



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Ms Rebecca Cross, Director-General, ACT Health Directorate

In relation to: Mental Health Consumer Network Grant

Hearing: 11 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 30

Transcript provided: 14 February 2025

Answer Due: 21 February 2025 5.00 pm

Ms Cross took on notice the following question(s):

MS BARRY: Minister, I note that a total of 564,814—this will be approximate—to mental health consumer network was awarded over five years, and it finishes in 2027. What is this grant meant for?

Ms Stephen-Smith: So that would be a peak body type grant, I assume, but Dr Miller might have some more information or—

Ms Cross: We can see if we can get some further information on that for you, but generally we provide funding to the peak association so that they can represent the views of the individuals that their organisation represents. Occasionally, there might also be a specific project which we fund them to do. So I have not got the information on that grant in front me, but we could take that on notice and provide that for you.

MS BARRY: Thank you. That would be really useful. Thank you very much, Ms Cross.

Minister Stephen-Smith: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Mental Health Consumer Network (MHCN) is the peak mental health consumer organisation in the ACT and represents the interests of these consumers.

The ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) provided the Deed of Grant to MHCN to support its core activities as a peak organisation. A peak organisation (also known as a peak body) is defined as:

a representative non-government organisation, the primary purpose of which is to provide membership engagement and support, coordination, advocacy and representation, information dissemination services, relevant research, policy and sector development services for the Represented Group and other interested parties.

The MHCN reports on the following outcomes for its grant as a peak organisation/body:

1. The peak body's activity reflects a sound understanding of the issues that impact on the Represented Group.
2. The Represented Group is supported, informed, engaged, and empowered, including the My Rights My Decision program.
3. The voices and/or needs of the Represented Group are heard and/or reflected in the recipient's policy advice and systemic advocacy.
4. The peak body has influence on issues, policies and programs affecting the interests of the Represented Group, including through research and engagement.

ACTHD receives and reviews annual performance reports from MHCN. This includes monitoring the delivery of outcomes against an annual workplan and includes financial reporting.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

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By the Minister for Mental Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA