



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

In relation to: Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and Budget reporting – Complementary initiatives

Hearing: 29 July 2026

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I have a few questions around your reporting, on budget reporting generally. First of all, can I say that the Safer Families Levy—sorry, the fact sheet is fantastic in explaining all of the funded initiatives. I just have a few questions around the complementary initiatives. I understand from your explanation and accompanying material that the initiative in the table relates to government staffing costs. Is that correct? Is my understanding correct?

Dr Paterson: Sorry, whereabouts in the complementary?

THE CHAIR: Table H3.

Dr Paterson: I will just find it.

THE CHAIR: No worries.

Dr Paterson: And so what would you—

Mr Banks: So table H3 is not just staffing costs, but it may include staffing costs. Sorry, Gerry Banks, Acting Branch Manager, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office. It includes all funding that is related to domestic, family and sexual violence, but it is not levy funded. So it may include staffing costs, but other costs as well.

THE CHAIR: Well. So just in line with how you have reported for the frontline services, where is that itemised and reported against what it is for in the budget? Because I could not find it anywhere. Where is the breakdown of what is funded? Just as you have done with the other frontline initiatives, you kind of list, explain what they are for. Where has that breakdown been done in the budget?

Mr Banks: In terms of the most recent budget initiative, frontline services?

THE CHAIR: Yes, so complementary initiatives, you have all of those initiatives listed there. However, in your fact sheet you break down what each line item is and what it is funding, what it is doing.

Mr Banks: So in the tables which are published, that should have the breakdown. H3 table?

THE CHAIR: Yes, so it lists—okay, so let me just go with an example. So you said, for example, “Strengthening domestic and family violence response to First Nations and strengthening sexual assault prevention and response.” That is all we have. But if you look at the fact sheet you do go into detail, so you say, “Continuation of”—for example, sexual violence on page 5, violence program. “But 3 million in the funding will be provided over four years.” You go down and list what the budget will do, what the allocated amount is and what the initiative will do. But nothing it is explained for the complementary initiative.

Dr Paterson: Can we take this on notice? I am not clear on—yes, we will take it on notice, Chiaka. I am sorry.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Can you also take on notice how the—on my rough count it is 18 million over the next four years for that complementary initiative. It would be really useful to know what those complementary initiatives, explaining what they would do; if it is staffing, what the staffing objectives would be, what their roles would be. If it is service provision, what that is and how it aligns with the rest of the program.

Dr Paterson: So what is outlined in table H in the complementary initiative, so that is \$9.8 million over four years for frontline community services to help reduce homelessness. There is also 4.5 million over four years for ACT Policing to fund the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse team. There are also commonwealth initiatives as part of the complementary initiatives as well, so that is the funding that comes from the federal government, as well as three years of funding for CRCC to improve their capacity to deliver support and therapeutic counselling for victim-survivors. So I think that is some of the initiatives that are counted in that table H in the complementary.

THE CHAIR: But you have done a fantastic job listing out the frontline services here. You have not broken down as you have with the frontline.

Dr Paterson: Well, that is why we have done the fact sheet, because table H has been a big issue for everyone to get clarity on what has been spent in the budget. So that is why the fact sheet was developed.

THE CHAIR: So isn’t that what we should do then, if we—that is exactly the point, that if we are not sure what complementary initiatives and we are spending over \$18 million by my calculation—

Dr Paterson: So Treasury has very particular reporting ways that they report funding. And what we learned from both the community sector, from the community and from the Assembly was that it was very difficult to determine from that table where the funding was going. So that is why we developed the fact sheet to be able to provide a really clear outline of exactly where the funding initiatives are going.

THE CHAIR: Which I appreciate, minister. You have done that excellently, but you have not done that for the complementary initiatives.

Dr Paterson: That is because of the way Treasury requires reporting.

THE CHAIR: Okay, so does anybody have it anywhere in the office, like, what these complementary initiatives—like, Treasury reporting is separate. Can you take it on notice?

Dr Paterson: Yes. We will just take it on notice. Yes

Ms Caitlin Tough MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

'Complementary initiatives', as represented in Table H.3 in Appendix H of the 2026-27 Budget Outlook, are initiatives that are part of the ACT Government's response to domestic, sexual and family violence (DFSV) but are not offset by the Safer Families Levy because they do not align with the Safer Families Levy Principles, which set out requirements for allocation of funds.

Details regarding complementary initiatives relating to frontline service delivery are set out in the 2026-27 Budget DFSV Factsheet and include *new complementary initiatives (page 5)* and *continuing complementary initiatives (pages 8-9)*.

The remaining complementary initiatives from Table H.3 totalling \$17.859 million relate to government staffing and costs to support delivery of DFSV initiatives. They have been excluded from the Factsheet, which focuses on frontline service delivery. Details of the \$17.859 million are set out below:

Table H.3 Complementary initiatives	2026- 27 Budget	2027-28 Estimate	2028-29 Estimate	2029-30 Estimate	Total ('000)	Allocation summary
Critical domestic and family violence support in health and community settings	40	40	40	40	160	Funding for 0.25 FTE SOGC in the Support Services for Children Branch to support delivery of the Health Justice Partnerships.
Strengthening domestic and family violence response for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community	160	160	161	162	643	Funding for 1 FTE within Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office (DFSVO) to support the implementation of community-led family violence responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
Strengthening sexual assault	341	345	349	373	1408	Funding for 2 FTE within DFSVO to support

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prevention and response						implementation of the SAPR recommendations.
More support for families and inclusion – strengthening the reportable conduct scheme	641	660	680	697	2678	Funding for CMTEDD to provide additional support for the Reportable Conduct Scheme by resourcing the ACT Ombudsman to undertake additional investigations.
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee's final report (Phase 1) – Victim Survivor Structured Consultation Program	297	301	305	289	1192	Funding for 2 FTE within DFSVO. \$100,000 (\$25,000 per year) used to offset the 2026-27 initiative Safer Families - Building safer communities - Supporting DFSV frontline services.
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee's final report (Phase 1) – Prevention Strategy	182	184	186	188	740	Funding for 1 FTE in DFSVO and \$50,000 for Our Watch and public education initiatives.
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee's final report (Phase 1) – Multi Disciplinary Centre	391	399	408	412	1610	Funding for 2 FTE in DFSVO.

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Safer Families - Health Justice Partnership	299	306	314	322	1241	Funding for Legal Aid staffing for the Health Justice Partnership.
Investing in public services – Additional resourcing for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office	2004	2033	2061	2089	8187	Funding for 9.5 FTE within the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office to support DFSV policy development, program delivery and the death review function. =
Totals	4355	4428	4504	4572	17859	

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date:

10/8/26

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA