



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on the Integrity
Commission and Statutory Office Holders

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024–25

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders

Approved for publication

Report 5
11th Assembly
January 2026

About the committee

Establishing resolution

The Assembly established the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders on 3 December 2024.¹

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- ACT Auditor-General
- ACT Ombudsman
- Office of the Legislative Assembly
- ACT Electoral Commission
- ACT Integrity Commission
- Electoral policy

Under its resolution of establishment:

(7) the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders shall:

(a) examine matters related to corruption and integrity in public administration;

(b) inquire into and report on matters referred to it by the Assembly or matters that are considered by the Committee to be of concern to the community;

(c) perform all functions required of it pursuant to the *Integrity Commission Act 2018*; and

(d) monitor, review and report on the performance of the Integrity Commission and the Inspector of the Integrity Commission or the exercise of the powers and functions of the Integrity Commission and the Inspector of the Integrity Commission, including examining the annual reports of the Integrity Commission and the Inspector of the Integrity Commission and any other reports made by the Commission;

(8) nothing in this resolution authorises the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders to investigate a matter relating to particular conduct or to reconsider a decision to investigate, not to investigate or to discontinue an investigation of a particular complaint made to the Commission, or to reconsider the findings, recommendations, determinations or other decisions of the Commission or the Inspector in relation to a particular investigation or complaint;

You can read the full establishing resolution [on our website](#).

¹ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 2*, 3 December 2024, pp 12–25.

Committee members

Mr Ed Cocks MLA, Chair

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, Deputy Chair

Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Secretariat

Ms Kathleen de Kleuver, Committee Secretary

Ms Kate Mickelson, Assistant Secretary

Mr Adam Walker, Assistant Secretary

Mr Satyen Sharma, Administrative Officer

Contact us

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About this inquiry

The 2024–25 Annual and Financial Reports were presented in the Assembly on 21 October 2025.² Clause 4 of the establishing resolution refers all calendar and financial year annual and financial reports to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and report by 12 May of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

² ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 35*, 21 October 2025, pp 486–487.

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Long form
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANU	Australian National University
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
QON	Question on Notice
QTON	Question Taken on Notice

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Electoral Commission ensure that the Australian Bureau of Statistics is appraised of concerns regarding the population projections of the ACT insofar as they are used to inform electorate redistributions.

1. Introduction

Presentation of 2024–25 annual and financial reports

- 1.1. All annual and financial reports for the territory were tabled on 21 October 2025. A collated list of most annual and financial reports is available [online](#).
- 1.2. During its inquiry the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders was required to examine all or part of the following annual and financial reports for 2024–25:
 - ACT Audit Office;
 - ACT Electoral Commission;
 - ACT Integrity Commission;
 - Office of the Legislative Assembly;
 - ACT Ombudsman (including Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission and Principal Officer of the Judicial Council); and
 - Justice and Community Safety Directorate in relation to electoral policy.

Public Hearings

- 1.3. The Committee held public hearings on 10 and 14 November 2025. At the hearings the Committee heard from the Acting Speaker, statutory office holders, the Attorney-General and each of their respective accompanying officials.
- 1.4. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at [Appendix A](#). Transcripts of the hearings are available on the Assembly website. Footage of the hearings is available via video on demand on the Assembly website.
- 1.5. In this report, references to Committee Hansard are to proof transcripts of evidence. Page numbers may vary between proof and official transcripts.
- 1.6. Committees began collecting information on the gender of witnesses in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs of, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses. A table showing the distribution of witness gender is in [Appendix C](#).

Questions taken on notice at hearings and questions placed on notice

- 1.7. A total of 14 questions were lodged during the inquiry: eight questions were taken on notice (QTONs) by statutory office holders during the hearings and six questions on notice (QONs) were submitted by Committee members and visiting MLAs following the hearings.

- 1.8. A list of questions (by subject and recipient) is in [Appendix B](#), and the answers to questions can be found on the inquiry webpage.

2. ACT Audit Office

- 2.1. The Auditor-General is an independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly and conducts independent financial and performance audits on ACT Government agencies and other entities which receive ACT Government funding or resources. The functions and powers of the Auditor-General are governed by the *Auditor-General Act 1996*, and the ACT Audit Office supports the Auditor-General in performing his functions.³

Matters considered

- 2.2. During the Auditor-General's appearance before the Committee on 10 November 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Timing and process for audit opinions on annual consolidated financial statement returns;
 - Governance of large information and computer technology (ICT) projects;
 - Unsolicited representations to the ACT Audit Office;
 - Expenditure on planning for major infrastructure projects;
 - The ACT Audit Office's performance audit recommendation observations report; and
 - Review of the performance audit methods and practices.⁴

³ ACT Audit Office, *Annual Report 2024–25*, p 1.

⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, pp 9–14.

3. ACT Electoral Commission

3.1. The ACT Electoral Commission is an independent statutory authority responsible for conducting elections and referendums for the ACT Legislative Assembly and providing electoral advice and services. It administers the ACT election funding, expenditure and disclosure scheme. The Commission is established under the *Electoral Act 1992*.⁵

Matters considered

3.2. During the Electoral Commissioner's appearance before the Committee on 10 November 2025 the following matters were considered:

- The Commission's report on the 2024 ACT Election;
- Fee-for-service elections;
- The early voting period for the 2024 ACT Election;
- Administrative funding; and
- Population projections and electorate redistribution.⁶

Key Issues

Population projections and electorate redistribution

3.3. In answer to a Question Taken on Notice (QTON) regarding the impact of population projections on the ACT Legislative Assembly election in 2024, the Electoral Commissioner advised the Committee that the 2023 electoral redistribution had overestimated enrolment in Kurrajong electorate. Kurrajong's boundary was then redrawn to allocate the suburb of Forrest to Murrumbidgee electorate, based on projected data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This resulted in a 'modest breach' of the principle that each elector's vote should carry equal weight, with Kurrajong's enrolment 6.90 percent below the actual quota of electors, while the statutory tolerance was 5 percent.⁷

3.4. The Deputy Electoral Commissioner advised the Committee that variations between projected population and actual population were likely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and net migration, which had made it difficult for the ABS to make accurate population predictions.⁸

3.5. The Commissioner had not considered using other sources of population projections to inform the electorate redistribution process.⁹

⁵ Elections ACT, *Annual Report 2024–2025*, p 8.

⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, pp 1–8.

⁷ Mr Damian Cantwell AM CSC, ACT Electoral Commissioner, *Answer to QTON 002*, 18 November 2025 (received 18 November 2025).

⁸ Mr Rohan Spence, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, pp 6–7.

⁹ Mr Damian Cantwell AM CSC, ACT Electoral Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 7.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Electoral Commission ensure that the Australian Bureau of Statistics is appraised of concerns regarding the population projections of the ACT insofar as they are used to inform electorate redistributions.

4. ACT Integrity Commission

- 4.1. The ACT Integrity Commission and the Integrity Commissioner are established under the *Integrity Commission Act 2018*. The Commission's purpose is to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of the ACT Government by preventing, investigating and exposing corruption.¹⁰

Matters considered

- 4.2. During the Integrity Commission's appearance before the Committee on 14 November 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Whistleblower and witness protections;
 - Impact of and feedback on Commission education sessions for public service staff;
 - Threshold for further investigation of complaints to the Commission, and handling of vexatious complaints;
 - Governance and self-reporting by senior leadership; and
 - Revision of the Commission's witness wellbeing policy.¹¹

¹⁰ ACT Integrity Commission, *2024–25 Annual Report*, p 8.

¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2025, pp 23–30.

5. Office of the Legislative Assembly

- 5.1. The Office of the Legislative Assembly is an independent statutory authority established under the *Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Act 2012*. It is headed by the Clerk and its function is to give impartial advice and support to the Assembly, its committees and members.¹²
- 5.2. At the time of the public hearing, Mr Andrew Braddock MLA was both the Deputy Chair of the Committee and Acting Speaker. With the agreement of the Committee, Mr Braddock appeared as a witness in his capacity as Acting Speaker, and recused himself from the Committee's consideration of this portion of the report.

Matters considered

- 5.3. During the Acting Speaker's appearance before the Committee on 14 November 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Workload management;
 - Priorities for the Office in 2025–26;
 - Quality of broadcast video of Chamber proceedings;
 - Heating, ventilation and cooling in the Assembly building;
 - Lifespan of the Assembly building;
 - Accessibility of Hansard; and
 - Education programs for schools.¹³

¹² Office of the Legislative Assembly, *Annual Report 2024–2025*, p 8.

¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2025, pp 15–22.

6. ACT Ombudsman, Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission and Principal Officer of the Judicial Council

- 6.1. The ACT Ombudsman considers complaints about the actions of the ACT Government and ACT Policing. The ACT Ombudsman provides support to the Judicial Council as its Principal Officer. By arrangement with the Australian Government and under the *ACT Self-Government (Consequential Provisions) Amendment Act 1989* (Cth), the Commonwealth Ombudsman is also the ACT Ombudsman.¹⁴
- 6.2. The Ombudsman also provides oversight of the ACT Integrity Commission, in its role as Inspector.¹⁵

Matters considered

- 6.3. During the ACT Ombudsman's appearance before the Committee on 14 November 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Increase in complaints received by the Ombudsman;
 - Government agency use of automated decision-making;
 - Review of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*;
 - Increased complaint resolution;
 - Outreach programs for detainees; and
 - Public awareness and understanding of the role of the Ombudsman.¹⁶

¹⁴ ACT Ombudsman and Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission, *Annual Report 2024–25*, pp 12–13.

¹⁵ ACT Ombudsman and Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission, *Annual Report 2024–25*, p 12.

¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2025, pp 31–38.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The Committee would like to thank the Minister, statutory officers and directorate staff who participated in this inquiry.
- 7.2. The Committee makes one recommendation.

Mr Ed Cocks MLA
Chair, Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders
20 January 2026

Appendix A: Witnesses

Monday, 10 November 2025

ACT Electoral Commission

- **Mr Damien Cantwell AM CSC**, Electoral Commissioner
- **Mr Rohan Spence**, Deputy Electoral Commissioner

ACT Audit Office

- **Mr Michael Harris**, Auditor-General

Friday, 14 November 2025

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, Acting Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

Office of the Legislative Assembly

- **Mr Tom Duncan**, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT
- **Mr Hamish Finlay**, Deputy Clerk and Serjeant-at-Arms
- **Ms Rachel Turner**, Executive Manager, Business Support Branch
- **Dr David Monk**, Acting Senior Director, Office of the Clerk

ACT Integrity Commission

- **Hon Michael Adams KC**, Integrity Commissioner
- **Ms Judy Lind**, Chief Executive Officer

ACT Ombudsman/Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission/ Principal Officer of the Judicial Council

- **Mr Ian Anderson**, ACT Ombudsman, Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission and Principal Officer of the Judicial Council
- **Ms Georgia Ramsay**, Director ACT Strategy & Inspector, Defence, Investigations, ACT & Legal Branch
- **Ms Erin O'Connell**, Director Reportable Conduct and FOI, Defence, Investigations, ACT & Legal Branch

Appendix B: Questions on Notice and Questions Taken on Notice

Questions on Notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	18/11/25	ACT Electoral Commission	Elections ACT educational programs in schools	25/11/2025
2	18/11/25	ACT Electoral Commission	Collaboration with Tasmanian Electoral Commission	25/11/2025
3	18/11/25	ACT Electoral Commission	Elections ACT online portal for disclosures	25/11/2025
4	18/11/25	ACT Electoral Commission	Data for emissions reporting by Elections ACT	25/11/2025
5	18/11/25	Auditor-General	Implementation of audit recommendations	25/11/2025
6	18/11/25	Auditor-General	Recommendations to the Auditor-General on MyWay+	25/11/2025

Questions Taken on Notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	10/11/2025	ACT Electoral Commission	Administrative funding	18/11/2025
2	10/11/2025	ACT Electoral Commission	Population projections impact on election results	18/11/2025
3	10/11/2025	Auditor-General	Date of audit opinions	12/11/2025
4	14/11/2025	Office of the Legislative Assembly	Strategic plans	25/11/2025
5	14/11/2025	Office of the Legislative Assembly	Video quality	25/11/2025
6	14/11/2025	Office of the Legislative Assembly	School visits	25/11/2025
7	14/11/2025	ACT Integrity Commission	Education sessions	24/11/2025
8	14/11/2025	ACT Ombudsman	Cabinet privilege test	25/11/2025

Appendix C: Gender distribution of witnesses

Beginning in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Committees are collecting information on the gender of witnesses. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses.

Gender indication	Total
Female	4
Male	9