

Emma Davidson MLA

Minister for Community Services, Seniors and Veterans

Minister for Corrections and Justice Health

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Population Health

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Peter Cain MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

LACommitteeJCS@parliament.act.gov.au

Our ref: M-24/848

Dear Mr Cain

Thank you for your letter regarding the Inquiry into Immediate Trauma Support Services in the ACT and seeking advice on whether such services fall within my portfolios.

As Minister for Community Services, Seniors and Veterans, I am responsible for Social Recovery. Social Recovery is delivered as part of a whole of government coordinated emergency response and recovery effort. Social Recovery is a legislated responsibility under the Emergencies Act and delivered under the ACT Emergency Plan and ACT Recovery Sub-Plan. Under these arrangements, the Community Services Directorate (CSD) has responsibility for managing and delivering Social Recovery services during and following an emergency. Social Recovery services include immediate relief such as emergency accommodation, food, water, clothing, first aid, counselling and emergency finance. CSD is also responsible for the operation of ACT evacuation centres and recovery centres. These services are delivered in conjunction with, or by, other ACT government directorates and community partners.

Social Recovery is not a mechanism for providing first response or immediate critical incident services. The provision of immediate on-site trauma support is a critical incident response measure and needs to be coordinated and delivered by incident response agencies. I understand that ACT Policing and emergency service agencies provide immediate support and referral services when attending a traumatic incident.

In relation to my other portfolios, the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) does not provide immediate trauma supports services. ACTHD funds Relationships Australia to provide Coronial Counselling Services to the ACT community, however, this is not an immediate trauma service. Canberra Health



Service's Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol & Drug Services (MHJHADS) provides services and programs to people that have a moderate to severe mental illness and/or people who need help for alcohol and drug related behaviours and dependencies, however, this is also not an immediate trauma support service as part of a first responder or critical incident response.

In summary, I wish to advise you that the provision of immediate on-site trauma support services does not sit substantively within my portfolios.

Yours sincerely

Emma Davidson MLA
Minister for Community Services, Seniors and Veterans
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