



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Ms Jo Clay MLA

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

Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Attorney General

Ref: Attorney General, Budget paper D, page number 34 output class 3.1

In relation to: Line item “More support for families and inclusion – Commencing operations of the Drug and Alcohol Court” on page 34

1. Can the Minister provide a more detailed description of what this line item entails?
2. Why was the \$130,000 intended for the 2020-21 financial year not spent and why has it been pushed back to this financial year?
3. When was the Drug and Alcohol Court originally supposed to commence operations?

Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. In the 2018-19 Budget Review the ACT Government provided recurrent funding of \$10.889 million over 2.5 years to establish a Drug and Alcohol Court in the ACT. As part of this initiative, it also provided capital funding of \$961,000 over two years to fit-out the Drug and Alcohol Court and for ICT systems to support effective case management of clients. The fit-out work has been completed but the ICT systems work is ongoing.
2. The capital injection funding of \$961,000 included funding for an ICT system to manage offenders participating in the DAC. Capital funding of \$130,000 was rolled over into the 2021-22 financial year as the ICT system is still being developed.
3. The Drug and Alcohol Court (DAC) was created in late 2019. Amendments to the *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005 (ACT)* commenced on 3 December 2019, which allowed the Supreme Court to sentence substance-dependant defendants to a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Order. The Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List commenced operations at that time.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date: 15/11/21

By the Attorney General, Shane Rattenbury MLA