

Gonczarek, Melinda

From: LA Committee - Estimates
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 7:19 PM
To: Speaker
Cc: Gonczarek, Melinda; LA Committee - Estimates
Subject: FW: Estimates hearings - letter from Chair
Attachments: OLA COVID-19 Risk Register V2.docx; Chair to Speaker - Consultation - 16 August 2022.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear Madam Speaker

Please find attached a letter to you on behalf of the Chair of the Select Committee for Estimates 2022-23.

Regards

Kathleen de Kleuver

Committee Secretary

Office of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022–2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

Ms Joy Burch MLA
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
By email: speaker@act.gov.au

Dear Madam Speaker,

Select Committee on Estimates 2022–2023—Hearing Consultation

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chair of the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 (the Committee).

As witnesses will be aware, the Legislative Assembly is currently the subject of a Prohibition Notice issued by WorkSafe ACT. The order purports to prevent the Committee from conducting hearings in person. The removal of the order is subject to conditions, including that the Committee:

Consult with all workers (and participants) who are, or are likely to be, directly affected by the activity.

The Committee considers that it is not possible to consult with all possible ACT Government witnesses. The Committee has resolved that it will seek that only responsible Ministers, the Speaker, Officers of the Assembly, and Independent Statutory Office Holders, may attend Estimates hearings. This is so as to comply with the WorkSafe notice. At this stage the Committee will not be seeking officials to appear as witnesses during hearings. The Committee is also taking the additional measure of conducting hearings in the Legislative Assembly Chamber with Chamber COVID-19 protocols remaining in place.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Committee is writing to you as a witness, and Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (ACT), to consult with you on the conduct of its upcoming Estimates hearings.

As part of its consultation the Committee is seeking your input to its proposal, and the Risk Register attached, by no later than 5 pm 17 August 2022.

The Committee intends for hearings to recommence from Monday, 22 August 2022, in line with an updated hearing schedule to be published in the coming days.

The Committee understands that Minister Gentleman has circulated a letter to the Committee providing a different interpretation of how Estimates will proceed. This letter is inaccurate and the Committee will take action as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,


James Milligan MLA
Chair
16 August 2022

COVID-19 Risk Register: ACT Legislative Assembly Hearing 2022-23

Location: ACT Legislative Assembly Building

Date: 16/08/2022

Hazard	What is the harm that the hazard could cause?	What is the likelihood that the harm would occur?	What is the level of risk?	What controls are currently in place?	Are further controls required?
Transmission of COVID-19 from staff or other attendees who are infected	Staff or other attendees catching COVID-19 (could result in serious illness or death).	Medium, new infections are declining and ACT community has a very high vaccination rate.	Moderate, while infections are declining consequences may be severe, especially if unvaccinated.	<p>Cleaning and disinfecting in accordance with guidance from Safe Work Australia and public health authorities.</p> <p>Frequently touched surfaces including desks, handrails, doors, phones, keyboards etc are regularly cleaned.</p> <p>Desks are wiped clean with surface wipes after each use.</p> <p>Physical distancing – room has markings to keep workers and other attendees at least 1.5m apart. Room occupancy limits consistent with public health directions are in place and signs placed around the precinct advising of these.</p> <p>Alcohol based hand sanitiser is provided at entry points to the building and available in meeting rooms.</p> <p>Posters on good hygiene practices and physical distancing are prominent in Assembly building and hand washing facilities are available in the bathrooms.</p> <p>The Assembly Office has increased fresh air intake into the building through the HVAC system from 30% to 50%.</p>	<p>A reminder by the Chair of the committee that witnesses, and others, practice good hand and respiratory hygiene.</p> <p>Mandated mask wearing except when speaking.</p>
Staff or attendees attending workplace with COVID 19 or other flu like symptoms	Staff or attendees catching COVID-19 (could result in serious illness or death).	Medium, new infections are declining and ACT community has a very high vaccination rate.	Moderate, while infections are declining consequences may be severe, especially if unvaccinated.	<p>Cleaning and disinfecting in accordance with guidance from Safe Work Australia and Health authorities.</p> <p>Frequently touched surfaces including desks, handrails, doors, phones, keyboards etc are regularly cleaned.</p> <p>Staff have been briefed on symptoms of COVID-19 and have been told to stay home if they aren't feeling well.</p> <p>Signage is displayed at entry</p>	

Hazard	What is the harm that the hazard could cause?	What is the likelihood that the harm would occur?	What is the level of risk?	What controls are currently in place?	Are further controls required?
social distance requirements	catching COVID-19 (could result in serious illness or death).	has a high knowledge and compliance record.	have been adequately informed of requirements – generally a high level of knowledge and compliance in the community.	<p>Safe Work Australia and Health authorities</p> <p>Signage is displayed at entry points reminding staff and building attendees of the importance of staying home when experiencing flu like symptoms.</p> <p>Posters on good hygiene practices and physical distancing are prominent in Assembly building and hand washing facilities are available in the bathrooms.</p> <p>If a witness has a health condition that would classify them as vulnerable to risk of exposure, alternative arrangements can be made, including attending remotely.</p> <p>The Office has increased fresh air intake into the building through the HVAC system from 30% to 50%.</p>	