



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Peter Garrisson AM SC, ACT Solicitor-General

Reference: ACT Government Solicitor

Hearing: 18/02/2025

In relation to: ACT Government Solicitor and Opinions

Question received: 18/02/2025

Answer Due: 26/02/2025

1. Why did the number of opinions given reportedly increase in 2023-24 from 2022-23?
2. Why has the number of opinions given reportedly been on a steady increase since 2021-22?
3. Can you provide a breakdown of which Territory organisations you provided opinions to and how many opinions were provided to each Territory organisation in 2023-24?
4. Why did the number of court/tribunal attendances reportedly increase in 2023-24 from 2022-23?
5. Why has the number of court/tribunal attendances reportedly been on a steady increase since 2021-22?
6. Can you provide a breakdown of which Territory organisations you attended court/tribunal on behalf of and how many court/tribunal attendances were provided to each Territory organisation in 2023-24?

MR PETER GARRISSON AM SC: The answers to the Member's questions are as follows:

1. & 2. As indicated at the hearing on 18 February 2025 and detailed on page 42 of the uncorrected proof Hansard the number of opinions given has increased "because there has been a significant increase in the work and its complexity so that, for example, a single matter it will not just involve a single advice; it will involve multiple advices, and the larger and more complex pieces of litigation, and indeed, commercial transactions will involve multiple advices." In addition to my response at the hearing the number of opinions given is also reflective of the increased demand for legal services.
3. The number of opinions given in 2023-24 broken down by directorate and Territory entity is detailed in the below table:

	Number of Opinions given 2023-24
ACT Auditor-General	1
ACT Electoral Commission	11

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Australian Federal Police	15
ACT Integrity Commission	1
ACT Long Service Leave Authority	9
ACT Teacher Quality Institute	4
Canberra Health Services	843
Canberra Institute of Technology	50
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	709
City Renewal Authority	13
Community Services Directorate	302
Cultural Facilities Corporation	19
Education Directorate	137
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	84
Health Directorate	192
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission	4
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	345
ACT Legislative Assembly	10
Major Projects Canberra (now Infrastructure Canberra)	48
Suburban Land Agency	51
Transport Canberra Operations	6
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	302
Total	3156

4. & 5. The increase in court/tribunal appearances which also includes attendances before the Fair Work Commission is due to an increase in litigation and disputes in the areas of child and welfare protection, personal injury claims, administrative law, employment and industrial relations, commercial and regulation.
6. The breakdown of ACT Government Solicitor court/tribunal attendances, including attendance in the Fair Work Commission in 2023-24 is provided in the table below:

	Number of Court/Tribunal attendances in 2023-24
ACT Electoral Commission	1
Australian Federal Police	4
ACT Long Service Leave Authority	1
ACT Teacher Quality Institute	3
Canberra Health Services	365
Canberra Institute of Technology	25
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	263
Community Services Directorate	653
Cultural Facilities Corporation	2
Education Directorate	63
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	85
Health Directorate	6

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Justice and Community Safety Directorate	157
ACT Legislative Assembly	3
Suburban Land Agency	4
Transport Canberra Operations	7
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	140
Total	1782

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:



By the Solicitor-General, Peter Garrisson AM SC

Date: 26/2/25

