

Ms Rachel Simpson
Director, Budget Estimates Secretariat
Legislative Council
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Simpson

**Questions on Notice from Budget Estimates Hearing
for Corrective Services NSW
Transcript of 16 September 2010**

I regret to advise that an answer to the question appearing on pages 44 to 45 of the Transcript from the Budget Estimates Hearing on 16 September 2010 for Corrective Services NSW, was omitted (Baseline studies – inmate mental health).

Please find attached the requisite answer.

Please also accept my apologies for the omission.

Yours sincerely



PETER MCCABE
Chief of Staff

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Budget Estimates 2010-2011
Questions on Notice

Questions relating to the portfolio of Corrective Services
16 September 2010, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Transcript page 44-45

Mr Grant: In the correctional system there has been only one major, really good baseline study, and that was done in 2003 by Justice Health. It has done surveys that are probably less accurate in subsequent years. There is an indication from that study of the prevalence of mental health, but the latter ones were done on self-report rather than on clinical assessment. In fact we have only baseline information and we do not have information at this stage about the specific numbers in gaols.

Mr David Shoebridge: Was the last time you had some baseline statistical information about the prevalence of mental health in Corrective Services in 2003?

Mr Grant: No, in 2009 the Inmate Health Survey looked at and canvassed details about mental health. However it did not have the same degree of clinical assessment attached to it. As an index of the likely number of people with mental health problems it is actually a very good report, but a much more detailed one was conducted earlier and that one has not been repeated to that degree of detail at this stage.

Mr David Shoebridge: Are there plans to do that again now that you have had this change in intervention and these changes in mental health treatments to see if they have worked and reduced the level of mental health issues?

Mr Grant: That is something we would be very interested in, but it is actually the domain of the Department of Health again so forensic psychiatry and forensic patients fit within the orbit of the Department of Health and not Corrective Services.

Mr David Shoebridge: Minister, have you made any inquiries of the Minister responsible, the Minister for Health or otherwise, in terms of getting those baseline studies done to assist in your portfolio?

Mr Phillip Costa: No, I have not done that personally, no.

Mr David Shoebridge: Given it would seem to be a useful tool to assess your portfolio, would you take it on board?

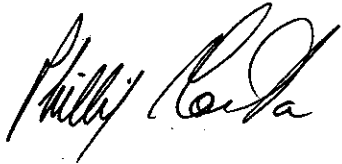
Mr Phillip Costa: I am a very strong advocate of getting research done, or information on whether programs are being effective. I will need to take that on notice and talk to my colleagues because I am not privy to the detail of what it involves. I certainly do not dismiss it. I think there is an opportunity to see whether there are better ways of what we are doing.

Mr David Shoebridge: I would appreciate it if you take it on notice and come back to the Committee.

Mr Phillip Costa: Absolutely, yes.

Answer:

I am advised that Corrective Services NSW will submit this issue as an agenda item for the next Justice Health – Corrective Services Inter-Agency Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Costa', written in a cursive style.

**The Hon. Phillip Costa MP
Minister for Water
Minister for Corrective Services**