



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Women

In relation to: Women's affairs policy and services and Women's Return to Work Grants

Hearing: 11 November 2025

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Transcript provided: 18 November 2025

Answer Due: 25 November 2025

MS BARRY: Thank you. I have a question around the Women's Return to Work Grant. Do you have numbers of how many were declined, how many applications were undecided as of 30 June 2025?

Dr Paterson: Yes, so in 24-25, 104,000 of the 160,000 allocation was provided through 101 grants, and these included four grants awarded women from the AMC. That is the data that I have. If there is anything—

MS BARRY: I am sorry, 104 grants were awarded?

Dr Paterson: 101 grants were provided.

MS BARRY: 101 out of 160?

Dr Paterson: Sorry, no, in the last financial year there was an allocation of 160,000 and grants were allocated to the value of 104,000 through 101 grants.

MS BARRY: Okay, right, grant applications. And how many of those were denied?

Ms Connor: Hi. Tina Connor, Acting Executive Branch Manager of Women, Youth, LGBTIQA+ and Multicultural Affairs. So there were no grants denied in that round, so anyone that was deemed eligible received funding.

MS BARRY: Thank you. And Minister, you mentioned that included grants to women at the AMC. What is that number?

Dr Paterson: Four.

MS BARRY: Four grants, okay. And how many grants were reconciled or audited in 2024-2025?

Ms Connor: 101.

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MS BARRY: Audited in the previous year.

Ms Connor: You mean acquitted, like the funding—

MS BARRY: Sorry. Yes, acquitted, sorry.

Ms Connor: I do not believe we acquit those because they are a direct grant to an individual so they do not need to account funding.

Dr Paterson: So it is up to \$2,000 for eligible grants.

MS BARRY: Okay, so there is no way of checking whether the grants are—

Ms Connor: As part of their application process the applicant will provide information about what they are seeking the funding for. So they might provide a quote for clothing or a course or childcare or something like that, and then that money is paid to them. Again, I do not believe there is an acquittal, but we can check on that for you.

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Women's Return to Work Grants have historically required recipients to complete an acquittal form and upload receipts within 6 months of receiving payment.

To improve the information provided and simplify the acquittal process, recipients are now asked to complete a short evaluation survey approximately 6 months after payment, rather than providing receipts. This survey captures how the funds were used, whether they met the recipient's needs, and the overall impact of the grant on their return-to-work journey. These changes have been in place since 1 July 2025.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

M. Paterson

Date:

19/11/25

By the Minister for Women, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA