



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Total
Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

QoN No - 56

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

Ref: Safer Families, Budget paper G, p 4; Budget Outlook p 155

In relation to: the Health Justice Partnership program

1. For each year since the establishment of the Health Justice Partnership program in the ACT, can the Minister please provide a complete breakdown of costs?
2. How many people identified in the following demographics have been supported by the Health Justice Partnership program in the ACT, and what was the nature of support provided?
 - a. Pregnant women
 - b. New mothers
 - c. Men
 - d. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
 - e. Culturally and linguistically diverse
 - f. LGBTIQ+
 - g. Aged between 18-20 years
 - h. Aged 21-29 years
 - i. Aged 30-39 years
 - j. Aged 40-49 years
 - k. Aged 50-59 years
 - l. Aged 60+ years

YVETTE BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Funding for the health justice partnerships has been allocated as follows:

	Women's Legal Centre	Legal Aid ACT	Family Safety Hub
2018 – 2019 (6 month pilot)	\$120,000 ex GST	\$120,000 ex GST	
2019 – 2020	\$250,000 ex GST	\$250,000 ex GST	
2020 – 2021	\$352,000 ex GST	\$364,000 ex GST	\$23,000 ex GST
2021 – 2022	\$448,000 ex GST	\$432,000 ex GST	\$60,000 ex GST
TOTAL	\$1,170,000 ex GST	\$1,166,000 ex GST	\$83,000 ex GST

2. It is not possible to provide accurate details for all the demographic information requested as it is not collected by the legal partners, is self-reported by clients or had not been collected for the entire period the service has operated. Due to the confidential nature of client-lawyer conversations, information on the type of support provided is not reported at a client level. The services provided by the health justice partnership lawyers include advice, referrals, drafting documents and letters, and representation in legal proceedings. The most common legal issues experienced by clients are:
- domestic and family violence
 - issues relating to children, including parenting, child protection and custody arrangements
 - housing and finance issues

a) and b) The legal partners do not report on whether a woman is a new mother and data has only been collected about pregnancy status since 1 January 2021. Between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021, 52 pregnant woman received help. Due to the confidential nature of client-lawyer conversations, information on the type of support provided for pregnant women at a client level is not reported.

c) 31 men have been assisted by Legal Aid through the health justice partnerships between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2021, which is 8% of the total clients helped by Legal Aid. Support was provided for men as victims and perpetrators of domestic, family, and sexual violence.

d), e) and f) Ethnicity and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity are self-reported. Based on self-reported data, approximately:

- 5% of clients are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 20% are from a culturally or linguistically diverse background
- There is no data available on the LGBTIQ+ identity of clients

g) to l) The legal partners do not report on the age of clients.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

17/11/21

By the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette Berry MLA