



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr CAIN on 17 July 2023: Ms Anke van der Sterren of ATODA took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Uncorrected Proof Hansard Transcript 17/7/23 PAGE 18-19

In relation to: Alcohol and drug sentencing - any features that you think could be added to that sentencing list that might enhance it?

MR CAIN: So how do you think that is—is that program working effectively? What kind of things do you think, could we enhance it, apart from of course extra money? So what is your evaluation of that program at the moment?

Ms Van der Sterren: So we read it as working very well. I mean, the evaluation was very positive around that. We would encourage that future evaluation include looking at the alcohol and other drug interventions as an outcome measure and how those are working. So currently the evaluation is, you know, very clearly shows some positive outcomes around reducing recidivism and making other improvements in people's lives who come into contact with that system.

But we would welcome having a look at alcohol and other drug outcomes as well as part of that intervention. But we see it as working well, so we welcome the additional investment for the additional—I think it is seven—places in the drug and alcohol sentencing list, so.

MR CAIN: But any features that you think could be added to that sentencing list that might enhance it?

Ms Van der Sterren: Can I take that on notice and get back to you, is that all right?

Ms Anke van der Sterren (ATODA): The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

On 30 June ATODA provided input to the Statutory Review of Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List (DASL) Legislation, undertaken by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. As per ATODA's input into that review, ATODA's recommendations to enhance the DASL are:

- Options to expand the eligibility of the DASL should be explored (along with related resourcing needs) so that all individuals who may benefit from a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Order are within scope.

- The Drug and Alcohol Court should engage with the treatment sector on whether the existing range of treatment options considered by the Court are meeting client needs.
- As the DASL is intended to be a therapeutic alternative to incarceration, therapeutic access and outcomes should be considered as an indicator of success along with recidivism outcomes.
- The Drug and Alcohol Court should engage with the DASL providers to increase information sharing and discuss service delivery and strategies through the existing Drug Treatment Working Group.
- DASL treatment providers should be included in all planning processes.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:  Date: 31 August 2023

By the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ms Anke van der Sterren