

12 March 2025

The Hon. Robert Borsak  
Chair  
Portfolio Committee No.5 – Justice and Communities  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via email: [budget.estimatedes@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:budget.estimatedes@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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Re: Clarification of evidence/transcript for Budget Estimates hearing

Dear Chair,

I write to clarify evidence I provided during the Attorney General's Budget Estimate hearing on 28 February 2025.

#### **Number of mediations held in Community Justice Centres**

Page 38 of the transcript currently reads as:

*Michael Tidball: Ms Higginson, very briefly, I spoke about not so much the cost but the number of matters. In 2005, which, on the advice I have, was the peak of utilisation, the number of mediations arranged was 3,259. In 2024 that number had fallen to 796. In 2005 the number of mediations settled was 2,812, and last year was 728.*

#### **This should be amended to:**

*Ms Higginson, very briefly, I spoke about not so much the cost but the number of matters. In 2005, which, on the advice I have, was the peak of utilisation, the number of mediations arranged was 3,259. In 2024 that number had fallen to 796. In 2005 the number of mediations held was 2,812, and last year was 728.*

#### **Number of serious domestic violence offenders on bail who are currently monitored electronically**

Page 39 of the transcript currently reads as:

*Michael Tidball: It's 88.*

#### **This should be amended to:**

*As of 24 February 2025, CSNSW is electronically monitoring 27 accused persons released on bail.*

**Name of Moree Facility**

Page 59 of the transcript currently reads as:

*Michael Tidball: I don't know what its formal title is, but I think we refer to it as the Moree bail accommodation service.*

**This should be amended to:**

*I don't know what its formal title is, but I think we refer to it as the Moree Bail Accommodation Program.*

**Name of Aboriginal Medical Service which provides support to Moree Bail Accommodation Program**

Page 59 of the transcript currently reads as:

*Michael Tidball: The intent was always that it was going to be a leased service, as I understand it. As an auspice service, the first task was to commission an ACCO to run that service. The ACCO that has been commissioned happens to be the same ACCO that runs the service whereby young people who are in need of a service that runs in the evenings — it is the same for youth in Moree. It's actually the same service. The thought was that if you had an ACCO doing both of those, there would be more of a connection between the two. But just in relation to the service itself, the tender was finalised in early February. The consortium of Miyay Birray Youth Services and the Aboriginal medical service and SHAE Academy have been selected to run the new Moree bail accommodation program, and it fits within that \$26.2 million package in the last budget. The plan is certainly for the service to be running mid-2025. Can I stress, though, that we are being very careful to have the ACCO lead that process.*

**This should be amended to:**

*The intent was always that it was going to be a leased service, as I understand it. As an auspice service, the first task was to commission an ACCO to run that service. The ACCO that has been commissioned happens to be the same ACCO that runs the service whereby young people who are in need of a service that runs in the evenings — it is the same for youth in Moree. It's actually the same service. The thought was that if you had an ACCO doing both of those, there would be more of a connection between the two. But just in relation to the service itself, the tender was finalised in early February. The consortium of Miyay Birray Youth Services and the Piux X Aboriginal Medical Service and SHAE Academy have been selected to run the new Moree bail accommodation program, and it fits within that \$26.2 million package in the last budget. The plan is certainly for the service to be running mid-2025. Can I stress, though, that we are being very careful to have the ACCO lead that process.*

**Name of Moree Facility**

Page 59-60 of the transcript currently reads as:

*Michael Tidball: I am reluctant to — and I don't think it's my place — comment on policy or critique policy. What I would say is that in the advice that the department provides to government, we are always very careful using the facility of BOCSAR and, in other matters, FACSIAR, to ensure that we have a high-quality evidence base in all the work that we do, and we provide advice to the Government. Beyond that, the duty as Secretary that I consider I have is clearly to ensure that we uphold and comply with the totality of all legislation. In the case of the particular sorrow that we observe out of events like this morning, and knowing something of the causation of those things, ensuring that the entire list of programs and supports that we have — so the statewide bail accommodation service, Youth on Track, some of the work around short-term remand — are tightly coordinated. All of the liaison between the police and the Youth Justice people and the other service delivery arms of DCJ, ensuring that they are tightly coordinated. But in terms of the policy itself, there's not much I can add to that.*

**This should be amended to:**

*I am reluctant to — and I don't think it's my place — comment on policy or critique policy. What I would say is that in the advice that the department provides to government, we are always very careful using the facility of BOCSAR and, in other matters, FACSIAR, to ensure that we have a high-quality evidence base in all the work that we do, and we provide advice to the Government. Beyond that, the duty as Secretary that I consider I have is clearly to ensure that we uphold and comply with the totality of all legislation. In the case of the particular sorrow that we observe out of events like this morning, and knowing something of the causation of those things, ensuring that the entire list of programs and supports that we have — so the statewide bail accommodation program, Youth on Track, some of the work around short-term remand — are tightly coordinated. All of the liaison between the police and the Youth Justice people and the other service delivery arms of DCJ, ensuring that they are tightly coordinated. But in terms of the policy itself, there's not much I can add to that.*

**Minister responsible for the Bail Advocacy Service**

Page 77 of the transcript currently reads as:

*Michael Tidball: Youth Justice*

**This should be amended to:**

*Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes is the contract manager for both projects. The projects were previously Closing the Gap -funded initiatives, so there is no leading/approving Minister per se.*

Please publish my clarifications above. If needed further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via

Sincerely,

**Michael Tidball**  
Secretary