



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Peter Muir, Chair of the Official Visitors Board, ACT Official Visitors

In relation to: Official Visitors Board and budget allocations

Hearing: 30 July 2025

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Transcript provided: 1 August 2025

Answer Due: 8 August 2025

Peter Muir took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: And it seems like the budget side of the equation is really key to all of that, in terms of your capacity to engage and act and then hopefully see some change, depending on reception from different agencies. However, the budget is very difficult to pull out from the numbers that we have in the budget papers themselves. Do you have, or can you give us, I guess—happy for it to be on notice—the allocation that you have for this year and then for across the forward estimates?

Mr Muir: Absolutely we can, yes. I mean, I have figures here in front of me, but it is divided into two. So there is territory funding, which funds the actual activities of the official visitors, and there is separate—

Mr Dzwonnik: And departmental funding, which funds both the chair and the executive officer. The executive officer is part of the board's functions to provide support to the board.

Mr Muir: We will give you both of those.

THE CHAIR: Yes, that would be great.

Mr Muir: If we gave you, say, the last three financial years, would that be—

THE CHAIR: Yes, that would be good. And the forward estimates as well, can I have the forward estimates then?

Mr Muir: Yes, sure.

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Peter Muir: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Territorial historical budget and forward estimates, as well as growth from the previous year, as follows:

2021 – 2022 - \$616,000

2022 – 2023 - \$625,000 – 1.46% growth from previous year

2023 – 2024 - \$637,000 – 1.92% growth from previous year

2024 – 2025 - \$649,000 – 1.88% growth from previous year

2025 – 2026 - \$662,000 – 2.00% growth from previous year

2026 – 2027 - \$670,000 – 1.21% growth from previous year

2027 – 2028 - \$681,000 – 1.64% growth from previous year

2028 – 2029 - \$690,000 – 1.32% growth from previous year

Official Visitor per diem rates are determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal effective 1 November each year with per diem growth as follows:

November 2020 – \$555 per diem

November 2021 – \$570 per diem – 2.70% growth from previous year

November 2022 – \$590 per diem – 3.51% growth from previous year

November 2023 – \$615 per diem – 4.24% growth from previous year

November 2024 – \$635 per diem – 3.25% growth from previous year

Consumer Price Index indicator using the [ABS' 'All groups CPI weighted average of 8 capital cities'](#), CPI growth per financial year was as follows:

2020 – 2021 – 118.8

2021 – 2022 – 126.1 – 6.14% growth from previous year

2022 – 2023 – 133.7 – 6.03% growth from previous year

2023 – 2024 – 138.8 – 3.81% growth from previous year

2024 – 2025 – 141.7 – 2.09% growth from previous year

Growth in funding does not appear to be keeping up with CPI or wages growth.

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Departmental historical budget and forward estimates as follows:

2021 – 2022 - \$129,000

2022 – 2023 - \$126,161

2023 – 2024 - \$166,000

2024 – 2025 - \$179,000

2025 – 2026 - \$183,000

2026 – 2027 - \$186,000

2027 – 2028 - \$188,000

2028 – 2029 - \$190,000

There was a \$29,500 per annum increase in recurrent funding from 2023-24 to account for the independent Chair of the Official Visitors Board. The Chair position was previously held by the Public Trustee and Guardian and the Deputy Director-General, Justice, which did not require additional salary.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:



Date: 7 August 2025

By the Chair, Official Visitors Board, Peter Muir