



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

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Reference: Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Hearing: 29 July 2026

In relation to: Plans for new domestic violence sector network

Question received: 31 July 2026

Answer Due: 13 August 2026

The 2026-27 ACT Budget indicates that \$939,000 has been allocated over 3 years to establish a domestic violence sector network, which will aim to provide coordinated sector advice. The budget material indicates the network has not yet been designed.

1. What is the purpose of the new sector network in practice?
2. Who will comprise the network? I.e. will it be comprised of public service staff who will be funded to consult the sector and report back to government?
3. What is the existing process for consulting the sector?
4. What has driven this change in consultation process?
5. Has the government received feedback that its existing consultation with the sector has been ineffective?
 - a. If so, what challenges have the sector identified in relation to existing consultation practices?
6. Noting that the network has not yet been designed, what considerations and scoping has informed the \$939,000 allocation?

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

1. A domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) sector network will be established to support advocacy, coordination and workforce development for DFSV services, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. The sector network will provide a mechanism for coordinated sector advice and engagement on priority reforms under the ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy (the Strategy).
2. The ACT Government will work closely with the DFSV sector to design the network, including scoping work on its core functions and membership criteria. Funding is intended to support participation of key community sector representatives, not public service staff.
3. The ACT Government has taken a project-based, targeted approach to consultations with the DFSV sector for recent reforms including development of the Strategy, The Long Yarn report, coercive control legislation, the information sharing scheme and update to the Risk Assessment Management Framework. These consultations have involved time-limited working groups, workshops, focus groups, direct consultations with community sector organisations, engagement with the DFSV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, and surveys.
4. Consultation on the Strategy reinforced the need for stronger systems-level DFSV governance in driving long-term change, as well as the importance of a dedicated DFSV sector body in the absence of a peak body in the ACT. The establishment of the sector network will provide a central mechanism for sector consultation and strategic advice.
5. The ACT Government has received feedback from the sector on the need for better coordination of sector consultation and recognition that sector organisations have limited capacity to participate in consultation which cannot be absorbed from existing resources. The establishment of the sector network seeks to address this feedback by providing a coordinated and resourced mechanism for sector consultation.
6. In considering and scoping the \$939,000 Budget allocation for the sector network, the funding was proposed to resource an independent secretariat, operational costs, facilitation and participation in activities. Of the total, \$124,000 has been allocated to support an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory group with DFSV expertise to directly advise the Minister.

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

Signature:



Date:



Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Family and Sexual Violence, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA