



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
Ms Leanne Castley (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr (Deputy Chair), Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister—

Ref: Budget Statements B, Output 1.2 Workforce Capability and Governance

In relation to:

1. Please provide any reports, documentation, evidence or modelling to demonstrate that the Secure Local Jobs Code is driving better outcomes for workers.
2. Please provide any reports, documentation, evidence or modelling that measures any other aspects of the performance of the Secure Local Jobs Code.
3. Has the ACT Government implemented a disability employment target?
4. Has the ACT Government implemented an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employment target?

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

1. The Secure Local Jobs Code was implemented to ensure Territory contracts were only awarded to businesses that meet the highest ethical and labour standards. The certification and ongoing compliance process both help ensure that workers on government jobs are paid their full entitlements and treated fairly.

Section 22ZD of the Government Procurement Act 2001 requires the advisory council to undertake a review of the operation of the code that considers compliance with the code and other requirements, the coverage of provisions and complaints and disputes.

The first review was delivered to the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations in January 2021.

2. The Secure Local Jobs Code was implemented to ensure Territory contracts were only awarded to businesses that meet the highest ethical and labour standards. The Code applies to businesses that undertake construction, cleaning, security and traffic management services of any value and additionally captures procurements greater than \$200,000 that are predominately for labour. The Secure Local jobs branch currently has 7 FTE staff overseen by the Registrar/ Executive Branch manager.

Secure Local Jobs Code:

- The Secure Local Jobs Code Branch has 2 KPI's. Performance to date for **Financial Year 2021/22**:
 - **3** of 24 training sessions have been delivered.
 - **98.56%** of applications have been processed within 5 business days.

 - As of 3 November 2021 there are **2062** code certified entities:
 - Construction – 1702 (83 %)
 - Cleaning – 101 (5 %)
 - Security – 72– (4 %)
 - Traffic Management – 11 (1 %)
 - Labour – 174 (8 %)

 - Since the commencement of the code:
 - **2623** entities have applied for code certificates.
 - **1247** entities have renewed their certificate at least once since the commencement of the code.
 - **555** entities have let their certificates lapse.
 - **9** entities have cancelled their certificates

 - **116** investigations have been completed since the beginning of 2021.
 - **9** investigations are currently in progress.
 - **6** Registrar Initiated investigations.
 - **3** complaint investigations.

 - For the **2020-2021** financial year, the Secure Local Jobs Code Registrar:
 - Received **20** complaints for potential non-compliance with the Code.
 - Completed **142** investigations into non-compliance with the Code.

 - Since the code commenced:
 - **256** investigations have been completed.
 - **17** entities have received sanctions for breaches of the Code.

 - Based on data available from the Territory's Notifiable Contracts Register, since the commencement of the Secure Local Jobs Code, 958 contracts, worth a combined total of \$1.57 billion, have been entered into between the ACT Government and entities holding a Secure Local Jobs Code Certificate.
3. The ACTPS commenced a project in 2021 to further understand what it means for the ACTPS to have a progressive, diverse, and inclusive workforce; how close we are already to achieving that goal, and how we might get closer. The Beyond RED project has executed an extensive research program with diverse stakeholders across the ACTPS: ACTPS Community Offices; Human Resources; the ACTPS RED Network; and a diverse range of staff.

One of the outcomes of the review will be to refresh our future service-wide diversity employment targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and People with Disability.

Other recommendations will include better-practice workforce interventions aimed at building on inclusive workplace cultures. It is expected that implementation of these recommendations will commence from **early 2022**.

4. Yes, ACTPS Diversity Employment Targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people with disability were implemented in 2010. The current Whole of Government target for employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People is 2% of the ACTPS workforce. The current Whole of Government Target for people with disability is 3.1% of the ACTPS workforce.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 9.11.21

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA