



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
MS BEC CODY MLA (CHAIR), MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR),  
MS CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**8 November 2018**

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Asked by Giulia Jones MLA :

In relation to:

**MRS JONES:** Yes, I wonder if on notice—because obviously there is quite a bit of detail—you could get us back some of what the mapping tool has thrown up and what actions have been taken. That would be really helpful.

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

The ACT Government is undertaking a number of initiatives under the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026* to support improved safety and a better understanding of the perceptions of safety of women and girls in the ACT.

Through year one of the *First Action Plan 2017-19* under the *ACT Women's Plan*, the ACT Government took steps to 'Promote the use of Women's Safety Audits at events run by the ACT Government'.

As part of year one of the *First Action Plan*, the ACT Government also committed to 'Investigate the use of the Safety Mapping Tool to guide ACT Government planning'.

The Safety Mapping Tool was designed by the Women's Centre for Health Matters (WCHM) using an ACT Government Women's Safety Grant (provided by the Office for Women) and was launched in August 2016. This grant was for the development of the Safety Mapping Tool and did not require the ongoing provision of data by the WCHM to the ACT Government.

The Office for Women monitors the findings of the Safety Mapping Tool which is used to gather information from Canberrans (particularly women) about the public places and spaces in the ACT where they feel safe or unsafe. It is hoped that this will provide a greater understanding of which elements contribute to those spaces being perceived to be safe or unsafe.

The WCHM have been in discussions with a number of ACT Government directorates (including Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) and the Community Services Directorate (CSD) about the findings of the Safety Mapping Tool and how these can be used to inform government planning decisions.

Over 700 pieces of feedback have been received through the Safety Mapping Tool and over 80 per cent of these were submitted by women. Feedback has indicated that perceptions of safety for women are primarily related to who is in the space, how they are using that space and how visible they are (eg. how well lit the area is).

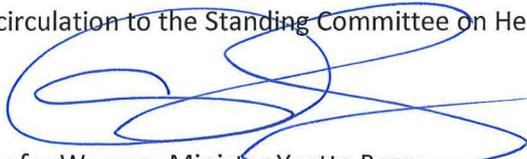
57% of the feedback received focused on areas in the inner north of the ACT, the majority of which focused on Haig Park. Input received on Haig Park was used by the ACT Government to inform the recent modifications that were carried out in Haig Park.

Ongoing work will be undertaken to support the use of data from the Safety Mapping Tool in ACT Government planning, including:

- Relevant areas of the ACT Government (particularly EPSDD and TCCS) engaging with the WCHM to obtain existing data when new planning projects arise;
- Relevant areas of the ACT Government advising the WCHM when they need additional data on specific locations so that the WCHM can make a specific request to the public for additional data. The WCHM have found that this approach is effective for obtaining timely data on required areas; and
- Supporting broader awareness of the Safety Mapping Tool across ACT Government (particularly EPSDD and TCCS) to encourage greater use of the data in planning projects.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:



Date: 27/11/18

By the Minister for Women, Minister Yvette Berry