



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 TAKEN ON NOTICE
20 October 2021

QToN No - 24

Asked by Mrs Jones on 20 October 2021: Emma Davidson took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 20 October 2021 PAGE 14

In relation to:

Reduction in Emergency Department presentations as a result of PACER and how it's affecting waiting times

Minister Davidson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

There is strong evidence that this co-response model has to date delivered upon its objectives. Most notably, the data indicates

- Four out of every five people assessed by PACER could remain in the community without requiring further assessment and/or admission to hospital.
- PACER was only required to enact Emergency Apprehension provisions of the *Mental Health Act 2015* for 1 out of 8 people it assessed.
- Of those who are transported to a hospital emergency department by PACER, over 60 per cent are admitted to an inpatient unit.
- Less than one in 10 people assessed by PACER who remained in the community, were subsequently admitted to hospital in a two-week period subsequent to the PACER contact.

When considered together, these results suggest PACER is:

- Reducing demand on police, ambulance, emergency departments and acute mental health inpatient units by forgoing the need to transport people to hospital emergency departments for further assessment and/or admission.

- Exercising clinically appropriate judgments and decision-making in terms of who is transferred to hospital and who can safely remain in the community following PACER contact.
- Limiting the use of restrictive practices for people experiencing acute mental health concerns.

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: *30 OCT 2021*

By the Minister for Mental Health, Emma Davidson