



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January 2022 – June 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
8 December 2022

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on 8 December 2022: Christina Thompson took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard [uncorrected] Proof Transcript 8 December 2022, Page 22]

In relation to: Auditor-General Reports 2018-2019

THE CHAIR: Okay, yes, of course. And also, the 2018 to 19, there were four reports from education and three reports of allegations from health but then there was no outcome provided, do you want to take that on notice as well?

Ms Thompson: Yes, and apologies, Christina Thompson and I have read the privilege statement, yes, we will take that on notice.

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

Not all allegations of fraud are referred to the Public Sector Standards Commissioner (PSSC) for investigation. This is due to matters where an employee is summarily terminated from their employment for serious misconduct or where an employee has left the service prior to the detection of the alleged fraud. In both scenarios an independent misconduct investigation is not required. During this period matters may also have been referred to the Integrity Commission, if relevant to their jurisdiction.

During FY 2018-19 'Health' (which may include both Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services) referred three allegations of fraud to the PSSC for a misconduct investigation as mentioned in the in Table1-1 of Auditor-General Report. All three allegations were substantiated.

In relation to the ACT Education Directorate, checks back to 2012-13 indicate all reporting has been in narrative form with no information provided on the types of internal fraud reported. This is likely due to the small number of matters reported and their sensitive nature.

The ACT Education Directorate's Senior Executive Responsible for Business Integrity Risk (SERBIR) maintains a register of all matters referred to the SERBIR for investigation which can include matters relating to potential fraud, corruption and Public Interest Disclosures. The ACT Education Directorate advised it is not possible to identify from the SERBIR's register specific matters that were reported on in the annual report in each financial year and therefore it is not possible for the Directorate to

accurately identify the number of allegations referred to the PSSC and whether they were substantiated.

The Professional Standards Unit records indicate that the PSSC received one fraud related referral from the ACT Education Directorate during FY 2018-19. Misconduct was substantiated in this matter.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 17.12.22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA