

**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA**

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Gaming Reform

Member for Murrumbidgee

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 3**

**7 March 2025**

**Question No. 205**

**MR RATTENBURY:** To ask the Minister for Corrections —

1. What tertiary education programs are detainees in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) accessing at the moment and who is running them.
2. How many detainees are accessing the programs, referred to in part (1), at the moment, broken down into male/female/gender diverse, remanded/sentenced and First Nations status.
3. Have there previously been more and other tertiary education programs offered; if so, (a) what was the uptake, (b) what were they and (c) why are they not running at the moment.
4. What other educational opportunities do detainees have in the AMC, broken down into what is accessible by male/female/gender diverse, remanded/sentenced and First Nations status, and the numbers of those cohorts who are engaging in those other educational opportunities.
5. How many of those programs referred to in part (4) ran over the last three years, and (a) how many participants were in each program and (b) in what cohort, male/female/gender diverse, remanded/sentenced and First Nations status.
6. Who ran each of the programs referred to in part (4).
7. Do the programs run at capacity or is there a waiting list.
8. What happens if the programs are at capacity.
9. What certificates and other qualifications are people able to complete in the AMC at the moment.

10. How many people are working towards certificates or other qualifications at the moment, broken down into male/female/gender diverse, remanded/sentenced and First Nations status.
11. Given the Federal Government has so many free TAFE courses at the moment, has the Government considered offering some of those courses to AMC detainees.

**MARISA PATERSON MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As at 2 April 2025, detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre have access to the following tertiary education programs:
  - Certificate II Construction
  - Certificate II Workplace Skills
  - Certificate III Business
  - Asbestos Awareness (short course)
  - Crystalline Silica Exposure Prevention (short course)
  - Prepare to work safe in the Construction Industry "White Card" ACT (short course)
  - Safe Food Handling Practices (short course)
  - Safe Work Practices (short course).

In addition, the following university courses are accessible to approved detainees via Distance Education, noting these detainees are responsible for the administration and associated costs:

- Diploma of Management
- Associate Degree, Business
- Associate Degree, Business Management
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management)
- Bachelor of Behaviour Studies
- Bachelor of Commerce (Business Law)
- Bachelor of Taxation Law
- Undergraduate Certificate (Business Law)
- Tertiary Education Program.

The abovementioned programs are provided by:

- Quality Training in Construction
- LJS Construction Pty Ltd
- JCE Positive Outcomes
- Curtin University
- Open Universities Australia
- University of Southern Queensland.

2. As at 2 April 2025, and not including the short courses, there were 31 detainees participating in the courses outlined at question 1. Thirty of these were male, 12 identified as First Nations, and 27 were sentenced. An additional 161 detainees are on the waitlist for the various short courses. A breakdown of demographics of these was not available within the timeframe and would require manual counting which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to determine.
3. Yes.
  - a. This information was not available within the timeframe and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to determine. As reported in the Report on Government Services 2025, detainee participation in tertiary education was 35.7% in the 2023-24 in the ACT.
  - b. Previous tertiary education courses delivered in 2024-25 were:
    - Certificate II Cookery
    - Certificate II Baking
    - Foundation Skills Certificate 2
    - Responsible Service of Alcohol
    - Responsible Conduct of Gambling
    - Use of Hygienic Practices and Food Safety
    - Provide First Aid
    - Prepare and Serve Espresso Coffee
    - Apply Infection and Control Procedures to Own Work Activities
  - c. Due to the high uptake of educational programs in the 2024-25 financial year, existing contracts have been fully utilised. ACTCS is progressing negotiations to refresh contracts to continue delivering as appropriate for the remainder of the 2024/25 financial year.
4. All courses currently on offer are outlined at question 1.
5. Details of courses delivered within the AMC in the past three years are outlined within the following Annual Report documents:
  - Justice and Community Safety Directorate Annual Report 2023-2024  
Corrigendum 1
  - Justice and Community Safety Directorate Annual Report 2022-2023
  - Justice and Community Safety Directorate Annual Report 2021-2022.
  - a. Course completion numbers are reported in the above referenced Annual Reports.
  - b. A breakdown of participant demographics was not available within the timeframe and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to determine.
6. Refer to question 1.

7. Each education course attracts variable interest / demand. Where demand exceeds availability, additional sessions may run – budget and timetabling constraints permitting – or waiting lists are maintained for future course offerings.
8. As above, waiting lists are maintained as required.
9. See question 1.
10. See question 2.
11. ACTCS continues to explore opportunities with education providers to enhance education offerings at the AMC. This will include accessing existing funded programs. Not all online program offerings are compatible with detainee enrolment noting the security and safety limitations of Internet access.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

*M. Paterson*

**Marisa Paterson MLA  
Minister for Corrections**

**Date:** 9/4/25 .....

This response required 8hrs 00mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$718.98