



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 42

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

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert

In relation to: Companion Card Program (for disability)

1. There are 87 Companion Card affiliates recorded for the year 2020–21. How many participants are currently part of the Companion Card Program?
2. The 2020–21 year target for number of affiliates is 94. During hearings, the Community Services Directorate stated that attaining five more affiliates each year was a probable goal. With 87 Companion Card affiliates recorded for the year 2020–21, will the target for the year 2021–22 therefore be 92 affiliates?
 - a. Can the Minister provide a list of the all the potential affiliates that the Directorate aims to engage with and recruit as part of the Companion Card Program as an attachment to the answer to this Question on Notice? If no, how many potential affiliates does the Directorate have on record?
3. In comparison, how many Seniors Card affiliates are recorded for the year 2020–21 and how many participants are currently part of the Seniors Card Program?

Emma Davidson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Access Canberra has advised there are currently 2,500 Companion Card holders.
2. The number of Companion Card Affiliates is an accountability indicator under Output 2.2 Office for Disability. Targets for the 2021-22 budget output indicators have not yet been calculated and are typically established during the month of April each year.
 - a. The Community Services Directorate is developing a list of potential affiliates to approach. It would be inappropriate to provide information about potential affiliates prior to approaching them.
3. The ACT Seniors Card provides access to small scale discounts on goods and services provided by businesses and ACT Government, to ACT Seniors Card holders. This is different to the Companion Card and as such the two programs cannot be directly compared.



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The 2019-2020 Council of the Ageing (COTA) ACT Annual Report states that there were over 78,000 ACT Seniors Card holder members and over 390 business partners. The updated number of members will be provided by COTA ACT on completion of the 2020-21 financial year. The updated number of business partners will be available when the new business Directory is printed by October 2021.

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