



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INSTRUCTION 01/2019

Management of Female Detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)

Following the revocation of the *Reception and Management of Female Detainees Policy 2014* this Executive Director's Instruction provides authority for the management of female detainees in accordance with the below standards.

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) offers female detainees at the AMC with access to the same level of programs, education, healthcare, mental health services and recreation as male detainees.

As far as practicable, ACTCS strives to meet the needs of female detainees within their accommodation area.

1. Admission to the AMC

- 1.1 Female detainees will be provided with female-specific information on programs and supports available at the AMC during admission.
- 1.2 Where a female detainee is identified as the primary care giver of any children during the induction interview, the Area Manager must arrange for a Case Manager to interview the detainee on the next business day.
- 1.3 Where a female detainee indicates to a staff member that she is, or may be, pregnant, the staff member must report this to Justice Health and Sentence Management.

2. Programs and Education

- 2.1 Female detainees will not access programs, education or recreation at the same time as male detainees.
- 2.2 As far as practicable, female detainees will have access to programs and education within their accommodation area.
- 2.3 Where access cannot be provided to programs or education within the female accommodation area, this will be provided on a timetabled basis.
- 2.4 Female detainees will access the multipurpose recreation area and oval on a timetabled basis.



3. Employment

- 3.1 Female detainees are provided with employment opportunities within their accommodation area and in the AMC bakery.

4. Healthcare

- 4.1 Equal access to the healthcare services of Justice Health is provided to all detainees at the AMC according to the Access to Health Care Policy.
- 4.2 Female detainees can request to be treated by a female Justice Health Doctor or Registered Nurse. Justice Health will facilitate this request according to policies and procedures.
- 4.3 A detainee's preference must not take priority over the security and good order of the AMC, or in emergency circumstances requiring urgent treatment.
- 4.4 Justice Health are responsible for providing female detainees with access to gynaecological and obstetric services.

Pregnancy and childbirth

- 4.5 Female detainees will be escorted to a health facility to give birth.
- 4.6 Where a female detainee is not able to be transported to a health facility during labour, ACTCS will take all practicable steps to ensure the AMC is not recorded as the place of birth.
- 4.7 As far as practicable, the General Manager Custodial Operations will arrange for a female detainee to contact family and the biological father during labour and after the birth. Where the detainee is not able to make contact, the Officer-in-Charge will make contact on her behalf.
- 4.8 The General Manager Custodial Operations will consider any request for a support person to accompany a female detainee during labour as far as practicable and subject to security assessment.
- 4.9 Where specific cultural practices have been identified in relation to a pregnant female detainee, the General Manager Custodial Operations will give full consideration to providing for same as far as practicable within the AMC.
- 4.10 The Head of Sentence Management will ensure that a pregnant detainee's Case Manager reviews their needs at least once every two (2) weeks commencing eight (8) weeks prior to the expected due date and continuing for as long as required after the birth.



Miscarriage

- 4.11 The General Manager Custodial Operations and Head of Sentence Management will ensure that adequate emotional, cultural and/or religious support is provided to a detainee who has miscarried while in custody.

Breastfeeding

- 4.12 Staff will inform Justice Health if a female detainee indicates they were breastfeeding prior to entering custody.
- 4.13 As far as practicable, the General Manager Custodial Operations will make provisions for a detainee to breastfeed and/or express milk for their child while in the AMC. All arrangements will be made in consultation with the detainee and will be based on the best interests of the child, the detainee, and operational requirements. Flexible feeding times and location will also be considered.

5. Supervision of female detainees

- 5.1 Male custodial officers must not enter the cell of a female detainee unless in the presence of another officer, other than when responding to an incident.
- 5.2 As far as practicable and subject to operational requirements, female detainees in the Crisis Support Unit will be supervised by female custodial officers.
- 5.3 Female detainees must not be escorted outside the AMC by a single male custodial officer.

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