



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 ON NOTICE

Mr James Milligan: To ask the Minister for Disability

Ref : Output class 1.2: Office for disability

Hearing Date: 25 July 2023

In relation to: Disability Budget Submissions

AFI in their joint submission also looked for funding for the disability health strategy, particularly for key areas such as developing a training against diagnostic overshadowing, additional money for extended consultations for those with a disability, and wraparound diagnostic services, yet no money was included for any of these measures in the budget?

- (a) Minister why was there no money in the budget for the disability health strategy or the initiatives as identified by AFI?
- (b) The draft Disability health strategy was released just recently, when will you be expecting this to be implemented?
- (c) When they already have identified some of these key initiatives, why were they not funded in anticipation that this would be needed?
- (d) Where will the funding be derived from to implement the strategy, given this is expected to be released in the next little while?
- (e) With no immediate funding does this imply that it will be another year before people living with a disability can expect to see these measures implemented?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- (a) The ACT Disability Health Strategy and First Action Plan are currently being finalised and consultations on the Strategy were open at the time the Budget was delivered. The ACT Government continues to work closely with the disability sector, including AFI, as this work progresses. Funding for the First Action Plan will be considered by the ACT Government as part of future Budget processes.
- (b) It is anticipated that the ACT Disability Health Strategy and First Action Plan will be considered by the ACT Government later this year and launched shortly thereafter.

- (c) The ACT Government has committed to co-designing the Disability Health Strategy and its associated action plans with the community. To this end, the Government invested \$260,000 in the development work through the 2022-23 Budget, which included establishing the Disability Health Strategy Steering Committee, which is guiding this work. This work includes agreeing and prioritising key initial actions, which will be considered as part of the final Strategy and first action plan. Advocacy for Inclusion is represented on the Steering Committee and its representatives have been active participants.

The Government is also progressing implementation of Canberra Health Services' *Disability Action and Inclusion Plan 2022-2025*.

Some key initiatives are already underway, including:

- Easy English training for ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services staff;
- Procurement of an Easy English image library for Easy English translations; and
- A Disability Data Review to scope work required to upgrade the Digital Health Record to enable the collection of disability-related information for clinical and reporting purposes.

Other key initiatives will be considered as part of future Budget processes.

- (d) There are a number of initiatives that can be implemented through existing resources, with some of these already underway. Additional funding for the First Action Plan will be considered by the ACT Government as part of future Budget processes.
- (e) No. Some initiatives are already underway, and other initiatives will be considered by the ACT Government as part of future Budget processes.

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

Signature:



Date:

8/8/23

By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA