



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for the Public Service

In relation to: Public Service and Industrial Relations and ACT PS growth

Hearing: 21/07/2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 79

Transcript provided: 24/07/2026

Answer Due: 31/07/2026

Mr Khan took on notice the following questions:

MS CLAY: Thank you, chair. Lost track. Excellent. Minister, I wanted to have a chat about workforce planning. It is important we pay our people well, but it is also important that we are planning for that workforce. The public service grew from about 24,000 to 30,000 over five years or so. Some of that is from insourcing and from Calvary. Is that a couple of thousand people from insourcing and Calvary?

Ms Stephen-Smith: It is a couple of thousand people from Calvary. I do not have those numbers in front of me, but they were available at the time of the acquisition of Calvary.

MS CLAY: Yes, I am trying to get a handle on that 24,000 to 30,000. How much of that is just from insourcing, and how much of that is actual growth?

Ms Stephen-Smith: I do not know if you have got those numbers.

Mr Khan: I would need to take that on notice, Ms Clay, but we can get it.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA – The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The headcount figures raised during the hearing broadly align with ACT Public Service headcount growth from 24,529 employees in the 2019-20 financial year to 30,743 employees in the 2023-24 financial year.

It is important to recognise that this increase does not represent purely new growth in the size of the workforce. A proportion reflects government decisions to bring existing functions into the ACT Public Service, including the insourcing of school cleaners and transfer of North Canberra Hospital staff following the acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.

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North Canberra Hospital was first included in Canberra Health Services results in the 2024 State of the Service Report. The 2023-24 Canberra Health Services results include 1,807 North Canberra Hospital staff. In addition, some other services and functions previously delivered by external contractors have been insourced into the ACT Public Service.

The remaining increase reflects growth in the ACT Public Service to meet increasing demand for government services. This growth reflects growth in demand for essential services, particularly health, education, child protection and emergency services, alongside targeted investment in government services to support a growing city.

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



Signature:

Date:

4/8/26

By the Minister for the Public Service, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA