



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mrs Kikkert MLA

Reference: Hearing on 4 November 2022, Output Class 1.5 Safer Families, CSD Annual Report 2021-22, p 82.

In relation to: Room4Change program by DVCS

1. The DVCS is funded to deliver the Room4Change program, which has been extended for another year following the release of an independent evaluation of the program. Does the ACT Government have plans to more permanently establish this program by committing to extending the program for more than one year at a time?

a. Can you please describe the current level of demand for the Room4Change program – is there a waiting list, or an increasing demand at all, or is the current capacity of the program sufficient?

b. Does the ACT government have a plan to promote this program in a way that will encourage and increase the number of participants? If so, how will this occur?

c. The government published a set of ACT practice standards for men's behaviour change programs – how will these standards be promoted and implemented?

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

1. Future funding for Room4Change will be considered as part of a strategic and holistic approach to perpetrator interventions in the ACT. This approach will ensure future investment is evidence based, best practice, and clearly contributes to an integrated system. Future funding decisions will be progressed through a business case and align with the ACT Government's Budget cycles.

- a) The program has capacity to accommodate up to 11 men and provides group work and one on one sessions through outreach to clients. In the latest reporting period from January to June 2022, 30 perpetrators were engaged in the program and five men were supported through the residential program .DVCS have never reported a requirement to hold a waitlist due to high

demand.

- b) The Room4Change program is managed by Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS). DVCS manage the promotion is based on the eligibility requirements of the program.
- c) The next steps for the ACT Men's Behaviour Change Practice Standards include exploring how accreditation and compliance with these standards could be implemented in the ACT.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

Date:

06/02/23

By the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette Berry MLA