

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 419

Asked on 30 April 2025

HON M DE BRENNI ASKED MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE AND VICTIM SUPPORT AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON L GERBER)

QUESTION:

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 1139 of 2024—

Will the Minister (a) provide the advice the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support has developed in line with the government's Detention with Purpose policy, (b) advise the total number of consultation sessions or engagements that occurred in relation to these policy options, (c) advise what modelling has occurred with respect to these policies that show it will increase bed capacity in Youth Detention Centres (YDCs) and increase Centre safety and (d) advise what additional funding, separate to the \$19.17m in 2024-25 Capital Budget, will be provided for the increased safety and capacity of YDCs?

ANSWER:

- (a) Detention with Purpose aims to improve staff safety through strengthening policies, enhanced intelligence capabilities and a zero-tolerance for violence against staff. It focuses on discipline and rehabilitation by mandating education and enforcing clear consequences for actions and zero-tolerance, ensuring accountability for young people while maintaining a secure environment. I anticipate a written briefing on the status of a final operational policy and implementation soon.
- (b) The department has convened more than a dozen formal briefing sessions to discuss Detention with Purpose initiatives and objectives. These sessions have included partner agencies, legal and justice representatives, industrial groups, oversight and advocacy agencies and other sector stakeholders.
- (c) Detention with Purpose does not prioritise youth detention centre capacity (see part (a) for its aims). However, by implementing compulsory education, a zero-tolerance approach for violence against staff, and better behaviour management, it is expected that fewer youths will commit offences, such as staff assaults, while in detention. This would result in fewer additional sentences, therefore reducing capacity pressures.
- (d) Regular capital upgrades and maintenance to YDCs will continue to occur in line with departmental asset management plans. Funding to support Detention with Purpose will be allocated from capital and operational budgets.