



Inquiry into the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Carers ACT

In relation to: Funding breakdown – how from Commonwealth, ACT etc

Hearing: 5 March 2026

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Answer Due: 19 March 2026

Kamla Brisbane, Chief Strategy, Policy and Engagement Officer, took on notice the following question(s):

MS CARRICK: Are you able to tell us how the Carers ACT funding works from the federal government? What is the gateway funding and what is the cottage? Like, how is it broken down in that ACT government funding?

Ms Brisbane: So I can talk broadly. I have stepped into this role most recently, so I am not across the details of each of the contracts. Our Chief Services Manager and CEO are all across each of the individual contracts. But I can tell you that we are the ACT provider of the Carer Gateway. We also do some support coordination, so that is NDIS funding. We run a disability day program, which is again NDIS funding. We have some overnight respite cottages, and we have a day respite facility in Spence as well. We also do provide some social groups through our CATS funding. That is territory funding.

So it is really quite a mix of funding, basically, and we do supplement that with some philanthropy support as well, where we are not able to draw on particular funds for things that sort of fit outside a prescription. No one person's life, no one person, one carer's life often fits into the nice funding brackets. So we rely on that as well. So it is a diverse funding. For more detail, I would have to come back to you, Fiona, but it is available on our website in the annual report.

MS CARRICK: Yes, I could not find the split between commonwealth and the ACT in there or what gets funded.

Ms Brisbane: Yes, we have probably broken it up program by program.

MS CARRICK: Do you know how the block funding works for the cottages?

Ms Brisbane: That is not my area of expertise, I am sorry, but again, I can come back to you.

MS CARRICK: Yes, no worries.

THE CHAIR: Do you want to ask our busy volunteers to take that on notice? Or do you want to ask our health minister or somebody else?

MS CARRICK: Well, I have asked, but I do not think she will give it to me because you guys are not ACT government.

Ms Brisbane: No.

MS CARRICK: Like, you get some funding from ACT government.

Ms Brisbane: Yes, that is right.

MS CARRICK: . So if you could provide us with how your funding works, that would be really terrific.

THE CHAIR: If you can come back to us with that information, that would be most helpful.

MS CARRICK: Commonwealth, ACT, program sort of split?

Ms Brisbane: And you are looking for that—how should I format that so that it is a useful way for you to interpret?

MS CARRICK: Like program and then how much is commonwealth and how much is ACT government would be handy. It is just what is sustainable? Like, we are talking about sustainability. So you know, with a cottage, what sort of level of funding makes it sustainable? So I am just curious to know what they get. And, you know, assumably it is sustainable funding. I mean, I know it is all going to change in 2027 because the block funding runs out then. But anyway, I just do not have a concept of how the cottages particularly are funded.

Ms Brisbane: So it is the cottages in particular you are interested in.

MS CARRICK: Primarily, like I know you have day programs, but it is primarily the cottages that are of interest and perhaps the Carers Gateway.

MR COCKS: And very quickly, I think the other thing that is very interesting from this committee's perspective is the efficiency of funding that gets provided to organisations, particularly when you have got funding coming from multiple sources that have overlapping reporting requirements and you run into a bit of a productivity problem.

Ms Brisbane: We do a lot of reporting.

MR COCKS: Yes. Spending a lot of the money and a lot of the resources you are getting on reporting a million times instead of doing the things that would be delivering good for the community. That is the other angle I think we are interested in.

Ms Brisbane: Yes, sure. Okay.

THE CHAIR: The irony of a question on notice about how much reporting you do. Thank you for your patience. It is not lost on us, but we are trying to get you more money, so we will do our best.

Ms Brisbane: Yes, yes. Okay. We appreciate that. We are willing to do that.

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

Carers ACT receives funding from the federal government, the ACT government, philanthropic partners and some fee for service. We run a range of services that support carers and the people they care for. Respite services are federally funded.

Carers ACT is the local provider of the federally funded Carer Gateway which provides, amongst other services, referrals to providers of planned and emergency respite. This contract requires biannual reporting.

Carers ACT runs two overnight respite facilities (Cottages) and a facility for day respite. Block funding is issued to support provision of care to those care recipients who are eligible for Commonwealth Home Support Funding (federal) and who utilise the Carers ACT's overnight respite facilities. Providing a sustainable service in line with community need has required Carers ACT to supplement with funds from philanthropic partners and consumers willing to pay a contribution for service.

Carers ACT receives ACT Government funding for the Community Assistance Temporary Supports (CATS) program services we provide. This line of funding is not used to deliver respite services of any type. The CATS contracts require biannual reports.

Carers ACT runs a disability day program, the Hub, for people aged between 18-50 living with mild to moderate cognitive disability and is supported through NDIS funding.

The ACT government also funds our systemic advocacy contracts, and these require annual reporting.

Please contact us directly should more detailed information be required.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Signature: 

Date: 20/03/2026

By: Kamla Brisbane