

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Attorney-General
Witness:	Ms Jill Hennessy
Committee member:	Ms Ingrid Stitt
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Relevant text:

And there are many stories, Ms Stitt, that can be told and shared, and I am happy to provide more of those on notice about the impact that has had on particular individuals.

Answer:

Case studies on the impact of programs provided under the Aboriginal Justice Agreement have been collected through monitoring and evaluation activities and include:

Koori Women's Diversion Program

The Koori Women's Diversion Program assists with diverting Koori women from deepening contact with the Criminal Justice system. Program participants receive intensive case management to navigate the justice system and broader service system.

By way of example, in Mildura, depending on their individual needs support for clients can be provided for housing, drug and/or alcohol issues, mental illness, family violence, education, employment, lack of income security and disconnection from family, culture and community.

Notable successes in the annual report from the project in Mildura included:

- One participant gained a traineeship and had her children returned to her care through DHHS Child Protection
- Three mothers were assisted to gain access and reunify with their children
- One participant was assisted to gain long term Aboriginal Housing.

Local Justice Worker Program

Local Justice Workers have three main functions: to work with Community Corrections Services (CCS) to support Aboriginal offenders to complete their Community Corrections Orders (CCOs), to work with Sheriff's officers to assist Aboriginal offenders to successfully resolve their fines and warrants, and to deliver community education; to offer case management and referral regarding housing, family violence, mental ill-health, alcohol and other drug problems, court support and financial counselling.

Local Justice Workers identify building close and empathic relationships with the client group as the key building block for addressing justice issues. The role, located within an

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Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, includes outreach as well as office-based work.

Men's healing and behaviour change

The Dardi Munwurro Journeys Program was developed for young Aboriginal men, based on lessons learnt from 18 years delivering men's healing and behaviour change programs. The program engages and empowers young Aboriginal men with the aim of diverting them from contact with the criminal justice system.

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Relevant text:

So you told us about the Koori Women's Place, but I wondered if you could tell us what else the government is doing to support Aboriginal women in the justice system in the very short amount of time that I have left.

I would be prepared to provide you with some further information on notice if we do not get a chance to talk about this issue further.

Answer:

Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja – the fourth phase of the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA4) – contains several commitments for reducing Aboriginal women's rates of contact with the justice system, addressing family violence, and promoting self-determination. In addition to continuing the Koori Women's Place, these include progressing a feasibility study for a residential program for Aboriginal women; family-centred approaches for clients with complex needs; assisting Aboriginal women with bail; improving access to a witness service for Aboriginal children; and developing Aboriginal victim support models.

Relevant commitments to be implemented over the life of the Agreement are:

- Developing and implementing cultural and gender specific supports for Aboriginal women involved in the correctional system to obtain bail and avoid remand
- Resuming the Koori Family Violence and Victim's Support Program within the Magistrates' Court
- Developing and trialling a Specialist Koori Family Violence Court Model
- Involving Aboriginal community representatives in the review of family violence policies and processes
- Improving collection and reporting of Aboriginal family violence data
- Strengthening Aboriginal engagement in developing family violence responses.

Within the agreement that are also commitments to continue work with Aboriginal communities to consider:

- The feasibility of a residential program like Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place to provide cultural and gender specific supports for Aboriginal women involved in the correctional system
- Expanding Koori Women's Diversion Programs to more locations.

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Portfolio:	Attorney-General
Witness:	Ms Corri McKenzie
Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallenge
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Relevant text:

What we are after is the blowout cost—the cost to recover from the problems with the system. That is what we are quite after—

Answer:

Additional staff resources have been committed to manage restricted functionality of the IT system. Additional output funding of \$8 million has been provided for additional staff to date.

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Portfolio:	Attorney-General
Witness:	Ms Jill Hennessy
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
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Relevant text:

Can I ask about the number of court hearings that have been missed by people on remand?

Answer:

For the 2018-19 Financial Year, there were 744 total instances of prisoners on remand not being transported to a court hearing in the Magistrates' Court on the scheduled day, where alternative audio-visual link arrangements could not be made.

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Portfolio:	Attorney-General
Witness:	Ms Corri McKenzie
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
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Relevant text:

How many sheriff operations or roadblocks have there been this financial year compared to previous financial years?

Mr Riordan, I do not have the number of the roadblocks, but sheriffs have been conducting roadblocks in the current financial year—

Could you provide us with this on notice, on this year compared to last year, please?

Answer:

For the financial year 2018-19, five road blocks were conducted compared to 99 in 2017-18.

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Portfolio:	Attorney-General
Witness:	Ms Rebecca Falkingham
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
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Relevant text:

Given that you are tracking those costs, can you tell the committee what the costs for VicPol have been so far?

Answer:

This is a matter for the Police Minister and I understand that she will be providing a response.

Portfolio:	Attorney-General
Witness:	Ms Rebecca Falkingham
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
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Relevant text:

Likewise—and these may be questions to also take on notice—as I mentioned, police have got Corrs Chambers Westgarth but the royal commission has retained the services of Holding Redlich, which I understand is not as experienced in royal commission work. So I am just wondering if you could advise the committee, again perhaps on notice—you may want to make some comments—on the process for the selection of legal support for the royal commission, which firms tendered, who made the decision regarding the appointment of Holding Redlich and why was Holding Redlich selected?

Answer:

The engagement of a legal firm to support the Commission is a matter for the Commission. I have been advised by the Commission that, after expressions of interest were invited from firms registered on the whole of Victorian Government Legal Services Panel, and a comprehensive evaluation process, Holding Redlich were appointed by the Commission.