

## Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Youth Justice
Witness:	Ms Jodi Henderson
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
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### Relevant text:

**Mr D O'BRIEN:** Thank you, Chair. Minister, good afternoon. Budget paper 3, page 90, covers the youth justice area. How long has the use of rotations, or locking young people in their rooms because of inadequate staffing, been in practice at Parkville?

....

**Mr D O'BRIEN:** I wonder, Ms Henderson, whether you are able to provide on notice—or if you have got it—a weekly breakdown of the number of times the practice has been used this year.

### 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.

The latest quarter's isolation data has been published on the [department's website](#) and shows a declining trend in the use of security-based isolations, when comparing the January – March 2021 quarter to the January – March 2022 quarter.

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**Relevant text:**

**Mr D O'BRIEN:** Do you know what the longest time is, according to your records, that a young person has been locked down in their room over the current financial year?

**Comm. HENDERSON:** I would have to take that on notice, because in terms of our Sapphire unit, young people are coming into projective (sp.) quarantine and they are on a seven-day lockdown regime. They are allowed to make phone calls and get out of their room, but it is based on risk, staff, our staff wearing full PPE and whether we are able to do that. I need to make sure that we are very clear that we do not lock children down just because.

**Answer:**

The *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* permits isolation to be used for specific purposes, and only as an intervention of last resort. Isolation is not a punishment and must not be used as such.

In the financial year to date (July 2021 to April 2022), the longest time spent on a single episode of security-based isolation (s488(7)) by a young person in Parkville Youth Justice custodial precinct is **11 hours**.

In the financial year to date (July 2021 to April 2022), the longest time spent on a single episode of security-based isolation (s488(7)) by a young person at Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct is **10 hours 45 minutes**.

Young people are provided with their entitlements in line with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

The latest quarter's isolation data has been published on the [department's website](#) and shows a declining trend in the use of security-based isolations, when comparing the January – March 2021 quarter to the January – March 2022 quarter.

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**Relevant text:**

**Mr D O'BRIEN:** Can I ask—I am going to run out of time, but perhaps you might be able to take these on notice—how many medical incidents relating to the wellbeing of a young person, such as a seizure or a fit following being locked in their rooms, were reported in the financial year, as well as increased aggression reports and attempted suicides as a result of being locked in their room? Do you have that information?

**Comm. HENDERSON:** I do not have it on hand, but what I can tell you is that there have been no category 1 self-harm or suicide attempts recorded for the January to March 2022 year.

**Mr D O'BRIEN:** If I could ask for the full financial year so far on notice, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

**Answer:**

There have been no young people at Parkville or Malmsbury Youth Justice Precincts who have been involved in a Category One incident during a security-based isolation (s488(7)) this financial year (as of end April 2022).

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Witness:	Ms Rebecca Falkingham
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
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**Relevant text:**

**Mr HIBBINS:** Right. Okay. So that is about \$390 million—that is what I was looking for. My understanding is within the \$390 million that there were a number of elements to that. You have got listed here:

... Cherry Creek ... behaviour support specialists, remand beds, and safe and stable workforce initiatives.

Do we have a breakdown of those individual items?

**Ms FALKINGHAM:** So you mean getting into the level of detail about the neighbourhoods that it is funding within the precinct? We can give you the \$390 million broken down in terms of what each element of the custodial build looks like—

**Mr HIBBINS:** Yes.

**Ms FALKINGHAM:** if that is what you are looking for. We can provide that to you on notice.

**Answer:**

The 2022-23 State Budget provides **\$390.6 million** to improve custodial services for Youth Justice including funding to open a new fit-for purpose custodial centre at Cherry Creek.

A breakdown of this \$390.6 million funding investment is provided below.

Improving Custodial Services for Youth Justice	2021-22 \$m	2022-23 \$m	2023-24 \$m	2024-25 \$m	2025-26 \$m	4-year total \$m
Opening Cherry creek	-	67.7	96.7	95.1	97.8	<b>357.3</b>
Behaviour support specialists	-	1.9	1.9			<b>3.8</b>
Parkville remand beds	-	7.1	7.1			<b>14.2</b>
Safe and stable workforce	-	1.8	1.9			<b>3.7</b>
Child Protection Indemnity Insurance	-	11.6				<b>11.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>90.1</b>	<b>107.6</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>390.6</b>

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**Relevant text:**

**Mr NEWBURY:** And in relation to the other data that you took on notice for Mr O'Brien, if you would not mind providing an equivalent for Malmsbury of anything that he requested.

**Comm. HENDERSON:** Yes.

**Answer:**

Breakdowns for the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre are provided within all relevant answers above.