



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by MRS ELIZABETH KICKERT:

Community Services Directorate Annual Report 2016-17

In relation to Community Participation:

Working with Vulnerable People Scheme (p. 53)

1. Besides an inability to 'deliver the scheme within its budget', what other operational issues with the Working with Vulnerable People Scheme have been identified by Access Canberra as part of the scheme's mid-term review?
2. In attempting to explain an uptake of WWVP registration 330% greater than predicted by the ACT Government, Ms Starick mentioned that 'some of the anecdotal evidence' is that people who don't actually require a WWVP check for their employment are registering anyway, and you stated that 'in fact a lot of people who are not required to get a card for the roles that they undertake are getting one anyway'.
 - a. What evidence do you have besides anecdotes that people are obtaining WWVP checks when they do not in fact need them?
 - b. Since it is unknown at this point if unnecessary registration has been the main driver behind the very large uptake of WWVP registration, what other possible factors have been looked at formally?
 - c. Why was this point not specifically researched as part of the mid-term review?
 - d. Will this point be reviewed empirically at some point in future? If so, when?

Strategic Indicator 4: Value of Community Services Support Program (p. 31)

3. Can you explain why the 2016-17 Safer Families funding of \$536,000 was shifted to this financial year instead of being spent as originally budgeted?
4. What exactly will this money be used for in 2017-18?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The mid-term review was a legislative review, not a review of the Scheme's administration by Access Canberra. The full review report was tabled in the Assembly on 26 October 2017 and is available here: <http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/publications>
2. a. The Nous Group was commissioned to undertake stakeholder consultation, surveys and feedback sessions to inform the legislative review. This consultation process identified that organisations tended to adopt a 'blanket approach', requiring staff and volunteers to register with the WWVP Scheme, regardless of their role in the organisation or if they met the threshold of regulated activity.

At the whole-of-community level, the fact that around one in three adults living in the ACT has a WWVP card provides fairly strong evidence that more people are obtaining cards than are legally required to do so.

- b. The requirement to hold a WWVP card is being phased in across relevant sectors over a period of six years. During stakeholder consultations undertaken by the Nous Group, it was reported that some organisations have required their staff to become registered prior to the date their sector was scheduled to be brought into the WWVP Scheme.
 - c. This point was researched. See (a) and (b) above.
 - d. The Nous Group undertook qualitative research on this matter as part of the review. A second legislative review is scheduled to be undertaken following the seventh year of operation of the WWVP Act. The Terms of Reference have not yet been set for this review.
3. It should be noted that this specific funding stream is the responsibility of the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Integrated Case Management (\$286,000) was re-profiled from 2016-17 to 2017-18. This funding was committed to support the Family Safety Hub and therefore needed to be re-profiled pending agreement on the proposed scope, purpose and operating model for the Family Safety Hub.

Training in domestic violence for frontline workers, \$250,000 was re-profiled into 2017-18. Initial scoping, consultation and analysis was undertaken in 2016-17 to develop the approach to frontline worker training. This revealed the diverse range of frontline workers and roles that need to be considered in the strategy and indicated the most effective approach would be one that integrated domestic and family violence training within existing training and workforce development strategies. Because an integrated approach is more complex to design it has taken more time to develop the whole of government strategy so the funds could not be expended in 2016-17.

4. Integrated Case Management. The re-profiled funding will be used to support the Family Safety Hub once a final operating model is agreed.

Training in domestic violence for frontline workers. The re-profiled funding will be used in 2017-18 to complete the design of the whole of government strategy for frontline worker training, including an implementation plan and evaluation framework, and to commence delivery of the training.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:



Date:

22/12/17

By the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA