



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Redirected to:

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 19-20]

In relation to: Training on diversionary tactics

Hearing Date: 2 August 2024

QTON lodgement date: 5 August 2024

Answer Due Date: 8 August 2024

**MR BRADDOCK:** I am interested in diversionary approaches and what kind of training is given to ACT Policing officers to ensure that these practices are actually being utilised to their full effect.

**Mr Lee:** Yes. Absolutely, Mr Braddock. I might pass to Mr Whowell on this just in relation to our diversionary pathways that exist at the moment and an understanding for you in terms of our performance against those KPIs. Obviously, with a couple of those KPIs, they were not achieved for this year in terms of those restorative justice pathways, but as you would appreciate, we have obviously got other diversionary pathways that are open to us as well which we are currently utilising. I will pass to Mr Whowell, you can provide you with an overview of that, including some of the mechanisms we have in place with our members.

**Mr Whowell:** Just let me find my place.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Whilst you are just looking for that, I will provide my supp first to help guide your answer.

**Mr Whowell:** Sure.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Because recent RoGS and ABS data show that only ten per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are diverted by the police, compared to 30 per cent of non-Aboriginal young people, so if you can in your answer reflect on why that might be the case and how do you intend to address that as an issue, I would be interested.

**Mr Lee:** We can certainly provide with our data in terms of First Nations youth, Mr Braddock.

**Mr Whowell:** If we look at the KPIs, probably answering the second question first, and maybe taking the first question on notice, if time is an issue—

**THE CHAIR:** Thank you.

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Diversions approaches to justice are covered in face-to-face training delivered to new ACT Policing officers by the Education and Diversion team as part of the Local Policies and Procedures Program (LPP).

The team also attends stations weekly and provides a combination of information and updates to, along with re-training of members.

Topics within these presentations include information on circle sentencing, alcohol, and drug diversions, as well as restorative justice and how police could run an investigation - for example if required a dual referral could occur, charging running in conjunction with a restorative justice referral.

The ACT Restorative Justice Unit also conducts its own presentation as part of LPP.

The Support Link program also presents to officers during LPP, and the topics that are covered focus on referral and support options for offenders and victims.

Regular engagement by the Restorative Justice Unit with the workforce occurs to ensure officers remain cognisant of diversion options.

In reference to the second question, Mr Whowell answered this during the hearing – refer to page 20 in the Uncorrected Proof Hansard.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date: 8/13/2024

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Mick Gentleman MLA