



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA (Member), Ms
Fiona Carrick MLA (Member), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA (Member)

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025-2026 and Appropriation (Office of the
Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025-2026

Question Taken on Notice (Committee)

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

Redirection: Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

Reference: CMTEDD

Hearing Date: 06/08/2025

In relation to: Procurement and Insourcing

Question Lodgement Date: 13/08/2025

Date Answer Due: 20/08/2025

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THE CHAIR: I want to ask about insourcing, and where things are up to with the insourcing framework. If I understand rightly, there is a threshold for procurements, I think it was \$200,000, any procurement over \$200,000 has to be assessed against the framework; is that correct?

Ms Stephen-Smith: I do not have ministerial responsibility for the insourcing, I believe, so I am not going to say 100 per cent that that is correct, but you probably have got the right information. But broadly, in terms of implementation of the insourcing framework, and its interaction with procurement, one of the key questions is how you understand far enough ahead of a contract coming to an end.

So if it is a currently outsourced service that could potentially be delivered by ACT government public servants, one of the key issues in relation to procurement is understanding far enough ahead what contracts are coming up for renewal so that that process can be undertaken. I do not know if Mr Campbell has any more on then where that is up to.

Mr Campbell: I actually do not have that information to hand. So we do not formally have responsibility for it, but we could take it on notice to direct the question to the—well, sorry. Let me clarify the question that you are asking first.

THE CHAIR: What I am trying to find out is, number 1, is how it is interacting with the procurement process broadly, and it sounds like it factors into the forecasting before it becomes procurement?

Mr Campbell: Probably the best way of thinking about how it interacts with Sanaz's team is, because there is now this sort of forward-planning part of the process, in terms of what might come forward in the next year or so, also to help inform the work of the government procurement board. That also helps the directorates to be on the front foot about what is coming up, and then they would need to consider those procurements in the context of the insourcing framework. But as to where that policy framework is up to, I cannot answer that.

THE CHAIR: So who has responsibility for—

Ms Stephen-Smith: Minister Pettersson.

THE CHAIR: I am just seeing if I can ask that some elements of this—

Ms Stephen-Smith: More broadly, it is the Office of Industrial Relation and Workplace Safety. So in terms of officials, that is not the right—

THE CHAIR: No, that is okay. I would imagine though that there is there is some interaction, and I am getting a sense that there is.

Ms Stephen-Smith: Definitely. I take a strong interest in the insourcing framework.

THE CHAIR: That that is good. Part of what I am trying to work out, is that there is a lot of concern from many community organisations that currently receive funding or

provide services, and we have had some extensive discussions about what the difference might be, that some of the things that they do might be insourced. I am trying to find out whether, under the procurement arrangements, there is any delineation that would allow those organisations to work out whether their services are at a threat of being insourced.

Ms Stephen-Smith: I think, in terms of the procurement element of that, it kind of comes back to the conversation we are having previously about service funding agreements and grants, and procurement versus grants arrangements. But at a broad level, for most of our human services delivery, we are now undertaking commissioning processes where we would be looking in advance about how the entire sector is structured and who is doing what. From my perspective, in terms of the insourcing framework, it would be part of the consideration of that bigger picture of service mapping, as to who is appropriately placed for taking responsibility for what.

Largely, our consideration around insourcing, or non-government service delivery, is around new services. So for example, the Eating Disorder Residential Centre, there was quite a discussion about whether that should be delivered by Canberra Health Services or whether that should be delivered by a non-government organisation. It would be unusual, but not unheard of, for a service that is currently delivered by a non-government organisation to switch to being delivered by a government organisation, but that would largely be where it is a service that is delivered on behalf of the government.