

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 8

27 June 2025

Question No. 523

Jo Clay MLA: To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services —

1. What additional prevention and safety measures are being considered by the ACT Government to reduce antisocial behaviours at Charnwood shops since the upgrades have been completed.
2. What measures are the ACT Government taking to reduce occurrences of breaking and entering at Charnwood Shops.

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

Answer to Q1:

The Charnwood Shops as well as other shopping precincts within the Belconnen zone are regularly patrolled by ACT Policing officers. ACT Policing uses the incident response prioritisation framework when responding to incidents.

ACT Policing provides advice and strategies to help improve or maximise businesses security measures. Police can refer victims of crime to SupportLink, who will provide them with a package of materials on increasing security.

Perception of crime and anti-social behaviour in the community is an issue of concern, and efforts are being made by Government and ACT Policing to address the issues raised. Education and public messaging are important components of crime prevention, community safety and enhancing confidence in police.

A Cross Directorate Working Group has been established following Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA's amended motion of 6 March 2025 Dickson Shops Taskforce – Progress Report and Improvement. ACT Policing separately convened the Canberra Community Working Group to work on crime and safety issues identified for Civic and Dickson.

The Cross Directorate Working Group is required to report back to the Legislative Assembly by October 2025 on their progress and meaningful steps taken, as well as any data trends and impacts. The outputs of the working group will be considered in relation to concerns at other shopping precincts across Canberra, including Charnwood.

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Answer to Q2:

ACT Policing, data indicates that assault and burglary offences at Charnwood shops are trending downward.

Offence	2022	2023	2024
Assault	9	1	3
Burglary	5	5	2
Total	14	6	5

ACT Policing has a dedicated Business Liaison Officer (BLO) who serves as a vital link between ACT Policing and the business community. The BLO works to address concerns, promote crime reduction initiatives, and facilitate problem-solving efforts to maintain a safe, secure, thriving business environment.

If Charnwood shop owners have further concerns, they can approach the BLO Sergeant Michael Serbatoio at ACT-Business-Liaison-Officer@afp.gov.au.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

M. Paterson

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Date: 25/7/25

This response required 0hrs 25mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$38.96