

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 10

19 September 2025

Question No. 615

Ms Deborah Morris MLA: To ask the Attorney-General —

1. What are the current recidivism rates for individuals granted bail in the ACT by (a) youth and adults, (b) offence type, (c) age group, and (d) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status or other cultural background, where available.
2. What formal support programs are available for youth offenders granted bail who do not have stable housing, transport, or family support.
3. How many youth offenders have accessed the programs referred to in part (2) in each of the past three years.

TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Recidivism rates related to bail are not available. However, ACT Policing has provided the following data on the number of people charged with a new offence while on bail in 2024-25.

(a) Number of youth and adults

| Offenders charged with a new offence while on bail in 2024-25, by age of offender | |
|---|---|
| Age category | Number of times a person under 18, and adults were apprehended for a new offence while on bail in 2024-25** |
| Juvenile (0-17) | 64 |
| Adult (18+) | 416 |
| ** Offenders are counted once per apprehension in 2024-25 and the same offender maybe have been apprehended more than once. Source: PROMIS as of 29 October 2025 | |

(b) Offence type

Charges laid for a new offence while a person was on bail in 2024-25

| Offence category | Number of charges laid in 2024-25 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Assault | 113 |
| Sexual offences | 3 |
| Other offences against the person | 28 |
| Robbery | 23 |
| Burglary | 68 |
| Other offences against property | 47 |
| Stolen Motor vehicle | 65 |
| Theft (excl motor vehicle theft) | 98 |
| Property damage | 33 |
| Government security/operations | 25 |
| Justice procedures* | 334 |
| Firearms and weapons | 47 |
| Other offences against good order | 39 |
| Drug offences | 19 |
| Traffic Offences | 160 |
| Other offences n.e.c. | 4 |

* The number of charges in the 'Justice procedures' category excludes breach of bail.

Source: PROMIS as of 29 October 2025

(c) Age group

Offenders charged with a new offence while on bail in 2024-25, by age of offender

| Age category | Number of offenders charged in 2024-25** |
|--------------|--|
| Under 18 | 64 |
| 18 - 24 | 42 |
| 25 - 34 | 150 |
| 35 - 44 | 142 |
| 45 - 54 | 66 |
| 55 - 64 | 11 |
| 65+ | 5 |
| Total | 480 |

** Offenders are counted once *per apprehension* in 2024-25 and the same offender may have been apprehended more than once.

Source: PROMIS as of 29 October 2025

(d) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

| Offenders charged with a new offence while on bail in 2024-25, by First Nations status | |
|---|--|
| First Nations status | Number of offenders charged in 2024-25** |
| Neither Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander | 371 |
| Aboriginal | 107 |
| Torres Strait Islander | 2 |
| ** Offenders are counted once <i>per apprehension</i> in 2024-25, and the same offender maybe have been apprehended more than once.. Source: <i>PROMIS as of 27 October 2025</i> Note: Data that asserts a person's First Nations status is limited to circumstances where the person has self-identified as being of First Nations heritage and/or that information has been recorded on police indices. | |

2. The Health and Community Services Directorate has advised that young people who attend the ACT Children's Court for a criminal offence and receive bail with a supervision condition, are case managed by Youth Justice and Adolescent Services (YJAS) within the Health and Community Services Directorate. This includes direct supervision of bail orders and provision of rehabilitative and therapeutic supports to young people. This involves addressing criminogenic needs through assessment, case planning and management in collaboration with community partners.

For young people experiencing challenges including housing, transport and family support, YJAS works with the young person and their care team to access appropriate government and community supports, which meet their individual needs and circumstances.

In addition, the YJAS Intensive Adolescent Service (IAS) provides voluntary, practical, and intensive support to young people with complex needs who are beginning to engage with, or who are at risk of engaging with the criminal justice system. This includes young people on Bail without a supervision condition.

With a strong focus on diversion, IAS works to prevent youth offending by addressing the root causes of harmful behaviour and promoting positive pathways. The team support young people to navigate complex human services systems, to ensure they are engaged and connected to the right supports at the right time. IAS is a voluntary service upon referral.

3. The Health and Community Services Directorate has advised that the number of young people accessing YJAS Case Management under unsentenced community-based supervision who were aged 10-17 years during the year were as follows:

- 2023-24: 102 young peopleⁱ
- 2022-23: 78 young peopleⁱⁱ
- 2021-22: 73 young peopleⁱⁱⁱ

Note: The ACT increased the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years in 2023. The 2023-24 data includes young people aged 12-17 years.

IAS commenced service delivery on 1 July 2024. YJAS does not keep data on the number of young people being supported by IAS who may also be subject to an unsupervised, court ordered Bail.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA
Attorney-General

Date:

30/11/25

This response required 12hrs 30mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$751.37

ⁱ Table S65b, *Youth Justice in Australia 2023-24*, AIHW

ⁱⁱ Table S65b, *Youth Justice in Australia 2022-23*, AIHW

ⁱⁱⁱ Table S65b, *Youth Justice in Australia 2021-22*, AIHW