



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Ms Clay on 18 July 2023: The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Anthony Williamson SC, took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Uncorrected Proof Hansard Transcript 18/7/23 PAGE 130]

In relation to: Domestic and sexual violence charges

MS CLAY: Mr Williamson, during COVID we heard of a disconnect between what we were hearing from different sides of the legal sector. We heard from our community legal centres and from the community sector that domestic violence and sexual assaults as part of domestic violence had spiked up, was quite high, and that made a lot of sense during COVID. That was part of a national, global sort of trend.

I remember at the time when we asked the DPP about charges and prosecutions for domestic violence and sexual assault, it had not reached that stage. I just want to circle back now and find out was there any change with charges and prosecutions for DV and sexual assault over the last couple of years? Did the reported increase in incidents, did that come down to DPP level?

Mr Williamson: Ma'am, I would have to take that on notice, I am sorry.

MS CLAY: Yes. No, that would be—if you could take that on notice. I am not after sort of specific individuals just was there a trend.

Mr Williamson: So to be clear, your question is was there an increase in domestic violence and sexual offence prosecutions during the COVID lockdown periods?

MS CLAY: Charges and prosecutions probably from the start of COVID to now. Like whatever period you do it. I do not know if you do annual or whatever but what we were hearing during COVID is that there was a lot more domestic violence and sexual assault, and I am interested in knowing if that remained out in the community or if any of that turned into criminal prosecutions.

Mr Williamson: I would have to take that on notice, ma'am.

Mr Williamson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

We provide these figures in our Annual Report each year. Please note, the figures provided for the 2022-2023 reporting period may be subject to change. Whilst we have made every effort to ensure this data is accurate, we are currently going through our data and scrutinising all entries to ensure accuracy in preparation for the 2022-2023 Annual Report. We have not yet completed this process, therefore, the figures we publish in the report may slightly differ from those we provide today.

Please see below tables outlining Family Violence matters spanning the period from the beginning of COVID until now.

2022 - 2023				
Description	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court	Supreme Court	Total
FV matters commenced	545	30	29	604
FV matters completed	577	34	16	627
FV matters proved	416	14	10	440
FV matters discontinued	50	3	1	54
FV breach matters	86	4	1	91

2021 - 2022				
Description	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court	Supreme Court	Total
FV matters commenced	602	35	17	654
FV matters completed	447	26	12	485
FV matters proved	356	16	6	378
FV matters discontinued	35	2	0	37
FV breach matters	85	9	5	99

2020 - 2021				
Description	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court	Supreme Court	Total
FV matters commenced	529	30	14	573
FV matters completed	507	22	21	55
FV matters proved	417	17	13	447
FV matters discontinued	33	3	3	39
FV breach matters	112	4	3	119

2019 - 2020				
Description	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court	Supreme Court	Total
FV matters commenced	576	35	17	628
FV matters completed	538	42	19	599
FV matters proved	450	38	4	492
FV matters discontinued	8	0	1	9

Please see below tables outlining Sexual Offence matters spanning the period from the beginning of COVID until now.

2022 - 2023				
Description	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court	Supreme Court	Total
Sexual Offence matters commenced	95	7	58	160
Sexual Offence matters completed	43	1	31	75
Sexual Offence matters proved	26	1	22	49
Sexual Offence matters discontinued	8	0	5	13
Sexual Offence breach matters	5	0	4	9

2021 - 2022				
Description	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court	Supreme Court	Total
Sexual Offence matters commenced	88	1	25	114
Sexual Offence matters completed	36	1	22	59
Sexual Offence matters proved	22	1	16	39
Sexual Offence matters discontinued	7	0	2	9
Sexual Offence breach matters	4	0	0	4

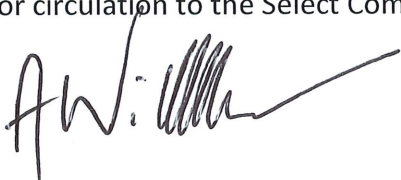
2020 - 2021				
Description	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court	Supreme Court	Total
Sexual Offence matters commenced	51	4	30	85
Sexual Offence matters completed	31	1	28	60
Sexual Offence matters proved	21	0	19	40
Sexual Offence matters discontinued	3	1	1	5
Sexual Offence matters breaches	12	0	1	13

2019 - 2020				
Description	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court	Supreme Court	Total
Sexual Offence matters commenced	69	5	29	103
Sexual Offence matters completed	69	6	41	116
Sexual Offence matters proved	36	3	33	72
Sexual Offence matters discontinued	0	0	1	1

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you wish to seek clarity on any of the data provided.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date: 24/07/23

Name and position: Anthony Williamson SC, A/g Director of Public Prosecutions