

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

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 3

7 March 2025

Question No. 202

MR RATTENBURY: To ask the Minister for Corrections —

1. Are people in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) offered access to a basic literacy course; if so, (a) who is this program offered to, including men/women/gender diverse, remanded and sentenced, and First Nations status, (b) when is it offered to the detainee during their time in the AMC, (c) is it offered again if originally the detainee is not interested in engaging, (d) who provides the course, (e) how is it staffed, (f) how often does the course run and (g) how often is it cancelled.
2. Are there enough places in the program, referred to in part (1) for the amount of people that want to take it.
3. Is there a waiting list; if so, how is it managed.
4. What consideration, if any, has the Government made to ensuring that people exiting custody, particularly after serving a sentence of imprisonment, have basic literacy skills.

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

1. A volunteer currently provides literacy support.
 - a. All detainees, regardless of gender, legal status, and First Nations status, can access this support at any stage during their time at the AMC.
 - b. Education operates via a self-referral system where detainees nominate themselves directly to the AMC education coordinator. In addition, where a need for literacy support is identified as part of the case management process, case managers actively encourage detainees to participate in literacy support.

- c. As above, detainees nominate themselves or may be encouraged by their case manager at any stage during their time at the AMC.
- d. As above, a volunteer currently provides individual literacy support upon request.
- e. As above, one volunteer currently provides individual literacy support upon request.
- f. The volunteer attends weekly.
- g. Literacy support may be cancelled a few days a month due to operational requirements, such as the volunteer not being available, or other activities in the education building.

2. Yes.

3. In the event a waiting list is required, it is managed by the education coordinator.

4. The ACT Government acknowledges the importance of basic literacy skills for people exiting custody. Enhancing education offerings at the AMC is a priority for the ACT Government and ACT Corrective Services. ACTCS is seeking to increase literacy and numeracy support in the short to medium term and are currently going to market with a RFQ to be able to deliver a more intensive offering. Longer term, ACT Corrective Services is exploring ways in which technology may contribute to enhancing literacy and numeracy outcomes for detainees.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Corrections

Date: 9/4/25

This response required 1hrs 45mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$163.43