

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

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 4

21 March 2025

Question No. 250

MS MORRIS: To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services —

1. In relation to knife, machete and/or bladed instrument crime in the ACT, how many incidents have occurred in the years of (a) 2021, (b) 2022, (c) 2023, (d) 2024 and (e) 2025 to March.
2. How many incidents have occurred in the Brindabella electorate in the years of (a) 2021, (b) 2022, (c) 2023, (d) 2024 and (e) 2025 to March.
3. How many knives, machetes or bladed instruments have been seized from individuals carrying them in public for the years of (a) 2021, (b) 2022, (c) 2023, (d) 2024 and (e) 2025 to March.
4. How many knives, machetes or bladed instruments have been seized in the Brindabella Electorate from individuals carrying them in public for the years of (a) 2021, (b) 2022, (c) 2023, (d) 2024 and (e) 2025 to March.
5. What powers do general duties ACT Policing officers currently have in relation to knife crime.

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

1.

NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED TO ACT POLICING WHERE A KNIFE OR SHARP INSTRUMENT WAS INVOLVED					
Offence Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	Jan-Feb 2025
Homicide	4	3	4	4	0
Assault	88	73	67	69	8
Sexual offences	2	0	3	2	0
Other offences against the person	26	20	30	14	1
Robbery	56	48	47	42	7
Burglary	28	39	33	33	7
Stolen Motor vehicle	10	4	4	4	3
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	30	49	15	39	2
Property damage	84	92	80	57	6
Other offences against property	1	0	1	1	0
Justice procedures	5	8	3	7	1
Firearms and weapons	120	169	176	142	38
Other offences against good order	10	9	6	8	0
Drug offences	0	0	2	2	0
Traffic Offences	5	3	3	0	0
Other offences n.e.c.	3	0	0	0	0
Total	472	517	474	424	73

Source: PROMIS as of 23 March 2025

2.

NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED TO ACT POLICING OCCURRING IN THE BRINDABELLA ELECTORATE WHERE A KNIFE OR SHARP INSTRUMENT WAS INVOLVED (a)					
Offence Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	Jan-Feb 2025
Homicide	0	0	0	2	0
Assault	11	14	9	12	0
Other offences against the person	1	3	5	2	0
Robbery	10	11	10	8	2
Burglary	2	8	6	5	1
Stolen Motor vehicle	1	1	0	2	1
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	2	7	0	1	0
Property damage	16	16	20	11	1
Justice procedures	1	0	0	0	0
Firearms and weapons	22	19	33	14	2

Other offences against good order	2	1	0	1	0
Traffic Offences	0	1	0	0	0
Total	68	81	83	58	7

Source: PROMIS as of 23 March 2025

^(a) – Includes the suburbs of Kambah, Wanniasa, Fadden, Macarthur, Oxley, Gowrie, Gilmore, Greenway, Monash, Chisholm, Isabella Plains, Bonython, Calwell, Richardson, Theodore, Conder, Gordon, Banks, Tharwa.

3.

KNIFE SEIZURES					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	Jan-Feb 2025
Knives Seized	407	441	422	475	98

Source: PROMIS as of 23 March 2025

4.

KNIVES SEIZED IN THE BRINDABELLA ELECTORATE (a)					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	Jan-Feb 2025
Knives Seized	61	78	78	75	14

Source: PROMIS as of 23 March 2025

^(a) – Includes the suburbs of Kambah, Wanniasa, Fadden, Macarthur, Oxley, Gowrie, Gilmore, Greenway, Monash, Chisholm, Isabella Plains, Bonython, Calwell, Richardson, Theodore, Conder, Gordon, Banks, Tharwa.

- Under the *Crimes Act 1900 – Sect 382*, the possession of a knife in a public place or school without a reasonable excuse is prohibited, including for the purpose of self-defence.

The [Crimes Act 1900 \(ACT\)](#) provides ACT Policing with the following powers to search for a knife if the police officer has **suspicion on reasonable grounds**.

- Section 193 – Police may conduct a frisk or ordinary search on a person in a public place or school if they are suspected on reasonable grounds of having a knife and may seize any knife found as a result of the search.

- Section 207 – Police may stop, search and seize a person for a relevant thing under the circumstances of a serious offence or a thing that has been stolen or otherwise was unlawfully obtained. Police may exercise this power if a police officer suspects, on reasonable grounds, without a search warrant as the circumstances under this section are deemed serious and urgent.
- Sections 223 and 224 – Police may conduct a frisk or ordinary search of an arrested person at the time of arrest.
- Section 185 – defines a **frisk search** as a search of a person conducted by quickly running the hands over the person's outer garments; and an examination of anything worn or carried by the person that is conveniently and voluntarily removed by the person.
- Section 185 – defines an **ordinary search** as a search of a person or of articles in the possession of a person that may include – requiring the person to remove their overcoat, coat or jacket and any gloves, shoes, socks and hat; and an examination of those items.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

M. Paterson

Marisa Paterson MLA

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Date: 15/4/25

This response required 5hrs 00mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$266.36