



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Catherine Rule, Director-General, Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Ainslie community garden

Hearing: 21 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 24-25

Transcript provided: 27 February 2025

Answer Due: 6 March 2025 5:00PM

Catherine Rule took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: Can I ask a quick follow up on that 9 June advice, that would have been to Salvation Army, is that right?

Ms Borwick: Yes.

Ms Rule: Yes.

THE CHAIR: Salvation Army would have made the application, not the volunteers.

Ms Rule: Yes, that is right. Yes. Our relationship is with the Salvation Army.

THE CHAIR: The Salvation Army.

Ms Rule: Yes, that is right.

THE CHAIR: Okay. So this site - is a reminder of when it became clear they proceeded with those works anyway, at which point the government—

Ms Rule: So we will review our records to see what—

Ms Berry: If any.

Ms Rule: —what, if any, information we gave to the Salvation Army since 9 June 2021, in relation to modifications at the property.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. And the site, because it is – well people visiting the site would have noted down, okay there is a garden happening here and when that might have been included in those records?

Ms Rule: Potentially. Potentially. I cannot speak. I do not know—

THE CHAIR: You do not know what that looks like, sure—

Ms Rule: —what is in the records. We will have a look and see what is in the records.

MR CAIN: So when was – sorry, just a follow up. So when was any communication with – for example, Mr Scott Laidlaw, and others, who were professional volunteers contributing to that peace garden construction, was there any connection – contact at all from Housing to them directly?

Ms Rule: I cannot – again, we will have a look. But I do not think so. It would be – it would not imagine that we would have had a need to communicate with the volunteers, because the lease was between us and the organisation.

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- Housing ACT is not aware of any direct contact between its staff and volunteers.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

06/03/25