



## 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

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA : To ask the Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Budget Statement G, p. 3

Hearing Date: 28 July 2023

In relation to: Community Sector Sustainability Program

- (1) One of the priorities in this budget is to 'commission a Sector Sustainability Program'. Have a host organisation and project lead been selected yet, and if so, who are they?
- (2) What (if any) progress has been made to date with the co-design process?
- (3) When do you expect the co-design process to be complete?
- (4) Besides community sector indexation, are any other recommendations from the 'Counting the Costs' report addressed by funding in this budget? For example, does this budget direct any 'funding boosts' directly 'to priority sub-sectors, or to specific organisations facing demand pressures'? If so, which ones and how much?

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

1. The Host Organisation is Capital Region Community Services who have engaged Ms Susan Helyar as the Community-Based Project Lead for the period July 2023 - December 2024.
2. The Program will be designed collaboratively with government and community sector stakeholders through adoption of appropriate tools and methods articulated in the ACT Government Commissioning Cycle. As part of the ACT Government and Host Organisation commitment to Co-Design, an Independent Governance Committee chaired by the ACT Council of Social Service, will oversee the project during the first stage of implementation from July 2023 - December 2024.
3. Co-design will be ongoing throughout the project. Project Phases and Key Focus Areas have been published here: [Key focus areas for the Sector Sustainability Program - Commissioning \(act.gov.au\)](https://act.gov.au/key-focus-areas-for-the-sector-sustainability-program-commissioning)
4. In addition to community sector indexation, a range of budget measures will support the recommendations from the Counting the Costs report and/or priority sub-sectors either directly or indirectly. These include, but are not limited to:

- CMTEDD – Human Rights Commission is funded to begin capacity building activities for child safe standards.
- CMTEDD – improving data analysis capability related to Wellbeing through a strategic partnership with ANU
- ACTHD – Watson precinct for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and other drug rehabilitation
- ACTHD – LGBTIQ+ health
- ACTHD/CSD – additional allied health professionals.
- ACTHD – Voluntary assisted dying.
- CHS – Injection of funding for paediatric services, in hospital and community.
- CHS – Establishment of paediatric gender service to begin operating in the next 12 months.
- CSD – First Nations Family Support team, shifting the way we work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families (a recommendation of Our Booris, Our Way).
- CSD – Minimum age of criminal responsibility.
- CSD – Continue increased funding for refugee, Asylum seekers and Humanitarian Discretionary fund and settlement assistance grants
- CSD – Uplift in funds to frontline domestic and family violence services, including health justice partnerships.
- CSD – Specialist homelessness services. Base funding over 4 years, and some specific programs funded for shorter timeframes. Commitment to codesign for complex clients.

Commissioning is in progress across human services programs in ACTHD and CSD. These processes are not yet complete but are anticipated to provide government with evidence for changes in demand and need which will inform future budget decision making.

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

Signature:



Date:

17/8/23

By the Minister for Families and Community Services, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA