



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mrs Kikkert MLA

Reference: Hearing on 4 November 2022, Output Class 1.5 Safer Families, CSD Annual Report 2021-22, p 82.

In relation to: Recommendations from the *Listen, Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* report by the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPRP) Steering Committee

1. The ACT government announced initiatives as part of the sexual assault prevention and response program, including a \$1.17m Specialist services review, which will review agencies and statutory bodies providing services related to sexual violence. With increasing client demands, limited resources, and next to no new investment in relevant community frontline women's services, what is the reasoning behind the disproportionate funding allocated to government vs community domestic violence frontline services?
 - a. How will the review be conducted so that there are minimal disruptions and burdens on our women's services?
 - b. Has the ACT government received any other concerns or inquiries about the Specialist services review from organisations who will be subject to a review? If so, what were the nature of their concerns?

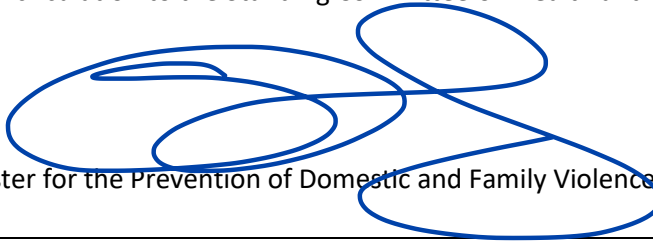
Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Both government and the community sector have a vital role in developing and delivering frontline responses to domestic family and sexual violence. While it is critical to ensure that our community sector is resourced to undertake their work, it is equally important that the appropriate areas of government are resourced to do this important work. This is clear in the recommendations from reports such as the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Report which tasked government to lead the work to undertake the Specialist Services Review to better understand our current services and service gaps to ensure that any future investment is as effective as possible for victim-survivors.

- a. The ACT Government will work and consult with the community sector throughout the Specialist Services Review process, including in the design and scoping stage, to ensure minimal disruptions and to address any potential burdens on existing sector resources.
- b. To date no concerns have been raised with the ACT Government by organisations regarding the review.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date:

13/12/22

By the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister Yvette Berry MLA