



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Meegan Fitzharris MLA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Inquiry into 2014–15 Annual reports

CMTEDD Portfolio

Responses to questions taken on notice at public hearing of 4 November 2015



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Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
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Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE QN. 2

4 November 2015

Asked by Mr Hanson MLA:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 4 November 2015 [PAGE #72]]

In relation to:

List of measures that have reduced red tape for businesses and list of measures that have increased red tape for businesses

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Regulatory reform and red tape reduction is a priority for the Government and has been implemented across government directorates, as well as through specific red tape reduction legislative amendment bills.

In May 2015, the Government released *Confident and Business Ready* – the Government's strategy to create the right business environment by making it easier for businesses to meet regulatory requirements by streamlining processes and incrementally moving to a modern, risk-based approach to services and compliance.

1. Measures that have reduced red tape for business

Access Canberra

Since its establishment in December 2014, Access Canberra has taken an active approach to ensuring the practical implementation and administration of legislation does not create an additional regulatory burden on businesses. It has done this through a number of measures:

- Access Canberra inspectors from multiple business units undertake coordinated and joint compliance inspections (e.g. liquor, gaming and health);
- Access Canberra supported the introduction of outdoor bars on licensed premises, with a supporting Guide;
- where possible, applicants are notified about the outcome of multiple approval applications by a single decision/response;
- regulators are implementing a risk-based approach to compliance, focussing efforts where the risk of harm is greatest and not seeking information that is not relevant to these harms;
- a flexible and conciliatory approach is being taken to achieving rectification of building defects;

- public notifications required for business applications can now be made on the ACT Government website, rather than in a daily newspaper; reducing the cost to businesses;
- Access Canberra provided ICT support to enable the introduction of the Minister for Gaming and Racing's gaming machine reform package which allows businesses to trade gaming machines;
- existing ICT capability within Access Canberra was applied to enhance information sharing across the organisation, meaning licensees do not need to provide the same information to multiple business units within Access Canberra;
- Access Canberra supported the implementation of ride-sharing regulation in the Territory;
- Access Canberra implemented a policy to allow public vehicle driver licence holders to utilise their police check from their Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration – eliminating the need for an additional police checks;
- Access Canberra staff act as a single point of contact and support streamlined service delivery by ensuring that customers are put in touch with the right area/s of government for their matter;
- the availability of business and industry licensing services, and births, deaths and marriages services (previously only accessible in Fyshwick) was extended when the Gungahlin Access Canberra Service Centre opened in May 2015;
- new service models for proof of identity and proof of residency were implemented at the Gungahlin Service Centre to reduce the need to present information multiple times;
- Revenue Office shopfront services have been integrated with the Land Titles shopfront services, providing a single point of contact for the conveyancing industry;
- Access Canberra's website was released in May 2015, bringing together many online services and information into a single site;
- Thirty-seven new digital smart forms have been released, including 22 that relate to business licence applications or renewals, registrations, authorisations or regulatory approvals;
- together with the Territory Revenue Office, Access Canberra developed an e-lodge facility for stamp duty so attendance at a shopfront is not required; and
- Access Canberra is implementing online renewals for WWVP registrations.

Access Canberra – Single Point of Contact for Events

The establishment of an events approval team has reduced red tape by delivering:

- a single point of contact for advice, information, support and case management through the events approvals process;
- a single point of information on the Access Canberra website for events approvals;
- a cultural shift within government in relation to the risk tolerance associated with events;
- in collaboration with other ACT Government directorates, a reduction in the paperwork, and in some cases the number of approvals, required for events approvals;
- tools/templates to assist businesses running events; and
- a single point of coordination for approvals required for unique business proposals.

Budget measures

- In the 2016-17 Budget, the Government will increase the payroll tax threshold from \$1.85 million to \$2 million.
- Insurance duty will be fully abolished on 1 July 2016.
- In the 2012-13 Budget, commercial land tax and commercial general rates were combined in one bill.

Building (General) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2015 (No 1)

These amendments narrowed the scope of licensable work for builder's licenses, to exclude low risk buildings and structures that are exempt from the relevant provisions of the Building Act, such as certain fences, small structures, and small retaining walls.

Building Canberra – Providing an Easier Way, July 2014

This package of reforms to capital works procurement to streamline processes, eliminate duplication and provide more opportunities for local businesses included:

- deploying new technologies to reduce red tape and duplication in capital works tendering processes;
- introducing thresholds that will unlock more opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises in the ACT region;
- maintaining an up to date call tender schedule;
- releasing a list of 20 ready-now contracts totalling \$10 million;
- enabling continuous improvement through the expansion of mandatory post implementation reviews and an enhanced database of contractor performance;
- expediting tender evaluation through reducing paperwork and increasing use of preferred contractor systems; and
- committing to an ethos of cooperative contracting and partnering in the efficient delivery of capital works.

Community Services

The Community Sector Reform Program (administered by the Community Services Directorate) has reduced red tape for community sector organisations by streamlining procurement, contracting and reporting for community services in the ACT. This program has included risk responsive regulation through the Human Services Registrar.

Construction and Energy Efficiency Legislation Amendment Act 2014 (No 2)

This amendment consolidated electrical safety functions under the Construction Occupations Registrar rather than splitting functions between the Registrar and Planning and Land Authority, clarifying the regulatory arrangements for business.

Construction and Energy Efficiency Legislation Amendment Act 2014 (No 2)

This amendment removed the process for registering electrical products and instead relies on recognition of registration in other jurisdictions.

Electricity Feed-in Tariff Schemes Legislation Amendment Act 2015

This amendment removed the restriction of renewable energy generation receiving a feed-in tariff having to be in the Australian Capital Region. Instead, before the Minister grants a Feed-in Tariff Entitlement to a renewable energy generation outside the Australian Capital Region, the Minister must be satisfied that it offers both the exceptional economic development benefits to the ACT renewable energy industries and minimises costs to the Territory's electricity consumers (including business). This puts in place a mechanism to support generators of renewable energy under the Act should the Commonwealth change its legislation.

Electricity Feed-in Tariff Schemes Legislation Amendment Act 2015

This amendment reduced regulatory burden for ACT electricity retailers and distributor through streamlined reporting requirements and:

- greater transparency and scrutiny of the costs and impact on electricity users;
- an effective compliance regime by use of targeted penalties and audits, if required; and
- administrative efficiencies and legislative clarity by providing for renewable energy generators to be installed and connected by 31 December 2016.

Environment Protection Amendment Act 2014

This amendment reduced red tape by:

- including enforceable undertakings as an alternative to infringement notices; and
- introducing a process of internal reconsideration of a decision by the Environment Protection Authority, so a business does not have to bring a merit review to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT).

Environment Protection Amendment Regulation 2015 (No 1)

This amendment extended the exemption of noise from the construction and maintenance of major roads to the construction and maintenance of railways, light rail and dedicated bus ways. This makes the regulation of noise more consistent and deems noise not to be 'environmental harm' in the specified circumstances.

Exhibition Park Corporation Act 1976

The amendments reduced red tape by:

- repealing of the Act to move the management of Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) to a community service basis, rather than as an operation seeking a commercial return; and
- integrating the functions into Events ACT to provide for streamlined processes and reporting lines.

Food Amendment Bill 2014 and related subordinate legislation

From 1 January 2015:

- food businesses have had the option of registering their business for up to three years. Previously food businesses were required to register annually;
- the \$57 fee charged to food businesses for changing or updating their business details with the Health Protection Service, or advising of a change in ownership, was removed, reducing costs for the ACT food industry;
- an obligation was placed on the proprietor of a food business to ensure a closure notice is not moved, obscured or defaced; and
- the Minister for Health was given the power to exempt registered food businesses from the requirement to appoint a Food Safety Supervisor. The power is to be used on a case-by-case basis where the food-related risk is low and does not equal the need for a Food Safety Supervisor.

From 20 April 2015:

- food business that were previously required to notify the Health Protection Service of their details were no longer required to do so;
- eligible non-profit community organisations that sell food for fundraising purposes were removed from the operation of the *Food Act 2001*, regardless of the types of food sold. Eligible non-profit community organisations are no longer required to register under the *Food Act 2001* or appoint a Food Safety Supervisor; and
- as an important food safety measure, all food-related activities conducted at large public events (e.g. the National Multicultural Festival, National Folk Festival, etc) continue to be regulated. However, the ACT Government has established a streamlined process for declared event registration. There is no registration fee for declared event registration.

Gaming Machine (Reform) Amendment Act 2015

The amendments reduced red tape by:

- increasing the tax-free threshold for gaming revenue accrued by community clubs;

- introducing a new licensing framework to facilitate transfers and movement of licensees within the industry with minimal administrative requirements;
- establishing a trading scheme to allow gaming machine authorisations to be bought and sold by licensees of class C machines;
- enabling licensees of hotels and taverns to divest of outdated gaming machines through the trading scheme; and
- allowing the clubs sector to progress a broad range of actions by notifying the Commission (rather than having to seek the Commission's approval).

Gaming Machine (Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Act 2014 (No 2)

The amendments reduced red tape by:

- abolishing Gaming Machine Access Registers and the requirement for approval of licensed gaming machine attendants;
- increasing licence terms for machine technicians to 3 years;
- clarifying legislative provisions in relation to enabling a club to amend their constitution when inconsistent with a gaming law without the need to conduct a ballot of members;
- removing the requirement for licensees to apply for approval to move machines within already approved gaming areas; and
- allowing small clubs to pay their Problem Gambling Assistance Fund contributions on an annual basis in arrears.

Gaming Machine (Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Act 2014

The amendments reduced red tape by no longer requiring the club sector to seek the Commission's approval for financial arrangements for the acquisition of gaming machines, the encumbrance of existing gaming machines, or for undisbursed jackpot amounts.

Gas Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2014

This reduced red tape by:

- consolidating gas safety functions under the Construction Occupations Registrar rather than splitting functions between the Registrar and the Planning and Land Authority;
- removing the gas appliance worker accreditation scheme from the Gas Safety Act and creating a comparable occupation and construction service subject to licensing under the *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004*;
- consolidating licensing arrangements for the construction sector;
- removing the process for registering gas products and using recognition of registration in other jurisdictions; and
- removing requirements for compliance indicators to be attached to premises, and instead requiring the gas distributor to receive a copy of a certificate of compliance.

Heritage Legislation Amendment ACT 2014

This amendment Act included a number of measures. One of the measures was to remove ACAT merit review of Heritage Council decisions to decline to provisionally register a place or object or to decline to extend a provisional registration period. This measure removes significant potential for delay and uncertainty for landowners and the wider public. The decision to register, as opposed to provisionally register, a place or object remains subject to ACAT merit review.

Justice and Community Safety

There were four initiatives in 2014-15 to reduce tape. These were amendments to:

- electoral legislation to make reporting less onerous, without diminishing accountability;

- courts legislation to improve efficiency of court processes and simplify coronial reporting and inquiry requirements and repeal the Mediation Act to eliminate duplicate requirements;
- firearms legislation to remove unnecessary administrative burden; and
- the Agents Act to remove unnecessary administrative burden.

Lotteries (Approvals) Amendment Act 2015

The amendments reduced regulatory burden by allowing low-risk lotteries to be conducted without requiring approval from the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission.

Online Enrolments

Red tape has been reduced for ACT residents through the introduction of a new online enrolment form. This form was first introduced in 2014, refined in 2015 and is under further review prior to the 2016 enrolment period. The form allows parents to submit their enrolment form for an ACT public school electronically rather than submitting it in person. It also provides parents with a tracking number for their application and the ability to save and print their application for their own records. The online form also allows parents to nominate up to three preferences of preschool or school for their child on the one application. This reduces costs to business by allowing parents to submit applications without having to be absent from work.

Planning Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2015

This amendment reduced red tape in the *Building Act 2004* by permitting regulations to exempt specified "building work" from not just specified parts of the operation of the Building Act but also all of the Building Act consistent with provisions relating to the exemption of "buildings".

Planning and Development (University of Canberra and Other Leases) Legislation Amendment Act 2015

This legislation permitted the unit titling of "declared land subleases" ie subleases potentially available to holders of perpetual leases, University of Canberra and Australian National University. The legislation amended various Acts to enable declared land subleases to be regulated and have a similar status to existing leases. Giving these subleases a status similar to leases will help enable relevant parties to secure financing for the purchase and development of such subleases.

Planning and Development (Bilateral Agreement) Amendment Act 2014

This amendment seeks to provide a single environmental assessment and approvals process to be administered by the ACT, minimising duplication between Territory and Commonwealth assessments.

Planning and Development Amendment Regulation 2015 (No 1)

The amendment means that a development can remain DA exempt when it is located at a place or on an object in the Register or under a heritage agreement if the Heritage Council provides written advice that the development will not diminish the heritage significance, is in accordance with heritage guidelines or meets specified criteria. This:

- reduces an unnecessary regulatory burden on owners of heritage properties;
- makes more consistent the regulatory treatment of heritage property owners and non-heritage property owners;
- makes the development assessment process for heritage properties more efficient; and
- maintains an appropriate level of protection for places or objects on the Register.

Planning and Development (City West Precinct) Amendment Regulation 2015 (No 1)

The amendments are consistent with an extension of the time frame available to the Australian National University for development of City West precinct from April 2015 to April 2020.

Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2014 (No 2)

These amendments allow the Minister (or delegate) to amend a development approval originally granted by the Minister under a “call in” exercise, addressing a problem where there was no specific power in the Act to address very minor amendments requested by the proponent.

These amendments assist to expedite the construction and completion of the Capital Metro light rail project and include:

- removing ACAT merit review and ADJR Act appeal rights for development approvals for light rail tracks and associated infrastructure;
- setting time limits for Supreme Court common law appeal rights for development approvals for light rail tracks and associated infrastructure to 60 days after the day the decision is made;
- creating additional grounds for a development approval decision-maker to depart from referral agency advice for a development proposal for light rail tracks or associated infrastructure if this is necessary to ensure the light rail project is not unnecessarily delayed or impeded. This does not apply if the advice is provided by the Commonwealth Environment Minister or Conservator for Flora and Fauna on a ‘protected matter’ under the Act as amended by the Bilateral Agreement Amendment Act; and
- making provision for the potential simplification of development application documentation requirements for applications related to light rail through the ability to remove specified documentation requirements by regulation.

Public Health Act 1997

On 1 January 2015, the *Public Health Risk (Boarding Houses) Declaration 2000 (No 2)* was repealed, resulting in the deregulation of boarding houses under the *Public Health Act 1997*. The revocation reduced the red tape and cost burden on boarding houses (i.e. businesses no longer have to pay an annual licence fee of \$160).

On 1 January 2015, the *Public Health Risk (Hairdressing) Declaration 2000* and the *Public Health (Hairdressing) Code of Practice 2000* were repealed, resulting in the deregulation of hairdressing businesses. The revocation reduced the red tape and cost burden on hairdressing businesses (i.e. businesses no longer have to pay an annual licence fee of \$160).

Public Pools Act 2015

The modernised *Public Pools Act 2015* reduced red tape by:

- repealing the *Public Baths and Public Bathing Act 1956*;
- removing the administrative burden on Territory owned public pools by abolishing:
 - the need for Ministerial approval of hiring arrangements for events such as school carnivals;
 - the requirement for every lifeguard, coach or instructor having to be approved by the Minister;
 - the need for approval of all items for sale or hire.

Racing Amendment Act 2013

The amendments reduced red tape by allowing the three controlling bodies (i.e. the thoroughbred racing, harness racing and greyhound racing clubs) to directly set and collect Race Field Information (RFI) charges themselves, rather than via government.

Red Tape Legislative Amendment Acts

The amendments reduced red tape by:

- streamlining approvals for outdoor dining on public unleased land;
- extending the licence period to three years for casino and racing industry licences, and for permits under the Public Unleased Land Act;
- reducing the unnecessary regulatory framework for licensees relating to signage, display of licences and advertising; and
- removing the need for duplicate statutory declarations when lodging deeds for Powers of Attorney registration;
- allowing public notices to be made by the most effective and efficient means;
- aligning license requirements for the sale of goods on public unleased land under a single Act;
- reducing the need to reapply for permits to use public unleased land; and
- reducing reporting requirements on workers compensation for employers.

Registered Training Organisations

The following measures have reduced red tape for registered training organisations:

- streamlined access to government funded training programs for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) eligible to access government funded training (i.e. RTOs approved to have an ACT Funding Agreement or ACTFA). Previously you had to be successful in obtaining a funding agreement, and then make a further application to access specific funded training initiatives. Following the introduction of the new ACTFA which occurred 1 July 2015, once you have an approved ACTFA, you are eligible to access all major contestable funded training initiatives without further application (Skilled Capital and Australian Apprenticeships);
- a number of processes are now fully online through Access Canberra Smartforms to make it easier for RTOs. This includes the application for an ACT Funding Agreement and the submission of an annual internal audit; and
- the introduction of the ACT Vocational Education and Training Administration Records System (AVETARS) from 4 January 2015 continues to reduce red-tape for RTOs through a streamlined and user-friendly online system that creates efficiencies through automated processes. These processes replace manual paper-based processes, which increases the quality and transparency of data for stakeholders.

Regulation of tobacco licences

In 2015, the ACT Government increased the annual fee for a tobacco licence from \$200 to \$306. This is the first increase since 2003 and is designed to better cover the ACT Government's costs in administering and enforcing the tobacco licensing scheme.

Revenue Office – Abolition of Objection Fees

The ACT Revenue Office is trialling the abolishment of taxation assessment objection fees, effective from 1 July 2015, which reduces red tape for all parties involved in the objection fee process, including taxpayers, local businesses and legal representatives.

Taxi Industry Innovation Reforms

The proposed amendments in the Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) (Taxi Industry Innovation) Amendment Bill 2015 allow for innovation and competition in the taxi and hire car public passenger transport market. The amendments also include removing a number of unnecessary regulatory requirements for drivers.

Government fees and charges for taxis and hire cars were significantly reduced from 30 October 2015. This included annual Government-owned taxi licence fees being halved to \$10,000 (with further

reductions planned), annual hire car license fees being reduced from \$4,600 to \$100, and the abolition of annual operator accreditation fees (previously \$350 per vehicle).

Unit Titles Amendment Regulation 2015 (No 1)

This amendment reduced red tape by expanding the things that can be considered “attachments” so that applications for unit titling are not unnecessarily delayed and do not involve unnecessary expense for the applicant. The amendment reduced the need for purchase of airspace or removal of encroachments prior to unit titling and permitted design innovation in buildings without the developer having to buy the air space.

University of Canberra Amendment Bill 2015

This bill modernises the *University of Canberra Act 1989* enabling the UC to diversify its operations, further develop its campus and update its governance arrangements. The amendments expand the functions of the university allowing it to improve its educational facilities and to provide an enhanced educational experience for students, as well as offering more to the community, leveraging from expertise, networks and other assets it has available. The University is now able to undertake commercial development of its property providing greater economic opportunities for the UC and making it less reliant on Government funding and support.

The amendments contribute to facilitating investment in the campus and developments, growing jobs, boosting the housing market and creating new opportunities for wider research, teaching and commerce at the University. These improvements will help to attract more students, academics, researchers and tourists to the Territory and will further establish the ACT as a destination of choice for people in the higher education and research sectors.

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (ACT) Act 2015

The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (ACT) Act 2015 repealed and replaced the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005 (the ACT WELS Act). This Act adopts the Commonwealth WELS Act as an Act of the ACT. Amendments to the Commonwealth WELS Act will automatically apply in the ACT, unless the ACT takes action to prevent the amendments applying. This ensures that the laws in the ACT will be updated in a timely manner and kept consistent with other jurisdictions.

2. Measures that have introduced regulatory requirements for business

The Government has introduced regulatory requirements where there has been an identified need to clarify or address gaps in the regulatory framework, including the need to respond to emerging technologies. These include:

Electricity Safety Act – amendments by the Construction and Energy Efficiency Legislation Amendment Act 2014 (No 2)

This Act inserted provisions that allow regulations to be made to promote the efficient use or conservation of power and energy or to limit harm to the environment.

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012 amendments by the Construction and Energy Efficiency Legislation Amendment Act 2014 (No 2)

This amendment provided the Administrator new powers for responding to contravention of codes where there are gaps in existing safety legislation that does not have adequate coverage of an activity implemented under the *Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme* – additional powers include potentially requiring retailer or agent to complete stated course of training, restrict or place condition on performance of an activity by a retailer or agent, authorise someone else to rectify a contravention of a code, require the retailer to rectify a contravention of a code.

This also clarified that an assessment of compliance for a particular year can be revised up to 5 years after the end of the compliance period to which it relates if information on which the assessment is based is incorrect or activities counted towards the acquittal are found to be non-compliant after the completion of the assessment.

Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2014 (No 2)

The amendments strengthened and clarified documentation requirements relating to the assessment by a certifier that site work involved in an application for building approval is DA exempt, where the application for building approval includes plans relating to site works that are not covered by a development approval but might be DA exempt.

Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2015

These amendments to the *Building Act 2004* and *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004*:

- clarified that the removal of asbestos sheets or similar structures in a building that affect the physical integrity of the building must be done or supervised by a licensed builder under the Building Act in addition to the relevant persons having an asbestos removal licence under the Work Health and Safety Act; and
- ensured the work is done to the standards required for both building safety and for the safe handling of asbestos. While this requires the removal process to be regulated by both building and work health and safety laws, it clarifies the relationship between these two sets of laws.

Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014

The Act modernised regulation by:

- extending the scope of what is a regulated utility taking into account emerging technologies. Regulated utility services will include electricity transmission, electricity generation, and owning, leasing or subleasing regulated dams, as well as existing utility services under part 2 of the *Utilities Act 2000*, to ensure that business and residential consumers in the ACT continue to have safe and reliable services.
- clarifying statutory objectives and the scope of technical regulation;
- updating regulatory functions and powers for more practical enforcement of technical regulation;
- setting out clear requirements for technical performance and compliance; and
- providing a complete and flexible framework for the full range of electricity, gas, other energy, water and sewerage network services in response to emerging technologies and development.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 2.12.2015

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
4 November 2015

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 4/11/15 Page # 81]

Asked by Mr Hanson MLA:

In relation to:

How much money has been spent on surveys of all sorts by government? [...] what those campaigns were and how much was expended, and what the reach was and so on. If possible, what the questions were and the results.

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government undertakes a range of research projects to gauge a wide range of perceptions and attitudes to topics ranging from customer service and satisfaction with service delivery areas, social impact, public transport delivery, kangaroo management, events, arts, tourism, infrastructure and development, planning and diversity. In 2014/15, 31 surveys or research projects were undertaken to scientifically sound samples. The average cost of these surveys was approximately \$40,000.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 23.11.2015

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA, Megan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE QN.4 4 November 2015

Asked by Mr Smyth MLA:

[[Ref: Hansard Transcript 4 November 2015 [PAGE #92]]

In relation to:

Were any officers dismissed for bullying or harassing behaviour? [...] Without identifying individuals is it possible to have a breakdown of the reasons for termination? Like what the list of offences were?

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Two officers were dismissed for bullying or harassing behaviour in 2014-15. The breakdown of the reasons for termination were for one or more of the following:

- assault;
- conflict of interest;
- criminal conviction;
- dangerous driving;
- fraud;
- inappropriate behaviour;
- theft from vehicle; and
- underperformance.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 16.11.15

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Megan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE QN.5 4 November 2015

Asked by Mr Smyth MLA:

[[Ref: Hansard Transcript 4 November 2015 [PAGE #92-93]]

In relation to:

Is it possible to get a breakdown of headcount by classification for the previous financial year [in CMTEDD]?

Reconciliation from start of financial year of officers at all classifications across CMTEDD and the organisations that made up CMTEDD, so that we can see the growth in totals.

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

CMTEDD was formed on 7 July 2014. Headcount by classification group data is available for the three main agencies that were consolidated to form CMTEDD in their respective 2013-14 Annual Reports:

- Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate -
<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/functions/publications/annual-report-2013-14> (Volume 1, page 83)
- Commerce and Works Directorate -
http://www.cwd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/643992/CWD-AnnualReport-2013-14-Vol1.pdf (Volume 1, page 50)
- Economic Development Directorate -
http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/about_us/publications/Files/annual_reports/2013-14/ed_annual-report-2013-14 (page 148)

Through 2014-15 CMTEDD gained further staff through transfers, including:

- Staff from the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (88 FTE) and the Community Services Directorate (19 FTE) were transferred to CMTEDD in July 2014 as part of the Administrative Arrangements establishing CMTEDD;

- The Asbestos Response Taskforce was established in July 2014 comprising staff from within CMTEDD as well as from other directorates (staffing arrangements continue to be formalised for this taskforce with FTE in CMTEDD at the end of 2014-15 approximately 35);
- Access Canberra was formed in December 2014 as a result of Administrative Arrangements, with approximately 550 FTE transferred to CMTEDD from across the Justice and Community Services Directorate, the Environment and Planning Directorate and the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, in addition to staff from within CMTEDD;
- Approximately 15 FTE were absorbed into CMTEDD following the repeal of the *Exhibition Park Corporation Act 1976* in January 2015;
- The Public Housing Renewal Taskforce transferred from Community Services Directorate in January 2015 (staffing arrangements continue to be formalised for this taskforce with CMTEDD FTE at the end of 2014-15 at 7 FTE);
- 2 FTE transferred to CMTEDD from Education and Training Directorate in February 2015 with the Childcare facilities function; and
- 20 FTE Graduate Administrative Assistants commenced in February 2015.

Historical disaggregated classification group data is not readily available for these groups.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 16-11-15

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Megan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE QN. 6 4 November 2015

Asked by Mr Smyth MLA:

[[Ref: Hansard Transcript 4 November 2015 [PAGE #94]]

In relation to:

What are the definitions of classification in the EBA?

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

A breakdown of the classifications contained in each of the classification groups used in the table titled "Headcount by Classification Group and Gender" on page 125 of volume 1 of the *Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Annual Report 2014-2015* are set out in the attachment.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 13.11.2015

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA

Composition of the Classification Groups used in the Table "Headcount by Classification Group and Gender" of the *Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Annual Report 2014-2015*, Volume 1, page 125

Classification Group	Constituent Classifications
Administrative Officers	• Administrative Service Officer Class 1 to 6 • Graduate Administrative Officer • Tourism and Events Officer Class 6 • Work Cover Officer 4 to 6
Executive Officers	• Contract Chief Executive • Contract Executive
General Service Officers and Equivalent	• General Service Officer Level 3 to 10
Information Technology Officers	• Information Technology Officer Class 1 and 2
Legal Officers	• Legal 1 and 2
Professional Officers	• Professional Officer Class 1 and 2 • Public Affairs Officer 1 to 3
Rangers	• Sportsground Ranger
Senior Officers	• Senior Officer Grade C, B and A • Senior Information Technology Officer Grade C, B and A • Senior Professional Officer Grade C, B and A • Senior Technical Officer Grade C • Work Cover Manager C
Technical Officers	• Technical Officer Level 2 to 4
Trainees and Apprentices	• Apprentice • Information Technology Officer Trainee • Information Communications Technology Trainee



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Megan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE QN.7

4 November 2015

Asked by Mr Smyth MLA:

[[Ref: Hansard Transcript 4 November 2015 [PAGE #97]]

In relation to:

What demographic information is collected about those who go to the [Time to Talk] website? So what are those metrics? Age, sex, location?

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Basic demographic information for the Time to Talk website is collected through the use of Google Analytics. Age, gender and location demographics are available. As at 4 November 2015, the demographic snapshot was:

Gender: Female 45.85%, Male 54.15%

Age: (18-24) 27.50%, (25-34) 33.50%, (35-44) 15.50%, (45-54) 12.50%, (55-64) 5.50%, (65+) 5.50%

Location: The top 10 locations are Canberra 63.13%, Sydney 16.33%, (not set) 4.32%, Melbourne 3.40%, Brisbane 1.76%, Adelaide 0.76%, Perth 0.75%, New York 0.24%, London 0.20%, Wollongong 0.15%.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew Barr".

Date: 16.11.2015

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Megan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
4 November 2015

Asked by Mr Smyth MLA:

In relation to:

Total expenditure to date on whole of government accommodation strategy [to be checked against figures reported on p. 37 of Annual Report].

Would you make sure that it does reflect all of those reports that were commissioned, initially design and so on?

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In the 2011-12 budget \$432 million was allocated for the development of a new government office building in Civic. The project has since been re-profiled with the capital allocated being transferred to health and education projects. \$2.5 million was subsequently allocated to undertake a Whole of Government Accommodation Strategy and to implement its recommendations of a hub and satellite approach to government accommodation. The first satellite, Winyu House in Gungahlin, has been successfully completed and government is now considering other projects consistent with the strategy. As of October 2015, \$1.7 million has been spent on the preparation of specific design briefs, managing the contract for Winyu House, and preparatory work for other accommodation projects currently being considered. This work is ongoing.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 18.11.15

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA