



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Marisa Paterson MLA

Reference: Community Collaboration Programs/Community Services Directorate

Hearing: 10 February 2025

In relation to: Community Collaboration Programs

Question received: 18 February 2025

Answer Due: 25 February 2025

- (1) How is the government enhancing collaboration between domestic violence agencies and other community health and safety programs, and providers of other forms of crisis support like food relief, to prevent siloed responses?

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

- (1) The ACT Government is committed to developing a Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy that provides a whole of government, whole of community approach to preventing and responding to domestic and sexual violence over the next 10 years. The Strategy will be developed in partnership with the domestic and sexual violence sector, alongside broader health and community services to ensure the Strategy is intersectional and presents a shared vision and actions for preventing and responding to domestic and sexual violence.

Further, the ACT Government funds a combination of developing and established domestic, family and sexual violence programs delivered by a range of services, including those with specialist expertise to support priority cohorts such as children and young people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTIQ+ people and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (including 5 specialist Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations). These organisations have established relationships and referral pathways to reduce siloes and foster a 'no wrong door' approach for victim survivors seeking support in the ACT.

The ACT Government funds dedicated programs focussed on multiagency responses to improve collaboration between agencies to support victim survivors. This includes Victim Support ACT to deliver the Family Violence Safety Action Program (FVSAP) which provides a collaborative, intensive case coordination function between

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government and non-government agencies to address high-risk domestic and family violence perpetration in the ACT.

The ACT Government also funds the Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs), a multi-agency program, providing free and confidential legal advice and assistance to people at risk of or experiencing domestic and family violence in family service settings. The HJPs is a collaboration between the ACT Government, Women's Legal Service and Legal Aid. Recently, the HJP was expanded to embed Domestic Violence Crisis Service case managers within Child and Family Centres to provide a more holistic response to victims and their families who present at that service.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

M. Paterson

Date: 27/02/25

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