



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 the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Ref: Budget Paper 3, page 132: Safer Families - Further investment into frontline domestic, family and sexual violence services

Hearing Date: 19 July 2023

In relation to: Safer Families Levy

- (1) This financial year, the Safer Families Levy will increase to \$45 and next year it will increase again to \$50 per household. The ACT Government promised that 'the levy increase will go directly to funding initiatives.' 23/24
- (a) How much extra revenue will the increase of the levy from \$40 last year to \$45 this year generate?
 - (b) How much extra revenue will the increase of the levy from \$45 this year to \$50 next year be expected to generate?
 - (c) How much of the levy this year will be spent on community frontline domestic violence support services? Who are these services? And exactly how much funding are each receiving from the Safer Families Levy?
 - (d) How much of the levy this year will be spent on government frontline domestic violence support services? Who are these services? And exactly how much funding are each receiving from the Safer Families Levy?
 - (e) How much of the levy this year will be spent on domestic violence training for ACT public servants?
- (2) Will the ACT government consider using the Safer Families Levy to exclusively offset frontline domestic violence support services, as expected by ACT residents? If so, can the Minister provide more details; if not, why not?
- (3) With the increase of the Safer Families Levy to \$50 per household next year, will this increase also go directly to funding initiatives? If so, are there any new initiatives in the works to be funded by the increase, or will the increase go towards providing increased support or expanding existing initiatives?

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

(a & b) For each \$5 increase in the Safer Families Levy, an additional \$0.9m is collected by the Territory.

(c & d) The Safer Families Levy provides a partial offset to the broader Safer Families Package rather than fund specific initiatives or service providers. In 2023-24, the Safer Families Package is a total \$15.218 million, of which the Levy provides a \$8.392 million offset.

The below table details the funding recipient of each initiative listed in Table H.2 of the 2023-24 Budget Outlook, page 351.

Safer Families Package Levy Offset Initiatives listed in Table H.2	Funding recipient	Total amount (\$'000) 2023-24
More support for families and inclusion – Delivering the Family Safety Hub	Community Services Directorate to pilot initiatives in collaboration with community organisations	1,739
Safer Families – Additional resources for the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre	Canberra Rape Crisis Centre	120
Safer Families – Additional resources for the Domestic Violence Crisis Service	Domestic Violence Crisis Service	238
Safer Families – Enhancing access to justice for non-English speakers	ACT Courts - Justice and Community Safety Directorate	100
Safer Families – Safer families team	Community Services Directorate	824
Safer Families – Reducing the risk of deaths from family violence	Community Services Directorate	249
Safer Families – Support for women and children to leave violence	Paid to victim-survivors escaping violence through the Safer Families Assistance Grants.	238
Safer Families - Integrated Family Safety Information Sharing and Risk Assessment	Community Services Directorate	727
Safer Families – Critical domestic and family violence support in health and community settings	Women's Legal Centre and Legal Aid ACT	981
Safer Families – Safer Families Collaboration Program	Domestic Violence Crisis Service	346

Safer Families – Frontline Domestic violence and rape crisis services	Domestic Violence Crisis Service and Canberra Rape Crisis Centre	465
Safer Families – Women's Safety Grants	Paid to successful applicants (individuals and organisations).	100
Safer Families – Implementing community-led family violence responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	Yerrabi Yurwang and other community organisations. Subject to consultation with stakeholders.	871
Safer Families – Domestic and Family Violence Training and Resources	Administered by the Community Services Directorate for frontline community workers	1,244
Safer Families – Providing support to people escaping domestic and family violence	Domestic Violence Crisis Service and Canberra Rape Crisis Centre	310
Safer Families – Delivering the Family Violence Safety Action Program	Victim Support ACT and Domestic Violence Crisis Service	1,830
Safer families – Expanding the Health Justice Partnerships	Community organisations. Subject to negotiation with stakeholders.	933 ¹
Safer families – Continuing the delivery of the Room4Change program	Domestic Violence Crisis Service	1,450
Safer families – Further investment into frontline domestic, family and sexual violence services	Domestic Violence Crisis Service Canberra Rape Crisis Centre Doris Women's Refuge YWCA Queanbeyan Multicultural Centre (MHub) Toora Community Services Directorate	2,863

(e) None.

(2) The intent of the Safer Families Levy is to provide an ongoing revenue base to support the funding of long-term system reform and service improvements in relation to domestic and family violence. This includes funding frontline domestic and family violence services.

¹ This total also includes the allocation outlined in Table H.3.

(3) Table H.2 of the 2023-24 Budget Outlook at page 351 details how the Levy has been provisioned out to 2026-27.

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

Signature: 

Date: 17/8/23

By the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Rachel Stephen-Smith
MLA