

2020

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**Ministerial Response to the Auditor-General's Report No 6/2020 – Transfer of Workers'  
Compensation Arrangements from Comcare**

**Presented by  
Suzanne Orr MLA  
Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety  
August 2020**



## Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Disability  
Minister for Community Services and Facilities  
Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety  
Minister for Government Services and Procurement  
Member for Yerrabi

CMTEDD2020/3454

Mr Michael Harris  
Auditor-General  
PO Box 275  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Via email: [actauditorgeneral@act.gov.au](mailto:actauditorgeneral@act.gov.au)

Dear Mr Harris

I am writing in relation to your performance report no. 6 of 2020 titled *Transfer of workers' compensation arrangements from Comcare* provided to the Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly on 30 June 2020.

As the report notes, on 1 March 2019, the ACT Government became a self-insurer under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act). This was a historical step for the ACT Government and represents an opportunity to take responsibility for the care of our injured workers, enabling a more integrated rehabilitation, health and safety service.

I would like to thank you for a comprehensive and thorough review of the effectiveness of the preparation, management and transition to self-insurance and management of the third-party claims manager, Employers Mutual Limited (EML), engaged to provide claims management services to the Territory. The findings of the report are welcome and validate the extensive work undertaken by this Government and the directorate to support and deliver the self-insurance arrangements, including the transfer of claims data, governance and administrative arrangements.

This was a process that involved the transfer of over 29,000 claims from Comcare to the Territory and the transfer of in excess of 780,000 documents. It is a compliment to the skills and experience of those involved in the process that this was achieved.

While it is acknowledged that the transfer of assets relating to existing liabilities of the Territory prior to 1 March 2019 remains outstanding and the risks identified in the performance report are noted, it is also necessary to ensure due diligence is undertaken to determine the assets payable to the Territory. Until these assets are paid by Comcare, there are a number of safeguards in place that will ensure the Territory continues to have sufficient funds to meet our liabilities as a self-insurer to our injured workers.

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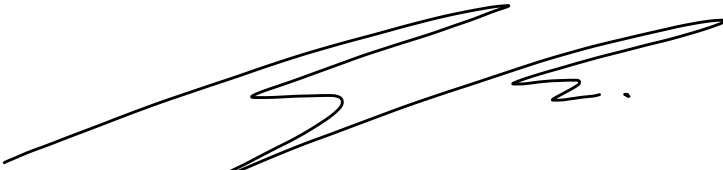


SuzanneOrrMLA



I welcome the ACT Auditor-General's performance report into the transfer of workers' compensation arrangements for the ACT public sector to self-insurance and would like to thank all those who contributed to the significant achievements in becoming a self-insurer for the ACT public sector.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Orr', written in a cursive style.

Suzanne Orr MLA  
Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety

24/08/20