

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 11

25 September 2025

Question No. 658

MS Deborah Morris MLA: To ask the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

1. What community-led responses to domestic and family violence have been implemented in the Brindabella electorate since 2021?
2. How are the outcomes of the local responses referred to in part (1) being measured or evaluated?
3. What proportion of the \$30 million investment in the 2025-2026 Budget to address domestic, family, and sexual violence is being spent in Brindabella, and what specific programs are funded in high-risk suburbs such as Kambah or Wanniasa?
4. How is the ACT Government ensuring that the forthcoming comprehensive ACT Strategy for domestic, family, and sexual violence incorporates the specific needs of the Brindabella electorate?
5. What consultation, if any, has occurred with stakeholders and community organisations in Brindabella to inform the strategy referred to in part (4)?
6. How is the strategy referred to in part (4) addressing the needs of vulnerable groups in Brindabella, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?

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

1. The ACT Government funds and implements a range of domestic and family violence (DFV) responses on a Territory-wide basis. These responses are designed to be accessible by all Canberrans across the ACT to ensure people can seek the DFV services and supports most suitable to their needs.

The [ACT Budget papers](#) provide more information on community-led responses funded by the ACT Government since 2021.

2. All DFV initiatives funded by Government have contracts in place which include reporting requirements linked to funded activity outcomes and/or outputs. Funded organisations report to the ACT Government on a regular basis. (i.e. every six months).

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The ACT Government is currently developing a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, alongside a 10-year Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy (the Strategy), to support consistent, evidence-informed assessment of reforms and initiatives addressing domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) in the ACT. It will also support continuous improvement and accountability across the ACT's DFSV system and services.

3. Please refer to the response to Question 1.

Further, the [DFSV 2025-26 Factsheet](#) provides information on the ACT Government's investment to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence, including new and continuing initiatives. It can be read alongside 'Appendix H- Safer Families' in the 2025-26 ACT Budget Outlook Papers.

4. The Strategy will provide ACT-wide strategic direction for preventing and responding to domestic, family and sexual violence through a whole-of-system approach. As the ACT's DFSV system operates ACT-wide, the Strategy will provide ACT-wide strategic direction rather than being focused on specific regions.

The Strategy development is informed by extensive consultations with victim survivors, ACT-wide specialist service providers, the broader community sector, and the wider Canberra community, to capture diverse experiences and expertise from across the Territory.

5. In 2024, the ACT Government invited all Canberrans to provide feedback on an early draft of the Strategy through a survey on the ACT Government YourSay website. The location of respondents was not recorded.

In response to community feedback, consultation was extended to 2025 to enable further engagement with the domestic, family and sexual violence service sector.

Formal consultation on the Strategy in 2025, is being undertaken in phases. The first phase of consultation on the Strategy's long-term vision, principles and priority areas commenced in June 2025. A broad range of stakeholders were engaged, including:

- DFSV service providers operating ACT-wide, including Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), organisations working with people who use violence, and frontline practitioners;
- Non-specialist service providers, including not-for-profit organisations, community services, and peak and industry bodies;
- Government agencies and directorates, both those delivering DFSV services and those contributing to policy alignment.

A second phase of consultation on short-term actions will commence in October 2025.

Additionally, a separate consultation with victim-survivors was facilitated by Women's Health Matters through the Victim Survivors' Voices pilot program, ensuring their experiences are central to the development of the Strategy. Victim-survivor demographics, including location of residence, were not reported to protect confidentiality.

6. Consultation and the Strategy are being developed with an intersectional approach, recognising that people's experiences of DFSV are shaped by multiple and overlapping factors, including culture, gender, sexuality, disability, age, and socioeconomic status.

The ACT Government has prioritised consultation with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and continues to work in partnership with these organisations and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure culturally safe and community-led responses are embedded in the Strategy and the broader DFSV system.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

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This response required 1.75 hours to complete, at an approximate cost of \$281.21