



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA on 30 August 2022: Kathy Leigh took on notice the following question(s):

In relation to: Mr Ramsay's appointment as CFC CEO - skills and qualifications

MS LEE: Thank you, Chair. Ms Leigh, can you give us an insight into the qualifications or experience of Mr Ramsay that led this election committee into offering him the role? Because based on what we know publicly or Mr Ramsay's CV and work experience, it is a little bit hard to tell how he was successful out of 24 candidates.

Ms Leigh: Thank you, Ms Lee. As I said, the panel had a set of selection criteria that we assessed each candidate against. Obviously, we were looking for a breadth of expertise, it is the head of an organisation, cred, obviously in the subject area is important but so is the broader capacity to lead an organisation. So we work through those selection criteria against the capabilities and experience that Mr Ramsay offered to the panel.

MS LEE: Which is?

Ms Leigh: As we did against all of the other candidates.

MS LEE: Which is? Can you go into more detail about what Mr Ramsay offered?

Ms Leigh: I think I would need to take that on notice, Ms Lee, because I do not have those documents with me.

MS LEE: So as I understand it, Mr Ramsay was an executive minister at Kippax Uniting Church from 97 to 2016 and then, he was elected into this place and held the arts portfolio, is that right, have I got that right?

Ms Leigh: Ms Lee, again, I do not have all of those documents with me and that selection process was some time ago. So I think it would be more helpful to the committee if I were able to take that on notice.

MS LEE: And in terms of the 23 other candidates that applied, without giving any confidences away, can you provide to the committee a broad summary of some of the other experiences of those candidates?

Ms Leigh: If I could simply take on notice, Ms Lee, that I will look to what I could appropriately provide. It is an usual situation to be asked by a committee to talk about a public service employment process, normally one would not go into the details of such a process. So if I could

take on notice to look at what I could appropriately provide, and be as helpful as I can be, but within that constraint.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Under s.11 of the *Cultural Facilities Corporation Act 1997*, the Chief Executive Officer is a public servant appointed by the Head of Service.

The Head of Service has advised me that the Chief Executive Officer position was advertised as a pending vacancy as Ms Harriet Elvin had announced her retirement to come into effect later in the year. The vacancy was advertised on the JobsACT and ArtsHub websites which had both local and national circulation, on 4 June 2021.

Advertisements closed on 20 June 2021. Twenty-four (24) applications were received. Eleven (11) applications were from people residing in the ACT and thirteen (13) applications were received from people residing interstate.

Seven (7) candidates were shortlisted, and seven (7) candidates were interviewed.

The Head of Service has advised me that all 24 applicants presented information relevant to the selection criteria including capabilities in leadership, strategy, governance, financial management and people and asset management. The applicants were from a wide range of fields in the public, private and academic sectors.

In relation to Mr Ramsay, the Head of Service has advised me that his application presented information relevant to the selection criteria, including leadership, strategy, governance, financial management and people and asset management and included his experience as a CEO, Chair and Board member over ten years, as well as his public and community sector leadership.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: 

Date: 9.9.22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA