



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Jo Clay MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
27 October 2021

Asked by Jeremy Hanson MLA on 27 October 2021: Mick Gentleman MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 October 2021 [PAGE 20-21]]

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Look, it might be question sort of I may need to take to another area, but there are a lot of areas, but can you then break down for me—and perhaps on notice, then—these CC measures and staff that are not continuing with their employment from CC measures, I think you said? So these are, I guess, programs that are being cancelled. Can you break down for me what those programs are and who is no longer being employed?

With COVID, could you please outline how many people are no longer being employed who were previously employed under—I guess that is Jobs for Canberra, is it? And specific COVID measures. And then also, the third category it seems to talk about was revenue, so I assume that is where—own-source revenue? Is that what you are talking about, Mr Glenn?

Mr Glenn: Indeed, mostly in the Government Solicitors Office.

THE CHAIR: Okay. So I suppose regardless of what those measures were, there is a bunch of people—you know, 66 in net terms, but I guess in gross terms it would be significantly more than that and I am after that gross number in those three categories of people who are losing their jobs, not being continued through contracts or whatever it might be, but could you just break that down and what functional areas do they come from? But if you can take that on notice, because I accept that that goes, you know, sort of beyond just the Corrections remit. There might be some of that within Corrections, perhaps, but it is a broader question.

Mr Glenn: I can certainly do my best to break that down. Some of it will simply be temporary positions coming off and if we can identify precisely where they are, we will. There are ons and offs in all of these, so it becomes, you know, challenging to work out the precise areas, but we can do that and we can certainly talk more about that own-source revenue that will support positions that are not necessarily reflected in that 2021-22 budget figure.

THE CHAIR: Okay, because what happens—and we see this in other portfolios—is that the net figure in this case is a net decrease of 66, but the gross figure in terms of job reductions is actually quite significant, because there is obviously growth in other areas and I am just trying to get a figure of, you know, those jobs that are ending, so—

Mr Glenn: I think it will probably actually look different to that, but we will get you that on notice. That is fine.

THE CHAIR: Brilliant, thank you.

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

I advise that no permanent positions have been lost and nor has any program funding been ceased.

As part of the Jobs for Canberrans initiative, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) employed 11 Full-time Equivalents (FTE) on short-term contracts to help deliver projects and programs to the Canberra community. This fund provided opportunities for casual workers, such as those who were excluded from the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper wage subsidy program, as part of the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these 11 FTE, 6 have already left JACS to pursue other opportunities. The remaining 5 are still currently employed at JACS.

The published interim outcome on Table 1 on page 4, *Estimated Employment Level* in Budget Statement D, for the Justice and Community Safety Portfolio (the budget papers) also includes 18.7 FTE employed by the ACT Government Solicitor to undertake client funded work as at 30 June 2021. Due to the uncertainty of the own source revenue levels, an estimate of FTE resourcing to undertake such work is not included in the 2021-22 forward estimate. I advise that these 18.7 FTE continue to be engaged by the ACT Government Solicitor as the work continues. Revenue trends and associated FTE will be further analysed in the next budget process to determine potential amendments to forward estimates.

In addition, as at 30 June 2021, there were 76.3 FTE employed across the JACS Directorate to assist with temporary work backlog and COVID related responses, backfill positions due to leave requirements and to carry a timing disconnect between the commencement of an ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) Recruit College and the departure of existing staff. The 2021-22 Budget assumes a return to normal FTE levels as we transition out of COVID-19, backlog work gets addressed and no backfilling or timing disconnect of ACTF&R staffing movements as at 30 June 2022.

These movements have been partially offset by an increase in 40 FTE associated with 2021-22 Budget initiatives.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date: 5/11/2021

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA