



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING  
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

QoN No - 65

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Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Ref: Budget Outlook p 376 Appendix H – Safer Families

In relation to: *Now You Have Heard Us, What Will You Do?* (‘the booklet)

1. When was the booklet published?
2. When was work first commenced for production of the booklet?
3. Can the Minister provide a complete breakdown of costs for the production of the booklet?
4. How many young people were consulted:
  - a. As part of production of the booklet?
  - b. As part of consultation on domestic and family violence responses in the ACT?
5. What are the top issues and/or priorities informed by young people in the ACT on domestic and family violence service responses?
6. What measures will the ACT Government take in response to the feedback received by young people in the ACT?

YVETTE BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. The booklet was published on the Community Services Directorate website on 6 August 2020. Hardcopies of the booklet were also printed around this time.
2. Design and production of the booklet began in June 2020.
3. The design work for the booklet included the creation of a range of graphics and a presentation template, which were used for the sharing of the insights. Design and printing cost \$10,174.
4. The booklet is a result of the consultations with young people who had experienced domestic and family violence (DFV). Seventy young people took part in these consultations.
5. The top issues highlighted by the 13 insights in the booklet are:
  - a. There are no services specifically for children and young people who have experienced DFV where they are supported as victims in their own right. The experiences of young people are different to their parents and they need specialist support.
  - b. Children and young people feel like they are the only person experiencing DFV. They often don’t talk about what they have experienced because they are afraid of making things worse. When they trust someone enough to tell them about what is happening that person needs to have the requisite skills to respond. Improving this capability across the community, youth and education sectors can make a significant difference for children and young people.
  - c. The impacts of DFV are ongoing and long lasting. DFV impacts educational outcomes, mental and physical health and the forming of healthy relationships, including intimate relationships.

Early intervention is needed to limit the impact of DFV, and this need for this support may be ongoing and long-term.

6. The consultations and the insights are informing the design and testing of new responses:
  - a. **Capability building for workers in the youth sector.** A youth worker may be the trusted person a young person confides in when they are ready to talk about violence occurring in their home. This program is developing training for youth sector workers so they can recognise and understand DFV and support young people experiencing it. The pilot sessions are scheduled for early 2022. This response is being co-designed by Relationships Australia, Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Family Safety Hub.
  - b. **Got Your Back.** This response for young people aged 12 to 18 was designed by Relationships Australia directly in response to the consultation insights. Got Your Back is a peer group program that uses restorative and trauma-informed practice to support young people who have experienced DFV. The group is led by an experienced practitioner and a youth worker.
  - c. **New children's DFV response.** This program is in the early stages of development. An international model that has been rigorously evaluated may be adapted for the ACT to support children aged 6 to 12 who have experienced DFV. The development of this new response will include co-design with the sector to refine the model for the ACT.
  - d. **Risk assessment and management framework.** The insights have informed the children and young people component of the framework. This provides starting points and references for practitioners to improve their practices to better support children and young people who have experienced DFV.
  - e. **DFV training for the ACT Public Service.** The insights have been incorporated into modules within the training to specifically highlight the impact of DFV on children and young people.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

17/11/21

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