

# Ageing and Disability Commission

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Dear Parliamentary Committee

## **RE: QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - AGEING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION**

I refer to the Questions on Notice raised in relation to the Ageing and Disability Commission during Minister Ward's Budget Estimates on Friday 5 November 2021. Please see attached my response to the Questions on Notice.

I was appointed as NSW's first Ageing and Disability Commissioner on 1 July 2019 under the (NSW) *Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019* (the Act). The Act also ensures that I am independent and not subject to Ministerial direction and control in exercising my functions.

Yours sincerely

Robert Fitzgerald, AM  
Ageing and Disability Commissioner

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES - MINISTER WARD - FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2021**

Subject	Question on Notice	ANSWER
<p>Ageing and Disability Commission – Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline</p>	<p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I move to elder abuse issues. How many calls have been taken by Ageing and Disability in New South Wales?</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: He is independent. I am happy to take that on notice and get that information. He does have an annual report. I thank him for his work. My understanding, Mr Moselmane, is that—</p> <p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: When you say "he" to whom are you referring?</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: The commissioner. I am sorry, I thought you were referring to the commission?</p> <p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I am referring to the Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline. Is it operated by the commissioner?</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: How many calls were made to the commissioner with regard to disability abuse?</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: I can find that number for you. Will you clarify in what period?</p> <p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Sure, it is just a general question.</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: If you need the number of calls I would need a period in which to provide them to you. I can give them year on year if that assists.</p> <p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Within this budget year?</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: I might take that on notice to get the accurate number for you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2020-21, the Ageing and Disability Commission’s (ADC) Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline received 13,090 calls. This reflects all calls to the Helpline during that period, including to report abuse, make enquiries, and seek information about the ADC.</li> <li>• In 2020-21, the ADC received 3,566 reports about abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults with disability and older people, under section 13 of the <i>Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019</i>. Of these reports, 2,777 reports (78%) were about older people, and 789 reports (22%) were about adults with disability.</li> </ul>

<p>Ageing and Disability Commission – Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline</p>	<p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Minister, I will continue with three questions relating to elder abuse. Since 1 July 2019—I know you were not the Minister—how many allegations of elder abuse have been reported each year to the Ageing and Disability Commission?</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Thank you, Mr Moselmane. This is an important issue. Given we have an Ageing and Disability Commissioner in place, I think your question is properly directed to him. I will take that on notice and direct it to him.</p> <p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Thank you. I have a follow-up question. How many successful prosecutions have been undertaken in New South Wales for elder abuse related crimes?</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Again, I will take that to him. I ask for a time period again for reasonableness?</p> <p>The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: This is from 1 July 2019.</p> <p>The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Well before my time but, yes, I will take that to the commissioner.</p>	<p><b>Reports and allegations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019-20, the ADC received 2,302 reports about abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults with disability and older people. Of these reports, 1,777 reports (77%) were about older people. The 1,777 reports involved 2,798 allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.</li> <li>• In 2020-21, the ADC received 3,566 reports abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults with disability and older people. Of these reports, 2,777 reports (78%) were about older people. The 2,777 reports involved 4,155 allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Prosecutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the reports about older people that were closed by the ADC in 2019-20, two involved criminal convictions of the subjects of allegation.</li> <li>• Of the reports about older people that were closed by the ADC in 2020-21, five involved criminal convictions of the subjects of allegation.</li> <li>• The ADC refers matters to the NSW Police for criminal investigation and prosecution, and does not itself have the power to institute prosecutions.</li> </ul>
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