



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

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

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

**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

QoN No - 62

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Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Ref: Safer Families, Budget Outlook p 80

In relation to: funding for counselling services for crisis support organisations

1. With an increase to the Safer Families levy, a number of local organisations who provide frontline domestic violence services are hopeful that they will receive funding to be able to provide essential services that have been high in demand. One such crucial service is counselling, and I note that Toora Women and Doris Women's Refuge have made ongoing requests for children's trauma counselling. EveryMan has also expressed a need to expand their capacity to provide counselling to the men that they support. Does the ACT Government have plans to grant these organisations funding, given the levy increase that Canberrans expect will boost capacity to fund critical domestic violence services?
  - a. If yes, how much funding will be given and to whom? What amount of counselling services will the funding be able to cover?
  - b. If no, what mechanisms are available to Toora, Doris and EveryMan to seeking funding support for the provision of essential counselling services from the ACT Government? What advice can be given to these organisations so that they have the best chance of success in applying to the government?

YVETTE BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: -

- 1a. Future investment of the unallocated components of the Safer Families Levy will be subject to the normal budget business case process in 2022-23, and as such decisions about future funding will be subject to future Cabinet deliberations. Funding already committed to frontline services is outlined in Appendix H of the Budget Outlook.

As per Appendix H of the Budget Outlook, the ACT Government has committed to investing in initiatives that focus on:

- new and sustainable ways of working across government and community that provide support earlier, reduce barriers to access, join up and integrate services, respond to diverse needs, and hold perpetrators to account;

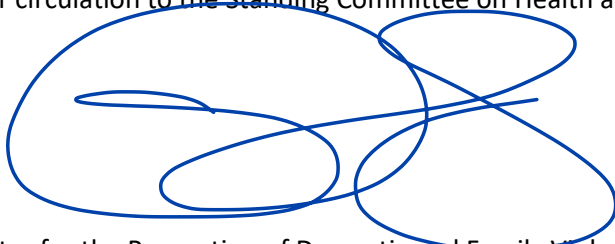
- building whole-of-government and multi-agency domestic and family violence capability, coordination and supporting infrastructure, including through strategic leadership and governance; and
- improving the capacity and capability of front line domestic and family violence services to meet increased demand.

b. Community sector organisations who are aware of systemic gaps are always encouraged to submit community budget submissions, including evidence demonstrating the known gaps.

The ACT Government will, on occasion, run grants providing funding opportunities to financially support groups, and organisations that benefit Canberrans and the Canberra community. Information on the various categories of ACT Government grants can be found at <https://www.act.gov.au/grants/home>

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

Signature:



Date:

17/11/21

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