

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — NEURODEVELOPMENTAL IMPAIRMENTS —  
FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

**1220. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to research conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute in 2017 that found that 89 per cent of young people in a representative group of Banksia Hill Detention Centre detainees had at least one form of neurodevelopmental impairment and 36 per cent were diagnosed with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

- (1) Does the department of corrective services screen for neurodevelopmental impairment?
- (2) If yes to (1), how many children have been identified as having a neurodevelopmental impairment, such as FASD, at —
  - (a) Banksia Hill; and
  - (b) Casuarina Prison's unit 18?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following very long answer is also provided to me by the Minister for Corrective Services.

- (1)–(2) A formal screening instrument is not used, as the diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental disorder requires more than screening and there are no screening instruments available that would adequately capture the full range of neurodevelopmental impairments.
  - (a) For Banksia Hill Detention Centre, departmental records indicate that, as at 22 November 2022, there are nine detainees with a confirmed diagnosis of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, four with a confirmed neurodevelopmental disorder not otherwise specified, four with a confirmed diagnosis of a communication disorder, seven with a confirmed cognitive/intellectual disability, four with a confirmed diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, two with a confirmed specific learning disorder and one with a confirmed diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. It is noted that some detainees have multiple diagnoses. There are currently 19 detainees with a disability flag notification on the total offender management solutions system.
  - (b) For unit 18, department records indicate, as at 22 November 2022, there are four detainees with a confirmed diagnosis of FASD, three with a confirmed diagnosis of ADHD, two with a confirmed communication disorder and two with a confirmed intellectual disability. It is noted some detainees have multiple diagnoses, there are currently seven detainees with a disability flag notification on TOMS.
- (3) The formal diagnosis of neurodevelopmental disorders is a specialised task that requires a range of health and mental health specialties. For example, to formally diagnose FASD, a paediatrician, speech pathologist and neuropsychologist all need to complete a battery of assessments. Corrective Services does not have specialist staff on site to perform these assessments. The psychological and mental health staff on site are trained and employed to work with detainees to address risk, adjustment and criminogenic issues rather than specialist disability needs. Psychological staff on site at Banksia Hill are able to perform a range of initial assessments that provide a starting point to indicate whether further specialised assessment is warranted. Corrective Services also consults regularly with Department of Communities disability services staff, who provide specialist advice and training to Corrective Services staff as required.