



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE 22 February 2022

Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA on 22 February 2022: LEESA CROKE took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 22 FEBRUARY 2022, Page 19]

In relation to: Wellbeing Framework Consultation

THE CHAIR: Thank you. I have a couple of supplementaries, if I may, on the wellbeing framework, and the indicators. I am just wondering, did you engage any consultants or external expertise when developing the wellbeing framework, and for those ongoing updates?

Ms Croke: So certainly in the development of the wellbeing framework, so that was if I think about the domains first, the 12 domains, we conducted significant consultation over many, many months. I am happy to take on notice the amount of meetings and forums that we had. We had workshops. In terms of consultants we engaged, really the consultant that we engaged was more of a facilitation role. However, we did work really closely with the University of Canberra who had their own wellbeing survey, and we really leveraged off their understanding of “wellbeing”.

We also spent time with our counterparts in New South Wales who have their own wellbeing framework, and also, from recall, the United Kingdom. So we did not so much invest in consultants but more we used the relationships that we had across other states and territories.

I should add New South Wales, we had conversations with New South Wales about how they were thinking about outcomes-based funding and the priorities that they had set as a government. So we tried to leverage off our relationships to really build our knowledge, but the consultation that we undertook within the directorate was it is very expensive to develop the wellbeing domains. They are not dissimilar to other wellbeing domains across the world, but we were very clear, and the Chief Minister was very clear, that he wanted Canberra citizens to own the wellbeing framework and it really was developed from the bottom up.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The ACT Wellbeing Framework was developed over the twelve-month period to March 2020. It was developed in consultation with the Canberra community, to understand those attributes that mattered most to Canberrans’ quality of life.

The best source of this advice was the community itself. A comprehensive consultation report is available on the wellbeing website at [[ACT Wellbeing Framework Consultation Report](#)]. We worked closely with the University of Canberra in the development of the Framework, drawing on the

expertise of its staff in framework design but also in relation to using results from the University's *Living Well in the ACT Region* survey – which the University has conducted in several waves since November 2019 (including through the period of the COVID-19 pandemic).

The Framework's dashboard (released in April 2021) includes a range of measures that draw on community sentiment via the survey. The dashboard also draws on ACT administrative data and national data – including from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). National statistical agencies were consulted during the dashboard's development.

The team coordinating the Framework's further development and rollout continue to engage with other jurisdictions, both domestically and internationally. Sharing information and insights assists all working in this area. A group of all directorates and key agencies within the ACT Public Service continue to work closely together in progressing our wellbeing work. An external facilitator has been used on a limited basis in helping this group consider workplan priorities.

Consultants were engaged to provide the following services as part of the development and ongoing update of the wellbeing framework:

- Facilitation of community consultation activities
- Facilitation within the ACTPS to support the development of a multi-year wellbeing workplan
- Advice and analysis of the University of Canberra *Living Well in the ACT Region* survey data
- Literature review and proof of concept to understand spatial measurements of wellbeing.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 3.3.21

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA