



Executive Coordination
Level 3, 11 Moore Street, Canberra City ACT 2601
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Phone: 13 22 81 or +61 13 22 81 from overseas
Website: www.health.act.gov.au
ABN: 82 049 056 234

File No: 09/10497

Our Ref: 09/21

Mr Peter Sutherland
Director
Softlaw Community Projects
PO Box 442
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Dear Mr Sutherland

I refer to your letter that was received on 11 December 2009, in which you requested access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act) to copies of:

"Quarterly Report on the Bloodborne Virus and Sexually Transmitted Infections – Surveillance at the AMC for the quarter to 30 September 2009."

As acting General Manager, Community Health, ACT Health I am an officer authorised under Section 22 of the Act to make a decision in relation to this matter.

After conducting a search we have located the enclosed folios that fall within the scope of your request. We have decided to exempt certain documents, or part thereof, under the following provisions of the Act:

S41 Documents affecting personal privacy

- (1) A document is an exempt document if its disclosure under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information about any person (including a deceased person).

If you wish to seek a review you should write to:

The Principal Officer
C/- FOI Coordinator
ACT Health
GPO Box 825
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You have 28 days from the date of this letter to seek a review of the outcome or such other period as the Principal Officer/Secretary permits.

You also have the right to complain to the Ombudsman about the processing of your request. If you wish to lodge a complaint you should write to:

The Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this request please contact Karen Pearson, Freedom of Information Coordinator on (02) 62051340.

Yours sincerely



Vera Van De Velde
Acting General Manager
Community Health

January 2010



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

GPO Box 825 Canberra ACT 2601
Website: www.health.act.gov.au
ABN: 82 049 056 234

To: Mark Cormack, Chief Executive
Subject: Bloodborne Virus and Sexually Transmitted Infections – Surveillance at the Alexander Maconochie Centre – 2nd Quarterly Report (30 September 2009)
Through: Ian Thompson, Deputy Chief Executive

Critical date and reason

The Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) had been operational for six months, at the time of the data extraction (30 September 2009).

The ACT Government has committed to an 18 month evaluation of the AMC, with quarterly exchange of information with ACT Corrective Services.

Purpose of Brief

To provide the 2nd cross-sectional survey results for Bloodborne Virus (BBV) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) at the AMC.

Issues/Background

2. There were 162 detainees resident at the AMC at midnight on 29 September 2009 (compared with 154 three-months earlier; an annualised increase of 21%).
3. A medical record audit was conducted on the medical records of all detainees residing at the AMC on that night.
4. The key findings are as follows:
 - (a) not a single detainee tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);
 - (b) of those 92 detainees tested, (●) male, (●) female
59% of male detainees had screened positive for hepatitis C antibodies,
71% of female detainees had screened positive for hepatitis C antibodies;
 - (c) two detainees screened positive for Chlamydia; and
 - (d) one detainee screened positive for syphilis.
5. One detainee sero-converted during the reporting period for hepatitis C. The detainee has spent time both in- and out-of-custody during the period in question. Further investigation is currently underway as to the possible transmission time and place the hepatitis C sero-conversion.
6. ACT Health is committed to sharing data on drug interdiction and random urinalysis results with ACT Corrective Services. The data reported at 5 (a) and 5 (b) on HIV and hepatitis C prevalence fulfils ACT Health's commitment to ACT Corrective Services. The information reported at 5 (c) and 5 (d) related to Chlamydia and syphilis, are not part of the information sharing agreement as they are potentially identifying.

7. The next review of BBVs and STIs is planned for 30 December 2009.

Media

8. A Freedom of Information (FOI) request was made for the 1st surveillance report. There is potential for this information to attract media attention if released via an FOI process.

Recommendations

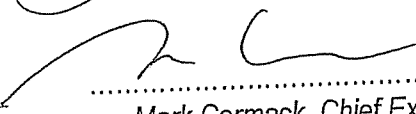
9. That you

- note the above information and
- Sign the letter to ACT Corrective Services to fulfil our reporting requirements (Attachment A).

not attached.

Katrina Bracher
Acting General Manager
Community Health

Action Officer: Dr Michael Levy
Phone: 6205 3373

AGREED / NOT AGREED / NOTED / PLEASE DISCUSS

..... 11/2/09
Mark Cormack, Chief Executive



ACT Health COPY

Chief Executive

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File No: XXXXXXXX

COPY

Mr James Ryan
Executive Director
ACT Corrective Services
GPO Box 158
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Mr Ryan *J. Ryan*

I have pleasure in sharing with you some of the results of the second quarterly report for bloodborne viruses and sexually transmitted infections at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. All medical files for detainees resident at the AMC at midnight of 29 September 2009 were reviewed.

- Not a single detainee has tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- Of those 95 detainees tested (● male, ● female), 59% of male detainees had screened positive for hepatitis C antibodies, and 71% of female detainees had screened positive for hepatitis C antibodies.

I anticipate being able to send similar reports to you every three months throughout the 18-month evaluation process that the ACT Government has embarked upon.

Should you require further assistance in this matter, please contact my office in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Mark Cormack
Chief Executive

16 December 2009