



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Finance

Redirected to:

Reference: Treasury - Infrastructure maintenance

Hearing: 05/08/2025

In relation to: VOCAL ACT

Question received: 06/08/2025

Answer Due: 20/08/2025

VOCAL ACT have had their office undergo maintenance.

This was expected to take 2 weeks and it has now been 2 months and the team still can't access the building. Can you please advise when they can get back in?

What funding they receive, if any? If funding is provided, will this be ongoing?

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

This question is the responsibility of the Minister for the Public Service. Unfortunately, it was not redirected to the correct portfolio within the required Committee deadline.

The works undertaken at the VOCAL ACT tenancy in Narrabundah included the replacement of the air conditioning unit, replacement of building external cladding and hazardous materials removal. These works were originally expected to take 7 weeks, commencing early May and concluding at the end of June.

During the project, the timeframe for completion was amended from 7 weeks to 11 weeks, revising the handover date to the end of July. This change was due to the discovery of significant termite damage to the structure, vandalism to the site's NBN cable, a burst frozen pipe and multiple wet weather days across the program.

Ten (10) progress updates, including advice regarding any changes to the completion date, were provided to the tenants via email at approximately fortnightly intervals between the start of the project in early May and completion of the project in late July. Tenants also attended a start-up meeting on 7 May 2025, and a handover meeting on 23 July 2025.

OFFICIAL

On 1 August 2025, the Tenants were advised that the keys were misplaced by the builders and re-keying was underway. The Certificate of Occupancy and Use was achieved on 6 August 2025.

On 11 August 2025 the Tenants were advised that the keys were ready to be picked up. Records indicate that a representative from VOCAL ACT collected the keys on 11 August 2025.

With regards to funding, between 1999 and June 2011, Victim Support ACT provided funding to VOCAL to deliver a volunteer program to provide practical assistance and support to victims and to train and supervise volunteers for the program.

In December 2011, the VOCC announced that Communities @ Work was awarded the contract to deliver the volunteer program and community education programs. The Communities @ Work program would provide information and support to victims participating in justice processes, supplementing the comprehensive range of services already available to them through Victim Support ACT. VOCAL funding through Victim Support ACT ceased in July 2011.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:



Date:

10/9/25

By the Minister for Finance, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA