

# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

## Question Taken on Notice

**Question Number:** 3.8

**Output Number:** Opening Statement

**Date:** 12/06/2025

**From:** Mr Chansey Paech

**To:** Hon Gerard Maley

**Portfolio:** Corrections

**Agency:** Department of Corrections

**Subject:** Lockdowns across correctional facilities

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### QUESTION:

Could you please confirm the number of lockdowns that have occurred across the Northern Territory Correctional Service facilities since September last year that have resulted in legal representation not being able to occur, medical lockdowns, overcrowding and staff shortages?

### ANSWER:

A lockdown occurs when prisoners are confined to their cells during scheduled operational hours, and there are multiple types of restricted movements, such as rotational unlocks, partial lockdowns of specific accommodation blocks, partial lockdowns of Centres, and full lockdowns, each with varying degrees of restriction. These different practices can occur simultaneously in different areas of the facility, making it difficult to capture a single, consistent definition of "lockdown." Additionally, the frequency and duration of each type of restricted movement can fluctuate throughout the day in response to operational needs or incidents. As a result, standardised data collection will not fully reflect the complexity and variability of movement restrictions to accurately respond to the level of detail requested in the question on notice.

Whilst acknowledging that there may be operational reasons at times for a full lock down of a facility, the Department will always endeavour, where possible, to support access to professional supports, including legal visits.