



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

Redirected to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: WWVP Scheme – information sharing

Hearing: 13 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: p17

Transcript provided: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 26 November 2025

MS BARRY: Okay, so how do people feed in? So, the information that is shared is only as relevant as who is feeding into it. One element of that is that you are relying on the perpetrator to also feed information into it. So how do you know that the information that is shared is the most up-to-date information?

Ms Dolan: Well, that is about what information is shared, right? So that is what we mean about the range of safeguards that are also there to ensure we have effective arrangements. So, information-sharing from the courts would mean that if there was an offence, that information would be shared back through. Information could be shared from a regulatory body, like the ECEC regulator would share information around activity that has happened in a particular environment that needs to be considered, and so it comes from the regulator. So that means that they have taken some action, or somebody shared information that needs to be considered. These people understand the information-sharing obligations. They understand what they have seen and what information that they should be sharing, and so that is how we know that it is appropriate. And the team that do that risk assessment have that training to ensure that they action it accordingly.

MS BARRY: Okay. Sorry, one more. The information that is fed in—so say, for example, a person goes to court. At what time is that information fed into the information-sharing system? Is it at conviction? Is it at charge? At what point does that information go into that information-sharing?

Ms Dolan: I do not have that information to hand and our area is the policy arm. We are not the operations arm, which does sit with Access Canberra, so I do not have that information. But we could look to find that information or have that prepared from Access Canberra.

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Access Canberra receives information from a variety of sources in the ACT and other jurisdictions. Sources include but are not limited to the ACT Ombudsman for reportable conduct matters, Children's Education and Care Assurance (CECA) for early childhood workforce matters, ACT Courts for criminal history information, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission for NDIS worker screening matters.

Access Canberra receives information from the ACT Courts on a weekly basis about all matters referred to the Court by the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The information received relates to any new court date that can be attributed to a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration holder. The point at which the information is received is the first Friday after a new court date is registered against the WWVP registrant's name (i.e. after a court date for the WWVP registrant is added to the agenda). This means that the information is typically first received within a week of a criminal charge being recorded. Though sometimes, a matter can be assigned a court date (and therefore sent as a notification to Access Canberra) prior to formal charges being laid.

Notifications from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (the Commission) with any monitoring advice about NDIS Worker Screening Clearance holders are automatically sent to Access Canberra when the Commission enters them into the NDIS Worker Screening Database.

Notifications about WWVP registrants issued a new key decision (e.g. refusal to register or suspension) made by worker screening units conducting working with children checks in other jurisdictions are received weekly through the National Reference System.

Notifications of any allegations made under the ACT Reportable Conduct Scheme are received from the ACT Ombudsman monthly. Access Canberra also receives monthly notifications from the ACT Ombudsman about any reportable conduct investigations that resulted in a substantiation.

CECA notify Access Canberra once a prohibition is issued to any childcare worker in the ACT.

Several other organisations (e.g. childcare providers, schools, Children, Youth and Families, and worker screening units in other jurisdictions) regularly proactively share information about WWVP registrants with Access Canberra in line with their information sharing obligations. These notifications are sent through as they arise, and there is no set schedule.

Arrangements for how and how frequently information is received from all these sources was established through agreements made between Access Canberra and the individual organisations either informally based on the organisation's business processes, formally (e.g. through a Memorandum of Understanding or an Intergovernmental Agreement), or as part of the organisation fulfilling their legislative obligations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Ms Tara Cheyne

Date:

24/11/25