



**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Mr James Milligan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability Ms Emma Davidson MLA

Ref: Office of Disability, Book G, p. 2, 24; Book D, p. 28

In relation to: **Disability Justice Strategy**

1. In the 2020-21 budget the government appropriated funds twice for a disability justice strategy (Book D, p. 22, 25). With a total forward estimate of \$3.749 million over 4 years. **In this year’s budget** there are two funding adjustments of -\$361K. (book G, p. 24; book D, p. 28) rolled over to this year, with no further forward estimates for the initiative. Yet, in this year’s budget papers, you state you will implement the first action plan of the Disability Justice Strategy to ensure people with disability (book G, p. 2)
 - a. **Last year there was a forward estimate of \$748K. But that has now disappeared. How is this to be funded?**

In the 2019-20 mid-year budget review the ACT Government approved ongoing funding for actions in the First Action Plan of the Disability Justice Strategy. The 2020-21 ACT Government budget papers provide details of the funding to progress the Disability Justice Strategy initiatives as outlined in the table below.

	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000	2021-22 \$'000	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000
JACS budget Statement D – page 22	304	481	627	906	917
JACS budget Statement D – page 25	29	118	121	122	124
JACS budget Statement D – page 68	57	118	121	122	124
CSD budget Statement G – page 25	308	397	529	558	568
Total ACT Government budget for DJS	698	1,114	1,398	1,708	1,733

The Disability Justice Strategy funding was approved in the mid-year budget review 2019-20, therefore details were published in the 2020-21 budget papers as a new budget initiative. From 2021-22 onwards, it is included under the related output categories in the budget papers.

b. There was an appropriation for \$599K last year – where is this money gone?

Initiatives funded in the 2020-2021 financial year to progress the Disability Justice Strategy include:

- Employment of Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) across the justice sector.
- Development and delivery of disability training for the ACT justice sector.
- Development of accessible information for people who come into contact with the justice system.
- Training justice sector staff to develop documents in Easy English.
- Development of an evaluation framework for the Disability Justice Strategy.
- Development of a police best practice guide to support ACT Policing in their interactions with people with disability.
- Commencement of a supported decision-making project.
- Commencement of a Third Person Support project – providing free legal advice and early linkages to disability and other supports to people who are arrested and detained in the City Watchhouse over the weekend.
- Contribution supporting the development of a Disability Action and Inclusion Plan by ACT Corrective Services.

The funding also contributed to salaries for two action officers to support implementation of the Disability Justice Strategy, one in JACS and one in CSD.

c. Will this continue beyond this year?

Yes, see above.

d. Where are the forward estimates for this initiative to the end of the 10 years?

It was agreed by Government to provide ongoing funding for the first action plan of the Disability Justice Strategy in the 2019-20 Budget Review. Any funding requirements for future action plans will be sought through the budget process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature: 

Date: 10 Nov 2021

By the Minister for Disability, Emma Davidson MLA