



New South Wales
Minister for Justice

14. June 2005

Rev the Hon Dr G Moyes MLC
Chairperson
Legislative Council Select Committee
on Juvenile Offenders
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Rev Dr Moyes

Please find enclosed responses to the questions forwarded to me under cover of your letter of 25 May 2005.

Yours faithfully


(John Hatzistergis)

Legislative Council Select Committee on Juvenile Offenders –

Response to additional Questions ON Notice for the Minister for Justice and the Department of Corrective Services –

(contained in letter from Rev the Hon Dr Gordon Moyes MLC, Chair, dated 26 May 2005)

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between DCS and DJJ for the transfer of Kariong states that DCS 'does not undertake to comply with all international principles as, at the date of signing this memorandum, Corrective Services will not had had sufficient opportunity to locate such principles and compare such principles with its own operation procedures' (paragraph 10(f)).

Having regard to these international principles, has the Department compared them to current operating procedures? Do the Department's operating procedures comply with these principles?

Response:

Paragraph 10 (f) makes no such claim. Paragraph 10 (e) does in relation to Standard 7.3 of the Australian Juvenile Justice Administration Standards for Juvenile Custodial Facilities. The Department of Corrective Services is unaware of any non observance of this standard in current operations procedures.

2. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Corrective Services includes an obligation on the Department of Corrective Services to provide certain detainee programs, namely: education; alcohol and other drugs counselling; relapse prevention; anger management; personal development and team building.

Please can you provide information for the Committee on –

- how regularly each of these programs are run;
- what attendance levels have been (is attendance mandatory); and
- how these programs have been incorporated in the day (ie before or after school)?

Response:

At Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre, the Department of Corrective Services provides a variety of programs as part of the structured programs within the Centre (see further details below).

If a program has been identified as potentially beneficial for a juvenile inmate's rehabilitation, then program attendance is compulsory for that juvenile inmate.

Programs have been incorporated into school time, but also operate outside the school day. The Department is currently considering new programs which could run during the late lock in.

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Programs

1. **Relapse Prevention and Managing Substance Abuse** – this is a 6 week course which involves 6 participants per course. The courses are run on an ongoing basis according to the juvenile inmates' needs.
2. **Individual counselling** is also offered on a daily basis based on a juvenile inmate's assessed needs.

Young Offender Satellite Program

The Young Offender Satellite Program is an intensive 6-day program targeting long-term inmates and inmates due for release. It is run every three months. The program has been piloted at Kariong and will continue to be delivered as a structured program within the centre.

Anger Regression and Sex Offender Programs

These programs are currently being developed in consultation with Juvenile Justice counsellors and will be run as part of the structured program (similar to AOD programs).

Education

Education programs are facilitated by the George Anderson Walpole School which incorporates high school programs, Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) Courses, TAFE courses and programs, and cultural arts and learning programs.

School is a daily program and will be used to assist with the introduction and delivery of other programs (for example: the hair dressing course and horticulture program) to compliment the Centre's existing structured routine and programs.

Religious Programs

Juvenile inmates of all denominations are provided with a structured religious program which is facilitated 2 days per week.

Religious counselling is also provided when chaplains attend the centre (at least 3 days per week).

Additional Programs

Other programs are being introduced as needed - these include relaxation groups, music classes, and toastmasters/public speaking. These programs will be introduced and delivered when they can be accommodated within the Centre's routine.

3. Do inmates at Stage 1 on the hierarchy of privileges have access to educational rehabilitation programs?

Response:

Yes.

4. You mentioned the trial period for the later lock-down times for those inmates at Stage 3 of the hierarchy of privileges. Has this trial been successful and will it be rolled out to other inmates, or further extended?

Response:

The trial has yet to conclude and be reviewed.

5. What arrangements are in place to facilitate access to legal advisers and advocates for young people? How many visits and phone calls are allowed per week for detainees?

Response:

Legal advisors and advocates for young people who wish to visit a juvenile inmate are able to visit the Kariang Juvenile Correctional Centre at any time during normal operational hours (0900hrs – 1530hrs). They are encouraged to advise the centre of their attendance and intended visit time to ensure effective facilitation of these visits.

There are no restrictions on the number of visits - an appointment will always be made available within the allocated visiting hours. Requests for urgent appointments outside the allocated hours are sent to the Governor of the Centre.

Juvenile inmates' legal phone calls are not restricted.

6. What programs are available for detainees immediately before and after release from detention to facilitate successful re-integration into the community?

Response:

The Young Offender Satellite Program is a program for inmates due for release. This program is specifically focused towards inmates who are nearing the end of their sentences.

In the time leading up to a juvenile inmate's release, case conferences are conducted with Juvenile Justice Officers, Probation and Parole, family members and the Centre's welfare officer.

The Centre's welfare officer can also assist with a juvenile inmate's needs pre and post release.

The Department's Post Release Support Programs Units are also kept informed of juvenile inmates' release dates and requested to assist with preparatory programs and requirements for their reintegration into the community.

7. **The DCS submission states that the regular DCS training programs are being altered to meet specific needs of Kariong. Please can you tell the Committee what these changes are and how many of the current staff are now fully trained in this way?**

Response:

The Department of Corrective Services has prioritised training for all Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre staff in the following areas:

Intensive case management
Managing young offenders
Working with children
Tactical/Effective communications

With the exception of 6 custodial staff, all staff at the Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre completed the Department of Juvenile Justice's training induction program on 8 and 9 November 2004 when the Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre was first commissioned.

8. **You intimated to the Committee that the Department has had experience dealing with juveniles, particularly through the programs at John Morony Correctional Centre for young offenders. How many corrective services employees have had direct experience with offenders at this centre and how many of these staff currently work at Kariong? How is this experience used to inform policy and procedure in relation to juvenile offenders?**

Response:

Three of the current staff at Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre have worked at the John Morony Correctional Centre for young offenders; two of the staff have worked at Parklea Correctional Centre (which houses many young offenders).

All staff at Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre have had experience managing young offenders as the Department manages young offenders in all its correctional centres prior to their transfer to the John Morony Correctional Centre or Oberon Correctional Centre.

9. Will DCS's standard policies procedures and programs be adjusted to recognise the particular rehabilitative and other needs of juveniles detained at Kariong?

Response:

The policies and procedures will be adapted to meet the needs of the Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre if it is identified that this is necessary.

10. How much has been spent so far on modifications to Kariong; what were the projects and project costs?

Response:

To date, approximately \$1.2 million has been spent and committed for modifications to Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre. The projects are listed below:

Ground improvement

Plant and equipment including tug, ride on mower, printer for rosters, trailer and photocopier

Upgrade visitor centre

Build staff amenities, conference area and gymnasium

Cell equipment vandal proof enclosures, supply shelves and 240V to all cells

Paint administration area, cells and compound offices

Replace carpet in administration and cell areas, including common areas, and resurface kitchen floors and other areas

Upgrade internal fences, security grills and doors, replace locks and keys and some cameras and monitors

Purchase additional radios, duress alarms and officer tourguard system

New PABX, Phone system and Data Upgrade

Install additional perimeter lighting and replace gymnasium lighting

Commence Clinic upgrade

Repairs to cells and plumbing

Upgrade external car park and surrounding areas to enhance security, provide walkway for external perimeter patrol and resurface the sterile zone

Documentation for gatehouse upgrade

11. Please give details of the current and forward capital works program for modification to Kariong, including project description and budget.

Response:

See the 2005-06 Budget Papers.