

**Emma Davidson MLA**

Minister for Disability

Minister for Justice Health

Minister for Mental Health

Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services

Member for Murrumbidgee

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 1**

**4 December 2020**

**Question No. 70**

**MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Disability:

- (1) Is there currently a comprehensive disability framework and strategy by the ACT Government?
- (2) Are there currently any reporting obligations against any disability frameworks and/or strategies?
- (3) Is there currently a charter of rights for disability in the ACT?
- (4) How many people and what percentage of people are identified in the ACT as living with a disability?
- (5) What is their age, gender and assessed degree of impairment?
- (6) How many of these people and what percentage of these people are identified as culturally and/linguistically diverse?
- (7) How many of these people and what percentage of these people are identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
- (8) What disabilities have been identified in the ACT community, in order from most prevalent to least?
- (9) How many people and what percentage of people live with each identified disability?

**MINISTER DAVIDSON:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government is committed to a Disability Framework under the National Disability Strategy, called INVOLVED. INVOLVED demonstrates how the ACT Government is meeting the expectations of the community to create an inclusive Canberra for all people, and specifically, how people with disability are supported to have better life experiences. The ACT Government is obligated through COAG to implement the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the next strategy, which will be launched in mid-2021. In addition, the ACT has a Disability Justice Strategy and an ACT COVID-19 Disability Strategy.
- (2) The ACT is obliged to report on the priorities of the National Disability Strategy every few years and contributes to a nationally consolidated response which is published through the Department of Social Services website. There is an annual reporting requirement for the ACT Disability Justice Strategy. The first report was published in September 2020. The ACT COVID-19 Disability Strategy is subject to annual report requirements under the auspices of the Community Services Directorate. Australia signed up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the UNCRPD) in 2008. Australia reports to the United Nations every four years, and all Australian Governments including the ACT contribute to this national response.
- (3) There is no charter of rights for people with disability in the ACT, however the *Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)* and the *Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT)* protect the rights of people with disability. Additionally, the *Disability Services Act (ACT) 1991* includes the requirement that:

“Services should be designed and administered so as to ensure that people with disabilities have access to advocacy support where necessary to ensure adequate participation in decision-making about the services they receive” (Schedule 2 item 11).

Amendments to the *Disability Services Act* made in 2012 gave the Minister the power to approve disability service standards and to make regulations under the Act.

The rights of people with disability are also protected by other Commonwealth and international laws such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- (4) According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings*, released on 5 February 2020, in 2018 there were approximately 80,000 people with reported disability in the ACT representing an estimated 19.4 per cent of the total ACT population.
- (5)
  - a) The following data is sourced from the ABS publication *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings (2018)*. The information requested is given at higher levels of aggregation to support use of the most robust data available. Information available at finer levels is not recommended for discrete use. Note also that people with disability can fall into multiple disability groups.

	Persons aged 0 to 64 years	Persons aged 65 years and over	Males	Females	All persons
ESTIMATE ('000)					
Profound or severe core activity limitation	14.8	9.6	11.9	11	23.2
Moderate or mild core activity limitation	20.6	11.7	13.5	19.7	33.3
Schooling or employment restriction	34.5	5.3	19.8	21.8	40
All with specific limitations or restrictions	44.3	21.5	32.6	35.2	67
All with reported disability	53.1	24.5	34.7	41.9	77.3
No reported disability	307.3	25.9	168	164.9	332.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>358.6</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>202.7</b>	<b>207.7</b>	<b>410.6</b>

- b) The following table, sourced from the ABS publication *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* released on 5 February 2020, provides a breakdown of the estimated number of people with a disability in the ACT by age group:

Age Group (years)	Number with reported disability (estimate)
0–4	1,100*
5–14	8,100
15–24	7,100
25–34	4,800**
35–44	10,300
45–54	8,400
55–59	6,400
60–64	6,200
65–69	7,100
70–74	6,500
75–79	4,300
80–84	4,000
85–89	2,600**
90 and over	2,800
* The ABS note that this estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.	
** The ABS note that these estimates have a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.	

- (6) The ABS does not provide data on the number of culturally and linguistically diverse people with disability in the ACT, however, information about the characteristics of NDIS participants in the ACT is available through the most

recent NDIS *Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers*, published on the NDIA website. Of the 7909 NDIS participants as at 30 September 2020 there were 858 active NDIS participants who identified as culturally and linguistically diverse, equating to 10.8 per cent of total NDIS participants in the ACT.

- (7) The ABS does not provide data on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability in the ACT, however, information about the characteristics of NDIS participants in the ACT is available through the most recent NDIS *Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers*, published on the NDIA website. Of the 7909 NDIS participants as at 30 September 2020 there were 330 people who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, equating to 4.2 percent of total NDIS participants in the ACT.
- (8) The ABS does not provide data on the disability characteristics, numbers or types experienced by each person with disability. There is information available from the NDIS *Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers*, published on the NDIA website, that provides information about disability characteristics, along with the number of people of NDIS participants in the ACT. The following table outlines the disability type and numbers of people experiencing each type in the ACT who access the NDIS, at 30 September 2020.

The 7909 people with disability accessing the NDIS are a subset of the 80,000 people with disability in the ACT.

**Table L.12 Participant profile per quarter by primary disability group – Australian Capital Territory** 526 527 528

Disability	Prior Quarters		2020-21 Q1		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Autism	2,173	28%	83	33%	2,256	29%
Intellectual Disability	1,380	18%	<11		1,388	18%
Psychosocial disability	946	12%	25	10%	971	12%
Developmental Delay	657	9%	76	31%	733	9%
Hearing Impairment	405	5%	<11		414	5%
Other Neurological	331	4%	<11		339	4%
Other Physical	499	7%	11	4%	510	6%
Cerebral Palsy	276	4%	<11		278	4%
ABI	182	2%	<11		187	2%
Visual Impairment	163	2%	<11		165	2%
Global Developmental Delay	159	2%	<11		167	2%
Multiple Sclerosis	182	2%	<11		187	2%
Stroke	109	1%	<11		110	1%
Spinal Cord Injury	66	1%	<11		67	1%
Other Sensory/Speech	105	1%	<11		105	1%
Other	28	0%	<11		32	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,661</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>100%</b>

- (9) The information is contained in the combined response in question 8.

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



**Emma Davidson  
Minister for Disability**

**Date:** 1 JAN 2021 .....

This response required 3hrs 5mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$364.57.