



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS QToN No.
10

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
Mr Peter Cain MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Penalties for minor offences and vulnerable people
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
21 June 2023

Asked by MR BRADDOCK on 21 JUNE 2023: MR RATTENBURY took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Uncorrected Proof Transcript 21 June 2023 pp 71-72

In relation to: Funding for the Aboriginal Legal Service Drivers Licence Program

MR BRADDOCK: Also, the Justice Reform Initiative they were talking about reinstating funding for the Aboriginal Legal Service Driving Licensing Program. And I was just keen to get an update in terms of what the decision is there and whether it might be possible to get ongoing support of that program?

MR STEEL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The Aboriginal Legal Service Driver Licensing Program (ALS Program) was funded as a pilot through the 2017 Road Safety Fund community grants. It included an Aboriginal Accredited Driving Instructor (ADI) who provided driving lessons and testing to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learner licence holders to obtain a provisional licence.

There is no plan to reinstate the ALS Program. The Graduated Licensing Scheme reforms introduced in January 2020 include 100 minimum driving hours for learners under 25 years old, which means the original ALS Program design would no longer be viable.

The Road Safety Fund is funding a new four-year Learner Driver Mentor Program (LDM Program). Through an open tender process, the Salvation Army has recently been contracted to deliver the LDM Program which will provide 30 participants per annum to be mentored through the licensing process, including access to 10 hours of lessons with an ACT ADI, learner driver training and education programs, and supervised mentor driving hours.

An additional 100 participants per annum will gain free access to the Safer Driver Course, providing theory and practical driving with an ACT ADI and accounting for 20 hours credit to the minimum driving hours.

The LDM Program will prioritise disadvantaged, vulnerable, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learner drivers aged under 25 years.

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The Road Safety Fund is also providing funding for two years to the Community Services Directorate to develop and deliver a program that targets unsafe driving related behaviour by vulnerable young people in either or both a youth justice and/or care and protection context.

The three components of this program are: Values and Peer Pressure; Understanding the Impact of Unsafe Road Use; and Recreational Activity (a high adrenaline and/or art/music program). The program design and content will consider relevant literature, including research on effective interventions for young people involved in the justice and care systems.

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

Signature: 

Date: 30/6/23

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA