



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL  
TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION**

(Reference: [Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021-22](#))

**Members:**

**MR M PETTERSSON (Chair)**  
**MR J DAVIS (Deputy Chair)**  
**MR P CAIN**

**PROOF TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE**

**CANBERRA**

**THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2021**

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**Acting secretary to the committee:**  
**Dr C Regan (Ph: 620 50142)**

**By authority of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory**

Submissions, answers to questions on notice and other documents, including requests for clarification of the transcript of evidence, relevant to this inquiry that have been authorised for publication by the committee may be obtained from the Legislative Assembly website.

**APPEARANCES**

**Community Services Directorate.....85**

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*Amended 20 May 2013*

**The committee met at 1.33 pm.**

Appearances:

Davidson, Ms Emma, Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health

Community Services Directorate

Rule, Ms Catherine, Director-General

Murray, Ms Christine, Executive Group Manager, Inclusion and Participation

Summerrell, Ms Jessica, Executive Branch Manager, Social and Community Inclusion, Inclusion and Participation

**THE CHAIR:** Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the fourth of five public hearings for the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion inquiry into the ACT budget 2021-22. Before we go further, the committee wishes to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and their contribution to the life of this city and region.

In the proceedings today we will examine the expenditure proposals and revenue estimates for the Community Services Directorate in relation to inclusion and participation—seniors, ageing policy and veterans—the Office for Disability and quality, complaints and regulation.

Please be aware that the proceedings today are being recorded and transcribed, and will be published by Hansard. They are also being broadcast and webstreamed live. When taking a question on notice, it would be useful if witnesses used the words, “I will take that question on notice.”

Let us go straight to questions. Minister, could you update the committee on the age-friendly city plan?

**Ms Davidson:** Before I pass to officials to talk in more detail about what we have been doing on the age-friendly city plan, I want to note that the way this works is that most of the work is being done by a range of different directorates, including TCCS. Access Canberra have been doing some great work on their dementia-friendly Access Canberra in Belconnen and things like pathway upgrades and the like. It has been a really nice piece of work to see all of that coming together within the age-friendly city plan with so many different directorates involved. I will hand over to officials who can talk in more detail about what has been done.

**Ms Rule:** In the interests of time I might throw directly to Jess Summerrell.

**Ms Summerrell:** I acknowledge the privilege statement. The age-friendly city plan is a really exciting and important plan that is a collaborative piece of work that happened through extensive consultation across our community. It includes information around social inclusion, access to services, public transport, age-friendly urban planning and design, and it also addresses age discrimination and elder abuse. It

is a really critical plan that the Office for Seniors and Veterans, alongside our ministerial advisory council and many members of our key stakeholder group, are actively working on.

The plan sets out a road map which has four key areas of work that are being progressed over the four-year period of the plan. It also recognises the need to remain responsive to the needs and aspirations of our older Canberrans as they change. And it also recognises the very large age bracket that is factored in when we are talking about older Canberrans. It is, I believe, the only age cohort that spans such an expansive period of time. The needs of a 60-year-old, for example, are very different to the needs of a 90-year-old. So the plan recognises that we need to remain flexible in how we approach those four key areas, bearing in mind that really large and expansive age range.

As the minister mentioned, a number of pieces of work have been happening. Multiple directorates across the government are responsible for implementation and a range of activities. These include making sure that we have a plan that informs and keeps older Canberrans involved, connected and valued, that they feel safe, secure and free from abuse, and that there is information, support and services which embrace the diversity of all of our older Canberrans, as well as a city for all ages.

I am pleased to report that, of the 33 actions that sit within the plan, 20 are underway. Three have been entirely completed. We will be providing the minister with some information to provide a further update to the Assembly in her next report, once we get some more of that information.

As the minister said, we have been working very closely with Access Canberra. They have done a key piece of work around the dementia assistance training that is needed. That is a critical piece of work. They have been investigating what services would be needed for frontline staff to support ongoing dementia-friendly services. That is a really exciting piece of work that comes out of that age-friendly city plan as well. I am happy to take any other questions, but that is a bit of an overview of where it is up to.

**THE CHAIR:** Not from me; that was very thorough.

**MS LAWDER:** You say you are investigating Access Canberra being dementia-friendly. Are any Access Canberra shopfronts dementia-friendly now? When might some or all of them have completed dementia-friendly training and/or any physical upgrades?

**Ms Summerrell:** In April 2021 Access Canberra undertook their community consultation piece of work, which was a range of sessions for the new Belconnen service centre. I am aware that Dementia Australia participated in that consultation piece with them. That piece of work looked at what dementia training would be required for frontline staff. It wanted to ensure that they reflect dementia-friendly infrastructure, which would include quiet waiting area options with lower light, no TVs—a range of things in that space—no dark flooring, and particularly ramps and steps. Access Canberra learnt through that piece that that was really important. They looked at streamlined paperwork, reducing the need for too many forms and asking too many questions, and the repetition of questions as well. Accessible parking was

another key piece of information that was collected from that consultation piece.

In relation to the question specifically, I would have to take that on notice and ask our colleagues in CMTEDD, as Access Canberra is an area that sits within a different directorate. I know that that is what it has been doing in terms of how it could look at a more dementia-friendly way of working.

**Ms Davidson:** One of the nice things that have come out of that piece of consultation with Dementia Australia is that it really highlights that accessibility is not just about physical infrastructure accessibility. It is also about the way in which you work. It is about making sure that the staff have the training to be able to understand how best to work with people and how to do things like making sure that you are not changing from one staff member to another when answering complex inquiries, if possible, and that kind of thing.

This is the kind of thinking that can be applied to lots of other areas in which we are trying to make Canberra more accessible and more inclusive. We are thinking not just about the physical infrastructure of spaces for people with mobility issues, for example, but the way in which we deliver services and engage as human beings.

**MS LAWDER:** Have any ACT government directorates or particular work groups, such as bus drivers, for example, undergone any dementia-friendly training? I think you just referred to that.

**Ms Davidson:** That consultation was specifically in relation to the new Access Canberra Belconnen service centre. There will be a whole lot of learning that will come out of that, and I am sure many other ACT government services will be looking at it in terms of how they can improve what they are doing. You have to start somewhere, and the Belconnen service centre will be a really good process. I am looking forward to seeing the end results of that.

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, a few weeks ago I caught up with a veterans group in my electorate. It was around the same time that troops were being pulled out of Afghanistan. We got to talking about the mental health impacts around that and how the announcement by President Biden was quite triggering, in addition to all of the mental health things we have been suffering under lockdown and the pandemic. Can you talk me through some of the specific initiatives that the government has invested in to support our veterans?

**Ms Davidson:** The officials can talk in more detail about the way that we have been supporting veterans during lockdown and having all of that stuff come out about Afghanistan, which I can understand is really hard for people to see in the media. We need to acknowledge that the part that they played in what was happening over there at the time did actually have meaning. That needs to be acknowledged.

We have a lot of mental health services in Canberra that veterans can access. In addition to organisations like Soldier On and Open Arms, there is a huge range of mental health services in the ACT that veterans are able to access and that were provided with additional support during COVID. I might pass to officials to talk a bit more about how we have been supporting veterans, including with the royal

commission happening as well.

**Ms Murray:** I acknowledge the privilege statement. We have been really conscious of the potential impacts of the announcements and the media approach that was taken in relation to the Afghanistan situation and the reflections on the involvement in Afghanistan. We work very hard with a very active ministerial advisory council for veterans.

Just recently I attended a ministerial advisory council meeting with Minister Davidson. We had a really good conversation around how we make sure that we have line of sight to people. Plenty of services exist in the veterans community. It is about how we support those services and how we support people to access those services and get the right services for them. We have had a lot of conversations with that council.

It is not dissimilar to what Ms Summerrell was saying earlier in relation to the range of ages and the difference between support for a 60-year-old and support for a 90-year-old. We find that there is a difference in terms of the access needs and the support needs that are required. Some veterans require quite intensive mental health supports. Others have been able to access services such as the coffee drop-in at the Bunker, I think it is called, which has been absolutely fantastic as a way of peer-to-peer support. That is a fantastic initiative which was supported through the recent grants program, which allows innovative ideas to come to the table.

In terms of the breadth of support and the outreach of support, we have been really alive to that. We are very fortunate to have an active and engaged ministerial advisory council that provides direct advice and works within the community to provide that advice for both veterans and their families. Families are really important to consider in the overall response. There are people whom we work with and people whom we have an awareness of who were deeply impacted, although they did not serve. They had members of their families who served and also felt the impact of the announcements and the activities in Afghanistan.

**Ms Summerrell:** I would like to acknowledge the enormity of the situation in Afghanistan that has impacted a large portion of our community, our veteran community and our multicultural community as well. We held a webinar with veterans as that situation was unfolding. We had in attendance at that webinar Open Arms and Soldier On to provide very specific advice and guidance in terms of supporting the mental health needs of veterans dealing with that situation.

Interestingly, as part of that, some family members attended that webinar. We heard of the really strong need for emphasis on supporting family members who support veterans. There were some really practical examples and strategies given at that webinar of how families could support veterans, recognising that at that time it was all over the news. Every time the TV was turned on, that information was there. People could not get away from it. Even if they wanted to not see and absorb that information, that was not possible. That was a really effective webinar to be able to have that conversation.

We also work closely with our ex-service organisations across Canberra. Those organisations are the ones that do so much work with our veteran community. There is

some work happening at the moment to support them, to connect them and to link them in with other veterans and other services as well. Another important piece of work that is happening, particularly in relation to Afghanistan, is looking at their needs, what they are hearing and seeing, and mapping what that looks like.

One of the things that Open Arms and Soldier On said in that webinar was that it was really important to allow veterans the space that they need to be able to deal with what they need to deal with. It is important to provide a supportive environment and to recognise the impact on them. Being able to support them and support their families to support them was something that we could do to help with that situation. I absolutely recognise the enormity of what has happened in Afghanistan.

**Ms Davidson:** In that webinar there was a piece of practical advice given to veterans and their families that I think a lot of us could really take on board as part of our community's recovery in building resilience as we are coming out of COVID. It was about calling three friends and having the conversation with them about, "How are you feeling about this? Do you want to talk about how you are feeling and what you want to do about that?" and then asking them to call three of their friends. It is community-led resilience-building, and our veterans community have demonstrated they really get it. They are really there for each other during times like this. I think there is something that we could all pick up from that and maybe build it into what we are doing more broadly in the community.

**Ms Summerrell:** That is right, Minister. One of the other things that came from that, which you have just reminded me of, is around the language that we all use in terms of the service that these people provided in Afghanistan and the huge importance of the service that they provided. Whilst it is really important to recognise what has happened in Afghanistan, from a serving perspective, it is also important to recognise the enormous contribution of those who served and that that contribution was absolutely necessary and something that, as a country, we are so incredibly grateful for. Just making sure that we continue to use that language was another piece of feedback that came strongly through that as well.

**MR DAVIS:** Obviously, the announcement of the troops withdrawing from Afghanistan caught the world by surprise, so in some respects the directorate had to be a bit reactive in terms of providing real-time supports to our veterans community. We are going to have a bit of a double whammy this year. We know that the federal government will have the veterans royal commission coming up. Are there any particular things that we have learnt from reactively supporting veterans through the Afghanistan announcement that we can use to prepare for better, more tailored supports that will no doubt be needed around the time that the royal commission conversation is happening?

**Ms Davidson:** Quite a bit of work has already gone into that. Some of that started back when the call came out for the consultation on the terms of reference for that royal commission and the great work that CSD did very quickly to support the veterans and their families to be able to have input into the ACT's contribution to that terms of reference conversation. We have clearly demonstrated that, because we have those good, strong relationships with the veterans community and the ministerial advisory council, we are able to move quickly.



There are a whole lot of things that I think we can expect are likely to come as a result of the royal commission that we are already working on. Because I have some responsibilities in mental health and wellbeing as a minister, as well as veterans, it is a really good opportunity to have those conversations with federal ministers about what we could be doing in the ACT to better integrate support for veterans into our mental health services and where there might need to be specific services for veterans, including, for example, a veterans wellbeing hub. It would be great to see one of those in Canberra. That is the kind of conversation that I can be having with my federal colleagues to try and progress that work while the royal commission is happening.

**Ms Murray:** Mr Davis, if I could add: when we talk about how active the ministerial advisory council is and how it is supported by the minister and CSD, the work plan is really clear on being strategic in terms of its approach to supporting the community and providing advice on steps that we should take. There is some current work that Ms Summerrell might be able to detail in relation to a specific wellbeing framework that we are working on with that community. Again, I just want to make sure that it is clear that it is veterans and their families covering the breadth of that.

**Ms Summerrell:** That is a piece of work that the Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their Families are working on. They are doing a piece of work at the moment around veteran wellbeing. They are looking at the development of a framework, for want of a better word, in relation to that. They are looking at practical things that can be done to support the wellbeing of veterans and just how, as a ministerial advisory council, they can connect veterans to those practical things and make sure that veterans know that that support exists.

Part of what they are looking at through that framework is the intersection of how veterans and their families interact with other parts of the community. We know from lots of feedback that we get from veterans and the veteran community that often they stay very close to what is known to them, and that is their own veteran network; so socialising and interacting in all veteran serving experiences. Often the sporting teams they were on are linked as well. They are looking at how they intersect with other parts of the community and, therefore, how that can be part of their support. They are looking at how their spouses connect with other parts of the community, and their children, and how their children connect in with education. They are looking at how that can start shaping a network of support around veterans, linking them with lots of other aspects of support. That is a piece of work that the ministerial advisory council are doing. They are looking at employment as well and how we support veterans to make a transition into employment. I know we have our colleagues from CMTEDD here in relation to that. That has been a huge piece of work around supporting veterans to make a successful transition into other employment pathways.

**MR CAIN:** Minister, I have a question regarding communicating with the seniors community. While I appreciate that you were not a member at this time last year, we did see at that time issues arise with the lack of government communication with the seniors community. Particularly in relation to the vaccine rollout and the recent lockdown, what measures have been put in place to improve the communication with seniors?

**Ms Davidson:** I know that, particularly in relation to COVID, the PICC has been engaging more closely recently with the seniors community, particularly with COTA ACT, and that it is making an effort to try and address some of those issues.

Before I hand over to officials to talk a bit more about the ways in which we get communications out to our seniors community, I want to note the diversity within the seniors community about how they like to receive information. We have a real mix of people who prefer to receive information in print format, which is why we allocated some additional funding to printed material back in August when the lockdown began, and a whole lot of seniors who are very engaged online.

I have to thank COTA ACT for the work they have done on IT programs and mentoring and support to make sure that seniors who want to develop their skills in using online information sources are able to do so and are well supported. It would be great to see that kind of work continue. It is also part of the reason why we had the tech upgrade fund grants earlier this year, back in around March, I think, and the same thing will happen again next year. If there are organisations out there that want to do things that will help with digital inclusion, given how important it is, as we have seen through this pandemic, that people are able to engage online and get access to that information, ask questions and get answers—

**MR CAIN:** Apart from COTA, what other community groups or lobbying voices have you heard from?

**Ms Davidson:** We also have an incredibly active and engaged Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing. That has a real diversity of skills, experience, age range and life experience. It has been providing me with some really helpful advice about things like the age-friendly city plan, but it is also very interested in community recovery from COVID and how we make sure that we are inclusive of older Canberrans as we move out of this pandemic and into whatever the next stage is going to be, understanding that not everyone is going to be ready to engage physically in the community again at the same time.

Some people are going to need to stay physically distanced from people in the community for a bit longer. There may be people who have spent, say, a year and a half not driving their car, and who are suddenly thinking, “I would really like a bit of support and help if I am going to get back out in the community. I don’t want to catch public transport just yet, so soon after the COVID lockdown, but I’m not as confident driving the car as I used to be.” Those are the kinds of issues that we are going to have to deal with.

People are also very interested in talking about things like community hubs: “Where are the spaces where we can come together and how do we make those work for the diverse range of needs that we have in the community?” They have been providing some really helpful advice. I might pass to an official who can talk a bit more about the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing.

**MR CAIN:** Minister, that will not be necessary. If I have other questions, I will put them on notice.

**MS LAWDER:** In some ways this follows on from the previous question. It is about the Check In CBR card. I know there are other groups who might wish to use it, but certainly a number of seniors who did not have a smartphone indicated their desire for something like the Check In CBR card. Do you have any information about the number of cards that have been issued—I know they have been issued by COTA ACT as well—and the take-up rates of the cards in the seniors community?

**Ms Davidson:** That question about the number of cards is probably best directed to Minister Steel. I do know that it has been an initiative that has been appreciated by the seniors community. It does highlight, I think, as we are moving forward into the community recovery from COVID, that we need to communicate clearly with the broader community about how we can stay socially inclusive. For example, I know there have been some who had not updated their Check In CBR app and when they first saw one of the Check In CBR cards they realised: “I’ve got to quickly update my app and then I’ll be able to scan the Check In CBR card.” It is small things like that where, if we communicate really well with the broader community and not just seniors about how this card works and how it can help people get access to the things that they need more easily, we get a more socially inclusive city for all of us, which is what we all want.

**MS LAWDER:** It comes under Minister Steel, does it?

**Ms Davidson:** Because we are talking about the Check In CBR app, I believe the card would also come under Minister Steel. If you ask him about the number of cards that have been issued, he will be able to provide that.

**MS LAWDER:** Thank you.

**MR MILLIGAN:** The government has spoken quite a bit now about a disability strategy and it is mentioned in a few areas within the budget papers, but for the life of me, I cannot find anything in the budget papers on actual spending on forward estimates for this strategy. Can you let me know what the budget is for developing this disability strategy and what is the specific focus of this strategy?

**Ms Davidson:** Before I pass to officials to talk more about the disability strategy, one of the really interesting things about these strategies is the action plans that come out following them, because that is where you start to see the real, direct impacts in the community. The disability action and inclusion plan that comes out as a result of that for each area is a really useful piece of work for seeing the impact in the community. I will pass to officials to talk more about the strategy and where it is headed.

**Ms Rule:** I acknowledge the privilege statement. We have been working with the commonwealth government on the new iteration of the national disability strategy, which is expected to be agreed by the Prime Minister and the first ministers by the end of the year. That is a really important document in terms of setting the stage for the next 10 years of disability work across the country. What we are doing here in the ACT is to then think about how we enact that strategy: how do we turn it into real and tangible things that make a difference for the community?

Once that strategy is in place, we will be working with the disability sector to talk

about what it means for us here in Canberra. What things do we need to do to make sure that we honour the commitments that all governments have made in the strategy, and that we translate it into our context, which is not the same as for everyone else in the country?

**Ms Davidson:** We have such an engaged disability reference group and I know that it is really interested in talking about how we can take a more strengths-based approach to the work that we do in future for a more inclusive and supportive city for people with disability. There has been a lot of talk in recent times about how we protect those people who are most at risk from COVID and how we deal with some of the things that have been happening with the NDIS. I think there are some really good conversations to be had if we can start to take a strengths-based approach to the concept of disability and how we are more inclusive of that within things like education, in our transport systems and in our community more generally.

**MR MILLIGAN:** Regarding funding, though, you have not addressed that. You said that you are working on a strategy. You are waiting on the federal government also to contribute to that strategy. When will that strategy actually be delivered? And, once again, have you thought about what funding will need to go towards delivering this disability strategy?

**Ms Rule:** Mr Milligan, just to be clear, I said that the national disability strategy is expected to be finalised by the end of this calendar year. We are not waiting on the federal government; we are working with the federal government. That is a strategy that has to be agreed by all governments across the country, including here in the ACT. We are having very strong thoughts on what that strategy looks like. Then I expect we will be in a position to have a conversation with government about how we fund the priorities under that strategy. I expect that will flow, but we have not had that conversation yet because the strategy is not yet finalised, but it should be by the end of this calendar year.

**MR MILLIGAN:** So, in effect, some time next year you should be in a very good position to put forward the forward estimates to deliver that strategy, I would assume?

**Ms Rule:** I anticipate that the government will need to make some decisions about its priorities under that strategy and the resources accordingly.

**THE CHAIR:** Minister, how many staff work in the Office for Seniors and Veterans?

**Ms Davidson:** I will pass to officials to answer that question. The staff who work in the Office for Seniors and Veterans might be covering a range of different portfolio areas. Is there any particular policy area that you are looking at?

**THE CHAIR:** My supplementary was going to be: how does this number compare to the number of staff in other offices—for example, the Office for Women, the Office for Disability and the Office for Multicultural Affairs?

**Ms Davidson:** That is a great question. I will pass to officials to answer that.

**Ms Rule:** Somebody else here may know the actual number. I do not know the

number off the top of my head. I would start by saying that the numbers in those offices are not necessarily static. We expand and contract, based on priorities and work on hand at any point in time, and what measures may have come through budgets, now or previous. I am not sure it is a reasonable comparator across from one office to another because it depends on how we structure the work in that office. I do know that we expand and contract the staff numbers as our operational priorities dictate. Somebody else may know the actual number.

**Ms Summerrell:** Four. I think that is the most succinct answer I have ever given in an estimates hearing.

**THE CHAIR:** So there are four staff in the Office for Seniors and Veterans. Would you be able to take on notice how many staff are in the offices for women, disability and multicultural affairs?

**Ms Davidson:** I should note that, particularly with the Office for Disability, there is a mix of things going on. There is some policy development work that happens, as well as things like running the ISRP program. There is a lot of casework that happens there. Sometimes you have staff who are doing both things, and how much time they spend on each of those things is dependent on where the needs are at the time. It can be hard sometimes to put a definitive number on it and say there is exactly this number of people doing policy work in this office.

**THE CHAIR:** I think those are all very fair observations. However, I am still curious, so could you take on notice the number of staff in each of those offices?

**Ms Rule:** Yes, we can take that question on notice.

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, earlier this year the federal parliament had a pretty in-depth conversation about the National Disability Insurance Scheme and, in particular, the role of individual assessments. Can you give us an update on what the ACT's contribution was to that conversation on what those outcomes mean for the community in the ACT?

**Ms Davidson:** The ACT's participation in that conversation was very much community led. I would like to thank the disability reference group members, as well as the community organisations and advocates, who got involved and provided us with the advice and guidance that we needed to be able to do that work. We also happen to have an incredibly skilled Office for Disability who were able to do some really good, in-depth analysis and provide some really helpful advice for having those conversations at that national level.

Things like the doubling of funding for organisations like ADACAS and Advocacy for Inclusion for individual advocacy work in this year's budget and into the forward estimates as well are a reflection of the complexity and increased workload that they are dealing with in having to do that kind of advocacy for individuals who are trying to engage with the NDIS. If we were not able to have that kind of individual advocacy and also an increase in support for the ISRP program, we would not be able to get the same outcomes for people in the ACT who are participants in the NDIS or who are trying to get an NDIS plan up. I really want to highlight how important those

organisations are.

You were looking for an update on where we are up to with NDIS reforms. I will pass to officials shortly, who can talk a bit more about what is happening there. One of the things that we have been trying to get for quite some time is really good financial data and also the underlying assumptions for doing the projections. We have some of that financial data. We are still working on getting some of those underlying assumptions for the projections so that we can better understand the financial situation. Putting that to one side, the focus will always be on maintaining choice and control for people with disability to be able to achieve their objectives for their life. That is what the NDIS is supposed to be for, and we will continue to advocate for that for people in the ACT who are engaged in that.

I expect that more conversations will need to happen at a national level. Minister Reynolds has said that she would still like to have those conversations. We will be advocating for any future reforms of the NDIS to be done very closely with the community in genuine co-design. That means not just coming out and doing a consultation in a really short time frame but genuinely engaging with the community and allowing enough time to reach a consensus on the problem that we are trying to solve here; it will then be about: how are we going to do that together?

It is really hard to do that in a short time frame, particularly when you are working with a community who do not have a lot of trust in being able to come to the table and have that conversation. It is a really difficult time to be having those conversations as well while there have been multiple COVID outbreaks going on that have a really big impact on people with a disability in our community. I will pass to officials who can talk a bit more about where the current reforms are at.

**MR DAVIS:** Sorry, Minister; I note that we are at the end of the time for this session. I have a quick supplementary that you might want to take on notice. You mentioned two organisations that have received increased funding as a result of this budget—Advocacy for Inclusion, and the other was?

**Ms Davidson:** ADACAS.

**MR DAVIS:** Would you be able to confirm for me, on notice, (a) how much additional funding they have received and (b) whether that funding was for something specific—that is, they have to spend it on some FTE—or for a particular project they are working on. That would be useful as well.

**Ms Davidson:** It is over \$1.6 million over the next four years to strengthen their disability advocacy services.

**MR DAVIS:** For each, or split between the two?

**Ms Davidson:** Split between the two. That is for the aged-care advocacy service, which is ADACAS, and Advocacy for Inclusion, who merged with People with Disabilities ACT over the last year. That is about their targeted advocacy support services for people with disability, their individual advocacy services.

PROOF

**MR DAVIS:** Thank you.

**THE CHAIR:** On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Minister Davidson and all of the officials who have appeared today. The secretary will provide you with a copy of the proof transcript of today's hearing when it is available. Witnesses have taken questions on notice today, so could you please get those answers to the committee secretary within five working days of the receipt of the uncorrected proof transcript of today's hearing? If members wish to lodge questions on notice, please get those to the committee secretary within five working days of today's hearing.

**The committee adjourned at 2.17 pm.**