



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Mr Alistair Coe MLA (Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair), Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA,  
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA

#### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by VICKI DUNNE MLA on 5 June 2020: ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 5 June 2020 PAGE P340

In relation to:

**MRS DUNNE:** Chief Minister, in relation to work from home, have we encountered any issues with the security of government documents, perhaps their being transposed inappropriately onto home computers or where somebody's cloud is not as secure as one would presume that the ACT system would be? And have people laboured with poor bandwidth and the like which has impeded their work from home?

**Mr Barr:** I can certainly attest to the second part of your question. At various points it has been necessary to drop video and just use audio for many—

**MRS DUNNE:** That is certainly the case in the Legislative Assembly.

**Mr Barr:** Yes, I have experienced that on multiple occasions. That is why, in most instances, most of my meetings are done on an audio basis. I do not need to see up everyone's nose. I do not care what you are wearing; that is particularly unimportant. Being able to see is not relevant but being able to hear and communicate effectively certainly is. So, yes, in relation to the second question, there have been bandwidth issues not just for people at home but for people in certain buildings. It is less so if you are not using wi-fi, and whether you have access to 5G will certainly impact on the quality of both audio and video streaming. Then there is clearly the size of a particular meeting. The more users you have, particularly if they are wanting to stream video and share presentations and the like, the more pressure that puts on bandwidth.

In relation to the first question, nothing has been brought to my attention of concern in that regard in terms of any cases to date, but I will ask that question of shared services as to whether anything has been brought to their attention.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Shared Services has had no reported incidents in regard to staff inappropriately using government documents while working from home or utilising non-ACT Government cloud services.

There are multiple variables that can impact the performance of an individual home user, including their personal internet connection and wireless network setup. This can

particularly impact high bandwidth applications such as video conferencing. As technology changes Shared Services continues to make improvements to assist users. Where poor personal connections have been identified, 4G SIM cards can and have been provided as an alternative connection mechanism. Since the beginning of COVID-19 arrangements in March 2020 the number of active SIMS has increased by approximately 15 percent.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic response

Signature: 

Date: 1. 7. 20

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA