Submission from ACT Health into the independent review into the management of the custody and care of detainee Steven Freeman at the Alexander Maconochie Centre

ACT Health’s values are Care, Excellent, Collaboration and Integrity which represents what we believe is important in the provision of health services and underpins the way we work and aim to deliver the best health services to the ACT community.

ACT Health provides comprehensive services including a range of Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services, through the public and community sectors in hospitals, community health centres and other community settings, adult and youth correctional facilities and peoples’ homes across the Territory.

The key priorities for Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services are ensuring that people’s health needs are met in a timely fashion and that care is integrated across hospital, community, and residential support services. This means focusing on:

- ensuring timely access to emergency mental health care,
- ensuring that public and community mental health services in the ACT provide, people with appropriate assessment, treatment and care that result in improved mental health outcomes,
- providing community and hospital based alcohol and drug services, and
- providing health assessments and care for people detained in corrective facilities.

Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services provide health services directly and through partnerships with community organisations. The services provided range from prevention and treatment to recovery and maintenance and harm minimisation. Consumer and carer participation is encouraged in all aspects of service planning and delivery.

Justice Health Services
Justice Health Service is a program within Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services and is responsible for the provision of health care to people within the correctional facilities in the ACT.

The 2015-16 operating budget for Justice Health Services was $3,340,749 with a program FTE of 24.90.

Justice Health Services ensures the approach to care, treatment, recovery, and a person’s requirements for privacy and dignity are consistent with the guiding principles of the Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT) and the Mental Health Act 2015 and in line with ACT Health policies, procedures and guidelines.

Justice Health Services operates within a robust legislative and regulatory environment, including the Children and Young People Act 2008, the Corrections Management Act 2007, the

Pursuant to section 21 of the Corrections Management Act 2007, ACT Health has a role to provide health services to detainees and to protect the health of detainees via the ‘Doctor’ who is appointed by the Director General responsible for the Public Health Act 1997. ACT Health is the primary provider of health services to persons held under the Corrections Management Act 2007. A number of other health services are provided by ACT Correctives Services, including the Counselling and Psychological Support Service, Solaris and various others provided by community organisations.

Health Services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre
Health services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre are provided by ACT Health staff at the Hume Health Centre which is located within the AMC. Detainees have access to both the primary health and mental health services. In accordance with the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997, ACT Health maintains clinical records documenting the care and treatment provided to all detainees.

The Hume Health Centre is one of seven community health centres in the Territory. The health services are provided in a community setting, as far as practicable, which is central to the philosophy of service delivery at the Hume Health Centre. In daily practice, this has led to an open environment where no detainee is brought to the Hume Health Centre in shackles and some detainees are free to attend the Hume Health Centre independently, while many are escorted by a Corrections Officer. Consistent with practices in other Health Centres, health promotion information, including condoms, is readily available.

Health care at the Hume Health Centre is nurse led with support from staff specialists, Visiting Medical Officers and a Resident Medical Officer, a dentist (two days per week) and a range of allied health professionals. The Hume Health Centre has strong relationships with the Canberra Hospital, particularly with the GP Liaison Unit.

The Justice Health Services, Standard Operating Procedure titled Triage at the Hume Health Centre, outlines the triage system used at the Hume Health Centre which pertains to all non-urgent request for appointments.

Justice Health Services manages all transfers to the Canberra Hospital pursuant to the following Standard Operating Procedures:

- Unscheduled transfers to The Canberra Hospital (TCH) Emergency Department (ED) from the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- Response, Assessment, Treatment and Management of Medical Emergencies (Code Pink) within the Alexander Maconochie Centre

The health services within the AMC are provided by two teams:

Justice Health Primary Health Team
This team provides a community equivalent primary health service, where applicable, to adults and young people of the Alexander Maconochie Centre, Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, the ACT Court Cells and the ACT Courts. Health services provided by the primary team include:
Health induction assessments for all people who enter custody;
- Aboriginal Health Services through Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service;
- Chronic Disease including BBV screening and treatment;
- Dental care;
- Hearing testing;
- Vision testing and provision of prescription spectacles;
- Mental Health, including assessment and treatment of people experiencing mild to moderate mental illness and the stabilisation of mental health issues;
- Opioid replacement therapy;
- Pain clinic;
- Pharmacy; and
- Response to Medical Emergencies.

Forensic Mental Health Services
The FMHS is a specialised mental health service that aims to reduce the risk of re-offending and violence in people with moderate to severe mental illness that cannot be appropriately managed by mainstream mental health services due to the person presenting with an ongoing high level of risk to others.

FMHS provides mental health care across the lifespan and across a range of settings, including custodial, community and court settings. The aim of the service is to contribute to the individuals' recovery in a way that enables people to live as independently as possible whilst maintaining the highest possible level of safety for the individual and the community. This is achieved through the provision of mental health services in custodial settings, the assessment and treatment of people with mental illness in the community and the provision of information and liaison with the ACT judiciary.

Consistent with the Corrections Management Act 2007, people remanded in custody are screened for mental health, risk and co-occurring drug and alcohol problems on entry to the prison. The Forensic Mental Health Team participates in the Corrective Services AMC High Risk Assessment Team meetings to discuss detainees at most risk of suicide or self-harm.

Detainees with mental illness are provided with ongoing care and support by clinicians, who see them on a regular basis at the Hume Health Centre. Specific interventions provided by the Forensic Mental Health Team include:
- clinical and psychiatric assessment and treatment (clinical management model);
- psychological intervention;
- psychosocial intervention;
- occupational therapy assessment and intervention;
- suicide risk assessment and management; and
- group therapies.

The Mental Health Act 2015 sets out how individuals experiencing mental illness and mental disorder are to be provided care. This Act aims to protect, promote and improve the lives and
overall mental health and wellbeing of ACT citizens. It requires that treatment and care should be provided in the least restrictive environment.

**Access and performance of Justice Health Services**

All detainees who are admitted to the Alexander Maconochie Centre undergo a combined general health and mental health risk assessment within 24 hours of detention. This health assessment is made under Section 68 of the *Corrections Management Act 2007*.

In 2015-16, Justice Health Services achieved its target of 100 percent completion of health assessments of detainees within 24 hours of detention.

ACT Health collects data on the number of contacts or occasions of service that occur with a client, which include both direct and indirect clinical contact. In 2015-16, Justice Health Services overachieved against its target of 108,000 by 42 percent, equally 153,000 occasions of service. The overachievement was a result of the increased demand of health services in response to the increasing number of detainees at the AMC.

**Collaboration with Canberra Hospital and Health Services**

Within the ACT, acute inpatient and day services, outpatient services and pathology services are all provided from the Canberra Hospital.

Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services is a division that sits within the governance of Canberra Hospital and Health Services and has close links to all acute services provided from the Canberra Hospital.

Justice Health Services manages all transfers to the Canberra Hospital pursuant to the following Standard Operating Procedures:

- *Unscheduled transfers to The Canberra Hospital (TCH) Emergency Department (ED) from the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).*
- *Response, Assessment, Treatment and Management of Medical Emergencies (Code Pink) within the Alexander Maconochie Centre*
Information Sharing

Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services acknowledge the importance of sharing personal health information between ACT Health and ACT Correctives Services to the extent necessary for the provision of health care and within the legislative frameworks.

In 2012, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services and ACT Correctives Services with the oversight of the Health Services Commissioner jointly developed protocols for information sharing in the following specific circumstances:

- Urinalysis Screening Program
- Detainee fitness for Work Programs
- Therapeutic Community
- Re-Release Information
- Sentence Administration Board reports
- Pre-Sentencing report.

In May 2016, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services implemented a series of additional information sharing strategies to further improve the physical and mental health information available to ACT Correctives Services.

These initiatives were to improve the Justice Health Services processes, and specifically to support ACT Correctives Services to effectively assume full responsibility for Suicide and Self Harm management at AMC and implement “At Risk” detainee health care. Two forms were developed to assist in this process, which are:

- Primary Health Notification Form for change in clinical state
- Forensic Mental Health Notification Form for change in clinical state.

Attachments to this submission:

1. Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol & Drug Services, Standard Operating Procedure, titled Information Sharing between Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol & Drug Services and ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS)
2. Form - Primary Health Notification Form for change in clinical state
3. Form - Forensic Mental Health Notification Form for change in clinical state
4. Justice Health Services, Standard Operating Procedures:
   - Unscheduled transfers to The Canberra Hospital (TCH) Emergency Department (ED) from the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
   - Response, Assessment, Treatment and Management of Medical Emergencies (Code Pink) within the Alexander Maconochie Centre
5. Justice Health Services, Standard Operating Procedure titled Triage at the Hume Health Centre
6. The ACT Inmate Health Survey 2010. The purpose of undertaking the inmate survey is to provide trending data and to survey the continual health and social welfare survey of ACT prisoners.