



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mrs Giulia Jones MLA (Chair), Ms Bec Cody MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA,
Mr Chris Steel MLA

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual reports

Responses to questions on notice

Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence portfolio

No.	Member	Agency / Report	Minister	Subject
1	Le Couteur	JACSD	Berry	JACSD outlook and future priorities—Office of the Coordinator-General
2	Le Couteur	JACSD	Berry	JACSD outlook and future priorities—Office of the Coordinator-General—re staffing arrangements
3	Le Couteur	JACSD	Berry (Part 6)	JACSD outlook and future priorities—specifically in relation to the Courts Systems it concerns domestic violence.
4	Jones	CSD	Berry	Family Safety Hub
5 & 6	Kikkert	JACSD	Berry	<p>Role of alcohol in domestic and family violence—Australian component of the <i>International Violence against Women Survey</i> (part 1)</p> <p>Role of alcohol in domestic and family violence—World Health Organisation report noted that 'alcohol-related programmes for the prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence (part 3)</p>



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS QoN # 1
Min for the Prevention
of Domestic & Family
Violence

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

GIULIA JONES MLA (CHAIR), BEC CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA, CHRIS STEEL MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
8 March 2017



Asked by Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA:

In relation to: "outlook and future priorities" on pages 16 and 17 of the JACSD Annual Report:

1. With regard to stated goal of the Office of the Coordinator-General to report on the Territory's efforts to counter family violence by, in one instance, undertaking a "scoping study" for information (and communication technology services to support information exchange), what is the current status of this "scoping study" and what are the goals and objectives of the study?
2. What is the status of the project to create a common inter-disciplinary risk assessment toolkit for Directorates and relevant community services, as noted in the Gap Analysis undertaken by the Office of Women in May 2016, and which organisations, agencies and Directorates will have access to this toolkit?
3. Can you advise how the \$2million is being rolled out to increase the capacity of specialist drug treatment programs to integrate best practice in addressing family violence that was announced in the 2015/16 budget?

Minister Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The stated goal is one of many goals of the Office of the Coordinator-General outlined on pages 16 and 17 of the Justice and Community Safety Annual Report. That particular goal relates to the funded measure to conduct a scoping study for an ICT system to support improved information sharing (see page 4 of the ACT Government Response to Family Violence (the Government Response)).

Any system that is developed should integrate with the Family Safety Hub. Once the final co-design of the Safety Hub is determined, we can undertake the next phase for scoping this project.

2. In relation to developing a 'common inter-disciplinary risk assessment toolkit', there is a commitment in the Government Response that the ACT Government will fund the development of a common risk assessment tool for use by agencies and service providers in the ACT.

Following the release of the Government Response, the Council of Australian Governments agreed on 9 December 2016 to task the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC) with developing a national family violence risk assessment framework and pursuing consistent use of such a framework by state, territory and Commonwealth courts, lawyers, government and non-government service providers. The Coordinator-General for Family Safety is currently considering how risk tools could be developed for the ACT, taking into account the national work via LCCSC.

3. In the 2016-17 Budget, the ACT Government allocated funding of \$2 million to provide more effective responses to people who use alcohol and other drugs (AOD) in harmful ways and who are experiencing family violence or at risk of using family violence. The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association (ATODA) was successful in its tender to deliver a pilot project, which is now in the design phase. The pilot project will develop infrastructure and a framework to build capacity within the AOD sector to deliver programs that integrate best practice in family violence prevention. ATODA will:

- engage and liaise with AOD specialist treatment and support services and other key stakeholders (including through the Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) sector) to scope the existing capacity and needs around integrating DFV into routine AOD practice;
- design a three year pilot project that will facilitate the development of both collective capacity around DFV across all services in the AOD sector and specific and targeted clinical DFV capacity within individual services;
- develop an evaluation plan and recruit an external evaluation team to monitor and measure the program's implementation and impact;
- recruit a clinician with specialist AOD and DFV expertise to provide expert advice on the project design and implementation; and
- develop a tool on DFV capabilities that can be readministered at regular intervals to assess increased capacity.

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

Signature:



Date: 21/4/17

By the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Rachel Stephen-Smith
MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS Qoal # 2
Min for the Prevention
of Domestic & Family
Violence

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

GIULIA JONES MLA (CHAIR), BEC CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA, CHRIS STEEL MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
8 March 2017



Asked by Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA:

In relation to: "outlook and future priorities", and specifically in relation to staffing arrangements, on pages 16 and 17 of the JACSD Annual Report:

1. What are the current staffing arrangements for the Office of the Coordinator-General, and what costs are associated with the administration of the Office?
2. What proportion of the staff for the Office are cross-disciplinary (or on secondment from other Directorates), and what are the breakdowns of professional backgrounds and which Directorate they moved from?
3. Are there plans in place for the rotation of staff from service delivery units in Directorates into the Office, based on the proposal in the Gap Analysis undertaken by the Office of Women on the then-DV Unit?

Minister Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Office for the Coordinator-General for Family Safety (the Office) has been established as a stand-alone division of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) that works to coordinate efforts across ACT Government and the ACT community to progress the Government's significant reform agenda for family violence.

The permanent staffing of the Office is the Coordinator-General for Family Safety (DDG level), an ASO4 Executive Assistant, a SOGB and ASO6 position to support the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, oversight implementation and manage reporting against the Safer Families package and drive key cross-government and community sector initiatives. Currently the Office also employs two temporary, non-ongoing SOGC officers supported through specific project funding.

The budget funding for the permanent staffing and operations of the Office is \$0.873m in 2016-17.

2. A model of in-posted staff from Directorates has been developed during the establishment phase of the Office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety. Officers have been in-posted from Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Community Services Directorate, and Education Directorate. An in-posted officer from ACT Health will be joining the Office soon. Options for in-posting arrangements from other Directorates could be considered in the future as needs arise.

The in-posted officers provide critical capacity and expertise to support the whole of government reform agenda. The objective of the in-posting arrangement is to ensure that the whole of government response to family violence is cognisant of the specific needs and context of each Directorate and maximises opportunities for collaboration and information sharing.

3. The ACT Government Response to Family Violence considered, and provides a consolidated response to; the recommendations of the *Review into the system level responses to family violence* by Mr Laurie Glanfield AM, the *Review of Domestic and Family Violence Deaths in the ACT* by the Domestic Violence Prevention Council and the areas for improvement identified in the *ACT Domestic Violence Service System Final Gap Analysis Report*. The Government response set clear priorities for future work, including a commitment to a co-design process for a family safety hub. The insights from the Gap Analysis, including the concept of an integrated Domestic Violence Unit and whether the Hub will require co-location or rotation of staff from service delivery units will be considered as part of the current co-design process.

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

Signature:



Date: 18 / 4 / 17

By the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Rachel Stephen-Smith
MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS QON # 3
Min for the Prevention
of Domestic & Family
Violence

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

GIULIA JONES MLA (CHAIR), BEC CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA, CHRIS STEEL MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
8 March 2017



Asked by Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA:

In relation to: "outlook and future priorities", and specifically in relation to the Courts System, on pages 16 and 17 of the Report

In what ways is the capability for ACT Policing to assist victims of domestic and family violence in applying for domestic violence orders being increased or expanded?

Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Safer Families budget package provided \$1.180m to ACT Policing over four years to employ two dedicated Order Liaison Officers (OLOs) to assist applicants in applying for family violence orders. The officers were recruited and commenced duties in September 2016.

These duties include the following:

- providing day-to-day advice to frontline police officers regarding emergency protection orders;
- liaising with members of the ACT Community and providing them with information about protection orders and how to obtain them; and
- liaising with external agencies and providing them with up to date information for their clients including the status of current charges and updates in relation to service of orders.

ACT Policing OLOs currently operate under the existing *Domestic Violence and Personal Protection Orders Act 2008*, which will transition into the *Family Violence Act 2016* on 1 May 2017. At this time new provisions allowing police to make applications on behalf of an affected person will commence.

Between 26 October 2016 and 10 March 2017, the OLOs within the Family Violence Coordination Unit have provided assistance to 40 people with various aspects of the DVO process. These requests for assistance have come via internal referrals as well as referrals from the ACT Courts, NSW Police and other government and non-government organisations.

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

Signature:



Date: 10/4/17

By the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic & Family Violence, Rachel Stephen-Smith
MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS QON # 4
Mem for the Prevention
of Domestic & Family
Violence

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 65
Wednesday, March 1, 2017



Mrs Giulia Jones MLA: To ask the Minister for Women

Ref: Community Services Directorate Annual Report, Office for Women, Output 3.1: Community Participation – Community Participation Group – Safer Families Initiative

In relation to:

Page 58 of the Community Services Annual Report, where it states \$21.42 million was committed to the Safer Families Initiative which included a focus on “improving information sharing and delivering integrated case management as part of the new Family Hub.”

- a. What is the Family Safety Hub?
 - a. What is the purpose of the Family Safety Hub?
 - b. What are your measurements of success?
 - c. What future funding is committed to the Family Safety Hub?

- b. What is the breakdown of this funding?
 - a. Proportion to information sharing?
 - b. Proportion to the new Family Hub?
 - c. What other activities/services are funded?

- c. What information sharing was undertaken with this funding?
 - a. Can you provide a breakdown?

Minister Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

(a) What is the Family Safety Hub?

The ACT Government has committed to co-designing a Family Safety Hub which will coordinate and facilitate integrated services to address family violence across Government and the community sector.

The Office of the Coordinator-General has been working with relevant government and community stakeholders to co-design the Family Safety Hub.

The Government's commitment to co-design the Family Safety Hub is critical to ensuring that the final model genuinely meets the needs of people affected by domestic and family violence and improves outcomes.

The final scope and role for the Hub will be determined through the co-design process. Performance measures will be developed based on the final design.

The Government's priorities for action to address family and domestic violence were established in the Safer Families package in 2016, which are detailed at (b) below, The ACT Government Response to Family Violence. Future priorities will be considered through the usual Budget processes.

(b) What is the breakdown of this funding?

The Family Safety Package was announced in the 2016-17 Budget comprising a set of initiatives to establish a cohesive response to family violence. A number of these initiatives will be important in underpinning the work of the Family Safety Hub, including the investments in integrated case management, training for frontline staff and increased capacity for specialist services.

The Safer Families budget package includes:

- **\$3.07 million** over four years to establish the position of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety supported by a dedicated team to coordinate and report on the Territory's efforts to counter family violence;
- **\$1.46 million** over four years to support the first stage of implementation of the Joint Australian Law Reform Commission and NSW Law Reform Commission Report: Family Violence – A National Legal Response;
- **\$1.36 million** over four years to fund the Director of Public Prosecutions to strengthen criminal justice responses to alleged perpetrators of family violence;
- **\$1.22 million** to improve the accessibility of translation and interpreting services in ACT Law Courts and Tribunal and family violence specialist services;
- **\$1.18 million** over four years to support ACT Policing to make applications for Domestic Violence Orders on behalf of victims;
- **\$1.21 million** over four years to Legal Aid for improving access to legal services for victims of family violence;
- **\$0.05 million** for developing a risk assessment tool for people experiencing family violence;
- **\$0.02 million** for an awareness campaign to improve information sharing;
- **\$0.02 million** to the Tara Costigan Foundation for the establishment of the Tara's Angels Service to provide a free case worker service that supports victims as they rebuild their lives and break the cycle of violence;
- **\$0.42 million** over four years for additional resources for the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre;
- **\$0.83 million** over four years to increase the capacity of the Domestic Violence Crisis Service to meet the growing demand for support and assistance;
- **\$0.96 million** over three years for a three month therapeutic residential program for men who have committed, or are at risk of committing violence in the home;
- **\$2.47 million** over four years to enhance quality assurance practices and support improved decision making in Child and Youth Protection Services;

- **\$2.61 million** over four years for an integrated case management and case coordination unit for victims of family violence in the ACT;
- **\$0.77 million** over three years for training in domestic violence for frontline workers responding to incidents of domestic and family violence across all areas of Government;
- **\$0.32 million** over four years to support women and children to leave violence by providing grants of up to \$2,000;
- **\$2 million** over four years for support and referral through specialist drug and alcohol treatment services; and
- **\$0.12 million** over two years to support the continuation of a system-wide school program to effectively and sensitively assist students dealing with the impacts of trauma; and
- **\$1.34 million** to fund a reportable conduct scheme for the ACT.

(c) What information sharing was undertaken with this funding?

On 8 September 2016, the Attorney-General released an issues paper on Information Sharing to Improve the Response to Family Violence in the ACT. The issues paper outlines the current information sharing arrangements in the ACT, and explores the privacy issues facing the family violence sector. The Coordinator General for Family Safety led an extensive community consultation process until 16 December 2016. The issues paper is available on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate's website.

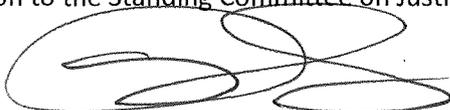
As part of the consultation process, the Coordinator General hosted four information sessions. The sessions aimed to:

- explain the current information sharing arrangements as they apply in a family violence context;
- highlight the gaps and issues in our current information sharing framework;
- invite participants to consider the appropriate balance between the right to privacy and the right to safety; and
- workshop a series of case studies in order to ascertain participants' understandings of privacy laws, as well as to explore how participants envisage an ideal information sharing system to operate.

The outcomes of the consultation process will inform the development of further work in this area.

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

Signature:



Date: 23/03/17

By the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Ms Yvette Berry MLA

JACS QoW # 5 of 6
Minister for the Prevention
of Domestic & Family
Violence



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

GIULIA JONES MLA (CHAIR), BEC CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA, CHRIS STEEL MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
8 March 2017



Asked by Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

In relation to: The role of alcohol in domestic and family violence:

1. A review of the Australian component of the *International Violence against Women Survey* found that that 'abusive males with alcohol or drug problems inflict violence against their partners more frequently, are more apt to inflict serious injuries, are more likely to be sexually assaultive and are more likely to be violent outside the home than abusers without a history of substance abuse'.¹ In addition, 'alcohol is estimated to be involved in up to half of partner violence in Australia and 73% of partner physical assaults'.² In what percentage of domestic and family violence cases in the ACT does alcohol use play a role?
2. A recent World Health Organisation report noted that 'alcohol-related programmes for the prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence appear promising. The strong association between alcohol and intimate partner and sexual violence suggests that primary prevention interventions to reduce the harm caused by alcohol could potentially be effective'.³
 - a. What specific steps is the ACT Government taking to prevent, or reduce the severity of, domestic and family violence by addressing alcohol abuse by potential offenders?
 - b. What is JACS's funding commitment for reducing alcohol-fuelled violence in the domestic setting?
 - c. What proportion of the \$12 million Safer Families Package has been specifically earmarked for these efforts?

¹ J Mouzon and T Makkai, *Women's Experiences of Male Violence: Findings from the Australian Component of the International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS)*, Research and Public Policy Series, 56, AIC, Canberra, 2004, p. 98; ABS, *Personal Safety Survey Australia 2005*, cat. No. 4906.0, ABS, Canberra, 2006, p. 21.

² <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2015/opinion/alcohols-role-in-domestic-violence> (accessed 8 Mar. 2017).

³ World Health Organisation, 'Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence against Women: Taking Action and Generating Evidence', 2010, p. 53.

Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate is currently working with the Domestic Violence Prevention Council, ACT Policing and the Victims of Crime Commissioner to identify the most appropriate way to collect, measure and report data in relation to family violence, including incidents where alcohol has been consumed.

In March 2015, then Attorney-General Simon Corbell MLA provided the Domestic Violence Project Coordinator (established under the *Domestic Violence Agencies Act 1986*) with a grant of \$100,000 for the development of an ACT domestic and family violence (DVF) data framework. The Domestic Violence Prevention Council is assisting the Coordinator with this project. The project was designed to address gaps in knowledge about the characteristics of victims and perpetrators of family violence by developing a plan to improve data collection in the ACT.

Frontline service providers in the ACT were invited to participate in a survey process to identify the types of data collected in the ACT. The survey results will be used to assist the Coordinator to identify a minimum data set, that is, a core set of data types that all organisations should collect in relation to each of their clients, for example, the name and address of the perpetrator and victim. This data set will be measured using existing data to identify any gaps remaining. The data set will inform the development of the plan to improve data collection.

It is anticipated that a report will be provided to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence later this year.

When discussing the interaction between alcohol and family violence it is important to recognise that alcohol does not cause family violence. The advisory group OurWatch addresses this issue in 'Change the Story – A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia'.

Alcohol is a feature in a disproportionate number of police call-outs to family violence, and is correlated with a higher number of, and more severe, incidents of violence against women. However alcohol does not itself cause violence against women; not all people who drink are violent, and many people who do not drink are violent. While alcohol can increase the frequency or severity of violence, on its own it does not explain the gendered dynamics of violence against women. Rather than looking at alcohol as a factor in isolation, we need to understand it in relation to social norms and practices that condone or support violence against women, in particular those relating to masculinity and men's peer group behaviour.

Gender socialisation and identities are also reflected in the ways in which alcohol is consumed, and in the social norms relating to alcohol, for example, in drinking cultures that emphasise male conquest and aggression, as well as in the ways individual men and women tend to behave under the influence of alcohol. This suggests it is the interaction between social norms relating to alcohol, and social norms relating to gender, that can increase the likelihood, frequency or severity of violence against women, not just the consumption of alcohol itself. Strategies that address the intersection between alcohol use and social norms relating to both violence and gender can help create a more supportive environment for other prevention activity. Research is limited on the impact of other drugs on violence against women, but similarities might be expected where a drug has similar effects to alcohol, and is also used in the context of gendered socialisation and power differentials.

See: <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/getmedia/c81eceab-c8a0-4f3a-a6fb-2202334b398b/Change-the-story-framework-prevent-violence-women-children-AA-new.pdf.aspx> - page 27.

Data on person offences as compared to person offences involving alcohol is published in the ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile which is available at:

http://www.justice.act.gov.au/criminal_and_civil_justice/criminal_justice_statistical_profiles
page: 52-53

2. It is important to consider Question 2 in light of the full context of the following quote from the World Health Organisation.

Although evidence for the effectiveness of measures to reduce access to and harmful use of alcohol is only beginning to emerge, and high-quality studies showing their impact on intimate partner and sexual violence are still largely lacking, alcohol-related programmes for the prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence appear promising. The strong association between alcohol and intimate partner and sexual violence suggests that primary prevention interventions to reduce the harm caused by alcohol could potentially be effective. Approaches to preventing alcohol-related intimate partner and sexual violence should also address the social acceptability of excessive drinking as a mitigating factor in violence, while altering normative beliefs about masculinity and heavy drinking. There remains a pressing need for additional research to evaluate the effectiveness of such approaches in reducing intimate partner and sexual violence, especially in low and middle income countries.⁴

In the 2016-17 budget, the ACT Government allocated funding of \$2m from the \$21.4m Safer Families package to provide more effective responses to people who use alcohol or other drugs (AOD) in harmful ways and who are experiencing family violence or at risk of using family violence. The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association (ATODA) was the successful tenderer and a pilot project is now in the design phase. The pilot project will develop infrastructure and a framework to build capacity within the AOD sector to deliver programs that integrate best practice in family violence prevention. ATODA will:

- engage and liaise with AOD specialist treatment and support services and other key stakeholders (including through the DFV sector) to scope the existing capacity and needs around integrating DFV into routine AOD practice;
- design a three year pilot project that will facilitate the development of both collective capacity around DFV across all services in the AOD sector and specific and targeted clinical DFV capacity within individual services;
- develop an evaluation plan and recruit an external evaluation team to monitor and measure the program's implementation and impact;
- recruit a clinician with specialist AOD and DFV expertise to provide expert advice on the project design and implementation, and
- develop a tool on DFV capabilities that can be re-administered at regular intervals to assess increased capacity.

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

Signature:



Date: 20/4/17

By the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence,
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

⁴ World Health Organisation, 'Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence against Women: Taking Action and Generating Evidence', 2010, p. 53

