



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT

Reference: Legal Aid ACT

Hearing Date: 30/07/2024

In relation to: Legal Aid – External service providers

QON lodgement Date: 30/07/2024

Answer Due date: 07/08/2024

(1) In last year's submission to the Inquiry into the Cost-of-Living Pressures in the ACT, you recommended increasing the allowed income level for Legal Aid services to 150% of the Henderson poverty line. This recommendation substantively ended up in the final report, but the ACT Government only noted this recommendation. Are you satisfied with the Government's response?

(a) What is the income threshold as of 2024-25?

(b) Have you received any additional grants to bolster the capacity for you to deliver services?

(c) Have you received any grants from the ACT Law Society as you did in previous years?

Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) The Commission remains concerned about the impact of increases in the cost of living and access to legal aid services. The Commission received 2 years of funding in the 2023-24 Budget to restore the allowed income level to 120% of the Henderson Poverty line.

1(a) The income threshold (adjusted for variable allowable deductions including rent and a dependent(s) allowance) as of 2024-25 is \$498.00 per week, which is 120% of the Henderson poverty line.

1(b) In 2024-25 funding was received for a number of programs, either by way of an appropriation or through contracts for services:

- Drug and Alcohol Sentencing court was continued;
- Children's Court Care and Protection duty law service was continued for 1 year;
- Health Justice Partnership was continued for 2 years;

- Court Navigator was continued for 3 years;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduate lawyer program for 2 years; and
- to employ an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse liaison officer for 1 year.

1(c) Allocations for 2024-25 will be made by the ACT Law Society and the Attorney-General in February 2025.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

13/8/24

By the Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT, Dr John Boersig