



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MR THOMAS EMERSON MLA

Addressed to: Mr Russ Campbell, Acting Under Treasurer, Treasury, CMTEDD

In relation to: COMMUNITY SECTOR - ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

Hearing: 13 February 2025

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Transcript provided: 20 February 2025

Answer Due: 27 February 2025

Mr Russ Campbell took on notice the following question:

Mr Emerson: Thank you. I have another one on this line of inquiry. We know how important the community sector is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and also other people facing disadvantage in the ACT. I have read data indicating that only 4 per cent of community sector organisations say they are able to meet current levels of demand, and less than 10 per cent believe that their funding actually covers the full cost of service delivery. Are you able to provide an indication—it might have to be on notice—of what proportion of the 2024-25 budget was invested in and through the community sector?

Mr Campbell: We might need to take that on notice.

Mr Austin: Yes, it is actually quite a complex question to answer. And I think the government funded ACTCOSS to do the Counting the Cost report in 2023 to answer that question. So we do not collect that data directly. It goes through—obviously what the budget contains is the funding that agencies get and through their commissioning process they determine how much and which NGOs get the funding. So it is probably not something we can answer directly, but within the Budget at a Glance paper we put out with the budget there is the compartmentalising of funding for community services. So that gives you a starting point, I guess, to have a look at.

Mr Emerson: So that was put to me by the community sector and they are kind of looking for an update on the numbers and a comparison over, say, the last 10 years. I have asked this of other directorates, and they—this is why it is complex. They can say, “Well, I can tell you what we have done, but ACT Health, Community Services Directorate, housing, like, everyone has got contributions to the sector.” So is that the kind of piece of analysis that you might be able to provide on notice?

Mr Campbell: We would have to think about what is possible. We just do not have visibility in Treasury of particular contracts and engagements that other directorates will have. It will actually be directorate by directorate. So we will take it on notice to see what might be possible and what the implications of preparing it might look like.

Mr Emerson: Okay, even asking each directorate then, you know, adding them up.

Mr Campbell: I will see what I can come back with.

MR CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Funding for Community Services is published annually in the Budget at a Glance publication. It reflects the Government funding for community support and social inclusion. This for example includes funding for domestic, family and sexual violence response services, and child protection services.

Funding for Community Services is not the same as funding provided to the community sector. For example, Community Services funding does not include funding the ACT Health Directorate provides to community organisations such as Arthritis ACT, Kidsafe ACT and Diabetes ACT.

Government funding on Community Services has increased by more than 30 per cent from 2022-23 to 2024-25. In 2022-23, the Government provided \$498 million in community services funding. This has increased to \$581 million in 2023-24, and then to \$653 million in 2024-25.

Treasury does not collect specific data on total funding provided to the community sector across all programs and all Directorates. Relevant Directorates manage delivery of Government funded programs by engaging services from the sector through the commissioning process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature: 
By the Treasurer, Chris Steel MLA

Date: 28/2/25