

D20/0254799

25 March 2020

The Hon Robert Borsak
C/- Budget Estimates Secretariat
Room 812, Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Borsak

I write to clarify evidence I gave on 4 March 2020 during the Budget Estimates hearing for the portfolio of Corrections. The following points in regard to the evidence recorded in the Uncorrected Transcript are provided to clarify statements I made:

- Page 8 –
During questioning on current plans for prison expansion one of the figures quoted was incorrect and the detail of additional beds in the transcript is unclear. I would like the answer to reflect details of all additional beds to remove any confusion. The response which commences at the bottom of page eight should therefore be:

*The prison bed capacity program is in the final stage of delivery. The last beds that will come online are 440 at the Metropolitan Remand & Reception Centre in 2021. In addition, there will be:
248 beds at Dillwynia Correctional Centre later this year;
220 beds at Bathurst Correctional Centre later this year;
440 beds at Mid North Coast Correctional Centre this year; and
another 240 beds at Cessnock Correctional Centre, also this year. The two rapid-build prisons, being the Hunter Correctional Centre at the Cessnock Complex and the Macquarie one in Wellington, have actually operated very effectively.*

- Page 30 –
During questioning in regard to women inmates who have dependent children the transcript indicates I stated “there were 1,506 dependents of women in custody. Some 429 of those were children.....”

The statement should be ‘there were 1,506 women in custody with dependent children which represents 57% of women received into Corrective Services’ custody during 2018/19. Some 429 dependents were living with the offender prior to reception.

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In regard to a question on the number of women in jail who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, I stated there were 364 Indigenous offenders out of a grand total of 571. The number of female Indigenous offenders (at 23 February 2020) is 364, however I inadvertently provided the grand total of female inmates who were sentenced (571), rather than the actual grand total of female inmates, which was 1022.

A copy of the relevant pages containing my statements is attached. I request the above information be noted for correction in the final transcript.

Yours sincerely



PETER SEVERIN
COMMISSIONER

Encl