



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock
MLA (Deputy Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Ref: The Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Budget Statements G, p.4 (CSD)

In relation to: The establishment of a multidisciplinary team to review recent sexual assault cases reported to ACT Policing that were not progressed to charge.

Date (Question Lodged by
Member): 30/08/2022 Date
(Question Sent to DLO):
05/09/2022

1. **Can the Minister please provide more details the multidisciplinary review team, including the following information:**
 - a. **When will the multidisciplinary team be established and how often will they meet?**
 - b. **How many people will make up this team, and across which disciplines?**
 - c. **What are the roles, responsibilities and powers of the team?**
 - d. **How much funding in this Budget has been allocated to the establishment and operation of this team?**
2. **For each year the past 3 years, how many domestic and family violence cases were reported to ACT Policing and progressed to charge, and how many domestic and family violence cases were not progressed to charge?**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Kikkert".

30 August 2022

Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. The ACT Government's 2021-22 Budget Review provided funding to establish a cross-agency taskforce to review sexual assault cases which were reported between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2021 that were reported to ACT Policing but did not progress to charge.
 - a. The multidisciplinary team (now known as the Sexual Assault (Police) Review Oversight Committee) is established and will meet monthly throughout 2022.
 - b. The members of the Oversight Committee are Karen Fryar AM (co-chair), Dr

Christine Nixon (co-chair), Chief Police Officer Neil Gaughan (ACT Policing), Shane Drumgold (Director of Public Prosecutions), Kirsty Windeyer (Coordinator-General for the Prevention of Sexual Violence) and Heidi Yates (Victims of Crime Commissioner).

- c. The role of the Oversight Committee is to consider the processes undertaken by ACT Policing in response to sexual assault reports, including whether the correct legal test was applied to individual cases and how processes may have contributed to the low number of sexual assault reports proceeding to the point of charge.

The Oversight Committee is responsible for establishing and undertaking the Review. It has decision-making powers about operational matters relevant to the Review, and its members represent agencies with operational functions relevant to the Review.

- d. Funding for the review was sought in the 2021-22 Mid-Year Budget Review. The 2022-23 Budget allocation is up to \$2.8 million.

2. ACT Policing Input:

In accordance with the *Family Violence Act 2016*, a Domestic Family Violence incident involves any of the following behaviours:

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence or abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Unreasonable economic abuse
- Threatening behaviour
- Coercion or behaviour that controls or dominates or causes fear for safety or wellbeing (including another person)
- Any behaviour which causes a child to hear, witness or expose any above listed behaviours or effects
- Sexual coercion
- Property damage
- Harming an animal
- Stalking
- Deprivation of liberty

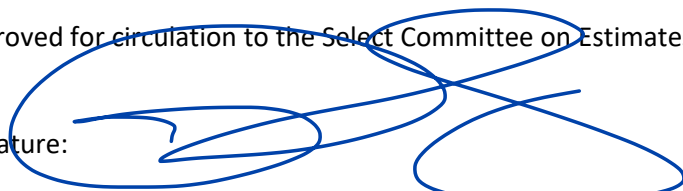
Table 1: Total number of Family Violence related cases reported to ACT Policing over the last three years, including breakdown of charges laid and no charges laid.

	2019	2020	2021
Charges Laid	702	650	713
No Charges Laid	2505	2520	2801
Total	3207	3170	3514

Source: PROMIS as at 6 September 2022

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

09/09/22

By Minister Yvette Berry [Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence]

