



## Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**28 February 2022**

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Question asked by Ms Lawder on 28 February 2022 and taken on notice by Ms Jessica Summerrell –

“[Regarding the] Gender Impact Analysis Tool and the number of requests for assistance – are you able to give me a ballpark figure of how many people have asked for assistance?”

*Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 28 February, page 55.*

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

The Gender Impact Analysis Tool was developed to support ACT Public Service employees to undertake better analysis of the impact their programs and services will have on men, women and gender diverse individuals in the ACT and provides a template for preparing a Gender Impact Statement where this is required. The tool was designed to also be of use to the broader ACT business and community sectors.

The use of the Gender Impact Analysis Tool across the ACT Public Service is not tracked and the Community Services Directorate (CSD) does not collect statistics on requests for assistance when using the tool.

However, it is estimated requests for assistance occurred on approximately 20 occasions in 2021.

The tool is one of several resources available on the resources page of the CSD website. Statistics are not available for users accessing the document specifically, however during the period July to December 2021 there were approximately 46 hits on average to the resources page per month.

While the Gender Impact Analysis Tool is available to all ACTPS staff and is designed to be utilised as a stand-alone document to guide users through the process, there is no requirement to send completed templates to CSD for approval or endorsement.

The template contains contact details for the Office for Women (OfW) within CSD and encourages users to contact OfW for assistance, in the event the explanatory notes are insufficient.

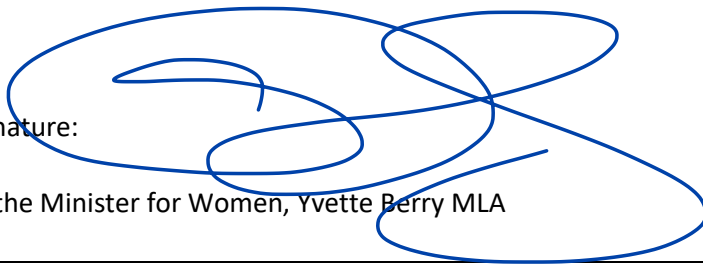
OfW provides this assistance through commenting on drafted statements as well as through advice over the phone or in person when requested.

In this context, during the 2021-22 Budget process, all business cases were accompanied by a Wellbeing Impact Assessment, which also considers gender.

OfW staff were involved in reviewing budget business cases as part of Wellbeing Advisory Process Discussion Groups for the 2021-22 budget. OfW also reviewed the Wellbeing Impact Assessments for successful business cases in the preparation of the Women's Budget Statement.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves.

By the Minister for Women, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

18/03/22

MS LAWDER: Thank you, Chair. Minister, I would like to talk a little about the gender impact statements that were introduced by CSD as part of a commitment for the first action plan of the ACT Women's Plan 2016 to 26. I asked a question about this in October, I think it was at estimates hearings, at which I was told they were not tracked, there is no way of knowing how many people might be doing them. What is the point of having these gender impact statements if: (a) ACT government employees are not required to complete them; or (b) submit them; or (c) if it is not tracked in any way?

Ms Berry: Ms Summerrell, this might be something you could respond to.

Ms Summerrell: Sure. Thanks, minister. Thank you very much for the question. So the gender impact assessments are a really important tool and we definitely encourage directorates to use them, and with their continued use obviously we are able to then look at more information and more data that is available. They are a really valuable tool to assist the ACT government to consider the impact of gender in policy and planning and the Office for Women remains available to assist any directorate or area that would like assistance with the completion of that tool, and they are part of a tool kit that is being used to assist developing further work in the impact analysis process. I mean, the Office for Women will always remain available to help, and using that and encouraging areas to use it is one of the priorities of Office for Women.

MS LAWDER: So the answer I got to the question on notice was that, "The use of the gender impact analysis tool"—which appears to be what you may be calling it now—"is not tracked. There is no requirement to submit completed templates to the office and the Office for Women does not keep statistics on the number of requests for assistance." So are you able to give me a ball park figure of how many people have asked for assistance, you know, just a bit of a guess?

Ms Berry: Just before Ms Summerrell goes there, I think the reason why it is not tracked, Ms Lawder, is that it is a support service, if you like, for directorates to be able to use this to check in and see how people are feeling. I do not know if we would have numbers available. We could definitely take that part of the question on notice and see if there is anything available from different directorates, but I guess the purpose of the tool is just to provide those supports and to use it as a tool, not as a sort of mandatory reporting process.

Question - Gender Impact analysis tool - and the number of requests for assistance." So are you able to give me a ball park figure of how many people have asked for assistance.