

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2023-24 Budget Estimates Hearings

Portfolio:	Youth Justice
Witness:	Andrea Davidson
Committee Member:	Nicholas McGowan
Page of Transcript:	10

Relevant text (from transcript):

Nicholas McGOWAN: Thank you very much. Commissioner, are you able to tell me the average duration of isolation or lockdown episodes in the various facilities – Malmsbury and Parkville in particular, obviously? Cherry Creek will not have any.

Andrea DAVIDSON: What I can give you is a breakdown of episodes of isolation across each quarter for the system. That is data that I have if you would like me to share that.

Nicholas McGOWAN: Yes, that would be fantastic. Thank you. Can you also share with the committee how many hours are spent in isolation or lockdown per week?

Andrea DAVIDSON: I do not have the data on that basis. I have quarterly data. However, I am most willing to take that on notice.

Answer:

The use of isolation is governed by the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (the Act) and has been in use since 1989 under the preceding legislation. It is an intervention of last resort and, when used, is authorised in accordance with relevant legislative and policy requirements. Isolation data is published quarterly on the department's website - [Youth justice reviews and reporting | Department of Justice and Community Safety Victoria.](#)

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Page of Transcript:	11

Relevant text (from transcript):

Nicholas McGOWAN: How many non-custodial style staff do you have presently?

Andrea DAVIDSON: In terms of support staff?

Nicholas McGOWAN: That is right.

Andrea DAVIDSON: I certainly have those numbers for Cherry Creek. If I am to go to Cherry Creek, we have a total of 338 FTE that are funded and 238 projected to be onboarded for the first tranche of funding for the 56 beds. I do not have a breakdown of the specific custodial staff within that number, but I can tell you that of that we have 212 now recruited, 100 of which are youth justice workers. So there is a significant – at Cherry Creek, to the minister's point earlier around a significant difference in model. We also, within justice, have a number of clinical staff at Cherry Creek. That is a new undertaking for youth justice. So we have an in-house clinical model and an enhanced behaviour support model that sees justice staff working alongside those operational staff in, effectively, new roles and also supporting the delivery of programs more broadly, both psychosocial programs as well as dedicated rehabilitation programs.

Nicholas McGOWAN: Are you able to provide a breakdown in terms of staffing for those clinical staff that deliver those programs?

Andrea DAVIDSON: I can provide that on notice, yes.

Answer:

There are currently 467.9 FTE employed in Youth Justice custodial operations at the Parkville and Malmsbury Youth Justice Centres. Of these, 401.5 FTE are in direct custodial supervision roles and 66.4 FTE are in support roles.

At the Cherry Creek Youth Justice Centre there are 249 FTE roles funded for direct custodial supervision and 89.5 FTE for support and clinical roles. Recruitment for these roles is ongoing ahead of operations commencing at Cherry Creek.

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Page of Transcript:	12

Relevant text (from transcript):

Nicholas McGOWAN: Okay, thank you. Minister or Commissioner, in May the Commission for Children and Young People noted that girls and young women at Parkville still had no access to an outdoor secure area, meaning they had less access to fresh air and exercise compared to their male counterparts. Has this situation been rectified?... Can you take that on notice, please?

Answer:

A secure courtyard has been installed at the young women's unit at Parkville, providing young women the ability to move in and out of their unit freely.

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Portfolio:	Youth Justice
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Committee Member:	Ellen Sandell
Page of Transcript:	14

Relevant text (from transcript):

Ellen SANDELL: Thank you, Chair. I would like to ask about Malmsbury. How much was spent on the recent upgrades? I think they started in about 2020. Is that correct?...

Enver ERDOGAN: Since 2020. I understand that there was \$80 million spent on Parkville and Malmsbury since the 2019–20 budget.

Ellen SANDELL: Okay. But we do not have the split between Parkville and Malmsbury?

Enver ERDOGAN: I will ask the Commissioner.

Andrea DAVIDSON: We can certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

Investment in custodial infrastructure has been provided to ensure ageing infrastructure at Malmsbury remains fit for purpose to keep staff and young people safe. Similar investments have been made in infrastructure at Parkville.

Specific funding for infrastructure upgrades at Malmsbury has not been allocated since 2019-20.