



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Jo Clay MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
18 October 2021

Asked by Peter Cain MLA on 22 October 2021:

**Ref: Public Trustee and Guardian, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Attorney-General,
PTG Statement of Intent, Budget Statement D Page 87**

In relation to:

PTG Will Register

1. How is the ACT Wills Register being funded and which agency or directorate will deliver it?

Andrew Taylor: The answer to the Member's question is as follows –

The cost of development of the ACT Wills Register has been minimal and has been funded out of PTG's current budget. Once established the Wills Register will be self-funding through fees and charges yet to be approved and determined.

Under PTG's Business Transformation Strategy PTG has already established its own internal Wills Register comprising a Wills Module in Stage 1 of the CRM as well as an Electronic Document and Records Management System. The associated legislative changes to facilitate this have already been made.

The project aims to open PTG's existing Wills Register to external Wills and will incorporate a legacy repository at the Supreme Court. PTG is currently consulting with the Supreme Court's Joint Rules Committee as well as the ACT Law Society in respect to a number of collateral procedural and legislative changes.

Upon the establishment of PTG, following the merger of Public Trustee and Public Guardian functions into one agency, PTG established a Business Transformation Strategy and identified the development of a Will Register as a future project. Such Registers had already been developed and operated by Public Trustees in other jurisdictions.

PTG appeared before the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (the Committee) on 14 November 2018, where the Committee inquired about a central territory Wills Bank proposed in the PTG Annual Report 2017/18. The Committee recommended that a program be introduced to enable more citizens to deposit their Wills with the PTG to prevent Wills from being lost or destroyed. This recommendation laid the groundwork for a program of consultation and legislative changes.

The ACT Law Society and the JACS Directorate also supported the initiative, with PTG as the agency to deliver it.

To date the consultative and legislative changes have been carried by PTG. During the next 12 months, as part of Stage Two of PTG's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System, PTG will establish an online account facility to facilitate the financial transactions associated with the Register. Stage Two of the CRM will establish a link between the CRM and the EDRMS enabling seamless online access to data from both systems simultaneously.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date:

By Andrew Taylor, Public Trustee and Guardian