



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 Ms CLAY 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 19

In relation to: Alcohol and drug sentencing - reported to save more money than its operating costs in avoiding imprisonment and recidivism - have you come across any information in that realm?

MS CLAY: I might just note, when you are looking at the alcohol and drug sentencing.

Ms Van der Sterren: Yes.

MS CLAY: That was reported to save more money than its operating costs—

Ms Van der Sterren: Yes.

MS CLAY: —in avoiding imprisonment and recidivism, which I was interested in. Have you come across any information in that realm? We would love to see it.

Ms Van der Sterren: Absolutely. I will add that too.

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

The evaluation that found the Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List (DASL) had saved the ACT Government money was conducted by the Australian National University Centre for Social Research and Methods and is available at this link:

https://courts.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/2054640/ACT-Drug-and-Alcohol-Sentencing-List_Final-Report.pdf.

Their preliminary economic assessment of DASL found that up to \$14 million is estimated to have been saved, due to avoided prison time, more than the \$13.3 million the Government recently allocated to continue to run DASL over two years. The evaluation noted a more comprehensive cost-benefit evaluation is required. ATODA supports a more comprehensive cost-benefit evaluation being conducted, which should include consideration of therapeutic outcomes.

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