



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Peter Cain MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
23 February 2022

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 23 February 2022: Mr Brett Monger took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Is attracting staff an issue, and if so, what are the factors contributing to that?

Mr Monger: I will have to take that one on notice. I will say that staff departures—I think generally through COVID a lot of areas are finding people are looking for a sea change. We have had, I think recently it was about four or five people that have left and decided to go and live in Newcastle as a sea change arrangement. So we have had—I think the last two magistrates that were appointed both came from Legal Aid. We have got currently three assistant registrars that are all coming from Legal Aid. So there is a real mix of why people are actually leaving the organisation. But the actual recruitment of lawyers, I will have to take on notice.

Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission (ACT):

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

Attracting staff with suitable experience in the higher-level positions (Legal 3/Legal 4) can be difficult.

Contributing factors inhibiting attraction may be:

1. Job security and/or change of employer concerns during and post COVID pandemic;
2. Family related interstate moves, including Defence partner transfer;
3. Job opportunities within the ACT and interstate;
4. Salary comparisons between Legal Aid ACT and government and private firms.

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

Signature:

Date:

9/3/22

By the Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, Dr John Boersig