



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. 4

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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

Inquiry into the Modern Legislation Amendment Slavery Bill 2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

DUE: Friday 23 June 2023

Asked by Mrs Kikkert on 15 June: Deputy Under Treasurer, Budget, Procurement and Finance, Treasury, Mr Campbell took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Uncorrected Proof Transcript [16/06/23] [PAGES 37-38]]

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Would you be able to take on notice how much it would cost in each of those scenarios that you listed on your submission? And also, did you put in there establishing a standalone office? I do not remember if you did or not, with your submissions, but I do remember you referring to there are many other scenarios that you could implement. The whole issue into existing bodies or existing work. Do you mind taking that on notice? The cost of them?

Mr Campbell: I possibly would not be a position to give that information unless—so we are obviously developing the government's response and working with the government on the government response. As to the costs, I mean, we can give you a sense of what an individual cost is if you were going to add a staff member. We can give you a number like that. That is really what we generate.

But yes, it would be potentially a fairly significant diversion of our resources from what we are doing to costings of different models, though. We do not have that at our fingertips because we would have to go away and create it. In the context of giving you some data about what an additional staff member might cost, we could possibly do that and come back on notice on that.

THE CHAIR: Yes, and just a standalone commissioner with possibly two staff—how much would that cost.

Mr Campbell: Yes, and maybe even reference what the New South Wales one cost. That could be a good reference point as well. Yes. Okay.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Andrew?

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Indicative annual costs for a stand-alone Commissioner and two staff in 2023-24, based on staffing levels in the table below, amount to approximately \$685,000.

OFFICIAL

Officer	Level	Annual cost
Commissioner	SES Band 2	\$379,600
Staff	SOG C	\$166,664
Staff	ASO 6	\$139,011
	Total	\$685,275

This is not a formal costing, but more of a general guide based on a range of simplifying assumptions, without any assessment of the range of functions that might be provided, nor the location of the function within existing Government architecture. The seniority of the employee levels chosen are highly indicative and would change depending on the range of functions of the Commissioner and whether their functions were undertaken in isolation, or co-located with other existing functions.

We understand the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner role was established as an independent statutory office, with support staff from a unit within the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. Advice from the Commissioner was that establishment funding of approximately \$1.5 million was provided, with ongoing annual base funding of approximately \$3 million with 12 support staff. For a small jurisdiction, careful consideration would need to be given to the size of the total funding commitment if a Commissioner role was to be established by the Government, given other fiscal demands across the Territory.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 27/6/23

By Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State