



## Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 24 November 2023: Mr Chris Steel MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 24 November 2023 [PAGE 10]

In relation to: Any submissions by ACT government in relation to increased senate representation

**THE CHAIR:** So you are saying that the ACT government position is that there should be an increase in the number of senators?

**Mr Steel:** Yes, we think there should be an increased number of senators.

**THE CHAIR:** By how many?

**Mr Steel:** We have certainly noted that other jurisdictions certainly have more senators compared to the population. Per capita in the ACT we do not have enough representation compared to some of the states, and that goes as far as Western Australia as well, so there is an opportunity I think to have more. Mr Ng might be able to comment on the specific submissions that have been made in relation to the matter, but we might be able to take that on notice and provide any submissions that relate to that from the ACT government for your interest.


CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

On 29 August 2022, the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters of the Parliament of Australia wrote to the ACT Chief Minister inviting the ACT Government to make a submission to the Inquiry into the 2022 Federal Election (the Inquiry). The ACT Government provided a submission to the Inquiry in October 2022.

As part of the ACT Government's response to the Inquiry, it addressed the issue of proportional representation of the states and territories in the Parliament. In its Submission, the ACT Government noted that the ACT currently does not have equal representation with States across the Parliament based on its relative population size and remained concerned about the continued relative underrepresentation of the ACT residents in the Federal Parliament, in comparison to other jurisdictions, such as Tasmania and South Australia.

The ACT Government submission to the Inquiry proposed that there should be an increase in ACT Senate representation from two Senators to four.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature: 

Date: 30/11/23

By the Special Minister of State, Chris Steel MLA