



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mrs Giulia Jones MLA (Chair), Ms Bec Cody MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA,  
Mr Chris Steel MLA

## Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual reports

Responses to questions on notice following on from the public hearing of  
8 November 2017

**Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family  
Violence**



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STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

GIULIA JONES MLA (CHAIR), BEC CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA, CHRIS STEEL MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**



Asked by **Caroline Le Couteur MLA** to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

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In relation to: the Family Safety Hub:

1. Does the Family Safety Hub respond to sexual violence that has not occurred in a family violence setting?
2. If so, what features and facilities directly support victims of sexual violence?
3. If not, what services exist to support victims of sexual violence outside of a family violence setting?
4. Does the ACT have specialist support services for victims of sexual violence?
5. If so, are these support services at or over capacity?
6. If so, what additional funding is in the pipeline to support those services?


**Minister Berry:** The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:–

1. The proposed model for the Family Safety Hub is being developed through a process of co design and is yet to be considered by Government.
2. Not applicable.
3. The Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC) provides a specialist response to sexual assault, related to domestic and family violence and otherwise, in the ACT. CRCC provides support to victims of sexual assault via crisis lines, counselling, advocacy, and community education programs.
4. As above.
5. Since the beginning of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse, CRCC has reported an increasing presentation of victims of sexual assault, many of whom have complex needs and require longer periods of support. Additionally, since the release of the Human Rights Commission Report, there has been an increase in demand for services from the CRCC for university students who are victims of sexual assault.

6. CRCC has multiple funding sources across the ACT Government and Commonwealth Governments, a full-time councillor funded jointly by ANU and the ANU Students Association, and through the Royal Commission. The CRCC was provided additional funding of \$100,000 on top of base level funding, in the 2016-17 Safer Families package in order to deal with increasing demand. Discussion between Governments and CRCC are ongoing to discuss the challenges to service demands within current budget allocations, noting the Royal Commission funding expires on 30 June 2018.

Approved for circulation to the ~~Standing Committee~~ on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date: 06/12/17

By the Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette Berry



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GIULIA JONES MLA (CHAIR), BEC CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ELIZABETH LEE MLA, CHRIS STEEL MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **Elizabeth Kikkert MLA** to the: Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Ref: Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2016–2017

In relation to: Family Safety

1. Ms Wood, Ms Rosenberg and Ms Berry explained in the hearing some of the reasons why it took seven years for the ACT to implement a number of the recommendations contained in the joint Australia and New South Wales Reform Commissions report, Family Violence – A National Legal Response'. These included lengthy consultations at the local level plus 'lining up other states and territories so that it would be a national approach'. The annual report also notes other recommendations that are emerging for best practice regarding family violence. Now that preliminary steps have been taken, how quickly should we expect to see these recommendations implemented by the ACT Government? Will they take as long? What are some of them that will be implemented soon?
2. Regarding removing 'obligations on victims of family violence to display their current residential address on their driver licence' (Annual Report, pp. 19–20), how exactly does this provision work? Who notifies victims that removing their residential address is an option? Does a victim need to meet certain requirements to qualify for this provision? What are they? Can you provide any other insights?

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

1. The joint Australia and New South Wales Reform Commissions report, 'Family Violence – A National Legal Response' contained 186 recommendations in total. In preparing the report, the Commissions received over 240 submissions from a wide range of stakeholders, some of whom were agencies within the ACT Government. Part of the unified Australian response to the report included arranging a national working group which assessed each recommendation and categorised the 186 recommendations into four categories:
  - 131 States and Territories only recommendations
  - 22 Commonwealth only recommendations
  - 24 joint Commonwealth and State recommendations, and
  - 9 National collaboration project recommendations.



The ACT Government systematically reviewed the recommendations in the report to assess those that impacted on the ACT. As part of this review, the ACT received written submissions and hosted six roundtable consultations with government and non-government agencies from 2012 to 2016.

Of the 131 State and Territory recommendations, over 60 percent have been actioned. Some had already been implemented or required no action in the ACT (for example the recommendations applied to legislation that the ACT did not have), around 20 percent were implemented through legislation in the Family Violence Act 2016, with a number requiring non-legislative, cultural or administrative changes (for example police operating guidelines or codes of practice for family violence).

The remaining recommendations fall into the following categories:

- the recommendations interact with Federal reviews, and need national consensus on jurisdictional-specific amendments that align with federal laws (for example, the intersection between the child care and protection and family law systems)
- the recommendations were likely to be covered in more specific detail through the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and should be considered in that context (for example, amendments to tendency and coincidence laws)
- the recommendations involve particularly complex human rights, legal or technical changes that require significant further planning and consultation (for example creating homicide defences).

Implementation of the remaining recommendations will be progressed in accordance with other family and sexual violence commitments that the ACT Government has made.

2. a) How exactly does this provision work?

The ACT Government has a system in place to support people in refuges, victims of domestic and family violence and people experiencing homelessness to obtain a driver's licence, proof of identity card or vehicle registration where they are unable to provide a residential address, or their preference is to keep their address confidential due to domestic and family violence safety concerns.

The client is required to provide a letter of introduction from a refuge or support agency to an Access Canberra Service Centre. The letter should state the following:

- name of the client;
- that they are known to the letter writer; and
- the address that should be recorded on RTA records for the client.

Please note the address needs to be somewhere that can ensure mail is delivered to the client and also to be able to contact the client in case of an emergency situation, for example, if the client's motor vehicle has been involved in a crash and police need to contact family or support networks. The address recorded will not be the address of the refuge, but the contact address provided.

The client presents this letter to an Access Canberra Service Centre and staff will update records with the new address and issue a new driver licence.



b) Who notifies victims that removing their residential address is an option?

Information about this option is included in the proof of identity and residency handouts provided by Access Canberra. Information about the option to have an alternative address recorded on your driver's licence has been recently disseminated through the Women's Services Sector, to ensure those organisations working closely with women experiencing domestic and family violence are aware of the system.

c) Does a victim need to meet certain requirements to qualify for this provision?

There are no further requirements to qualify for this provision.

d) What are they?

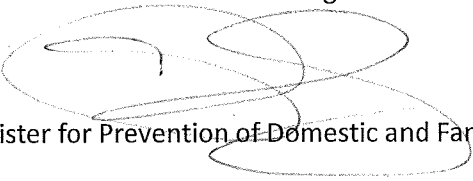
Not applicable

e) Can you provide any other insights?

This system recognises that obtaining a driver's licence can be a crucial step for a woman to regain her independence after escaping domestic and family violence. It also recognises that domestic and family violence does not always cease following separation, and the period immediately following separation is one of heightened risk.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date: 06/12/17

By the [Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette Berry

