



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QoN No. 63

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA:

Ref: Output Class 1.5 Safer Families, Community Services Directorate (CSD) Annual Report 2020–2021

In relation to:

1. Amendments to the *Domestic Violence Agencies Act* were introduced to establish a Domestic and Family Violence Death Review. On what date did the Death Review come into operation, and can the Minister please detail the current progress of its establishment?
2. How many of the following reviews have been conducted by the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review to date?
 - a. Deaths
 - b. Near-fatal incidents
 - c. Accidents that occur in the context of domestic and family violence

MS BERRY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The ACT Death Review Coordinator was appointed in December 2021. Work has commenced to develop a secure database for the ACT Death Review that will enable the ACT to collect agreed national minimum data as well as undertake specialised ACT appropriate reviews. Further work on the death review will commence once the database is established in 2022.
2. Reporting publicly on numbers of individual cases would be contrary to the strategic intent of the Death Review and the associated privacy provisions.

The purpose of the independent Death Review is to take a system-wide perspective and make recommendations that aim to improve responses to domestic and family violence, rather than individual case reviews. The legislation requires the Death Review Coordinator to report to the Legislative Assembly biennially with recommendations about legislation, policies, practices or services for implementation by the Territory and non-government bodies to help prevent or reduce the likelihood of domestic and family violence. Under the legislation, the Death Review Coordinator must not include information in the report that would allow the identity of a person involved in an incident to be disclosed or easily identified.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

Date:

21/03/22

By the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette Berry MLA