



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Meredith Hunter MLA (Deputy Chair)

Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA, John Hargreaves MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA

Name of organisation: Women with Disabilities ACT

Name of contact person & telephone and email contact details:

Nicole O'Callaghan, Policy/Administration Officer, Women's Center for Health Matters,

Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT 2011-2012 Budget?

1. Lack of money to assist parents with disability.
2. A lack of new money to improve ACT transport system
3. Lack of assistant for utilities

Comment

Did you provide a budget submission to the Government?: Yes

Yes (go to question five) No (go to question six)

Do you think that the Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

Yes No x Comment

What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas listed in question three?

Comment

WWDACT congratulates the ACT government on producing a budget that does not increase the disadvantage that women with disabilities experience in the ACT. The budget appears to be more reactive than proactive in regards to disability within the territory. An amount

being invested in out of home care within the ACT. WWDACT believes that funds should be invested in supporting parents with disabilities care for their children to prevent them from entering the out of home care system. Women with disabilities have the same rights to be parents and should be supported to do so.

The budget showed a distinct lack of new money ear --marked for the transport system. Women with disabilities rely on public transport to be financially independent and have social connectedness with the community. Having a high quality public transport system will assist women with disabilities to enter [or reenter] employment and community participation. Transport needs to be accessible to all people and fiduciary investment will a positive economic effect for the ACT economy. WWDACT also seeks clarification regarding the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. For example, the number of vouches available to an individual and financial increase in the subsidy.

The consistent lack of assistance for people on low incomes for utility costs will severely impact upon women with disabilities. Women with disabilities make up a large portion of those on low incomes in the ACT. Women with disabilities ACT feel that a substantial share of ACT wealth should be directed act financially supporting those on low incomes with the rising cost of utilities.

Are there any particular issues you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes No

Please provide a brief outline of the issue/s, in order of priority.

[Please append your organisation's budget analysis if available]
Women with Disabilities ACT seeks to have clarification on whether Women with Disabilities will become the third systemic advocacy organization within the ACT. Advocacy plays a pivotal role in the social cohesiveness of the territory.

Does your organisation want to attend a hearing on 13May 2011?

Yes

No