



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
16 November 2017

Asked by MRS JONES:

In relation to a comparison of total amount of grants and scholarships for 2015-16 and 2016-17 and selection criteria.

1. What is the total spend on grants and scholarships by the Office for Women in 2016-17 and how does it compare to 2015-16.
2. Provide a collated list of the grants, scholarships and recipients of each and which selection criteria were used for the grants and scholarship.

MINISTER BERRY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The total spend on grants and scholarships by the Office for Women in 2015-16 and 2016-17 is detailed in the table below.

| Grant/Scholarship | Money spent in 2015-16 | Money spent in 2016-17 |
|--|---|------------------------|
| ACT Participation (Women's) Grants | N/A – All money directed to Women's Safety Grants this year | \$34,481 |
| ACT Women's Safety Grants | \$310,000 | \$100,374 |
| Audrey Fagan Young Women's Enrichment Grants | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Return to Work Grants | \$120,000 | \$160,000 |
| Total | \$440,000 | \$304,855 |

The reason that more money was spent on grants and scholarships in the 2015-16 financial year was due to the commencement of the ACT Women's Safety Grants program. To highlight the importance of domestic and family violence, funding was temporarily diverted from a number of programs to the ACT Women's Safety Grants, totalling \$310,000. This included funding under the ACT Participation (Women's) Grants program; funding from the Audrey Fagan Violence Prevention Grants (these have continued to be superseded by the ACT Women's Safety Grants), funding from the Attorney General under the confiscated assets program and funding from the Community Support Infrastructure Grants program.

The ACT Women's Safety Grants program was run again in 2016-17 with funding of \$100,000 from the Attorney General under the confiscated assets program.

2. The selection criteria for each of the Office for Women grants and scholarships is as follows, with details of the 2015-16 recipients provided at Attachments A and 2016-17 recipients provided at Attachment B.

ACT Participation (Women's) Grants

ACT Participation (Women's) Grants provide funding to support projects related to the health and wellbeing of ACT women and girls, in line with the priorities of the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26*. Individuals and organisations can apply for funding under this grants program.

Projects must meet the following criteria:

- Achieve outcomes in line with the priorities of the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26*; and
- Occur primarily within the ACT.

Applications are assessed based on their contribution to the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26*, the capacity of the organisation or individual to deliver the project and manage the funding, innovation and value for money.

ACT Women's Safety Grants

ACT Women's Safety Grants were first introduced in 2015-16, and support innovative programs or projects that target the objectives and priorities of the *ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2011-17*. Only organisations can apply for funding under this grants program.

Projects must meet the following criteria:

- Achieve outcomes in line with the priorities of the Second Implementation Plan of the ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2011-17; and
- Occur primarily within the ACT.

Applications are assessed based on their contribution to the *ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2011-17*, the capacity of the organisation to deliver the project and manage the funding, innovation and value for money.

Audrey Fagan Young Women's Enrichment Grants

Audrey Fagan Young Women's Enrichment Grants aim to inspire young women to enhance their skills and knowledge within their area of interest. It provides an opportunity for young women to make decisions, take responsibility or initiate projects in collaboration with an experienced mentor of their choice.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a young woman aged between 12-18 years of age (the year the grant is applied for);
- Residents of the ACT and/or attend an ACT school or are home schooled in the ACT;
- Have the support of a mentor
- Have not received an Enrichment Grant or Youth Interact Scholarship in the past two years.

Applications are assessed based on the proposed activity, suitable mentor support, the benefit of undertaking the activity and the budget proposal.

Return to Work Grants

The Office for Women administer the Return to Work Grants Program. These grants provide up to \$1,000 to assist eligible women to return to the workforce. The use of the grant money is tailored to the needs of the individual woman and may be used to cover expenses such as education, training, course fees, purchasing computers and software, child care and driving lessons. This is an ongoing grants program with applications received throughout the year and no closing date.

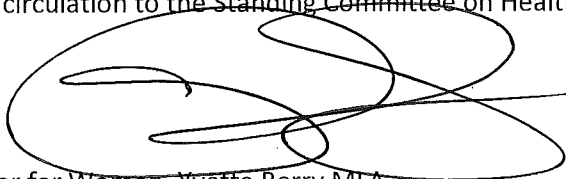
To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be in receipt of a low income (for example, have a current Health Care or Pension Card);
- Have been out of the workforce due to unpaid caring responsibilities for 12 months or more in their lifetime;
- Have not worked in paid employment for more than four consecutive months (full time or part time equivalent) during the past 12 months;
- Are not currently in paid employment or on maternity or paid/unpaid leave;
- Have lived in the ACT for the three months prior to applying for the grant (please note: a waiver may apply if the applicant has moved to the ACT due to relocation as a result of domestic violence);
- Are not receiving financial support for all training and related costs through a Job Services Australia provider or ACT Government assistance such as Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) scholarships; and
- Have not previously received assistance under this grants program.

The only additional requirement of the grant is that the applicant must work with the Office for Women to develop a return to work plan. The plan allows for the grant to be tailored to the needs of the individual woman.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:



Date: 29/11/17

By the Minister for Women, Yvette Berry MLA