



Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
25 February 2022

Asked by Nicole Lawder on 25 February 2022 pg 47: To ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Ref: CALD Women Information Packs

In relation to:

1. When will information packs outlining health issues for ACT CALD women and families be available in ACT schools and GP surgeries?
2. Why has this initiative taken so long to be delivered?

MS CHEYNE: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. In 2016 under the First Action Plan of the ACT Women's Plan, ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) committed to Action 2.46: *Create an information pack for ACT GP Surgeries and Schools outlining: Health issues for ACT CALD women and their families; difficulties CALD women face accessing health care; what services are available for CALD families in the ACT; and how GPs and schools can assist CALD families to access assistance.*

Women's Health Matters (WHM) agreed to support ACTHD to achieve this action by drafting an information sheet, in consultation with ACTHD, using their survey of CALD women as the basis for the content. A health promotion resource (i.e. a factsheet) is intended to be completed and published by the end of June 2022. ACTHD will support WHM with the distribution of this resource across ACT GP surgeries and schools from June - December 2022.

2. To inform the health promotion resource being drafted by WHM for ACTHD, WHM is developing a research report, which has required additional stakeholder engagement, including:

In-language focus groups

Two focus groups have been held in partnership with local ACT women's organisations and the analysis of these focus groups will be included in the WHM report:

- Bengali language focus group, in partnership with Alo Enlightened Women (1 January 2021); and
- Arabic language focus group, in partnership with Canberra Multicultural Women's Forum (12 March 2021).

Key informant interviews

Key informant interviews with service providers were intended to be undertaken through February 2022 but were delayed due to the 2021-22 COVID-19 outbreak and competing priorities.

WHM has begun consulting informally with key stakeholders, and will continue over March and April 2022, for the purpose of understanding health promotion opportunities and best practice in other jurisdictions.

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

Signature:



Date: 6/4/22

By the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Tara Cheyne MLA

MS LAWDER: Thank you, Chair. Minister, I would like to ask about the delivery of ACT government created information packs for GPs, surgeries and schools about health issues for ACT CALD women and their families. It was under the first action plan for the ACT Women's Plan, but has not been delivered. Are you across this project? Can you give an update of where that is up to?

Ms Cheyne: Thank you, Ms Lawder. I do not have that information in front of me. I will just have to confirm whether this lies with the Office for Women or with the Office for Multicultural Affairs, as I think it is widely recognised the ACT government has responsibility across all directorates for considering inclusion and how to make sure that we have materials that are accessible for CALD communities available. So I will just have to double check about the responsibility for that one, particularly because it was contained in the Women's Plan. But I will just check if anyone here—

Ms Rule: Yes, Catherine Rule, Director-General, Community Services Directorate. I have read and acknowledge the privilege statement. Yes, I believe that is the responsibility of the Office for Women, Ms Lawder, so we do not have those officials here to answer those questions right now.

MS LAWDER: Thanks. Lawder, usually, rather than Lauder, but that is fine.

Ms Rule: Apologies.

MS LAWDER: That is okay. Would you expect the Office for Women to consult with the multicultural area in the development of these materials? Would you be more aware of, you know, any specific multicultural or CALD requirements that may be included?

Ms Rule: I would expect in a program like that, that we would want to work with the Office for Women, working with the Office for Multicultural Affairs, but also the Health Directorate, to make sure that the materials that have been produced are fit for purpose.

Ms Cheyne: I think, Ms Lawder, that has certainly been the case over the last two years, so ACT Health has worked quite closely with the Office of Multicultural Affairs in getting feedback from communities as well about materials, both translated materials, but also you might have seen recently ACT Health has been developing Easy English materials, so things that are quite straightforward to read during the pandemic. So that relationship has been quite strong, but—

MS LAWDER: Okay. Well, certainly I am sure I have read somewhere recently, I guess at least nationally, that people from, you know, CALD backgrounds were more likely to be a victim or, you know, result in death from COVID, for example, so it is obvious that for many, many reasons, CALD women and their families need, you know, a lot of attention paid to their medical and health needs. Are you able to take that on notice, get an indication of when the information packs might become available in GP surgeries and schools, in a CALD sense, and make sure that it is what was originally promised in the first Action Plan for Women?

Ms Rule: Yes, we can take that on notice.

MS LAWDER: Thank you.