

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 3

7 March 2025

Question No. 199

MR CAIN: To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services —

1. Given that since the decriminalisation of drugs in the ACT, no formal review or public feedback has been provided regarding its impact, can the Minister advise (a) if there has been an increase or decrease in crime rates since decriminalisation, (b) if there has been any change in the number of motor vehicle, bike, or scooter accidents involving drivers under the influence of drugs and (c) if there has been any increase in reports of domestic violence where drugs were a contributing factor.
2. What data is being collected to assess the impact of decriminalisation on public safety.
3. When will the Government release an official review or report to inform the public on whether community safety has been compromised.

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

1. Changes to the number of incidents or offences reported to ACT Policing over time may be caused by a range of factors. ACT Policing recommend that the data provided should not be used to infer a causal relationship between amendments to the Drugs of Dependence Act and changes in incidents or offences reported to ACT Policing.
 - 1a. Offences reported to ACT Policing have decreased since the introduction of amendments to the Drugs of Dependence Act on 28 October 2023. Over the five years ending 2024 offences reported have trended downwards.

- 1b. The number of motor vehicle collisions attended by ACT Policing involving drugs has not shown any consistent trend since 28 October 2023. Over the five years ending 2024 motor vehicle collisions involving drugs remained steady except for a spike in 2020.

Drug driving charges laid by ACT Policing have remained steady since 28 October 2023. Over the five years ending 2024 drug driving charges laid by ACT Policing have trended downwards.

- 1c. Family violence related incidents involving drugs reported to ACT Policing have increased since 28 October 2023. Over the five years ending 2024 family violence related incidents involving drugs have not shown a consistent trend.

Family violence related assault offences involving drugs reported to ACT Policing have increased since 28 October 2023. Over the five years ending 2024 family violence related incidents involving drugs have not shown a consistent trend.

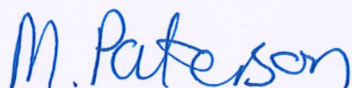
2. To date, 286 matters have been referred to the Early Intervention and Diversion Program. 13 people have not yet attended the program, and 17 people have been issued with simple drug offence notices (fines).

While there have not been any significant issues identified in the past 12 months arising from the new arrangements, ACT Policing will continue to monitor the statistics closely. The key to success will be the delivery of wraparound services to support vulnerable persons.

ACT Policing will continue to monitor the effects of this legislation, including the number of people charged in relation to producing and distributing illicit drugs in the ACT, and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's wastewater report which provides a comprehensive analysis of drug consumption and trends in the territory.

3. Section 205B of the *Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Act 2022* states that a review of the amendments must commence as soon as practicable after the second year of operation. The Minister is required to present a report of the review to the Legislative Assembly within six months after the day the review is commenced.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

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Date:
26/3/25

This response required 09hrs 25mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$946.63

