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Government funds AMC review response

The ACT Government is already responding to high priority recommendations from the review of the first 12 months of operation into the Alexander Maconochie Centre, with the injection of \$7.2 million over four years into ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS), Attorney General, Simon Corbell MLA said today.

“The report by Knowledge Consulting, which I tabled last month, made a number of recommendations about practices and procedures at the AMC, and the Government is already acting on some of the more urgent recommendations made by Keith Hamburger,” Mr Corbell said.

The 2011-12 Budget provides \$5.1 million funding over four years to assist in addressing resourcing issues identified in the review.

“Enhanced security and systems capability will also be delivered by this Budget, with the ACT Government to provide \$1.4 million to invest in upgrading the client database and a number of improved security measures.

“Having effective and efficient data collection is a crucial part of good corrections administration. The Government’s funding will ensure improvements in the information gathering processes, in accordance with the advice from Mr Hamburger, by investing in a significant upgrade of ACTCS’ client database.

“The Knowledge Consulting report also made several recommendations about the way food is transported to and from custodial facilities. The Government’s investment will purchase a refrigerated vehicle to improve the safe transport of food between different ACTCS facilities,” Mr Corbell said.

Other security measures include the relocation of the K9 Unit to the AMC; an upgrade to streamline the Keywatcher system; and installation of a heartbeat detection unit at the AMC to improve searches of vehicles entering and exiting the Centre.

A Taskforce was established last month to work through the series of recommendations made as part of the Knowledge Consulting report, and includes a range of members from Government and Non-Government bodies.

“The 2011-12 Budget also provides \$620,000 to undertake a feasibility study into the future correctional accommodation and facilities requirements at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

“The ACT Government is committed to delivering a first class, human rights compliant correctional facility and the funding in the Budget will assist the AMC to achieve this goal,” Mr Corbell concluded.

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