



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QoN No. 66

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA:

Ref: Output Class 1.5 Safer Families, Community Services Directorate (CSD) Annual Report 2020–2021

In relation to:

1. The ACT Government partnered up with Care Inc. to develop a training program for frontline staff to improve their ability to identify cases of financial abuse. The testing of the program in August 2020 was reported to be successful. Minister, what plans are there for the future of this training program?
 - a. Aside from Care Inc., what other supports and services would receive client referrals from the training program?
 - b. Which organisations provided frontline staff to participate in the testing of the program, and how many staff participated in total?

MS BERRY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The testing of the training in 2020 identified a need for specialised training for community service providers who support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse clients, due to their different experiences of financial abuse. Funding was provided to Care Financial to conduct research and update the existing training materials. Care will test the new materials with specialist services in April and May 2022. Following this expanded trial, the ACT Government will consider a further roll out of the financial abuse training.
 - a. The following organisations are included in training reference materials and therefore may receive client referrals from those who participated in the training:
 - i) ACT Gambling Counselling and Support Service
 - ii) National Debt Helpline
 - iii) Consumer Law Centre
 - iv) Domestic Violence Crisis Service
 - v) Lifeline
 - b. The training sessions in 2020 were attended by 160 staff from Toora Women, OneLink and Domestic Violence Crisis Service.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

By the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

21/03/22