

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 12

24 October 2025

Question No. 692

#### **Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Minister for City and Government Services**

1. Is the Government aware of the increasing incidence of graffiti vandalism in suburbs such as Higgins and Holt.
2. What measures is the Government currently taking to prevent and remove graffiti from public spaces across the ACT.
3. How frequently are public areas in Higgins and Holt inspected and cleaned of graffiti.
4. What is the average response time for the removal of graffiti once it has been reported to the relevant authorities.
5. Does the Government have a strategy in place to identify and penalise offenders responsible for graffiti vandalism.
6. Has the Government considered restricting the sale of aerosol spray paint cans to minors as a measure to reduce graffiti vandalism.
7. Will the Government consider implementing an education or awareness program in ACT schools aimed at deterring young people from engaging in graffiti vandalism.
8. What funding has been allocated in the current financial year to address graffiti removal and prevention in the ACT.

#### **TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:**

1. Over the last 12 months, reports do not indicate a significant upward trend in graffiti incidents on ACT Government assets in the suburbs of Higgins or Holt.
2. The ACT Government takes the issue of illegal graffiti seriously and takes a holistic approach to reducing the incidence of graffiti vandalism. A Graffiti Coordinator has been appointed to liaise with artists, students, and community groups. Their role includes identifying new legal graffiti sites and overseeing public mural projects. City Services also operates a responsive graffiti removal contract to address illegal graffiti on public assets.
3. Inspections are conducted on highly visible locations to identify graffiti, while other public areas in Higgins and Holt are managed on a reactive basis. Graffiti removal in these suburbs typically

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occurs following reports from residents via Fix My Street or through observations made by City Services employees.

4. Once identified, removal of offensive graffiti from public property occurs within one business day, and for all other unauthorised graffiti within five business days.
5. For graffiti to be considered a police matter, a person must intentionally or recklessly destroy, damage or deface property belonging to an individual or organisation.

If ACT Policing receives a report of graffiti deemed to be highly offensive and there are viable lines of enquiry, such as the identification of a suspect through CCTV footage, a patrol will be dispatched to investigate. In the absence of actionable leads, ACT Policing will refer the matter to Access Canberra for prompt removal of the graffiti.

If a specific brand or tag of graffiti becomes a persistent problem or is highly offensive and directed at an individual or group, ACT Policing Intelligence will support investigations by developing profiles and identifying potential leads to determine those responsible.

Police respond to all reports according to dispatch protocols, giving priority and quicker response times to situations where people are at risk.

6. The Government is not currently considering restricting the sale of aerosol spray paint cans to minors as a measure to reduce graffiti vandalism. There are currently no laws in the ACT that restrict the supply of spray paints; however, some stores voluntarily restrict supply.
7. This is not currently being considered.
8. The current graffiti removal contract is for 5-year term at a fixed cost of \$3.45 million.

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



**Tara Cheyne MLA**  
**Minister for City and Government Services**

**Date:** 25/11/25

This response required 5 hrs 58 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$512.03

