



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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Asked by [Elizabeth Kikkert]:

In relation to: ACT COVID-19 Disability Strategy  
CSD Annual Reports 2019–20 pages 69, 72.

1. Annual Reports state that people with disability, disability representative organisations and service providers were engaged in the development of the Strategy. Can the Minister provide a complete list of all the stakeholders that were engaged?
2. Annual Reports state that ‘some aspects of the Strategy have been delayed due to COVID-19 health emergency. Which aspects in particular have been delayed and what is the current status and plan for each of these aspects?’

Emma Davidson MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. The following stakeholders, which include people with lived experience of disability, engaged in discussion for the purposes of developing the ACT COVID-19 Disability Strategy:

- the Disability Reference Group
- National Disability Services
- Women with Disabilities ACT
- the ACT Aged, Disability and Carer Advocacy Service
- Advocacy for Inclusion
- CarersACT
- ACT Council of Social Services
- ACT Mental Health Consumer Network
- Community Options
- Community Connections

2. Page 72 of the *Community Services Directorate: Annual Report 2019-20* states that some aspects of the Disability Justice Strategy have been delayed due to the COVID-19 health emergency. These include:



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**QON No. 39**

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- Delayed recruitment of Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs). Two DLOs are currently employed, one at Legal Aid ACT and one at ACT Corrective Services. Recruitment is currently underway to employ four more DLOs.
- Development of and delivery of disability awareness training modules for justice agencies and organisations. The modules are currently in development and will soon be delivered.
- A trial to provide third person support for individuals with disability in the justice system was delayed. The Community Services Directorate is currently undertaking analysis to inform progress of this action by mid 2021.
- A workshop to examine need and options in relation to specialist disability legal and forensic services was not held in 2020. In late February 2021 the Disability Royal Commission held Public Inquiry 11: *The experiences of people with cognitive disability in the criminal justice system*. The Disability Justice Strategy team will await the release of the Disability Royal Commission report on Public Inquiry 11 as it will inform the ACT Government and stakeholders of the experience of people with disability in these types of services in other jurisdictions.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: *25/03/2021*

By the Minister for Disability, Emma Davidson MLA