



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**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 Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT

Reference: Legal Aid ACT

Hearing Date: 30/07/2024

In relation to: Legal Aid – Demand for services

QON lodgement Date: 30/07/2024

Answer Due date: 07/08/2024

(1) Have you observed a sustained material effect on demand for your services?

(a) *If yes*, how have you responded to these demand pressures?

(b) Is your resourcing sufficient to match demand?

Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) Yes, as indicated by material year on year increases in the Commission's total expenses from 2019-20 to 2022-23. Over this period, we have experienced a 40.9% increase in employee expenses and a 64.2% increase in expenses for referrals made to private legal practitioners.

1(a) The Commission has managed these demand pressures both from the funding provided (for specific purposes), and within internal resources.

1(b) The Commission has budgeted modest deficits for 2025-26 to 2027-28. This strategy aims to ensure we will retain sufficient funds to meet our expected expenses and liabilities. Noting in particular, the new National Legal Partnership Agreement is unresolved, the short-term nature of funding for some specific purpose initiatives, and variations in the receipts from the Statutory Interest Account, continues to make it challenging to plan with any high degree of certainty for our future service delivery.

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

Signature:



Date: 13/8/24

By the Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT, Dr John Boersig