



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Ed Cocks MLA on 21 November 2023: Minister Davidson took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 21 November 2023 [PAGE 26]

In relation to: Mental Health Workforce Strategy Action Plan

MR COCKS: I have a supplementary, thank you. We discussed this strategy quite extensively last year, particularly focussing on the lack of detail in the strategy, and when asked about delays you blamed the delay of the federal strategy, and similarly suggested that the content around what you would actually do would be providing an action plan. Dr Moore, I believe it was you who said that that action plan would be with the minister in April of this year, but the annual report indicates that as at June a draft seemed to still being circulated for stakeholder comment. So, when was the document provided to the minister?

Ms Davidson: So, it is very worthwhile actually when you are getting feedback through a consultation to take the time to incorporate that feedback into your draft plan and then circulate it back and go back to people and check that you are—

MR COCKS: Minister, I appreciate the benefits of good consultation. What I am asking about is simply when the plan was provided to you from the office—given there was an April target date that was provided to this committee last year.

Ms Davidson: Yes. The plan has gone back and forth a number of times. I can tell you that it is close to being finalised now, but I have seen a number of iterations of the draft over a period of time, so which version would you like?

MR COCKS: Well, perhaps you could tell me when it first went to your office.

Ms Davidson: I will take on notice on what date I first saw the draft plan, but it has gone back and forth a number of times and had extensive consultation with stakeholders as well.

MR COCKS: When was the need for an action plan first raised with your office?

Ms Davidson: I would have to take on notice when we first discussed the action plan.

Ms Emma Davidson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Following the 8 October 2021 Legislative Assembly resolution for an ACT mental health workforce strategy, the agreed pathway forward was for an overarching ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy - Framework for Change followed by an implementation plan.

When I announced the Framework for Change: ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy in the Legislative Assembly on 21 September 2022, I noted that the next phase was for an implementation (or action) plan.

During 2023 I received updates on the consultation process for the plan including the need to extend the consultation phase to enable broader sector input.

The draft plan which is part of the ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy was first progressed to my office in the first week of August 2023.

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

Signature: 

Date: 28/11/23

By the Minister for Mental Health, Ms Emma Davidson MLA