



**Legislative Assembly** for the  
**Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on the Fiscal  
Sustainability of the ACT

# Submission Cover Sheet

## Inquiry into the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Submission number: 007.3

Submitter: Minister for the Public Service

Date authorised for publication: 25 June 2026



**Legislative Assembly for the  
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on the Fiscal  
Sustainability of the ACT

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
Minister for the Public Service  
Email: [Stephen-Smith@act.gov.au](mailto:Stephen-Smith@act.gov.au)

Dear Minister

**Staffing numbers in the ACT Public Service**

I refer to our previous correspondence on 9 April 2026 and 4 May 2026 in relation to this matter (attached).

After deliberation, the Committee has taken the view that the quality of the response indicates that Government does not monitor important information relevant to the fiscal sustainability of the ACT, increasing the financial risks to the Territory.

The Committee would like to give you the opportunity of making an additional response and repeats its request for the following information:

- staffing numbers in directorates;
- by organisation and in total;
- broken down by executive versus non-executive staff;
- broken down by frontline roles versus non-frontline roles;
- for 10 years ago, five years ago, and currently;
- any comments you wish to make on possible trends in the data; and
- any comments you wish to make on the comparability of the data over time.

The Committee requests the information by Monday, 1 June 2026. The Committee expects that it will publish your response as a supplementary submission to the inquiry.

Queries can be directed to the Committee Secretary, Dr David Monk, on 6205 0129.

Yours sincerely

**Ms Jo Clay MLA**  
Chair

18 May 2026

Ms Jo Clay MLA  
Chair  
Select Committee on the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT  
[LACommitteeFiscal@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteeFiscal@parliament.act.gov.au)

Our ref: CMTEDD2026/1343

Dear Ms ~~Clay~~ **Jo**

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 April and 18 May 2026, where you sought data relating to staffing numbers in the ACT Public Service to support your inquiry into the fiscal sustainability of the ACT.

For the record, I reject the Committee's interpretation of my initial response. That response pointed the Committee to reports in which most of the information requested has previously been publicly reported. It is difficult for me to understand how the Committee was able to conclude that previous reporting of this information, which remains available online, "indicates that Government does not monitor important information relevant to the fiscal sustainability of the ACT".

As previously advised, staffing numbers by directorate, by organisation and in total, including executive and non-executive numbers, for the requested periods, are publicly available in the following reports published on the ACT Government Transparency Portal. Links and page numbers now included for the Committee's ease.

- Ten years: 2015-16 State of the Service Report ([ACT Public Service - State of the Service Report 2016](#)).
  - total staffing numbers in directorates are shown on page 89 in [Table 44](#) (*Headcount by directorate*).
  - total staffing numbers by organisation and in total are shown on page 76 in [Table 30](#) (*refer to Headcount total row*).
  - total number of executive and non-executive staff is shown on page 87 in [Table 42](#) (*Headcount by classification*).
  - frontline versus non-frontline staff is not identified at either whole-of-government level or agency level, and therefore this cannot be provided.
- Five years: 2020-21 State of the Service Report ([State of the Service 2020-2021 Annual Report](#)).
  - total staffing numbers in directorates are shown on page 47 in [Table A5](#) (*Headcount by directorate, refer to Headcount total row*).
  - total staffing numbers by organisation and in total are shown on page 53 in [Table A12](#) (*refer to Headcount total*).

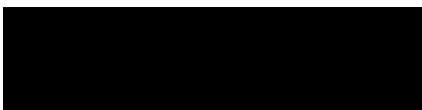
**act.gov.au**

- total number of executive and non-executive staff is shown on page 48 in Table A6 (*Headcount by classification*).
- frontline versus non-frontline staff is not identified at a either agency or whole-of-government level, and therefore this cannot be provided.
- Current: 2024-2025 State of the Service Report ([State of the Service Report 2024–25](#)).
  - total staffing numbers in directorates are shown on page 51 in Table A.1 (*refer to Total headcount column*).
  - total staffing numbers by organisation and in total are shown:
    - on page 62 in Table B.4 (*Headcount by sector body*) and:
    - page 51 in Table A.1 (*refer to Total headcount column*).
  - total number of executive and non-executive staff is shown on page 56 in Table A.8 (*Headcount by classification*).
  - frontline versus non-frontline staff is not identified at either agency or whole-of-government level, and therefore this cannot be provided.

While I do not wish to provide any comments in relation to possible trends or comparability of data over time, the data available in the reports referenced above (and those in intervening years) should enable the committee to draw its own conclusions, in addition to Mr Eslake's commentary on trends in employee expenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

Yours sincerely

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5 June 2026