



# The Honourable David Elliott MP

Minister for Corrections  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Veterans Affairs

28 September 2016

Ms Rebecca Main  
Director – Committees  
Budget Estimates, Legislative Council  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Main,

I write to you to request an amendment of an error of fact in the uncorrected transcript of my evidence provided to my office on 7 September 2016 by email.

I draw your attention to page 17 of the transcript:

*Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What is the longest period in the last two years that a child has been locked by him or herself in their cell as a form of punishment?*

*Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I might answer that for you because, I think, to address your question, the advice I have is that there were 13 instances of confinement for a period of greater than 24 hours. But I think you need to appreciate that 50 per cent of the young people that were put in confinement it was for under two hours. If you are basing your questions on what you have seen on television, please do not liken this jurisdiction with the Northern Territory. I think what we are doing here is a lot more effective.*

My response to Mr Shoebridge's question makes reference to "13 instances of confinement". This is an error of fact. There was only one instance of confinement for a period greater than 24 hours in 2015-16.

The information provided to me in the briefing paper was inaccurate due to a record keeping error. In fact, Juvenile Justice had investigated 13 instances of confinement that were recorded as exceeding 24 hours in 2015-16 and found that there was one instance that exceeded 24 hours.

In the case of the one young person who was held for more than 24 hours the records held at the centre show he was held for 24 hours and 16 minutes.

More recently, the NSW Ombudsman confirmed that there was only one instance of a confinement exceeding 24 hours in 2015-16 following an examination of all the records relating to the 13 cases.

I ask that the transcript of my evidence is amended as follows to accurately correct this error of fact.

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*Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I might answer that for you because, I think, to address your question, the advice I have is that there were 13 instances 1 instance of confinement for a period of greater than 24 hours. But I think you need to appreciate that 50 per cent of the young people that were put in confinement it was for under two hours. If you are basing your questions on what you have seen on television, please do not liken this jurisdiction with the Northern Territory. I think what we are doing here is a lot more effective.*

If you have any questions, please call my office direct on (02) 8574 6290.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Elliott', written in a cursive style.

David Elliott MP  
**MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONS**  
**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS**