



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

In relation to: Rough Sleeper Data

Hearing: 11 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 63-64

Transcript provided: 14 February 2025

Answer Due: 21 February 2025 5.00 pm

Minister Berry took on notice the following question(s):

MR CAIN: 79. And can you please provide annual figures for the number of Canberrans sleeping rough on streets, parks, squatting, over the last 10 years?

Ms Rule: No, because it changes day to day. So —

MR CAIN: You do not keep records? How do you know there is 79 in 23-24?

Ms Rule: No, we know - the minister said there is 79 today. So we know the number of clients that we are working with at this point in time. But that could be different day to day, week to week, month to month. So there is not such a thing such as an annual figure that says that there are this many people who are homeless in a particular year.

THE CHAIR: An annual average, perhaps?

Ms Rule: It is point-in-time data, is what I am saying.

MR CAIN: Well that is —

Mr Balaretnaraja: Sure. What we can provide is, the census undertakes research on homelessness. Every census night the ABS —

MR CAIN: I guess I am particularly looking at the rough sleepers.

Ms Berry: Yes.

Mr Balaretnaraja: So the census data —

MR HANSON: But if the minister knows how many beds a day, and knew how many there was yesterday, and I know you say that you are dealing — you know how many clients you are dealing with on a day-to-day basis, surely you can provide that information to the committee in great detail.

Ms Berry: We will take it on notice and see what we can make available.

THE CHAIR: Okay, thank you.

MR CAIN: You will take on notice?

Ms Rule: I am just now sure that is what is being asked for—

Ms Berry: Yes, it is all right. We will take it onboard.

MS CARRICK: The highest number in the year—

THE CHAIR: You will provide the data that you can for the last —

MR CAIN: The data over the —

Ms Berry: We will see what we have got available.

MR CAIN:—per financial year, over the last 10 years. You will take that on notice?

Ms Berry: I said we will take it on notice, and we will provide what we have available.

Minister Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics via the Census has captured longitudinal data on rates of homelessness dating back to 2006. This information is available publicly.

Rough sleeper data from the Community Services Directorate is available from 2021.

Calendar year	Number of individuals confirmed to be rough sleepers each month (average for the year)
2021	49
2022	68
2023	58
2024	74

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

By the Minister for Homes and New Suburbs, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

21/02/25