



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 131

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Mr Mark Parton MLA

Addressed to: Treasurer

Reference: Errors in Budget Paper

Hearing Date: 30/07/2024

In relation to: Treasury and Budget Paper 2024-25

QON lodgement Date: 31/07/2024

Answer Due date: 08/08/2024

- (1) How many people proofread the budget paper?
- (2) How many errors were identified in the 2024-25?
 - (a) How many errors like Budget Statement G page 47 were not identified?
 - (i) When were you first alerted to the errors on page 47?
 - (ii) How did the errors occur when the second dot point had information added to it that was not in the 23-24 budget paper?
- (3) Is there a cost involved in fixing these errors?
 - (a) If yes, how much?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) During the estimates hearing of 24 July 2024, the Community Services Directorate advised of an error in the text of Budget Statement G – Community Services Directorate and Housing ACT. This was not an error in the financial data, rather an error in the descriptive text. As you may appreciate, Agency and Directorate Budget Statements are the responsibility of the lead agency and relevant Minister, and Treasury does not exercise editorial control over the product. As advised during the hearings, a corrigendum will be issued.
 - a. In relation to proofing processes for Budget Statements, the proofing process will vary from directorate to directorate, but will usually incorporate key officials in the relevant directorate's policy and program areas and strategic finance functions.

It will not usually be the case that every one of these officials will be reviewing every page of a Budget Statement, and depending on the error in question, the number of officials involved could range from a handful, through to many officials.

(2) I am aware of the following errors requiring a corrigendum:

- Amendment to Budget Statement G, p. 47 New strategic and operational initiatives; and
 - on 2 August 2024, Treasury was advised by the Community Service Directorate of a minor typographical error in the Budget Outlook, p. 118, referencing the amount provided through the 2023-24 Budget Review to support delivery of out of home care services. The figure published in the initiative description was \$3.965 million, the funding provided was \$3.985 million.
- a. (i) - My office was advised of the error in Budget Statement G on 24 July 2024, and the error in Budget Outlook on 2 August 2024.
(ii) - Treasury advised my office that these errors were human error made in the updating of the text.

(3) No, the corrigendum is published on the Budget Papers website as the preferred method for ensuring transparency in reporting. New hardcopy versions are not required to be printed.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 6.8.24

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA