



**Andrew Barr MLA**

Chief Minister

Treasurer

Minister for Climate Action

Minister for Trade, Investment and Economic Development

Minister for Tourism

Member for Kurrajong

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 44**

**28 JUNE 2024**

**Question No. 2053**

**LAURA NUTTALL MLA:** To ask the Chief Minister

Given that on 6 June, the Premier of NSW formally apologised on behalf of the NSW Government for the criminalisation of homosexuality, has the ACT ever issued a similar apology; if not, why not.

**ANDREW BARR MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Federal laws decriminalising homosexuality in the ACT came into effect in 1976, prior to the ACT being granted self-government. As a result, homosexuality has never been criminalised under a law of the ACT Legislative Assembly. The ACT Government has therefore not issued an apology for these laws, but instead focuses on ensuring legislation in the ACT is inclusive and equitable for all.

The ACT Government has recognised the negative and unjust impact of past Commonwealth laws and has taken significant steps within our powers to rectify them. The *Spent Convictions (Historical Homosexual Convictions Extinguishment) Amendment Act 2015* (ACT) came into effect on 7 November 2015 allowing individuals previously convicted of consensual homosexual conduct prior to 1976 to have their convictions permanently erased from their records.

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

**Andrew Barr MLA**

**Chief Minister**

Date: **31. 7. 2024**

This response required 3hrs 00mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$318.00.