



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on 23 November 2023: Ms Gillian Geraghty took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 23 November 2023 p 54

In relation to: Bullying complaints in Major Projects Canberra

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

Were any bullying complaints made by staff in 2022 to 23?

Ms Geraghty: I would have to take the question on notice. I understand the staff survey did indicate that there had been some bullying experienced. I will have to come back to you on the exact number of complaints.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Great. And what actions were taken after that survey was conducted that some staff were experiencing bullying?

Ms Geraghty: There have been a series of—a number of initiatives that have been implemented around the bullying. And in particular in ensuring that there is a safe and wellbeing policy being adopted. And we have also had a champion put forward in terms of mental health and wellbeing for the agency.

In particular to those complaints, is that what you are asking me?

Okay. I will have to take that question on notice.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. And were there any complaints made about the former Head of Major Projects Canberra, Duncan Edghill?

Ms Geraghty: I do not know. I have been on the project for eight weeks. And I will take that question on notice.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. That is all for now.

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

Major Projects Canberra (MPC) has received one bullying complaint from an employee in 2022-23. Following receipt of this complaint, MPC has been proactively engaging with the employee in order to undertake a preliminary assessment, in accordance with the process set out in the ACTPS Enterprise Agreements.

Actions taken more broadly across MPC in relation to bullying have included:

- In July 2022, the Misconduct and Complaints Handling Core Process was finalised. All of these documents were communicated to staff via whole of MPC emails and are included in the MPC Induction Manual and available on the MPC Intranet.
- MPC's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan was launched on 2 May 2023.
- In November and December 2022, MPC worked with the Professional Standards Unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) and presented training on the ACT Government's integrity frameworks and legislation.
- MPC Staff were invited to attend the ACT Integrity Commission virtual training sessions and were provided links to various guides available from the Integrity Commission.
- Whole of MPC emails have been sent by the Chief Projects Officer and our Executive Mental Health Champion relating to following topics:
 - Integrity is an ACT Public Service value;
 - Work Month where the theme was Mental Health; and
 - Our obligations and expected behaviours as an ACTPS employee.
- MPC have recently undertaken a procurement exercise for Mental Health Awareness training for MPC managers.

No complaints have been received by MPC in relation to Mr Duncan Edghill.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: **8.12.23**

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA