

Justice

Thursday 13 June – Question to the Attorney General and Minister for Justice – Alternatives to Prison

Mr GUYULA: Can you provide an update on the alternative to prison option? How is the program working and what provisions have been made for it in the future budget?

Ms FYLES: Thank you for that important question. I ask Leanne Liddle, the director, to join. As you would be aware, we are developing an Aboriginal Justice Agreement to improve the justice outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians—you represent a large number in your electorate. I ask Leanne to answer those specifics. I acknowledge the hard work of Leanne and her team. It is a small team, but they do very important work.

Can you repeat the question for her?

Mr GUYULA: Can you provide an update on the alternative to prison option? How is the program working and what provisions have been made for it in the future budget?

Ms LIDDLE: The budgets have already been allocated for two alternatives to custody, which are basically rehabilitation centres for people to address their criminogenic risk factors and equip them with skills so they can stop offending and reoffending.

We have two locations identified as sites that have two different types of clients. One is in Alice Springs, and that is for Aboriginal female prisoners. The other is one we are working through on Groote Eylandt, which is part of the decision-making framework, and that is for Aboriginal males aged 18 to 25.

The allocation has totalled \$4.4m over the years: \$750 000 in 2018–19; and \$1m for each year after that. We are currently working through the arrangements in governance, committees and criteria for accessibility. We need to get those right before we even look at putting any clients into these facilities. We have done some considerable work—again, evidence based—and are working with communities to ensure we get these right. This is something that has been told to us loud and clear: the community across the Territory wants this. It is a facility that will be operational soon.

Mr GUYULA: I suppose you answered some of the questions for this next one, but I would just like to put it on the record that I would like to see alternatives to prison models on country. What is being done about that?

Madam CHAIR: We might just note that and that could be something outside of—rather than have a discussion back and forth now, because we are looking at the budget. Thank you for assisting us. I am conscious that the Members for Spillett and Nelson continue to questions on Output 2.1.

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