

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 6-10

Output Number: 2.1

Date: 20/06/2023

From: Mr Bill Yan

To: Hon Chansey Paech

Portfolio: Attorney-General & Justice

Agency: Attorney-General & Justice

Subject: Prisoner unallocated beds and mattresses on the floor

QUESTION

As at 19 June, can you please advise how many prisoners had unallocated beds and were required to sleep on mattresses on the floor for all correctional centres?

ANSWER

Mr PAECH: On 19 June 2023 Northern Territory Correctional Services had 68 prisoners with unallocated beds. I will ask the commissioner to respond. That does not necessarily equate to it is at capacity and that is why they are on unallocated beds. The commissioner will provide further detail and then I will respond to the Member for Araluen's question about the watch house toilets.

Mr VARLEY: For clarification, those 68 prisoners on mattresses, I understand, have been in sector 6 at the Darwin Correctional Centre. That means that on any given day there are prisoner bed vacancies in other parts of the prison. Those parts of the prison, as we know, differ based on security classification, special needs and other things. Just because we had 68 prisoners on mattresses in sector 6 does not mean that there were not bed vacancies in other parts of the prison. We analyse and distribute that prison population based on the specific criteria of each prisoner.