



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-2010

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

Corrective Services, Public Sector Reform, Special Minister of State

Tuesday 15 September 2009

Answers to be lodged by: Friday 9 October 2009

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Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
15 September 2009	Local Government	9 October 2009 [21 days]
15 September 2009	Mental Health	9 October 2009 [21 days]
15 September 2009	Attorney General, Industrial Relations	9 October 2009 [21 days]
15 September 2009	Corrective Services, Public Sector Reform, Special Minister of State	9 October 2009 [21 days]
18 September 2009	Lands, Rural Affairs	14 October 2009 [21 days]
18 September 2009	Police	14 October 2009 [21 days]
18 September 2009	Gaming and Racing, Sport and Recreations	14 October 2009 [21 days]
18 September 2009	Juvenile Justice, Volunteering, Youth, Veterans' Affairs	14 October 2009 [21 days]

**Questions relating to the portfolios of Corrective Services, Public Sector Reform
and Special Minister of State**

15 September 2009, 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Questions from Ms Westwood

1. What increase in funding has occurred for women's post-release services that have proven to be effective in providing supported housing, linking women back into the community and with their children? The type of service I am referring to is the Community Restorative Centre (CRC) and Guthrie House.
2. Has funding for community based post release services for women kept up with increases in the women's prison population (72% increase between 1998 and 2008)?
3. Has the funding for community based post release services for women been adjusted to reflect the complex needs of women prisoners who have higher rates of custodial episodes than men?

Questions from Ms Hale

4. Inmate Numbers
 - a. How many times in the past year has a person been detained on remand because they have not been able to meet their conditions of bail because appropriate accommodation for the person was not available?
 - b. Why did the Department discontinue the collection of this type of data at a time when remand numbers have been increasing rapidly?
 - c. In total numbers and as a proportion of the inmate population has the number of inmates from an indigenous background increased or decreased over the last five years?
 - d. What new initiatives is the Minister proposing to address the over-representation of inmates from an indigenous background in the NSW prison system?
5. Lockdown Regimes
 - a. Are inmates at Cessnock prison being locked down for an extra 32 hours a week as part of the implementation of the 'Way Forward' reform program?
 - b. Is it the case that inmates at Long Bay MSPC (Metropolitan Special Programs Centre) are being locked down from 3.15pm Thursday afternoon through to 8.30am on Saturday every second week and that inmates at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC) are being locked down from 3.15pm Monday until 8.30am Wednesday each week? If not what is the lockdown regime at these two centres?
 - c. How long has the current lockdown regime been in place?
 - d. For how long do you expect this lockdown regime to continue?
6. Drug and Alcohol Programs
 - a. How is DCS addressing the needs of inmates who require individual programs to address drug and alcohol and other issues? Are all programs run on a group basis or are individual programs implemented when required?
 - b. Approximately how many inmates would have participated in an individual program in each of the last five years?
 - c. What evidence does the DCS have to show that purely group based programs provide a better outcome in terms of reduced social and health problems and reduced recidivism

- rates for inmates? Is DCS aware of any evidence that individual programs are, in some cases, more effective than group programs?
- d. What evidence does DCS have to suggest that amalgamating AOD positions with welfare positions will be successful in reducing recidivism rates?
 - e. Has the ratio of the total number of AOD and Welfare positions to inmates increased or decreased over the last 5 years? (Follow up if decreased: given the number of inmates with AOD issues why are AOD positions being decreased?)
 - f. What proportion of offenders with histories of violence undertake the VOTP (Violent Offenders Therapeutic Program) during the time they are imprisoned? Is there a waiting list or do all offenders complete the program during their detention?
7. Cessnock Correctional Centre
- a. What will be the change in full time employee positions at Cessnock as a result of the implementation of the new management plan at that site?
8. Contractors
- a. What restrictions does DCS place on employees who have taken a redundancy returning to DCS in another capacity, whether as an employee or a contractor?
 - b. Over the last financial year how many consultants or contractors has DCS employed in the policy or management areas of the department?
 - c. How much was spent in total on those contractors and consultants in the last financial year?
 - d. What was the highest amount paid to any individual contractor or consultant in a policy or management area in the last financial year?
 - e. How many of these consultants or contractors were formerly employees of DCS?
 - f. Did all those consultants or contractors meet the restrictions placed on former employees returning to work with or for DCS?
 - g. Has former Assistant Commissioner John Klok undertaken any work for DCS as a contractor or consultant?
 - h. If so, when did he do so, what work did he perform and how much did DCS pay for this work?
 - i. Has the Minister received any complaints from prison officers claiming that they have been subject to victimisation as a result of opposing the decision to privatise Cessnock and Parklea correctional centres?
 - j. How have any such complaints been investigated?
 - k. What measures has the Minister put in place to prevent union members who opposed privatisation being exposed to reprisals?
9. What progress has been made in implementing the Beyond Justice 2004 -2014 plan?
10. Has the term of the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council expired? If so, has it been replaced? If so, by what body? If not, why not?

Questions from Mr Ajaka

11. How many Cessnock prison officers had taken a redundancy before the decision to privatise or 'outsource' Cessnock was reversed?
- a. How many had already transferred from Cessnock Prison before the decision to privatise or 'outsource' Cessnock was reversed?
 - b. Are other NSW prisons being looked at with a view towards privatisation or outsourcing?

12. Prisoner Craig Behr 24 was murdered in cells 27/3/04 by Michael Heatley after advising that he felt homicidal. What steps are being taken to protect prisoners from other prisoners identified as being dangerous?
13. How many former members of DCS staff have been engaged as consultants in the last financial year?
14. In the 2008-2009 Budget, 1,000 Inmate beds project was due to be completed in 2012. This has now been pushed back to be completed by 2014, and was not mentioned in the November Mini Budget. Why was it not mentioned in the Mini-Budget?
 - a. Will all other ongoing capital works projects for Department be delivered on time and on budget?
 - b. Please provide an update on each major capital works
15. In regard to the Sydney Central Cells Complex, what is the current number of officers on duty during daytime working hours?
 - a. Has extra security been added at times when alleged 'bikie' gang members are being held?
 - b. In relation to Bikie Gangs, are rival gang members often mustered together at the Sydney Central Court Complex?
 - c. In these situations what additional resources are provided to deal with them?
 - d. Are bikie gang members transferred in and out of the complex in circumstances where security is not adequate should there be an escape or rescue attempt?
 - e. By letter of the 20/5/09 the Minister denied a request by the Shadow Attorney General to visit and inspect the Sydney Central Cells Complex. Why was this request denied?
16. Given that overtime in Corrective Services cost NSW \$41.035 million in 2005-2006 and \$43.721 million in 2006-2007, what was the exact figure for overtime in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?
 - a. What is the projected figure for overtime in 2009/10?
 - b. What programs are planned or in place to further reduce overtime expenditure?
17. What is the percentage of casual staff as opposed to full time staff presently employed in the NSW prison system?
18. How many new gaols does your department currently plan to build?
 - a. How many gaols are planned to be enlarged?
19. Have any budgetary cuts been implemented to Staff in the Department of Correctional Services?
 - a. If so how many staff is it anticipated will lose their jobs or have lost their jobs?
20. Is it the fact that there has been no recruitment of new Probation and Parole (P&P) staff in the past financial year?
 - a. As a result of the increased workload of existing P&P staff, has Bathurst Parole Unit asked Silverwater Parole Unit to help out with its increased workload?
21. You would accept that the decision to privatise Parklea has caused industrial unrest and strikes in NSW. Have you assessed the cost to NSW of the impact of this campaign of industrial action by the POVB?
 - a. How many hours were the prisoners in lockdown on the day strike action last took place?

22. How many fine defaulters are currently the subject of community service orders as the result of not paying fines?
23. To the Minister's or the Commissioner's knowledge, apart from the incident in July 2009, how many cases have there been where inmates have been allowed to smuggle sperm samples out of prison?
24. What was the average number of sick leave days taken by Correctional Officers in NSW for the last financial year?
 - a. Has there been any reduction in this average since the Public Accounts Committed Report 'Value for Money from NSW Correctional Centres' of September 2005?