



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

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

Strip searches

(1) How many strip searches have you undertaken in the last 12 months, and what is the breakdown of

- (a) Total number
- (b) Under 18
- (c) Indigenous under 18 years old
- (d) Total under 18 years old
- (e) Persons with a disability
- (f) People with a culturally and linguistically diverse background

(2) For all targets of strip searches in the last 12 months, please detail for Indigenous and non-Indigenous targets

- (a) the breakdown of the suspected offences
- (b) the number found with illegal substances
- (c) the number subsequently charged with offences, detailing the kind of offence
- (d) the number subsequently charged with offensive language, resisting arrest, and assaulting policing, making clear when multiple charges are made.

(3) Please detail the nature, provider and how often anti-racism training is undertaken by ACT Policing?

(4) How many and what proportion of complaints to ACT policing raise concerns of racism, and how is this recorded and responded to?

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

(1) (2) Strip searches are not routinely undertaken by ACT Policing and are only conducted under very specific circumstances in accordance with relevant legislative provisions.

(3) ACT Policing continues to educate members about appropriate customer service and attitudes towards all members of the community including cultural sensitivities specific to the First Nations people. ACT Policing recognises the importance of training members to understand and identify the effects that cultural differences can have upon the police-community relationship. All members must adhere to the behavioural standards within the AFP Code of Conduct, the AFP has no tolerance for racist behaviour or statements. Ethical decision making, bias and moral conduct is included not only within the AFP Code of Conduct, but also replicated in all training curriculum and is part of the AFPs culture.

ACT Policing has dedicated First Nations Liaison Officers (FNLO) who designed and delivered 'Cultural Connections' training to ACT Policing members. A recommendation of the ACT Ombudsman OMI was for ACT Policing to establish a cultural competency training curriculum in consultation with community. ACT Policing initially considered utilisation of a training package being developed by the AFP First Nations Unit, however through consultation at the CPO's Advisory Board, has now embarked stand-alone, on a process specific to the ACT region – First Nations community and ACT Policing.

ACT Policing Frontline officers and police recruits undertake the Enhanced Mental Health Training Program that aims to better skill police officers' identification of and response to people in mental health crisis. While it is impractical and not appropriate for police officers to be trained as health professionals, the program provides a broad awareness of mental health illnesses and disorders, and disabilities and is delivered by subject matter experts, primarily drawn from ACT Health.

(4) The AFP takes all allegations of misconduct seriously, including racism, and responds to complaints in line with Part V of the *AFP Act*.

A text search of the Complaint Recording and Management System (CRAMS) has identified nil complaints relating to, or raising concerns of, racism, of the complaints made against members of ACT Policing in the past 12 months.

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

Signature:



Date: 13/4/2022

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman MLA