (e.g. depression, anxiety, PTSD or schizophrenia) as part of the Intake Screening. 1,968 (78%) of these women reported they had been previously treated or medicated for a mental health issue.

Question 29 (page 36)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Commissioner, how many counsellors and how many psychiatrists are in the employ of Corrective Services NSW specifically to deal with women prisoners and their mental health needs?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: We do not employ any psychiatrists, but if your question is about psychologists I can provide that number. I have not got it here for women but I am happy to take that on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Could you provide both the same data and the same numbers for the male prison population as well?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Yes, can do.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Of the women in New South Wales prisons in 2018-2019 do you know how many of them had a pre-incarceration history of being a victim of sexual assault?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: No, I have not got that. Again, I can provide that information on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Could you provide also the data on sexual abuse and on domestic violence?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: If the data is available to us I certainly will.

Answer

I am advised:

There are 84 psychologist roles assigned to correctional centres. Of these, 11 work exclusively with female offenders and 7 work with both male and female offenders. There are 66 psychologist roles exclusively for male offenders.

It is not known how many women in prisons in 2018-19 had a pre-incarceration history of being a victim of sexual assault. However, a number of surveys/research have identified the prevalence of trauma including sexual assault for women offenders.

CSNSW provides trauma informed practice training to all staff working in correctional centres as many inmates have a history of abuse/trauma.

The Approved Counselling Service managed by Victims Services NSW provides inmates who have been victims of crime in NSW with free counselling while in custody. The service is targeted at inmates who have been a victim of violent crime in NSW, including domestic violence, physical assault, sexual assault and armed robbery. Inmates can apply for up to 22 hours of counselling for each incident of trauma which can commence in custody and continue with counsellors in the community upon their release.

Question 30 (page 36)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I will put this series of questions to you. You will probably have to take them all on notice. **Are there any consent procedures in place for organ removals for New South Wales prisoners who have died in custody and are there any circumstances in which organs are removed from prisoners who have not signed consent forms?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I would have to take that on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Do you know how many strip searches there were of female prisoners in custody in the last financial year?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I do not have the detail on the strip searches done by correctional officers on female inmates. So, again, I can provide that information on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Would you be able to break that down by correctional facility and, if my list is right, the six facilities with women are Silverwater, Dillwynia, Emu Plains, Broken Hill, Wellington and Mid North Coast. Are they the six facilities?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: And Berrima.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **And Berrima. You could provide that on notice?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Yes.

Answer

I am advised:

Justice Health has advised that consent for organ donation must be provided through the Australian Organ Donation Register.

Strip searches are mainly conducted as part of centre routine and are not recorded each time they occur.

Question 31 (page 37)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: How is that taking additional care or concern, Commissioner?
You said that there is additional care and concern but can you table with the Committee on notice any policy document or any written direction that identifies the need to take particular concern of women who have this history?

Commissioner SEVERIN: We are more than happy to make the relevant procedures available if that is of interest.

Answer

I am advised:

The CSNSW policy on searching inmates is available at:

<https://www.correctiveservices.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/copp/searching-inmates.pdf>.

Question 32 (page 37)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Commissioner, in what proportion of those strip searches was contraband found?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I need to take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

Strip searches are mainly conducted as part of centre routine and are not recorded each time they occur.

Question 33 (page 38)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But, Commissioner, **will you provide us with any study or any report that identifies the effectiveness of this in addressing contraband on notice, is that right—or does it not exist?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Again, the general premise, of course, is that we undertake border control.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I get the think; **I am wondering if there is any evidence for it. Will you provide us on notice with any evidence that underpins this thought?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I am very sure that there will be very little research done in relation to routine strip searches because routine strip searches are clearly a deterrent measure. I am sorry to be specific here but the short answer is: If there is any research that we have and we hold, we are more than willing and happy to make that available.

Answer

I am advised:

CSNSW does not have any research documents that identify the effectiveness of strip searches on inmates.

A Discussion Paper is being prepared by the CSNSW Principal Advisor Women Offenders which aims to address the issue of strip searching as a practice and its impact on female offenders, especially those with a history of abuse/trauma.

Question 34 (page 38)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **To go back to the question about Step Together services, is that service operational?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, it is. I have just got a clarification on the question you raised, Mr Moselmane. Apparently Minister Elliot did make those comments but he made them on 28 September 2017, which was in the first two months of the Step Together helpline. Yes, there was slow uptake initially but, as I say, we have now had close to 1,200 calls, from memory.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: When you say "slow uptake", what was the first few months of uptake?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: You quoted it; you said five.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: No, he said "slow uptake".

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: No, sorry, I was referring to—

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: This one is referring to two years ago. He is referring to what you said.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, I was referring to Minister Elliot's comment that there were only five calls at that point in time.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **How many staff are still under that service?**

Ms WALKER: We would have to take staffing on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

The Step Together service is operational. It was launched in June 2017 with the current contract to end in 2020.

The NSW Government has engaged an external provider, On the Line, to deliver the Step Together service. On the Line run many helpline services. On the Line staff manage calls across a number of these helplines and are not quarantined to one service.

On the Line's staffing model is also flexible and is scaled up or down depending on the volume of incoming calls.

Question 35 (page 38)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **What sort of funding was backed up on the CAPE program?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: It is \$750,000.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Is this \$750,000 for two years or three years or is it annual?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: **I will confirm that on the record. My note says "over four years" but I just need to confirm.**

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: What do you do with the \$750,000? What is it used for?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: It aims to increase awareness of this particular brand of extremism — far-right extremism — and develop a volunteer youth network to challenge white nationalist activity.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: How do you do it—by producing pamphlets or—

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: **I do not have the detail to hand; I am happy to get it for you.**

Answer

I am advised:

Community Action for Preventing Extremism (CAPE) NSW was allocated \$750,000 over four years. The project provides training for frontline workers across the state and creates a network of youth leaders who can counter far-right narratives in online conversations.

Frontline workers who live in NSW and work with young people are eligible for a full-day of training. Training includes knowledge about far-right extremism, communication skills, skills supporting young people with complex needs and building networks and relationships. It includes updates and ongoing support from staff.

Question 36 (page 39)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Thank you. I appreciate that. **Following Christchurch, was there a review of the funding allocation, particularly for right-wing extremist ideologies in Australia? Was there a review?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Christchurch happened in March, before I was in the job. I will take that one on notice and see if I can provide you with some information.

Answer

I am advised:

As part of the NSW Government's \$47 million commitment to Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) \$2 million has been allocated to the Fund for Future Initiatives, which ensures that CVE programs can adapt to changing environments and evolving threats. Research into far right extremist ideology has been commissioned through this Fund.

Question 37 (page 45)

The CHAIR: Is the State Parole Authority subject to an efficiency dividend?

Mr WOOD: Not that I am aware of.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Mr Coutts-Trotter, is the State Parole Authority subject to an efficiency dividend?**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: You will be able to tell, the lights go out every Friday.

The CHAIR: Or you get no photocopy paper.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am not aware of a decision to impose efficiency savings on the State Parole Authority, but I will double-check.

Answer

I am advised:

The State Parole Authority is an independent operational unit within the Department of Communities and Justice. All operational units within the Department are expected to consider operational efficiencies that can contribute to the overall savings target of the Department.

Question 38 (page 47)

Commissioner SEVERIN: In the overall reducing reoffending. Out of that, it is the 1,200 per year for the short-termers. There are 400 at any given point in time. It adds up to three years, adds up to 1,200 per year.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **There was also an early intervention scheme targeting high-risk offenders in a one-on-one capacity from a private provider. Is that accurate? Who was the private provider?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: No, that is not accurate. There was a service which proved not to be viable which was called the Extra Offender Management Service but that was discontinued after a trial period. It involved external service providers. It involved offenders who were not subject to any form of supervision otherwise. One of the key issues that we identified that stopped the program from being as successful as it was intended to be was the fact that there was no coercion. There was no compulsion on the offender.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **How much money was spent on that program before it was discontinued?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Again, I would have to take that on notice. Obviously, as soon as the initial evaluation came in we discontinued the program because it was not the best value for money.

Answer

I am advised:

The reform consisted of two components: The implementation of the Extra Offender Management Services (EOMS) and Local Coordinated Multi-agency Offender Management (LCM) which were reported as one stream.

For the LCM and EOMS combined recurrent expenditure was \$3.8m over the 3 years to June 2019.

Question 39 (page 48)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Of the \$330 million that was announced in 2016, how much has already been expended? The entire amount?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am happy to take that on notice and provide an accurate response.

Answer

I am advised:

Expenditure on Reducing Reoffending and Sentencing and Parole Reforms to June 2019 is \$156 million.

Question 40 (page 38)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **If funds finish this year, what will happen to the Stronger Together phone service?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: The whole suite of programs—everything within that \$47 million—is being externally evaluated. The evaluation will be available to government certainly before the end of the calendar year. It is up to the Government to decide what it wants to do in response to that and which of the existing initiatives it may choose to continue funding or new initiatives it might want to pick up.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Who is doing that external evaluation?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will provide details on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government's \$47 million Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program is being evaluated by ACIL Allen Consulting. That evaluation will inform a review of existing NSW CVE initiatives, including Step Together.

Question 41 (page 48)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: So Corrective Services do not have a dedicated counterterrorism unit?

Commissioner SEVERIN: We do have an intelligence group, the Corrective Services Intelligence Group, which has a dedicated counterterrorism group of staff.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: How many people are on that staff?

Commissioner SEVERIN: There would be about seven dedicated staff members for CT/CVE. That is not to say that the remaining intel officers do not also provide work in that space. Then we have got the high-risk correctional centre in Goulburn, which has got its own intel capabilities and which, obviously, is based in situ.

We also focus very strongly on the training of our staff there in relation to relevant CT/CVE issues. That is in addition to the Radicalisation and Extremism Awareness Program that was referenced earlier by my colleague, which the majority of correctional officers have now participated in. It is a Commonwealth-sponsored program, which is the awareness of counterterrorism. And we continue towards our work internationally through a range of channels in this space because there is certainly, as is well understood, a lot to be learned and shared from our international colleagues.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **Of those seven dedicated staff, are there culturally and linguistically diverse members in that unit?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I would have to take the actual make-up of the unit on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

There are nine funded roles in the Counter Terrorism Unit of the Corrections Intelligence Group. There are currently culturally and linguistically diverse staff in the Counter Terrorism Unit.

Question 42 (page 51)

The CHAIR: Think about those for a while. **What is your current situation in relation to forward planning for building new prisons? What is the capital expenditure that is currently planned for this four-year budget term? Maybe that is one for Mr Coutts-Trotter.**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will have a bit of a look, Mr Chair.

The CHAIR: I think you have repurposed a couple of old prisons too, have you not?

Commissioner SEVERIN: Yes.

The CHAIR: They are not all new.

Commissioner SEVERIN: No.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: They have reopened some that are closed.

The CHAIR: Yes, that is what I mean.

Commissioner SEVERIN: I can give some broad numbers and we can add to them. The capital program, as part of the prison bed program, was \$2.4 billion. In addition to that, there is the Clarence Correctional Centre, which is a 1,700-bed public-private partnership in Grafton. In the 2018-2019 financial year, the program expended \$1.04 billion and in the first two months, July and August, the estimated expenditure to date is \$150 million; we still need to finalise accounts for August, obviously. The program is just over halfway spent. There are a number of additional expenditures to come from the buildings that are still under way: like Parklea; Junee; the mid North Coast, which is Kempsey; and, most importantly, the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre; and Dillwynia, the women's prison at Windsor. In addition to that, there is the Clarence Correctional Centre. **Again, I take the exact capital expenditure number on notice, if that is okay.**

Answer

I am advised:

The capital expenditure budget is \$2.416 billion. \$1.731 billion has been spent to date, leaving about \$685 million.

Question 43 (page 52)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **What is the current prisoner population? It is 13,576. What is the projection for the prisoner population 12 months and five years from now?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I will take on notice the exact figure.

Answer

I am advised:

The 12 month forecast is 14,238. The five year forecast (July 2024) is 16,402.

Question 44 (page 52)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **How many cells are currently double-ups that were designed as singles and how many are triples that are designed as doubles? It may be that there are some triples that were originally designed as singles.**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I have some data in relation to cells. Sorry, I do not have the data ready here. I will take that on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It would be fair to say it is not 7,000. Going back to the original design for those cells will not require an additional 7,000 prison beds, will it?

Commissioner SEVERIN: As I said before, we are looking at taking out both double-ups and triple-ups—there were a number of thousand that went in—plus looking at the growth that we require, plus looking at options we have to utilise new infrastructure, particularly in privately managed centres, incrementally. All of those factors together will certainly give this system a fantastic opportunity to look at its configuration, look at a whole range of other issues that are subsequent and more important issues to consider rather than just a single focus on beds, such as the way we actually manage our role and functions et cetera.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **What do you predict the prison population will be 12 months from now?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: As I said before, I need to take the actual forecasting on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

For beds placed in the system since 2013 and currently in operation:

- Operating as two out cells / designed as single cells: 931;
- Operating as three out cells / designed as two out cells: 183.

For predicted prison population in 12 months, refer to the answer for question 43.

Question 45 (page 54)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **What has been the cost of antiviral treatment programs in New South Wales prisons in the last financial year?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am happy to take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

The cost of antiviral treatment programs in New South Wales correctional centres in the last financial year (2018-19) for medications was approximately \$57.6 million. Over 99% of this cost was reimbursed from Medicare through the Section 100 High Cost Drug Scheme.

Question 46 (page 55)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Could I ask you about the rates of hepatitis C inside New South Wales prisons? **The data I am requesting is how many inmates tested positive for hepatitis C on admission in 2018-19 and how many tested positive on their release in 2018-19—but you may have a better series of indicators to get your head around what is happening with hepatitis C in the prison population.**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will take that on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

A study by the Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network found that for the period 2014 to 2018, ten new cases of Hepatitis C were confirmed in NSW prisons.

Question 47 (page 55)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Do we know if anything you are doing is working in reducing the rate of hepatitis C in the prison population?

Commissioner SEVERIN: Absolutely. That is data we get from our Health colleagues, who have been administering the controlled studies. We were part of the original study that was

undertaken by the pharmaceutical company and supported through the tertiary sector and, ultimately, the Federal Government. So, yes, there is a very significant reduction in the infection rate and, if not for the fact that from time to time we transfer inmates, we would most probably—like the prison up in North Queensland—be hepatitis C free, in those prisons. We have been hepatitis C free in a couple of facilities but I would not say they are statistically relevant—they are very small.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: We are engaged with an evaluation, as I understand, with the Kirby Institute.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Can you give us updates on notice about the rate of hepatitis C in prisons and what happened to the trial with the pharmaceutical company?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: If we can get that data from our colleagues in Justice—we do not hold that data.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I understand.

Commissioner SEVERIN: Certainly if we can get that data, we will.

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

Question 48 (page 56)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **What has happened across the system for out-of-cell hours for prisoners? I am talking here in the medium- and high-security prisons. Has the amount of time gone up, gone down or stayed the same?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Certainly in those centres where we have fully implemented the benchmark outcomes, they have met the requirement for seven hours. I cannot say that is across the board. I would have to take the details on notice in terms of the individual performance and that fluctuates at times because there are events happening at times that impact on the ability to have seven hours.

Answer

I am advised:

Since the implementation of benchmarking, the majority of centres, both secure and open custody, have experienced increases in time out of cell hours or remained consistent with pre-benchmarking outcomes.

Question 49 (page 56)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Commissioner, there are number of prisoners in the Long Bay Hospital who are held because of mental health concerns, is that it right?

Commissioner SEVERIN: Yes.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **Is it true that they only have out-of-cell times between 8.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. and between 12.00 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. and, in fact, they get all their meals in their cells?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Again, I would have to take the detailed answer on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Could you? **Then could you provide an answer as to whether that is meeting the benchmarks and whether or not it is meeting appropriate standards for prisoners who have mental health concerns in terms of out-of-cell time?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: I think we need to be very clear that the unit we are talking about is jointly managed between Justice Health and us.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Correct.

Commissioner SEVERIN: The program that is running in that unit is a joint one so—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I know that you do not have sole control over it.

Commissioner SEVERIN: —there may be other reasons that impact on the operation arrangements there. But I will provide that information.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Thank you, Commissioner.

Answer

I am advised:

The out of cell hours for Long Bay Hospital 1 (LBH1) is 8:00am to 11:00am and 12:00pm to 2:30pm. Not all meals are given to LBH1 inmates while in their cells.

As Long Bay hospital holds a specialised cohort of inmates, many of which require medication and individual management plans, benchmarks for out of cell hours can be more difficult to achieve.

Question 50 (page 57)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Point 17 states: The nature of terrorism means that its implications may cross jurisdictional boundaries. We deal a lot with the New Zealand Government. **Are there greater forums where neighbouring nations such as Indonesia, China, Malaysia and other states are included? Are we involved in any forums that can assist us to address potential risks before they happen in Australia or New South Wales? Are we part of any international body?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will take that question on notice and give you a comprehensive answer.

Answer

I am advised:

Australia's international engagement on counter terrorism is primarily the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. Through the Commonwealth Government, NSW engages with various organisations including relevant United Nations bodies and the Global Counter Terrorism Forum.

NSW also engages with New Zealand and all other Australian jurisdictions through its membership of the Australia-New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC).

Question 51 (page 57)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: One final question on this document: At point 38 it says that the New South Wales Government uses a suite of tools for communicating counterterrorism information to the public through a range of channels, including websites, social media and traditional media. **When it says "traditional media", does that mean mainstream media? And so what about ethnic media or non-English speaking background media?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I would be confident that they are part of that description of traditional media, traditional media simply being—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **Not simply mainstream?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: —free-to-air television, radio and newspapers regardless of whether they are published in print form or online. I will confirm that for you.

Answer

I am advised:

In the event of an incident, the NSW Police Force is responsible for the provision of information to the public. During such events, Multicultural NSW works with NSW agencies to provide interpreting and translation services to support effective public information, including through multicultural media.

More general information on countering terrorism in New South Wales is available in 20 languages on the Secure NSW website: <https://www.secure.nsw.gov.au/language.html>

Question 52 (page 57)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Commissioner Severin, I just want to ask about the one-on-one counselling services at Long Bay, so for mental health, drug and alcohol issues, for example. So these are individual or one-on-one sessions as opposed to the group therapy. **What changes have taken place to these services over the past 24 months?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Again, I can answer that question in general, but I am happy to provide additional information if there is any.

Answer

I am advised:

The Ngara Nura program closed in 2018. Therapeutic programs for people with substance related needs can still be addressed through existing programs that are currently available to inmates.

Question 53 (page 58)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Mr Coutts-Trotter, in relation to the countering violent extremism program that the department is undertaking, how many people are working on CVE in Communities and Justice at the moment?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will take that on notice. We can identify people whose whole role is to do that. That would be both in my colleague Simone Walker's team and, as the commissioner was pointing out, there will be some discrete groups within elements of Justice. Where it is some part, but not a whole part of a person's job we will not be able to identify that, but we can identify the discrete roles.

Answer

I am advised:

Within the Department of Communities and Justice, the Office of Community Safety and Cohesion is a team of 16 staff working specifically on counter terrorism and countering violent extremism. However, there are many more other staff in corrections, youth justice and other areas of the Department who may also work on counter terrorism and countering violent extremism as part of their roles.

Question 54 (page 59)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: In the document called NSW Counter Terrorism Strategy, December 2018, there is a reference on page 12 to work that the Government is developing a team with specialist training to work with potential victims of the trauma caused by terrorism.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Has this occurred? Is this training now delivered? How many people have been trained?**

Ms WALKER: I would need to get you the numbers on the number of people who have been trained.

Answer

I am advised:

The Victims of Terrorism Support Program, delivered by Victims Services NSW, is a specialist training package for Victims Services Approved Counsellors. As at 16 September 2019, 70 counsellors had completed the training. The final session is scheduled for 18 September 2019. Once the sessions are complete, 78 counsellors will have been trained to support clients who have been impacted by terrorism.

Question 55 (page 59)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Similarly in that document it refers on page 8 to the work that you are doing with the Department of Education in relation to supporting schools to promote social cohesion. I was wondering what discussions you have had with the Department of Education about how this aligns with the role that teachers play in alerting authorities to potential radicalisation. We have seen a number of incidents, including some in New South Wales, but also in the ACT and Victoria, where teachers have alerted authorities to students who are displaying actually very normal behaviour. This has obviously led to tension and it has led to conflict, and potentially disengagement from the school environment where none had previously existed.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **How are you working with the Department of Education to ensure those two roles align?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I know at a senior level my colleagues in the Department of Education are well aware of that issue and the last thing they would want to do, I am sure, is see a young person stigmatised and alienated, but perhaps we can take it on notice and give you a more detailed response.

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice works with the Department of Education through regular interagency meetings and by investing in social cohesion programs in schools.

The *Community Partnership Action* (COMPACT) grants program has invested \$9.2 million to promote social cohesion and community harmony to young people. COMPACT has engaged over 20,000 young people and over 130 schools.

In November 2015, the NSW Government allocated \$21.4 million over four years from Countering Violent Extremism funding towards initiatives to tackle anti-social and extremist behaviour in all NSW schools.

Question 56 (page 59)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Which is a very commendable program, and I have absolutely no quarrel with that. However, after the incidents in Christchurch and elsewhere are there any programs with any money attached to increase security for mosques and Islamic schools, which we also know are the target of—?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: There are. There is a \$5 million grants program available to help a whole range of community organisations, including religious organisations or faith-based schools, apply for and implement security measures, particularly CCTV. I am more than happy to provide details of that to the committee.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **Where is that information promoted, Mr Coutts-Trotter?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I do not have a background note about it available to me, but I am happy to get that information for you, Mr Moselmane, and provide it to the committee.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I would appreciate it. **Just in line with my colleague's questions, do you have data that tells you of the number of false reports about radicalisation at schools?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I do not know that we do.

Ms WALKER: No. Again we could talk to our Education colleagues.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: We will take that on notice and see what, if anything, we can provide for the committee.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: It has been argued that teachers are not necessarily capable of identifying radicalisation or extremism and so forth. What measures or steps has the department taken to ensure that teachers—

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Point of order: We are here in relation to Corrections, not Education. I am wondering how asking our witnesses about education and what teachers are teaching is within the portfolio?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: This is to do with radicalisation within the schools.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I understand that. Those questions are probably better directed to the education Minister.

The CHAIR: The objection is in order. The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane will restrict his comments.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: **What action does your department take when reports indicate that there are false claims of radicalisation at schools?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will have to take that on notice and see what I can provide back to the committee. But I am more than happy, in the spirit of goodwill, at least, to talk to colleagues in Education to see what information they can provide to the committee on the substantial question you asked.

Answer

I am advised:

(1) In February 2019, the NSW Government committed \$5 million over four years, comprising grants of up to \$5,000 to community organisations and small businesses, for the supply and installation of CCTV systems to enhance community safety. The Department of Communities and Justice manages the funding program under the Attorney General.

(2) This question is within the remit of Minister for Education. The Department of Education has support teams working in schools to promote social cohesion within school communities and provide a range of student wellbeing and support services, to prevent students being influenced by anti-social and extremist behaviour.

Question 57 (page 60)

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: **Do you have a figure on what percentage of prisoners serving custodial sentences in prisons are on sentences of six months or less?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Yes, we do. I need to take that on notice, but we certainly have that data available.

Answer

I am advised:

At 8 September 2019, 5.6% of sentenced inmates were serving an aggregate sentence of 6 months or less and 11.6% were serving an aggregate non-parole term of 6 months or less.

Question 58 (page 63)

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: In 2017 the then Minister for Counter Terrorism wrote to the environment Minister regarding a counter terrorism assessment, suggesting the closure of Driver Avenue at Moore Park. **Have there been similar assessments, for example, at Town Hall, Wynyard, St James and Museum stations given that over 200,000 people pass through those stations on a daily basis?**

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will take that on notice to particularly see if I can provide some information about the assessment on Driver Avenue. There are assessments that take place all the time, either under the crowded places strategy or under the critical infrastructure strategy. The critical infrastructure strategy, the assessments are about the potential risks that exist to critical pieces of infrastructure from terrorism, and the crowded places strategy, again, is an attempt to assess the risks and the ways of mitigating the risk of large groups of

people gathering together in the, unfortunately, environment we operate in. I will see what I can find out about the Driver Avenue assessment. I am just not sure, because most of this work is led by police, what information would be available about the specific places you asked about, but I will see what we can do.

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government does not have any plans to partially or fully close Driver Avenue on a permanent basis. Decisions in relation to future access to Driver Avenue will be made in close consultation with the NSW Police Force and other key stakeholders. Driver Avenue is routinely closed on a temporary basis during major events.

For operational security reasons, information on the assessment of specific sites, including critical infrastructure assets or crowded places, is not made publicly available.

Question 59 (page 64)

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: **What proportion of the balance of Corrective Services correctional staff have had now training in positional asphyxia?**

Commissioner SEVERIN: Again, all new staff have had that for quite some time. I need to take on notice the exact number of existing staff that are still to undergo that training.

Answer

I am advised:

It is estimated around 90% of correctional officers have completed training in Positional Asphyxia Awareness.