



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA

Media Release — 5 August 2014

Today in the Legislative Assembly of the ACT the Chair of the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015 Brendan Smyth MLA tabled the Committee's report on *Appropriation Bill 2014-2015 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2014-2015*.

In total the Committee made 138 recommendations in areas as diverse as:

- Belconnen Arts Centre funding;
- bullying and harassment in the ACT Public Service;
- bushfire preparedness for the ACT;
- Capital Metro;
- funding for the Arts in the ACT;
- Mr Fluffy homes and addressing the issue of asbestos;
- public housing; and
- young peoples' physical and mental health.

Public Hearings commenced on the 12 June 2014. The Hearings went for 13 days and included a recall day.

During the course of the hearings the Committee heard from 180 witnesses, including:

- Ministers of the ACT Government;
- officers from government agencies;
- statutory officers and officers from statutory authorities; and
- community and industry groups.

Mr Smyth emphasised the importance of the Estimates process, in which the funding for the coming year and the Government's intentions are subject to scrutiny each year. 'This is an important inquiry into how the Government is spending tax-payers' money and the outcomes achieved for that expenditure', he said, 'and is an important part of the Assembly holding government to account'.

He also praised the members of the Committee, and other Members of the Assembly who took part in hearings, saying that Members had 'struck a good balance between collegiality and standing up for the interests of the constituency as they saw them'.

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