



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

In relation to: WWVP scheme and Advice to Minister

Hearing: 13 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 31-32

Transcript provided: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 26 November 2025

MS BARRY: What advice did you provide to the minister before the decision to put the—impose the \$11 fee and afterwards? If it is a conversation, if it is—whatever it is, what, if any? If it is a no, it is a no.

Ms Orr: So, if it is a question of—as to—so obviously, there is a budget process there and a cabinet process there. I am not going to give away deliberations of cabinet. Again, I am pointing to my directorate, which acts on my behalf, has provided information and input information into the considerations that Access Canberra had, noting that they are the ones who took this forward.

MS BARRY: So, there was directorate to directorate advice, but no advice coming to you to approve from your office?

Ms Orr: Ms Barry, I have already said that my directorate then briefed me, usually in advisory—

MS BARRY: That is not what you said.

Ms Orr: I actually said that earlier in the conversation. I said after the directorate had met with Access Canberra and following that, that advice would usually come to me in the form of an advisory note for noting as to what they had said to Access Canberra.

MS BARRY: Okay. So wait, was this before or after? The advice that you were briefed on, was that before or after?

Ms Orr: It is throughout a longer period of time. It is not one or the other, I get advice on a continual basis, Ms Barry.

MS BARRY: Okay. Are you willing to provide the committee with that advice? Because, again, the FOI request was, “No, there was no advice.” So if there is advice now, are you willing to provide it to the committee?

Ms Orr: Ms Barry, I am going to take that on notice and have a look at the FOI and to what has been provided to you. If there is advice there that you believe has not been provided, I dare say it is because of cabinet in confidence.

MS BARRY: Would it be cabinet in confidence after the decision was made if it is a decision after—if it is an advice after the decision has been made? There would not be a cabinet in confidence advice then if the decision had already been made before.

Ms Orr: Ms Barry, I will take the question on notice, and I will see if there is any further information I can provide you.

MS BARRY: Thank you.

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

In your FOI request (FOI-CSD-25/16) you requested the following:

"All documents including briefings, submissions, responses and emails sent to the Chief Minister relating to consideration of the imposition of a fee to be imposed for an application for a Working With Vulnerable People Card for Volunteers. Request includes any such considerations or documentation covering Budget considerations from 2015 to 2025."

The Health and Community Services Directorate undertook thorough searches for documents within scope of your request, being briefs, briefings, submissions, responses and emails sent to the Chief Minister from the Directorate relating to consideration of a fee to be imposed for an application for a Working With Vulnerable People Card. No documents relevant to your request were located during this process. The Information Officer determined no relevant documents were held by the Health and Community Services Directorate.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

Date: 26/11/25

By the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA