



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Ref: Output Class 1.5 Safer Families, Community Services Directorate (CSD) Annual Report 2020–2021

In relation to the Room4Change program by Domestic Violence and Crisis Services (DVCS)

1. The Minister stated that ongoing evaluation on the Room4Change program is required in order to determine any expansions of the program, as well as possible funding beyond 2022-2023. Aside from the independent evaluation conducted by Dr Jason Payne, what other sources of evaluation have been sought by the ACT Government?
2. The Minister stated that the Room4Change program is a nation-leading, one-of-a-kind program that complies with standards, follows best practice and has been designed in consultation with experts. Can the Minister please detail the standards and best practice?
 - a) Can the Minister please detail the expert organisations and/or individuals consulted in the design and implementation of the program?

MS BERRY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The evaluation of Room4Change demonstrates how the program is supporting the safety of women and children, and how it supports men to change their behaviour. The program will continue to be revised, including based on any expert advice that is received, to ensure it is working well. The independent evaluation, ongoing monitoring of participant outcomes, and any other information received about Room4Change, will inform future government decisions in relation to the program.
2. The program's practices prioritise safety, respect and self-determination. Room4Change combines multiple forms of support, for perpetrators as well as their

partners, ex-partners and children. Room4Change aligns with the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions and outcomes 4 and 6 of the current *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*.

- a. Room4Change was designed by the Domestic Violence Crisis service, a specialist domestic and family violence organisation with expertise in the subject matter as well as knowledge of the ACT community. Elements of Room4Change were developed based on or informed by the following expert organisations/programs:
 - i. The Western Australian *Breathing Space Program*
 - ii. The *Emerge* counselling program
 - iii. The *Taking Responsibility for Respectful Relationships* program originated by Tod Augusta-Scott, of Bridges, a DFV organisation based in Nova Scotia, Canada
 - iv. Curriculum designed by Ontario-based organisation, Caring Dads.

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

Signature:



Date: 21/03/22

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