

Greg Wilson QONs – Parliamentary Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria

| No. | Question on Notice | Response |
|-----|--|--|
| 1 | List of who is on the Cherry Creek facility community advisory group. | <p>The Department of Justice and Regulation established a Community Advisory Group in June 2017 to help guide development of the new youth justice centre and ensure the local community is informed and engaged as the project progresses. Details about the Community Advisory Group including its membership are publicly available and can be found online at https://engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre/community-advisory-group</p> |
| 2 | Details of the costs of the two Supreme Court cases and the Court of Appeal. | <p>No payments to plaintiffs have been made in relation to the three legal matters relating to the use of the Grevillea Unit as a youth justice centre. It is usual for the apportionment of legal costs between parties to occur some time after the conclusion of proceedings. It would not be appropriate to provide details on costs until these matters are settled.</p> |
| 3 | List of who has appeared as witnesses from the Department of Justice in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal proceedings. | <p>Jodi Henderson, Executive Director, Youth Justice Operations Robert Pemberton, Acting General Manager, Grevillea Unit Monica Tulloch, Senior Operations Manager, Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct Scott Jacques, Acting General Manager, Grevillea Unit Matthew Belleville, Operations Manager, Parkville Youth Justice Precinct</p> |
| 4 | Details around young people in youth justice facilities and problems with ice, including details of relevant reports. If ice is a contributing factor to unrest, and if so, why aren't children being tested for it? | <p>There is no evidence that ice obtained within custody is a contributing factor to unrest in youth justice facilities. Rather young people may be drug affected when they are remanded into custody.</p> <p>The 2015-16 Youth Parole Board Annual Report provides results of a snapshot survey of 167 males and nine females detained on sentence and remand on 7 October 2015 which shows that 16 per cent had a history of drug misuse, and 66 per cent had a history of both alcohol and drug misuse.</p> <p>Robust security processes are in place to prevent the introduction of drugs and other contraband to the custodial facilities.</p> <p>Young people and their personal property are thoroughly searched upon admission to a custodial facility. Visitors undergo security screening including iris scanning and metal detection.</p> |

Greg Wilson QONs – Parliamentary Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria

| No. | Question on Notice | Response |
|-----|--|---|
| | | <p>Young people suspected of being substance affected are placed under constant observations and immediately assessed by the Youth Health and Rehabilitation Service.</p> <p>There is no legislative scheme for mandatory drug testing in Youth Justice centres under the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i>.</p> <p>Daily compliance checks are undertaken by youth justice staff which include searches of young people's bedroom and common areas within residential units.</p> <p>The Safety and Emergency Response Team complete regular searches of the external perimeters and staff may complete an unclothed search of a young person at any time if there is a suspicion of the young person being in possession of contraband.</p> <p>Young people can access individual counselling and complete Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) harm minimisation programs to address issues of concern around their substance use.</p> |
| 5 | Documentation with regard to how the behaviour management model is being communicated to both staff and the young people? | Please see attached 'Rewards and Consequences Model for Young People and Youth Justice Workers in Victoria's Youth Justice Centres – Achieve Challenge Encourage (ACE)' |
| 6 | Is the gold silver bronze behaviour management model operating consistently across all facilities? | The new behaviour management model went live on 28 August 2017 and is now fully implemented across both Youth Justice precincts. Over 450 staff were trained between June and August 2017 across Parkville and Malmsbury. Previously different behaviour management models applied to different facilities inconsistently. |
| 7 | An update on the new remand court, and how the remand court would deal with the issue of people going back to court every three weeks, as per the act, and then being re-remanded? | <p>The Children Youth and Families Act 2005 (s420 (2)) states that a child refused bail must not be remanded in custody for longer than 21 days. This ensures the court can monitor the case planning, consider applications for bail, and where appropriate, request the youth justice service assess the child's suitability for bail.</p> <p>In response to the increased number of children held on remand and the demand this has placed on the court, the 2017-18 Victorian Budget invested \$3.4 million over two years to establish a Fast-Track Remand</p> <p>Court to speed up the processing of young people on remand. The budget allocation will fund resources at the Children's Court, Victoria Legal Aid and Victoria Police.</p> |

Greg Wilson QONs – Parliamentary Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria

| No. | Question on Notice | Response |
|-----|--|--|
| | | Fast-tracking involves an expedited process for charges to be brought before the Court. The Fast-Track Remand Court commenced operation at Melbourne Children's Court on 29 May 2017 and will mean that children will be dealt with more quickly, reducing pressure on the system. |
| 8 | Are lockdowns still occurring and if so, why? | At times due to safety, security concerns, or for the good order of the facility, lockdowns are required. These are kept to the minimum time necessary to resolve or manage the safety or security concern. Reasons for lockdown can include such things as an incident occurring in the facility; a pre-emptive security measure, or availability of staff. |
| 9 | How the number of beds for the Cherry Creek facility was settled upon? | In developing the number of beds for the Cherry Creek site, demand modelling on youth offenders was undertaken, which considered population growth and criminal justice trends. |