



Inquiry into the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Gaming Reform

Reference: Fiscal Sustainability Committee

Hearing: 2 June 2026

In relation to: Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool

Question received: 10/06/2026

Answer Due: 15/07/2026

In Estimates 2023-2024 I lodged a series of Questions on Notices asking each Minister to give some examples of budget decisions changed as a direct result of applying the wellbeing impact assessment or as a direct result of applying the gender analysis tool.

The answers I received for each was: "The purpose of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (WIA) and the Gender Analysis Tool is not to change budget decisions. They are used to inform Budget decisions. Budget decisions reflect the endorsement by Cabinet of recommendations by ERC. The Government publishes Budget decisions in the Budget and Budget Review".

- (1) How was the Wellbeing Impact Assessment applied to the budget decision to provide over \$8M of funding each year to the horseracing industry?
- (2) How was the Wellbeing Impact Assessment applied to the budget decision to the budget decision to provide \$4.2M of funding to Canberra's sporting and recreation clubs in the Sport and Recreation Investment Scheme?
- (3) Did any sporting and recreation clubs seek funding in this year's budget and fail to get funding?
- (4) How did Government make this decision to provide twice as much funding to the horseracing industry as they provided to all sporting and recreation clubs in the sport and recreation investment scheme?

Ms Marisa Paterson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) Government funding to the ACT racing industry occurs under recurrent funding and is not reconsidered for each annual budget. A Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been applied to this program in the context of past funding agreements of 5-year duration (the memoranda of understanding).
- (2) The Wellbeing Impact Assessment is not specifically applied to individual funding recommendations/allocations from within the Sport and Recreation Investment Scheme. Sport typically aligns with the Health indicator however the interconnected nature of "sport" often has certain activities or initiatives align closely with other indicators including Social Connection and Economy.

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- (3) Yes. (During 2025-26 the 2026 Sport and Recreation Investment Scheme received 126 applications with 61 applications receiving support for 48 organisations)
- (4) The historical context concerning government funding to the ACT racing industry is set out in response to QTON No 25 (answered 23 June 2026). The policy context underpinning government funding to the ACT racing industry differs to that concerning the Sport and Recreation Investment Scheme. Significantly, statutory obligations are imposed by the *Racing Act 1999* on the two-racing industry controlling bodies as part of their participation in self-regulation of the national racing market.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT.

M. Paterson

Signature:

Date: 20/7/26

By the Minister for Gaming Reform, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA