



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 53

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert:

In relation to: Official Visitors for Disability Services (OVDS)
CSD Annual Reports 2019–20 page 85.

1. Can the Minister provide a copy of the register of visitable places for the OVDS as an attachment to the answer to this Question on Notice? If not, how many visitable places are contained on this register for the OVDS?
2. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, phone calls to houses and service providers were made instead of face-to-face visits. How many calls were made to:
 - a. Households
 - b. Service providers

Emma Davidson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. A copy of the register of visitable places for the OVDS has not been provided as it contains private information relating to the personal addresses of vulnerable people with disabilities living in community accommodation.
2. The register contains 266 Visitable Places as at 17 March 2021.

2. (a and b) During the 2019-20FY the OVDS visited 573 entitled residents through 278 visits to Visitable Places. While regular face-to-face visits ceased during the Covid-19 pandemic with contact primarily maintained with houses by telephone and email, face-to-face visits continued to be conducted in relation to serious complaint issues.

During the January to March quarter, the OVDS reported 55 phone calls made to houses. Follow-up calls were also made to a number of service providers if issues were identified. From April to June 2020, the OVDS reported that they had resumed some visiting but continued to maintain contact with houses and providers through regular phone calls, with a specific focus on Covid-19 management during that quarter.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Disability, Emma Davidson MLA