



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA

Reference: Hearing on 14 November 2023, Annual Report of Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Carers Strategy and Policy and Further Action Plans

The Annual Report mentions continued delivery of the ACT Carers Strategy on p. 50. This strategy was launched in 2018 with a 'First Three-Year Action Plan' (2018–2021) that was reported on in December 2021. Two years later, there has been no mention of a second action plan.

1. Does the government intend to release any additional action plans?
2. If not, how will implementation of the strategy be measured and tracked?

Minister Davidson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Future progress under the *ACT Carers Strategy 2018-2028* (Carers Strategy) will be guided by additional action plans, but these will reflect a different approach to the first 3-year Action Plan. The ACT Government announced new funding for Carers ACT of \$825,000 over 4 years in the 2022-23 ACT Budget, enabling Carers ACT to lead the implementation of the Carers Strategy. As the lead agency, Carers ACT will continue to uphold the vision, outcomes and priorities of the Carers Strategy, but will also bring a refreshed approach to implementation.

Carers ACT plans to develop agile Action Plans to guide future efforts under the Carers Strategy. Short and longer-term Action Plans will align with priorities and outcomes established under the Carers Strategy, while working to support and embed progress delivered under the first Action Plan. Carers will be central in determining actions and how they are progressed, and Carers ACT will continue to engage with the ACT Government on proposed actions.

2. The new funding supports Carers ACT to lead future work in line with the overarching framework of the Carers Strategy, which was developed in consultation with the ACT carer community.

Carers ACT will report annually to the Community Services Directorate (CSD) on:

- progress towards recognition and awareness of carers through an annual recognition event
- activities to ensure carers' voices are at the centre of work undertaken (including the governance of the Carers Strategy), and
- resources to support carers to continue in their role.

This annual reporting will enable CSD to measure and track implementation of the Carers Strategy. Carers ACT's 2023-23 annual reporting provided information about a wide range of activities underway, which are contributing to ongoing implementation of the Carers Strategy.

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

Signature: 

Date: 28/11/23

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