



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

MRS ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA : To ask the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Budget Outlook, p. 3

Hearing Date: 25 July 2023

In relation to: Support for the Volunteering Sector

- (1) For three consecutive years, VolunteeringACT have sought funding for additional resourcing to develop and implement an ACT volunteering strategy and investment plan. This year, this request was expanded to include financial assistance for Volunteer Involving Organisations via a flexible projects fund. Has any part of these requests been addressed in this year's budget?
- (2) Which other initiatives in this budget (if any) provide direct financial assistance to support the development and sustainability of the volunteering sector in the ACT?

MINISTER DAVIDSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- (1) Throughout 2023-24, the ACT Government (led by Community Services Directorate) is working within existing resourcing to develop a new five-year ACT volunteering strategy and associated action plan.

This will include analysing and utilising findings from the recently released listening report by VolunteeringACT on the state of the sector, linkages to the new National Strategy for Volunteering 2023-2033, and a community consultation process.

- (2) VolunteeringACT is funded to deliver the *Peak Body Program* for the period 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2027. The total value of this grant is \$1,219,291.30 (GST exclusive) and supports the core activities of a peak organisation, including supporting, informing and engaging its Represented Group and ensuring the voices of its Represented Group is heard and/or reflected in policy advice and systemic advocacy.

VolunteeringACT is also funded \$643,779.33 (GST exclusive) for the 2023-24 financial year to run the *Community Information Service Program*. VolunteeringACT also received a grant of \$475,000 (GST exclusive) to deliver the *Food Security Program* for the period 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2025. The *Food Security Program* includes the development of a Food Relief Database to facilitate evidence-informed decision making for emergency relief in the ACT, a Communications Strategy and the establishment of a Food Relief Network to share resources, ideas and best practice approaches.

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 17 August 2023

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