



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 010

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**LeaANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: YWCA

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 108-109]

Hearing Date: 22/07/2024

QTON lodgement date: 22/07/2024

Answer Due Date: 29/07/2024

THE CHAIR: Thank you. I will start off. Can you tell us about your experience with the Safer Families Levy; about how it has been allocated over the years between government agencies and frontline services; has that changed recently; and how this might diverge from public expectation?

Ms Crimmins: Our understanding and our experience since the Safer Families Levy was introduced eight years ago is that this is the first time that significant funding—that is over, as I said, four years—has been put to frontline services.

I note that in the budget statement it did mention that the Safer Families Levy was originally there in 2016 to provide community support and raise awareness of domestic and family violence in the ACT community; however, this is significantly different to previous statements that it was about frontline support, whether supporting Policing or crisis services. That is the first time that that has been a significant departure from when it was first introduced.

We say yes, it is long overdue. It has been eight years where we have not seen any significant investment in frontline services. From our perspective, I do not think the average Canberran understands that when they see it on their rates—and I certainly know I get many members of the public reaching out to me. In fact, I have got a call today from another community member who has asked in terms of today will we get any new information on the Safer Families Levy and how it has been allocated in the prior eight years.

THE CHAIR: I guess to paraphrase, are you suggesting that when it was introduced, the average Canberran may have presumed it was going to frontline services such as your own, which was not the case for many years?

Ms Crimmins: That is correct, until this budget announcement.

MS CASTLEY: Do you have the figures on over eight years how much money that has accrued? I can find it; I just wondered if you knew.

Ms Dwyer: It would be available.

MS CASTLEY: I can find it.

Ms Dwyer: Noting that in the original tranche it was I think about \$24 million over four years, and now with the increase I think at it sits around—I want to say around 30 or something, and then it is going to be 50 million. It would definitely be available. I am happy to provide it to you, though.

THE CHAIR: You will take that on notice?

Ms Dwyer: Yes, I can do it. Get my calculator out.

[YWCA]: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Budget Outlook documents detail the amount of funding derived exclusively from the Levy for each financial year since commencement, as well as the actual *total* investment towards listed safer families initiatives, additional to the offset of the Levy.

We note the same question was asked of the Office for Women at the Budget Estimates proceedings on 23 July.

We have sourced the following information from successive Budget Outlook documents by extracting the actual Levy distributed in the financial year prior from Tables described as either J.1 in earlier Budget Outlook papers, or H.1 in the later Budget Outlook papers. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of this answer against publicly available Budget records.

Year	Safer Families Levy Offset for Initiatives (\$mill.)	Actuals - Total Initiatives (Levy offset + additional investment) (\$mill.)
2016-2017	\$4.7	\$4.7
2017-2018	\$4.7	\$5.5
2018-2019	\$4.8	\$6.4
2019-2020	\$4.9	\$6.2
2020-2021	\$5.0	\$6.1

2021-2022	\$6.2	\$7.7
2022-2023	\$7.2	\$10.4
*2023-2024	\$8.4**	\$12.3
Total	\$45.9	\$59.3

*The reporting in Table H.1, Appendix H, of the Budget Outlook 2024-2025 differs from the reporting presentation in previous years, as the Safer Families Levy offset towards Safer Families initiatives is not distinct and appears to rather be consolidated with additional investment towards relevant initiatives.

** Given the changes noted at * this figure was derived from Table H.2 from the 2023-2024 Budget Outlook paper as an estimate of 2023-2024 expenditure.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date: 26/7/2024

Leah Dwyer
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