



ICS
ACT Inspector
of Custodial
Services

Plain English Report

*Healthy Prison Review of the
Alexander Maconochie Centre*

2025



Healthy Prison Review of the AMC 2025

by the ACT Custodial Inspector

Who is the Custodial Inspector?



The ACT Custodial Inspector is Rebecca Minty, her office is independent from government & reports to the Legislative Assembly.

About the Custodial Inspector



The Custodial Inspector does reviews of AMC & CTU & recommends ways it can be improved for detained people, staff & visitors.

What is a Healthy Prison Review?



It is a whole of prison review looking at how people are treated at the AMC and CTU. This is our 3rd Healthy Prison Review of AMC.

What we looked at



This review focused on:

- leadership & culture
- drugs & harm minimisation
- culturally appropriate care
- previous recommendations
- purposeful activity
- preparation for release

Findings & recommendations



The review made:

60 Findings
30 Recommendations

Overall conclusion



Detained people need access to more education, programs, activities and employment, to fill their days with productive & meaningful things to do.

How will the review help you?



Your experience is important

We spoke to many of you when we were at the AMC. You may have completed our survey. This helped us form our recommendations.



Our report

Our report was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly and is publicly available on our website www.ics@act.gov.au, on your PrisonPC & in the AMC library.



Recommendations to government

We make recommendations to government about ways to make AMC better. The government will respond to our recommendations.

What we found

AMC NEEDS A STRUCTURED DAY

Recommendation 30: ACTCS must implement a structured day at the AMC as a priority

This will help promote rehabilitation, reduce reoffending, improve the motivation and wellbeing of detained people, and reduce demand for illicit drugs.

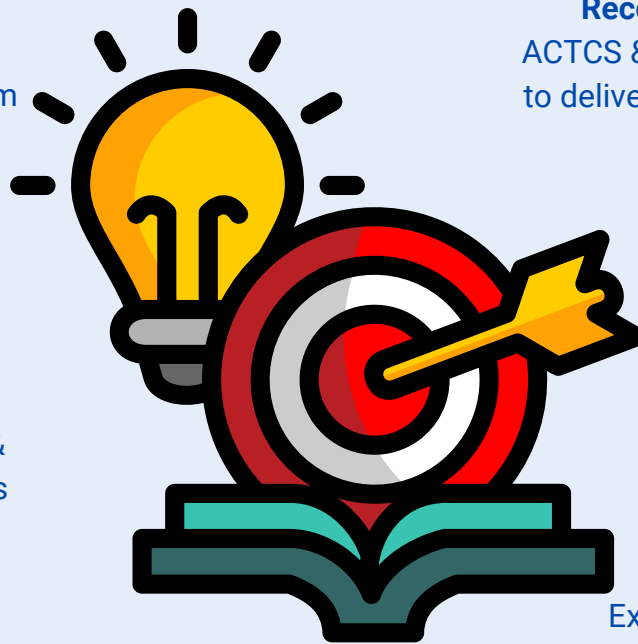
SUPPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 13:

Expand women's access to education, programs, employment & activities including lowering required participant numbers for them to run

Recommendation 23:

ACTCS & CIT to work together to deliver education & training at the AMC



Recommendation 24:

The ACT Government to fund & build a multi-purpose industries building

Recommendations 27:

Expand criminogenic and non-criminogenic programs for all detained people regardless of legal status or gender

Recommendation 29:

Remove unnecessary barriers & improve access to transitional release programs for eligible people

What we think ACT Government can do to help make the AMC better for everyone.

- Recommendation 1:** ACTCS amend its segregation policy & procedures to require a mandatory review of prolonged segregation (segregation for more than 60 days).
- Recommendation 2:** ACT Government consider findings from this review (in relation to reducing supply and demand, and minimising harm) in implementing the new ACTCS drug strategy.
- Recommendation 3:** Improved searching and integrity measures including increased searching, and drug and alcohol testing of AMC staff.
- Recommendation 4:** Consider the use of AI to assist with interpreting x-ray body scan images and releasing quarantined detained person emails.
- Recommendation 5:** Introduce body-worn cameras to improve accountability of operational practices.
- Recommendation 6:** Expand and report on key performance indicators relating to delivery of healthcare at the AMC.
- Recommendation 7:** Take further steps to improve the culture of reporting and record keeping in relation to observations, incidents, searching and segregation.
- Recommendation 8:** ACT Government and Winnunga improve information sharing to improve the care and management of detained people.
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other recommendations

- Recommendation 9:** Canberra Health Services commit to conducting appropriate reviews into all deaths in custody.
- Recommendation 10:** ACTCS update policies and inform their staff of how to raise and report concerns around integrity, workplace misconduct and conflicts of interest.
- Recommendation 11:** ACTCS review the complaints management system to improve timeliness of response, resolution at the lowest level and protection of confidentiality.
- Recommendation 12:** ACTCS review policies and procedures for allowing detained people to attend funerals and ensure they are culturally appropriate.
- Recommendation 14:** ACTCS expand accommodation options for women to better accommodate the different needs of women.
- Recommendation 15:** ACT Government consider options to enable women to maintain connection with their children in the community such as changes to bail and sentencing laws.
- Recommendation 16:** ACTCS reintroduce a program for young detained people.
- Recommendation 17:** ACTCS prioritise commitments made in its Disability Action & Inclusion Plan relating to detained people with neurodivergent conditions.
- Recommendation 18:** ACTCS develop a strategy for accommodating people with complex needs relating to health, disability and age.
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other recommendations

- Recommendation 19:** ACT Government consider medical imaging facilities for the AMC.
- Recommendation 20:** Canberra Health Services enhance the capacity of Justice Health Aboriginal Liaison Officers at the AMC and Bimberi.
- Recommendation 21:** ACTCS assess if the Supports & Interventions Unit is resourced appropriately to properly meet the needs of detained people.
- Recommendation 22:** ACT Government introduce a needle and syringe program at the AMC, working closely with staff and the union through the process.
- Recommendation 25:** ACTCS ensure the Case Management Unit is appropriately resourced to meet the needs of detained people and ensure staff safety and wellbeing.
- Recommendation 26:** ACTCS ensure the Programs Unit staff are fully trained to deliver specific programs.
- Recommendation 28:** ACTCS increase the capacity of detained people to contact family and friends for free including via computers, telephones and in-cell tablets.
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Thank you!

The ACT Office of the
Inspector of Custodial Services would
like to thank all everyone who
generously shared their experiences with
us for this review.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT,
the Ngunnawal people, and any other people and families with
connection to the ACT and region, and respect their continuing culture.

