

Dear [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by Canberra Health Service on **Tuesday 12 September 2023**.

This application requested access to:

I seek information held by Canberra Health Services in relation to the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit:

From 01/07/2022 to 12/09/2023

- 1. Any correspondence between Canberra Health Services officials regarding concerns about or requests for searches for illicit substances at Dhulwa by staff or police.*
- 2. Information (numbers of) and correspondence regarding consumers who have failed to return to the Dhulwa from leave and measures taken to find or return them to the facility.*
- 3. Information (numbers of) and correspondence regarding reportable incidents (violence or damage to property) involving consumers at Dhulwa believed to have been under the influence of illicit substances or alcohol on return from leave.*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services (CHS) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. CHS was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Wednesday 25 October 2023**.

I have identified six documents holding the information within scope of your access application. These are outlined in the schedule of documents included at [Attachment A](#) to this decision letter.

Decisions

I have decided to grant partial access to all six documents.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as [Attachment B](#) to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- The views of relevant third parties; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*

Partial Access

I have decided to grant partial access to six documents at references 1-6 as they contain information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in Section 17 of the FOI Act.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability;
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest;
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(iv) ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds; and
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(viii) reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.2 (a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004;

The six documents all have redactions to personal information such as mobile numbers of ACT Government employees and mobile numbers, email addresses and names of non-ACT Government employees that has not been disclosed as this could reasonably be expected to prejudice the protection of the individual's right to privacy.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, CHS maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman

GPO Box 442

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: ombudsman.act.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Allara House
15 Constitution Avenue
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further assistance

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. McKenzie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katie McKenzie
Executive Director
Mental Health Justice Health Alcohol and Drug Services
Canberra Health Services

24 October 2023




FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information>

APPLICANT NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	FILE NUMBER
	<p><i>I seek information held by Canberra Health Services in relation to the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit: From 01/07/2022 to 12/09/2023</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Any correspondence between Canberra Health Services officials regarding concerns about or requests for searches for illicit substances at Dhulwa by staff or police.</i><i>2. Information (numbers of) and correspondence regarding consumers who have failed to return to the Dhulwa from leave and measures taken to find or return them to the facility.</i><i>3. Information (numbers of) and correspondence regarding reportable incidents (violence or damage to property) involving consumers at Dhulwa believed to have been under the influence of illicit substances or alcohol on return from leave.</i>	CHSFOI23-24.18

Ref Number	Page Number	Description	Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1.	1 - 2	RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward	13/7/23	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
2.	3 - 5	RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward	13/7/23	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
3.	6 - 8	RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward	13/7/23	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
4.	9 - 10	Re: Sniffer dogs update	2/8/23	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
5.	11 - 12	Re: Sniffer dogs update	2/8/23	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
6.	13 - 15	Re: Sniffer dogs update	3/8/23	Partial release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
Total Number of Documents						
6						

Hemming, Michelle (Health)

From: Barker, Anthony (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 13 July 2023 1:02 PM
To: Norton, Elyce (Health); Kleinig, Peta (Health); Bailey, AndrewC (Health); Mashhood, Ahmed (Health); Barnes, Russell (Health); Hibberd, Sandra (Health); Twycross, Graham (Health)
Subject: RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward

OFFICIAL

Thanks Elyce, I think we should move the patients that have tested positive from Cassia to Lomandra.

From: Norton, Elyce (Health) <Elyce.Norton@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 July 2023 12:49 PM
To: Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>; Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>; Barker, Anthony (Health) <Anthony.Barker@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Russell (Health) <Russell.Barnes@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>
Subject: Suspicion of substances on the ward

OFFICIAL

Good Afternoon,
 You may be aware that there was some suspicion reported from Nursing staff of odd behaviour between consumers in Cassia after a consumer returned from AWOL of the 12th of July.
 Russel, Peta and I spoke with [REDACTED] with regard to this concern.
 Room searches for [REDACTED] were conducted and no contraband was found.

Any thoughts on what the plans should be going forward.

Kind regards

Elyce Norton | Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant
Secure Mental Health Services
 Dhulwa Mental Health Unit
 Phone: 51241683 – 61426682 | Email: Elyce.norton@act.gov.au
MHJHADS | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 30 Mugga Lane, Symonston, ACT, 2609 | health.act.gov.au
RELIABLE | PROGRESSIVE | RESPECTFUL | KIND

Canberra Health Services acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region.



Hemming, Michelle (Health)

From: Barker, Anthony (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 13 July 2023 2:43 PM
To: Norton, Elyce (Health); Bailey, AndrewC (Health); Kleinig, Peta (Health); Mashhood, Ahmed (Health); Barnes, Russell (Health); Hibberd, Sandra (Health); Twycross, Graham (Health)
Subject: RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward

OFFICIAL

I've just had a look at the current Leave procedure. Looks like their leave is revoked

Section 4 – Contravention of leave

4.1 Unauthorised leave, escape and absconding

If a consumer takes unauthorised leave, fails to return from leave, or absconds during escorted leave, refer to the *MHJHADS Unauthorised leave of Admitted People from MHJHADS Inpatient Units Procedure* and *Dhulwa Escape and Abscond Procedure*.

4.2 Suspension and Revocation of Leave

Suspension of leave refers to the temporary cancellation of leave at the discretion of the NiC for a period of not more than 7 days. Any member of the team can raise an issue of concern with the NiC who will then review the leave provisions. Suspended leave can be reinstated by the MDT. Reasons for suspended leave may include, but are not limited to:

- Attempting to bring low risk contraband into Dhulwa or Gawanggal (e.g. electronic devices, pornography, pharmaceuticals),
- Smoking anywhere at Dhulwa or Gawanggal,
- Failure to return from unescorted leave within three hours of planned return time.

Revocation of leave refers to the cancellation of all leave until a new application for leave is submitted to the Leave Panel by the MDT and the consumer. Leave cannot be reinstated by the MDT. Reasons for revocation of leave may include, but are not limited to:

- Attempting to flee staff escorts,
- Assaulting staff or others
- Using alcohol or other substances
- Offending
- Self-harming or increase in suicide vulnerability

Any decision to suspend or revoke leave (see definition of terms) must be made on clear clinical grounds, i.e. for the safety of the consumer, staff or the public. The revocation or suspension of leave can never be used as a punitive measure.

From: Barker, Anthony (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 13 July 2023 2:29 PM
To: Norton, Elyce (Health) <Elyce.Norton@act.gov.au>; Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>; Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Russell (Health) <Russell.Barnes@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward

OFFICIAL

Thanks Elyce. Let's move the 3 patients [REDACTED] from Cassia to Lomandra. There will need to be suspended/revoked as per the leave policy (I'm not sure which term applies in this instance). [REDACTED]

From: Norton, Elyce (Health) <Elyce.Norton@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 July 2023 2:12 PM
To: Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>; Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>;
 Barker, Anthony (Health) <Anthony.Barker@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Russell (Health) <Russell.Barnes@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward

OFFICIAL

Update. [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Elyce Norton | Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant
 Secure Mental Health Services
 Gawanggal Mental Health Unit
 Phone: 51241978 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: Elyce.norton@act.gov.au
MHJHADS | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 30 Mugga Lane, Symonston, ACT, 2609 | health.act.gov.au
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From: Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 July 2023 1:51 PM
To: Norton, Elyce (Health) <Elyce.Norton@act.gov.au>; Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>; Barker, Anthony (Health) <Anthony.Barker@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Russell (Health) <Russell.Barnes@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward

OFFICIAL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I think we need to urgently review our search policies and procedures to make sure the safety and security of the unit is maintained and to ensure the welfare of vulnerable or impressionable patients.

Best wishes,

Andrew

From: Norton, Elyce (Health) <Elyce.Norton@act.gov.au>

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Elyce Norton | Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant

Secure Mental Health Services

Dhulwa Mental Health Unit

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OFFICIAL

Thank you everyone for your diligence in managing and containing the situation. It is rather unfortunate outcome of a necessary step of having had to progress [REDACTED] leave status over the course of months as per the least restrictive philosophy and policies.

One additional aspect that we should also consider at all times is a challenging one, but nevertheless, the most practical one, that is to consider [REDACTED] potential discharge ultimately, when safely possible.

Best wishes for thorough implementation of your plans for the affected patients.

Kind regards
 Ahmed

From: Barker, Anthony (Health) <Anthony.Barker@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 5:29:23 AM
To: Norton, Elyce (Health) <Elyce.Norton@act.gov.au>; Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>; Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Russell (Health) <Russell.Barnes@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>
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OFFICIAL

Update. [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Elyce Norton | Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant

Secure Mental Health Services

Gawanggal Mental Health Unit

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Subject: RE: Suspicion of substances on the ward

OFFICIAL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I think we need to urgently review our search policies and procedures to make sure the safety and security of the unit is maintained and to ensure the welfare of vulnerable or impressionable patients.

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Russel, Peta and I spoke with [REDACTED] with regard to this concern.

Room searches for [REDACTED] were conducted and no contraband was found.

[REDACTED]

Any thoughts on what the plans should be going forward.

Kind regards

**Elyce Norton | Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant
Secure Mental Health Services**

Dhulwa Mental Health Unit

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Hemming, Michelle (Health)

From: Mashhood, Ahmed (Health)
Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 11:24 AM
To: Barker, Anthony (Health); Ward, Sonny (Health); Kleinig, Peta (Health); Bailey, AndrewC (Health); Hibberd, Sandra (Health); Riordan, Denise (Health); Twycross, Graham (Health); Sharp, Gillian (Health)
Cc: McKenzie, Katie (Health); Hemming, Michelle (Health); Reefman, Aaron (Health)
Subject: Re: Sniffer dogs update
Categories: Complete

OFFICIAL

Thanks Sonny et al for the clarity

From: Barker, Anthony (Health) <Anthony.Barker@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 5:19:12 AM
To: Ward, Sonny (Health) <Sonny.Ward@act.gov.au>; Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>; Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Riordan, Denise (Health) <Denise.Riordan@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>; Sharp, Gillian (Health) <Gillian.Sharp@act.gov.au>
Cc: McKenzie, Katie (Health) <Katie.McKenzie@act.gov.au>; Hemming, Michelle (Health) <Michelle.Hemming@act.gov.au>; Reefman, Aaron (Health) <Aaron.Reefman@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Sniffer dogs update

OFFICIAL

Thanks Sandy

From: Ward, Sonny (Health) <Sonny.Ward@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 11:17 AM
To: Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>; Barker, Anthony (Health) <Anthony.Barker@act.gov.au>; Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Riordan, Denise (Health) <Denise.Riordan@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>; Sharp, Gillian (Health) <Gillian.Sharp@act.gov.au>
Cc: McKenzie, Katie (Health) <Katie.McKenzie@act.gov.au>; Hemming, Michelle (Health) <Michelle.Hemming@act.gov.au>; Reefman, Aaron (Health) <Aaron.Reefman@act.gov.au>
Subject: Sniffer dogs update

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Following the recent incident whereby a quantity of drugs were suspected to enter Dhulwa a couple of weeks ago, I have looked into the feasibility of using drug detection dogs to support safety and security within the unit.

- There is no legislated reason why drug detection dogs could not enter Dhulwa
- AFP have dogs that detect multiple items
- AMC have dogs that primarily detect drugs
- There is no MOU between either AMC or AFP to include deployment of drug detection dogs to Dhulwa

- Forensic hospital Sydney have used them once in 2017 provided by a private company. During this search multiple positive indications were made by dog across the hospital and in various locations, but nothing was found.
- NSW police have no jurisdiction to use dogs in hospitals. The private firms do not have any jurisdiction or any special training for making drug detection claims and making arrests.
- A representative from Elite Security and Protection in ACT advised that narcotic detection canines aren't readily available in the ACT, although they are permitted.
- It is not financially viable for a private company to be engaged on an ad hoc basis, additionally this presents inconsistencies for training the dogs

We have procedures in place to manage searches for prohibited items, escalating in restriction. Addressing this issue would be the best way forward in maintaining a drug free environment at Dhulwa.

Using any form of drug detection equipment or dogs must be very carefully considered from HR and the Industrial Relations point of view in case of positive indication of staff. Currently CHS has no policies which cover this situation.

I think this presents as a no go at this time.

Happy to discuss further if required.

Kind regards,

Sonny Ward | Director of Nursing MHJHADS

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: sonny.ward@act.gov.au

MHJHADS | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Canberra Hospital | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au

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Hemming, Michelle (Health)

From: Sharp, Gillian (Health)
Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 1:18 PM
To: Ward, Sonny (Health)
Cc: McKenzie, Katie (Health); Hemming, Michelle (Health); Reefman, Aaron (Health); Kleinig, Peta (Health); Barker, Anthony (Health); Bailey, AndrewC (Health); Hibberd, Sandra (Health); Mashhood, Ahmed (Health); Riordan, Denise (Health); Twycross, Graham (Health)
Subject: RE: Sniffer dogs update

OFFICIAL

Hi Sonny,

Thanks for keeping me in the loop and your efforts in exploring this.

I don't see the use of sniffer dogs as aligned with the current, or our future, model of care. Drugs are an inevitability so I would prefer to use the existing mechanisms and relational security strategies we have available to manage the issue of drugs in the unit when it transitions to JHS.

Regards
 Gillian

Gillian Sharp | Operational Director
 Phone: 02 5124 2785 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: Gillian.Sharp@act.gov.au
 Justice Health Services | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 1 Moore St, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au

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- NSW police have no jurisdiction to use dogs in hospitals. The private firms do not have any jurisdiction or any special training for making drug detection claims and making arrests.
- A representative from Elite Security and Protection in ACT advised that narcotic detection canines aren't readily available in the ACT, although they are permitted.
- It is not financially viable for a private company to be engaged on an ad hoc basis, additionally this presents inconsistencies for training the dogs

We have procedures in place to manage searches for prohibited items, escalating in restriction. Addressing this issue would be the best way forward in maintaining a drug free environment at Dhulwa.

Using any form of drug detection equipment or dogs must be very carefully considered from HR and the Industrial Relations point of view in case of positive indication of staff. Currently CHS has no policies which cover this situation.

I think this presents as a no go at this time.

Happy to discuss further if required.

Kind regards,

Sonny Ward | Director of Nursing MHJHADS

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: sonny.ward@act.gov.au

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Canberra Hospital | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au

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Hemming, Michelle (Health)

From: Kleinig, Peta (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 3 August 2023 9:04 AM
To: McKenzie, Katie (Health); Ward, Sonny (Health); Barker, Anthony (Health); Bailey, AndrewC (Health); Hibberd, Sandra (Health); Mashhood, Ahmed (Health); Riordan, Denise (Health); Twycross, Graham (Health); Sharp, Gillian (Health); Tsakalos, George (Health)
Cc: Hemming, Michelle (Health); Reefman, Aaron (Health)
Subject: RE: Sniffer dogs update

Categories: Complete

OFFICIAL

Hi George

Could you please attach the email below to the agenda for the work health and safety meeting under other business please. We can table it there and complete a risk assessments that outlines how we will mitigate drugs coming into the unit and what the processes is if we have a suspicion drugs are on the unit. We can have a look at the risk assessment this afternoon or early next week.

Thanks

Peta Kleinig | Assistant Director of Nursing
 Mental Health, Justice Health, Alcohol and Drug Services
 Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: peta.kleinig@act.gov.au
 MHJHADS | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 30 Mugga Lane, Symonston, ACT 2609 | health.act.gov.au
RELIABLE | PROGRESSIVE | RESPECTFUL | KIND

From: McKenzie, Katie (Health) <Katie.McKenzie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 August 2023 8:57 AM
To: Ward, Sonny (Health) <Sonny.Ward@act.gov.au>; Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>; Barker, Anthony (Health) <Anthony.Barker@act.gov.au>; Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Riordan, Denise (Health) <Denise.Riordan@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>; Sharp, Gillian (Health) <Gillian.Sharp@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hemming, Michelle (Health) <Michelle.Hemming@act.gov.au>; Reefman, Aaron (Health) <Aaron.Reefman@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Sniffer dogs update

OFFICIAL

Hi,

Thanks for the exploration and clarity Sonny.
 Can I suggest that this is tabled at the most appropriate Dhulwa governance meeting for reference for all.

Kind regards,

Katie

Katie McKenzie | Executive Director

Phone: 02 5124 5229 | [REDACTED] | Email: katie.mckenzie@act.gov.au
 MHJHADS | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 Building 28, Level 2, Canberra Hospital, Garran, ACT 2605 | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au

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From: Ward, Sonny (Health) <Sonny.Ward@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 11:17 AM

To: Kleinig, Peta (Health) <Peta.Kleinig@act.gov.au>; Barker, Anthony (Health) <Anthony.Barker@act.gov.au>; Bailey, AndrewC (Health) <AndrewC.Bailey@act.gov.au>; Hibberd, Sandra (Health) <Sandra.Hibberd@act.gov.au>; Mashhood, Ahmed (Health) <Ahmed.Mashhood@act.gov.au>; Riordan, Denise (Health) <Denise.Riordan@act.gov.au>; Twycross, Graham (Health) <Graham.Twycross@act.gov.au>; Sharp, Gillian (Health) <Gillian.Sharp@act.gov.au>

Cc: McKenzie, Katie (Health) <Katie.McKenzie@act.gov.au>; Hemming, Michelle (Health) <Michelle.Hemming@act.gov.au>; Reefman, Aaron (Health) <Aaron.Reefman@act.gov.au>

Subject: Sniffer dogs update

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Following the recent incident whereby a quantity of drugs were suspected to enter Dhulwa a couple of weeks ago, I have looked into the feasibility of using drug detection dogs to support safety and security within the unit.

- There is no legislated reason why drug detection dogs could not enter Dhulwa
- AFP have dogs that detect multiple items
- AMC have dogs that primarily detect drugs
- There is no MOU between either AMC or AFP to include deployment of drug detection dogs to Dhulwa
- Forensic hospital Sydney have used them once in 2017 provided by a private company. During this search multiple positive indications were made by dog across the hospital and in various locations, but nothing was found.
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Kind regards,

Sonny Ward | Director of Nursing MHJHADS

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: sonny.ward@act.gov.au

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