



Budget Estimates Secretariat
Room 812 Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
E: portfoliocommittee2@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Secretariat

Amendment of evidence provided at Budget Estimates Health - 2 March 2026

I am writing to amend evidence I provided at the Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health Budget Estimates 2025-26 hearing on Monday, 2 March 2026.

In my evidence to the Committee on page 56 of the uncorrected transcript, following Ms Sue Higginson's question, I state that:

"WENDY HOEY: Before we start, I just acknowledge the families and the loved ones of lost people in custody. When we speak about figures, it does get a bit impersonal. Every unexpected death is a tragedy. I put that up there before we go. I acknowledge the increase in deaths in custody. It's a real concern to us, as it is to you, Ms Higginson. We really enjoy your advocacy. I think there's no one reason that we can find. We've done a lot of reviews. We've worked very closely with Corrective Services, doing rapid reviews and having a look at what has happened in the last two years, in fact. In 2022-23 there were only 12 deaths in custody and then in 2023-24 and 2024-25 it increased dramatically."

I wish to clarify the financial years for the referenced data in the final sentence. In 2023-24 there were only 12 deaths in custody and then in 2024-25 and 2025-26 it increased dramatically.

In my evidence to the Committee on page 57 of the uncorrected transcript, following Ms Sue Higginson's question, I state that:

"WENDY HOEY: I'm really sorry to hear that's happened. I'm sure you would've told me if it was health services. I don't want to comment on the actions of Corrective Services. You know that we work very closely with the Inspector of Custodial Services in ensuring that any recommendation she gives us, we attend to. We provide really good information and have a good relationship there. One of the things we have done across the State in probably the last six months is roll out what we call open clinics, which means that inmates can access health services without having to go through Corrective Services. So we're available without an appointment—without a bluey, as they call it, as you would know—trying to make it so that there's no barrier between us and Corrective Services. The feedback from that has been really good. We've done some evaluation with the inmates on that. It's really good."

I wish to clarify that I meant to say we are trying to make it so there's no barrier between us and the patients.

I appreciate your consideration of these clarifications to correct the evidence. For more information, please contact Alicia Webster, System Improvement Manager on .

Yours sincerely

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Wendy Hoey PSM
Chief Executive

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network
ABN 70 194 595 506

PO Box 150 Matraville NSW 2036
Tel: 02 9700 3000 Fax 02 9700 3744
Website www.justicehealth.nsw.gov.au