



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING**

(Reference: [Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022](#))

Members:

**MR J DAVIS (Chair)
MR J MILLIGAN (Deputy Chair)
MR M PETERSSON**

TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE

CANBERRA

THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2022

**Secretary to the committee:
Dr A Chynoweth (Ph: 620 75498)**

By authority of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Submissions, answers to questions on notice and other documents, including requests for clarification of the transcript of evidence, relevant to this inquiry that have been authorised for publication by the committee may be obtained from the Legislative Assembly website.

APPEARANCES

Community Services Directorate:	45
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Amended 20 May 2013

The committee met at 10.17 am.

Appearances:

Davidson, Ms Emma, Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Veterans and Seniors

Community Services Directorate:

Brendas, Ms Tina, Executive Group Manager, Youth Justice
Evans, Ms Jacinta, Executive Group Manager, Strategic Policy
Bassett, Dr Louise, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Policy
Murray, Ms Christine, Executive Branch Manager, Communities
Lapic, Ms Silvia, Acting Executive Group Manager, Children, Youth and Families
Rule, Ms Catherine, Director-General

THE CHAIR: Good morning, everybody, and welcome to the public hearing of the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing's inquiry into annual and financial reports 2021-2022. My name is Johnathan Davis, and I am the chair of this committee. The proceedings today will examine the annual reports of the Community Services Directorate. Before we begin, on behalf of the committee, I would like to acknowledge that we meet today on the lands of the Ngunnawal people, and pay my respects to them for their elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the continuing social and cultural contribution First Nations people make to life in our city.

A few housekeeping matters, friends. We are conducting these hearings using COVID-safe measures. So, as you get up and move around from your table, the cleaner who is joining us today will wipe down your chair and wipe down your desk. All mobile phones are to be switched off or put into silent mode, and I ask that witnesses appearing today are mindful to talk directly into the microphone and to speak up, just to make sure you can be accurately transcribed by Hansard.

On the first occasion that you speak today, please provide your full name, the capacity in which you appear, and acknowledge that you have read and understood the privilege statement, which should sit to the right on your desk. In our first session today, we will hear from the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Minister Davidson and officials. Welcome to you all. Minister, I might ask you to introduce yourself first and acknowledge the privilege statement.

Ms Davidson: Yuma. I am Emma Davidson, Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services. I acknowledge the privilege statement.

THE CHAIR: Tremendous. I will also remind any of our witnesses appearing via WebEx to make sure they identify themselves when they speak and acknowledge the privilege statement. As chair, I will kick off with questions and then we will move down the line.

Minister, I referred to an opinion piece that you had published in the *RiotACT* on 4 July last year, entitled, 'Can We Reimagine Canberra's Youth Justice System?' You

started with the thought provoking line:

Imagine a world where there is no need for the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. A Canberra where our services are so integrated and robust that we can support the complex, unique needs of young people and families when they need it, and where they need it.

Minister, can you talk me through what the government has implemented over the past 12 months to limit the chances of children finding their way to Bimberi?

Ms Davidson: Yes, absolutely. We know from the McArthur report that came out last year that, while there are a relatively small number of young people and children under the age of 14 who are engaged in the youth justice system, quite often they have quite complex health and social services unmet needs. And it is not just for the child; it is also for their family and the people around them. So, if we can find better ways to meet those needs then those young people will not be engaging in behaviour that is unsafe or is harmful, and they will be able to lead happy, healthy lives and make our whole community safer. So we have been doing quite a lot of work over the last year to better understand what those gaps in our social services and health systems are, and how we can work with the community sector to better meet those needs.

In addition to that, we have been doing a whole lot of work around Franklin House and Narrabundah House trials of functional family therapy programs and we have been doing a range of other things to help young people make better decisions and to change the pathway that they are on so that they can live the happy, healthy lives that they want to live with good support around them. I will pass to Catherine Rule, who can talk some more about how those programs work.

Ms Rule: I might just pass directly to Ms Brendas to talk about Franklin House and Narrabundah House because she has more of the detail than I do.

Ms Brendas: I have read and acknowledge the privilege statement. Franklin House and Narrabundah House are youth justice refuges for young people. Narrabundah House is specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young men, and Franklin House caters for all young people who are on youth justice orders that require residential care—who require accommodation. They have court orders to potentially reside at either Franklin House or Narrabundah House, and while they are there they have access to their case managers, who support them with developing case plans to address their criminogenic needs but also to work with them to re-engage in education or employment, access other services and counselling, and address their needs as required.

THE CHAIR: Do you have any data you could point to on how investments like this, particularly for young people—this sort of justice reinvestment—reduces their rates of recidivism and keeps them connected with programs and stops them going back to Bimberi?

Ms Rule: We do not have the data on that, per se, other than the many broader studies that have happened into that. But we are—as we talk through some of those matters and future policy directions, like raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility—

discussing with treasury some of those whole-of-life costs, and where investments might be best targeted to prevent future costs, whether that is in the youth justice or the mainstream adult justice system or other social services systems. It is very hard to quantify things that do not happen; it is much easier to quantify things that do happen, but we are talking to our colleagues at treasury about how to use what data may be available to help government make those investment decisions.

Ms Davidson: We do know that if we can address these issues earlier, then it is not just the impact on the youth justice system, it is also preventing some of these young people from ending up in the adult justice system and preventing trauma from becoming an enduring mental health condition, which is why the kind of cross-directorate work that the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing is doing in co-designing with community a youth at risk trauma service is so important. And it is making sure that we have integrations between mental health and drug and alcohol services, with housing and homelessness services for young people and with domestic and family violence services as well.

THE CHAIR: That makes sense. Are there any trends that you could point the committee to, to show, over a period of time, the population of Bimberi? In short, are we, over time, housing fewer and fewer young people in Bimberi, or more and more?

Ms Davidson: Certainly, over the past 12 months during the COVID public health restrictions, we saw fewer young people who were ending up in our youth justice system. As those public health restrictions have changed, we have seen young people engaging in behaviour in the community again that has required a youth justice response. But we also know that young people have been through a lot over the last few years. It is not just with COVID and the social isolation and economic impacts that households have had to deal with; it is also the after-effects of the 2019-20 bushfires and the impact that that has had on young people's mental health and wellbeing. And there are ongoing issues around housing and homelessness and drug and alcohol use and mental health. We know that young people have been dealing with a lot, and sometimes that comes out in behaviours that are not safe for them or the people around them. That is why we are working so hard to put in place programs that can support them so that that does not happen.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

MR MILLIGAN: Just on the Franklin House: how many people are currently in Franklin House? Is it operational?

Ms Davidson: I will pass to Tina Brendas, who can talk to the detail.

MR MILLIGAN: Okay.

Ms Brendas: I can answer that. There are two young people currently at Franklin House. It is operational and became operational in early September.

MR MILLIGAN: The annual reports state that all young people at Franklin House will be engaged in education, training, employment, or other activities. Is that happening at the moment?

Ms Brendas: Yes, it is.

MR MILLIGAN: Can you talk a little bit on what is currently on offer?

Ms Brendas: The young people currently in Franklin House have a school, and they attend school on a daily basis. So they are back and reengaged in their local school. The staff support the young people to attend school.

MR MILLIGAN: Okay, excellent.

DR PATERSON: How many young people are in Bimberi at the moment?

Ms Davidson: I believe there are 17 young people in Bimberi today.

DR PATERSON: Is that a change? You said that during COVID there were not many people residing in Bimberi; so what has the change been over the last year, for example?

Ms Davidson: During the public health restrictions we found that young people were not engaging in the kinds of behaviour out in the community that was going to bring them into contact with the justice system. Of course, as public health restrictions came to an end people were returning to more community engagement, and that can sometimes include some unsafe behaviour. At the moment, we have quite a few young people who are in Bimberi, but most of them are in there on remand; they are not sentenced. They are in there waiting to appear before the courts, and a significant number of those young people end up with bail once they go before the courts. So the numbers do go up and down quite a bit from day to day.

DR PATERSON: What is the breakdown of sentenced and remand?

MS DAVIDSON: I might pass to Tina, who can talk to the detail.

Ms Brendas: There are 17 young people in custody; 13 are on remand and four are sentenced.

DR PATERSON: How long have those on remand been in Bimberi, on average?

Ms Brendas: It varies. Some are overnight, and others have been there for 25 days. It varies; it just depends on the length of time that the court remands them for the next appearance.

DR PATERSON: In terms of comparison to pre-COVID levels, is that 17 an average number or—

Ms Davidson: That is a reasonably high number. It has been higher at some points in the past, but it is higher than we would like to see. Obviously, that means that there are young people who have been engaging in behaviour that is not safe for them or people around them, and that is what we really want to change. One of the reasons young people can sometimes end up in Bimberi awaiting a court date is because there

are not enough other places that we can take that young person where it is safe for them, where they can be bailed by police and await their court appearance without the risk of them continuing to engage in unsafe behaviours.

Part of the work that is being done around the service response for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility is addressing some of those gaps that we have in our social services system so that we have better ways of responding to young people engaging in harmful behaviour and not having to have them inducted into Bimberi, even if it is just for a few days. What we want to do is to be able to keep young people engaged in education, employment, community activities and maintaining strong, healthy family relationships without having to end up in our youth justice system.

DR PATERSON: I have a final supplementary question. In speaking with the Office of the Inspector of Correctional Services—the oversight body—I learnt that they are so stretched that they do not really have capacity to oversee Bimberi. Is that concerning to you?

Ms Davidson: It is really important that we have good independent oversight of facilities where people might be deprived of their liberty, so it is really important that they are properly resourced. That is probably a question better asked of the Attorney-General.

Ms Rule: I have read and acknowledge the privilege statement. I would also note that there are a number of other oversight mechanisms for Bimberi—the Official Visitors Scheme; and the Children and Young People Commissioner visits often. We are subject to the normal government audit arrangements. So it is not that there is no scrutiny; there is plenty of scrutiny on Bimberi. Perhaps that part of it is stretched—I cannot speak to that—but there is plenty of oversight from other mechanisms as well.

DR PATERSON: Thank you.

MR MILLIGAN: Regarding the disability assessment tool at Bimberi that is used to identify reasonable adjustment requirements for young people at the centre, the annual report states that during the initial trial period more than half of the young people identified a need for a reasonable adjustment. What was that percentage?

Ms Davidson: Before I pass to Tina Brendas to talk in more detail about what we found through that trial of that assessment tool, what this highlights is that the pathways into engagement in the justice system can quite often include issues around disability and health issues that people might have that make it harder for them to manage in the community and where they might actually need some extra support.

So, ideally, we would want to be in a situation here we can provide those supports to people before they end up in the justice system, but if they do, we want to be able to take that opportunity to get the right supports in place and make sure that they are able to get reengaged in education and supports so that they do not return to our youth justice system. I will pass to Tina to talk about how the assessment tool works and what we found.

Ms Brendas: The assessment tool is used upon induction, and it is to help us identify the young person's need early on so we can be more responsive to their needs and improve their engagement with us and other services while they are in custody. I will have to take the percentage on notice; I am not sure.

MR MILLIGAN: Has this trended upwards or downwards in terms of people needing this type of support?

Ms Rule: I think it is probably too early to identify trends.

MR MILLIGAN: Too early?

Ms Rule: It was just a trial, so therefore there are small numbers. I would not want to draw conclusions too early.

MR MILLIGAN: Do we know if any of these adjustments might have originated in the alcohol spectrum disorder? How many?

Ms Rule: Well, the tool will not screen for foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, because that is not actually recognised as a disability. What it will screen for, perhaps, though, is the impact of FASD. If there are issues around mental capacity and IQ and the like, it may screen for those things, but it does not screen for FASD per se.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, okay. What was the most common reasonable adjustment needed for young people?

Ms Rule: I think we would have to take that on notice, Mr Milligan. We do not have the detail of the outcome of those assessments with us.

Ms Davidson: I should also say that because we have such low numbers of young people who go through our Bimberi Youth Justice Centre in the ACT, a change of what is happening with just a few people can look like it has a big impact percentage-wise. The approach that we take in the ACT is to really look at the individual and their needs holistically rather than looking at what happens with a percentage of young people from one year to the next, because they are relatively small numbers.

MR MILLIGAN: Do you think this could be something that you might report on in future annual reports?

Ms Davidson: I expect that will happen if we are finding that there are particular trends in the kinds of supports that are being picked up through these kinds of assessment tools, but that will help us not just in the youth justice area, but also in other areas of our health and social services system so that we can provide the right supports to that child and their family before they ever end up anywhere near the justice system. That is the ideal situation that we want to get to.

Ms Rule: I would not expect that in the future we would report it in annual reports. It is sensitive data, and we need to be careful to protect the privacy of the individuals involved. And because the numbers in Bimberi are relatively small, I cannot actually foresee a scenario where we would report that in annual reports. But we may, over

time, look at analysed trends and see what kinds of themes are coming through in that tool, but I would not expect it to be an annual reporting regime.

MR MILLIGAN: Okay.

DR PATERSON: Just while we are on Bimberi and youth justice, I was wondering if you could talk about some of the building improvements that have gone on at Bimberi over the last year or so.

Ms Davidson: I will pass to Tina Brendas, who can talk about the construction work that we have been doing and the improvements we have been making out there. Some of that has been in relation to the enforceable undertaking. She can talk about what we have been doing.

Ms Brendas: Thank you for your question, Dr Paterson. Through the better improvement fund, we have installed solar panels at the centre. We have also changed our heating and cooling system from gas to an electrical HVAC system. That was done within the financial year. Under the enforceable undertaking there have been some infrastructure upgrades around security and safety for the young people and the staff and visitors. That is including changing frames and things from aluminium to steel, and glass to Lexan. Other work has come out of the WorkSafe investigation. Some of that is security-in-confidence work that is occurring, but it is to improve the safety for the staff and the duty appointments.

DR PATERSON: Okay, cool. Thank you.

MR MILLIGAN: I have questions about the upgrades to Bimberi. In the annual reports, during the last reporting period, you note that you want to do a reduction in the use of gas for equipment at the Youth Justice Centre and to use electronic systems instead as the primary source of energy at Bimberi. I am just wondering where that is up to. Have you started that transition from use of gas to electric, and what is the cost associated?

Ms Davidson: Part of that would have been that change over to the HVAC system you were talking about.

Ms Brendas: Yes, the roll-out of the HVAC system was part of those upgrades. And that will continue in the future. It is a staged roll-out.

MR MILLIGAN: Do you have a completion date?

Ms Brendas: We have completed one stage. That has occurred. Then it will be going back and looking at the next stages.

MR MILLIGAN: How many stages are there?

Ms Brendas: It would depend on the availability of funds.

Ms Rule: So we have to go back to government for funding. So, in the stages, how broadly and how fast we go depends on the funding available.

MR MILLIGAN: Do you know how much funding has been allocated to date so far, and how much more, roughly, you will need?

Ms Rule: How much we would need is a kind of how-long-is-a-piece-of-string question, but we can talk about what has been allocated so far.

Ms Brendas: So what was allocated in the last financial year, was \$260,000 for the gas upgrade.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, okay. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Back to me, for a substantive question. Minister, the Australian Human Rights Commission is one of the strongest national advocates for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14. I note this morning that you, the Attorney-General and Minister Stephen-Smith, issued a position paper—which I imagine has been worked on for some time—talking about the ACT government’s commitment to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Can you talk me through some of the work that has happened in that space over the last 12 months, and, in particular, some that you have led, in your ministerial responsibilities.

Ms Davidson: Yes, absolutely. This work is around raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility. In order to make sure that we have a safer community and that young people are not engaging in those kinds of unsafe behaviours, we need to work with our community sector partners to better understand how we can meet gaps in the current health and social services system so that we can change the pathways into the justice system for those children and their families. That means addressing some of the complexities around those families—around mental health, drug and alcohol use, homelessness, domestic and family violence, the trauma that some of those children have experienced, even at such an early age—and making sure that we are doing that with a multi-disciplinary approach.

We know, from the McArthur report last year, that while it is a very small number of 10- to 13-year-olds who come into contact with the justice system, they do have some very complex needs that have not been met—not just for the children but also for their families. If we are able to intervene earlier and put the right supports in place, we can make changes, not just for that child but for generations after them as well—because we are talking about some real intergenerational issues that need to be dealt with.

So some of the work that we have been doing has been around working with community sector stakeholders, who can help us to understand what we can do differently. If we just keep doing more of what we have been doing, we will continue to get more of the same results. What we need to do is put some different services in place that can address some of those gaps. That is where some of that really difficult policy work has to be done. This really demonstrates the importance of having good policy advice in our public service, which can really strengthen those relationships with the community sector stakeholders, who are often seeing those families who fall through the gaps.

THE CHAIR: Great; thank you. In terms of the announcement today, I note that

advocates have called for the minimum age of criminal responsibility to be raised to 14. That does not appear to be what the government has announced today, saying that it will do this in a staged approach for 12 years first. And there will still need to be work done on legislation for exemptions for 12- and 13-year-olds. Can you talk me through how that decision came to be?

Ms Davidson: Yes. As the Youth Justice Minister, I can tell you that we will raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years. We will do that with the right health and social services supports in place before that takes effect. We will be working with the community sector stakeholders to make sure that the services we are putting in place are right, and we will have a safer community at the end of this.

In order to do that well, we are taking a staged approach, where we know that we can provide the right services and supports for 10- and 11-year-olds pretty much immediately. We will be able to do that straight away, and allow ourselves up to two years—but hopefully less than that if we are able to put the services in place sooner—to get the right supports in place for 12- and 13-year-olds before that raised criminal age of responsibility takes effect. It is really important that, when we do this, we are getting it right, and that we are providing supports for those children and for their families as well.

THE CHAIR: This is my last follow-up on this, Minister. This is obviously a nation-leading reform; we will be the first jurisdiction to do this. Based on what you and your department have learnt so far, what advice would you have for other jurisdictions and the commonwealth considering the same reform?

Ms Davidson: Taking a localised approach is very important. What we are dealing with in the ACT might not be the same as what some of the other jurisdictions are dealing with, but we know that what we are dealing with across Australia are those families who have unmet needs and who have been falling through the cracks in existing service systems. Exactly where the gaps are is going to be different in different jurisdictions, but we know that by working with community sector stakeholders, we are going to get a much better understanding of those gaps than if we are just doing this on our own. That is why that position paper has gone out—so that we have those conversations about how to prevent a young person from being able to engage in behaviour that is harmful for themselves or people around them, and actually keep the community safe.

DR PATERSON: With young people who are in Bimberi, for example, what work goes on, or what services are offered, for families of those young people?

Ms Davidson: A whole range of programs are in place, and I will pass to Tina Brendas in a minute to talk through the detail of those programs. One of the things that works really well is their participation in education. The young people that I have had conversations with out at Bimberi, have talked to me about how important education is for them, and how much they enjoy being able to participate in learning things, in building their skills and really focusing on some of the strengths they have. We have some people out there with some great creative talents. They are really smart kids, who really want to be able to create a pathway forward for a better life for themselves. And education is a big part of that, but we have other programs as well.

DR PATERSON: Just for the parents though—for the parents of the kids who are in Bimberi—is there support for them to engage with their kids and, if there are issues within the family—

Ms Davidson: Yes. Some of those programs are not just about what happens with young people who end up in Bimberi; there are a significant number of young people who end on community orders. They might still be living at home with their family. So being able to trial things like functional family therapy has been really helpful for us. I will pass to Tina Brendas, who can talk more about support for families.

Ms Brendas: We have a family engagement officer, who supports and engages families of young people and maintains the relationships with the families and the young people. Young people have counselling through Relationships Australia, which is also for their families. And there are other community services. I know the Aboriginal Legal Service offers support to families, as well as our colleagues in Health.

DR PATERSON: Is any work done to maintain the relationship between family members and a young person in Bimberi, for example? Because I imagine that is pretty important, given they come out, potentially, into their care.

Ms Brendas: Yes, there is. The family engagement officer supports and does some of that, but there are also referrals to specialist services to provide counselling and support for families and young people to build and rebuild their relationships.

MR MILLIGAN: The annual reports state that Children, Youth and Families made 525 appearances in the ACT Children’s Court and ACT Supreme Court in relation to youth justice matters. Are you able to provide this figure for the previous four years? Take it as a question on notice.

Ms Rule: We can take that on notice. We do not have that here with us.

MR MILLIGAN: No, that is fine. That is what I wanted from that. Thank you.

DR PATERSON: Minister, I am interested in the first action plan for the ACT Carers Strategy. It concluded late last year. Is the government working on the second action plan now?

Ms Davidson: Yes, we are. And before I pass to Catherine to talk in more detail, one of the ways in which we are engaging this work is to work closely with Carers ACT, which co-chairs the government’s group for the Carers Strategy, to make sure that we are really hearing from people with lived experience. But I will pass to Catherine, who can talk more about how the Carers Strategy second action plan is going to work.

Ms Rule: Thanks, Minister. In the most recent budget, we secured \$825,000 of funding over four years to support the implementation of the strategy, which allows us to work really closely with Carers ACT and other organisations in the sector to decide how to invest that money to best effect. Working up the action plan, and then allocating funding will really help us to make sure that the action plans are more than

just something written on paper. There is nothing like a bit of funding to actually help support the implementation of those initiatives. Carers ACT has been a great partner for us in delivering that work, and we expect that the funding over the next four-year period will allow us to deliver some much more specific initiatives. Maybe Ms Evans can talk about exactly where we are up to with Carers ACT and with the distribution of that money.

Ms Evans: I have read and acknowledge the privilege statement. Just further to the detail, as the Director-General has acknowledged the Carers ACT group have had a lot of input into what they would like to see next. What they really wanted to avoid was a very generic sort of plan. They had some very specific things that they wanted to see done, and that included getting some support to develop a carers' respite options handbook.

They also wanted to be able to support an annual recognition event, which is really important, of course, in terms of allowing carers to celebrate the hard work that they do. That funding was also to support that governance group, who have put so much work into developing the initial strategy and plan. So we are at the point where the carers governance group will continue to guide that work going forward. And we basically are here to provide the support for them to do that.

DR PATERSON: Have things changed since COVID? Is there a new frame or lessons that we have learnt from COVID, which will influence the second action plan?

Ms Rule: I do not know necessarily that there has been anything specific, other than to note that some of the informal feedback we have had is that COVID had a disproportional impact on carers because it added to their caring responsibilities and it has been harder to access other services that might have assisted in that caring. So we are really focused on working with Carers ACT and others to rebuild the carers sector and give those carers some respite and some relief from what I think has been a hard period for everybody, but particularly for carers.

Ms Davidson: I think this is why it is so important that we are providing support for the work around recognition of what it is for the 50,000 unpaid carers in the ACT are dealing with. What we have learned over the last couple of years with COVID is that actually we can be more flexible about working and studying from home. We can be more flexible about finding ways for people to meet—say, outdoors, where they have better ventilation, instead of indoors. We can have a little bit more awareness and understanding of who around us in our community might have a whole lot of responsibilities and might really appreciate someone just checking in with them and saying, “Hey, do you need me to drop anything off for you, or pick anything up?” “Do you just want someone to talk to?”—that kind of thing.

There are a lot of carers in our community who have gone through a lot of additional workload and social isolation. So, while the rest of us are enjoying being able to get back to doing things that we have missed for the last couple of years, those 50,000 unpaid carers in our community are not all able to do the same things, and they still need to protect those people who are most at risk in our community from the virus. For all of the rest of us, having an awareness, an understanding and a recognition of

what that means for their lives and how we can support them, will help us to build more inclusive and cohesive communities that are more resilient dealing with whatever comes next.

DR PATERSON: I have a final supplementary question. The annual report notes the commencement of the Carers Recognition Act. I was wondering if you could speak to what that means for carers. Are we expecting any changes from that legislation?

Ms Davidson: Yes. We have been doing some work to support the implementation of that Carers Recognition Act. Dr Bassett is best placed to answer questions about the Carers Recognition Act.

Dr Bassett: Thank you, for the question. I acknowledge and have read the privilege statement. The Carers Recognition Act is a really important step towards being able to promote carers in our community in a really wide range of activities and places in our community and the role that they play. It requires organisations to make sure that they have engaged with carers about their needs in delivering services, but also in making sure that, internal to government, there are policies in place that promote those caring responsibilities as a really important part of the people and their lives, and the people that work for the ACT government.

So it is early in the sense that it has only been in place for a number of months. In the next reporting period we should be able to get more information from those agencies and from those community organisations that deliver services directly to carers, about how they are both promoting the role of caring in the ACT community, and about how their organisations are actually building ways that caring can be part of everybody's work life and everybody's existence in the ACT—because it affects so many people.

The Recognition Act will, I think, in the next 12 months, see a period of implementation. As the minister said, there will be some support for those agencies to bed down how they will do that. There are options for them to report—in their annual reports, for example—about the activities that they have undertaken to provide that recognition for carers and for organisations.

DR PATERSON: Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Minister, I found it quite mind-boggling to learn recently that volunteering is worth \$290 billion to the Australian economy. I am interested in the ACT in particular. What are we doing to support those people who are currently volunteering? I am also interested to learn more about what we are doing to encourage more people to take up volunteering opportunities in Canberra.

Ms Davidson: Absolutely. Before I pass to Christine Murray to talk about the detail of how we are supporting volunteering in the ACT, I just want to say a big thank you to every single person in the ACT who has helped out with everything that we have had to go through over the last couple of years—with things like providing food relief support for people who literally were not able to put food on the table during COVID lockdowns and restrictions; supporting people who were going through periods of social isolation and needed a bit of extra help to stay connected; and making sure that

everyone in our community had what they needed to get through some really difficult times. It is in times like this that you see what a kind, connected and caring community Canberra really is. And volunteers have been a key part of that. I will pass to Christine Murray, who can talk about our volunteering strategy, what our next steps are and how we are supporting people.

Ms Murray: I have read and acknowledge the privilege statement. I just want to briefly echo the minister's comments in relation to both the informal and the formalised volunteering that has supported our community through the last while. There has been an impact on the ability of people to participate in that volunteering, and we are working through processes of supporting people to reconnect back into their volunteering activities. Where that is through formalised structures such as Volunteering ACT, Rural Fire Services, SES, et cetera, those organisations have specific programs that they are operating to support a re-engagement with individuals who may have taken a pause from volunteering.

We also have some amazing opportunities coming up next week to recognise some of our more informal volunteers who have stepped up during the COVID period, supplying food and running food. It was a real pleasure to work through the community participation grants to give some of those organisations a head start.

We are continuing to work closely—we have always worked very closely—with Volunteering ACT as the peak body for volunteering within the ACT. We have really critical and deep conversations and connections with them, particularly around what the priorities are arising out of COVID, and how we best establish and support the sector again, both in the formal setting and also the informal settings, to support people back to a full level of volunteering. At the moment, we are having those critical conversations and really mapping out what our next 12 months should look like, and what the priorities are and how we achieve those.

Before we go into the longer-term, we see the next 12 months as a pivotal opportunity for us to respond to COVID before we re-engage in some more strategic work. So, again, it is not an opportunity for me to make announcements, but we are absolutely deeply engaged with Volunteering ACT in the conversations around what is the best approach for the next 12 months.

Ms Davidson: We have also been providing support to our food relief network—often a lot of the work is done by volunteers as well—to provide the network with database support and a project coordination resource to help keep that network connected and running smoothly. There has also been significant work done through the technology upgrade funds grant, which was an ACT Greens commitment prior to the 2020 election: \$487,000 a year is being provided to community sector organisations—quite often a lot of their work is delivered by volunteers who are engaged with those community sector organisations—to make sure that they have the systems and the tools that they need to respond to needs in the community as they arise. Quite often when we go through challenging times in our community, our community sector organisations and our volunteering sector are the first to step up and provide support to people. And having the right systems and infrastructure in place enables them to respond quickly.

THE CHAIR: Minister, one of your responsibilities—and it seems like a particularly large one—is developing the community recovery plan post COVID. I imagine the bulk of the work we are doing on volunteers and the volunteer strategy intersects pretty heavily with that. Could I get a better understanding of how those two things are working together. I assume the volunteers and the volunteerism is a big part of how our community is going to recover post-COVID?

Ms Davidson: Absolutely it is. I will pass to Christine to talk more about our social recovery plans, but, yes, absolutely, volunteers are a key part of how we recover as a community, and how we rebuild resilience and stay connected. It is not just about putting food on the table and making sure you have a roof over your head; it is also about making sure that you are rebuilding those relationships. A significant number of people, after the 2003 bushfires in the ACT, told us that their relationships with their family, their friends and their community suffered as a result of what they had been through, and a key part of making sure that we have healthy communities that are able to achieve their potential is having good relationships. But I will pass to Christine, who will talk about the social recovery plan.

Ms Murray: Thank you very much again for the opportunity. You are quite right; we do rely very heavily on volunteers and community organisations. It is really a great opportunity for the government to lead the way and lean into those community organisations who are best placed to support people where they are at. I just want to note that social and community recovery is just one of four pillars in the recovery plan that stretches across all of the ACT. The other pillars are the economic, environmental and built recoveries. We understand that social recovery relates to the immediate response, the medium and the longer-term.

What we know, what we have said and what we have felt is the importance of the work done by our community sector partners—primarily volunteers—within our evacuation centres, for example, during the bushfires. More recently they have stepped up to support us to recover as a community throughout the COVID period.

The next major piece of work that we are doing is articulating and designing—and we are doing it collaboratively with the community sector and volunteers—the social recovery framework and the development of what that looks like. We are making sure that all of the pieces of the puzzle are working well together so that volunteer organisations, community sector organisations and government have the right place and space to support people to achieve what they need to achieve. We will absolutely, through our engagement piece on that, consider how volunteering fits into that space. Obviously, we are in conversations with Volunteering ACT on a number of the programs that the minister has designed, and that is a really important connection and relationship for us to continue.

THE CHAIR: Great, thank you, Ms Murray. Minister, this is my last question on volunteering. It is probably important to lead from the top. You are a busy person, but have you had much time to volunteer over the last 12 months, and what kind of volunteering have you done to encourage others to take up volunteering opportunities?

Ms Davidson: Gosh! Yes; the thing about Canberra is that everyone volunteers in

different ways in their communities—whether that is supporting your kids’ football club, or getting out there and supporting people by cooking meals and doing deliveries and things like that. I noticed that 16 per cent of the young people in the ACT in the last Mission Australia survey said that they volunteer specifically in environment related organisations. So we have a huge amount of volunteering that goes on in our community and we are all part of that.

It has been difficult to find enough time to do the volunteering that I used to do a lot more of. I have been choosing where I volunteer since I was 16, but I have been volunteering my whole life. This is part of what communities do, and Canberra is just a big country town. But, yes, certainly there are lots of opportunities for people to re-engage, and I would encourage people to go and check out what Volunteering ACT has on offer, because there are lots of organisations that are looking to on-board new volunteers at the moment—particularly if you are looking at things that you can do what will help you to recover from what we have all been through. Sometimes taking action can be part of that recovery for our own mental wellbeing. When you are actually getting out there and doing something it does not feel like everything is quite as impossible as it first looked.

MR MILLIGAN: The annual reports state that the directorate is about to embark on an end-of-year review of the youth justice system in the ACT on the therapeutic needs of young people. Has this started?

Dr Bassett: Thank you for the question. I am assuming we are talking about the therapeutic need that is related to the better practice review work.

Ms Davidson: Can you direct us to the page?

Dr Bassett: If I could have the page number that would be extremely helpful.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes. The page number is 134.

Dr Bassett: So as part of the enforceable undertaking we have done some policy work on better practice inside Bimberi, and we looked at jurisdictional review and some of the leading practice work in youth justice. So, we have actually done an examination of material that is in other jurisdictions—academic work that has been peer reviewed in terms of the best policies and their effectiveness. We have completed that review work. It forms part of a big piece of work, as you might imagine. Tina and I have been collaborating on both the policy aspects and the practice aspects of that work.

MR MILLIGAN: Was that done in-house or externally?

Dr Bassett: We did do it in-house, yes.

MR MILLIGAN: Did you bring in any expert consultants or anyone else?

Dr Bassett: We did not for that piece of work, but we used the literature predominantly to make our better practice review work. We have done it as a desk-top exercise, if you like.

DR PATERSON: I would like to speak about the Inspector of Correctional Services, and the healthy prisons review recommendations. I note that the annual report talks about how many recommendations have been agreed to. I am wondering how implementation of all the agreed recommendations is progressing.

Ms Davidson: I will pass to Tina Brendas in a moment, who can talk about how the implementation of those recommendations is going. It is really helpful when the inspector comes out and provides us with some feedback on how we can improve things. There are always opportunities to do things better, and to have people who have looked at other jurisdictions and can give us some recommendations is really helpful. I will pass to Tina, who can talk about those implemented recommendations.

Ms Brendas: Thank you for the questions. Of the 26 recommendations that the government agreed to, nine recommendations have been completed, 12 recommendations have progressed and commenced—and we are working through those—and five recommendations have yet to commence.

Do you want to know about specific recommendations? For instance, one of the recommendations was to improve the confidentiality within the health services space. A wall has been erected in that area. We have moved the camera in the search area. That was one of the recommendations. That has been completed; that work was done. We have also commenced a thorough review on our behaviour management framework, which goes to several of the recommendations in the healthy centre review. That is looking at case planning, the use of timeout, and our incentive scheme and how to enhance that for the young people. Significant work has been done on that.

DR PATERSON: That is the one that I am most interested in—the behaviour management framework. The review has been undertaken and there has been recommendations for improvements from that review. Is that how it has worked?

Ms Brendas: We have taken an in-house review also of the behaviour management framework, looking at best practice but also at what other jurisdictions are using in regard to the behaviour management frameworks and strategies in other youth detention centres within Australia. That review has commenced. We are working closely with New South Wales. I would have to take on notice the name of the tool. PBL—positive behaviour learning, I think—is the behaviour management framework model that they use.

DR PATERSON: So we will look to implement that model?

Ms Brendas: Yes.

DR PATERSON: What sort of training will staff receive in terms of that model and what that will mean?

Ms Brendas: We have been consulting with the young people and the staff around the roll-out of the new framework. There will be updated practice guides for all the staff, but there will also be training provided. Within our induction training we have the behaviour management framework as part of the seven-week induction program but we will also be providing training for the current staff on the use of the tool.

DR PATERSON: Are there incentives for young people to do the right thing? What are the incentives that are offered?

Ms Brendas: I am not too sure on the new framework, but in the current framework incentives are that the young people can purchase there. They have uniforms when they come into the centre but as part of the framework and the incentive program they can purchase sneakers, they can purchase sports gear and they can purchase their own magazines and electronic devices—iPads and the little Nintendo games.

They can also purchase barbeque packs for family visits. If they would like to have barbeques with their family that is an incentive that is part of the scheme as well. There are also purchases such as UP&GOs, lollies and other purchases that they can have outside after what they would have for afternoon tea or supper.

DR PATERSON: In the AMC there are different accesses and jobs that they do in the centre as they escalate up the behaviour track.

Ms Brendas: Yes. In the youth justice setting that is around the classification and their risk assessment, and what they can access is based on the programs. Dependant on their level of risk is the programs they can access whilst in the centre. Everyone has access to programs; it is just what you can have access to in the particular programs. For instance, in woodwork the machinery you might have access to would depend on your level of risk. All the young people in the centre can access woodwork; it would just be whether or not you can access a saw or a wood-burning machine. That is not part of the behaviour management. Well, it is in a way, but it depends on your classification and risk assessment. So, in the centre the young people work towards improving that, and there is a whole range of things that are taken into consideration, and behaviour is one of them.

Ms Davidson: It is also about what their interests are and what their goals are for what they want to achieve. There are some young people who have been out at Bimberi who can make a really good cup of coffee—getting some barista skills and things like that. There are a whole range of different skills that they can engage in, and a great creative arts program as well.

DR PATERSON: What is the gender breakdown of the 17 kids there at the moment?

Ms Davidson: I will pass to Tina. She can tell you the gender breakdown.

Ms Brendas: There are 13 males and four females.

Ms Davidson: Keep in mind, too, the high number of young people out of that total who are on remand, so it does change quite a bit from day to day.

DR PATERSON: Thank you, Dr Paterson. Minister, you are also in charge of emergency relief for the government, which seems like the hardest area of government to plan for, when you know there is going to be an emergency. Talk to me like I am five—which I have said more than once in this committee. How does the government budget for emergencies given that they are emergencies? And what

happens when emergencies happen and they have very immediate cost implications for government, and you have to to-and-fro from other areas? Given that we have had a fair amount of emergencies in the past year—and if climate science is to be believed, we are going to have more in the coming years—how would we do that structurally in government?

Ms Davidson: That is why we worked so hard to have some resources allocated in this budget towards that social recovery framework. It is why, in the relationship between ACT government and our community sector partners, it is so important for us to have a good understanding of what their capacity is and what kind of support they might need.

Quite often it is those community sector organisations who are the first to realise where emerging need is and how we can best meet that need. For example, the Multicultural Hub and Companion House understand deeply what our multicultural community might need in that scenario. COTA ACT understand about the impacts on older people in our community.

Being able to do that work helps us to work with the community sector on how we respond quickly to any issue that might come up, and make sure that everyone is supported to do that. I will pass to Christine Murray, who can talk more about what that social recovery framework allows us to do.

THE CHAIR: The specifics I am trying to understand—and maybe I will never understand, unless I sit around a cabinet table—are: how does money get made available at incredibly short notice for unplanned and unprepared-for situations?

Ms Rule: Mr Davis, in some ways this is a question for our colleagues in treasury, who are responsible for controlling the pots of money. I certainly know, in relation to COVID, that the cabinet made a decision to allocate, if you like, a bucket of money, a fund from within the budget, and directorates like ours would call on those funds as needed.

There were processes through the expenditure review committee where we would come forward and say, “We’ve spent X dollars on Y function,” and that funding would come out of that centralised fund. Decisions were made to either increase or decrease how that fund was expended based on the priorities. That has been an ongoing conversation throughout, with treasury.

I would also note that some of the funding for the response came from the federal government. Every emergency is different, but my experience across multiple jurisdictions is that that is a pretty typical approach—that, out of the budget, funding is allocated and drawn down as it is needed, and governments have to make decisions to increase that fund as it is needed.

THE CHAIR: That makes sense.

Ms Davidson: We also have to be able to make these decisions collaboratively, within government, and that is why we had 67 consecutive days of having at least one cabinet meeting every day, sometimes more than one, in order to be able to make a

number of decisions that crossed over different directorates and required all of us to be able to work closely together. It is also about having those good, strong relationships with our community sector, so that, when something comes up, they are able to give us some advice quickly on, “This is what we’re going to need to respond to this; this is the level of resourcing that’s going to be required,” so that we can have that conversation with our cabinet colleagues and get the funding out of treasury quickly to be able to meet that emerging need. You never know what will be coming, but we are building some good, solid frameworks for how to be more resilient as a community. It requires partnership; it requires all of us to be working together.

There were also some great demonstrations over the last year of some of those informal volunteering supports that popped up, where members of the community saw a need, stepped in and created something to help meet that need, particularly with things like food relief and mutual aid groups. For us that has now become about saying, “Okay, when those things happen, how do we provide supports so that that can be done safely and be well supported and well resourced?”

THE CHAIR: Ms Murray had some more to expand on, if I am not mistaken.

Ms Murray: Thank you very much for the opportunity. I want to note that there is a special arrangement with the commonwealth, a disaster recovery funding arrangement, which is a joint state and territory funding approach, which layers over the top as well. Ms Rule and Minister Davidson have spoken in detail.

THE CHAIR: Thinking particularly about the climate crisis, as was drawn to this committee’s stark attention in a recent inquiry we did on the west Belconnen supercell storm, what is the ACT’s relationship in terms of that national agreement? It is perhaps a question for the minister: do we believe it will meet the short, medium and long-term demand, based on the science and the risk of greater emergency?

Ms Rule: We do not have any visibility of that arrangement. That is actually a question for treasury. We cannot speculate as to whether it is enough or not, because we just do not know what arrangements are in place, either through treasury or through our colleagues in JACS. It is certainly not CSD’s responsibility to broker that deal with the commonwealth.

Ms Davidson: What we have demonstrated in the ACT is that we have the capacity and the capability to be able to respond quickly when those things happen, and not wait for the commonwealth to say, “By the way, we can do this.” By the time that has happened, we have already started a response to meet the emerging needs. That could be providing an emergency coordination centre, as we did with the west Belconnen supercell, and making sure that people had access to washing machines, phone chargers, food and ice. It could be about clearing out spoiled food from fridges that have been turned off, and that sort of thing.

I refer also to things that happened during the COVID public health restrictions. We did not wait for the commonwealth to step in and provide rapid antigen tests; we got on and did it ourselves, and made sure that there was not a gap in the community where people were not able to get access to the supports they needed to stay safe.

THE CHAIR: That makes sense; thank you.

MR MILLIGAN: My question is in relation to the Functional Family Therapy Youth Justice pilot. The annual report states that Children, Youth and Families is currently giving consideration to the review undertaken by OzChild. In September, Minister, you stated that the decision to explore options for an independent evaluation was made in July 2022. What specific reasons prompted the decision to pay for an independent evaluation beyond the OzChild review?

Ms Davidson: Whenever we pilot something new, it is important that we are able to independently evaluate what we have learned from that pilot so that we can understand whether it actually met the objectives that it was intended to meet. It is about looking at what could be done differently, if we were to make this an ongoing program, and what we have learned from all of this.

It is important that we do that in an independent way, rather than self-evaluating, so that we can understand what might need to be changed if the program were to become permanent. I will pass to Silvia, who can talk some more about how that evaluation process is going.

MR MILLIGAN: It is currently happening now, is it?

Ms Lopic: I acknowledge the privilege statement. The evaluation has commenced, and it is with an independent evaluator, the Youth Coalition. It is expected to be completed by February 2023.

MR MILLIGAN: What was the cost of that evaluation?

Ms Lopic: I will have to take that on notice.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, okay.

DR PATERSON: Going back to Bimberi and youth justice, online it refers to people's rights around talking to police. If the police want to talk to someone in the centre, they can bring in a support person, or they have to have a support person or interview friend. It says that if you are arrested or taken into custody while living at Narrabundah House, you also have the right to have a support person or interview friend with you before being interviewed by police.

I imagine that it is a pretty confronting situation to be in Bimberi, to be interviewed by police and to have no communication with a support person prior to that interview. Why is it not policy to have that implemented for everyone?

Ms Rule: In some ways that is a question for Policing. When young people are in Narrabundah House, we have responsibility for them. Therefore we would be in a position to provide support to them because they are a resident of Narrabundah House. If they get arrested in the general community—

DR PATERSON: No, this is talking about when they are in Bimberi, I think.

Ms Rule: They would not get arrested if they were in Bimberi.

DR PATERSON: No, if police need to speak to them while they are in Bimberi.

Ms Brendas: I can answer that. I actually think it is legislated; it is in the Children and Young People Act that, to interview a young person, they would have to have an interview friend.

DR PATERSON: But it says at Narrabundah House they have the right to have a support person there before being interviewed by police, whereas in Bimberi they do not.

Ms Brendas: Some young people do not need the support and they advise that; but they all must be asked if they would like support before an interview takes place. Whether that is an interview as a witness or for alleged further offences, they must all be afforded the opportunity, if they would like support.

DR PATERSON: They could have them there before the police arrive to interview them?

Ms Brendas: They cannot be interviewed without the support being there; so the police cannot interview them. If the young person has requested that they have support available, ACT Policing cannot interview them until that support is there.

DR PATERSON: I am interested because it specifically says on the website that if you are living in Narrabundah House and arrested or taken into custody while you are there, you also have the right to have a support person or interview friend with you before the interview with police takes place. That has been specifically identified as an issue and outlined in legislation, whereas, for those that are engaging in police interviews in Bimberi, it does not seem to have the same—

Ms Rule: Dr Paterson, we are happy to have a look at the wording. It may just be that it is implied—

DR PATERSON: A wording thing.

Ms Rule: that in Bimberi, there has to be somebody with them, rather than being specifically stated on the website. It may just be worded without being quite as clear as it needs to be. We are happy to have a look at that.

DR PATERSON: Thank you. I have one more question, but I suspect it might be for Minister Stephen-Smith—the Next Steps for Our Kids Strategy.

Ms Rule: Yes.

MR MILLIGAN: I have one in relation to Bimberi improvements. A recommendation from the Human Rights Commission was that “CSD review the availability and range of rehabilitation services and programs at Bimberi, and consider what programs could be made available to young people in the evening”. This is noted as “completed” in the annual report, but the government’s response includes no

evening programs. Were these programs offered, and were they offered in the evening or not?

Ms Davidson: I will pass to Tina Brendas in a moment, who can talk some more about those programs and any changes that are coming about as a result of that review. It is really important that we are always looking for ways to improve the number of programs on offer to meet young people's needs. It should be kept in mind that the low number of young people that are in there, and that most of them are in there on remand, sometimes for very short periods of time, means that they do not necessarily get to engage in the long-term programs during the short period they are there.

Ms Brendas: In addition to that information, the availability of program providers in the evening is quite difficult. Our principal practitioner has commenced a review of therapeutic programs available for young people, as well as programs available for young people in the centre in the evening.

Currently, when they are within their units in the evening, the young people have access to cards, board games, paintings, canvases, washable markers and crayons, craft, PlayStations, DVDs and music. They can also access the facilities across the site. Within their rooms they have therapeutic pop-its and fidgets, softballs, and gym and yoga instructional balls. There are mindfulness books, puzzles and colouring-in journals. Those are the programs that are available to the young people, Mr Milligan.

Ms Davidson: I have been beaten at chess by a few of the young people in Bimberi. They are pretty good. Clearly, they have been getting a lot of practice.

DR PATERSON: Yesterday, we spoke to Minister Gentleman. He said that the UN prevention of torture subcommittee went to AMC. Did they go to Bimberi as well?

Ms Rule: No, they did not. We were ready for them; we were on notice that they may choose to. They did not give us a schedule; they just turn up. No, they did not choose to visit Bimberi this time.

MR MILLIGAN: The annual report notes that, in response to a committee's recommendation, Bimberi should offer audiovisual links for young people to maintain contact with family. How frequently is this actually used and are they allowed in-person visits from families as well?

Ms Davidson: Yes, they absolutely are allowed in-person visits from family. I note that the AVL visits were used during periods of COVID restrictions, when some of those in-person visits were not able to happen as frequently as people would have liked. Clearly, families and young people want to make use of the opportunity to maintain those relationships. I will pass to Tina, who can talk some more about how frequently in-person and AVL visits happen.

Ms Brendas: Mr Milligan, visits are both in-person visits and AVL, and they are utilised three times a week.

MR MILLIGAN: Per inmate?

Ms Brendas: Yes. We have family visits three times during the week and on weekends, so that is five times a week. Also, there are professional services that meet with the young people either face to face or via AVL for two days a week, outside the regular engagement with Canberra Health Services. Families have access to the young people at any time throughout the day via AVL on, I think, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

MR MILLIGAN: AVL has been used more frequently than in person, obviously, over the last couple of years. Is it the case now, out of COVID, that it is still used more?

Ms Brendas: It is. It continues to be a preference for families to have visits via AVL.

Ms Rule: I think it is true to say that, in some cases, it has meant that young people have had more contact with their family—

Ms Brendas: They have.

Ms Rule: because families cannot make it out to Bimberi, they are not resident in the ACT, or whatever it may be. It actually provides a different channel for the young people to interact with their families and have more contact than when we were relying just on face-to-face visits.

Ms Brendas: Our headline indicator report that is taken twice a year includes the amount of visits.

DR PATERSON: Yesterday, we spoke to the corrections minister about AMC and contraband coming into AMC. Is that an issue within Bimberi as well?

Ms Davidson: AMC has a significantly larger population than Bimberi. Everything is scaled differently there. You are also dealing with quite a different demographic, who are engaged in different activities than what young people would be engaged in. I can pass to Tina, who can talk more about how we make sure that young people stay safe from things that might be harmful to them.

Ms Brendas: With our family visits, visitors go through a metal detector and a search prior to visits. We also ensure that the young people are safe. We do regular searches of the site to reduce the likelihood of contraband across the site. Contraband is also a reportable incident. I can take on notice the amount of contraband we have had throughout the year; it is very insignificant.

DR PATERSON: Yes, that would be great.

MR MILLIGAN: A related committee recommendation is for young detainees at Bimberi to receive additional therapeutic supports, including mental health supports and counselling, whenever they are locked down, for any reason. The government's response, on page 132 of the annual report, reads like business as usual. What specific additional therapeutic supports did Bimberi detainees receive during lockdowns in the reporting year, as recommended by the committee?

Ms Davidson: Before I pass to Tina, who can talk some more about what therapeutic supports have been provided over the last year, I note, as the Minister for Justice Health, that we are currently undertaking a plan and creating a justice health strategy that will include how we provide for the needs of young people in Bimberi. That will come out towards the end of this year or early next year. That will give us more information about where we are heading. I will pass to Tina, who can talk some more about changes in therapeutic programs over the last 12 months.

MR MILLIGAN: And specifically during lockdowns.

Ms Brendas: All young people during the lockdowns have access to Canberra Health Services—that is, justice health services and custodial mental health services. They were able to access them throughout the lockdown. With respect to involvement in incidents, they are offered those services straight after the incident. That is ongoing support for the young people. If there are any additional services, they are able to access those services.

MR MILLIGAN: That was mental health supports and counselling? Is that additional, on top of that, in other areas?

Ms Brendas: We have Relationships Australia, who offer counselling and young programs. They can come in as well. But the first point of contact is the Canberra Health Services—custodial mental health services and justice health services.

THE CHAIR: On behalf of the committee, I thank the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services and CSD staff for their attendance today. You will receive a copy of the proof transcript in coming days, to correct for accuracy or omissions. If you have taken any questions on notice, please get those answers through to our committee support office within five working days of receipt of that uncorrected proof transcript. If any other member of the Assembly wishes to lodge a question on notice based on today's hearing, please get those through to our committee secretariat within five working days of today's hearing. Our hearing today is now adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 11.37 am.