



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Braddock MLA on 8 November 2022: Mr Shane Rattenbury took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 8 November, Page 131

In relation to:

MR BRADDOCK: Thank you. I have raised in previous hearings concerns about death certificates, particularly for those who have died by suicide containing basically traumatic information and means as well. Is that something that will be looked at as part of that policy reform?

Mr Rattenbury: I know the Coroner has discussed—has looked at that and he has told me he was looking at it, but I cannot remember specifically what he was doing in that space, so let me take that question on notice and if I have any update I will provide it to you.

Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government is currently pursuing reform of the ACT coronial process, aimed at making the process more timely, inclusive and trauma informed. To assist, an independent facilitator is being retained who will examine the current system and help identify impactful and specific reform opportunities.

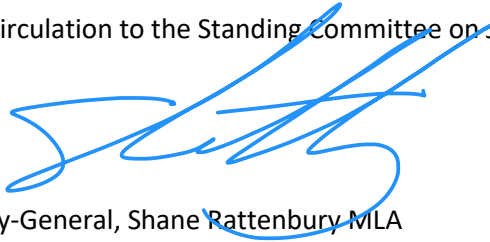
I am aware that preliminary consultation has occurred with the ACT Coroner's Court with respect to the contents of a death certificate and anticipate that this topic will be further considered by the independent facilitator as part of the broader reform consultation process.

I am also aware that families have the option to receive an abridged death certificate which omits cause of death information, and that this option may assist in reducing the distress and privacy concerns of family members in some situations.

Otherwise, I note that responsibility for Births, Deaths and Marriages lies with the Minister for Human Rights, Tara Cheyne MLA.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Rattenbury', written over the text 'Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety'.

Date: 20/11/22

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA