



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Ms Meredith Hunter MLA
Chair Select Committee on Estimates
Legislative Assembly
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Hunter

I write to advise you of the Government's concerns at the nature and scope of a number of Questions on Notice arising from this year's Estimates hearings.

I had hoped, particularly given your letter of 10 May, to witness a greater degree of discipline by all concerned, and a greater degree of respect for the institution of these hearings, and their purpose.

While all Ministers respect and recognise the right of Members to ask questions, and while we value the crucial role played by the Select Committee on Estimates in scrutinising the activities of the Government, I am concerned that the levels of detail being sought through some questions impose an onerous burden on ACT Government agencies, and that answering them demands a significant diversion of limited resources from the core business of agencies — which is to serve the people of the ACT.

In some cases Questions on Notice seek levels of detail that are not routinely collected, or aggregations that are not required for any purpose. I attach samples of such questions for your information.

Given your evident desire to preside over hearings that fulfil their legislated purpose to the highest possible standard, I wanted to let you know that the Government will, regrettably, not be able to divert the level of resources necessary to answer questions of this nature, at the level of detail sought, particularly in the five-day period provided for. Ministers remain, of course, conscious of our responsibility to answer questions Members care to ask, and will endeavour to do so promptly and as fully as we are able.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

31 MAY 2010

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2010-2011

QUESTION ON NOTICE

ZED SESELJA: To ask the Minister for Education

BP 4

In relation to : Staff Management within the Department of Education and Training

1. How many staff are currently employed by the Department, and what level is each (please provide a breakdown by output and work area)?
2. What was the total staff turnover rate in 2008-09 and 2009-10 to date, and what is the budgeted staff turnover rate for 2010-11 (please provide a breakdown by output class and level)?
3. How many positions within the Department are currently unfilled as a result of the Government's staffing freeze?
 - a. When will these positions now be filled?
 - b. How much money has the Department saved as a result of the freeze?
4. How many staff receive a total salary of
 - a. below \$70,000,
 - b. between \$70,000 and \$80,000,
 - c. between \$80,000 and \$100,000,
 - d. between \$100,000 and \$110,000,
 - e. over \$110,000; and.
 - f. For each salary range, how many staff are considered administrative or policy, and how many are considered frontline service delivery staff?
5. How many additional staff will be employed in 2010 (in FTE), and what level is each (please provide a breakdown by output and level)?
 - a. How many are administrative or policy staff, and how many are considered frontline service delivery staff?
6. How much will be spent on training programs 2010-11?
 - a. What is the purpose of each training program?
 - b. How many staff are expected to participate?
7. Will officers attend any training programs in 2010-11 interstate?
 - a. If so, what is the purpose of these training programs?
 - b. How many officers will attend?

Please Note:

- 1: Answers to questions on notice must be lodged electronically and in hard copy with the Committee Office within **5 working days** of receipt of the question.
- 2: Where an answer provides a referral to sources of information in published documents, the answer should include the exact name of the document, the author and agency publishing the document, the specific page numbers and an electronic link to the document.

- c. What is the cost of each programs, including travel expenses?
8. What training programmes in 2010-11 will be held which will result in no marginal cost to the Department?
9. What in-house training programs will be held in 2010-11 which will result in a cost to the Department, and what is this cost expected to be?
10. What is the average oncost for each employee within the Department budgeted to be in 2010-11?
 - a. What is included in this oncost?
 - b. What is the marginal oncost of an additional worker at the current staffing levels in 2010-11?
11. What specialist qualifications are required by staff for the Department to undertake its roles and responsibilities?
 - a. What skills are currently lacking in the Department?
 - b. How will these gaps be filled in 2010-11?
 - c. Has the staffing freeze contributed to this shortfall?
12. What is the average salary for each employee who has a specialist skill that is required for the Department to undertake its roles and responsibilities? What will be the average salary in 2010-11 (please provide a breakdown by specialisation, output and employee level)?
13. What training must employees undertake on a regular basis to maintain their specialist skills, and what is the budgeted total cost of this training in 2010-11?
 - a. What is the average cost per employee?
 - b. Who will provide the training?
14. What specialist equipment is required for employees within the Department to undertake their jobs, and how will this change in 2010-11? For each piece of equipment:
 - a. How many are required?
 - b. What is the capital cost of each?
 - c. What is the running cost of each?
 - d. Over what period is each piece of equipment depreciated?
 - e. What equipment will be purchased in 2010-11 for this purpose?
15. How many graduates will be employed in 2010-11?
 - a. What is the cost of employing each graduate, and what is the breakdown of these costs, including on costs?
 - b. How many graduates have been employed on average each year since 2001?
16. How many staff will be recruited in 2010-11, and how much has been spent on recruitment in 2009-10 to date?
 - a. How much is budgeted to be spent on recruitment in 2010-11, and how is this broken down?
17. How much office space is currently leased by the Department, or the ACT Government on behalf of the Department?
 - a. Will this change in 2010-11, if so how will it change and what is the cost of the change?
 - b. What is the cost of the current lease, what is the make-good provision, and when will this lease be complete?
 - c. If a new lease is to be signed in 2010-11, what is the cost of the lease, what is the make-good provision, and when will this lease be complete?
18. How many staff, are budgeted to receive HDA in 2010-11? For each staff member,
 - a. Why will they receive HDA?
 - b. How long will they be on HDA?
 - c. What is the budgeted expense for staff receiving HDA in 2010-11?
 - d. Please provide a breakdown by output class and level

19. How many staff are currently on any form of leave indefinitely?
- a. What are the reasons for these staff being on indefinite leave?
 - b. Please provide a breakdown by output class and level.

Zed Seselja
24 May 2010



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2010-2011

QUESTION ON NOTICE

ZED SESELJA: To ask the Minister for Education

In relation to : Output programs for the Department of Education and Training

1. Please provide a list of initiatives or programs that are run under each output.
 - a. What is the budgeted cost for each in 2009-10 and 2010-11?
 - b. How many staff (by ASL) work in each, and what is level of each staff member?
 - c. What capital equipment is required by each?
 - d. What specialist skills are required by staff in each, and what are the specialists levels?

Zed Seselja
24 May 2010

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