



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

QoN No - 5

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services:

Ref: Budget Outlook p 149

In relation to: COVID-19 Response – Community support package (CSP)

1. Can the Assistant Minister please provide a complete breakdown of costs for the COVID-19 Response – CSP, detailing each community organisation that was included?
2. Did the ACT Government receive any additional funding requests that were not supported by the CSP from the community during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to help meet their service demands? If so, from whom and how were they supported?
  - a. If there were funding requests that were not supported by the ACT Government, for what reasons?

EMMA DAVIDSON MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. When ACT went into lockdown on 12 August 2021 due to COVID-19, the Community Services Directorate responded to the community need with a range of COVID-19 Community Support funding. On 24 August 2021 Cabinet also approved additional funding to support vulnerable culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members including international students. The total funding allocations went to the following community organisations supporting specific community need:

Ministerial/ Cabinet Category - Commitments	Purpose /Program	Organisation	Community Support Package and CALD specific Funding - GST excl.
<b>Emergency Food Relief</b>	Manage the Canberra Relief Network	Canberra Region Community Services Inc.	\$ 450,000.00  (an additional \$263,000 was provided from CSD cash reserves)
	Organisations provide timely support to individuals and	Care Inc	\$ 10,000.00

<b>Ministerial/ Cabinet Category - Commitments</b>	<b>Purpose /Program</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Community Support Package and CALD specific Funding - GST excl.</b>
<b>Emergency Material and Financial Aid</b>	families (including carers) experiencing disadvantage and financial stress. Support can include food hampers, vouchers, clothing, and payment of bills. Also, information and referral about other services such as financial counselling or case management.	St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra Goulburn	\$ 10,000.00
		The Salvation Army Canberra Goulburn	\$ 10,000.00
		Uniting Care Kippax	\$ 10,000.00
		Volunteering ACT Community Info Hub	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Crisis Support</b>	Seniors	COTA	\$ 5,000.00
	Seniors and veterans	Woden Valley RSL	\$ 1,666.00
	Seniors and veterans	Vietnam Veterans Federation	\$ 1,666.00
	Seniors and veterans	Legacy Canberra	\$ 1,666.00
	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse	Companion House	\$ 10,000
<b>Crisis Support</b>	Domestic and Family violence services To enhance the direct crisis support for women, children and families impacted by DFV, including the provision of emergency accommodation where appropriate.	Domestic Violence and Crisis Service (DVCS)	\$ 50,000.00
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific services</b>	To meet increasing demand for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific services that provide supports directly to the community.	Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation	\$ 25,000
		Yeddung Mura	\$ 5,000
		Yerrabi Yurwang	\$ 10,000
<b>Disability Support</b>	Disability support and assistance To provide brokerage funds for people with disability or organisations who support people with disability who are impacted by COVID-19 and require additional supports.	Hadrill Accounting, Prudent Plan Management	\$ 40,000
<b>Emergency Material and Financial Aid – CALD and</b>	Emergency and Material Aid to vulnerable CALD communities	Community Services #1	\$ 45,666

Ministerial/ Cabinet Category - Commitments	Purpose /Program	Organisation	Community Support Package and CALD specific Funding - GST excl.
Refugee and Asylum Seekers	Emergency and Material Aid to vulnerable CALD communities	Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre for the MHub	\$ 45,666
	Emergency and Material Aid to vulnerable CALD communities	Companion House	\$ 45,666
Dedicated Liaison Officers supporting families in isolation	Liaison Officers	Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre for the MHub	\$ 67,500
	Liaison Officers	Companion House	\$ 67,500
Support to Temporary Visa Holders and Asylum Seeker Support	Emergency support program for vulnerable individuals and families and includes international Students	Australian Red Cross	\$ 118,000
	Additional RASH allocation for Access Card Holders	Various	\$ 60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 1,099,996</b>

2. On 8 September 2021, Minister Rachel Steven-Smith received a letter from OzHarvest ACT, with copies also going to Chief Minister Andrew Barr, Deputy Chief Minister Yvette Berry and Minister Vassarotti. The letter outlined the work that OzHarvest was undertaking to support the Canberra community with additional food relief and sought “additional funding from the ACT Government that is in line with the contribution... [OzHarvest] ...provide to the ACT community”. This request was not supported as a significant amount of investment had been made in the food relief system to support the community during this time through the Canberra Relief Network (CRN) and the COVID-19 Community Support Package. The request also did not outline what specific funding amount was sought nor how it might be utilised to enhance the services of OzHarvest.

Ozharvest did not provide a request for additional funding through the 2021-22 Community Budget Bids. In the response to the above letter sent on 29 October 2021, OzHarvest were encouraged to participate in the ACT Government’s 2022-23 Budget Consultation process, through which they can make recommendations on how and where Government should invest to boost services and infrastructure, along with how we ensure a fair and sustainable base for funding these ideas. Information on the next round of budget consultation will be posted on the ‘Have Your Say’ website as the 2022-23 budget cycle commences - <https://www.budgetconsultation.act.gov.au/input-have-your-say>

On 16 September, Chief Minister Andrew Barr received a letter from you requesting funding for Ms Le Kim Ngan Tran who runs the Asian Noodle House in Belconnen and who, from 12 August until 30 August, provided for and delivered approximately 2000 meals to vulnerable individuals and families at a cost of approximately \$8000.

This letter was passed to me.

This request was not able to be supported as a significant amount of investment had been made in the food relief system to support the community during this time through the Canberra Relief Network (CRN) and the COVID-19 Community Support Package.

On 19 September, I received an email from Mr Nazmul Hassan, requesting funding to continue to provide free Halal hot meals to 'the most vulnerable Canberrans'.

Mr Hassan also wrote to the Chief Minister with the same request. Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) managed this request with additional funding provided to Mr Hassan.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 26 November 2021

By the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Emma Davidson MLA