



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked By: Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Women

Reference: CSD Budget Paper

Hearing Date: 23/07/2024

In relation to: Community Services Directorate and ACT Women's plan 2024-25

QON lodgement Date: 25/07/2024

Answer Due date: 02/08/2024

1. Minister, the ACT Women's Plan will end in 2026. When will the next ACT Women's Plan and its supporting action plans will be formalised and made publicly available? This was a recommendation of the 2023-24 Estimates Committee Report to accelerate the action plans, which the Government noted.
2. Why did the Government only have noted this recommendation to improve effectiveness and relevance, instead of agreeing to it when earlier planning will give greater visibility and accountability all involved?
3. What specific accountability indicators are included in the 2024-25 Budget regarding the Women's Plan or other areas of women's policy?
4. If there are no accountability indicators relating to women's plan or other areas of women's policy (except the safety one) how do you know progress and achievements?
5. Given ongoing concerns about women's safety in the ACT, Minister what new policies or funding has been allocated in this budget to address these issues around women's safety?
6. Strategic indicator 5 targets and Estimates for the proportion of women who feel safe when they are by themselves walking in the neighbourhood during the day and at night – from the Community Satisfaction with policing national survey. Is the data for the ACT assessed in the exact same way as for other jurisdictions?
7. How has budget expenditure been allocated to ensure that all commitments under the ACT Women's Plan and the Third Action Plan are met, and what proportion of expenditure is going to specialist women's services, versus the public sector and other sectors such as unions?

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

1. The next Women's Plan and its supporting action plans will be a matter for Government in 2026. Preliminary work on the next Women's Plan is expected to commence in 2025.
2. The development of the next Women's Plan is a significant activity for the Government. The recommendation was not agreed, and instead noted, because it is important that time is taken to develop a Women's Plan that meets the needs and expectations of the community. This process takes time and must involve consultation with community and stakeholders and also consider gender policy discussions at the local and national level to inform its development.
3. There are no specific accountability indicators in the 2024-25 Budget in relation to the Women's Plan. However, the Women's Budget Statement maps relevant budget initiatives against the focus areas of the Women's Plan.
4. Annual updates on the Third Action Plan (2023-26) under the ACT Women's Plan (2016-2026) provide information on the status of each action to track progress and achievements. The year two update will be published in March 2025.
5. 2024-25 Budget funding for Women's Safety is provided on page 8 of the ACT Women's Budget Statement.

Appendix H (Safer Families) of the Budget Outlook outlines that the 2024-25 Budget provides a total of \$12.246 million in new funding across a range of domestic, family and sexual violence initiatives over the next four years, including a significant funding boost for frontline services.

6. All Australian Governments report on 'perceptions of safety' annually in the Report on Government Services, under Part C (Justice). This data is collated by the Australian Federal Police and has been used to inform annual reporting on Community Services Directorates strategic indicators under objective 5 (Promote an anti-violence culture in the ACT to ensure that women feel safe).

Due to a national change in the data collection methodology for the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP) the 2023-24 data is not comparable to previous years' results. The new methodology for collection has shifted for all jurisdictions to a mix of online and phone modes using a sample mix combination of mobile Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and online (through a probability-based online panel). This change has significantly impacted the NSCSP results as respondents' answers differ between CATI and online. Sampling mix also differs between jurisdictions. Accordingly, the 2023-24 data is not comparable to results in previous years and ACT results are not comparable to other jurisdictions.

7. Annual updates on the Third Action Plan (2023-26) under the ACT Women's Plan (2016-2026) provides information on Budget measures to implement the relevant action. If no Budget allocation has been made, these commitments are funded from within existing resources. The year two update will be published in March 2025.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves.

Date:

9/08/24

By the Minister for Women, Ms Yvette Berry