



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock  
MLA (Deputy Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

### QUESTION ON NOTICE

Nicole Lawder MLA: To ask the Minister for Women

Ref: Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Return to Work Program

Date (Question Lodged by Member): 30/08/2022

Date (Question Sent to DLO): 05/09/2022

- 1. The NSW Return to Work Program offers a \$5000 grant, but the ACT program only offers a \$1000 grant. Why is this the case?**
- 2. Why isn't the ACT Program as extensive as the NSW Program? I.e., Having separate categories such as relocation costs, professional attire and childcare which break down how much of the \$5000 can be spent in that area.**
- 3. In the 2021-22 financial year, how many applications were received for the program and of these how many were successful?**
- 4. How does this compare to the past 4 financial years?**

Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. The budget for the ACT Women's Return to Work (RTW) Grants Program is \$160,000 annually. It is an established and ongoing program. Through grants of \$1,000 the ACT Government is able to support up to 160 women to return to the workforce. The NSW RTW Program is a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The ACT RTW policy outlines category limits for the grant, such as professional attire and childcare. These category limits are similar to limits in the NSW program.
3. 98 RTW applications were awarded in the 2021-22 financial year. Further details and figures will be provided in the Community Service Directorate's Annual Report anticipated for release in late October this year.
  - a. Almost all RTW applications are successful, they are generally only declined if the applicant is ineligible. In these instances, they are generally ineligible because the applicant lives outside the ACT or has a household income significantly over the limit.

4. As indicated above, applications were generally only declined if the applicant was ineligible. The number of successful applications for the RTW program for the last 4 financial years were:
- a) 2020-21 – 177
  - b) 2019-20 – 164
  - c) 2018-19 – 147
  - d) 2017-18 – 135

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

By Minister Yvette Berry [Minister for Women]

Date:

12/09/22