

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 11

26 September 2025

Question No. 660

SHANE RATTENBURY MLA: To ask the Minister for Corrections —

1. How much of the contraband seized in the Alexander Maconochie Centre in the last six months, broken down into months, was drugs.
2. What are the criteria or policy that is followed for determining who is drug tested and when.
3. Has there been an increase in the number of detainees seeking support from correctional officers or health staff due to drugs used while in custody.

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

1. Contraband suspected to be drugs seized in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) during the period March to August 2025 are outlined in the below table:

	March	April	May	June	July	August
Suspected drug contraband*	7	2	9	3	4	8

* It is noted that each contraband seizure is counted as a single incident, regardless of the number of items found.

2. Drug testing is undertaken in accordance with the Drug and Alcohol Testing in Correctional Centres Policy 2022. Testing is undertaken via urine testing within the AMC in accordance with the Drug Testing (Urine) Operating Procedure 2022.

In accordance with these policy documents:

- all detainees must undergo drug and alcohol testing within 72 hours of admission into the AMC. The results of this test inform program suitability, healthcare needs and detainee security classification.
- a randomised testing program is conducted monthly on five percent of the total detainee population.
- targeted testing may be conducted where there are reasonable grounds to suspect drug or alcohol use such as unexplained violent behaviour, intelligence linking the detainee to drug use or possession and/or seizure of drugs or paraphernalia in a detainee's accommodation area.

act.gov.au

- testing may be requested as part of pre-release or pre-sentence report requirements and ahead of parole applications.
- testing may also be directed for detainees applying for or participating in specialist programs, such as the Transitional Release Program to ensure compliance with program and leave conditions.

3. Justice Health Services (JHS) advise that there is no specific data to support an increase in the number of detainees seeking support from JHS for drugs whilst in custody. However, JHS records indicate on average, there has been no increase in requests for Opioid Maintenance Treatment (OMT) received between 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025, despite a population increase.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

M. Paterson

**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Corrections**

Date: 27/10/25

This response required 6hrs 40mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$673.55