



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Reference: Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Hearing: 18/02/2025

In relation to: Role of SEMD in JACS

Question received: 20/02/2025

Answer Due: 27/02/2025

1. What is the legislative basis for the role and operations performed by the Security and Emergency Management Division of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate with regards to the coordination and management of emergency services operations?
2. How does the Security and Emergency Management Division collaborate with the Emergency Services Agency to incorporate the knowledge and expertise of our emergency services personnel?
3. Is there any scenario in which the Security and Emergency Management Division would exclude personnel from our police or emergency services organisations in planning security and emergency management activities for major events in Canberra, such as the Multicultural Festival?

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate Security and Emergency Management Division (JACS SEMD) does not undertake coordination or management of emergency services operations.

JACS SEMD provides whole of government leadership and coordination in relation to security and emergency management matters, including the development of whole of government policy in these areas, consistent with the role of the Security and Emergency Management Senior Officials Group (SEMSOG) as detailed in the *Emergencies Act 2004* (ACT) s143.

JACS SEMD collaborates regularly with the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) including through joint membership on formal committees and working groups, shared participation in the delivery of work programs, consultation on the development of policy initiatives and informal liaison on key related bodies of work, including emergency management planning and exercising.

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In relation to major events, JACS SEMD provides whole of government liaison and coordination for security and emergency management at the request of the responsible ACT Government business area. Planning activities may include forums for specific audiences, for instance internal capability development for responsible business areas, while others will include broader audiences including police and emergency service organisations.

In relation to the National Multicultural Festival 2025, JACS SEMD facilitated cross-government security and emergency management planning on behalf of the Community Services Directorate (CSD) as the responsible ACT Government directorate. This included internal CSD planning and the development of an emergency management preparedness exercise with CSD, ACT Policing and ESA.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature: 

Date: 27/02/25

By the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA