

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 agree 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 Legal Affairs

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 2 - Standing Committee on Legal Affairs - Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2004-2005 – February 2006

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Legal Affairs reviewed annual reports for:

- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Legal Aid Commission
- Public Trustee
- ACT Ombudsman
- ACT Electoral Commission
- Director of Public Prosecutions
- Nominal Defendant
- ACT Policing Victims of Crime Support Program
- Emergency Services Authority (this agency is not listed on page 9 of the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs' report as an agency that had its Annual Report reviewed. This is a typographical error as the Committee considered this report).

The Committee made no recommendations.