

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

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From: Mrs Laurie Zio

To: Hon Marie-Clare Boothby

Portfolio: Attorney-General

Agency: Attorney-General's Department

Subject: Alternative-to-custody programs

QUESTION:

Can you provide the statistics of people who have entered alternative-to-custody programs—the difference between those that are court ordered and those that are community-based referrals?

ANSWER:

There are multiple referral pathways into the Alternative to Custody (ATC) programs including from police, corrections, legal providers, other service providers, and self-referrals. In the reporting period from 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 29 people commenced a six-month ATC program.

Drug and Alcohol Services Australia (DASA) are the funded service provider for the ATC programs in Alice Springs and on Groote Eylandt.

All referrals are paper based and received and assessed by a central intake process in DASA and maintained on record. Referrals do not provide specific details on sentencing.

Court ordered referrals are not received directly from Court rather through Community Corrections and legal service providers either before or following sentencing where a condition of the Court is for the person to complete a program of some sort.

Court orders and sentencing remarks including references to an ATC program are not recorded in a way that can be readily extracted from IJIS due to the number of potential variables in the text, so such statistics are not collected by the Attorney-General's Department.