QTON No. 15

Legislative Assembly for the **Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

In relation to: Treasury and Funding from Commonwealth

Hearing: 21/07/2026
Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 37-38
Transcript provided: 23/07/2026
Answer Due: 29/07/2026

Ms Dowdell took on notice the following question(s):

MR COCKS: Okay. And so that would apply in terms of the HAFF funding that you were referring to as well?

Mr Steel: Is that confirmed on the FFA—

Ms Dowdell: I think we would have to take the individual programs on though, just to work through the implications.

Mr Steel: Yes.

MR COCKS: Are you able to maybe just on notice provide a list of what funding the ACT receives from the commonwealth that is quarantined from the Commonwealth Grants Commission?

Ms Dowdell: We can take it on notice to provide, but it is set out in each of the terms of reference that the commonwealth Treasurer issues for each of the inquiries.

MR COCKS: It is, but there are a few things that—

Ms Dowdell: Yes. So we will see what we can provide on notice, but they are made public.

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Commonwealth funding arrangements that are quarantined from the Commonwealth Grants Commission's (CGC) assessments are specified by the Commonwealth Treasurer, who provides direction through the Terms of Reference issued for each annual update of GST relativities or methodology review.

Quarantined funding may include National Partnership facilitation, reward payments, and specific payments or classes of payments that the Commonwealth Treasurer directs the CGC to exclude from its assessments.

Each Terms of Reference determine the scope and duration of any quarantining arrangement applied by the CGC over the year and potentially over subsequent years, with the most recent assessment (2026 Update) covering payments in 2024-25.

The Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) comprises multiple funding streams supporting different housing policy objectives, the CGC assesses individual payment streams rather than applying a single GST equalisation treatment to the Fund as a whole. For example, as part of the 2026 Update, the CGC considered the $75 million HAFF – Remote Indigenous Housing payment and assessed it as having an impact on GST relativities.

The relevant Terms of Reference, which specify funding arrangements that are quarantined from the CGC's assessments, are publicly available on the CGC website:

2026:
https://www.cgc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2026-01/Correspondence%20from%20the%20Treasurer%20-%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20copy.pdf

2025:
https://www.cgc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/R2025%20terms%20of%20reference.pdf

2024:
https://www.cgc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/2024%20Update%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf

2023:
https://www.cgc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/2023%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf

2022:
https://www.cgc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/2022%20Update%20terms%20of%20reference_0.pdf

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature: Date: 29/7/26

By the Treasurer, Chris Steel MLA