



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ref: ESA

Hearing Date: 18/07/2023

In relation to: Fire & Rescue Wellbeing initiatives

Noting that Budget Statement D describes a strategic and operational priority of “undertaking feasibility studies to improve staff development and wellbeing in the ESA”, what activities is this intended to include, and is it intended to include the commitment to a wellbeing initiative for firefighters as prescribed in the Fire and Rescue enterprise agreement?

If this does not include the wellbeing initiative for firefighters as prescribed in the Fire and Rescue enterprise agreement, then how has this been budgeted for?

How much money has been budgeted for the wellbeing initiative for firefighters as prescribed in the Fire and Rescue enterprise agreement?

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows: –

The recurrent funding of \$3.426 million over two years in the 2023-24 Budget (page 30 of Budget Book D) for the *Well-prepared emergency services – More support for ACT Fire & Rescue staff* initiative will provide additional resources to assist with recruiting and career development initiatives and to meet existing cost pressures for ACT Fire & Rescue.

The funding will also support measures to improve staff development and wellbeing in the ACT Emergency Services Agency, which includes ACT Fire & Rescue.

In relation to the feasibility studies, \$1 million has been allocated over two years to fund two feasibility studies at \$500,000 per year. The key deliverables for these feasibilities are:

- to determine and examine the current ESA Mental Health and Wellbeing Program for emergency services workers and volunteers and examine the ESA delivery of training, learning packages and outcomes that are appropriate for the workforce of today.
- measure success through the feasibility study reporting which will contain an analysis and viability for an ESA Mental Health and Wellbeing Program and training package for emergency services workers and volunteers, now and into the future, including recommendations and options for consideration.

- Both feasibility studies will provide the ESA valuable information on how to improve support for our emergency services workers and volunteers, improving their work life balance, fatigue management and self-care skills. It will also enable the ACT Government and the ESA to provide well and safe service appropriate provision to meet the needs of the emergency services workers and volunteers to then continue successfully to provide their services to the community.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

31/7/2023

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman MLA