



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Le Couteur on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #45

In relation to :

MS LE COUTEUR: By my other question was: would it be possible for you to go through the commissioner's recommendations that were taken—that you had agreed to in principle and the response was you had to wait until the budget. Would it be possible for you to go back to that and say which ones now the budget has happened have actually been actioned? You might want to take that on notice.

Ms Flanery: Certainly, that body of work is well underway, and we are happy to provide that.

MS LE COUTEUR: Great.

THE CHAIR: So there were a couple of things taken on notice there, I think.

Ms Flanery: Right.

THE CHAIR: Okay.

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

Please see the detailed response provided at Attachment A.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 6.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA

Summary of Recommendations - CSE Report on the Investigation into the Government's Tree Management Practices and the Renewal of Canberra's Urban Forest

Recommendation	Short Reference	Government Response	CSE Report Page No.	Progress
Recommendation 1	Replacing the Urban Forest Renewal Program	Agreed	1	In progress – ongoing The Urban Forest Renewal Program has been replaced by a comprehensive and integrated tree management program. Refer to recommendation 11B
Recommendation 2	Strengthening Recognition of the Treed Landscape in the strategic planning framework	Agreed in Principle	1	To be progressed in 2013-14
Recommendation 3A	Improve legal protection. Developing new tree legislation or amending the Tree Protection Act 2005	Agreed in Principle	2	To be progressed in 2013-14
Recommendation 3B	Improve legal protection. Reviewing existing legislation to ensure common definitions and terms	Agreed in Principle	2	To be progressed in 2013-14 Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator as part of the review of the Tree Protection Act 2005 are being considered.
<i>Recommendation 4</i>	<i>Improve Decision Making Processes and Practices for Tree Protection and Management:</i>			
Recommendation 4A	Establish an ACT Tree Curator	Agreed in Principle	2	To be progressed in 2013-14 Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator as part of the review of the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> are being considered.
Recommendation 4B	Expanding ACTPLA's major projects review group	Agreed in Principle	3	To be progressed in late 2012 Options for expanding ACTPLA's major project review group will be considered in late 2012.
Recommendation 4C	Developing guidelines for when a decision is inconsistent with the Conservator or proposed ACT Tree Curator's advice	Agreed in Principle	3	To be progressed in 2013-14 Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator as part of the review of the Tree Protection Act 2005 are being considered.
Recommendation 4D	Providing a Statement of Reason with respect to tree removal	Agreed	3	Completed and ongoing New procedures for administering the tree removal process have been implemented.
Recommendation 4E	Identifying and registering trees worthy of inclusion on the ACT Tree Register in green field sites	Agreed in Principle	4	Completed and ongoing Trees worthy of registration in greenfields areas are being identified early in the design phase, assessed and registered if considered worthy.

Summary of Recommendations - CSE Report on the Investigation into the Government's Tree Management Practices and the Renewal of Canberra's Urban Forest

Recommendation	Short Reference	Government Response	CSE Report Page No.	Progress
Recommendation 4F	Strategically populating the ACT Tree Register	Agreed in Part	4	Completed and ongoing A FTE has been allocated for the ongoing population of the Tree Register.
Recommendation 4G	Providing financial assistance or relief to residents on leased lands with registered trees	Agreed in Principle	4	Not progressed
Recommendation 4H	Monitoring and auditing compliance of recommendations and decisions by the Conservator and proposed ACT Tree Curator	Agreed in Principle	5	Underway Processes for randomly auditing decisions and recommendations already in place through the Conservator of Flora and Fauna. Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator as part of the review of the Tree Protection Act 2005 are being considered.
Recommendation 4I	Developing principles for managing a site where a registered or regulated tree has died	Agreed in Principle	5	Completed and ongoing Principles for managing sites where regulated trees have died have been developed.
Recommendation 4J	Preparing standard tree and risk assessment criteria for ACT Government agencies (or their contractors)	Agreed in Principle	5	Completed for TAMS Potential to include other agencies to be progressed in 2013.
Recommendation 4K	Authorising a qualified person to enter private leased land	Disagreed	5	n/a
Recommendation 4L	Having powers to issue on-the-spot fines to people who knowingly or wilfully damage public trees	Agreed in Principle	6	Progressed in part To be considered as part of the review of the Tree Protection Act 2005 in 2013-14. Infringement notices can already be issued where native trees are wilfully damaged under Section 52 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> .
Recommendation 5A	A National Capital – Canberra tree protection and management strategy	Agreed in Principle	6	In progress Due for completion by April 2013.
Recommendation 5B	An ACT Government tree protection and management policies and procedures guide	Agreed in Principle	6	
Recommendation 5C	An across-agency Tree Network Committee	Agreed in Principle	6	Completed and ongoing Committee is to meet again in August 2012.
Recommendation 6	Update existing standards and codes:			

Summary of Recommendations - CSE Report on the Investigation into the Government's Tree Management Practices and the Renewal of Canberra's Urban Forest

Recommendation	Short Reference	Government Response	CSE Report Page No.	Progress
Recommendation 6A	Reviewing design standards	Agreed in Principle	7	In progress Review of Design Standard 23 has been completed by TAMS pending final consultation of the standard and construction of the web tool. Review of other design standards to commence in August 2012.
Recommendation 6B	Aligning the TAMS reference document 4 with the standards in the Australian Standard 4970	Agreed in Principle	8	To be progressed in 2012 To be progressed as part of recommendation 6A
Recommendation 6C	Expanding the code of practice between TAMS and ActewAGL to cover all aspects of urban tree management	Agreed in Principle	8	In progress Linked to recommendation 5B. TAMS is currently working with ACTEW to review the COP as required.
Recommendation 6D	Improving habitat protection	Agreed in Principle	8	Completed and ongoing Processes are already in place to protect individual trees and groups of trees that provide ecological and habitat value.
Recommendation 6E	Consider retaining dead tree on existing verges and in public parks that have habitat value	Disagreed	9	N/A
Recommendation 6F	Increasing urban tree canopy cover	Agreed in Principle	9	In progress and ongoing Linked to recommendation 5B
Recommendation 6G	Managing solar access and protection	Agreed in Principle	9	In progress – to be completed by March 2013 Linked to recommendation 5B.
Recommendation 6H	Developing a sustainable reuse of timber policy	Agreed in Principle	10	In progress – to be completed by March 2013 Linked to recommendation 5B.
Recommendation 6I	Developing a tree irrigation policy	Agreed	10	In progress – to be completed by November 2013 Linked to recommendation 5B.
Recommendation 6J	Controlling parking to protect urban trees	Agreed in Principle	10	To be progressed in 2013-14 Options for implementing this recommendation will be considered in proposed legislative changes.
Recommendation 6K	Developing principles to guide the use of the Integrated Asset Management System	Agreed in Principle	11	To be progressed in late 2013 Detailed analysis of the relative benefit of agencies other than TAMS using IAMS will need to be funded and carried out before this recommendation is adopted.
Recommendation 7	Developing a policy for guiding the integration of tree removal, replacement and establishment	Agreed in Principle	11	Completed and ongoing Improved processes for integrating tree removal with tree replacement and tree establishment plans have already be implemented. Linked to

Summary of Recommendations - CSE Report on the Investigation into the Government's Tree Management Practices and the Renewal of Canberra's Urban Forest

Recommendation	Short Reference	Government Response	CSE Report Page No.	Progress
				recommendation 5B and 1A
Recommendation 8	Amending the guideline for production of tenders and contracts for construction projects	Agreed	12	To be progressed in 2013 Linked to recommendation 5B.
<i>Recommendation 9</i>	<i>Strengthen Communication and Community Engagement in relation to the treed landscape:</i>		12	
Recommendation 9A	Developing a communication policy	Agreed in Principle	12-13	Completed and ongoing Improved communication and community engagement processes already in place. Linked to recommendation 5B.
Recommendation 9B	Developing a notification procedure for ESA to inform TAMS when emergency services officers undertake works on urban trees on public land	Agreed	13	Completed and ongoing Processes already in place.
Recommendation 9C	Developing a community engagement tree program	Agreed in Principle	13	Completed and ongoing Improved communication and community engagement processes already in place. Linked to recommendation 5B.
<i>Recommendation 10</i>	<i>Strategically enhance and celebrate Canberra's treed landscape:</i>			
Recommendation 10A	Using tree-scape designs and guidelines to guide future tree planning	Agreed in Principle	14	In progress and ongoing Linked to recommendation 5B.
Recommendation 10B	Increasing programmed maintenance work to achieve TAMS' goal of 65%	Agreed	14	In progress The amount of programmed maintenance carried out in 2011-12 reached 53%. It is likely that 65% will be achieved in 2012-13. See Rec 11B.
Recommendation 10C	Planting to fill existing 'gaps' and replacing existing removed trees	Agreed	14	In progress and ongoing Processes have been implemented that ensure that all sites where urban trees are removed as assessed for their suitability to receive a replacement tree.
Recommendation 10D	The Arboretum being a focus for scientific research to inform tree management	Agreed in Principle	14	In progress. Arboretum due to open in 2013. Representatives from the Arboretum are included in the cross agency Tree Network Committee mentioned in 5C.
Recommendation 10E	Creating a 2013 tree legacy	Agreed in Principle	14	Not yet commenced

Summary of Recommendations - CSE Report on the Investigation into the Government's Tree Management Practices and the Renewal of Canberra's Urban Forest

Recommendation	Short Reference	Government Response	CSE Report Page No.	Progress
Recommendation 11	Fund the protection and management of Canberra's street and park trees:		15	
Recommendation 11A	Funding dedicated tree management budgets, with tree plantings associated with climate change initiatives funded separately	Agreed in Principle	15	In progress Additional funding of \$1m per year has been provided, under the 2009-10 initiative 'Urban Forest Renewal'. Additional funding of \$1.150m has been provided in the 2011-12 year under the initiative 'Urban Treescapes'. The funding under this initiative increases by \$0.250m per year, reaching \$2m in the 2014-15 year.
Recommendation 11B	Providing additional funding	Agreed in Principle	15	In progress Additional funding of \$1m per year has been provided, under the 2009-10 initiative 'Urban Forest Renewal'. Additional funding of \$1.150m has been provided in the 2011-12 year under the initiative 'Urban Treescapes'. The funding under this initiative increases by \$0.250m per year, reaching \$2m in the 2014-15 year.
Recommendation 12	Clearing Vegetation under powerlines on unleased lands fully funded by ActewAGL with TAMS redeploying resources to urban street and park trees	Agreed in Principle	15	In progress TAMS is liaising with ACTEW on this proposal.

Summary of Recommendations - CSE Report on the Investigation into the Government's Tree Management Practices and the Renewal of Canberra's Urban Forest



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Le Couteur on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #47

In relation to :

MS LE COUTEUR: Yes, that is probably—so that is new funding in this budget for trees? The \$6.1 million, that is new funding or continuing?

Ms Gallagher: That is the allocated budget.

MS LE COUTEUR: But it is—

Ms Gallagher: It is there every year.

MS LE COUTEUR: And it is—I thought it was more than the previous year, but it is not. It is not additional funding? Okay, we are—how much additional funding for trees is there in this budget?

Mr Byles: Take that on notice, too.

THE CHAIR: So it is taken on notice that question?

Mr Byles: Taken on notice.

THE CHAIR: Okay.

Mr Byles: We will clarify it precisely firstly, the nature of the question and secondly give the precise answer.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

MS LE COUTEUR: Okay.

THE CHAIR: Right, Mr Hargreaves? Do you have a question? No? Hang on. You have got some further information?

Ms Flanery: Sorry, could you just state the question again so I know exactly what I am answering, Fleur Flannery, director.

MS LE COUTEUR: Basically, the question is about tree funding, and we have just said that—you say there is \$6 million recurring for it. How much of that is new, because it would appear to us that from what you are saying that now there must be a fair amount of new, because we thought that the last budget had \$6.2 over four years, so if it is \$6 million a year now, there must be—

Ms Gallagher: That is in the base. There was not new funding allocated for urban trees under the new initiatives or the capital in this budget. So last—when there has been—so those appropriations in the past have built on the base, and that base of \$6 million per annum is there going forward.

MS LE COUTEUR: And that is all. The \$6 million per annum—

Ms Gallagher: For this financial year, that is the case. And then obviously next budget there is another round. I am sure TAMS are already drafting their business cases as we speak.

MS LE COUTEUR: One hopes so. So—but you will give us a breakdown of the urban tree funding.

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS LE COUTEUR: And where we might find it in here. Because—

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS LE COUTEUR: As we look at it, you are short on the commission's recommendations.


THE CHAIR: Okay, so that has been taken on notice. Great, okay.

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

The total tree management budget, including the actual results for 2009-10 and 2010-11, and the budget for 2011-12 and 2012-13 for all activities, is as follows:

(a) 2009-10	\$6,054,625
(b) 2010-11	\$5,169,118
(c) 2011-12	\$6,377,528
(d) 2012-13	\$6,377,528

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 29/6/12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Hunter on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #49

In relation to :

MS HUNTER: Are we able to get a breakdown of ranger numbers in the budgetary allocation between the ACT, urban parks and Canberra nature park?

Ms Steward: Yes, we can.

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS HUNTER: Yes.

THE CHAIR: So that is taken on notice.

MS HUNTER: And do the park rangers that are assigned to Canberra nature park also have urban park responsibilities?

Ms Steward: No, they do not. They are two discrete groups. They have different requirements, different responsibilities and different skill sets. But, of course, they do talk to each other. In Canberra nature park, of course, they will notice certain sorts of things where, because of the interface, they need to talk to their counterparts in city services to, you know, pass on information where, in fact, there are problems in terms of vandalism or anti-social behaviour or some such. So there is—again, it is a seamless relationship between the two groups, albeit that they do have distinct responsibilities that are different.

MS HUNTER: And how many FTE do we have in each category? Are we able to—

Ms Steward: In the environmental rangers, 37. In the city services, I would have to get you that figure.

MS HUNTER: Okay. Thank you. And have the numbers been dropping?

Ms Steward: No.

MS HUNTER: In either of those categories?

Ms Steward: No.

MS HUNTER: Have they been increasing?

Ms Steward: We did get one additional person at the pound. That was a kennel master. No, we have not increased the number of FTEs.

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

Canberra Nature Park within the Parks and City Services Division has 16 FTE equivalent funded ranger positions.

In relation to urban parks, these areas are maintained by 12 FTE equivalent general service officer positions to maintain Canberra's 24 town and district parks.

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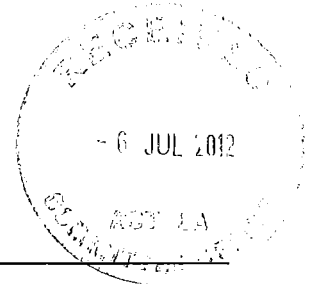
By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
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Asked by Mr Smyth on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #50

In relation to :

MR COE: It is interesting you should mention soft fall. Have you encountered any challenges with the installation of soft fall?

Ms Gallagher: Well, in terms of the installation or the maintenance, I think, is probably the big issue.

Ms Steward: The maintenance—

Ms Gallagher: Of vandalism and costs.

MR COE: I am particularly interested in the maintenance and the longevity of the soft fall which has been installed.

Ms Steward: It partly is dependent upon weather conditions and the amount of use a that it gets. But, yes, there is an ongoing program where we do—and there is in this budget, there is an amount that has been dedicated specifically for upgrading some of the soft fall and some of the chip areas—

MR COE: I heard that soft fall had to be replaced within a year at cost to the territory?

Ms Gallagher: Well, it would have if it is vandalised. If is burnt, for example, which seems to be one thing that happens to soft fall.

MR COE: Yes, but otherwise, is there any that was either inappropriately installed for its type, in effect, the one that—I do not know the technical name for that one that goes as a liquid or a fluid as opposed to the soft fall which is rolled out?

Ms Steward: I would have to take advice specifically on soft fall types and where there is any specific problem. I do know that as part of our whole maintenance program we do know where there are problems with some of those areas, and those funds will be used to replace those soft fall.

MR COE: Yes. I have been advised that some soft fall which has been procured has been inappropriate for ACT weather conditions and, as such, it has deteriorated very quickly and some has to be replaced within a year at cost to the territory because of poor selection of the actual soft fall. So if you are able to provide any additional information on that, that would be good.

Ms Steward: Look, I am not—again, I am not aware specifically of that problem, so we will—


MR COE: Sure, okay.

THE CHAIR: That is taken on notice.

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

The Territory and Municipal Services Directorate does not know of any instance where soft fall has been replaced in playgrounds maintained by TAMS because the soft fall has deteriorated within a year of installation.

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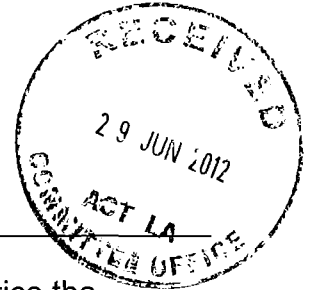
By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



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ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
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Asked by Mr Smyth on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #50

In relation to :

MR SMYTH: Good, okay. All right. Does the ACT government have a policy on playgrounds?

Ms Gallagher: What do you mean? What sort of policy?

MR SMYTH: Well, a policy to implement playgrounds—

Ms Gallagher: We have a playground upgrade program and safety audit.

MR SMYTH: That is a program. Do you have a policy that residents can go and consult as to the locations of playgrounds, what sort of—

Ms Gallagher: Yes, that is all available.

MR SMYTH: That is all available?

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MR SMYTH: Where is it available?

Ms Gallagher: The TAMS website.

Ms Steward: Yes, we encourage through the playgrounds upgrade program—and you will find it on the TAMS website—with the forward program, that is where we do identify which of the play spaces. Same applies to shopping centres that we are looking at, and think community engagement opportunities and the like. So, yes. There is a program—

MR SMYTH: So to put the policies on—

Ms Steward: There is a program of—yes, we do have a program. That has been in place.

MR SMYTH: That is the program. But is there a policy that tells—like, you know, each town centre gets a town centre park and then a suburb is entitled to an area—the policy that people can go and reference.

Ms Steward: A strategy, yes.

MR SMYTH: As to whether or not they are getting the level of parks that they deserve.

Ms Steward: Yes, we do. We do have a strategy. And that strategy defines what level of park and the infrastructure in that park, whether it is a district or a local or a neighbourhood. It actually says where they are now. The body of work in terms of defining where there should be any shift or change in that is something that comes through ACTPLA, through their whole planning processes as they look at changes in the city, new release areas and the like. They will have a look at where, in fact, the needs are, and we work with them, and we are on a committee. We have representation on a committee so that we can get some insight into where that is heading. And then that will influence, in fact, our decisions about playground upgrades.

MR SMYTH: Sure. There is on the TAMS website an area that says “Play, parks, conservation and land,” and it says, “Playgrounds policy”. And it says:

The contents of this web page are currently under review. An updated policy is expected in 2007.

So where would an ordinary person logging on and doing a search for playgrounds policy go and look after they found this reference, and is it true that —

Ms Gallagher: I imagine they will call Canberra Connect, and then they will be provided with extensive information. Look, I will have a look. Obviously that is out of date, Mr Smyth. So we can have a look at that. But I would also say, you know, I do not think any government prior to ours has invested more in playgrounds and creating fantastic play spaces for children than we have. You know, just go and walk the lakes, the shore of Lake Ginninderra, go out to Yerrabee, take a look at the parks that have been upgraded as part of the community facilities and you will see—I go to these all the time. They are fantastic.

MR SMYTH: Indeed, I used to go to the them all the time when I was a TAMS minister, and, yes, we all build parks. But the—is there a policy or not?

Ms Steward: There is a strategy, and this is—perhaps it is the word. We will need to obviously update the website, but there is a strategy that clearly defines—

MR SMYTH: So when was that strategy released?

Ms Steward: Gosh, I will have to check that out—take that on notice. But I know the strategy, it would have been, I think, two years ago, but I will have to check that.

MR SMYTH: All right. Could you provide a copy of that strategy.

THE CHAIR: So that is taken on notice.

MR SMYTH: And the link to where it is so I can provide it to my constituents?

Ms Steward: Yes.

Ms Gallagher: I must say, I have never had a request for one from my constituents who have contacted me.

MR SMYTH: But there is hierarchy as to whether or not—

Ms Gallagher: Yes, there is. You know that.

MR SMYTH: I do, but you cannot find it on your website.

Ms Gallagher: Yes, but all I am saying to you—

MR SMYTH: People have been looking for it. They cannot find it.

Ms Gallagher: The constituent inquiries I get about playgrounds are not about strategy. They are about, "I'd like an upgrade. I would like a swing. I'd like a flying fox. I'd like some soft fall. When are you going to upgrade this park?"

MR SMYTH: Yes, sure.

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

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Play Space Policy and Strategy was endorsed in 2005 by then Minister for Urban Services, Mr John Hargreaves MLA.

The policy and strategy form the basis of decisions relating to the provision and upgrade of TAMS-managed playgrounds. The Playground Safety Upgrade Program contains details about each of the playgrounds being upgraded, and information on each project is available on the TAMS website.

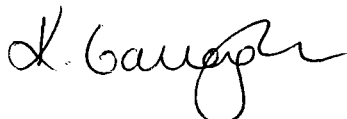
Neither the play space policy nor strategy are currently on the TAMS website and arrangements are being made for both documents to be made available on line.

Information about the Playground Safety Upgrade Program may be found at the following link .

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/pcl/city_centre_and_shopping_centres/playground_safety_program

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



Date: 29/6/12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Smyth on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #54

In relation to :

MR COE: And a question about the mowing contracts. I understand there was a few issues with the new contracts and getting them underway early in the year. Could you give us some background as to what happened there?

Ms Steward: As you know, it was one of the wettest seasons we ever had. It was really a case of in order to keep up with the mowing program, we were injected with additional funds to do that, and there is only limited number of mowers and contractors that we can actually draw upon. So we did achieve it in the end, but we did have to cast the net fairly wide in order to—outside the immediate ACT area to be able to get the contractors to be able to meet the program.

MR COE: That is interesting, because there were some contractors that were put out of work in the middle of summer, so it was not quite a matter of not having enough people. There were contractor thanks were—that lost contracts, so I was wondering what happened at the transition which led to there being a period where grass was not being mown?

Ms Steward: Well, the mowing program, on the whole, once we put in a new service levels, we did catch up to speed. Occasionally we might—we did get behind for a week or two, but, again, that was partly dependent on the weather. In most cases, they were able to catch up. And so it was very rare that we were substantially behind our mowing program.

MR COE: Myself and a number of constituents received information which said, "Regrettably, the transition from one contractor to another earlier this year resulted in some delays to the regular schedules and a temporary decline in the usual standard of service." So, what was not anticipated which led to that problem? And why would you change contractors in the middle of summer?

Ms Steward: I cannot make any comment specifically about an individual contractor. That would be inappropriate. It is a competitive process, so I am sorry, unless I know more details about the nature of—

MR COE: Sure. Do you know how many of the contractors are locally based businesses?

Ms Steward: I cannot answer that myself. I am not sure if you can.

Ms Flanery: Not specifically, but we can take that one on notice.

THE CHAIR: So that is taken on notice.

MR COE: Yes. That would be good. If you could please take on notice how many are local-based contractors now and as opposed to before the contracts—the recent contracts were awarded. But still on that issue about the transition from one contractor to another, which led to delays, what was the problem?

Ms Flanery: Fleur Flannery, Director of City Services. The mowing contract is quite—the mowing program is quite complex, and so the issue there which happened in one specific region related to staff and finish dates of one contractor to another where the new contractor indicated they could start at a certain date but, for a range of reasons could not. It was unforeseeable. And then they started and an effort was made to catch up on that program.

MR COE: So the old contractor ceased doing mowing services in the ACT in what month?

Ms Flanery: I would have to take that on notice.

MR COE: Okay, so there was not actually a shortage of mowers out there if a—

Ms Gallagher: Well, I think we are talking about two different things here. I think Ms Steward has been talking about the mowing program overall and the fact that the wet weather impacts on that and the need to recruit additional staff to that. And then I think what you are talking about is an isolated issue about a transition from one contractor to another that was done through a competitive procurement process.

MR COE: Yes, well, and they are—

Ms Gallagher: So they are two different things.

MR COE: Well, they are very much linked, because earlier it was said there was a shortage of mowers, and there is no shortage of mowers, given—

Ms Gallagher: Well, through successfully winning government work. I think that is probably the key issue here.

MR COE: Right, so, there was—

Ms Gallagher: We all—

MR COE: So there was—what you are saying is there was dissatisfaction with the previous mowing?

Ms Gallagher: No, I am not saying that at all. I do not get involved in tender selection. What I am saying is that there was a competitive process, new arrangements were put in place. Over all the mowing program subsequently got some additional funds in order to allocate additional work, and that would have gone through a competitive process as well. Now, whether everyone is happy with that or everyone got the work they wanted is another question. But, I think, what the key issue here is, you know, a clear tender process and awarding of government work and with the work that was available, which was topped up because of the wet year.

MR COE: How many areas are there of mowing in terms of clusters?

Ms Gallagher: In terms of how it is regionally structured?

Ms Flanery: Will are five regions.

MR COE: Okay. And does—are they awarded just as one contractor is awarded one whole region or do you get a part of that region?

Ms Flanery: Fleur Flanery, Director of City Services. The mowing program is complex, so they are not awarded a whole region. It relates to type of work, dry land mowing, sports grounds, fire works—

MR COE: Would I be right in thinking there are 19? Would that be about right?

Ms Flanery: I think—just to clarify, there are five regions. But there may have been 19 packages of work that were put out.

MR COE: Right, okay. Yes, I would be keen to know—

THE CHAIR: Okay, just probably a final question on that.

MR COE: Yes, I would be keen to know of those 19 how many are local businesses and which contractors were awarded.

Ms Gallagher: I mean, that information is interesting, but it is a competitive process, and value for money—

MR COE: I am not making any judgments yet. I am simply asking for information.

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

THE CHAIR: So that has been taken on notice. Is that correct? That was taken on notice?

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS GALLAGHER : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Between 2006-2011, mowing packages and hourly rate contracts were awarded to:

- four local companies;
- one national company with a local base; and
- one company based at Wagga Wagga.

Under those contracts, the hourly rate mowing services were included in the same contract as the mowing package. Table 1 provides details of the previous mowing contracts, including expiry dates.

Table 1. Contracts awarded in 2006

<i>Company</i>	<i>No. of Packages awarded</i>	<i>Base</i>	<i>Date contract expired</i>
ACT Earthmoving and Truck Repairs Pty Ltd	8	Originally a local company - currently based in Wagga Wagga	30 June 2011
Capital Weed Control Pty Ltd	3	Local company	30 June 2010
Beemak Enterprises ACT	3	Local company	30 June 2011
Landscape Direct Pty Ltd	5	National company with a local base	29 May 2009
Canberra Mowing Pty Ltd	2	Local company	30 June 2011
P and J Nott Horticultural	1	Local company	30 June 2011
<i>Total Packages</i>	<i>22</i>		

In early 2012, mowing packages and hourly rate contracts were awarded to:

- four local companies;
- three national companies with a local base; and
- one company based at Wagga Wagga.

A breakdown of the 19 mowing contract packages awarded in 2012 is shown in Table 2 and hourly contracts in Table 3. In summary, one package was awarded to a local company and 18 packages were awarded to national companies with a local base. 'Local' refers to companies either based in the ACT or Queanbeyan, Yass or Palerang Shires with local employees and supervisors.

Table 2: Mowing contract packages awarded in 2012


<i>Company</i>	<i>No. Of Packages awarded</i>	<i>Base</i>	<i>Date contract executed</i>
Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd	5	National company with a local base	17 January 2012
Landscape Direct Pty Ltd	10	National company with a local base	12 January 2012
Canberra Mowing Pty Ltd	1	Local company	16 January 2012
Programmed Maintenance Services Ltd (Fire fuel reduction slashing packages)	3	National company with a local base	16 March 2012
<i>Total Packages</i>	<i>19</i>		

Table 3 Additional mowing contracts awarded in 2012 on an hourly rate (fee-for-service) basis

<i>Company</i>	<i>Base</i>	<i>Date contract executed</i>
Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd	National company with a local base	13 February 2012
Landscape Direct Pty Ltd	National company with a local base	13 February 2012
Canberra Mowing Pty Ltd	Local company	21 March 2012
Ms Linda Le Mesurier, acting as Trustee for the Le Mesurier Family Trust	Local company	5 February 2012
ACT Earthmoving and Truck Repairs Pty Ltd	Wagga Wagga	20 March 2012
Jeffery Alan Flew	Local company	23 February 2012
Rapley Constructions Pty Ltd	Local company	23 February 2012

The previous major mowing contracts expired in June 2011 and, prior to commencing the new contracts in January 2012, hourly rate contractors were used to supplement the ACT Government's in-house mowing fleet. In most cases, the hourly rate contractors ceased work in December 2011.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 29.6.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Le Couteur on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #56

In relation to :

MS LE COUTEUR: My notes say BP 4, 319. It is down there, conservation measures for threatened species—

Ms Gallagher: Yes, I can see. So it is—

MS LE COUTEUR: Yes.

Ms Gallagher: It is rolling over that money into 2012-13, \$60,000.

MS LE COUTEUR: Yes, so our interpretation is that this is, in fact, a cut back on what was previously allocated, and regardless of whether or not that is the case, it seems to have moved out of TAMS into ESDD. So, firstly, a confirmation, if you think it has not been cut back, can you just—

Ms Gallagher: Yes, it is—

MS LE COUTEUR:--explain compared to—

Ms Gallagher: It is just in the technical adjustments section, so it is not a saving. But this is—we would have to consult with ESDD on this.

MS LE COUTEUR: Okay, could you take that on notice?

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS LE COUTEUR: As to why it has been moved if you think it has not been cut back, can you just—

Ms Gallagher: Yes, it is—

MS LE COUTEUR:--explain compared to—

Ms Gallagher: It is just in the technical adjustments section, so it is not a saving. But this is—we would have to consult with ESDD on this.

MS LE COUTEUR: Okay, could you take that on notice?

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS LE COUTEUR: As to why it has been moved to ESDD.

THE CHAIR: So that is taken on notice, yes.

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MR SMYTH: All right.

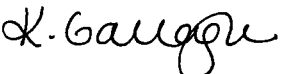
MS GALLAGHER : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The original funding for the Threatened Species and Communities was appropriated to TAMS as part of the 2011-12 budget (\$100,000 per year over 3 years). This was subsequently transferred to ESDD along with other initiatives that related to the support for the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (refer BP4 pg 110).

The \$60,000 rollover was required as the tender for a vegetation mapping project did not identify a suitable contractor so the major works will not be completed before the end of June.

The funding is required in 2012-13 to complete the project following another tender round.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 3-7-12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Smyth on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #56

In relation to :

MR SMYTH: In regard to the arboretum, can we have a reconciliation of the moneys in and moneys out since the project started? And are the moneys that in this year's budget, which are different to the moneys that were detailed in last year's budget, so is there any extra funds gone into the arboretum this year, apart from the commonwealth money? Are there any additional funding for it?

Ms Gallagher: No.

MR SMYTH: Has any money been withdrawn or delayed?

Ms Gallagher: No.

MR SMYTH: There are—

Ms Gallagher: There has been money transferred, obviously, from, you know, because it has changed directorates. So those—

MR SMYTH: Sure, apart from the changes.

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MR SMYTH: Yes.

THE CHAIR: Okay—

MR SMYTH: But all the moneys are consistent. So there has been no cut back in the ACT contribution to the arboretum funding?

Ms Gallagher: No.

THE CHAIR: Okay, we are—I am sorry, we—

MR SMYTH: sorry, there is no cut back?

Ms Gallagher: No. There has not been any cut back. There has been no additional increases.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, we are moving on to regulatory services now. Okay, I think we have got the right staff.

MR SMYTH: Sorry, and you took the reconciliation on notice?

THE CHAIR: Sorry, was the reconciliation taken on notice?

MR SMYTH: So there might be a different answer.

Ms Gallagher: No, no.

MR SMYTH: So, no, you will not do the reconciliation?

Ms Gallagher: What?

MR SMYTH: Have you taken—

Ms Gallagher: Look, we will do what we can to provide assistance to the committee.

THE CHAIR: Okay.

MR SMYTH: So, but no funds have been withdrawn from this year's budget?

Ms Gallagher: Not to my knowledge. We will get back to you if there is.

THE CHAIR: Okay, so that is taken on notice.

MR SMYTH: There appears to be a lot of discussion.

THE CHAIR: That is the answer?

Ms Gallagher: We will get back to the committee if there is any—there has been no decision by the government to remove funds from the arboretum. And, in time, we look forward to your continued support for it, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: I look forward to—

THE CHAIR: Okay, we are moving on.

Ms Gallagher: They are welcoming you back up there into the hospitality tent.

MR SMYTH: I did not realise I was so important to you.

THE CHAIR: We are moving on.

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

Since 2004-05 the ACT Government has committed \$48.071m for capital projects at the National Arboretum Canberra (NAC). In addition to this funding the Australian Government has provided \$20 million as a gift to the ACT for the Centenary of Canberra. Of this contribution, \$18.6 million has been allocated to the capital budget and \$1.4 million to the operational budget. Capital allocations to the NAC therefore total \$66.671 million for the period 2004-05 to 2012-13.

This funding has been used to plant around 37,000 trees, undertake significant civil works and sculpturing of the site including the construction of an events terrace, upgrade the road network, undertake earthworks for the visitors centre and central valley ceremonial gardens, construct tanks, other irrigation works, a look out at Dairy Farmers Hill and a barbeque area at the Himalayan Cedars.

More recent projects for the Arboretum include the development of the visitors centre, incorporating a cafe and retail outlet, construction of a children's play space; and a permanent pavilion for the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia.

No funding has been withdrawn from the appropriated budget for the Arboretum.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

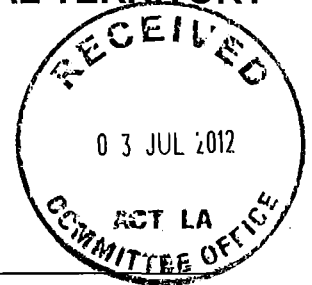
Date: 22.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Hunter on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #66

In relation to :

MS HUNTER: You have got in here response and collection of sharps. Now, I am assume that has been put in as an accountability indicator because it is—well, it is important safety issue.

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS HUNTER: And it is also obviously something that the public are concerned about. What is the issue out there on the ground at the moment so far as—yes, **how many are we collecting, basically. Is it going down? Is it increasing?**

Ms Steward: **In terms of the numbers, I will have to take that on notice.** I do not know what the current trend is specifically. I know we do have problems in some parts of the city more so than others, **so the trend might be different in different parts of the city. But I will provide you some information to you on that.**

THE CHAIR: Okay, so that is taken on notice.

MS HUNTER: And we are keeping up the numbers of sharps containers and sharps bins that are provided?

Ms Steward: Yes, yes. Yes. And we have a regular servicing program with those as well.

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

Table 1 indicates the number of sharps collected in 2010, 2011 and 2012 (to date) from sharps containers in public toilet facilities in urban open space areas in the Woden-Weston Creek, Inner North, Gungahlin, Belconnen, Inner South and Tuggeranong regions; and Table 2 indicates the number of public reports to collect sharps from public open spaces in the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years.

Table 1

	Woden-Weston	Belconnen	Gungahlin	Inner-North	Tuggeranong	Inner-South
2010	708	939	227	2047	141	529
2011	1033	712	401	2276	179	991
2012 (Jan - Apr/May)	342	282	242	649	116	144

Table 2

Financial Year	Call Outs	Sharps Collected	Total
2009-10	353	4391	4744
2010-11	293	4333	4626
2011-12 (to date)	273	3623	3896

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: 3.7.12

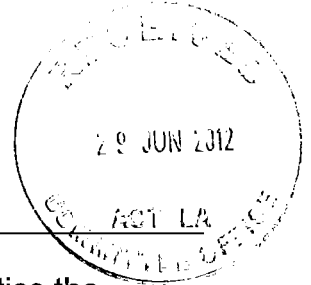
By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Hunter on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #77

In relation to :

MS HUNTER: Okay. And, finally, are all loads inspected to see if there are any materials that might be retrieved for reuse by Tiny's Shed? So every truck that comes in or every load coming in, are they able to have access to that?

Mr Ware: We do rely on patrons who come to the site to self-present to Tiny's. In relation to householders who use the transfer station, if they choose to drive past Tiny's without stopping and they do have something of use, Tiny does have staff at the transfer station, both at Mugga and at Mitchell, to recover anything that they think is worthwhile that perhaps the resident did not think was saleable.

In relation to the commercial vehicles that go into the site, we do have—Tiny has been negotiating with Thiess to have access to the land fill face, but, of course, you have got men standing behind 50 tonne compactors or in close proximity, there are safety issues that have to be—we do have to be mindful of.

MS HUNTER: But is there not a concrete pad that they can—or a place—I understand there is a safe place that you can be?

Mr Ware: There is. I would have to take that question on notice to check the operational—how well that arrangement is operating.

THE CHAIR: So you are taking that on notice.

MS HUNTER: I would, yes, like you to take that on notice, thank you

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

Resource recovery at the active landfill area is provided for under contract to Samarkos Earthmoving.

At the active landfill face Thiess Services, as the overall landfill service manager, direct waste loads identified as containing adequate quantities of recoverable material to be tipped at the designated salvage area, adjacent to the active landfill area. Samarkos Earthmoving recovers material suitable for processing at their resource recovery facility.

Samarkos Earthmoving also salvages where possible re-usable items suitable for re-sale at Tiny's Green Shed. At the request of Tiny's management, ACT NOWaste facilitated a trial involving all three parties; Thiess Services, Samarkos Earthmoving and Tiny's Green Shed, in an attempt to increase the amount of reusable material being recovered from the landfill face.

During the trial a number of issues were raised relating to safe work practices given that staff were operating in close proximity to large plant and equipment such as bulldozers and tipping trucks. The safety issues raised remain unresolved to the satisfaction of the landfill managers, Thiess Services and ACT NOWaste. ACT NOWaste remains in active negotiations with all parties in an attempt to resolve these issues.

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Signature:



Date: 29.6.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Le Couteur on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #82

In relation to :

MS LE COUTEUR: I guess that is sort of the point. Another but waste-related question: as we are all aware, Corkhills does the green waste composting. Would there be any issues which would stop them, if they wished to expand into composting food waste and—I will not even try to probably pronounce putrescible—

MR HARGREAVES: If Mrs Dunne were here, she would help you out.

MS LE COUTEUR: I am sure she would, Mr Hargreaves.

MR SMYTH: She is always very helpful.

MS LE COUTEUR: She is always very helpful.

MR HARGREAVES: Because she is the expert on putrescible waste.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Hargreaves.

MR HARGREAVES: I say that with all genuine—she has been talking about it for—

THE CHAIR: Ms Le Couteur, keep going.

MS LE COUTEUR: I have asked my question, even if I cannot pronounce it very well.

Mr Ware: So, just to clarify, the issue is about Corkhills Brothers accepting putrescible waste?

MS LE COUTEUR: Yes, could they?

Mr Ware: Okay—

MS LE COUTEUR: Are there any issues?

Mr Ware: Presently Corkhill Brothers accept quite large quantities of organic waste, and they are able to compost that in what is called open wind rows. If you were to start—my information is that if you were start including the composting of household putrescible waste, that would have to be done in tonnes(?) or under cover, and the health risks there are much higher and, of course, the processes involved in composting drive the costs up. So instead of the present very cheap and easy and efficient composting process that Corkhills use, you have suddenly got to go into different processes with longer dwell times; as it is called, to ensure that any pathogen in the food waste is killed off through that composting process.

MS LE COUTEUR: So am I understanding from your answer that from a regulatory point of view it would be the department of health rather than TAMS? I mean, I know it is a different—more complicated process, but who is regulating it?

Mr Ware: Well, obviously the facility at Mugga Lane one is almost at capacity due to the throughput and, yes, it is a more complex process.

MS LE COUTEUR: But from your point of view, it would—there would be no problem—if they chose to do it, there would be—there is no regulatory problems? I mean, that is what I am trying to get at? You regulate it, not Health?

Mr Ware: I would have to take that question on notice.

Ms Gallagher: Health would be interested, I can tell you. They would be.

THE CHAIR: That question is taken on notice.

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS LE COUTEUR: Okay. Thanks. I guess, if you are taking that on notice, also, ~~could you take on notice would there be restrictions if someone wished to do as a~~ closed thing, not as a wind rows, as Corkhills are currently doing, but were they to do closed composting of food wastes as a part of that question.


Ms Gallagher: Yes.

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

Schedule 1 of the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (the Act) requires that an environmental authorisation is obtained for a facility that composts, or is intending to compost, more than 200 tonnes of animal waste (including food wastes) or 5000 tonnes of plant waste per annum. In addition, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) may request that individual composting operations obtain an environmental authorisation.

The Act is the primary mechanism for regulating composting within the ACT, any application to set up a commercial food waste composting operation would at the very least need to be considered by the EPA, Health Protection Services and ACT NOWaste as part of the Development Approval.

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By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Hunter on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #85

In relation to :

MR HARGREAVES: Are you going to involve the Glebe Park one in your evaluation? Because we did one at Glebe Park, and that showed just what you were saying about having so many people with different approaches to it. And I think it was a good idea, but it was not quite as successful as we would have liked. You have taken the lessons from that and folded it into the project?

Ms Steward: Yes, that is right.

MR HARGREAVES: Right, thanks.

MS LE COUTEUR: Can I just check—this money is just to continue the existing situation?

Ms Gallagher: Yes, it is.

MS LE COUTEUR: There is no new—

Ms Gallagher: There was no ongoing funding for those bins when they were put in.

MR COE: So the rubbish collected in these 36 bins or 37 bins is not just being taken to the current recycling facilities? It is actually being done separately to all that?

Ms Steward: In terms of the analysis of the contents of the bins as part of the trial, that is really what is being done in terms of what is actually being picked up. In terms of where it is taken, it would be taken to the normal distribution centres where that would occur.

MR COE: Sure. And what is the merit of analysing the contents of the bins?

Ms Gallagher: The merit is about whether you expand what we are doing in Civic to other places. So understanding—

Ms Steward: We need to—

MR HARGREAVES: Contamination—

MS HUNTER: So to date, you are checking for contamination as you said. To date, what has been the situation with contamination? Has it been relatively low?

Ms Steward: I would have to get some information on that. What we have actually found to date.

MS HUNTER: That would be great if you could get some—an update on that.

THE CHAIR: So that is taken on notice. Ms Le Couteur.

Ms Gallagher: I should also say there is—because we are pushing recycling, there is—I think a genuinely, in terms of people who are using Civic, they look for recycling facilities. You just see when you do an event like the multicultural festival, people were actively, you know—behaviour has changed, and so people are not just wanting to chuck stuff in to one bin.

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

For the period 21 November 2011 to 18 June 2012 the public place recycling bin trial in the City centre has collected 16,160 kilograms of recyclable material.

All material collected has been taken to the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) at Hume where it has been accepted for recycling on the basis that the material has contained less than 8% contamination.

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By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Coe on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #86

In relation to :

MR COE: I completely agree. That is why I wonder whether you need to do the trial or whether you cannot just roll this into a collection.

Ms Gallagher: Well before—yes, but we want to make sure that we are getting material that can be recycled. So understanding that before you expand it, I think, is worthwhile information. Because that was one of the reasons why it had not been done, in the past was whether it was too—you know, people would not use it appropriately, and, therefore, the waste—it was just more bins rather than recycling bins.

MR COE: Sure. So a three-year trial—

Ms Gallagher: Well, look, no, I mean I think the decision in this budget is that the bins in Civic are here. The trial informs whether or not they go elsewhere. And getting an understanding of what that means, how much waste will be generated, whether you can genuinely recycle that waste if you put them in town centres is the information that informs the next stage of this.

MR COE: Will the kerbside collection contractors or other waste contracts include a capability to roll it until later on if need be?

Ms Gallagher: Look, I mean, I would be happy to take some advice on whether we could do that. I think it is a different—it is a different business.

THE CHAIR: So you will take some advice on that.

MS HUNTER: And when you were referring to the—


Ms Gallagher: I will see if we can, but I think it is a different business.

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

The vehicles used for kerbside domestic waste and recycling collections are not suitable for servicing the recycling bins located in the city area. These bins are smaller and access constraints in the city area require the use of smaller trucks.

The trial will inform viability, contamination and appropriate collection methods.

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Signature: 

Date 29.6.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Le Couteur on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #88

In relation to :

MS LE COUTEUR: Okay, thank you. Accountability indicator 1.3(a) in the budget papers—budget paper 4, 106, says the reason for the increased amount of waste going to land fill per head of population is increased economic activity resulting from an increase in commercial and industrial waste. And we have got a two per cent growth estimate for economic growth, population estimated one per cent. So the growth per head is probably about one per cent. Why is the tonnes of waste going to land fill? On our looking at it, it is estimated to increase by about 4.8 per cent above—so we are increasing more than economic growth and population growth. Why—what is going on here?

Mr Ware: I have an explanation for that. The increase in tonnes of waste to land fill per head of population has increased partly—I will say "partly"—due to an extra 54,000 tonnes of waste that came out of the clean-up of building waste—sorry, the failed building waste recycler at Parkwood. Now, in terms of the tonnes of waste that went to land fill, up until March of the financial year, when those indicators were calculated, that equated to 21 per cent of the overall waste to land fill. And that added 0.13 of a tonne per head of population, which mostly accounts for the difference between the 0.7 indicator, as you mentioned, indicator (a) and the 0.86.

MS LE COUTEUR: But if that is the case, why is the target for 2012-13 up to 0.88? So if we had the one-off issue, okay, but clearly not. We are expecting next year to be even higher?

Mr Ware: Some of that increase would be down to the clean-up of some of the sites that we have been talking about, and also other intractable waste coming out of areas that have to be cleaned up that have been left by the commonwealth for the ACT to clean up as we develop new housing sites. So these are the real wastes that either contain hydrocarbons or asbestos or a combination of the two.

MS LE COUTEUR: So you are saying that, basically—you are trying to say that household waste may or may not be increasing, but the sort of other big things—I guess if that is really what you are saying, you need to separate it out, because it certainly—I mean, you look at it, it is quite a disturbing trend from 0.7 to 0.88, and we need—you know, we need a vastly better explanation.

Ms Gallagher: Yes, look, I take your point. And, you know, perhaps that is a suggestion from the estimates committee about how you use that.

MR COE: Yes, sure.

Ms Gallagher: Or describe that output class subsection (a).

MR COE: Those BWR figures, is it 0.13 tonnes at 350,000 people, that is for 46,800 tonnes. Is that correct?

Mr Ware: The figures that are derived there are taken from the combined population of the ACT and Queanbeyan.

MR COE: Right. Okay. So it is even more waste. 0.13 to 500,000, not 400,000. That is even more waste. That is a huge—so we are looking at 50,000 tonnes taken out of BWR?

Mr Ware: Yes.

MR COE: Right, okay. And if that was all dumped at land fill, why did it cost \$1 million? Because that was the cost, was it not?

Mr Ware: The material that was taken out of building ways recycle—I will just turn to my figure for that—there was a total of 62,334 tonnes taken out of building waste recycling.

MR COE: Yes.

Mr Ware: 8,219 was able to be recycled, and that included tyres, concrete, gypsum and timber. And that equated to 13 per cent. The remainder of that material that was weighed out during the clean-up was impacted with asbestos. Unfortunately, the operator out there took asbestos, whether knowingly or unknowingly, and that was mixed through the piles of waste and, unfortunately, there was much material there that we could have recycled but the health and safety impacts of recycle that waste with the asbestos—

MR COE: Okay, so that is why it was \$1 million or thereabouts to—

Mr Ware: Yes.

MR COE: Okay.

Mr Ware: And obviously we had to—the contractor that we engaged had to be mindful of the health and safety of his employees. The cost was \$1 million. Sorry, the cost was \$1 million, and that included the men getting fully kitted up in appropriate clothing to manage that asbestos.

MR COE: Sure.

MS LE COUTEUR: So given this, is it possible to work out whether—what, in fact, is happening at a household level per head? Because it does not appear—I mean, this account bit indicator gives you that information.

Mr Ware: Obviously these are interim accountability indicators up to March. The full-year ones we will be reporting on in the annual report. At that point in time I am certainly happy—I am sure you will give me questions at the annual report on those final statistics up until the end of June.

THE CHAIR: Did you just take on notice the household—

MS LE COUTEUR: Yes, well—

Ms Gallagher: We will see what we can do in the meantime.

MS LE COUTEUR: Household rubbish, yes.

Ms Gallagher: And we take the point about separating it out for next year's budget papers.

THE CHAIR: Okay.

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

The waste generation per household cannot be accurately calculated as households are serviced by wheelie bins and waste hoppers of varying sizes.

In 2009-10 and in 2010-11, an average of 170 Kg of waste was sent to landfill per head of population for waste collected from ACT households, excluding residual waste from the Material Recovery Facility.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: *24/6/12*

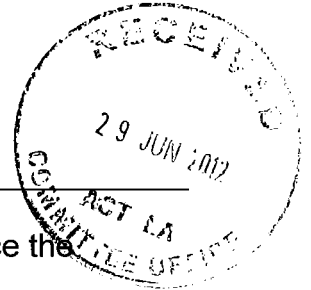
By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Smyth on Friday 22 June 2012: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 22 June 2012 #8

In relation to :

MR SMYTH: On the entire library service, is there a strategy to develop the library service? If so, where would one find it and how long does it run for?

Ms Little: There is a draft library strategy at the moment.

MR SMYTH: Where is that? Is that out for public consultation?

Ms Little: There was a public consultation process a while ago and it has now been formulated into it.

MR SMYTH: How long has it been a draft?

Ms Little: A while.

MR SMYTH: How long is a while?

Ms Little: I would have to take that on notice.

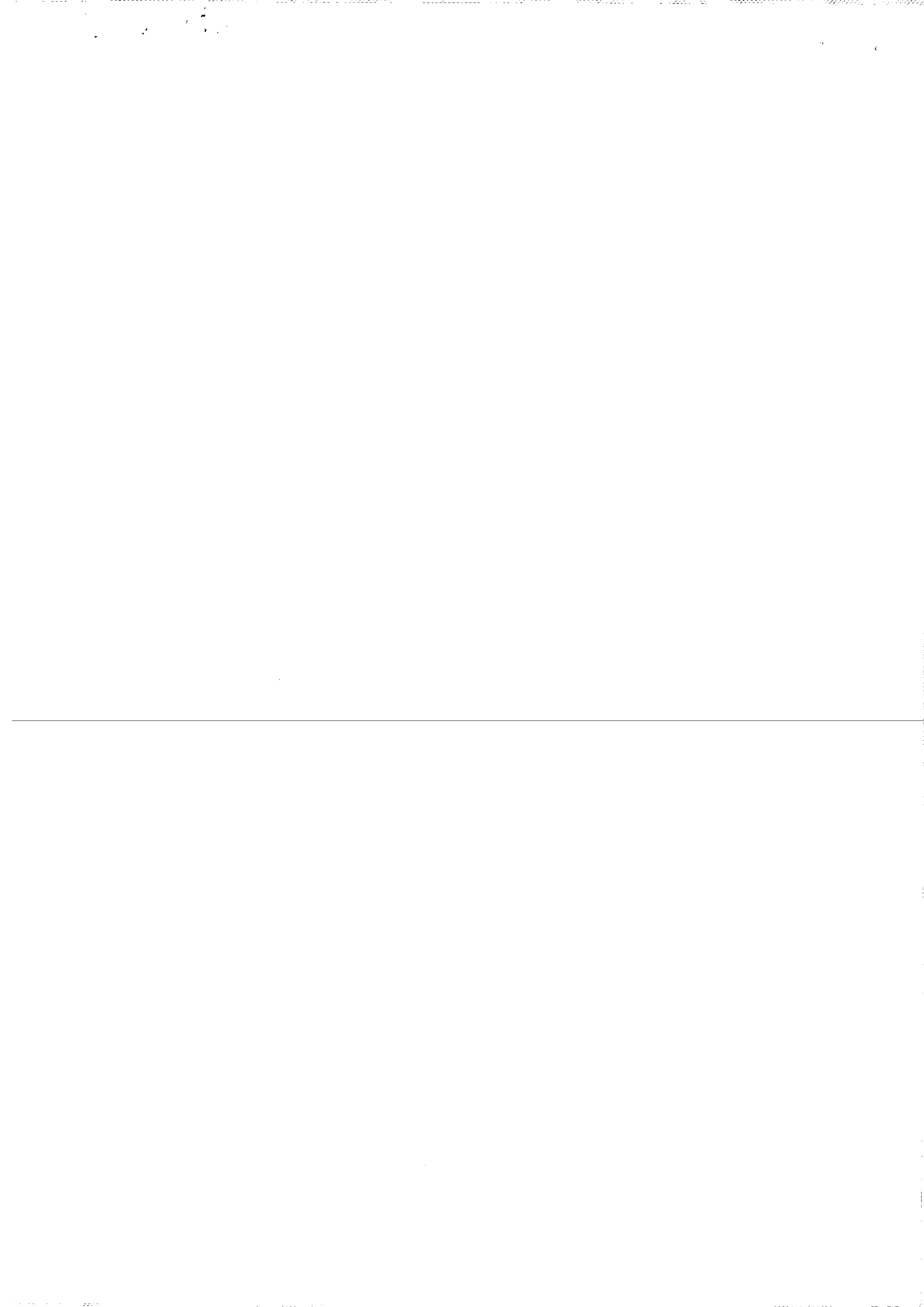
MR SMYTH: A couple of months? A couple of years?

Ms Little: Not a couple of years, no, but at least six months.

MR SMYTH: Where would one find it? I have searched.

Ms Little: The original documentation was out for comment and there were community consultations around it. It is now back with us at the library service. We are planning to put the 2012-13 material into it.

MR SMYTH: Some years ago I think nobody in the ACT was further than about five kilometres from a library and there was a push to bring that down to a three-kilometre level so that areas like west Belconnen, north Gungahlin, Weston Creek and Lanyon Valley also had local library services. Is that one of the parts of the strategy?



Ms Little: Obviously that is a policy decision for the government.

MR SMYTH: Surely a strategy would cover accessibility to the library service.

Ms Little: Again, I cannot pre-empt what the government might decide around libraries. What I can say is that Canberrans are very well supported by library services. They have got very good access to library services. We have got well in excess of required opening hours and access points. Our collections are of a very good standard. Rest assured the people of Canberra have very good library services.

MR SMYTH: I do not doubt that; it is about making them even better. Where would one find the strategy? It does not seem to be on your website.

Ms Little: As I said, it is back with the library staff who put together a strategy that will then go to government.

MR SMYTH: Could the committee have a copy of the strategy that was put out?

Ms Little: I would have to seek advice about that.

Mr Byles: That would be a decision for the minister. I have not seen the strategy, Mr Smyth, at this stage.

Ms Gallagher: The draft, the documents that went out—

MR SMYTH: I am asking about the original document that went out.

Ms Little: Certainly; we can give you that.


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

The community consultation document regarding a library strategy is provided at Attachment A. Library staff have also consulted with other government agencies, such as the Community Services Directorate.

Library staff used information from the consultations to develop services for the new Gungahlin Library. They also used input from the consultations to generate ideas for a new library strategy. There have been a number of internal iterations of the strategy since June 2011.

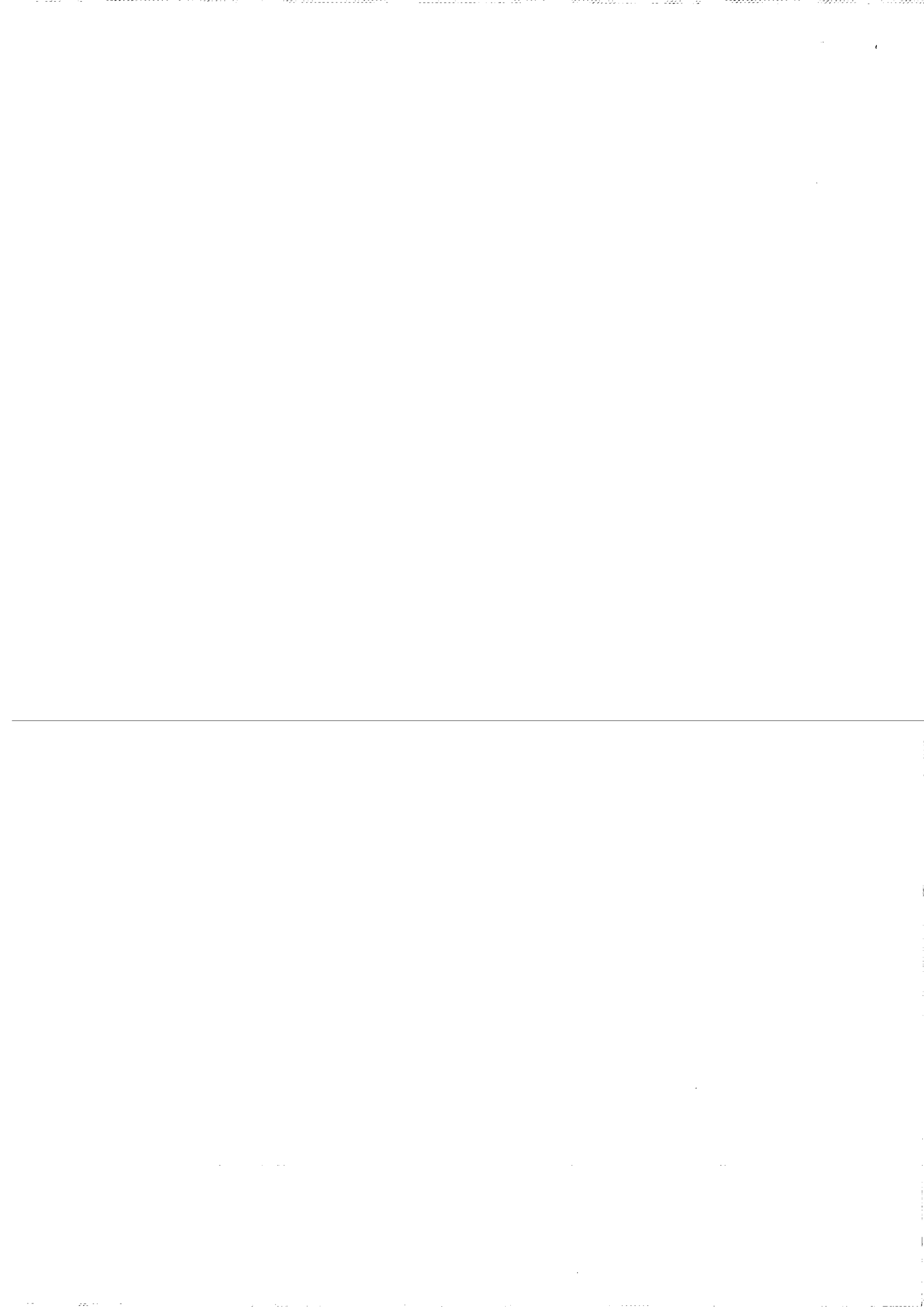
The draft library strategy is still in development and is yet to be considered by Government.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 29.6.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA





ACT Library and Information Service DISCUSSION PAPER

Introduction

The ACT Library and Information Service has a proud history of providing library services to Canberrans. From the time that public library services were run by the National Library to the service now being delivered by the ACT Government, Canberrans have embraced their public library services.

It is time for your libraries to plan for the next phase of their development. New technologies are emerging, as are new trends in library services, and our growing community has new and different needs.

We would very much like to hear from the community as we begin planning for the future of public library services in the ACT:

- Community workshops are to be held in various locations;
- Feedback will be sought via forms in the library and online; and
- You can call the library on (02) 6205 9000 to make comments.



About our community

Canberra is a growing community, with a population of approximately 325,000 as at the 2006 Census. This is a growth of 4.6% on 2001 Census figures.

A high proportion of our population use computers, attend cultural events and participate in volunteering compared with the rest of Australia.

More than 20% of our residents were born overseas and the most common languages spoken in Canberra after English are Mandarin, Italian, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Greek.

We have the highest average weekly earnings in Australia but just under 20% of our community are low income earners – that's one in five.

The Canberra community enjoys some of the highest levels of literacy and numeracy in Australia. However 30% of our residents have low levels of literacy and numeracy.

There is a relatively small number of Indigenous people in the ACT, but they are an important part of our community and their culture is essential to the vitality of our community.

Different parts of Canberra also have different communities and needs. Each of these should be reflected in the library services provided locally.

Questions for you to consider:

What are the important considerations for the library, given this community profile of the ACT?

What services are offered or could be offered that you think are vital to meet the needs of the Canberra community?

Please provide your answers to the questions on the paper at the back of this discussion document.

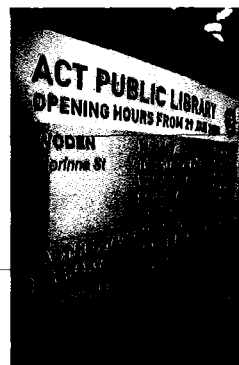
What's happening in libraries around Australia and the world?

It is often useful to look at the trends throughout Australia and around the world to get ideas and to identify emerging issues.

Services

Library services are increasingly being linked to research into the needs of particular groups in the community. Specialist services and collections for young people, people from different cultural backgrounds, people with literacy problems; and people with disabilities are just some examples of the best practice services specifically targeting services.

Many of these services are delivered in partnership with other agencies – in fact this seems to be a major factor in the success of services and programs that are highly regarded in library circles. Partnerships with community groups, government agencies, the not for profit sector and the business sector, enable the library to better deliver services and to reach people in many different ways.



Buildings

Our library buildings have always been important meeting and learning places in Canberra.

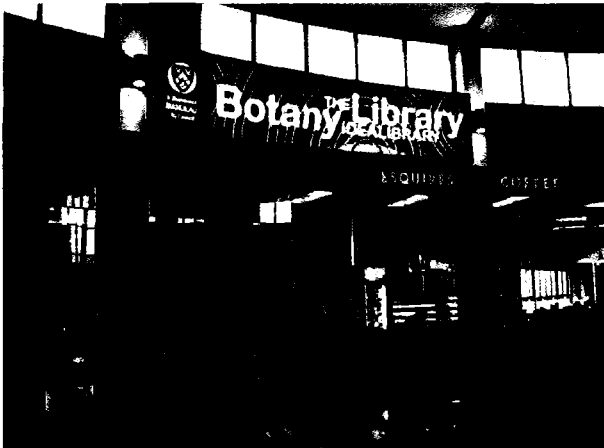
Increasingly, librarians and others are calling the public library the “third place”. This means that the local library is the community venue where people gather informally to meet; develop friendships; discuss issues; learn new skills to help them in their lives; and to interact and network with others.

Our libraries as “third places” are vital in the ACT community.

The ACT Government is developing a new public library in Gungahlin, shared with the new secondary college. The community in Gungahlin was provided with an opportunity to give input into the early development of this new library.

The best examples of new library buildings are environmentally sustainable, have clever use of natural light, good signage, include café facilities, have the latest in technology and are flexible, enticing, comfortable spaces. Many new libraries are co-located with shopping centres or government agencies for social and economic development.

Here are some pictures of new libraries in New Zealand:



Botany Library Manukau Council
(New Zealand)



New Brighton Library (New Zealand)



Wellington Central Library (New Zealand)

Questions to consider:

What works well for you in our existing libraries?

What should the ACT Government consider in the development of the Gungahlin Library or any future refurbishment of existing libraries?

Technology

There has been a significant growth in library users accessing our library services through our web site. Some people use the web site to find the book or DVD they want and order it to be delivered to their preferred library. Others use the authoritative online databases to conduct their studies or research as these sources do not have the 'junk' that comes from an open internet search.



Our world has become more digital and the young people in our community, referred to as 'digital natives', now request more of their services to be accessible via their technologies. As other generations are becoming more confident and immersed in technology, they also make these requests.

Around the world, libraries are developing their websites to make more information available. They are described as 'content rich'. These websites are also more interactive, enabling the user and the library to have two way interactions through the website.

Blogs, wikis, podcasts, and vodcasts are all technologies that Generation Y, the digital natives, are comfortable with and are looking to the library to provide. With training and support they can also be very useful to older Canberrans.

Whilst the ACT has the highest proportion of the community with computers and internet in the home, there are still many Canberrans who rely on the library for their access to online information and services.

Question for you to consider:

What role should the library play in providing new technologies and assisting the community to learn about these technologies?

Collections

Around the world, the use of libraries is changing. With the advent of the internet and online databases, libraries are finding that research for current information is increasingly online, often through authoritative databases provided by the library.

The community is increasingly seeking access to the latest book titles from the library as soon as they are in bookshops.

It is also clear that public library collections need to move from their traditional focus, to become reader centres. Where in the past library patrons have accepted library systems (such as Dewey) for the arrangement of the collection, patrons are now expecting faster more efficient forms of borrowing that reflects changes in cultural technology.

New formats of the traditional book have emerged, such as e-books. The ACT Library and Information Service is recognised as a national leader in the provision of e-books to the community.

New online finding aid tools are being developed to enable the library user to search a range of databases (and therefore collections) at once. Powerful searching technology is enabling people to identify many resources from simple computer searches.



Questions for you to consider:

What parts of the library collection are the most important to you?

Are there new formats for reading, listening or viewing; or items that you think libraries will have to consider in the future?

ACT Government policies and plans

The ACT Government recently released the revised plan for Canberra – *The Canberra Plan: Towards our Second Century*.

In this document, the ACT Government restates the vision for Canberra as:

- A truly sustainable and creative city;
- An inclusive community that supports its vulnerable and enables all to reach their potential;
- A centre of economic growth and innovation;
- A proud capital of the nation and home of its pre-eminent cultural institutions; and
- A place of natural beauty.

The strategic themes for the new Canberra Plan are:

- Quality health care;
- A fair and safe community;
- Excellent education, quality teaching, and skills development;
- A strong dynamic economy; and
- A vibrant city and great neighbourhoods.

Questions for you to consider:

How is the ACT Library Information Service currently contributing to the creation of the vision of Canberra?

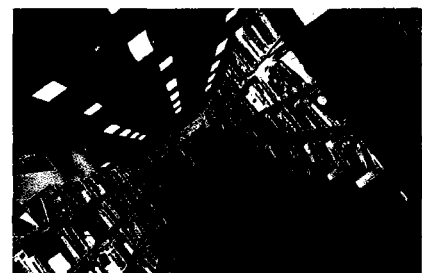
What can the library service do to assist the ACT Government and the community to meet this vision and strategic themes?

Libraries and Lifelong Learning

Libraries provide lifelong learning opportunities through access to materials, support early literacy through story times for children, extend skills and knowledge through programs on different topics for a range of people in the community and ensure access to online information and services.

Libraries support people to achieve their goals, to participate in the community and in the economy. Anyone can visit their library to get information on issues that arise in their lives or things that interest and challenge them.

This role as a key facilitator of lifelong learning is increasingly being recognised around the world, with libraries playing a leadership role in creating something called 'Learning Communities'. Sometimes this initiative is called learning cities or learning regions. Information on learning communities can be found at: www.obs-pascal.com or www.scotland.gov.au/Topics/Education/Life-Long Learning



Libraries in places such as Hume in Victoria and Edinburgh in Scotland have been actively working in partnership with teachers, universities, maternal and child health nurses, community groups, businesses, police, sporting clubs and many others. Such models offer the ACT Library and Information Service with ideas and learnings to take the library forward into an exciting new future.

Questions for you to consider:

How do you use the library to get information, solve problems or support your interests?

What do you think are important current or future community or business issues, that the library could offer programs or purchase materials to help address?

Where to from here?

The ACT Library and Information Service has conducted extensive research into trends in libraries around Australia and the world to provide the community with an understanding of the possible futures for their library services.

It is now over to you – please let us know what you think.

Please complete the attached survey.

You can complete it:

- In hardcopy and hand it into a library staff member
- Online on the library website www.library.act.gov.au
- By calling the Library Plan Hotline (02) 6205 9000
- Or by attending one of the Library Plan Community workshops. The dates and times are on the library website and will be advertised in the media.



Vanessa Little
Director, ACT Library and Information Service



ACT Library and Information Service

Library Plan

1. What suburb do you live in?

2. What is your age? (Select one only)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 41-59 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 60+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19-25 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-40 | |

3. Are you a library member? (Select one only)

- Yes
- No

4. Which library do you usually visit? (Select all that apply)

- Belconnen
- Civic
- Dickson
- Erindale
- Gungahlin
- Kippax
- Tuggeranong
- Woden
- I don't currently visit the library

ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY

What are the important considerations for the library, given the community profile of the ACT?

What services are offered or could be offered that you think are vital to meet the needs of the Canberra community?

What works well for you in our existing libraries?

What should the ACT Government consider in the development of the new Gungahlin Library or any future refurbishment of existing libraries?

What role should the library play in providing new technologies

What parts of the library collection are the most important to you?

Are there new formats for reading, listening or viewing; or items that you think libraries will have to consider in the future?

How is the ACT Library Information Service currently contributing to the creation of the vision for Canberra?

What can the library service do to assist the ACT Government and the community to meet this vision and strategic themes?

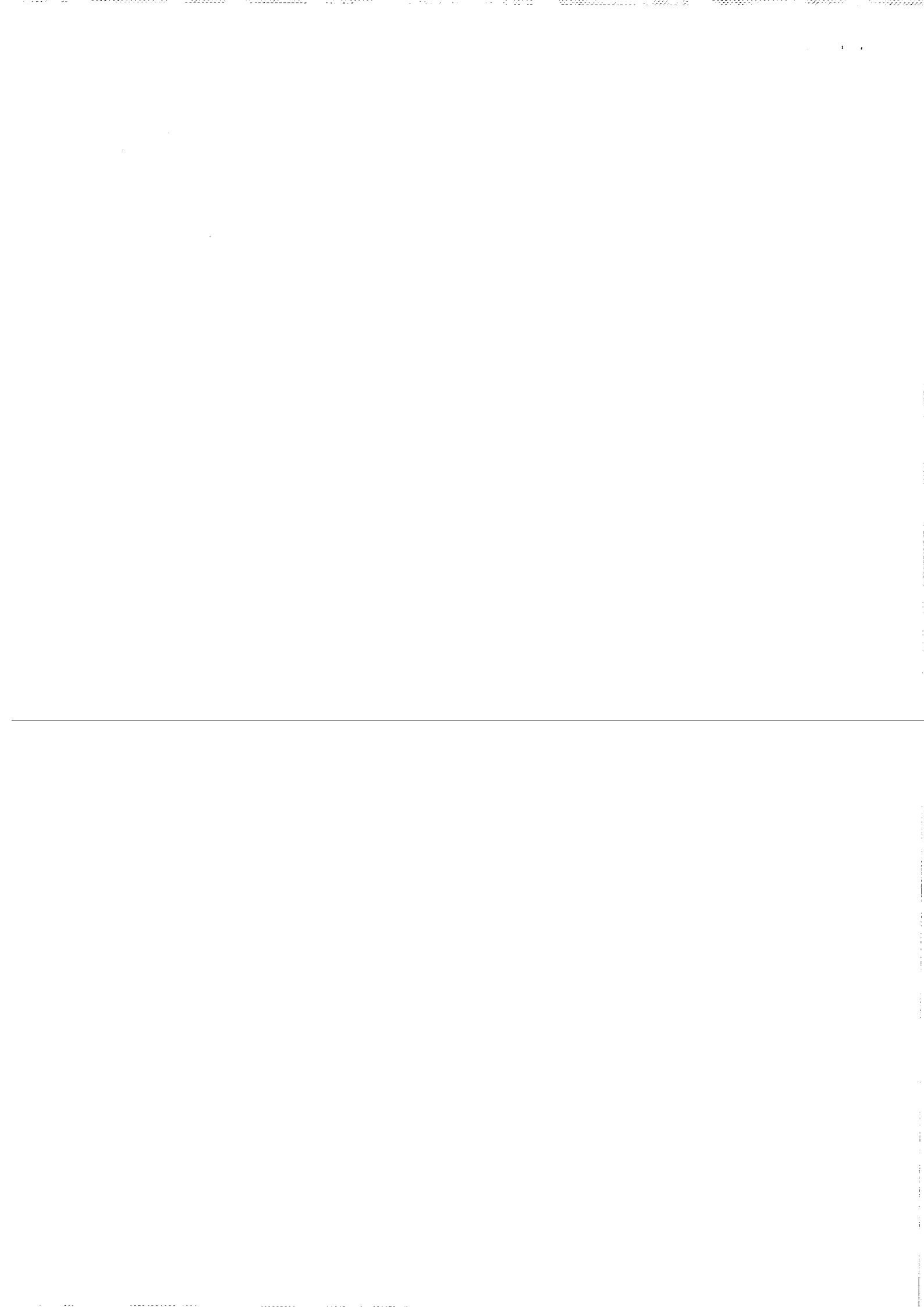
How do you use the library to get information, solve problems or support your interests?

What do you think are important current or future community or business issues, that the library could offer programs or purchase materials to help address?

Do you have any other comments or ideas for the library's plan?

Thank you for your ideas and input.

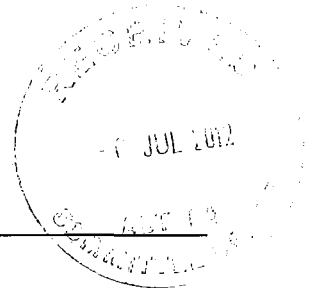
*Vanessa Little
Director, ACT Library and Information Service*





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Attorney-General

Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget paper 4, page 535 and Statement of Intent

In relation to : Legal Aid Commission

(1) 2012-13 Priorities

- (a) (BP4, p536, 3rd dot point) Information management system – To what extent will the case management system interface with the case management system being implemented in the courts and the DPP? If none, why?

(2) Statement of Intent

- (a) In relation to prevention of legal problems:

- (i) what preventative services are provided;
- (ii) what results are achieved; and
- (iii) how are those results measured?

- (b) In relation to the provision of dispute resolution and other legal assistance services to the ATSI community:

- (i) what has been the trend in the uptake of these services;
- (ii) can more be achieved; and
- (iii) what strategies are in place to achieve higher uptake levels?

- (c) (Sol p7) In relation to the Curran report recommendations:

- (i) What are the main recommendations that the Commission has agreed to implement?
- (ii) What recommendations will Commission resources not permit to be implemented?
- (iii) What difference would they make if they were?
- (iv) What recommendations did the Commission not agree to implement and why?

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date:

By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

6.7.12

(d) (Sol p8) Special Panels:

- (i) How many specialist practitioners does the Commission anticipate will be appointed to the Independent Children's Lawyers and Dispute Resolution Practitioners panels?
- (ii) What cost will be required and how will it be funded?
- (iii) Why does the legislation require amendment to enable this initiative?

(e) (Sol p8) Challenges and Risks

- (i) In achieving efficiencies what frontline services have been and will be impacted and to what extent?
- (ii) With decreasing resources, how will the Commission meet the increasing demand for legal assistance services?

Mr Corbell MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

(1)(a) The Commission must operate independently of government due to its role in protecting the legal rights and interests of individuals, many of whom are parties to actions by or against the executive branch of government. An essential factor in maintaining the confidence of people using Commission services is the assurance that the information they provide to the Commission will remain confidential. Maintaining an independent case management system is an important part of this assurance. An arrangement to interface case management systems with other justice agencies would compromise the independence of the Commission. The Commission's case management requirements are also materially different to those of other agencies and the development of an interfaced system is unlikely to be cost-effective.

There are other means by which information can be appropriately shared with other justice agencies without compromising the integrity of the Commission's systems.

(2)(a)(i) Preventative services are defined in the *National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Funding* as legal services that inform and build individual and community resilience. They comprise community legal education, legal information and referral. Preventative services are designed to promote the early identification of legal problems and to prevent them from escalating.

(2)(a)(ii) By raising people's awareness of the law and informing them where they can seek legal help, these services enable people to identify legal issues in their lives and seek early advice to resolve them.

(2)(a)(iii) Results are measured by means of six-monthly client feedback surveys.

(2)(b)(i) The number of services provided by the Commission to people identifying as ATSI increased from 275 in 2010-11 to an estimated 450 in 2011-12. The creation of a part-time ATSI Liaison Officer position in 2010 has been instrumental in improving the take-up of Commission services.

(2)(b)(ii) Yes.

(2)(b)(iii) The 0.5 FTE ATSI Liaison Officer position (now renamed ATSI Client Support Officer) is funded by the ACT Government. The position was increased to full-time in April 2012 using a non-recurrent grant provided by the Commonwealth Government. The position is expected to

remain full-time throughout 2012-13. This will enable more extensive support for ATSI clients and liaison with the ATSI community, which should increase the uptake of Commission services.

Another non-recurrent grant by the Commonwealth Government in June 2012 will enable the Commission to commence a project to encourage more ATSI people to use its Dispute Resolution (DR) Program. The capacity of the DR Program to provide culturally appropriate services to ATSI people was enhanced during 2011-12 by the appointment of an ATSI DR conference convenor.

(2)(c)(i) The Commission has agreed to all recommendations in the Curran report other than recommendation 7 (to produce an ACT Criminal Practice Manual).

(2)(c)(ii) An ACT Criminal Practice Manual.

(2)(c)(iii) The manual would be a useful reference and training tool for criminal lawyers, but it would require the resources of a legal publishing company to produce and update it. Given the number of criminal lawyers in the Territory it might not be a commercially viable proposition.

(2)(c)(iv) See answer to 2(c)(i).

2(d)(i) The number of practitioners appointed to the panels will depend on the number of practitioners applying for panel membership who meet the criteria for appointment. Based on the number of practitioners currently engaged by the Commission as Independent Children's Lawyers (ICL) and Dispute Resolution Practitioners (DRP), it is estimated that the ICL Panel will have between 15 and 20 members and the DRP Panel will have between 10 and 15 members.

2(d)(ii) There will be minimal cost apart from staff time which has been factored into the Commission's budget and operational plan for 2012-13.

2(d)(iii) The current definition of 'private legal practitioner' in the *Legal Aid Act 1977* means that membership of panels established under section 31E is limited to principals of law practices. While this is an appropriate qualification for appointment to the Commission's General Panel, suitability for appointment to panels established for particular kinds of matters depends on the qualifications and experience of the individual practitioner, not their law practice status. A number of practitioners currently practising as ICLs and DRPs (including Commission staff) are employees of law practices.

(2)(e)(i) The budgeted savings in 2012-13 are not expected to impact on frontline services, other than for a small reduction in the number of grants of legal assistance. The Commission will seek to minimise the reduction in grants by achieving savings in Legal Expenses through reducing the cost of individual grants.

(2)(e)(ii) The increasing demand the Commission is seeking to satisfy is principally for preventative, early intervention and dispute resolution services.

The Commission's capacity to provide preventative and early interventions services has increased as a result of the establishment of the Legal Aid Helpdesk with additional funding provided by the ACT Government, and through more efficient use of its community legal education resources.

The Commission is also planning to increase the uptake of its dispute resolution services.

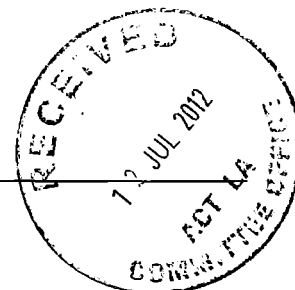




LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA: To ask the Attorney-General

Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget paper 4, page 261

In relation to : Estimated employment level

- (1) (Note 3) Initiative – ‘Addressing Waiting Times in the Supreme Court’
 - (a) What activities engaged the 10.7 FTE staff in order to deliver on this initiative?
 - (b) What outcomes are estimated to be achieved for 2011-12?
- (2) (Note 3) Cost recovery activities
 - (a) How many staff are engaged in these activities?
 - (b) What is estimated to be the total costs recovered for 2011-12?
- (3) (Note 4) What are the increased or new activities in which the additional 17 FTE staff will be engaged in 2012-13?

Mr Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. In relation *Addressing Waiting Times at Supreme Court*:
 - a. The ‘*Addressing Waiting Times at Supreme Courts*’ initiative provided funding for an estimated 10.5 FTEs for the Justice and Community Safety Directorate in 2011-12 on a non-ongoing basis.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Resourcing Estimate	Activities	No. of FTEs (Estimated as at 30 June 12)
ACT Law Courts & Tribunal	2 Acting judges and 2 support staff (7 week period)	Hear matters during the course of the blitz. Judge associate and assistant duties.	4
ACT Law Courts and Tribunal – Court Registry	1 x SOGB and 1 x ASO6 (18 week period)	Provide operational support in the Court registry. Reviewing existing listings, and generating and managing new lists for the acting judges.	2
Corrective Services	Transport Unit – 1 x CO1, half day	Transporting additional prisoners from the AMC	0.5

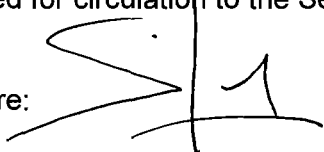
	(7 week period)	to the Supreme Court. Guarding prisoners in the court cells. Preparation of pre-sentence reports.	
Director of Public Prosecutions (see Note 1 below)	2 x Prosecutor Grade 3, 1 x Prosecutor Grade 2, 1 x Senior Paralegal Grade 2 (20 week period)	Early negotiation of possible pleas and participate in early attempts to clarify evidence and narrow issues. Appear in court to present and run cases during the blitz. Paralegal support services to assist the work of the prosecutors during the blitz.	4
Total			10.5

Note 1: Funding was provided to the DPP for four additional staff for 20 weeks in 2011-12 as shown above. However, the DPP was able to employ six additional staff during this period (three Prosecutors, two paralegal, an one administrative officer).

- b. The 'Addressing Waiting Times at Supreme Courts' initiative is aimed at achieving a one-off reduction in waiting times for both criminal and civil matters to support the implementation of a docket system for case management by the Supreme Court.
2. In relation to cost recovery activities:
- a. The increase in staffing related to cost recovery activities referred to in Note 3 was 18 FTE and relates to:
- i. ACT Health Patient Transport Vehicle -ACTAS (6 FTE)
 - ii. ACTGS Legal Services funded through own source revenue (7 FTE)
 - iii. ACT Healthier Work Initiative (WorkSafe) (3 FTE)
 - iv. ACT & South East NSW Aero Medical Service funded position – ESA (1 FTE)
 - v. ACT Public Advocate – Community Services Directorate Project (1 FTE)
- b. The estimated costs to be recovered for the above resources in 2011-12 is approximately \$1.5m.
3. The increase mainly relates to the new 2012-13 Budget initiatives. This detail is contained in the response to QTON, ref: Hansard Transcript, 20 June 2012, PAGE 350, asked by Mr Brendan Smyth MLA.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



11.7.12

Date:

By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA: To ask the Attorney-General

Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget paper 4, page 267, output class 1 – Justice services

In relation to: Efficiency dividend

- (1) Noting that the total cost for Output Class 1 is to increase by 4.4%, what is the quantum of the efficiency dividend that is built into that increase?
- (2) What services will be impacted by the efficiency dividend?

Mr Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) The 2012-13 efficiency dividend for Output Class one, as announced in the 2010-11 Budget, is \$0.3m. In addition, the savings announced in the 2012-13 Budget for Output Class one are \$1.3m.
- (2) The savings that have been announced in the 2012-13 Budget target expense areas such as travel and accommodation, printing, publications and stationery, contractors and consultants, staff training, development and recruitment and staff savings generally.

These savings have been allocated across all Output Classes of the Directorate. Business Units within each Output Class are considered best placed to identify specific areas to achieve efficiencies. This work is currently being undertaken.

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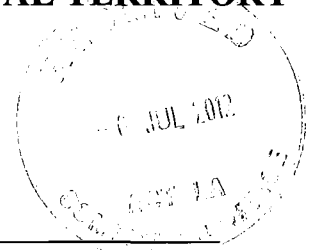
By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Attorney-General

Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget paper 4, page 267, output class 1 – Justice services]

In relation to : Output 1.1 – Policy advice and justice programs

- (1) (BP3, p185 – ICT Capital Costs - \$634,000 for sentencing database)
 - (a) If the ACT is to have a new sentencing database, how is the data currently held and why is it difficult to extract information from it? If none is held, why?
 - (b) Will past data be gathered onto the new database? If no, why? If yes, what is the timeframe?
 - (c) What information will be captured on the database?
- (2) Community Legal Services Hub
 - (a) Why has the government abandoned any notion of a community legal services hub?
 - (b) Why was the "Study of options and feasibility for a community legal centre hub" little more than a study of how the government could avoid it?
 - (c) What was the methodology used for calculating the costs of the various options?
 - (d) How does the government expect that separating the Women's Legal Service to its own premises will solve the issues of access that service providers collectively have said is a problem that could be overcome by a hub arrangement?
- (3) (BP4, p271) Accountability Indicators – Why are 2012-13 targets set at 2011-12 levels rather than reflecting the better-than-target outcomes?

Mr Corbell MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) (a) Limited sentencing data, such as penalties handed down by the court, is currently available from the Courts and Tribunal Case Management System (MAX).

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Sentencing data is also held in other systems:

- Case law such as judgments, sentencing remarks and practice directions are available and are hosted on the Supreme Court's website.
- Judgments and practice directions are also hosted on the Magistrate's Court website.

The ACT Sentencing Database will make all of this information searchable and accessible in one location.

- (b) Back capture of historical sentencing data in the ACT will be undertaken. The timeframe for back capture of data will be determined during the discussions with the NSW Judicial Commission and through the work of the project steering committee and project implementation team.
- (c) Although the exact details of the data contained on the database has not been decided, it is envisaged that the sentencing database would, at a minimum, contain the following information:
- case summaries, including statement of facts;
 - the penalty or penalties handed down by the court – including a fine or suspended sentence, and the length of any custodial sentence;
 - any relevant sentencing remarks of the judiciary; and
 - links to relevant pieces of legislation.

The exact information that will be contained on the sentencing database will be agreed by the ACT Government and the NSW Judicial Commission in the implementation of the database itself.

- (2) (a) The Government has not abandoned any notion of a community legal services hub.

My Directorate is working closely with the community legal sector to enhance access to justice.

However, any money spent on bricks and mortar is money not spent on services. This is a particular concern when the services are being delivered to some of the most disadvantaged groups in our community.

The situation in which the CLCs find themselves is the result of many years of the provision of funding, usually by the Commonwealth, where there was no allocation for accommodation.

While the ACT Government recognises the important work done by CLCs, they are not part of the core functions of Government.

There is no currently available option for the establishment of a CLC hub that is affordable in the current financial climate.

- (b) I strongly reject the notion that the "*Study of options and feasibility for a legal services centre hub*" is little more than a study of how the government could avoid it.

My directorate has been working closely with CLCs to assist them to identify their needs. The options paper canvasses the options considered and provides initial indicative cost estimates and an assessment of the availability of options.

- (c) This question has already been responded to in a Question Taken on Notice on 20 June 2012 (Hansard reference: page 354-355) from the Member.
- (d) The Government considers that providing the opportunity for the WLC to move into more appropriate accommodation will assist all the CLCs at Havelock House to better provide community legal services.

While the benefits associated with moving all CLCs to a hub will not be realised in funding more appropriate accommodation for the WLC, as a CLC hub is not possible at this time, this was considered the most appropriate option.

- (3) While the Legislation and Policy Branch continues to perform at a high level and provide excellent results, because of the number of bills and clients to which the accountability indicators relate, small fluctuations in the numbers can result in a large percentage change. For this reason, these accountability indicators have been kept at their present already-high levels.





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Attorney-General

[Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget paper 4, page 267, output class 1 – Justice services]

In relation to : Output 1.4 – Public Prosecutions

- 1) (BP4, p272) Accountability Indicators (Note 1)
 - a) Why is it that the DPP's resources are a factor in not meeting required targets when they were increased in the 2011-12 budget?
 - b) What will change in 2012-13 that will enable the DPP to lift its court timetable rate from the outcome of 36% for 2011-12 to the target of 80%?
 - c) What is the DPP doing to secure better timing of briefs from the AFP?

MR CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

(a) The 2011-12 Budget did not include any specific new initiatives for the DPP. However, the 2011-12 2nd Appropriation provided additional funding for revised wage parameters, including the DPP Work Value Outcome. The 'blitz' on the waiting times in the Supreme Court was also included in the 2011-12 Appropriation Budget papers and provided funding for four (4) additional staff (part year) in 2011-12 for the estimated additional workload of the DPP. This additional funding does not directly impact on the DPP accountability indicator estimated outcomes.

(b) I am advised by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) that it is proactively chasing briefs from the AFP, seeking extension of time from the court for compliance in appropriate cases, and taking steps to address backlogs in the paralegal area of the Office. It should be noted however that the Office has been particularly busy in the last two years with an increased workload in the Supreme Court area, and that this is projected to continue in the new financial year.

(c) I am advised by the ODPP that it is in constant contact both formally and informally with the AFP to address issues concerning the service of briefs.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Attorney-General

[Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget paper 4, page 267, output class 1 – Justice services]

In relation to : Output 1.6 – Electoral services

- (1) In advising the government on the electoral finance reforms passed recently in the Assembly, why did the Commission not seek independent professional advice on matters such as:
 - (a) accounting policy and practices in relation to the requirement to establish a separate ACT electoral bank account;
 - (b) tax implications for donors in the circumstances relating to whether gifts in kind were classed as donations or not; and
 - (c) the discriminatory approach to the status of donors of gifts in kind.
- (2) What information or guidance has the Electoral Commission given to political parties and others to assist them to understand and meet the requirements of the electoral finance reforms?
- (3) What advice has the Electoral Commission given to political parties and others as to whether and, if so, to what extent the Commission will exercise leniency in relation to compliance with the new laws?
- (4) Does the Commission intend to undertake a review of the amended electoral laws after the 2012 election and provide advice and recommendations to government? If no, why? If yes:
 - (a) what is the timeframe; and
 - (b) what independent professional advice will the Commission seek?
- (5) What is the estimated cost of the new on-line system for electoral finance reporting and what is the delivery timeframe?

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By the Attorney General, Simon Corbell MLA

5.7.12

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

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner has advised that it is not his usual practice to seek independent professional advice when providing advice to the Minister. The introduction of electoral finance reforms was a matter of policy for the Government and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. Accordingly, whether there was a need to seek independent professional advice with respect to these issues was a matter for the Government.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner has advised that his office has contacted all registered political parties and known associated entities advising them of the reforms and inviting them to private briefings. At 2 July 2012, briefings had been provided to some parties, including all the parties represented in the Assembly, and briefings have been arranged with other parties. The Commissioner has published a summary of the new provisions and guidelines for the reporting of gifts received on the Elections ACT website and provided links to these documents to parties and associated entities. Additional handbooks and guidelines are being developed as quickly as possible and will be published on the Elections ACT website early in July. The Commissioner's office is also responding to direct requests for advice from parties and others. The Commissioner issued a media release foreshadowing the commencement of the reforms on 29 June 2012.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner has advised that he has not provided specific advice to political parties and others as to what leniency may be exercised in relation to compliance with the new campaign finance laws. The Commissioner has advised that he has adopted the prosecution policy of the Director of Public Prosecutions with respect to the enforcement of offence provisions of the Electoral Act, and that each case will be treated on its merits. The policy discusses many factors that could be considered in determining the measure of leniency that might be exercised, in particular:
 - a. The seriousness, or conversely, the triviality of the alleged offence;
 - b. Whether it is of a "technical" nature only; and
 - c. Whether the defendant may not have known that the conduct in question was an offence, and could not reasonably have been expected to have known.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner has advised that it is intended that the Electoral Commission will review the operation of the amended electoral laws after the 2012 election. The timing of this review and what advice might be sought are yet to be determined. The Electoral Commission typically produces its review of the operation of each election within 12 months of the election.
- (5) The Electoral Commissioner has advised that it is estimated that implementation of an on-line reporting system would cost up to around \$118,000. The system will be implemented in stages. The first stage, a simple on-line facility for reporting the receipt of gifts totalling \$1,000 or more, was in operation on 1 July 2012. A more complex system for the online lodgement and display of receipt of gifts and election and annual returns, and back end information and statistical facilities for the Commission, will be implemented over the coming months.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Attorney-General

Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget paper 4, page 267, output class 1 – Justice services

In relation to : Output 1.7 – Regulatory Services

- (1) Is the progress of the implementation of the working with vulnerable people legislation on track? If no, why and when will it be back on track?
- (2) Has the government re-assessed the number of people in the ACT that ultimately will require to be registered under the scheme? If so, what was the initial estimate and what is it now?

Mr Corbell MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The initial estimate at the development of the policy was approximately 42,000 people. The full extent of people who will be covered will become clearer when the scheme commences.

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6-7-12

Date:

By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Attorney-General

Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget paper 4, page 547 and Statement of Intent

In relation to : Public Trustee for the ACT

- (1) Operating Statement - The estimates operating result for 2011-12 and the budgeted result for 2012-13 and the out years would indicate that the Public Trustee has achieved its goal of not needing to rely on government budget funding, with results substantially exceeding government funding.
- (a) Will the Public Trustee be proposing to the government that it no longer needs to provide budget funding, but continue to pay a tax equivalent (dividend) on surpluses? If no, why?
- (b) Why does the Operating Statement not disclose the dividend to government (NB it is disclosed in the Statement of Cash Flows on p 552)?

Mr Corbell MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

The accepted measure of self-funding by PTACT and indeed most other Public Trustees is to achieve sufficient revenue during a financial year -

- a) to fund PTACT's expenses; and
 b) to repay funding provided by ACT Treasury for Government Payment for Outputs which includes Community Service Obligation funding (CSO) and an amount Government Payment for Outputs (GPO — mandated payments for Insurance and IT).

This means that revenue must exceed expenses by an amount of double the appropriation for GPO funding as PTACT pays 50% of its surplus to ACT Treasury. The CSO component of this in 2010-11 was \$451,000 and the GPO was \$218,000. In that year PTACT achieved sufficient surplus to repay its CSO payment of \$451,000 as it paid a dividend of \$588,276.

In this measure, whilst PTACT has achieved sufficient in 2010-11 to repay CSOs, it has not achieved sufficient to be financially independent of GPO. In 2010-11 PTACT fell short of achieving this by only \$161,448, the closest PTACT has come to achieving this. Whilst PTACT's expenses are controlled, its income is not as easily predictable, given the volatile

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financial markets fluctuations recently experienced. However, full financial independence is seen by PTACT as a prudent strategic aim for both PTACT, the community and government and is being pursued.

PTACT achieved negative returns in 2008-09 and 2009-10 due to the Global Financial Crisis. There have been further recent predictions of similar crises in the years ahead.

Because the nature of PTACT's revenue is difficult to predict, PTACT still requires GPO funding. This funding is also balanced by the agreement that PTACT will pay 50% of its surplus to Treasury. It is also useful to note that PTACT subsidises the cost of its CSOs by approximately 3 to 1. If PTACT were to achieve its aim of financial independence on a consistent basis through business development to increase revenue, it may be appropriate to review the funding arrangement with ACT Treasury. Accordingly, PTACT will not be proposing to Government that it no longer needs Government Payment for Outputs (including CSO funding).

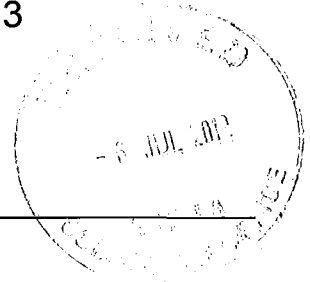
The Operating Statement does not disclose the dividend to Government because it is a book entry that does not affect profit. The dividend to government effectively reduces the equity. Accordingly, it appropriately appears under 'Other Provisions' on the Balance Sheet, under the "Statement of Changes in Equity" and in the "Cashflow Statement".



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Attorney-General

BP 4, p274 – Transport regulation, Road Safety

In relation to : Road safety

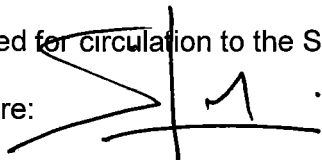
- a) How are the JACS savings (\$22m over the next 4 years) going to impact on the road safety unit?
- b) Is there any new funding for road safety initiatives in this budget?
- c) What are the road safety priorities for the coming year?
- d) What education campaigns is the Government conducting about road safety, and what campaigns will it conduct in the coming year? Over what time period will these campaigns operate?

Mr Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- a) All areas of JACS will be required to identify savings, which have been allocated to output classes consistent with the areas the Government has identified for savings, such as travel, consultancies, printing, publications and stationery, and employee expenses. These savings will be flowed through to each JACS business unit, who will be best placed to identify the specific areas to achieve the savings.
- b) There is no new funding for road safety initiatives in the 2012-13 ACT Budget. Additional road safety funding of \$1 million over four years to 2013-14 was provided as part of the 2010-11 ACT Budget to deliver enhanced road safety awareness campaigns and to develop an electronic crash report form.
- c) Road safety priorities for 2012-13 include:
 - i) addressing impaired driving (e.g. through random roadside alcohol and drug testing and consultation on an alcohol interlock scheme);
 - ii) addressing speed (e.g. through the development of an ACT road safety camera strategy and the installation of a second point to point camera on Athllon Drive);
 - iii) improving the safety of road infrastructure (e.g. through the Road Safety Improvement program) and,

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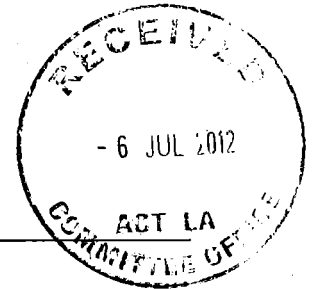
- iv) driver education and awareness (e.g. by inserting a road rules reminder brochure with registration renewal notices and road safety awareness advertising).
- d) The road safety awareness campaigns that will be conducted in 2012-13 will include:
- Speed (50km/h)
 - Speed (40km/h school zones)
 - Drink or Drive
 - Bicycle Lights and Helmets
 - Distraction
 - Share the road
 - Cross border
 - VMS road safety support to ACT Policing

The timings of these campaigns will be aligned with the joint ACT Government/ACT Policing road safety calendar. This arrangement ensures that awareness materials are broadcast to align with targeted ACT Policing enforcement campaigns.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan : To ask the Minister for Community Services

[BP4, p274 – wheelchair accessible taxis

In relation to : the Taxi Subsidy Scheme

- a) When was the eligibility criteria for the taxi subsidy scheme last reviewed?
- b) Please elaborate on how the eligibility criteria is applied, especially given that with increasing numbers of accessible buses, even a person with a severe disability may technically be able to use a bus even though this is very impractical?
- c) What consideration has been given to expanding or refining the criteria to accommodate people who can technically use a bus but for whom that remains very impractical (due to the nature of the disability, lack of accessible bus stops etc)?
- d) What is the 'required standard' for waiting times for taxis and wheelchair accessible taxis?

Minister Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- a) The eligibility criteria for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme was reviewed in June 2012. The essential purpose of the Scheme continues to be the provision of financial assistance to ACT residents with a disability or significant mobility restriction that prevents them from being able to use public or community transport. The Scheme supports social inclusion and economic participation of community members who would otherwise be at risk of social isolation. The Taxi Subsidy Scheme is intended to assist members with their transport needs for essential activities such as attending medical appointments, employment, social activities, and visiting family, but is not intended to meet all transport costs.
- b) To be eligible for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme an applicant must meet the following criteria:
 - Be a permanent resident of the ACT with the exception of Asylum Seekers who must provide evidence of their status from Companion House;
 - Have a severe or profound activity limitation that prevents use of public transport as assessed by a GP or occupational therapist;
 - Not be a member of an interstate Taxi Subsidy Scheme.

The Scheme relies on the assessment of functional mobility by a medical officer who will state that the client may not be able to use public transport for a range of reasons.

- c) The criteria allows for the medical assessment that a person is unable to catch a bus due to mobility restrictions, severe vision impairment, psychological restrictions and severe epilepsy. While in some cases a person could technically use a bus, it is the opinion of the medical officer that to do so could cause be a risk to their wellbeing. Each case is considered on the basis of information provided by the applicant and medical practitioner.
- d) Accredited taxi networks' provide monthly summary sheets on performance against the waiting time standards. The result is the average over the four waiting time standards. Currently, the standards are being met for both standard taxis and Wheelchair Accessible Taxis (WATS).

The standards are:

WATS

All Wheelchair Accessible Taxi hirings (excluding rank hirings) meet agreed benchmarks notably:

- a) Peak period – maximum waiting time < 18 minutes-benchmark 85%
- b) Peak period – maximum waiting time 18<30 minutes- benchmark 95%
- c) All other times period - maximum waiting time < 10 minutes-benchmark 85%
- d) All other times period - maximum waiting time 10<20 minutes-benchmark 95%

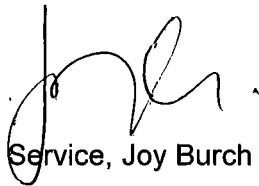
Standard Taxis

Standard Taxi hirings (excluding rank hirings and wheelchair hirings) which meet agreed benchmarks notably:

- a) Peak period – maximum waiting time < 18 minutes-benchmark 85%
- b) Peak period – maximum waiting time 18<30 minutes- benchmark 95%
- c) All other times period - maximum waiting time < 10 minutes-benchmark 85%
- d) All other times period - maximum waiting time 10<20 minutes-benchmark 95%

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By the Minister for Community Service, Joy Burch MLA

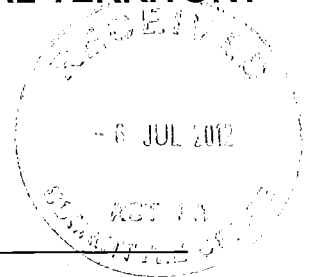
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



AMANDA BRESNAN : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services
[BP4, p110 – CCTV]

In relation to : Bus interchanges and CCTV

- a) Which ACT bus interchanges currently have CCTV and when was this installed?
- b) What plans are there for installing CCTV at the remaining interchanges?

MS GALLAGHER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- a) The Tuggeranong, Woden, Belconnen Community, Westfield and Cohen Street bus interchanges all have ACTION owned CCTV systems installed. All systems, excluding those located in Belconnen were installed in excess of five years ago. The City bus interchange has a CCTV system installed which is owned by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. This system was first installed in 2001.
- b) The government through ACTION is assessing the requirement for and feasibility of installing CCTV at bus interchanges that will contribute to achieving the objectives of the Transport for Canberra Plan 2012-2031.

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Signature *K. Gallagher*

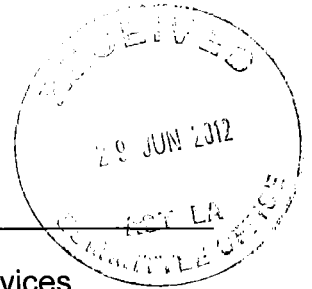
Date: 5.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Budget Paper No.3, page 213]

In relation to : Monaro Highway duplication

- a) What is the timeline for the Monaro Highway duplication?

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

- a) The Monaro Highway duplication project including all landscaping works is currently planned for completion in September 2012, weather permitting.

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Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date:

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA

29.6.12



QON-12/57

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

[Ref: Budget paper 4, page numbers 343 to 346]

In relation to : Full Time Equivalent Staff in Community Services Directorate

1. Could you please provide the estimated staffing outcome for the 2011-12 financial year to date (by FTE), broken down by staff classification for:
 - a) Output 1.1 – Disability Services and Policy
 - b) Output 1.2 – Therapy Services
 - c) Output 2.1 – Child and Family Centre Program
 - d) Output 2.2 – Children's Services
 - e) Output 3.1 – Community Services
 - f) Output 3.2 – Community Affairs
 - g) Output 3.3 – Arts Policy, Advice and Programs
 - h) Output 4.1 – Youth Services
 - i) Output 4.2 – Care and Protection Services

2. Could you please provide the budgeted staffing outcome for 2012-13 and the three forward estimate years (by FTE) broken down by staff classification for:
 - a) Output 1.1 – Disability Services and Policy
 - b) Output 1.2 – Therapy Services
 - c) Output 2.1 – Child and Family Centre Program
 - d) Output 2.2 – Children's Services
 - e) Output 3.1 – Community Services
 - f) Output 3.2 – Community Affairs
 - g) Output 3.3 – Arts Policy, Advice and Programs
 - h) Output 4.1 – Youth Services
 - i) Output 4.2 – Care and Protection Services

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

1. The estimated staffing outcome for 2011-12 by FTE and staff classification is shown on the table below:

	SES	Disability Service Officers	Health Professional Officers	Senior Officers	Technical Officers	Youth Workers	Administrative Service Officers	TOTAL
Output 1.1	6	241	5	44	-	-	61	357
Output 1.2	1	-	83	7	7	-	16	114
Output 2.1	-	-	27	3	-	-	7	37
Output 2.2	-	-	10	15	-	-	14	39
Output 3.1	-	-	-	2	-	-	16	19
Output 3.2	1	-	-	14	-	-	13	28
Output 3.3	1	-	-	7	-	-	10	18
Output 4.1	2	-	24	20	-	69	19	135
Output 4.2	4	-	95	39	-	-	61	198

Note: FTE and staff classification (including SES) in the table above for each Output includes a distribution of centralised corporate support staff (overheads).

2. The budgeted staffing outcome for 2012-13 and the three forward estimate years by FTE is shown on the table below:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Output 1.1 – Disability Services and Policy	326	326	325	324
Output 1.2 – Therapy Services	108	107	101	101
Output 2.1 – Child and Family Centre Program	37	37	29	29
Output 2.2 – Children's Services	42	40	31	30
Output 3.1 – Community Services	19	16	16	15
Output 3.2 – Community Affairs	28	27	27	27
Output 3.3 – Arts Policy, Advice and Programs	16	16	16	16
Output 4.1 – Youth Services	131	120	120	119
Output 4.2 – Care and Protection Services	225	224	224	224
Total	932	913	889	885

Note: FTEs in the table above for each Output includes a distribution of centralised corporate support staff (overheads).

Please note that the savings have been allocated in the forward years based on the estimated proportions described in the Budget Papers (BP3 page 135). As the Directorate is reviewing the specifics around the delivery of the savings in 2012-13, a breakdown by staff classification cannot be provided at this point.

The detail of savings and staff classification for the outyears is difficult to specify as they will be impacted by future budget deliberations.

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Date:

By the Minister for Community Services, Joy Burch MLA,



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Community Services Directorate, Budget Paper 4, page 372

In relation to: Disability and Therapy Services revenue

On Page 372 of Budget Paper 4 the Total Revenue for Disability and Therapy Services increases by around 1% in each of the next four years, with the exception of 2014-15, where it increases by 2.3%. Given the increased demand for services, how are you going to be able to meet the needs of the disability sector, given that your ongoing revenue is increasing by less than CPI?

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

In 2011-12, Disability ACT received \$10.31 million over four years to address demand for disability services, including 16 additional accommodation places.

Disability ACT will seek to meet increased demand for services through the development and implementation of innovative, cost effective support models. One example is the Living in Networked Communities (LINC) project, which provides people with disability improved opportunities to live meaningful lives within the community, whilst also delivering a more cost effective support model.

Disability ACT is also exploring a "Homeshare" model to allow for the coordination of up to 15 accommodation places per annum. This model would deliver more cost effective support by enabling people with low to medium support needs to reside with a flat mate who would provide some general living assistance.

The Government has committed \$2.948 million over three years from 2013-14 for dual occupancy support models. This type of model will assist people who currently live in single tenancy arrangements with a more financially sustainable level of support, enabling Disability ACT to meet greater levels of unmet need.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

13-7-12 Date:

By the Minister for Community Services, Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



AMANDA BRESNAN: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Community Services Directorate, Budget Paper 4, page 347

In relation to: Demand from school leaver's with disabilities

With regards to the accountability indicators for Disability Services on page 347 of Budget Paper 4, the 2012-13 targets for accountability indicators (b) and (c) have been increased due to the higher demand on services by school leaver's who have a need for support. Given this increased need, why haven't the indicators for accommodation support, respite centre based and respite in own home indicators (indicator (a) (d) and (e)) also increased?

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

The higher output targets for community support and community access over other types of support reflect the anticipated increase in demand for these types of services from school leavers in 2012-13.

Accountability indicators for accommodation support, centre based respite and in home respite have not been changed as demand from school leavers is not expected to flow through to these type of services in 2012-13.

Targets are amended when the trend analysis over more than one year demonstrates the need to amend targets.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Handwritten signature of Joy Burch, with the date "10.7.12" written next to it.

Date:

By the Minister for Community Services, Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Community Services Directorate, Budget Paper 4, page 358

In relation to: Taxi Subsidy scheme

1. There are three line items on page 358 of Budget Paper 4 which refer to the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. What are each of these line items specifically in relation to and what do they mean?
2. What progress has been made on the electronic smart card for taxi subsidies?
And when the model be operational?

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

1. The line items refer to the Taxi Subsidy Scheme Electronic Smartcard Project referred to in question 2.

The movement between years reflects the funding being rolled over from 2011-12 to 2012-13. The movement of \$300,000 from the bottom of page 358 to the top of page 358 is a technical adjustment, which records the capital expenditure in the Controlled appropriation instead of the Territorial appropriation.

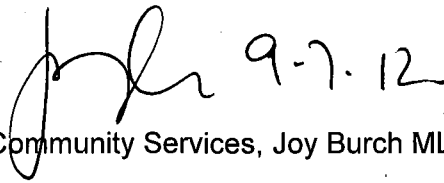
2. The Community Services Directorate commenced work on the Smartcard Project with the Shared Services Information Communication Technology (ICT) team early in 2011-2012. A project manager developed comprehensive Business Requirement Specifications and a Business Case, following research into the processes and systems used in other jurisdictions. A steering group comprising staff from the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, Shared Services ICT, TAMSD Transport Regulation, industry representatives and a representative from the People with a Disability group was formed to provide advice on the project.

In May 2012, a formal Industry Consultation was advertised in The Canberra Times and The Australian, inviting industry comment on the Statement of Requirements for the replacement of taxi vouchers in the ACT. As a result of the feedback received from the Industry Consultation, an Open Tender process will be initiated in the near future.

The commencement date of the operational model will be determined on the basis of the responses received in the Open Tender process.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Handwritten signature of Joy Burch, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'B' followed by the date '9.7.12'.

Date:

By the Minister for Community Services, Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Attorney-General

Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget Paper 4, page 278

In relation to: Wheelchair Accessible Taxis

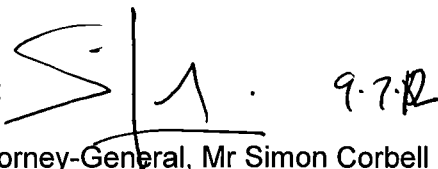
1. On page 278 of Budget Paper 4 there is a reference to a roller over of Wheelchair Accessible Taxis improvements. What does the money relate to exactly?
2. What has been the outcome for the ACT Government needing to re-tender for the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi centralised booking system? Who has won the tender and for what price?
3. Does the ACT Government retain the commitment made by the previous Chief Minister, Mr Stanhope, that if Wheelchair Accessible Taxi services did not improve within 2 years of changes being introduced it would consider implementing a salaried drivers model? (See page 1049 Hansard of 30 March 2011)

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

1. The money relates to the appropriated funds for the provision of a Wheelchair Taxi Centralised Booking Service (WCBS). As procurement of a WCBS has been delayed due to the need to re-tender for the service, the rollover of unspent 2011-12 funds appropriated for a WCBS was approved through the 2012-13 budget process. This will assist in meeting costs of the service in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.
2. An Evaluation Report to award the contract for the WCBS has been completed. Contract negotiations with the preferred tenderer have not yet been concluded. Details will be announced following signing of a contract.
3. The Government retains the commitment made by the previous Chief Minister to deliver improvements to wheelchair accessible taxi performance and in the event that the WCBS does not improve services for wheelchair users, the Government will consider other approaches to the provision of transport services for wheelchair users, including options involving a higher degree of government management of these services.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

 9.7.12

Date:

By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Brendan Smyth: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

[Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, BP3, page number 262]

In relation to Constitution Avenue:

1. Why does the ACT Government describe the payment of \$42 million to the Territory to redevelop Constitution Avenue as a 'gift'.
2. Why did you say, in your media release of 3 April 2012, that the 'Australian Government has gifted \$42 million to the ACT Government for the upgrade of Constitution Avenue' when these funds were required to be paid to the Territory under the terms of the 2007 agreement between the ACT Government and the Federal Government.
3. Why did the Federal Government refer to the payment of these funds in formal Budget papers as a 'gift' to the national capital from the Federal Government for the Centenary of Canberra.
4. Did the ACT Government object to the description of these funds as a 'gift'.
5. Has the Federal Government provided any acknowledgement to the Territory of the 2007 agreement between the ACT Government and the Federal Government relating to the Territory giving the Federal Government control over various roads in return for the Federal Government funding the redevelopment of Constitution Avenue.

Katy Gallagher : The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:-

1. The Member is referred to the 2011-12 Commonwealth Budget Paper No. 2, Page 289; and the 2012-13 Commonwealth Budget Paper No. 3, Table 2.9, Page 90. Funding from the Commonwealth for Constitution Avenue and the National Arboretum Canberra are described as "*Centenary of Canberra 2013 – A gift to the national capital*".
2. Please refer to the response to Question 1 above.
3. This is a question for the Federal Government.

4. The ACT Government welcomes the funding provided by the Commonwealth.
5. The Federal Government has not advised the ACT Government that it has rescinded the 2007 Agreement.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date:

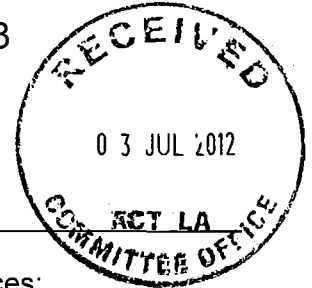
By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher

3.7.12



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services:

[Ref: Territory and Municipal Services, BP4, page number 103, Output1.2]

In relation to Russell Drive:

1. When did the National Capital Authority have consultations with the Territory prior to the decision to close the intersection of Russell Drive and Constitution Avenue.
2. What concerns were raised by the Authority in those consultations.
3. What is the nature of the concern about traffic turning from Morshead Drive into Russell Drive.
4. What was the response of the ACT Government to the decision to close Russell Drive.
5. In particular, what consideration was given to traffic, other than traffic turning from Morshead Drive, moving through the Russell area onto Constitution Avenue.
6. When will the Russell Drive intersection re-open.

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

1. On 17 November 2011, the National Capital Authority (NCA) wrote to the Government advising of the closure of Russell Drive. This advice followed a series of meetings with officers of Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) who had been briefed on the proposed closure.
2. Planning issues associated with Russell and the key position it occupies in Walter Burley Griffins national triangle.
3. The capacity of Morshead Drive and access to/from the airport.
4. The ACT Government shared the NCA's view that it was important to protect the capacity of Morshead Drive.
5. The NCA commissioned a series of traffic studies which have investigated the impact of changes to traffic movements and new developments between Anzac Parade and Russell. These studies have found that the traffic network will operate to acceptable standards.
6. This is a matter for the NCA to determine.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date:

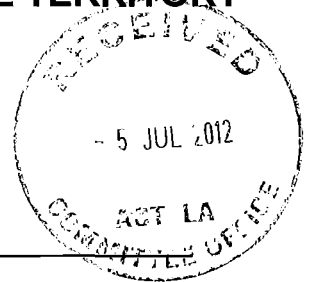
2.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Mr Brendan Smyth MLA : To ask the Attorney-General

[Ref: Justice and Community Safety, BP4, page number 268, output class 1.7]

1. What is the process for working with any entity or an organisation with respect to safety on work sites; is there a graduated series of actions, such as providing information; education; providing support, enforcing action.
2. Do WorkSafe ACT staff make regular visits to work sites to keep their knowledge of people and issues up to date.
3. Are there situations where a prohibition notice could be issued without any prior advice or warning from WorkSafe ACT and, if so, what are these situations.
4. What procedure is followed by WorkSafe ACT when commercial businesses are involved and people's livelihoods are at stake.
5. How are prohibition notices removed and how do WorkSafe ACT staff work with organisations to resolve any issues to facilitate the removal of prohibition notices.

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

1. The process for working with a business or undertaking with respect to safety on work sites will depend on the circumstances in each case.

If WorkSafe ACT is undertaking a proactive inspection program, its inspectors will seek to determine the level of compliance by a targeted business or undertaking with its duties under the relevant legislation and to engage and educate the business in relation to requirements of the relevant laws. If any non-compliance is detected, the inspector has a range of options open to them depending on the seriousness of the non-compliance.

If a non-compliance is relatively minor in nature and the business or undertaking is willing to work cooperatively with the inspector to address the issue, the inspector may issue a Record of Inspection, which sets out the issue/s and actions required and is signed by both the inspector and the business as an agreement to take corrective action within an agreed timeframe.

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Signature:

 5.7.12

Date:

By the Attorney-General, Simon Corbell MLA

If the inspector is not convinced that the business will act to address the issue/s in a timely way, the inspector may issue an Improvement Notice which requires corrective actions to be taken within a specified timeframe.

The business can in both these cases seek an extension of time to address the issue/s if needed.

If however, the inspector finds an immediate risk to health and safety, they would usually issue a Prohibition Notice, prohibiting the activity that is posing the immediate risk until the risk is controlled or eliminated. Once the risk is controlled or eliminated to the inspector's satisfaction, the notice can be lifted

In all cases, inspectors seek to educate and assist a business or undertaking to understand the requirements of the law and actions that are needed to comply.

2. WorkSafe ACT undertakes reactive inspections and Planned or Proactive Inspection Programs. The majority of its work is in relation to responding to incidents and complaints. WorkSafe ACT maintains data on its visits and these are reflected in its Annual Report.
3. The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* provides that where an inspector reasonably believes that an activity:
 - is occurring at a workplace that involves, or will involve, a serious risk to the health or safety of a person emanating from an immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard; or
 - may occur at a workplace that, if it occurs, will involve a serious risk to the health or safety of a person emanating from an immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard;

the inspector may give a person who has control over the activity a direction prohibiting the carrying on of the activity, or the carrying on of the activity in a specified way, until an inspector is satisfied that the matters that give or will give rise to the risk have been remedied. The direction may be given orally, but must be confirmed by written notice (a Prohibition Notice) issued to the person as soon as practicable.

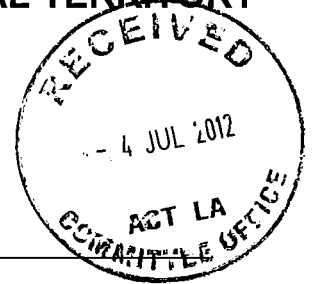
Therefore, depending on the circumstances of any particular case, an inspector might decide to issue a direction prohibiting an activity without prior warning from WorkSafe ACT, but the inspector would advise the person of this orally and WorkSafe ACT would expect the inspector to assist the person to understand what they were required to do to address the immediate risk to allow the prohibition to be lifted in a timely way.

4. WorkSafe ACT focuses on assisting duty holders to meet their obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to take all reasonably practicable steps to protect workers and others from risks to their health and safety arising from the activities of the business or undertaking. WorkSafe ACT is mindful of possible impacts on business of a rigid approach to compliance and enforcement but it is also cognisant of the possible impact of a failure by a business to meet its duty. Where possible, a balance is sought that will ensure appropriate safety outcomes whilst allowing the business time to make any necessary improvements. However, there may be occasions where an urgent need for improvements in safety (compliance) will take precedence over immediate business continuity.
5. A Prohibition Notice will be lifted once an inspector is satisfied that the risks/matters that gave rise to the notice have been remedied by the duty holder. In all cases, inspectors seek to educate and assist a duty holder to understand the requirements of the law and actions that are needed to comply.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 231]

In relation to Strategic Objective 6 (a):

1. How will the analysis of business formation through analyzing ABS statistics provide an indication of 'measurable diversification' of the ACT's private sector?
2. According to ABS Bulletin 8165.0, why does the ACT have the lowest rate of business survival of all jurisdictions?
3. What action is the ACT Government taking to improve the survival rate of smaller businesses?
4. How will the analysis of these statistics provide an insight into the growth of the private sector?
5. If the statistics from the ABS cannot assist in this analysis, where will the data be obtained to facilitate this analysis?

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

1. There are a range of ABS business statistics that measure elements of private sector diversification.
2. As detailed in the explanatory notes to ABS Catalogue 8165.0, a business exit event does not necessarily equate to a business "failure". There may be a number of other reasons why a business exit event has occurred, including events relating to selling a business (e.g. due to an owner/operator retiring), and events relating to changes in a business's structure (e.g. due to merger or takeover activities), etc. Such events may result in one or more business exit events occurring, and in some cases, no net loss of businesses.
3. The ACT Government supports a suite of business programs to assist businesses from start-up through to growth phases. The Government's business advisory service, Canberra BusinessPoint, continues to service record numbers of clients in the areas of business planning, business 101 workshops, business viability diagnostics and business mentoring.

4. ABS data is an important measure of trend activity. Catalogue 8165.0 is one of a number of data series the Government monitors to assess private sector business activity.
5. See 4 above.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 4.7.12

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA : To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, Budget paper 4, page number 244]

In relation to Innovation:

1. What funding has been contributed by the ACT Government to the Canberra Business Development Fund to date?
2. What analysis of the outcomes from this Fund has been undertaken and what outcomes have been achieved?
3. What return has been achieved for the ACT in terms of new entities, employment, value added and exports?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. \$4 million since 1997. The 2012-13 Budget has committed a further \$500,000 for payment in 2012-13 which will be matched by the Hindmarsh Group.
2. The Canberra Business Development Fund's (CBDF) managers, Australian Capital Ventures Limited, conducted a financial leverage analysis of the Fund in 2011-12. Tracking investee company financing, it showed that for each \$1 invested by the Fund \$31.29 was secured through private co-investment and \$5.57 was secured through Commonwealth Grants.
3. To date, the impact of the \$4 million ACT Government investment into the CBDF has been amplified by two factors; the concurrent equivalent investment by the Hindmarsh Group and the success of investee companies in obtaining further funding from private sources and development funding through Commonwealth Government programs. (Aggregate amounts are provided below.)

The CBDF model has a number of significant secondary benefits:

- Co-contribution – the funds are based on the principle of co-contribution. Any money contributed by Government is at least matched by the private sector investor, doubling the funds available for investment.
- Injection of management skills –one of the greatest benefits to the investee company is the injection of management skills that accompanies the investment. Companies at this point in their growth cycle often require professional and more detached management with accompanied equity investment.
- Quality employment growth – to date CBDF investments have created more than 70 new jobs in Canberra, most of which are highly skilled positions within wealth creating businesses and sectors.
- Leverage of private sector capital – these investments leverage additional private sector capital into the investee companies.



- Leverage of Commonwealth funds & grants – ACT companies that have CBDF investments have invariably been very successful in accessing Commonwealth funding and grants programs.

CBDF's oversight and support of its investee companies has seen the \$8 million under management generate a further \$150.2 million from private and Commonwealth sources (\$22.7 million Commonwealth, \$127.5 million other sources).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 4.7.12

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP3, page number 119]

In relation to funding of programs:

1. How will the funding of \$5 million be distributed across the programs set out in the Business Development Strategy in each of the four years.
2. What evaluation has been undertaken of the various programs to determine if they should continue to be supported and what is the outcome of these evaluations.

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

1. The following table illustrates how the \$5 million will be distributed across strategic initiatives set out in the Business Development Strategy:

Strategic Initiatives	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Reducing Red Tape Panel & Government Navigator Program (new)	0.180	0.180	-	-	0.360
Social Media Based Buy Local Campaign (new)	0.010	0.010	-	-	0.020
ACT Technology Business Incubator Scoping Study (new)	0.050	-	-	-	0.050
My Digital City Innovation Prize (new)	0.100	0.100	0.100	-	0.300
CollabIT (Continuation & Enhanced)	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.400
Innovation Connect (Grant Program) funding base increase (enhanced)	0.080	0.130	0.120	0.500	0.830
Innovation Connect (Clean Tech Development Stream) (new)	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.600
Innovation Connect (Innovation Infrastructure Leverage Fund) (new)	0.300	0.300	-	-	0.600
ScreenACT (Continuation & Enhanced)	0.285	0.285	0.285	-	0.855
Strategic Investment Facilitation (Continuation & Enhanced)	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.250	0.985
TOTAL	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	5.0

2. The following provides information on various reviews that have been undertaken and the outcomes of those reviews:

Innovation Connect Grant Program – G J Wall & Associates

The Review strongly supported the extension of the program. It noted the value in the ACT Government maintaining a grant program of this type to effectively interact with and understand the needs of the commercialisation component of the private sector.

Canberra BusinessPoint Review – GJ Wall & Associates

The Review found Canberra BusinessPoint is a professionally delivered service. The consultants rated the training programs, seminars and open events highly and also noted strong personal endorsement from clients who have used various elements of the service. The recommendations from the Review have been incorporated in the KPIs for the delivery of the Canberra BusinessPoint service.

Lighthouse Review – Howard & Associates

The Review found that the demand for Lighthouse services is strong, particularly from individual entrepreneurs and local industry. Lighthouse provides unique innovation awareness, advisory and mentoring service for potential entrepreneurial start-ups. The Review found that the major achievements of Lighthouse have been in nurturing and guiding "entrepreneurial" start-ups—small businesses that grow slowly but may nonetheless grow into sustainable enterprises. It was also found that Lighthouse has had a major impact in supporting businesses eligible for support under the Micro Credit Loan Program. Many of these businesses move into the entrepreneurial start-up category.

ScreenACT Review – University of Canberra

ScreenACT, as delivered by the Canberra Business Council under an outsourcing arrangement, was reviewed towards the end of its first three year contract. The review concluded that the outsourcing arrangement was delivering an efficient and effective service to the sector and that it was providing the Government with excellent value for money. It also noted ScreenACT had played a significant role in bringing the industry together as a cohesive sector, that stakeholder feedback on ScreenACT was positive and recommended that funding for ScreenACT be increased.

Skilled and Business Migration Program Review - Internal Audit

The audit of the Skilled and Business Migration (SBM) Program found that the program has a robust and rigorous delivery framework which is underpinned by clearly articulated guidelines and an embedded culture of compliance.

ACT Exporter's Network Review

This program is currently under review by Bayliss and Associates. The review is expected to be completed in August 2012.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



Date: 4.7.2012

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 231]

In relation to Strategic Objective 6 (b):

1. Is the analysis of changes in exports of goods and services a proxy for the growth of the private sector in the ACT.
2. If, not what measure is there of the growth of the private sector in terms of employment, value of output, capital investment or any other relevant parameters.

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

1. Yes, it is one proxy measure of the international competitiveness of an economy.
2. See above. The measures referred in part two of the question, and others, are monitored by the Government as measures of private growth and diversification.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 4.7.12

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP3, page number 121]

In relation to the Indigenous Business Development:

1. What action will be taken to encourage the development of new indigenous businesses.
2. Will action include such actions as funding, mentoring or concessions for leases or other matters be considered.
3. What information of current indigenous businesses operating in the ACT is available.
4. In what industries are these businesses involved and what employment do they generate.
5. What action will be taken to encourage existing indigenous businesses to expand their activities.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. In conjunction with the Elected Body, support for Indigenous enterprise development will be established to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to start or grow their own businesses, and to develop business acumen and business confidence.
2. \$75k from existing resources has been committed to establishing this initiative in 2012-13 with a further \$75k across the following three out years.

The Government has identified some possible delivery path lines:

- micro credit loans-based scheme similar to the successful Women and Micro Credit Program currently delivered by Lighthouse Innovation Centre; and
- a program stream of Canberra BusinessPoint to provide advisory and mentoring support for Indigenous business start-ups.

These models and others will be explored with the Elected Body.

Answers to questions 3, 4, and 5:

E12-191

Information of indigenous businesses operating throughout Australia can be obtained from Indigenous Business Australia. This information also includes the type of industry the businesses are involved in.

The recently announced business development strategy for the ACT, "Growth, Diversification and Jobs" provides an Indigenous Enterprise Development initiative which will assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to start or grow their own businesses, and to develop business acumen and business confidence.

Discussions have commenced between Officials from the Economic Development Directorate and representatives of the Elected Body regarding the above.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 3.7.12

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 233, Output 1.2]

In relation to Innovation:

1. What relationships exist between the ACT Government and the various stakeholders in the ACT's innovation system?
2. What funding is provided from all stakeholders to support the innovation system?
3. Is there any concern from people and entities seeking capital for innovation that funds are either hard to obtain or cannot be obtained and, if so, what actions are the various local stakeholders doing to resolve this concern?
4. Has there been any analysis of outcomes achieved from collaboration to this point in encouraging innovation and commercial development in the ACT and, if so, what is the outcome of this analysis?

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

1. Relationships between the ACT Government and stakeholders in the ACT's innovation system include:

Universities

- ANU - through its partnership with NICTA, the Discovery Translation Fund and ANU Connect Ventures
- University of Canberra - through its relationship with NICTA

Research organisations

- NICTA
- CSIRO - through the Plant Phenomics Centre and the CSIRO Discovery

Commercialisation entities

- Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre and Epicorp
- Capital Angels

Business organisations

- Australian Information Industry Association for CollabIT
- Canberra Business Council's Innovation Taskforce
- Canberra BusinessPoint
- ACTRCCI
- ScreenACT
- ACT Exporter's Network
- firms involved in the ICon and TCon programs

Government agencies

- Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) for the NBN
 - AusIndustry for its funding programs including Commercialisation Australia
 - Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) for national innovation policy issues
 - Questacon for science communication
 - ACT Government agencies, including Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) on clean technology and Health on e-health
2. All stakeholders contribute either cash or in-kind to support the innovation system.
 3. There have been no representations of this nature.
 4. The most recent study of the ACT's innovation System was conducted in 2008. The report of that study, "Innovation, Creativity and Leadership" is available at http://www.business.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/117827/Innovation_Report.pdf

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 4.7.12

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 233, Output Class 1.2]

In relation to the proposed manufacturing centre:

1. What notice did the ACT Government have of the announcement by the Federal Government, in the 2012-13 Federal Budget, that a \$30 million Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre would be established in Canberra?
2. Where will this Centre be located within Canberra?
3. What relationship will there be between the Centre and ACT Government agencies?
4. What relationship will there be between the Centre and the private sector in the ACT?
5. Will the ACT be required to commit any capital and/or recurrent funding to support the establishment or the operations of this Centre?
6. Will the ACT be required to provide any other concessions or other assistance to facilitate this Centre?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

- 1 – 4. The ACT Government welcomes the announcement by the Federal Government of the establishment of the Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre. The location of the Centre is yet to be decided. The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) is initiating a consultation process which will include a public consultation. The Prime Minister's Taskforce on Manufacturing is due to report to the Australian Government soon providing advice on strategies and initiatives to support Australian manufacturing. The report is to include a high-level roadmap for the range of manufacturing sectors. The roadmap will be developed by co-ordinating advice and input from existing advisory bodies and stakeholders. It is likely that the Taskforce's Report will include recommendations in relation to the establishment of the proposed Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre.

5. No.

6. No.

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Date: 4.7.12

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 233, Output 1.2]

In relation to the ACT's private sector:

1. Why has it taken 10 years since the *Economic White Paper*, with its statements such as '[the ACT Government will be] unashamedly pro-business' for the ACT Government to discover the critical role of the private sector.
2. What confidence can the private sector have if the ACT Government has been so tardy in recognising the key role of the private sector to this point.
3. How will the ACT Government reverse the well established trend for the relatively stronger growth of the ACT's public sector and the relative decline of the ACT's private sector.

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

1. The ACT Government has always supported the role of the private sector in the ACT economy. The ACT Government has played a critical role in private sector development over the last decade, through both business programs and through prudent fiscal management.
2. The premise of the question is wrong. The ACT Government and the ACT private sector work closely and effectively on economic development.
3. The growth of the public sector in the ACT over the past decade, particularly at the Commonwealth level, is welcomed by the ACT Government. The private sector has also grown significantly during this period.

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Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Barr".

Date: 4.7.12

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH: To ask the Chief Minister:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 233, Output 1.2]

In relation to the capital region:

1. What actions are being undertaken to enhance the economic development of the capital region.
2. What collaboration is evident from surrounding local governments, private sector organisations and industry to reinforce business development strategies and action in the region.
3. What analysis has been undertaken of the flow of goods and services between the ACT and the surrounding region and what are the industries which are involved in this trade.

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

1. The ACT-NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration (the MoU), signed by the ACT Chief Minister and the NSW Premier in December 2011 reflects a new era of regional engagement. The MoU details our shared vision for the region and also specifies some areas for immediate work including the pursuit of regional economic opportunities.
2. Based on the first priority of the MoU, the ACT, NSW and Commonwealth Government have commenced the development of the Greater Capital Region Strategy. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees of the ACT, Southern Inland and Far South Coast. The Strategy will focus on the development of an agreed strategic regional direction statement and the identification of opportunities to maximise economic development across the Great Capital Region.

The ACT Government has always been receptive to the participation of nearby-region firms and organisations in business programs. The ACT Government's engagement with Australian Government program delivery partners such as Austrade, AusIndustry, Enterprise Connect and Commercialisation Australia have been at a regional level.

3. In 2008 the ACT Government commissioned a report – 'The ACT and its region: economic relationships and key drivers of economic group'. Whilst it did not go to the level of detail on the flow of goods and services between the ACT and the surrounding region, the report findings will be incorporated into development of the Greater Capital Region Strategy. In addition, CMCD is planning to undertake further analysis of the 2011 Census data during this financial year.

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Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: 5.7.12

By the Chief Minister, Ms Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page numbers 232 – 234]

In relation to structure of Directorate:

1. Why has the structure of outputs and the functions allocated to each output been changed in this year's Budget papers.
2. What action can be taken to enable a meaningful comparative analysis to be made of current and potential resource use across the Directorate.
3. As an alternative, why have the staff and financial statistics from the 2011 Budget not been adjusted to enable useful comparisons and analysis to be made.

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

1. The structure of EDD's outputs and the functions allocated to each output were changed in the 2012-13 Budget to improve transparency of the Directorate's outputs, functions and resource allocation.

The Directorate created a new discrete output for Tourism in response to comments raised at the 2011-12 Estimates Committee hearings. The disaggregation of Land Policy and Infrastructure Delivery into two discrete outputs (i.e. Economic Development Policy and Land Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery) was intended to improve the transparency of resource allocation and to better align with the Directorate's organisational and accountability structure.

2. As noted above, the Directorate created two new outputs in 2012-13 to improve the transparency of EDD's outputs, functions and resource allocation. The functions in output 1.2 and output 1.4 have not changed in the 2012-13 Budget. The functions of output 1.1 were disaggregated in 2012-13 into output 1.1 and 1.6 – a meaningful comparison can be made by consolidating 2012-13 resourcing for these two outputs. Similarly, output 1.3 was disaggregated in 2012-13 into outputs 1.3 and 1.5 – consolidation of resourcing of these two outputs will also allow a meaningful comparison of resourcing between budgets.

E12-196

3. The staff (FTE) resources for the Directorate have been disclosed at the Directorate level in the 2012-13 Budget, consistent with the previous budget. The financial statistics in the previous and new output structure have been disclosed in the 2012-13 Budget consistent with the Treasury Directorate's budget guidelines.

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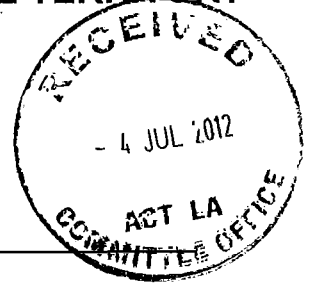
Date: 4. 7. 12

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 233, output class 1.3]

In relation to international tourists:

1. What is the ACT's strategy for encouraging the growth of tourists visiting from China.
2. What is the ACT's strategy for encouraging the growth of tourists visiting from Indonesia.
3. What is the ACT's strategy for encouraging the growth of tourists visiting from India.

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

1. For the year ending March 2012, the ACT recorded 162,190 international visitors. The international market currently makes up 4.2% of the ACT's total tourist visitation.

China is currently the ACT's second largest international source market, with 17,390 visitors coming in the year ending March 2012 (a 10.7% share). Visitation to the ACT out of China increased by 13.4% on the previous year. Nationally, visitation from the Chinese market grew by 14.6% during the corresponding period.

It must be noted that Tourism Australia has international marketing responsibility, however Australian Capital Tourism actively pursues opportunities to engage international markets.

In 2011-12 Australian Capital Tourism entered into a formal partnership with the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC). The partnership between Australian Capital Tourism and ATEC provided an efficient means of promoting Canberra to a number of key international markets through trade events such as the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE). Through this event key Asian market trade representatives are provided with information on Canberra.

Australian Capital Tourism is supporting a national project through the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse to have a range of ACT tourism experiences and events translated into Mandarin. This project will commence in mid 2013.

Australian Capital Tourism is also working with ATEC to host workshops in the ACT to help tourism operators understand the international market place (specifically China).

2. The ACT is not specifically targeting Indonesia. Indonesia is currently a 2.7% share of our international visitation.
3. The ACT is not specifically targeting India. India is currently 3.7% share of our international visitation.

NOTE

With the Canberra International Airport due to be ready for international flights by March 2013, the ACT Government is focusing on leveraging the business, tourism and community benefits that will flow from direct international services.

New Zealand is the most likely market for initial international direct services. More than 1.1 million New Zealanders visit Australia each year, making them this country's biggest source of overseas visitors.

The ACT Government has established an Aviation Taskforce to provide a coordinated and cooperative approach to attracting direct international flights to and from Canberra.

The taskforce will work towards putting a case to airlines to commence direct flights from Canberra to New Zealand in the first instance.

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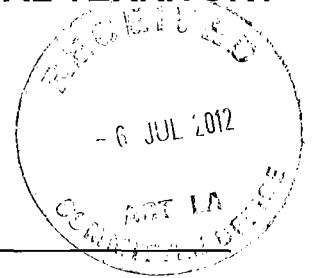
Date: 4.7.12

By the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 233, output class 1.3]

In relation to hotel accommodation:

1. What is the outlook for the supply of and demand for hotel beds in Canberra.
2. What is the outlook for room occupancy rates in Canberra.
3. What new hotels are being planned for Canberra, to what standard will these hotels be designed and how many beds will become available.

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

1. Latest Accommodation Data for the ACT (*Source: Survey of Tourist Accommodation, Australian Bureau of Statistics, December 2011*):
 - No. of Establishments (15+ rooms): 49
 - Guest Rooms Available: 4,676

The outlook is covered in the answers to Question 2 and Question 3.

2. Current Room Occupancy Rate:
 - December Quarter 2011: 72.1%
 - Year Ending December 2011: 73.2%

According to the Deloitte Access Economics Tourism and Hotel Market Outlook for Quarter 1 2012:

"the Canberra market faces some softening in 2012, with occupancy rates declining from 73% at the end of 2011 to 70% mid 2012. However, the relatively high share of business travellers in total visitors to Canberra provides the market with some resilience over the longer term. After the return to growth, Canberra occupancy rates are expected to rebound, rising almost five percentage points to 75% in 2014. Limited expectations of future growth in capacity – and indeed the loss of some capacity as some older hotels are demolished to make way for mixed use or fully residential developments – are contributing to this. Growth in room occupancy rates combined with an increase in room rates mean that yields are forecast to grow moderately in Canberra over the forecast period, by 16% over three years".

3. The release of land for tourist accommodation is a priority for the ACT Government. Plans for new accommodation and types are listed below:

- Exhibition Park Corporation has selected a preferred tenderer for its low-cost tourist accommodation development for Block 799 at Exhibition Park In Canberra (EPIC).
- A site in Giles Street (Blk 5 Section 18) Griffith was sold in 2009. This site contains 90 serviced apartments and is due for completion in late 2012.
- A site in Braybrooke Street (Blk 8 Section 85) Bruce, sold in 2011 required the developer to construct tourist accommodation with a minimum a 2,500 sqm.
- A 3.4 ha site in Antill Street, (Blk 3 Section 95) Watson was sold in January 2012 for the purpose of low cost accommodation for students on school excursion and sporting groups visiting the ACT.
- The Best Weston Motel in Greenway has applied for the direct sale of land to add up to 100 additional rooms.
- A new Nishi Hotel is being built on the first two floors of the Nishi residential building. It is due to open in 2012.

Future Releases

- The land immediately south of the Sydney Building in Civic has been earmarked for a hotel for some years. This site is being repackaged and will be offered to the market in early 2013.
- A 1.5 hectare site in (Blk 14 Section 64) Lyneham, located behind the Tennis Centre, has been identified for release in 2012-13 for tourist accommodation.
- One hectare of land in Teesdale Street, Stirling (Block 92 Section 24) is being prepared for release in 2013-14. This site permits tourist accommodation.
- Infrastructure planning is underway at Stromlo Forest Park to allow the sub-leasing of a site for low cost tourist accommodation.
- Discussions are underway with the private sector regarding the release of land in 2013 for a hotel in the Gungahlin Town Centre.

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Signature: *Andrew Barr*

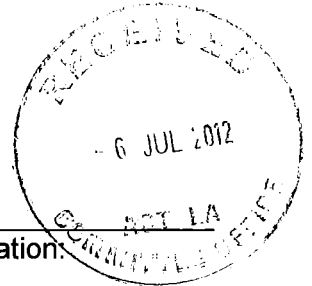
Date: *4 July 12*

By the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation:

[Ref: Economic Development, BP4, page number 233, output class 1.3]

In relation to the annual Folk Festival:

1. Does the ACT Government consider the annual Folk Festival to be a valuable and appropriate event in the ACT's calendar of events.
2. Did the organisers of the 2012 Folk Festival approach the ACT Government in relation to costs imposed by the ACT Government on such events.
3. If not, did the ACT Government initiate any discussions with the organisers of the 2012 Folk Festival over concerns about cost imposts placed on the Festival.
4. Is the ACT Government aware of any 'debatable Government compliance issues' which were identified by the organisers of the 2012 Folk Festival.
5. If so, what were these issues and what response did the Government provide.
6. What action – if any – is possible by the ACT Government to respond to the concerns from the Folk Festival organisers.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Refer to question 2.
4. No.
5. Refer to question 4.
6. Events ACT is working closely with the Folk Festival on the arrangements for the 2013 event.

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Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 5.7.2012

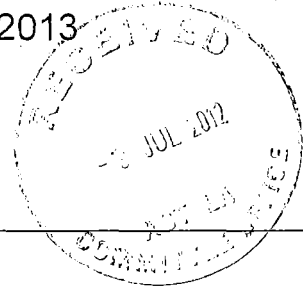
By the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



CAROLINE LE COUTEUR : To ask the Treasurer

[Ref: shared Services Centre, budget paper 4, page number 176; Shared services ICT

In relation to : **Whole of Government Digital Records Management.**

The recently released ACT Auditor General's report on Government IT Security* recommends a whole of government electronic records management system. The *Digital Recordkeeping Pathway Report*** for the Territory Records Office showed in August 2011 how to do this. The response from Shared Services in the Auditor General's report [page 14] is not yet clear about whether this will actually be implemented.

1. Will Shared Services in the next financial year analyse whole-of-government digital records management requirements?
2. Has money been allocated to progress this, and if so where is it allocated?
3. What plans and timelines does Shared Services have plans to implement the later stages of the 'Pathway' for whole of government digital records management?
4. What are the obstacles to moving towards a whole-of-government digital records system?
5. How many different document management systems are currently in use in the ACT public service?
6. Are the licenses all provided through Shared Services IT?
7. What potential savings and compatibilities has Shared Services identified from consolidating licenses?
8. Has or will Shared Services IT offered advice or manage contracts for initiatives in the budget:
 - a. A digital records system for secure communication between TAMS and Ministers and the Assembly [Budget Paper 3 page 175]
 - b. a new document and data management system for the Assembly. [Budget Paper 4 page 1]
9. If Shared Services is involved in either project, how is it ensuring any new licenses now don't hinder later moves to a general document management service?
10. If it is not involved in either, why not?

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

1. Shared Services through the Territory Records Office is working with all Directorates to ensure compliance with their Directorate Records Management Programs. One key element of the revised Programs is to reflect the management of records in a digital format across each Directorate. Records Management Programs are monitored by the Territory Records Office.
2. No funding has been allocated in the 2012-13 financial year
3. Shared Services through the Territory Records Office is utilising the Digital Recordkeeping Pathway for guidance as the Office undertakes its varying responsibilities. One example of this is the revised Territory Records Standard for Records Management No.1 Records Management Programs, which as well as responding to changes emanating from the Hawke Review also acknowledges the recordkeeping qualities of existing line of business systems that manage records in a digital format such as Chris 21 and Oracle. Directorates will now be in position to incorporate many of their current business systems that meet the test of 'recordness' into their Records Management Programs.
4. Shared Services through the Territory Records Office is working on removing as many obstacles as possible to a future expansion of the ACT Government's digital environment. A current focus is to ensure consistency in the structure of the 'G drive' working environment so that this can easily be migrated to a robust digital records management regime when available for each Directorate.
5. The major systems in use are Objective and TRIM.
6. Yes
7. The efficiencies are around having Directorates on the same version of a system which assists with common Help Desk responses, future system upgrades and migrations, and ease of integrating data such as updated thesauri and Records Disposal Schedules.
8.
 - a. An implementation committee in TAMS has been established to manage the transfer and Shared Services will be actively involved.
 - b. Please refer to the Speaker for a response to this question.
9. Shared Services through the Territory Records Office monitors and provides advice to all ACT Government agencies as they plan and prepare to implement any records management system. The implications of future pathways are always a key element in this.
10. See above

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Signature: 

Date: 6.7.12

By the Treasurer Andrew Barr, MLA