



SELECT COMMITTEE ON COST OF LIVING PRESSURES IN THE ACT
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair)
Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by LAWDER on 12 April 2023: Jennifer Kirkaldy took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript [12 April 2023] [PAGE 28]

In relation to:

MS LAWDER: Is it the numbers growing or is the proportion of the population also growing?

Ms Kirkaldy: It is definitely the numbers growing. I do not think we have ever done the assessment of whether it is a proportion of the population.

MS LAWDER: So, is it growing in accordance with our increasing population or not?

Ms Kirkaldy: Again, I would have to take that on notice. So, we work very closely with Everybody's Home Campaign who have done quite a lot of analysis against on what the shortfall is. And so we are looking at a shortfall of social housing here in the ACT of about 3,000 dwellings. That has definitely increased but I would have to take it on notice as whether the increase is different or the same as the proportion of the population of the ACT growing.

Salvation Army: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Based on the information collected by the ABS (Attached) the rate of homelessness in the ACT has varied significantly throughout the past two decades.

There does not appear to be any linear progression between the rates of homelessness in the ACT and the growth of population, with the ACT rate of homelessness going both up and down over the past 20 years. Table 1)

Table 1: Rates of people experiencing homelessness ACT, 2006 to 2021

	2003	2011	2016	2021
ACT	30	49	40	39

per 10,000 of the population are based on the Census count of people

It is important to remember that this information is estimated homelessness due to the difficulty of gathering this information, and the hidden homelessness which exists in the form of 'couch surfing'

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021>

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT.

Signature: 

Date: 28 April 2023

By the General Manager of Policy and Advocacy, The Salvation Army, Jennifer Kirkaldy