



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by [Mr Mark Parton MLA] on [17 August 2023]: [Ms Leah Dwyer] took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [17 August 2023] [PAGE 105-106]]

In relation to: Demographic breakdown of food pantry access

THE CHAIR: And so obviously that combined with increased numbers of people who are accessing the service and, you know, you made particular mention of, indeed, what is going on down in the Lanyon Valley. Who is accessing—are you able to give us a snapshot of who is actually accessing the service there? Because they are not, there are a lot of new faces.

Ms Dwyer: Yes. We can definitely take it on notice to give you, I guess, a bit more of a demographic breakdown in terms of age and gender. But from my experience with the food pantry and the staff there the traditional client of the service was often a woman who was a pensioner and living on a fixed and low income who was living in the immediate area.

And the pantry has also always been open for a one-off visit which is an emergency relief for someone who does not necessarily live in the area and who is not a member of the pantry. And what we are seeing is that there are increasing numbers of people who are actually just working people and who may have just recently perhaps lost their job or they are actually in a low or modest income, and they are needing that once a fortnight food relief.

[Ms Leah Dwyer]: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

In the period June-December 2022, approximately 35% of Mura Lanyon Food Hub clients were aged 35 to 49 years, followed by those aged 50 to 59 years (17%) and 25 to 34 years (15%).

During the same reporting period, 73.5% of clients were women and 26% were men. This represents a slight increase in the percentage of men using the service, up from 23.9% in the June-December period 2021.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:

Date:

26/7/23.

By Tiffany King, Executive Director Communications Advocacy & Engagement. 26th July, 2023.