Mrs Giulia Jones MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role)

ACT Legislative Assembly

GPO Box 1020

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mrs Jones,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your comments in relation to Disallowable Instrument 2019-173, being the Victims of Crime (Fees) Determination 2019 (no 1).

You have outlined that the 2.25 percent Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase that was applied is inconsistent with the reliance on a 2.5 percent Wage Price Index (WPI) increase in the other fees determinations considered in Scrutiny Report 33.

Section 50(1) of the *Victims of Crime Regulation 2000*, under which DI2019-173 was made, determines fees that are payable by the ACT Government for therapeutic services provided to a victim by a third party service provider.

The Government’s *Fees and Charges Policy and Guidelines* *(2014)* sets out that WPI may not be an appropriate index to adjust fees and charges where the cost of an activity is not related to wages, and that agency expenditure on services provided by other agencies should be indexed by CPI.

Fees paid to victim of crime service providers are therefore increased by CPI, whereas fees determinations that set out amounts paid to Government for services provided are commonly increased by WPI.

I will ensure this information is included in relevant Explanatory Statements in the future. Thank you for your ongoing work in the role of legislative scrutiny.

Yours sincerely

Shane Rattenbury MLA

Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety

actchiefminister