



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 199

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Youth Justice

- 1. Please advise how many youth detainees were in detention in the Northern Territory as at 31 January 2026? Can you also provide a breakdown of how many detainees were being held at each facility as at 31 January 2026?**

As at 31 January 2026, there were 58 detainees in custody. Of these, 56 were accommodated at Holtze Youth Detention Centre and 2 at Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre facilities.

- 2. For the month of January 2026, how many detainees at the Holtze Youth Detention Centre, on average, were held in each cell?**

There was an average of 63 detainees in Holtze Youth Detention Centre during January and 46 cells available, equating to approximately 1.37 detainees in each cell on any given day.

- 3. As at 31 January 2026 what is the highest number of detainees that has been held in a cell?**

Each cell is limited to a maximum of 2 detainees at any time, in accordance with the facility's occupancy certificate.

- 4. What is the bedding configuration of the cells?**

There are 2 allocated areas where a mattress can be placed. This includes a dedicated polyethylene molded bed base and a concrete base adjacent to the window.

5. In cells with more than one detainee, what factors determine which detainees are placed together?

The Department of Corrections employs a framework that considers age, offending history, assault risk, and problematic sexual behaviors to guide decisions around placing detainees together.

6. Is there a minimum and maximum amount of time that detainees may spend in their cell per day, and if so, what is it?

There is no minimum or maximum time for detainees to be in their cell per day. The structured day provides detainees with an average of 11 hours of unlock time each day, during which they participate in education, programs, and supervised activities.

7. For the month of January 2026, what was the maximum consecutive number of hours that a detainee was held in their cell?

During January, 2 operational days resulted in reduced unlock hours across accommodation areas, ranging from 3.5 to 7 hours. This deviation was due to exceptional circumstances and is not indicative of routine scheduling.

8. What is the breakdown of youth held on remand and in detention as at 31 January 2026?

As at 31 January 2026, there were 58 detainees in custody. Of these, 42 were held on remand and not sentenced.

9. Please advise on how many occasions during 2025 youth detainees were unable to leave their wing/cell due to lockdowns?

When lockdowns are required, they are rotated between wings, so the impact is shared. While a wing is not in lockdown, detainees there can access education programs and outdoor or external areas, depending on what is scheduled.

10. Please advise for the month of January 2026, on how many occasions youth detainees were unable to leave their wing/cell due to lockdowns?

All accommodation areas are afforded the ability to leave their wing for programs, sport and education. The only instances where movements are restricted are if there are contractors undertaking significant works which are unable to be mitigated safely.

11. In 2025, how many youth detainees were hospitalised? Please provide a breakdown of the reasons for hospitalisation?

During 2025 there were a total of 34 hospital admissions:

Mental Health	6
Injury/Illness	5
Physical altercation	3
Surgery/Procedure	20

12. For the month of January 2026, how many youth detainees were hospitalised? Please provide a breakdown of the reasons for hospitalisation?

During January 2026, there were a total of 2 hospital admissions. Both admissions were for surgery/day procedures.

13. During 2025, how many sexual assaults occurred in any youth detention facility? Please specify which facilities these assaults occurred in.

During 2025 there were a total of 2 alleged sexual assaults (indecent assault) in youth detention:

Holtze Youth Detention Centre	2
Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre	0

Note: As per Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reporting definition, sexual assault is defined as any physical contact or intent of contact of a sexual nature directed toward a person without consent, or where consent is coerced, forced, or invalid due to age or incapacity. It includes rape, attempted rape, and indecent assault, often categorized as child sexual abuse when involving victims under 18.

14. For the month of January 2026, how many sexual assaults occurred in any youth detention facility? Please specify which facilities these incidents occurred in.

During January 2026 there were a total of 0 sexual assaults in youth detention:

Holtze Youth Detention Centre	0
Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre	0

15. During 2025, how many physical assaults occurred in any youth detention facility? Please specify which facilities these assaults occurred in.

During 2025 there were a total of 218 physical assaults in youth detention:

Holtze Youth Detention Centre	209
Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre	9

16. For the month of January 2026, how many physical assaults occurred in any youth detention facility? Please specify which facilities these assaults occurred in.

During January 2026 there were a total of 24 physical assaults in youth detention:

Holtze Youth Detention Centre	24
Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre	0