



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

**MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health

Ref: Health, ACT Health

In relation to: Deegan Review

- (1) How many contracts has Ms Deegan or her company won with ACTHD and CHS?
  - a. What was the total cost of each of these contracts?
  - b. For each contract Ms Deegan or her firm have won, was Ms Deegan's quote a part of a competitive process?
    - i. If yes, how many firms were a part of the competitive process?
    - ii. If no, was Ms Deegan or her firm approached by executives for the contracts?

**MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- (1) Ms Barbara Deegan is employed by Ashurst Lawyers, a legal firm that is on the ACT Government panel of providers for legal services. CHS contracted Ashurst to undertake two preliminary assessments into the culture of the Intensive Care Unit and the Cardiology Department. These reviews were led by Ms Deegan, a Canberra-based former Commissioner of the Fair Work Commission and the Tasmanian Industrial Relations Commission.

The ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) has contracted Ashurst and Ms Deegan once since its inception in 2018.

- a) The following table provides information about the total costs incurred for each assessment undertaken by Ms Deegan for CHS or ACTHD.

Preliminary Assessment	Total Cost (including GST)
CHS Cardiology Department Preliminary Assessment	\$51,529.25
CHS ICU Department Preliminary Assessment	\$55,313.90
ACTHD Preliminary Assessment	\$6,422.00

- b) CHS and the ACTHD both selected Ashurst as it had already passed a competitive process to be on the ACT Government legal panel.

CHS contracted Ashurst via the relevant Divisional Executive, following consultation with People and Culture, ACT Government Solicitors and the Professional Standards Unit.

Ms Deegan was appointed on the basis that she was an immediately available, Canberra-based former Commissioner of the Fair Work Commission and the Tasmanian Industrial Relations Commission, and therefore a sufficiently skilled person to deal with a complex workplace matter.

The ACTHD requested a quote prior to commencement of its contract with Ashurst and Ms Deegan.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

6/9/22

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA