
Budget Estimates Submission - Questions

1. A number of measures in the 2017/18 Budget are funded from savings and/or the re-prioritisation of existing expenditure. Is the Government able to provide a consolidated directorate by directorate list of these savings?
2. The ACT Government is accountable for both local and state government responsibilities. A core local government responsibility is community development. When and how does the ACT Government intend to prioritise investing fully in community development?
3. Women and children who are homeless and in crisis because of domestic or family violence and accessing DV specialised supported accommodation organisations experience a gap in funding support. How will this significant funding loss be recovered? Will the Safer Families budget be of benefit to women and children under such circumstances?
4. Please provide further details in relation to the individual arts grants that were stated to be increased.
5. Emotional wellbeing programs in schools were allocated \$160 000 in the 2016-17 budget. Could you please provide details about the kinds of programs that were funded, the outcomes so far and the way these funds will be spent in 2017-18?
6. We note that the Government is investing in clinical interventions to support people with mental health issues. What investment will be made into resourcing psycho-social supports?
7. The United Nations says that using Tazers amounts to torture on humans. Why is the ACT Government spending so much in this budget on Tazers and not using these funds in a more preventative and humane manner?
8. When will see action and investment in a funded whole of government housing strategy which has garnered broad community support including from business, unions, planners and the community sector? What work is underway within government on this measure? What will be the reporting cycle for this strategy?
9. Why isn't there more funding for housing advocacy?
For example, will the government fund independent professional housing advocacy for people living with disability, including mental health?
10. What work is underway within government to implement its commitments to encourage universal housing design which include: holding a roundtable to develop incentives to meet the Liveable Housing Design Silver and Gold Levels; developing training programs for architects and builders; showcasing Universal Housing in demonstration housing projects; and playing an active role at COAG to push for genuine progress on the 2010 COAG agreement (in the National Disability Strategy), for new housing to meet Universal Design Standards?
11. Will the government improve access to emergency housing including the number of overnight beds? Will the government collect data on the number of people unable to receive emergency housing assistance? eg. Number of people not assisted because they are sleeping in a car.

12. What are we doing to fund knowledge and skills development so that people working with men and women exiting out-of-home care, mental health, drug and alcohol, acute health care, criminal justice, and homelessness services are able to provide tenancy advice/advocacy/support to enable people to sustain their housing?

13. How will the government consult the community in planning and designing deliberative democracy measures so that they are fit for purpose, evidence based, collaborative and maintain integral values in the delivery of deliberative democracy?

14. How will the Disability Reference Group be resourced and positioned to focus on greater planning and accessibility in public spaces to meet the needs identified in the PWD ACT 2017/18 Budget submission?

15. What is the ACT Government doing to support the significant number of Canberrans living with mental illness who are ineligible for an NDIS package?

16. How will the government address the needs of citizens from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who experience language barriers in accessing health and community services?

17. Of the 2017-18 net debt (excluding superannuation) of \$2b reported in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, what are the interest charges, terms, and expected timing of full repayment (loan plus interest) for each borrowing/loan? Please include details for any Light Rail - Stage 1 borrowings/loans and for the Commonwealth Government loan to support the financing of the Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme (including interest rates, terms, expected time of repayment)

18. The cost of running community programs is increasing. The only increase in funding provided is the indexation rate. This rate does not cover the increased costs. How can community organisations access a more appropriate indexation rate?

19. How will the \$10m additional funds to Step Up for Our Kids be spent?
