



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. 17

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

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

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Monday 21 February 2022

Asked by **MS ORR** on 21 February 2022: Jacinta Evans took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 21 February 2022, PAGE 40

In relation to: Would you be able to provide a copy of the fact sheets, on notice, to the committee so that we can see the good work that is going on there?

MS DAVIDSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government has been working with Carers ACT to develop appropriate supporting material about the *Carer Recognition Act 2021* and obligations under the Act.

The member will be provided with a copy when the fact sheets are distributed to community sector partners.

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 8 March 2022

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

MS ORR: I appreciate that you might not be able to rattle that off in the hearing. You said there were a number of fact sheets and other things; what are the resources that you are providing to care and carer support agencies to help with their reporting? Can you provide a bit more detail on that?

Ms Davidson: I will pass to Jacinta to answer that in detail.

Ms Evans: Ms Orr, the fact sheets are around assisting the care agencies to understand what the principles are, what their role is in ensuring that carers are able to be recognised for their efforts and for the dedication they have, for the social and economic contribution they make to

our community, to have their social wellbeing and health recognised in matters within the care relationship and to have the effect of their role as a carer on their participation in employment and education recognised and considered in decision-making.

In saying all of that, the most important part about what we are trying to bring to the directorates' attention is that carers can sometimes be a bit unseen within the work that each agency is doing, because they may be working with a particular person who is their client. The carer, as their support person, may not be as visible. We are trying to make clear for our support agencies how they should work to acknowledge the role and the contribution of carers in that relationship.

MS ORR: Would you be able to provide a copy of the fact sheets, on notice, to the committee so that we can see the good work that is going on there? Also, has any consideration been given to when the first reporting date will be for the obligations under the act for agencies?

Ms Davidson: I might pass to Jacinta, if she is able to provide the detail on that; otherwise we can take it on notice for the exact date.

Ms Evans: Minister, I do not have the exact date, but if the intention is to report within about 12 months, it is probably at the end of this year.

MS ORR: Part of the act requires consultation with carers or with a carer agency. Has any consideration been given to providing additional funding or resourcing to any of the peak groups to assist with meeting those obligations under the act?

Ms Davidson: Before I pass to Jacinta to talk about resourcing support for organisations that we are engaging with, I can tell you that we continue to engage with organisations like Carers ACT about a whole range of different issues. They have been really helpful in providing advocacy for carers and helping us to understand how we can better support them. I will pass to Jacinta, who can talk a bit more about what resourcing support we provide to those organisations.

Ms Evans: There has been no additional support provided since the implementation of the bill, since the bill was introduced. As you would be aware, any additional funding would be subject to the budget process. However, as we are looking at this kind of level of implementation, we are thinking about the existing supports that are in place and how they can be reflected better.

Many different directorates, for instance, may be gathering data on the way that they support their clients, so some of the implementation of the bill will be around getting them to reflect on when there are interactions with a carer as well. Some of that does not require additional funding; it is more around considering how we would change some of our reporting processes.