



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Attorney-General

Ref: PTG Annual Report 2019-20, Summary of Performance, Strategic and Accountability Indicators

In relation to: Operating Expenses, Staff, Unclaimed Money Trust

1. In the Public Trustee and Guardian (PTG) Annual Report 2020, the operating loss for the year ended 30 June 2020 was \$623,159. This a significantly different outcome from the budget Operating Loss estimate of \$215,000. Can you please outline why the operating loss was significantly worse than Budget Estimates?
 - a. In the report, it notes that “staff on various forms of extended leave” is a major cause of the operating loss – approximately how much of the \$623,159 is attributed to extended leave?
2. The PTG Annual Report 2020 indicates that PTG provided several staff with human rights training through the JACS Directorate’s training program.
 - a. How many staff participated in the training? How much was spent on training for staff? What outcomes resulted from human rights training?
3. The PTG Annual Report 2020 notes that the balance of funds held in the Unclaimed Money Trust Account grew from \$40.61m in 2018-19 to \$46.24 in 2019-20?
 - a. What was the cause of this growth in funds? Were managers of the Trust Account provided with bonuses because of the fund’s growth?

Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

In response to Question 1:

The Public Trustee and Guardian’s (PTG) operating loss for the year ended 30 June 2020 was \$623,159 compared to budget estimate of \$215,000.

This difference is largely attributable to higher than budgeted staffing costs, including \$216,750 to backfill the roles of five staff members who took extended personal leave (most commonly for medical reasons) in 2019-20.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 84

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In response to Question 2:

- PTG provided training in Human Rights related matters to 13 staff.
- This training included Respect, Equity and Diversity (8); Managing Mental Health (4); Family and Domestic Violence (1).
- The cost of this training is in the order of \$350 per attendance. The total expenditure is \$4,550.
- PTG's staff work within a highly diverse employment and client framework. PTG has 30% of staff from a culturally and linguistically diverse background. The significant proportion of PTG's clientele is made up of persons with a decision-making disability (729) or trust clients who may have a disability (648). Providing training to staff in discrimination, advocacy and decision-making issues is fundamental to the provision of an appropriate level of service. PTG staff are highly aware of all aspects of human rights in applying policy and legislation in their everyday work.

In response to Question 3:

The cause of the growth in funds held in the Unclaimed Money Trust Account from \$40.61m in 2018-19 to \$46.24 in 2019-20 related to

- an increase in deposits from agencies required to lodge Unclaimed Money with the PTG, principally a deposit from Link Market Services of \$6.789m.
- reasonably consistent churn associated with claims. PTG maintains an online search facility enabling persons to identify unclaimed Money. In the reported year \$1.3m was claimed through this facility

PTG is the statutory trustee for the Unclaimed Money Trust. In that capacity, PTG is entitled to fees and charges as determined by the Attorney-General and no bonuses are paid to any person associated with the administration of the trust.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date:

7/3/21

By the Attorney-General, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA