



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 194

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Corrections, Hon Gerard Maley MLA:

Watch houses and Prisons

1. **As of 31 January 2026, how many adult prisoners were held in the NT's Corrections system?**

2929

- a. **Of those prisoners, how many identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?**

2582

2. **As of 31 January 2026, how many adult prisoners in the NT's Corrections system were being held on remand?**

1260

- a. **Of those prisoners, how many identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?**

1089

3. **Please provide the recidivism rate as at 31 January 2026 compared to 12 months earlier? How many prisoners are returning to prison, versus their first visit?**

C Justice - Report on Government Services 2026 | Productivity Commission

Recidivism measures for the 2024-25 reporting period indicate that 59.5% of prisoners who were released in 2022-23 after serving a sentence had returned to prison within the 2-year period.

Recidivism measures for the 2023-24 reporting period indicate that 60.3% of prisoners who were released in 2021-22 after serving a sentence had returned to prison within the 2-year period.

4. Please advise how many people were held in each of the NT watch houses as of 31 January 2026? Please provide a breakdown for each facility, and of those prisoners please provide
 - a. how many identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - b. how many were on remand?
 - c. how many were in police custody?
 - d. How many were in corrections custody?

Prisoners are in police custody – NTPOL data.

5. Could you advise the average number of people who have been held in watch houses, each month from January 2025 – January 2026? Please provide data for each facility.

Prisoners under DoC management				
	ASPP	PPP	DPP	PMC
Jan-25	63	130	50	
Feb-25	71	110	50	7
Mar-25	37	23	49	1
Apr-25			49	
May-25			49	
Jun-25			50	
Jul-25			50	
Aug-25			50	
Sep-25			49	
Oct-25			40	
Nov-25			0	
Dec-25			11**	
Jan-26			23**	

* ASPP – Alice Springs Police Prison; PPP – Palmerston Police Prison; DPP – Darwin Police Prison; PMC – Peter McAulay Centre

** G4S managed

6. Could you advise the highest number of people held in each of the watch houses for each month from January 2025 to January 2026? Please provide data for each facility.

Prisoners under DoC management				
	ASPP	PPP	DPP	PMC
Jan-25	81	138	50	
Feb-25	93	127	50	18
Mar-25	101	83	50	21
Apr-25			50	
May-25			50	
Jun-25			50	
Jul-25			50	
Aug-25			50	
Sep-25			50	
Oct-25			50	
Nov-25			0	
Dec-25			23**	
Jan-26			25**	

7. What operational and physical changes have been made to the Darwin Watch house to make it suitable for longer-term stays?

Through the application of the Corrections Infrastructure Master Plan DOC has significantly reduced its reliance on watchhouses as a place for long term placements.

Police Watches from a physical infrastructure perspective remain under the control of NT Police.

Department of Corrections Cells attached to the Darwin Transition Correctional Centre (DTCC) located in Mitchell Street (previously Darwin Police Prison – DPP) has had the following actions applied –

- Operational – DTCC is now managed and operated by G4S as a transitional centre – this is resulting in improvements to prisoner monitoring, agreed placement periods and enhanced operating policy and procedures.
- Physical – Department of Corrections is investing in the application of AVL supports in DTCC to enable a smoother transition for remandees through the court system, lighting has been suitably adjusted, professional screening and curtains have been ordered and are in the process of being installed, the infrastructure has been fully painted and thoroughly cleaned with improved hygiene routines being applied, TVs have been appropriately mounted in cells within secure boxes to reduce access to potential ligature points.

8. For the month of January 2026, for each watch house/police prison in the NT, please advise:

- a. What was the average number of prisoners held?**
- b. What was the highest number of prisoners held in a day?**
- c. What was the highest number of prisoners held in a cell?**
- d. What was the longest amount of time that a prisoner was held in this facility?**
- e. What was the average length of stay for prisoners?**
- f. If there was an allocated space for exercise, and if so, how often could prisoners access it?**
- g. For how long during each 24-hour period the lights were switched off?**
- h. How often prisoners could shower in a bathroom outside their cell?**
- i. How often prisoners could spend outside their cell on a daily basis?**
- j. How many phone calls were made by prisoners?**

This question does not fall within the responsibilities of the Minister for Corrections.