



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 MR PETTERSSON on 27 July 2023: Minister VASSAROTTI (Homelessness and Housing Services) took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: *Uncorrected Hansard Transcript* 27 July 2023 [page 121]

In relation to:

Hotel brokerage - can you provide data on:

** number of hotel nights provided?*

** how many individuals/families are anticipated to be accommodated this year?*

Ms Spencer: Thanks, minister. Thanks for the question. Yes, that is correct. The hotel brokerage funding as part of the 23-24 budget is separated between OneLink and DVCS.

MR PETTERSSON: Do you have a breakdown?

Ms Spencer: I do. So, it is \$615,000 for OneLink, and \$541,000 for DVCS, hotel brokerage for 23-24.

MR PETTERSSON: Right. So how many hotel nights is that equivalent to?

Ms Spencer: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the breakdown for the 23-24 sort of financial year of anticipated nights. We do know for the 22—for last financial year, that OneLink accommodated over 150 individuals and families in hotel accommodation in 22-23, so that last financial year.

And we know that DVCS accommodated approximately 160 families and individuals in the last financial year. So—

MR PETTERSSON: So is it better to ask in terms of individuals and families as opposed to hotel nights?

Ms Spencer: I would have to take on notice whether we have got the data on hotel nights. I suspect we do. But I just do not have it in front of me.

Ms Vassarotti: Although I think it is fair to say that, you know, we are accommodating a range of different people. And obviously accommodating a family is going to be more expensive than accommodating an individual. Look, I think, what I would say around the emergency accommodation through hotel brokerage, that absolutely is an accommodation option of last resort. That is less than ideal. And this is brokerage and an option that we provide because people

are, you know, if they were not provided with that accommodation, they would families that are sleeping on the street.

So it is certainly nearly the last option. And, you know, we can—again, as part of process that we are working through with the sector, we would love to be able to directly find a better approach than hotel brokerage. But it is, you know, this is an option that we bring to the table to ensure that people, and particularly families who just have no other option, do have somewhere safe to sleep at night.

MR PETTERSSON: No disagreement from me. I am trying to, for my own benefit, quantify what that actually translates to.

So, in terms of that \$1.2 million, do we have some figure as to how many individuals or families we think we are going to be accommodating with that amount of money?

Ms Spencer: I would have to take that on notice. Certainly it is hard to guess. We could estimate. But again, like the minister said, it depends on each individual, each family, circumstance. Some families and individuals may require a longer stay for various reasons, others might require a shorter stay.

But I will take on notice and see if we can provide some information about what we are anticipating. Hoping that the reality is a different—maybe a different picture.

MINISTER VASSAROTTI: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

In 2022-23, 256 individuals/families were accommodated in hotels. The number of nights in hotel accommodation for 2022-23 is not yet available.

It is estimated that \$1.2 million provided for in the 2023-24 Budget, could be used to support approximately 300 individuals/families over a 12-month period at risk of or experiencing homelessness, including those experiencing domestic and family violence, to stay in hotel accommodation for an average of 30 nights before being supported to transition into a longer-term accommodation.

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

Signature: 

Date: 11 / 8 / 2023

By the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Ms Vassarotti MLA