



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE
Speaker Ms Joy Burch MLA (Chair), Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Submission Cover sheet

Evaluation of trial of estimates being
considered by standing committees

Submission number: 002

Date authorised for publication: 16 February 2023



Suzanne Orr MLA
Member for Yerrabi

Tom Duncan
Secretary Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure
Legislative Assembly
e-mail – LACommitteeAPC@parliament.act.gov.au

7th February 2023

Dear Mr Duncan,

Regarding the letter from the Speaker of November 2022 inviting comments relating to reviewing the different approaches to the consideration of the budget I offer the following from the Labor Caucus.

We note that in this term to date the Assembly has used two different formats for holding the Estimates hearings. The first being hearings and production of reports held by Standing Committees on the areas of the Budget that the Standing Committees had oversight off and the second being a Select Committee which was stood up for a set period to consider the whole budget.

The Labor Caucus notes that there are benefits with both formats for example having the Standing Committees scrutinise the budget allows for a greater subject matter expertise to inform scrutiny than on a Select Committee however the Select Committee format allows for a more integrated scrutiny of the budget.

The Labor Caucus notes that, due to issues relating to the pandemic, there has not yet been a Standing or Select Committee budget estimates process which has followed the usual conventions: the 20-21 Budget estimates was considered concurrently with consideration of annual reports (February 2021—standing committees format); the 21-22 Budget estimates hearings were held online (October 2021—standing committees format); and the 22-23 Budget estimates hearings were held in a hybrid model (August 2022—select committee format). These unusual circumstances resulted in additional complexities through each of the budget estimates considerations, which may have influenced perceptions about the effectiveness of the two formats.

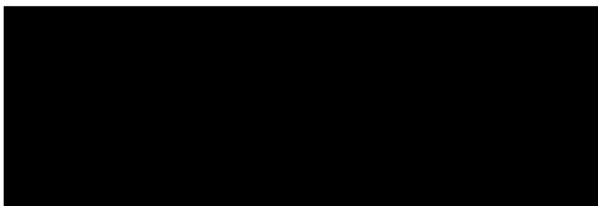


Suzanne Orr MLA

Member for Yerrabi

Given that the Labor Caucus sees merit in both formats we have concluded we do not have a strong view on which format is adopted for 2023 and will support either format being recommended by the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

Your Sincerely,



Suzanne Orr MLA
Government Whip