



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON COST OF LIVING PRESSURES IN THE ACT**  
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair)  
Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

### Inquiry into Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT

**Submission Number: 004**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 2 March 2023**

**From:** [Geoffrey Buchanan](#)  
**To:** [LA Committee - COL](#)  
**Subject:** Submission: Inquiry into Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT  
**Date:** Friday, 24 February 2023 4:49:55 PM

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Submission to:  
Select Committee on Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT

Submission by:  
Mr Geoffrey Buchanan

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Dear Mr Davis MLA (Chair), Dr Paterson MLA and Ms Lawder MLA,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Select Committee's inquiry into cost of living pressures in the ACT.

My submission is a brief one and relates to a motion that was passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 6 October 2021. Amongst other things, this motion called on the ACT Government to 'review and update the ACT's Targeted Assistance Strategy in the first half of 2022, with potential measures to be considered as part of the 2022-23 Budget' (ACT Legislative Assembly, Minutes of Proceedings 025\_295, pp. 303-308, accessed 24 February 2023, [https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/1871015/MoP025.pdf](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1871015/MoP025.pdf)).

I have not been able to find any information to confirm whether such a review and update of the ACT's Targeted Assistance Strategy was undertaken by the ACT Government. If this has been completed, it would likely be particularly relevant to the Select Committee's Terms of Reference, especially identifying cost of living pressures faced by low and moderate income households that are not currently alleviated by ACT Government assistance programs and how the ACT Government can further help address cost of living pressures. Any findings, recommendations and outcomes from a review and update of the ACT's Targeted Assistance Strategy would also provide useful background for the Select Committee as well as to the community - especially for those looking to make a submission.

I recommend that the Select Committee confirm whether the ACT Government has undertaken a review and update of the ACT's Targeted Assistance Strategy since the motion was passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 6 October 2021.

If a review and update of the ACT's Targeted Assistance Strategy has been undertaken, I recommend it be used to inform the Select Committee's inquiry into cost of living pressures in the ACT and that any relevant document(s) that can be made public be uploaded to the Inquiry into Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT webpage so that it/they can be accessed by members of the community to inform their submissions.

If it is found that a review and update of the ACT's Targeted Assistance Strategy has not been undertaken by ACT Government following the passing of the motion on 6 October 2021, I recommend that the Select Committee seek an explanation as to why this has not yet occurred and consider making a recommendation for this task to be undertaken through a comprehensive review process that is informed by the evidence gathered by the Select Committee, including effective community consultation and data analysis (both quantitative and qualitative).

Thank you for considering my submission. I am happy to be contacted to provide any clarifications or further information around this submission if that would be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Buchanan.