



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Catherine Rule, Director-General, Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Safer Families Grant Funding 2

Hearing: 11 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 60-61

Transcript provided: 14 February 2025

Answer Due: 21 February 2025 5.00 pm

Catherine Rule took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: Was there any consultation undertaken with service providers in the community sector about this? You know, I have heard from a CEO who just said, 'We have heard it has been cut-off.' What was the extent of that consultation? And look, we have only got 20 grants left, we are about to run out, just letting you know.

Ms Rule: So we have informed people the program is closed.

THE CHAIR: Yes. Was that – when did that happen? Upon closure?

Ms Rule: I will have take – I would imagine so. We would not have told them it would have closed beforehand. But I will have to take that on notice. I do not know.

THE CHAIR: But you might have – you might have warned them that this is looking like we are going to run out?

Ms Rule: I will have to take that on notice.

THE CHAIR: Yes. Thank you.

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

The Safer Families Assistance Program (the Program) comes under the portfolio for the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. It is administered by Housing Assistance.

In late 2024, the Program received an influx of applications that used up the funding allocated to the Program for the entire 2024-25 period.

We know that statistically occurrences of family and domestic violence peak over Christmas and New Year period, and the demand in 2024 demonstrates the continuing challenges caused by domestic and family violence felt by our community.

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In the last three years the budgeted funding has been exhausted within the first half of the financial year.

Any member of the community sector enquiring about the Program is provided with the information that the funding is closed for 2024-25 and is provided with information about other assistance programs that may help to meet their needs.

The information on the Safer Families Assistance Grants is updated on the ACT Government website <https://www.act.gov.au/community/domestic-family-and-sexual-violence#Financial-support>.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

By the Minister for Homes and New Suburbs, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

21/02/25