

## Gonczarek, Melinda

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**From:** Speaker  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 1:01 PM  
**To:** Speaker  
**Subject:** Speakers Media Release - COVID Safety at the Legislative Assembly



### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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Office of the Speaker – Media Release

#### COVID-Safety at the Legislative Assembly

It has come to the attention of the Speaker and the Clerk of the ACT Legislative Assembly, that some media outlets are incorrectly reporting that the Assembly does not have a COVID safety plan in place. This is unequivocally and factually incorrect.

The Assembly has in place a COVID-19 safety Plan which includes a comprehensive risk register. The COVID-safe plan has been in place since June 2020 and all risk control measures are implemented as per this plan, inclusive of appropriate numbers of persons per spaces in the Assembly based on ACT health COVID guidelines. The plan is regularly reviewed and updated by both the Legislative Assembly Work Health and Safety Committee and the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

The Assembly's Work Health and Safety Committee, which is established as the consultative and communicative forum responsible for overseeing the requirements of the WHS Act as they relate to the Legislative Assembly and the Office of the Legislative Assembly, are an effective and engaged committee. The WHS committee meets quarterly, and the COVID safe plan is a standing agenda item.

The Assembly has a Legislative Assembly Work Health and Safety Risk Register which contains all work health and safety risks identified by the WHS Committee in connection with the Assembly workplace.

Late last year the Office of the Legislative Assembly participated in the ACT Government **COVID-19 Assurance Program** and received an assessment report confirming the Assembly met the requirements of the program and had tailored responses in place that aligned with ACT Whole of Government policies.

Both the Speaker and the Clerk of the Assembly take COVID safety very seriously and have provided COVID-safe updates to all members and staff of the Legislative Assembly regularly throughout the pandemic. All COVID-safe measures will continue and as has been the practice since 2020, all necessary efforts will be taken to ensure the safety of members and staff in the Assembly.

**Statement End**