



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Marisa Paterson MLA

Reference: Women's perceptions of safety/Community Services Directorate

Hearing: 10 February 2025

In relation to: Women's perceptions of safety

Question received: 18 February 2025

Answer Due: 25 February 2025

I note that the data in the annual report shows a deterioration in the percentage of women who feel safe walking around alone, particularly at night. (pages 39 and 51 of the annual report). I also note that your mid year update shows the proportion of women who feel safe when they are by themselves, walking in the neighbourhood during the day is 6% below your target and the proportion of women who feel safe when they are by themselves, walking in the neighbourhood at night is also 2% below your target.

1. Why do you think your activities have not made any measurable change to Women's perceptions of their safety?
2. Given the lack of movement in this measure, and the reservations you have expressed about the reliability of the measure, why do you continue to rely on it for reporting? Should you be looking to identify a more reliable measure, perhaps one that your activities can actually impact on?
3. What will you do differently this year to improve the safety of women?

Marisa Paterson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Community Services Directorate reports on women's perceptions of safety, using the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing which is administered by the Australian Federal Police. Survey results indicate that the proportion of women who feel safe when they are by themselves, walking in the neighbourhood during the day and at night is higher in the ACT when compared against the national average.
2. The results of this survey reflect the ACT Government initiatives as well as confounding factors outside of the influence of ACT Government. This, and recent

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changes to how the survey is administered, impact the data year to year. However, comparison against the national average indicates that overall, women in the ACT have a stronger and more positive perception of their safety in public places.

3. The ACT Government is delivering initiatives to improve women's safety including in public places, including the piloting and implementation of the Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines and supporting major ACT Government events to undertake a Women's Safety Audit.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: *M. Paterson*

Date: *25/2/25*

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Marisa Paterson MLA