



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 2021 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

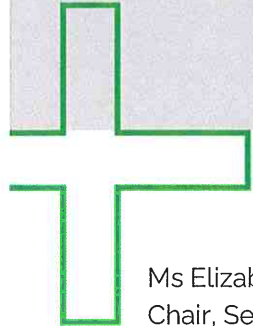
Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the COVID-19 2021 pandemic response

Submission Number: 16

Date Authorised for Publication: 24 November 2021



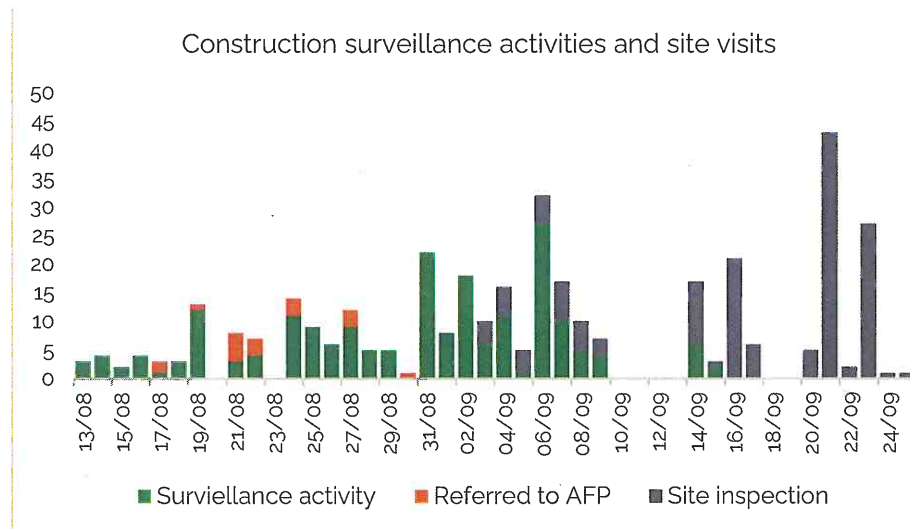
Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA
 Chair, Select Committee on the COVID-19 2021 Pandemic Response
 17 November 2021

Dear Ms Lee and Members of the Select Committee

This submission has been prepared to provide data on compliance with COVID-safe work practices in the construction industry during the ACT lockdown announced 12 August 2021.

Overall activities

During the lockdown, WorkSafe ACT conducted surveillance activities, in collaboration with the AFP and Access Canberra. Significant levels of non-compliance were observed in the early stages of lockdown in the residential construction sector, with 24 matters referred to the AFP in total.



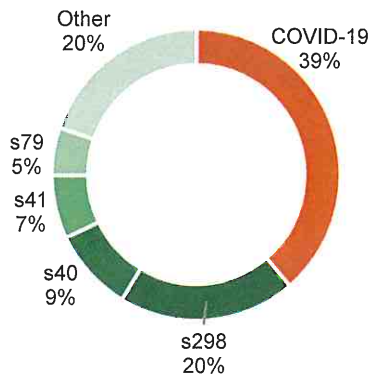
A high volume of complaints and enquiries were processed. Complaints were largely around workplaces in various industries disregarding Public Health Directions and continuing non-essential work. Over 60 requests to continue construction work during the lockdown were received.

With the staged re-opening of the construction and retail industries in September and October, WorkSafe ACT conducted **314** workplace visits. From these visits:

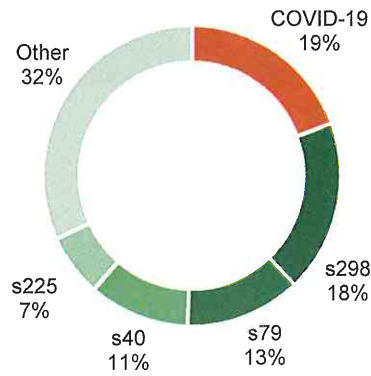
- 277 improvement notices were issued; **101** issued for COVID-19 breaches, and
- 69 prohibition notices were issued; **10** issued for COVID-19 breaches.



September notices



October notices



The proportion of notices issued for COVID-19 breaches has decreased, from 39% in September to 19% in October, suggesting PCBUs are adjusting to living and working under a COVID-normal status.

The main COVID-19 breaches across this time period were:

Breach	% of notices
Insufficient routine cleaning and disinfection procedures	17%
Inadequate site induction to meet COVID-19 requirements	10%
No system or process to record employee schedules and movements	12%
No COVID-safe plan, or plan not implemented	10%
No COVID marshal	10%
Insufficient COVID-19 health screening measures for persons attending the site	9%
Workers not provided with access to sufficient amenities to reduce movement around site (provide hand sanitiser at site entrances and exits)	6%
Other (e.g. face masks, use of Check-in CBR app, failure to notify WorkSafe of positive cases, site marshal signage)	25%

