



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Public
Accounts and Administration

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Auditor-General Reports 10/2024: Safer Families Levy and 13/2024: Invoicing and Payment for Digital Health Record Hosting Services

Submission number: 006

Submitter: Legal Aid ACT

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Legal Aid ACT

Standing Committee on Public Accounts and
Administration
ACT Legislative Assembly
196 London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: LACommitteePAA@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Committee,

RE: Inquiry into the Auditor-General Performance Audit Reports 10/2024: Safer Families Levy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide contributions on behalf of Legal Aid ACT ('the Commission') in relation to the inquiry into the Auditor-General Performance Audit Reports 10/2024: Safer Families Levy.

As you may know, the Commission receives funding through the Package on an annual basis since 2016. This funding, in addition to other Territory and Commonwealth funding which supports the Commission's work, is used to provide legal assistance to clients experiencing family and domestic violence (FDV). In the 2023-24 financial year, the Commission assisted 2,653 clients experiencing FDV. The support provided by the Package's funding is instrumental in ensuring confidential legal assistance is available for victim-survivors of family and domestic violence.

In our view, the four recommendations made in the Report adequately address the key issues identified in the Report. The Commission supports developing clear strategies and principles which underpin how the Package's funding is used, establishing necessary frameworks to support the evaluation of initiatives funded by the Package, creating biennial reporting requirements, as well as establishing important public performance reporting processes. Together, these pillars will broadly benefit accountability as well as improve transparency and public understanding of how the Package's and Levy's funds are used. However, the need for transparency must be appropriately balanced to ensure that the reporting requirements remain meaningful and are not too onerous for the relevant agencies.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Boersig
Chief Executive Officer
Legal Aid Commission (ACT)