



# Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Peter Garrisson AM SC, ACT Solicitor-General

Reference: ACT Government Solicitor

Hearing: 18/02/2025

In relation to: ACT Government Solicitor and Practice focus

Question received: 18/02/2025

Answer Due: 26/02/2025

Noting the data in the JACS Annual Report outlined regarding the practice focus comparison between 2022-23 and 2023-24 on page 52.

1. Can you please outline what factors determine the practice focuses of legal service activity for 2023-24.
2. Can you please explain the year-by-year variations of each practice focus group?

**MR PETER GARRISSON AM SC:** The answers to the Member's questions is as follows:

1. I refer the member to my response at the hearing on 18 February 2025. In addition, legal services are currently delivered by the ACT Government Solicitor through seven Practice Groups which respond to a range of requests for legal advice and representation. Practice groups have been structured to focus on specific areas of law.

The practice group structure aims to provide responsive legal services and expertise across the breadth of government service delivery areas. The focus of ACTGS legal service delivery activity is determined by demand and the nature of the request for legal assistance. For example in 2023-24 there was an increase in legal service activity relating to regulation and employment.

2. In relation to the variance of legal service delivery activity between 2022-23 and 2023-24 we have observed in the citizen rights and welfare protection practice group a decrease in activity related to discrimination/human rights matters and in the claims, inquests and inquires practice group a decrease related to proceedings before the Coroner. In the employment and regulation practice there was an increase in activity related to employment/industrial relations and regulatory matters. The figures on pages 53-57 of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate 2023-24 Annual Report provides further details of the activity by subject/area of law in each practice group.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Garrison', written over a faint, illegible stamp.

By the Solicitor-General, Peter Garrison AM SC

Date: 27/2/25