



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **23 February 2022**

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 23 February 2022: COMMISSIONER GEORGEINA WHELAN took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to:

Human rights and disability awareness training - page 262

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. So I will move on to a question regarding human rights and the disability awareness training referenced on page 262. So how many staff have completed this within JACS and how does this fit into the disability justice strategy?

Mr Gentleman: The commissioner should have some details for you on that.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

Ms Whelan: I am going to have to take that question on notice with regards to specifics of completion of training.

Minister Steel: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Within JACS, forty-one (41) staff completed the Human Rights for ACT Public Authorities training and eighty-four (84) completed disability awareness training in 2020-21.

The disability training undertaken fits within the First Action Plan of the Disability Justice Strategy by:

1. Strengthening the ability of staff to provide information to and communicate with people with disability. The training supports achievement of the Focus Area of Information and Communication under the Disability Justice Strategy.
2. Contributing to the development of a justice system that can notice, for example, intellectual disability and dementia, provide supports to people with these disabilities and deliver equal access to justice through the Focus Area of Education and Guidance under the Disability Justice Strategy.

3. Facilitating better service delivery to people with a disability by allowing for a more complete picture of service and support needs under the Focus Area of Better Service Delivery under the Disability Justice Strategy.

Additionally, a new training program has been developed and piloted in August 2021 to give staff in justice agencies, both within JACS and externally, an understanding of disability in the justice system and how practical reasonable adjustments can be provided to allow people with a disability to participate more equally in the justice system. The program is currently being reviewed.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date:

10/3/22

By the A/g Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Chris Steel