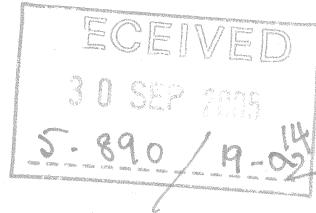


Department  
of Ageing,  
Disability &  
Home Care

27 SEP 2005



D05/13629

The Chair  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Attention:** Ms Michelle Newbery  
Principal Council Officer

Dear Ms Newbery

I write in relation to my and Ms Carol Mills' appearance before the Law and Justice Committee on 30 August 2005 where we provided evidence on behalf of the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care to the Committee inquiring into community based sentencing options for rural and remote areas and disadvantaged populations.

I have read the transcript of my oral evidence and have marked the errors as well as statements of what I believe I said, which may have been misheard or misunderstood. The transcript is returned as requested.

Also attached are the answers to the two Questions On Notice that Ms Mills and I undertook to provide you. Included in the answer to question two is additional information regarding the number of people identified as Aboriginal who are waiting for accommodation support.

If you require further information or wish to discuss any part of the attached answers, please contact Tom Pelle, my Executive Officer on 8270 2443.

Yours sincerely

Ethel McAlpine  
Deputy Director General

**DEPARTMENT OF AGEING, DISABILITY AND HOME CARE**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE**

**INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY SENTENCING OPTIONS**

**ISSUE**

**QUESTION 1**

Do you know the proportion of your client base that is in gaol compared with those with community-based sentences?

**ANSWER**

As part of the ongoing close liaison between the Statewide Behaviour Intervention Service (BIS) of the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and the Department of Corrective Services, BIS has received in the last 8 months, 182 requests for support or advice in relation to clients in contact with the criminal justice system.

This figure relates only to the portion of clients who have been referred to BIS for specialist support.

Out of these 182 persons:

81 are serving custodial sentences (except two who are on remand);

Out of the remaining 101 persons:

35 persons are currently on community based orders (including bonds, s32, etc).

Furthermore, 27 persons (from the 101) have current matters before the courts. Note also that, in the past eight months, 31 persons have been diverted from custodial sentences through the use of court reports and treatment plans (ie. no client who has been provided supports from the BIS's forensic team through court proceedings, has received a custodial sentence).

## QUESTION 2

How many people (with a disability) are missing out on accommodation and support and how many people who are on orders and come to you miss out?

## ANSWER

The Department has identified 1,103 persons with a disability across its seven Regions waiting for accommodation support.

- a) Of those 1,103 persons on the waiting list, ten (10) are on a community based order or sentence, including one person on a Bond;
- b) There are an additional 26 persons who are eligible for supported accommodation involved with the criminal justice system but are not on an order or sentence;
- c) Of the total number of persons waiting for accommodation, 12 persons identified as Aboriginal. The majority of them, but not all, are involved with the criminal justice system (either in jail, or on a community based order or sentence).

There are an additional 25 persons whose Aboriginal status is unknown.