2006

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

TABLING STATEMENT

Government Responses to:

Standing Committee on Planning and Environment: Report No. 19 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2004-2005.

Standing Committee on Legal Affairs: Report No. 2 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2004- 2005.

Standing Committee on Health and Disability: Report No. 2 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2004-2005.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts: Report No.5 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2004-2005.

Standing Committee on Education, Training and Young People: Report No. 2 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2004-2005.

Tabled by
Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

21 / 9 / 2006

I am pleased to present the Government's Responses to five Standing Committee reports on the Annual and Financial Reports for 2004-05.

As in previous years, I am tabling the responses to all of the Standing Committee reports covering all portfolios together. This is because the Standing Committee reports generally cover more than one Minister and more than one portfolio and, in certain cases, issues raised in the reports apply to all departments and agencies.

As members will be aware, annual and financial reports are prepared by agencies in accordance with the Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions and in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* and the *Financial Management Act 1996*. The government seeks to ensure that the Directions and the Acts are continually updated to reflect best practice and full accountability in accordance with government policy. In line with this approach, some of the issues raised in the Committee reports have already been addressed in the 2006 Annual Report Directions.

The Standing Committees made 29 recommendations. The Government has agreed in full, in principle or in part to fifteen of these, and noted a further twelve. Two recommendations are not agreed.

I will briefly touch on the reasons for the Government not agreeing to these two recommendations.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts recommended that quarterly actuarial assessments of superannuation liability be conducted and published for the Assembly. The actuarial assessment of the ACT's unfunded superannuation liability is a process that typically requires weeks of intensive actuarial assessment after the scheme administrator has provided scheme membership data. This is a sophisticated and expensive process. Moreover, a quarterly update would capture little more than membership changes, and these alone would have only marginal impact on the assessment.

The Standing Committee on Health and Disability recommended that data to enable comparison between financial years be included in tables provided in annual and financial reports. It is the Government's position that agencies report on a pre-determined period (i.e. one financial year). Annual Report Directions include reporting against budget outputs for only that year.

I would like to thank the Standing Committees for the effort they have made in preparing their reports. I am sure the Assembly will agrēe that the Government has responded in a manner that enhances our record of openness and accountability.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Government's Responses to the Assembly.

2006

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Standing Committee on Health and Disability

Report No. 2

Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2004-2005
February 2006

Tabled by
Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

21 / 9 / 2006

Government Response

Report No. 2 - Standing Committee on Health and Disability – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2004-2005 –February 2006.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Health and Disability reviewed annual reports for:

- ACT Health;
- Community and Health Services Complaints Commissioner;
- Healthpact (ACT Health Promotion Board)
- Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

The Committee makes 3 recommendations.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1
4.7 The Committee recommends that data to enable comparison between financial years be included in tables provided in annual and financial reports.

Government Response
Not Agreed. The Annual Report Directions reflect reporting requirements for a pre-determined period i.e. one financial year. Annual Report Directions include reporting against budget outputs for that year.

Recommendation 2
4.7 The Committee recommends that Government agencies be cognisant of, and adhere to, the timelines for the production of annual reports in order to avoid any need to circulate different versions of the Report.

Government Response
Agreed. The 2005-06 Annual Report Directions address this under section 1.9, 'Presentation of Annual Reports' and section 1.10 'Access and Distribution.'

Recommendation 3
6.4 The Committee recommends that all annual and financial reports be thoroughly and closely edited before submission.

Government Response
Agreed.