



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA: To ask the **Minister for Health**

Reference: Budget Outlook 23-24

Hearing Date: 24/07/2023

In relation to: Calvary takeover – costs so far

Can the Treasurer provide:

- 1) A headcount and FTE of ACT Government staff that have worked on the legal aspects of the Calvary takeover?
 - a. In relation to (1) do these directorates/individuals keep a record of hours worked on the Calvary takeover? If so, what have been the total hours worked of legal staff in the ACT Government?
 - b. Does the treasurer have a figure of the total legal costs of the takeover from its initiation to present? If so, can the treasurer provide this figure? If not, can the treasurer provide available figures for current legal costs?
- 2) Can the treasurer provide the current amount that has been spent on the takeover of Calvary Hospital from its initiation to present? If not, why is this money not being tracked?
 - a. What costs and expenditure are being tracked in relation to the takeover costs of Calvary Hospital? Please provide a detailed breakdown of what the costs have been for and how much was spent and a date and time.

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- 1) The ACT Government Solicitor (ACTGS) has provided advice over many years on various aspects of the ACT Government's contractual relationship with Calvary regarding Calvary Public Hospital Bruce that were relevant to the Government's decision-making. In relation to the acquisition process, based on activity recorded, the equivalent of 4.9 FTE ACTGS lawyers provided legal services in relation to the Calvary Hospital acquisition from the project transition team commencement date of 3 April 2023. The 4.9 FTE comprised activity by 14 (headcount) different lawyers across a range of various legal expertise. Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) had 3 staff working on the development of the Bill and Regulation.
 - a. ACTGS lawyers record legal service activity on matters. The legal services provided by the ACTGS in relation to the Calvary Hospital acquisition from 3 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 was 1,589 hours. PCO does not undertake time recording for its services.

- b. The legal services provided by the ACTGS and PCO in relation to the acquisition were delivered out of existing controlled recurrent payment (appropriation). The expenditure on external legal advice, counsel and disbursements associated with the acquisition from 3 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 was \$924,567 (GST inclusive).
- 2) The costs for the transition project are being tracked. The total spent on the project during the 2022-23 Financial Year is \$5.254 million. This figure captures costs from the transition project inception in April 2023 to the end of June 2023.
 - a. All costs and expenditure are being tracked against the project's budget. Costs include \$2.26 million on staffing and \$2.993 million on other costs including, but not limited to, consultancy and legal services, ICT and communications. A detailed breakdown has not been provided as this would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

16/8/23

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA