



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: Multicultural affairs - Interpreters

Question received: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

1. Over the last three financial years, how many adjournments, appeals, or overturned court cases have occurred as a result of issues relating to interpreter availability or quality? This should include the number of cases involving lengthy delays, cases that were adjourned or considered procedurally unfair due to interpreter issues, and/or cases where any rulings or convictions were overturned or reviewed due to interpreting errors or the absence of interpreting services.
2. Over the last three financial years, how many people have died or have been diagnosed with a severe injury in the ACT with interpreting problems in a hospital or other medical setting being a contributing factor? This should include cases where there was a delay in obtaining an interpreter, an interpreter could not be found at all, and/or if the available interpreter was of poor quality.

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The information sought does not exist in a form that would be easily extracted from within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate systems.

Determining whether the information is available would require extensive manual processes and collation, and would require a considerable diversion of resources, which is not reasonable given operational requirements.

2. Canberra Health Services does not record the metric of whether issues relating to interpreters pertains to the injury or death of patients as it is not a reportable category of information.

To ascertain this information would require reviewing individual patient information.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: 

Date: 11.12.25

By the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA