



Inquiry into men's suicide rates

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

REDIRECTED to: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

In relation to: Local Drug Action Teams - policing

Hearing: 28/11/2025

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Answer Due: 10/12/2025

THE CHAIR: Just on that, if ...(indistinct)... [12.53.41] to go, you mention police. The Alcohol and Drug Foundation spoke about the benefit of local drug action teams. They have got six such teams in the ACT. But said that ACT Policing is neither an elite partner, nor a supporting partner in any of those teams. The nearest police led local drug action team they said is in Wagga.

Is this something that would help? You know, I am just thinking about—we hear in Civic, obviously there are people who need support here in the city. Often their contact point might be police as opposed to a service provider. Is that something that you would be supportive of? Have you had any conversations about that?

Ms Stephen-Smith: I have not had any conversations about it. And I am not sure whether the extent to which it is a matter for this portfolio versus policing. So I might take the question on notice, Mr Emerson, and try and find out some further information.

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

ACT Policing recognises that harms related to alcohol and other drug use are a health issue, rather than a criminal issue and ACT Policing is therefore not a partner of the ACT Local Drug Action Teams.

ACT Policing continues to support and practices a health-based, diversionary approach when encountering people using illicit drugs and recognises that alcohol and other drug use is complex.

However, ACT Policing maintains its commitment to target drug trafficking and criminality driven by drug use.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: 

Date: 23/01/2026

By the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA