



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

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

Redirected to: Minister for Community Services

Reference: Budget Statement C

Hearing: 23 July 2026

In relation to: The Social Compact

Question received: 30 July 2026

Answer Due: 7 August 2026

1. Through the announcement of the Social Compact, will the Government be looking at issues like indexation, long service leave, insurance, procurement and commissioning processes?
2. How will the working group approach community needs analysis?
3. CED has released the ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit. How will this report work with the working group to assess community needs?
4. How will the ACT Government resolve issues if the community needs analysis and the ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit return conflicting findings and recommendations?
5. I've heard from community sector organisations that they are frequently asked to make submissions and consult on Government plans, which they are happy to do. However, when their advice doesn't lead to changes, this process becomes frustrating and resource intensive. How can the community sector trust that the Social Compact will lead to meaningful change?
6. Considering the last Social Compact was in 2012, how will you ensure the working group continues to make policy changes and reforms as needed?
7. How will you ensure the working group's directions are implemented?

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

1. The ACT Government released a [discussion paper](#) on a range of areas including the Social Compact.

The paper provides context to a range of issues relevant to community services and community sector reform, including sustainability, policy, process and practice improvement, commissioning and the social compact. It specifically consults on two key areas:

A proposed vision for a refreshed approach to commissioning to provide a clearer way of defining the government's service priorities, goals and outcomes which will, in turn, reduce the time needed for commissioning processes

A co-design process for an updated social compact, including a *Social Compact Working Group* to guide the development of a refreshed compact, co-chaired with ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS).

2. The Social Compact process will be a co-design process, and the Social Compact Working Group will be co-chaired by ACTCOSS. It has a clear scope and the government is committed to delivering a co-designed, refreshed Social Compact.

The working group will be short term and focussed on co-design of the refreshed Compact. How the Social Compact will be implemented and monitored across its life will be a topic of the proposed co-design process. Recommendations from the working group will be provided to government for its consideration and response.

This work will be complemented by additional consultation on community sector reform as outlined in the paper. Consultation is yet to be completed, and responses and feedback received will inform future government decision making to improve the commissioning approach.

3. The ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit is an important source of information that would be complementary to proposed community services needs analysis under the revised commissioning model.
4. The ACT Government has robust structures in place to ensure a whole of government approach to decision making and will continue to work across portfolios to coordinate on assessing community needs.
5. Refer to response to question 2.
6. Refer to response to question 2.
7. Refer to response to question 2.

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

Signature:



Minister for Community Services, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Date:

