

**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 7****16 May 2025****Question No. 471****MR RATTENBURY:** To ask the Minister for Corrections —

1. How many people detained in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) and in Bimberi were eligible to vote in last year's ACT Government election during the pre-polling period, and on election day.
2. How many people detained in the AMC and in Bimberi who were eligible to do so during the pre-polling period, and on election day, voted in last year's ACT Government election.
3. How many of those detainees referred to in part (2) who voted identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
4. What reasons are provided for detainees who were eligible to vote, not voting.
5. How do the figures in parts (1) and (2) compare to the previous two ACT Government elections, and if this is too resource intensive to answer, then can the Minister provide the comparison for the previous ACT Government election.
6. What are the penalties for not voting in a Federal and ACT Government election.
7. What responsibility will the ACT Government take if people who are detained are fined for failing to vote.
8. Can people detained in the AMC and Bimberi watch the ACT Legislative Assembly proceedings on the Assembly website, or read the Hansard on the website.
9. How can people detained in the AMC and Bimberi engage with the ACT Legislative Assembly and the MLAs.

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

1. ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) is unable to confirm the number of persons at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) who were enrolled to vote during the 2024 ACT Government



election. Please note that some of the information requested on AMC detainee voting throughout this Question on Notice may be available from the ACT Electoral Commission.

Due to the low number of young people of voting age at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi), providing specific details could be personally revealing for the young people involved. However, there were less than 5 young people (aged 18-21) in Bimberi at the times requested.

2. ACTCS does not maintain records of AMC detainee participation in elections.

Due to the low number of young people of voting age at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi), a specific number has not been provided to protect the identity of those involved.

Some of the information requested on voting in this Question on Notice may be available from the ACT Electoral Commission.

3. ACTCS does not maintain records of AMC detainee participation in elections.

Community Services Directorate (CSD) records indicate there were young people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander amongst the numbers of eligible voters. However, noting the response provided in Question 1, a specific number has not been provided to protect the identity of those involved.

4. ACTCS is unable to comment on any reasons detainees enrolled to vote in the ACT may have given for not voting in the 2024 ACT election. ACTCS does not respond to notices from the ACT Electoral Commission on behalf of detainee electors who may not have voted.

CSD is unable to comment on any reasons young people in Bimberi enrolled to vote in the ACT may have given for not voting in the 2024 ACT election. CSD does not respond to notices from the ACT Electoral Commission

5. ACTCS does not maintain records of AMC detainee participation in elections and is therefore unable to provide a comparison between ACT elections. As outlined in the ACT Electoral Commission's [Report on the ACT Legislative Assembly Election 2020](#), 74 electors at the AMC requested a postal vote in the 2020 ACT elections, noting that no mobile polling activities were conducted at the AMC due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their report for the 2024 ACT election has not yet been published.

CSD records indicate that the figure in questions 1 is comparable between the 2024 ACT election and the 2020 ACT election for Bimberi.

6. As per the ACT Electoral Commission's website, the penalty for not voting in an ACT Government election is \$20. As per the Australian Electoral Commission website, the penalty for not voting in a Federal election is \$20.
7. Detainee participation in elections is a shared responsibility between the ACT Government, the AEC/Elections ACT and detainees. The ACT Government, through ACTCS and CSD, makes every effort to support and enable detainees to enrol and vote in elections. The ACT Government does not compel detainees to enrol or vote and their participation or otherwise in elections, including any associated fines, are considered detainees' responsibility.
8. As at June 2025, AMC detainees are unable to watch the ACT Legislative Assembly broadcast or access Hansard via PrisonPC. However, detainees may request Hansard transcripts be accessed by Library staff and printed for them if there are specific matters of interest.

In Bimberi, if a young person requests to watch the ACT Legislative Assembly proceedings on the Assembly website or read the Hansard on the website, this can be facilitated by the Bimberi Supports and Services team.

9. AMC detainees may choose to mail individual Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in accordance with the *Detainee Communications Policy 2024*. Detainees may also email correspondence for MLAs to the ACTCS Office of the Commissioner and request that this is provided to individual MLAs. Finally, MLAs may visit the AMC in accordance with the *Corrections Management (Visits) Policy 2016 (No2)*.

In Bimberi, a young person can request contact with the ACT Legislative Assembly or a MLA through the Bimberi Supports and Services team which manages such requests on a case-by-case basis. Several MLAs have made recent visits to Bimberi and have spoken informally with young people through this process.

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



**Marisa Paterson MLA**  
**Minister for Corrections**

**Date: 24 June 2025**

This response required 2hrs 20mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$220.66