



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr James Milligan MLA on 14 November 2023: Ms Perkins took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard proof transcript 14 November 2023 [PAGE 15]

In relation to: Food relief database

THE CHAIR: You mentioned earlier the food relief database. As I understand it, at last estimates it was indicated that \$475,000 has been allocated to that over four years. Ms Kikkert asked some questions in relation to that database, and the response was that it was still in the early stages. I am wondering: where is that up to, and when will the government be providing some information?

Ms Perkins: The work is still in development. It is being managed by our community partners, Volunteering ACT. In terms of specifics, we can take that on notice and seek further information from Volunteering ACT.

Ms Emma Davidson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

A final testing version of the database was released in March 2023 for the food security sector through the Food Relief Network, with testing completed in May 2023. Once the database is adopted across a sufficient number of pantries in the region, a data warehouse will be created to collate food relief data from across the Canberra Region.

To-date the following pantries are working with Volunteering ACT and adopting the database to record food-relief data:

- St Vincent De Paul pantries
- Anglicare pantries
- Community Services #1
- St Johns Care
- Holy Cross Tuckerbox
- UCX (University of Canberra)
- Uniting Care Kippax

The following pantries are working to ensure their current database systems will integrate data into the data warehouse:

- Canberra City Cares
- Communities at Work

While many pantries are actively working with the project, adoption of the database has been challenging due to the current demand in the sector. This demand has greatly increased throughout 2023, resulting in lower capacity across services to engage in non-frontline activities.

VolunteeringACT will continue to promote adoption and support pantries through the adoption process. Work to commence the data warehouse will begin early in the new year.

It is expected that reporting from the data warehouse will commence in the first half of 2024.

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 28 November 2023

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