



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 Claims, Inquests and Inquiries

Question received: 18/02/2025

Answer Due: 26/02/2025

I note that the Claims, Inquests and Inquiries practice focus had the highest percentage of legal service activity for 2023-24.

1. Can you outline the specific areas of law that the Claims, Inquests and Inquiries practice area focuses on?
2. How many Claims, Inquests and Inquiries matters were claims of medical negligence against ACT Health and/or Canberra Health Services?
 - a. Can you provide a breakdown of the outcomes of these matters?
3. How many Claims, Inquests and Inquiries matters were coronial claims against the Territory?
 - a. Can you provide a breakdown of the outcomes of these matters?
4. How many Claims, Inquests and Inquiries matters were claims of institutional abuse against the Territory or a Territory body?
 - a. Can you provide a breakdown of the outcomes of these matters?

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

1. As detailed on page 54 of the Justice and Community Safety 2023-24 Annual Report the claims, inquests and inquiries practice area (CII) provides advice and representation in a range of areas. Specifically, areas such as insurance law, public liability, personal injury, property damage claims by and against the Territory, coronial inquests and inquiries. These claims arise out of the breadth of services provided by the Territory.

In addition, the CII practice also deals with historical institutional abuse claims.

2. There were 394 medical negligence claims against ACT Health and Canberra Health Services involving recorded activity by the ACT Government Solicitor (ACTGS) over the period 1 July 2023-24. As indicated at the hearing on 18 February 2025, the ACTGS is

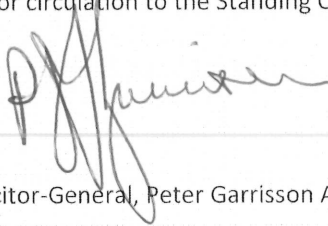
OFFICIAL

unable to provide the outcome of each matter, to do so would require reviewing each matter manually and would be resource intensive.

2. In 2023-24 there were 87 proceedings before the Coroner involving recorded activity by the ACTGS. The ACTGS is unable to provide the outcome of each matter, to do so would require reviewing each matter manually and would be resource intensive.
3. In 2023-24 there were 69 claims relating to institutional abuse involving recorded activity by the ACTGS. The ACTGS is unable to provide the outcome of each matter, as to do so would require reviewing each matter manually and would be resource intensive.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:



Date:

26/2/25

By the Solicitor-General, Peter Garrison AM SC