



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

JAMES MILLIGAN MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability

Ref: Disability - Budget outlook, 161 (CSD)

In relation to: Disability - Funding

- 1) On p. 161 of the budget outlook, what is a health funding envelope and why is the disability strategy being funded in that manner (Disability health strategy p.161 BO)?
 - a. Why was the decision made not to provide ongoing funding for the Disability Health Strategy?
 - b. Why was funding not made available for the ongoing improvement of services for people living with a disability within the health sector – such as low or no-cost consultations for many on a low income, improved access to health diagnostic services and so on.

MINISTER DAVIDSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- 1) The Health Funding Envelope is a term used to describe the total level of funding to the health portfolio across the ACT Health Directorate and the Local Hospital Network (which funds Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, Clare Holland House, QEII Hospital and other hospital services). Growth in health funding for the forward estimates is held in a central provision and released to the health portfolio for new initiatives agreed by Government. The reference to "Offset – Health Funding Envelope" in the Budget Papers is describing the release of the central provision.
 - a. In the 2022-23 Budget, the Government announced \$260,000 to complete development of the Disability Health Strategy and First Action Plan. Future funding will be guided by the outcomes of the co-designed Strategy and Action Plan, in line with the process for developing the Disability Justice Strategy.
 - b. Development of the Disability Health Strategy and First Action Plan will provide a clear approach to improving health services for people living with disability. The development of the Strategy and Action Plan is being informed by the ACT disability community via the ACT Disability Health Strategy Steering Committee and community forums. Funding to implement the actions in the plan will be considered in future Budgets.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 9 September 2022

By the Minister for Disability, Emma Davidson MLA