



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2026-2027

Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Member), Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA (Member)

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026-2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026-2027

Question on Notice (Committee)

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Attorney-General

Redirection:

Reference: Legislative Drafting and Publishing Services

Hearing Date: 22/07/2026

In relation to: Legislative Drafting and Publishing Services

Question Lodgement Date: 24/07/2026

Date Answer Due: 06/08/2026

The following questions relate to BS-D, Table 9: Output 1.3, p. 14:

- (1) Attorney-General, the 2026-27 Budget appropriates a total \$5,063,000 to Legislative Drafting and Publishing Services?
- (2) How much of that is apportioned to Government MLAs and how much is reserved for non-government MLAs? Specifically, how much is allocated to legislative drafters who provide services to Liberal MLAs, Green MLAs and Independent MLAs?
- (3) Can you provide the profit and loss statement and balance sheet for the Legislative Drafting and Publishing Services?
- (4) How many personnel are in the PCO, and are the personnel strictly designated to provide services to different parties without any crossover?
- (5) Does the government get any of its drafting done by Directorates?
- (6) If the answer to question (5) is yes, how much of the government's legislation is drafted by the PCO and how much by other bodies or agencies (e.g., Directorates)?
- (7) Is there a resourcing problem for the Parliamentary Counsel's Office?
- (8) Should all MLAs have equal access to drafting services?

Attorney-General, we have heard from legislative drafters for Liberal MLAs that 'amendments will take time and draw on limited resources'. In BS-D, Table 18 outlines Accountability Indicators for Output 1.3 regarding the 'provision of high quality and timely legislative drafting'.

- (1) It notes that the level of client satisfaction for legislative drafting sits at about 90%.
- (2) Who were the respondents to the survey assessing this, and how many respondents were there?
- (3) How many requests have been made by non-government MLAs for the services of legislative drafters compared with requests made by government MLAs?
- (4) What is the average time taken to service non-government MLAs compared with government MLAs?
- (5) Should there be a differential between the estimated time to draft legislation and amendments for government and non-government MLAs, and should government MLAs get priority?