



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair), Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair)
Nicole Lawder MLA, Bec Cody MLA

Questions Taken on Notice – PAC - Inquiry into Annual Reports 2018-19

<i>No.</i>	<i>Hearing date</i>	<i>Asked by</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Directed to</i>	<i>Transcript Page No.</i>	<i>Forwarded to witness</i>	<i>Answered Date</i>
1	4/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	Chair: What explains the difference between the 2017-18 actual of \$895 million and this year—and the last financial year's actual of 1.7, which is really close to a doubling? Mr Nicol: —over the last 12 months, so the lower the interest rate, the higher that valuation will be of that liability. So last year—I can take it on notice.	Mr David Nicol, Under Treasurer	UPT p.10.	6/11/2019	15/11/2019

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2	4/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	Chair: ...what was our superannuation liability—that is, the actual outgoings—last year? And how do they—how will they grow? ... Under Treasurer: Mr Nicol: And we measure that expense. It might be better if I can—we will give you this on notice, because it gets very—but we measure that expense and that expense adds to our liability each year.	Mr David Nicol, Under Treasurer	UPT p.11.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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3	4/11/2019	Alistair Coe MLA	MR COE: ... With regard to commercial rates, how many properties are not tenanted at the moment? How many commercial properties are vacant? ... Can you recall what the situation was back in 2012, the last of the separate rates and land tax? Mr Nicol: We might take that on notice and give you details about exactly how the system worked, because I do not have that to hand. MR COE: Yes, if you could. Yes, so if you are able to provide perhaps the number of properties and the value of the rates and land tax in that final year of them being separate, and then perhaps the total number now, and then that will just help— Mr Nicol: We can provide you with that information.	Mr David Nicol, Under Treasurer	UPT pp.21-22.	6/11/2019	

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4	4/11/2019	Alistair Coe MLA	MR COE: Sure, okay. I can look that up. And just finally, where are things at with the LDA, or now I guess, SLA, or perhaps ACT government, dispute with the tax office regarding GST? Mr Nicol: I will have to take that on notice because I do not have any updated information on that. And I would not like to speak out of turn. MR COE: But treasury is not providing advice? Mr Nicol: I have not had that discussion with the SLA in recent times. No, I have to take it on notice.	Mr David Nicol, Under Treasurer	UPT p.22.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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5	4/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	Re. passage of the modern slavery legislation in Australia – THE CHAIR: Do you want to, on notice, perhaps point back to the Committee where we could do some research on that. And also, on notice, could you, Minister or Mr McAuliffe, whom ever is appropriate, to sort of have a look at those indices to see whether they do do work in the modern slavery, child labour area and whether there is any extra obligations imposed upon us because of the passage of the Modern Slavery Act? Mr Barr: That we can do.	Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer	UPT p.28.	6/11/2019	22/11/2019

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6	4/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	Ms Whitten: Okay. So looking at the separation rate on page 161, we can see that the separation rate does vary quite considerably, and that is by classification group. So—and we have already mentioned dentists, who would be a particular group. And we have also got prosecutors as well, who are a particular technical group. And then trainees and apprentices. THE CHAIR: Yes. So why is there such a big number for trainees and apprentices? And is that broken—can that be broken down by trainees who come for, in a sense, a finite period of time, and apprentices who might normally, in the normal course of things, events, move on to a skilled occupation after they have done their apprenticeship? Ms Whitten: In terms of that level of detail, I do not have that with me. THE CHAIR: Could you take that on notice? Ms Whitten: I can take that on notice.	Ms Meredith Whitten, Deputy Director General Workforce Capability and Governance	UPT p.47.	6/11/2019	15/11/2019

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7	4/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: So could you, on notice, say for the last—I do not mind if it is calendar year or financial year, probably financial year is probably more appropriate—tell us how many ARINs you have provided in—at what levels and in what areas? So it would have been by this classification group, these classification groups that are in these tables on page 160 and 161. And some assessment of whether or not they have been successful. I mean—and I take your point that, you know, somebody might negotiate an ARIN and then their family circumstances change and they leave anyhow. But there also may be occasions when they leave because we are still not being competitive enough.	Mr Russell Noud, Executive Group Manager Workforce Capability and Governance	UPT p.49.	6/11/2019	15/11/2019
8	4/11/2019	Tara Cheyne MLA	MS CHEYNE: Just on that, are you able to take on notice how many psychiatrists and psychologists employed by the government are on ARINs? Mr Noud: Yes.	Mr Russell Noud, Executive Group Manager Workforce Capability and Governance	UPT p.50.	6/11/2019	

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9	4/11/2019	Alistair Coe MLA	MR COE: Thank you. With regard to bullying and harassment and people on leave, how many people at any point in time would be on personal leave due to bullying?	Ms Meredith Whitten, Deputy Director General Workforce Capability and Governance	UPT p.55.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019
10	4/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	Re. Resolving Workplace Issues resource page – THE CHAIR: So could you, on notice, perhaps indicate to the committee when those are likely to come online on the webpage? Ms Whitten: Yes, yes, we can.	Ms Meredith Whitten, Deputy Director General Workforce Capability and Governance	UPT p.56.	6/11/2019	15/11/2019

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11	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: Yes, yes. It is, yes. And so for the last year, what was the cost of the operation and maintenance of the Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline? Ms Breden: I do not have that information on hand. THE CHAIR: Could you take it on notice, thank you? Mr Barr: We will take that on notice, yes. Ms Breden: Can do.	Treasurer / Ms Jane Breden, General Manager Business Services, Icon Water Limited	UPT p.5.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019
12	5/11/2019	Tara Cheyne MLA	MS CHEYNE: Yes, I am aware. Drinking fountains, I understand that Icon Water has previously had a very good program partnering with the community to provide drinking fountains. I know that there is a formal program with Refill Canberra, but I have heard from community groups recently that Icon Water has decided to stop providing the infrastructure for community groups to have drinking fountains. Are you able to shed some light on that?	Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water Limited	p.10.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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13	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	Customers with blocked or broken water and sewer mains: THE CHAIR: ... if you are advising people that they need to do this work, and if it is your fault you will pay for them, why are you not advising them that we have a standard bill of fare and this is what we should expect to pay so that those people go to the plumber that you do not recommend, at least forearmed with the knowledge of what ACTEW was going to pay—is going to pay for them, and how many outstanding where there is a discrepancy between what ACTEW has paid and what the punter has paid. How many of those are there?	Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water Limited	UPT p.13.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019
14	5/11/2019	Alistair Coe MLA	MR COE: And with regard to houses at higher elevation, I am thinking about Casey and Taylor in particular ... the top of Taylor where houses are being constructed at the moment, what pressure issues are there and how can they be addressed?	Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water Limited	UPT p.22.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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15	5/11/2019	Alistair Coe MLA	Re. Crace Odour Management Project: MR COE: If you are able to take—perhaps on those—any plans you have for the reinstatement, I think you said, of some of those paths or the tracks. That would be good.	Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water Limited	UPT pp.23-24.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019
16	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	Re. Reduced network losses: THE CHAIR: Could you point the committee to either the information or where we would find the information, on notice? Mr Dimasi: Yes, we will do that.	Mr Joe Dimasi, Senior Commissioner, Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission	UPT p.26.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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17	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: Great. Just a very quick question, I am pretty sure this will be a quick question before we close. Is the ICRC looking at undertaking further investigations into competition issues? I notice that it is a while since you did competition compared to neutrality studies. I think Capital Linen a decade ago, or thereabouts. Are you looking at those sorts of issues? ... THE CHAIR: Chief Minister, are there any on the horizon, competitive to neutrality investigations? Mr Barr: I do not believe so. But I will check, and I will take that on notice.	The Treasurer	UPT p.33.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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18	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: Okay, great, thank you for that, Ms Holmes. In relation to the Lifetime Care and Support Fund, in dollar figures and percentages for 2018-19, what proportion of the revenue from the support levy came from motor vehicle registrations; vintage, veteran and historical registrations; worker's compensation; and self-insurers? ... Ms Holmes: Yes. I do not have the split out for what the vintage vehicles are from that amount. And the— THE CHAIR: Is that obtainable, or you just do not— Ms Holmes: It is certainly obtainable. THE CHAIR: Okay. On notice, could we get the split, please? Ms Holmes: Mm-hmm.	Ms Lisa Holmes, Executive Branch Manager, Economic and Financial, Economic Budget and Industrial Relations	UPT p.35.	6/11/2019	15/11/2019

19	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	International travel: THE CHAIR: And is it—how often would a member of your staff also—ministerial staff also attend? Mr Barr: On occasion. Not frequently, but it would again depend on the circumstances and, in this instance, obviously language skills. THE CHAIR: So on notice, could you, perhaps for your tenure as Chief Minister, indicate to the committee how often that has happened, and the reasons why that would have happened? Mr Barr: Yes. For domestic and international travel? THE CHAIR: International. Mr Barr: International only? THE CHAIR: Yes. Mr Barr: I mean, it does also happen on domestic occasions when, for example, there are multiple ministerial meetings on the same day and I cannot physically be in three places at once, that either officials or staff or a combination thereof would attend—	Chief Minister	UPT pp.41-42.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019
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			THE CHAIR: No, no, no, I am really thinking about advance. Advance. Mr Barr: In the international? Yes, sure.				
20	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: ... So what particular contribution did this staffer make to this particular delegation? Did they participate in the delegation? Mr Barr: In—sorry, in the subsequent? THE CHAIR: Yes, in the subsequent delegation. Mr Barr: I believe so, but I will check.	Chief Minister	UPT p.42.	6/11/2019	
21	5/11/2019	Nicole Lawder MLA	MS LAWDER: On how many other occasions, at least this term, have non-executive members accompanied travel overseas? ... MS LAWDER: Going back to my previous question about how many times had this occurred, are you able to perhaps take on notice how many times that has occurred in the history of the Assembly?	Chief Minister	UPT pp.43, 44.	06/11/2019	22/11/2019

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22	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: So does everyone travel at the same class and stay at the same accommodation? Mr Barr: Yes, I believe so. I will check on the travel class. In relation to the Indian trip or on all trips? THE CHAIR: On the Indian trip, please.	Chief Minister	UPT p.44.	06/11/2019	15/11/2019
23	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: So there was no one who travelled on the Indian trip who was an official who would not have qualified for business class travel? Mr Barr: I will double-check that. There may have been one who did not, but let me check.	Chief Minister	UPT p.45.	06/11/2019	15/11/2019

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24	5/11/2019	Nicole Lawder MLA	MS LAWDER: Could you provide a break-down to the committee of the cost of the trip by airfares and class, accommodation and rating, hospitality expenses, other travel such as a car, and any other costs? Mr Barr: That is part of the usual reporting process, so yes, we will do that. I think we foreshadowed in advance of the trip in a media release, so very publicly, the costs associated with that and that will be reported in due course.	Chief Minister	UPT p.46.	06/11/2019	22/11/2019
25	5/11/2019	Nicole Lawder MLA	MS LAWDER: Did anyone request an airline upgrade or receive an airline upgrade? Mr Barr: I do not believe so but I will check that	Chief Minister	UPT p.46.	06/11/2019	13/11/2019

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26	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: So what are the criteria for taking on contractors rather than permanent employees? Mr Tanton: So contractors is generally—we look at—we have areas of permanent skills that we need only on a short-time basis. So some cases, they are for a set time. So if it is maybe for a project that runs from 12 months, two years, three years, we would bring on a contractor because there is not an ongoing body of work after that. Or if there is specific information or expertise that we actually require to bring into the service because we do not currently have it available to us. THE CHAIR: So what would be the average length of the contract and what would the average salary on a contract be? Mr Tanton: I do not actually have that on hand. I can take that on notice.	Mr Graham Tanton, Executive Group Manager, Shared Services, Commercial Services and Infrastructure	UPT pp.53-54.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

27	5/11/2019	Tara Cheyne MLA	Mr Davies: ... The loophole that we are looking for was around multi-factual authentication on the Outlook Web client. That may have inconvenienced some people, but was there. That was a recommendation from the Australian Cyber Security Centre to close that loophole off. MS CHEYNE: So the loophole was that multi-factual authentication did not exist. Mr Davies: Yes, that is right. Correct. MS CHEYNE: And so we were planning to roll out multi-factual authentication regardless of whether there was a breach, or did we only do it because a breach occurred? Mr Davies: We did it where post the breach occurred. We do have multi-factual authentication for many of our systems. We did not have it for the Outlook Web access so that was something that was a recommendation. MS CHEYNE: Had that previously been identified as a risk? Mr Davies: I could not answer that question. I would have to take that on notice whether we	Mr Gary Davis, Executive Group Manager, Shared Services ICT, Commercial Services and Infrastructure	UPT p.56.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019
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			had that as part of our risk plan or a security risk plan. ... We also manage, every time we have a Cloud system, for example, a new system comes on board, we do a security assessment against it, yes. It just happened to be in this particular case it was not there. I do not know the history of it myself, but I have to go and find on notice why that particular one was not closed.				
28	5/11/2019	Nicole Lawder MLA	MS LAWDER: What exactly are you looking for? What performance indicators did you have or the scope that made you select Collexus, did you say? Mr Tanton: Collexus. MS LAWDER: Yes, opposed to another system. Mr Tanton: I actually do not have the procurement criteria in front of me, but I am happy to take that on notice.	Mr Graham Tanton, Executive Group Manager, Shared Services, Commercial Services and Infrastructure	UPT pp.60-61.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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29	5/11/2019	Nicole Lawder MLA	MS LAWDER: Yes. And just finally, of the contractors that you do have, who have been employed for perhaps more than two years continuously, are you able to take on notice, how many of them were formally ACT public service employees who have moved to being contractors? Mr Nicol: Yes, we could do that. Mr Tanton: We can do that.	Mr David Nicol, Under Treasurer / Mr Graham Tanton, Executive Group Manager, Shared Services, Commercial Services and Infrastructure	UPT p.68.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

30	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: Yes. Could I ask about Shared Services invoicing, in particular to ACT Health. Have Shared Services experienced an increase or a decrease in invoicing to Health compared to the previous financial year? Mr Tanton: I would need to take that on notice. I am not aware, off the top of my head, of it increasing to—actually, are you talking about businesses invoicing Health, or— THE CHAIR: No, no, no, your Shared Services invoicing, yes. Mr Tanton: Shared Services? We generally bill on a—we bill on a quarterly basis. We send out for our services. We are a cost-recovered agency. Our cost base has not really been adjusted for a period now. So, you know, the amount of invoicing—but I can ask that more generally, take it on notice. Mr Nicol: Can I—just a clarifying question. Are you talking about the dollar quantum, or the number of invoices, Chair? THE CHAIR: No, I mean the dollar quantum. The number of invoices is immaterial.	Mr Graham Tanton, Executive Group Manager, Shared Services, Commercial Services and Infrastructure / Mr David Nicol, Under Treasurer	UPT p.69.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019
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31	5/11/2019	Nicole Lawder MLA	MS LAWDER: No, I am just wondering if there may come a point where you decide to go back to weekly, that is all. Mr Nichol: No, I take your point. Yes. Ms Pritchard: Yes, we would have to readjust MS LAWDER: Because it is no longer as efficient. Ms Pritchard: Yes. If our volume became extreme— NOT FOR QUOTATION, REPRODUCTION OR PUBLICATION 5 November 2019 77 Public Accounts UNCORRECTED PROOF COPY MS LAWDER: And what is that tipping point, do you know? Ms Pritchard: No, I would not know that of the top of my head. I would have to take that on notice.	Ms Suzanne Pritchard, Finance Manager, ACT Insurance Authority, Commercial Services and Infrastructure	UPT pp. 76-77.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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32	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: I have got a question about the capital funding ratio, but before I do, does the ACTIA annual report comply with the Chief Minister's guidelines on annual reports in terms of—it is just I am struck at what must be 150 gsm paper. You know, it is—it stands out as being quite rigid and possibly expensive. Ms Pritchard: We use ACT Publishing Services— THE CHAIR: Yes? Ms Pritchard: —who produce our annual report. So we go on their guidelines of production. THE CHAIR: Yes. I am just— Mr Nicol: We will check.	Mr David Nicol, Under Treasurer	UPT p.78.	6/11/2019	13/11/2019

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33	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	Ms MacLeod: Sorry. Louise MacLeod, Senior Assistant Ombudsman. They are for individual access requests. THE CHAIR: And are they from the one agency? Ms MacLeod: I would need to take that question on notice and provide you with the details. THE CHAIR: No? So could you, on notice, provide us with the agency or agencies that have requested extensions of time and how big they are? Ms MacLeod: Yes.	Ms Louise MacLeod, Senior Assistant Ombudsman, Program Delivery Branch, Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman	UPT p.101.	6/11/2019	12/11/2019

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34	5/11/2019	Bec Cody MLA	MS CODY: I know, and I am hoping this will be really quick. You mentioned agencies and Housing I am assuming goes under those agencies. What about One Link? One Link is—well, it is not a government agency. It is funded through the government agencies. But when you are going—when you are looking for a house, you have to go through One Link to go on the housing—so I was not sure if One Link was captured in your investigations for complaints. Ms MacLeod: We might—look, we may not have broken it down to that level. When we receive complaints about Housing ACT—and if it is about getting on the housing lists, we do look at that, but we have not broken it down into One Link. But I can take that on notice, and we can have a look— MS CODY: I am not so fussed about the number of complaints, but I would like to know if One Link is a service that you include in your complaints handling side of the role. Ms MacLeod: Sure, we will take that on notice.	Ms Louise MacLeod, Senior Assistant Ombudsman, Program Delivery Branch, Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman	UPT pp.108-109.	6/11/2019	12/11/2019

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35	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: I have just one other question on number 5, under scrutiny in the 2018 report card. The percentage of questions on notice answered was 98 per cent, which is healthy. But another measure on legislation to a percentage of bills considered by the scrutiny of bills committee is 98 per cent and that is very healthy. Why do two measures with the same score have different descriptors regarding their health? Mr Duncan: Yes. I mean, that is a very subjective—and it is simply our office, sort of, putting some sort of measure on it. I have to go back and look at the previous years to see whether we might have had a 95 and we rated it, you know, healthy or something like that, or not unhealthy. But can I take that back on notice and just get back to you?	Mr Tom Duncan, Clerk, Office of the Clerk, Office of the Legislative Assembly		6/11/2019	25/11/2019

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36	5/11/2019	Vicki Dunne MLA	THE CHAIR: I would be interested to know what the 2 per cent of legislation that did not go to [the Scrutiny of Bills Committee]. MS LAWDER: Indeed. THE CHAIR: That is because it is the general rule that all legislation goes to [the Scrutiny of Bills Committee]. Mr Duncan: Well usually it would be only an urgent bill that has just got to be passed that picks up some—that is the only thing I can think of. Sometimes there is a, sort of, bill that needs to be passed urgently to fix something. But yes. THE CHAIR: Well could we have a look at what did not go to [the Scrutiny of Bills Committee] in that period? Mr Duncan: Sure. Yes. Yes.	Mr Tom Duncan, Clerk, Office of the Clerk, Office of the Legislative Assembly	UPT pp.116-117.	6/11/2019	25/11/2019

<i>No.</i>	<i>Hearing date</i>	<i>Asked by</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Directed to</i>	<i>Transcript Page No.</i>	<i>Forwarded to witness</i>	<i>Answered Date</i>
37	5/11/2019	Nicole Lawder MLA	MS LAWDER: So percentage of recycled paper purchased, any reason for the change? Mr Duckworth: No. No idea. Mr Duncan: We are going to have to take that question on notice, I am afraid, Ms Lawder. I mean, you are referring to the paper and cardboard recycling including secure paper? MS LAWDER: Recycled content of paper purchased. MS BURCH: Paper purchased. So on page 51. Here. Mr Duncan: I see. Minus 50 per cent. THE CHAIR: 51, two thirds down. Mr Duckworth: We will take it on notice. I think it is fair to say that.	Mr Tom Duncan, Clerk, Office of the Clerk, Office of the Legislative Assembly / Mr Ian Duckworth, Executive Manager, Business Support Branch, Office of the Legislative Assembly	UPT pp.118-119.	6/11/2019	25/11/2019
			[End]				