

CORRECTIONS

Written Questions on Notice provided by Richard Riordan MP

VICTORIAN PRISON COSTS AND PERFORMANCE (BP3 PG 269)

1. Minister, could you provide a dollar and percentage breakdown for each aspect of net operating expenditure, including items such as food, security, staff, recreation, training and education programs?

The breakdown of the total anticipated 2019-20 expenditure for the Prisoner Supervision and Support output of \$1651.2 million, as published in BP3 (pg 269-270), is as follows:

	2019-20 Budget \$m	% of total cost
Capital asset charge, depreciation and amortisation, maintenance, property services and utilities	335.4	20.0%
Information, technology and communication	13.5	1.0%
Public private partnerships and correctional services	551.7	33.0%
Prisoner industries	12.2	1.0%
Programs and services, including health, education and training, offending behaviour programs, transition and reintegration	152	9.0%
System wide services	95.5	6.0%
Security, transport and intelligence	37.6	2.0%
Resources, governance and support	80	5.0%
Assurance and review	4.1	0.0%
Operational staff	341.9	21.0%
Prisoner operating, including food, bedding, earnings, other	27.3	2.0%
Total	1651.2	100.0%

2. **On February 11, 2019 Tony Mokbel was assaulted in Barwon Prison by two other prisoners. What has the total cost been of Tony Mokbel's treatment following this incident, including helicopter flight, transportation, surgery and rehabilitation?**

It is not appropriate to release the specific details of an individual prisoner's treatment and rehabilitation, and in many cases, it is not possible to disaggregate costs. Nursing care for example cannot be broken down to the individual prisoner level.

3. **Commissioner, (BP4 PG 71) if the Chisholm Road Prison was to be built at a comparable cost of NSW maximum security prisons, at least \$600 million would likely be freed up in the corrections budget. Commissioner, what would you do with \$600 million to improve prisoner outcomes and reduce recidivism rates?**

The allocation of Government funds is a matter for the Government, via the State Budget process. Additionally, the design of the Chisholm Road Prison is different to the NSW maximum security prisons and the costs are not comparable.

PRISON PERFORMANCE MEASURES (BP3 PG 270)

4. **Commissioner, the Budget Papers set out a 5% target positive random drug tests across the Victorian correctional system for 2019-20. Corrections Victoria's data shows that Marngoneet Prison has a year to date random positive rate of 10.05%, twice the target level as set out in the Budget Papers. Furthermore, Marngoneet has returned monthly figures in excess of the 5% target for 8 out of 9 months reported in 2018-19 thus far reported, with some months as high as 15%. Commissioner, given current processes are clearly failing to keep drugs in Marngoneet at an acceptable level, what additional measures is Corrections Victoria undertaking to reduce the prevalence of drugs throughout Marngoneet Prison?**

The Health of Australia's Prisoners report (2018) indicates that *'two-thirds (65%) of [all Australian] prisoners have reported illicit drug use in the 12 months prior to entering prison'*. This is a very high proportion, and provides some context to the challenge faced by all prisons across Australia, in terms of preventing or minimising both drug supply and use.

Keeping contraband, including illicit drugs, out of prisons is a critical part of maintaining a safe and secure environment for staff, prisoners and visitors.

Corrections Victoria employs a range of methods to prevent contraband from entering Victorian prisons, including the Marngoneet Correctional Centre. These methods include the use of advanced technology on entry into a prison; intelligence-led searches of prisoners, staff, visitors and vehicles by the Security and Emergency Services Group (a team of highly trained custodial officers); and the use of drug-detection dogs. Corrections Victoria also operates a drug-testing regime, which informs detection.

The five per cent target for random positive drug tests is set for the system, taking into account the variation of results for individual prisons. In addition, prisons each play a distinct role within the system and cater for different profiles of prisoner. For this reason, they have differing performance targets related to this measure. The statewide expected outcome published in the Budget Papers of 4.5 per cent has been estimated based on historical performance across the prison system for the 2018-19 financial year. Marngoneet's current benchmark of 6.5 per cent is published on the internet in the *Drugs in Prisons* Report.

5. **Commissioner, have you received any additional specific funding in the 2019-20 Budget to reduce the prevalence of Buprenorphine and other drugs throughout Victoria's prison system?**

Buprenorphine is increasingly being detected through barrier control and search operations (both random and intelligence-led), in addition to random and general urinalysis results. This particular drug can be obtained via prescription in the community and concealed more easily than other drugs, due to it being in a flat, patch-like form. The Security and Emergency Services Group of Corrections Victoria are training two canines to enable them to detect Buprenorphine (in addition to other drugs these canines can already detect).

The ability to prevent the entry of drugs into the prison system remains a priority for Corrections Victoria. The sustained and strengthened focus in this area will assist Corrections Victoria in reducing the prevalence of drugs across the system.

- 6. Minister, the 2019-20 Budget Papers show the expected outcome for the proportion of benchmark measures in prison services agreement achieved of 80.5% for 2018-19, below the 90% target. Commissioner, this is at least the fifth consecutive year that Corrections Victoria has failed to meet this performance target. Minister, is Corrections Victoria's inability to meet its prison services performance target explain Victoria's rising recidivism rate?**

This measure represents a system-wide aggregation of the service delivery outcome results achieved for each prison, to determine an overall percentage achievement rate for the prison system. Benchmarks are set differently, based on the profile of each prison, and the suite of measures includes a number of stretch targets in order to drive enhanced performance, particularly relating to prison safety and security.

The expected outcome of 80.5 per cent is lower than the 2018-19 target of 90 per cent, however is an improvement on the previous year's result. This measure is impacted by pressures on the prison system from an increased remand population, with significant prisoner turnover and movements. The 90 per cent benchmark remains in place to ensure a continued high standard is set for the performance of the prison system.

In 2018-19, the expected recidivism rate is 43 per cent, an improvement on the 2017-18 result. This is expected to decline further to 41 per cent in 2019-20. It is important to remember that there is a two-year lag between a prisoner's release and when the recidivism calculation takes effect. For this reason, there is a lag before the impact of substantial recent investments in rehabilitation and transition supports can be assessed.

- 7. In 2017/18, how many male and how many female prisoners have begun a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program whilst in prison? How many successfully completed that program?**

In 2017-18, 389 females and 3,972 males commenced a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program in Victorian public prisons. In 2017-18, 334 females and 3,478 males completed a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program in Victorian public prisons. There are a range of valid exemptions which affect the completion rate, including unexpected discharge or transfer between prisons or an illness or medical condition.

- 8. How much has this drug and alcohol rehabilitation program cost in 2017/18?**

The total contract value for alcohol and other drug (AOD) services in Victorian public prisons in 2017-18 was \$7,331,950, which includes AOD programs, as well as harm reduction sessions provided to every prisoner in Victorian public prisons.

- 9. In 2018/19 so far, how many male and how many female prisoners have begun a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program whilst in prison? How many successfully completed that program?**

In 2018-19, as of 31 May 2019, 467 females and 3,792 males had commenced a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program in Victorian public prisons. As of 31 May 2019, 378 females and 3166 males had completed a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program in Victorian public prisons. There are a range of valid exemptions which affect the completion rate, including unexpected discharge or transfer between prisons or an illness or medical condition.

- 10. How much has this drug and alcohol rehabilitation program cost in 2018/19, so far?**

In 2018-19, as of 31 May 2019, \$7,988,061 has been provided for alcohol and other drug (AOD) services in Victorian public prisons, which includes AOD programs, as well as harm reduction sessions provided to every prisoner in Victorian public prisons.

- 11. What is the budget allocated for drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs in prisons in 2019/20?**

The 2019-20 budget for alcohol and other drug (AOD) services in Victorian public prisons is \$10,215,468, which includes AOD programs, as well as harm reduction sessions provided to every prisoner in Victorian public prisons.