

**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA**

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Gaming Reform

Member for Murrumbidgee

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 5****Friday, 11 April 2025****Question No. 270****MS CARRICK:** To ask the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

1. In relation to the Safer Families Levy, when will the ACT Government provide a document that updates their understanding of what the needs of the ACT are in responding to domestic and family violence.
2. When will the identified needs be delivered in a Territory-specific strategy for responding to domestic and family violence.
3. When will the strategy and the needs be outlined in an action plan.
4. Will there be new reporting designed to provide transparency around the financials and performance of the actions.
5. What co-ordinated processes have the ACT Government put in place to ensure the safety of women and children suffering domestic, sexual and family violence.
6. Will there be open and transparent allocation of funds from the Safer Families Levy to organisations that support victims of family, domestic and sexual violence.
7. How many women and children who are seeking support are turned away on a weekly basis from services such as women's refuges due to a lack of funds.
8. What processes are in place to identify and divert potential perpetrators of domestic, sexual and family violence in the ACT.



**Marisa Paterson MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Throughout 2025 and into 2026, the ACT Government is progressing the development of the ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy (the Strategy) in consultation with the ACT community. The Strategy is intended to be released in 2026.
2. As above.
3. The Strategy will be supported by detailed Action Plans which will be released in accordance with the timeframes above.
4. A monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed alongside the Strategy and in consultation with stakeholders. The framework will establish a consistent and transparent approach to how the ACT Government monitors, reports and evaluates ACT Government reforms and initiatives to address domestic, family and sexual violence, including those funded by the Levy.
5. The ACT Government is committed to preventing and responding to domestic, family and sexual violence and has several initiatives providing coordinated support for women and children. The ACT Government funds the Family Violence Safety Action Program, delivered by Victim Support ACT and the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, to address high-risk domestic and family violence perpetration in the ACT. The program brings together relevant agencies to share information on a perpetrator's pattern of behaviour to coordinate approaches, improve perpetrator accountability and victim-survivor safety.

The ACT Government also reinstated the Wraparound Support Program, which consists of operational, monthly face-to-face meetings between key agencies including ACT Policing, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Victim Support ACT, Child, Youth and Families (CYF), Domestic Violence Crisis Centre, Forensic and Medical Sexual Assault Care (FAMSAC) and Enhanced Child Health Services to provide a consistent, coordinated and multi-disciplinary response to victim-survivors of sexual violence. Victim Support ACT is funded to employ a Wraparound Coordinator and a Wraparound Support Officer to lead this multi-disciplinary intervention for victim-survivors of sexual violence.

The Safer Families Collaboration Program embeds staff from the Domestic Violence Crisis Service in ACT Child and Youth Protection Services, to further coordination and service integration.

The Health Justice Partnerships embed lawyers in health and child and family service settings to increase access to legal advice and coordinate responses for people experiencing or at risk of domestic, family and sexual violence.

An e-learn training program for all ACT Public Service staff supports staff to recognise and take appropriate steps in responding to colleagues impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence. It also informs staff of supports available if they are experiencing violence.

Frontline services across ACT Government coordinate responses to domestic, family and sexual violence in client presentations as part of their core business.

6. The ACT Government is committed to open and transparent allocation and reporting of its investment to address domestic, family and sexual violence. As part of the Government Response to the Safer Families Levy Audit, the ACT Government introduced a set of principles to govern Safer Families Levy funding expenditure. The principles will be implemented and applied for new initiatives from the 2025-26 ACT Budget. The ACT Government also publishes Safer Families Levy information in ACT Budget papers each year. The information in the Budget Papers will clearly articulate how Levy funding is used.
7. We are continuing to work with our frontline service providers to identify data opportunities to better understand unmet demand. The ACT Government maintains relationships with frontline services who report on their service usage and knows that demand for these services has increased over time and increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, funding for domestic, family and sexual violence services has increased year on year since the establishment of the Safer Families Levy, and most significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. The Family Violence Safety Action Program, mentioned above, provides a coordinated response to identify and track high-risk perpetrators. The ACT Government also continues to invest in other perpetrator responses, including EveryMan's Violence Prevention Program, the Domestic Violence Crisis Service's Room4Change Program and Multicultural Hub Canberra's recently commenced CALD Men's Non-Violence Behaviour Program. More information on services available can be found on the [ACT Government's website](#).

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

**Marisa Paterson MLA**

**Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence**

**Date:.....**

This response required 180 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$305.17.