



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Women

Reference: Gender sensitive budgeting page 11 and 12 - Wellbeing Budget Statement 2024–25

Hearing Date: 23/07/2024

In relation to: Community Services Directorate and Gender sensitive budgeting

QON lodgement Date: 25/07/2024

Answer Due date: 02/08/2024

- (1)** What progress has been made on Recommendation 47 from the Estimates 2023-24 report, which called for integrating gender analysis into the ACT Women's Budget Statement?
- (2)** How has the government improved gender considerations in its Wellbeing Impact Assessment process since then?
- (3)** Could you provide specific examples of recent initiatives from Women's Budget Statements that have effectively addressed challenges faced by women and girls in the ACT?
- (4)** How does the government ensure these initiatives consider intersectionality and avoid unintended consequences?
- (5)** What measures are in place to assess the effectiveness of gender budgeting practices in achieving their intended outcomes?
- (6)** How does the government plan to improve transparency and accountability in reporting the gendered impacts of budget decisions?

Yvette Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1)** The ACT Government noted Recommendation 47 from the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024 report relating to the Women's Budget Statement (WBS). It has continued its efforts to ensure gender is considered in policy development and budget processes, with ongoing work in this area including the development and promotion of supporting resources for directorates to assist in gender analysis and gender responsive budgeting processes, which is a deliverable under the Second Action Plan of the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26. These efforts work towards better supporting all parts of Government to consider how their budget proposals will meet the different needs of women and girls.

The ACT Government continues to improve the Women's Budget Statement with additional content to provide greater insight into the impact of Government investment decisions for women and girls. The 2024-25 Women's Budget Statement included a demographic snapshot of women in the ACT, demonstrated impact of initiatives with person-centred case studies, as well as an analysis of continuing and new budget initiatives which align with the priority areas in the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26.

- (2) Since the 2021-22 Budget, it has been a requirement that all Budget business cases be accompanied by a Wellbeing Impact Assessment (WIA), which asks drafters to identify how the proposal will impact the wellbeing of different groups in the community, including women and girls. In addition, proposals undergo a separate gender impact analysis as a part of the WIA review process. This gender impact analysis is included in Treasury briefings to inform and support decision-making.

The WIA template is updated each year as required to improve the way information on the wellbeing impacts of proposals is collected.

For the 2024-25 Budget, the updated template required drafters to include additional information, where available, on whether the proposal was expected to have a greater impact on men or women. This additional data provided further insight into the wellbeing impact of proposals to support decision-making.

In the lead-up to the 2024-25 Budget, new resources were developed to support staff drafting WIAs to identify the impact of proposals on different groups in the community, including to support awareness of intersectionality and identify the way proposals will impact people in our community differently depending on the intersection of different aspects of their identity.

Directorates are supported to consider the gendered impacts of budget proposals, including through information sessions, feedback on WIAs, and additional resources as needed.

- (3) The 2024-25 WBS includes several case studies which showcase initiatives which have effectively addressed challenges faced by women and girls in the ACT. They have been identified to align with focus areas of the ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026 and include: ACT community pharmacy Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) and Oral Contraceptive Pill (OCP) trial; the ACT's Accessible Abortion Scheme; Family Violence Safety Action Program; Family Violence Response for Children; Return to Work (RTW) Program; Understanding Building and Construction Program; Quality early childhood education for three-year-old children; MacKillop House; Court Navigator Program; Health Justice Partnerships; and female friendly changerooms.
- (4) Directorates are provided with resources to support awareness of intersectionality and identify the way/s their budget proposals will impact people in our community differently depending on the intersection of different aspects of their identity.
- (5) Gender impact analysis is undertaken through the Wellbeing Impact Assessments and a separate gender impact analysis. The ACT Government is continuing to work to better support directorates to consider the gendered impacts of budget proposals, including through information sessions and feedback on their WIAs.
- (6) Progressing gender responsive budgeting is an iterative process. The WBS reports on the gendered impacts of budget decisions by identifying some of the budget measures which

directly or indirectly impact women and girls. As the Government continues to evolve the WBS it is also reporting on progress made on key initiatives impacting women and girls in the ACT.

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

Signature:

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Date:

14/08/24

By the Minister for Women, Ms Yvette Berry