

TASMANIA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION 2024

NOTICE OF MOTION

23 May 2024

I (**Ms Webb**) give Notice that tomorrow I shall move —

- (1) That the Legislative Council Notes:-
 - (a) Recommendation 12.1 contained in the *Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings Final Report* dated August 2023, which states, “*The Tasmanian Government should close Ashley Youth Detention Centre as soon as possible*”;
 - (b) That in correspondence to the Premier dated the 6th of October 2023, from fifteen (15) community and social justice organisation signatories, they expressed extreme concern for the safety of the children held at Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC), particularly in light of the Commission of Inquiry’s Final Report’s assessment of ‘current and live risks’ for detainees and recommendation for urgent closure, and requested:
 - (i) The urgent appointment of specialist forensic experts to assess all detained children and identify their treatment needs to plan for their care in community; and
 - (ii) The development of a multidisciplinary working group.
 - (c) That on the 11th of October 2023, a coalition of justice and social service organisations including TasCOSS, Prisoners' Legal Service Tasmania, and 54 others, publicly released an open letter to the Premier in which they called for the urgent closure of the AYDC, along with the appointment of specialist forensic experts to assess all detained children and identify their treatment needs to plan for their care in community; and the development of a multidisciplinary working group;
 - (d) The public statement made by the Commissioner for Children and Young People on Wednesday 22 May 2024 in which the Commissioner:
 - (i) Revealed that at the beginning of the week of Monday the 20th of May this year, there were 26 children and young people held at the AYDC, the highest number the Commissioner had ever seen; and
 - (ii) Called for urgent action from the Government, including the establishment of a special taskforce to reduce the numbers of children held on remand at the AYDC.

- (e) The public statement issued by TasCOSS also on 22 May 2024 in support of the Commissioner for Children and Young People’s assessment of the safety risks posed to children and young people by the AYDC, and reiterated the Commissioner’s call for an urgent taskforce to address the number of children at AYDC to be established; and
- (2) That the Legislative Council calls upon the government to immediately form a multidisciplinary taskforce to design and implement interim measures to remove children on remand from AYDC, while the Youth Justice Blueprint continues to be developed as a more permanent reform.

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Signed