



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Peter Cain MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

23 February 2022

Asked by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA on 23 February 2022: Mr Brett Monger took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Uncorrected Proof Transcript 23 February 2022 [PAGE 23]]

In relation to:

DR PATERSON: Sure. I was just wondering, we have not actually heard from Legal Aid for our Community Corrections inquiry, but I do have a question that relates to that, but in general. So one of the things that has come up is around the Sentencing Administration Board, and there seems to be a lot of—and may even have been a recommendation in your report around legal representation for people appearing before the board for parole or for breaches. I was just wondering, I asked the Sentencing Review Board that and they said that, yes, sometimes people employ a lawyer. But do you believe that there should be standard legal representation for people who appear before that board?

Mr Monger: I am sorry, Dr Paterson—Brett Monger, chief financial officer of Legal Aid—I am unable to answer that one. If you would not mind, I can either take that one on notice, or when Dr Boersig arrives—the actual operations of Legal Aid I think are best answered by Dr Boersig, I am sorry.

DR PATERSON: Sure.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will take that on notice, Mr Braddock?

Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission (ACT):

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

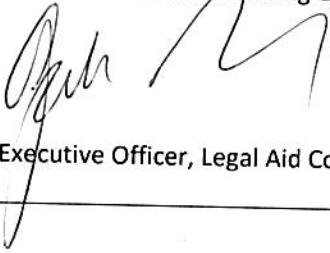
Legal Aid ACT does not usually provide legal assistance to people who appear before the Sentencing Administration Board for parole or breaches.

From time to time however Legal Aid ACT does exercise a discretion to assist people in these matters where there are compelling individual circumstances.

We acknowledge that there would be value in providing more regular assistance.

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

Signature:



Date:

9/3/22

By the Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, Dr John Boersig