



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mark Parton MLA: To ask the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development:

Ref: CSD Annual Report Page 86, Housing ACT, B.2.2, Strategic Indicator 3, Figure 15.

1. At page 86, Strategic Indicator 3, Figure 15 shows a steep drop in the trends for improved employment outcomes:
 - a. What has caused this;
 - b. What was the actual number of successful employment outcomes at the peak in 2016 – 17;
 - c. What was the actual number in 2017-18; and
 - d. What resources has Housing ACT allocated to this function for each year from 2013-14 to 2017-18?

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

1. Strategic Indicator 3 (employment outcomes for homeless people) shows a drop in the percentage increase in clients employed after homelessness services support to those who needed assistance with employment and training.
 - a. The below target result for Strategic Indicator 3 reflects a fluctuation over time in the relatively small number of clients needing assistance in this domain and moving from unemployment to employment.
Concerns were raised about the indicator (including those raised in the February 2018 Auditor-General's Report on strategic and accountability indicators) particularly in relation to the volatility of results due to small client numbers, Housing ACT has redeveloped this indicator to improve its stability, clarity and relevance. In future years Housing ACT will report on the achievement of independent housing for clients of homelessness services. This will be measured as the proportion of all specialist homelessness services clients who achieve independent housing at the end of support.
 - b. The numbers for employment outcomes provided for the 2016-17 year (noting that homelessness data is lagged one year due to the processing time required by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for national reporting) were 18 (employed before) to 41 (employed after). That is, a 128% change.

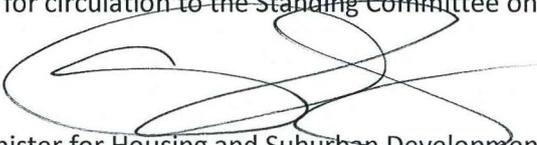
- c. The numbers for employment outcomes provided for the 2017-18 report were 29 (employed before) to 45 (employed after). That is, a 55% change. There were more clients employed after support reported for the 2017-18 year than in 2016-17 (45 compared to 41), but because the indicator measures change in clients employed before and after support, the indicator result is lower for 2017-18.
- d. The resources provided to Specialist Homelessness Services to address employment outcomes cannot be separated from the resources provided to Specialist Homelessness Services generally. This is because homelessness agencies assess client needs across a broad range of domains in order to provide the most appropriate services to assist them to achieve sustainable housing outcomes. Persons who need assistance in the area of employment or training very often also need assistance in other areas. Their case plan, drawn up by the homelessness service, will reflect the range of needs and the goals for addressing those needs. In other words, a support period provided by an agency will typically address a range of needs.

The resources provided to specialist homelessness services over the past five years is as follows:

- 2013-14 \$23,200,000
- 2014-15 \$21,400,000
- 2015-16 \$20,500,000
- 2016-17 \$20,900,000
- 2017-18 \$21,700,000

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

Signature:



Date: 27/11/18

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister Yvette Berry