

**2025**

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (10th ASSEMBLY) –  
REPORT 28 – INQUIRY INTO IMMEDIATE TRAUMA SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE ACT –  
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Presented by  
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Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Services  
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## Introduction

The Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (the Committee) resolved to conduct an inquiry into immediate trauma support services in the ACT (the Inquiry) on 18 October 2023. The Committee informed the Legislative Assembly of its intention to conduct the inquiry on 26 October 2023, with particular reference to:

- a. What immediate supports are offered to people in the ACT following a traumatic incident?
- b. What type of immediate supports are needed by people who have experienced a sudden or traumatic incident?
- c. At what point do Victim and Coronial Support services engage in the process following a traumatic incident?
- d. What challenges/role do ACT Police and Emergency Service members face at the scene of an accident or a traumatic event to support affected community members or family members or witnesses?
- e. What immediate trauma support services are available to ACT Police and Emergency Service members who may witness or experience a traumatic incident?
- f. What is best-practice, evidence based, 'trauma informed' immediate trauma support service response to community members, witnesses, family members etc who may be involved in a traumatic incident?
- g. Any other related matter.

Submissions to the Inquiry closed on 8 December 2023. The Committee received 12 submissions to the Inquiry from members of the public, Government and non-Government sectors. The ACT Government provided a submission to the Inquiry published on 20 December 2023.

In May 2024, the Committee published Report 28 on the *Inquiry into Immediate Trauma Support Services in the ACT* which was tabled on 6 June 2024. The Committee made two recommendations in the Inquiry Report.

## ACT Government Response to Recommendations

### Recommendation 1

*The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently implement a Trauma Support Service in the ACT.*

#### ***Agreed in principle***

The ACT Government is committed to supporting those affected by sudden and unexpected death and trauma. The ACT Government believes that support services should be in place to support trauma experienced in the aftermath of a traumatic incident, and ongoing grief experienced because of loss.

The ACT Government will explore opportunities to further identify gaps; and proposals to address relevant gaps will be considered in the context of future budget processes.

### Recommendation 2

*The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarifies the Ministerial responsibility for the provision of an immediate trauma support service in the ACT.*

***Agreed and completed***

Recommendation 2 has been completed. The Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Services accepted that the provision of immediate trauma support services in the ACT should form part of her portfolio in a letter to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on 27 February 2025.

**Conclusion**

The ACT Government thanks the Committee for its Report on the Inquiry into Immediate Trauma Support Services in the ACT. The ACT Government recognises the importance of providing immediate, short, and longer-term support to those affected by sudden and unexpected trauma and death.