



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

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Finance

Reference: Procurement

Hearing: 21 July 2026

In relation to: Secure Local Jobs Code - volunteers

Question received: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 5 August 2026

Volunteer-based organisations have to comply with the Secure Local Jobs Code in order to participate in a procurement process. This involves an accreditation process which costs about \$800-\$1000 per organisation, with no guarantee of success.

- what is the public policy benefit of forcing organisations, which have local volunteers as over 90% of their labour force, to go through an expensive accreditation process to comply with the Secure Local Jobs Code?
- will the Minister consider adding an exemption so that organisations that are overwhelmingly volunteer based will not have to incur this expense to participate in ACT Government procurement processes in future?

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

The Secure Local Jobs Code (the Code) is designed to raise workplace standards and ensure that ACT Government only contracts with businesses and organisations that meet their industrial relations and work health and safety obligations.

The Code promotes job security and better workplace conditions in sectors that are prone to insecure work, vulnerable employment, and exploitation (construction, cleaning, traffic management and security).

In addition, the Code also applies to procurements equal to or greater than \$200,000 for services or works (other than excluded services or works), where labour is the largest element of the cost.

OFFICIAL

Volunteer-based organisations are not excluded from Code requirements under the *Government Procurement Act 2001*. However, the Code does allow for exemptions to be considered in accordance with legislative requirements.

The Code certification process utilises external approved auditors that are responsible for setting their own fees to conduct certification audits. Businesses and organisations are encouraged to seek multiple quotes from more than one approved auditor to get the most competitive price when going through the certification process.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:



Date:

11 | 8 | 26

By the Minister for Finance, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA