



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission ACT

Redirected to:

Reference: Legal Aid Commission ACT

Hearing: 12 February 2025

In relation to: Legal Aid and Legal Advice and Other Assistance Services

Question received: 17 February 2025

Answer Due: 24 February 2025

Referring to the Performance Analysis section of the Legal Aid Commission ACT Annual Report, on pages 29 to 36, particularly Table 4a and 4b regarding 'Legal Advice and Other Assistance Services'.

- (1) Why was there a decrease in the number of Family law matters that Legal Aid provided legal advice for, especially in-house, which seemed to experience a 10% drop?
- (2) When these tables refer to 'Non-Legal Support', what exactly is that referring to?
- (3) Is there any particular reason that 'Non-Legal Support' is the most common type of legal advice and other assistance services by a 10% margin?

Dr John Boersig: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

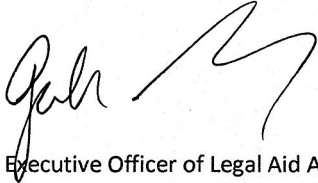
- (1) Whilst the number of people receiving family related legal advice has decreased, the demand for our broader services has not. There has been an increase in the number of people attending the ACT Magistrates Court and Commonwealth Family Court for duty assistance, and an increase in the number of grant applications received and approved for family law matters during this time.
- (2) Non-legal support is defined on page 14 of the Legal Aid Commission ACT Annual Report. As described there, non-legal support refers to the ancillary support services available to clients concerning the provision of social services. This is primarily delivered by our Community Liaison Unit (CLU), who work with clients of our legal practices to provide holistic, wrap-around services including general counselling, financial counselling, trauma-informed counselling and mental health assessments and support. These services can be one-off or ongoing depending on the client's needs.
- (3) Non-legal support services are provided in tandem with legal advice and assistance services within different practices at Legal Aid ACT, and are recorded as separate services as they are

OFFICIAL

discrete activities. Given the wide range of matters where non-legal support is provided, it is recorded in Table 4b as the most common service item delivered by Legal Aid ACT.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Boersig', written over a horizontal line.

By the Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid ACT, Dr John Boersig PSM

Date: 21/2/24