



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
1 March 2021

Asked by JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA:

In relation to:

MR DAVIS: My question is not quick. Do you reckon in one minute you could fit in a quick update on where we are up to removing the discrimination against sexually active gay men donating blood and where the ACT sits on that work?

Mr Barr: Okay, so I understand the TGA provided some advice that reduced the waiting period but still requires abstinence, as I understand it. So it is not quite there yet in terms of an outcome, sort of a risk-based outcome.

MR DAVIS: No.

Mr Barr: Let me take it on notice and I can get a little bit more detailed exactly where it is at.

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

Requirements regarding blood donation are a matter for the Commonwealth. However, we understand that the deferral period for blood and plasma donors recently changed. Gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men now need to wait three months, not 12 months, from their last sexual contact with a man before they can donate. The ACT Government will continue to advocate for further changes to improve restrictions on blood donations from gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men, while ensuring that blood collection processes are as safe as possible for blood donors and recipients alike.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Community Inclusion

Signature: 

Date: 12.3.21

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA