

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 16

3 March 2026

### Question No. 942

**MR THOMAS EMERSON MLA:** To ask the Minister for Children, Youth and Families

1. Can the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young Peoples Commissioner attend the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre unaccompanied under the same conditions as the Inspector of Custodial Services?
2. Are there any plans for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young Peoples Commissioner to be provided with the relevant training and authorisation to attend the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre unaccompanied?

**MR MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. No, the powers of entry to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is different for each independent oversight as the powers are granted to the individual office holder through different legislation.

The power of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner to enter Bimberi is limited to entering and inspecting Bimberi for the purposes of the exercise of functions under the *Children and Young People Act 2008* (CYP Act).

The ACT Inspector of Custodial Services has additional powers to enter Bimberi under the *Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Act 2018*, when entering Bimberi to undertake purposes outlined in this Act.

2. The decision to allow unaccompanied access to oversights, including the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, is the decision of the Director-General, Health and Community Services Directorate or their delegate.

Discussions related to unaccompanied access to Bimberi for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner remain ongoing. Decisions regarding the unaccompanied access of oversights must consider the Director-General's and their delegates' obligations under the CYP Act and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

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



**Mr Michael Pettersson MLA**  
**Children, Youth and Families**

**Date:** 26.3.26

This response required 1hr 20mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$134.16.