



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 27 output class 3.1

In relation to: Line item “Drug and Alcohol Court – more support” on page 27

1. Can the Minister provide a more detailed description of what this line item entails? What is the additional support that will be funded on top of what is already being funded?
2. Can the Minister provide an itemised list of what this line item will be used for and at what cost for each item?

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

1. The Drug and Alcohol Court (DAC) deals with offending related to serious drug and alcohol use. It aims to rehabilitate high risk and high need offenders, and protect the community, by providing health and justice interventions, while holding people to account for their behaviour.

The key deliverables for this initiative are:

- continue the delivery of the Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List for a further two financial years, which diverts eligible offenders from full time imprisonment into community-based drug and/or alcohol treatment programs;
- continue to deliver the associated support programs which target high risk, high-needs offenders whose criminal activity is associated with drug or alcohol dependence; and
- undertake an evaluation of the DAC.

The 2018-19 Budget Review provided funding for the DAC for 2 and a half years (i.e. up until 2020-21). The funding provided in the 2021-22 Budget provides two more years funding to support the continued operation of the DAC.

2. The funding provided in Budget paper D, page number 27, relates only to funding provided to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. The Government’s continuing support for the DAC includes funding for staff in Justice and Community Services, ACT Health, ACT Policing, Legal Aid and Community Services Directorate.

	2021-22 \$'000	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	Total \$'000
Expenses – ACT Health	3,796	3,812	0	0	7,608
Expenses – ACT Housing	241	248	0	0	489
Expenses – JACS	2,245	2,205	0	0	4,450
Expenses – ACT Policing (Territorial)	98	100			198
Expenses – Legal Aid ACT	250	256	0	0	506
Total Expenses	6,630	6,621	0	0	13,251
Expenses – Provision	0	0	2,236	2,268	4,504
Offset – Health Funding Envelope	-3,796	-3,812	0	0	-7,608
Net cost of services	2,834	2,809	2,236	2,268	10,147
Total Additional FTE	28.4	28.4	0.0	0.0	

Expense:

The funding of \$13.251 million over two years to maintain the DAC at current levels includes:

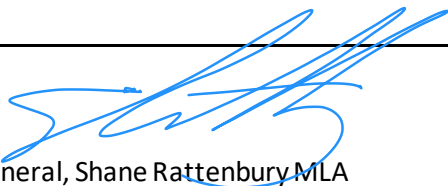
- \$9.017 million over two years to provide 28.4 FTEs to operate and support the DAC – this covers operational and staffing expenses for the DAC judge (3 days per week), the judge's associate and other courts administrative staff, prosecution and defence lawyers, and corrections and police support;
- \$3.809 million over two years provided to ACT Health (including Canberra Health Services) to cover operational costs such as treatment and support services (including residential rehabilitation) and urinalysis drug testing costs;
- \$100,000 over two years to ACT Corrective Services for operating costs including training and information session expenses; and
- \$325,000 over two years to ACT Courts & Tribunal for program evaluation, training, family violence programs and transcription costs.

The 28.4 FTEs breakdown are as follows:

	2021-22	2022-23
JACS		
ACT Corrective Services	8	8
ACT Courts & Tribunal	2.7	2.7
Director of Public Prosecutions	1.5	1.5
ACT Policing	0.5	0.5
Legal Aid Commission ACT	1.5	1.5
Other Directorates		
ACT Health	12.7	12.7
Community Services Directorate	1.5	1.5
Total	28.4	28.4

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

Signature:



Date: 15/11/21

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA