



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

In relation to: ACT Fire and Rescue and Number of times EAP accessed

Hearing: 28 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 66

Transcript provided: 30 July 2026

Answer Due: 6 August 2026

Mr Wayne Phillips took on notice the following question(s):

MS CASTLEY: How many occasions did ACT Fire & Rescue personnel access the Employee Assistance Program for that four-year period? What policies, procedures, legislative provisions, agreements, protocols, directions or guidelines currently govern union right of entry, workplace access by union officials, and attendance by union representatives at ACT Fire & Rescue?

Dr Paterson: We will take it on notice, yes.

Mr Phillips: Take that on notice, yes.

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The table below provides the number of occasions Employee Assistance Programs were accessed by ACT Fire & Rescue personnel.

Financial Year	EAP
2025-26	70
2024-25	68
2023-24	33
2022-23	19

Entry to ACT Fire & Rescue workplaces is covered under several frameworks. These include:

- a) the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth);
 - i. including the Right of Entry provisions; and
 - ii. the Good Faith Bargaining provisions;
- b) the *ACT Public Sector Fire and Rescue Enterprise Agreement 2024-2026*,
- c) the *Work, Health and Safety Act 2011* (ACT); and
- d) the ACT Government Union Encouragement Policy.

Workplace access can also occur due to a request by the Union to meet, or by an invitation to attend a meeting.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature: 

Date: 6/8/26

By the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA