



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Final

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Approved for publication

Report 1
11th Assembly
April 2025

About the committee

Establishing resolution

The Assembly established the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs on 3 December 2024.¹

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- Emergency management and the Emergency Services Agency
- Policing and ACT Policing
- Corrective Services
- Attorney-General
- Consumer Affairs
- Human Rights
- Victims of crime
- Access to justice and restorative justice
- Public Trustee and Guardian

You can read the full establishing resolution [on our website](#).

Committee members

Mr Peter Cain MLA, Chair

Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbins MLA, Deputy Chair

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Secretariat

Ms Kathleen de Kleuver, Committee Secretary

Ms Alicia Coupland, Assistant Secretary (until 31 January 2025)

Ms Kate Mickelson, Assistant Secretary (from 31 January 2025)

Mr Adam Walker, Assistant Secretary (from 31 January 2025)

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¹ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 2*, 3 December 2024, pp 12–25.

About this inquiry

The 2023–24 Annual and Financial Reports were presented in the Assembly on 3 and 5 December 2024.² Clause 4 of the establishing resolution refers all calendar and financial year annual and financial reports to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and report by 12 May of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

² ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 2*, 3 December 2024, pp 27–28; *Minutes of Proceedings, No 4*, 5 December 2024, pp 53–54.

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Long form
ACAT	ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTCS	ACT Corrective Services
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
AMC	Alexander Maconochie Centre
Bimberi	Bimberi Youth Justice Centre
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
ESA	Emergency Services Agency
ICS	Inspector of Correctional Services
JACS	Justice and Community Safety Directorate
Jumbunna	The Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and others
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
NSW	New South Wales
OMCG	Outlaw Motorcycle Gang
QON	Question on Notice
QTON	Question Taken on Notice

Recommendations

- Recommendation 1** **6**
- The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider expanding opportunities for restorative justice processes.
- Recommendation 2** **7**
- The Committee recommends the ACT Government work with ACT Policing and the Director of Public Prosecutions to address the low number of referrals from these agencies to the Restorative Justice Scheme.
- Recommendation 3** **7**
- The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expedite the implementation of electronic monitoring of offenders granted bail.
- Recommendation 4** **8**
- The Committee recommends that the ACT Government repeal section 435 of the *Crimes Act 1900* as soon as practicable.
- Recommendation 5** **9**
- The Committee recommends that the ACT Government require the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal to compile annual reviews in a more timely manner following the conclusion of each financial year.
- Recommendation 6** **9**
- The Committee recommends that the ACT Government take appropriate action to reduce the incarceration rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.
- Recommendation 7** **10**
- The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine expanding the operation of the Alexander Maconochie Centre bakery and other opportunities for employment in industry, and how these could be used to facilitate post release employment options, as well as the potential expansion of the horticulture offering at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- Recommendation 8** **11**
- The Committee recommends that the ACT Government appropriately resource ACT Policing to more effectively combat knife-crime.
- Recommendation 9** **12**
- The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify exactly how unspent funds allocated to the Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council will be redirected.
- Recommendation 10** **12**
- The Committee recommends that the Attorney-General provide the Committee with regular updates of the outcomes from meetings of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, in addition to the general communiques available on that committee’s website.

Recommendation 11	13
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the span of hours in which people can order alcohol via online alcohol sales.	
Recommendation 12	13
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review policy options for a safety pause for delivery of alcohol purchased online.	
Recommendation 13	15
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reconsider legislating a pathway for human rights complaints against public authorities to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.	
Recommendation 14	17
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide details of the activities, programs, education and therapeutic programs available for people on remand; and• Explore options for programs that people on remand could commence while in custody and continue in the community if granted bail.	
Recommendation 15	19
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government take a stocktake of the activities, programs and education options currently available to detainees, and report back to the Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in September 2025 on that as well as the ways that it intends to make available a greater range of options.	
Recommendation 16	20
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government assess how detainee-led activities could be encouraged and embedded into the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) as well as how Corrections Officers can contribute their own skills to activities.	
Recommendation 17	20
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve how it ensures detainees have appropriate medication and also strengthen how detainees have their healthcare needs met while transitioning back into the community.	
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The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report back to the Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in September 2025 on the measures it has undertaken since the Operation Falcon report was published as well as the effectiveness of those measures.	
Recommendation 19	21
The Committee recommends that all Corrections Officers on shift at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) always wear a name tag that shows their name.	
Recommendation 20	22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government take steps to permanently address the birds nesting in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

Recommendation 21 **22**

The Committee recommends that ACT Corrective Services clarify the complaints process in a way that is easily understandable for detainees and staff and ensure that the clarified process is communicated to all detainees and staff in an easily accessible way.

Recommendation 22 **23**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government collect and report publicly on deaths in disability care.

Recommendation 23 **25**

The Committee recommends that the Legal Aid Commission ACT continue to monitor best practice recruitment and employment practices.

Recommendation 24 **26**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the income test for Legal Aid ACT grants so that more people in need can access free legal services.

Recommendation 25 **28**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider how it can provide ongoing or increased funding to support the maintenance or expansion of the Director of Public Prosecutions' Witness Assistance Service.

Recommendation 26 **28**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide additional funding to the ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to hire additional prosecutors.

Recommendation 27 **30**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government empower a culture that maximises the opportunity for young people in detention to participate in options for day release and opportunities to participate in programs in the community or a service or community event.

Recommendation 28 **31**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand opportunities to ensure that young people can maintain their connection to their education provider while they are in Bimberi.

1. Introduction

Presentation of 2023–24 annual and financial reports

- 1.1. All annual and financial reports for the Territory were tabled on 3 and 5 December 2024. A collated list of most annual and financial reports is available [online](#).
- 1.2. During its inquiry the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs was required to examine all or part of the following annual and financial reports for 2023–24:
 - ACT Inspector of Custodial Services (formerly the Inspector of Correctional Services);
 - ACT Policing;
 - Director of Public Prosecutions;
 - ACT Human Rights Commission;
 - Justice and Community Safety Directorate;
 - Official Visitor Scheme;
 - Legal Aid Commission;
 - Public Trustee and Guardian;
 - Sentence Administration Board (as part of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate report; and
 - ACT Government Solicitor (as part of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate report).

Submissions

- 1.3. The Committee received three submissions for the inquiry, listed at [Appendix A](#).

Public hearings

- 1.4. The Committee held public hearings on 10, 12, 13, 17–19 and 21 February 2025. At the hearings the Committee heard from ACT Government Ministers and their accompanying Directorate officials, and statutory officers.
- 1.5. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at [Appendix B](#). Transcripts from the hearings are available on the Assembly website. Footage of the hearings is available via video on demand on the Legislative Assembly website.
- 1.6. Committees began collecting information on the gender of witnesses in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The aim to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses. A table showing the distribution of the gender of witnesses is at [Appendix D](#).

Questions taken on notice at hearings and questions placed on notice

- 1.7. A total of 59 questions were lodged during the inquiry: 21 questions were taken on notice (QTONs) by Ministers and statutory officials during the public hearings, and 38 questions on notice (QONs) were submitted by Committee members and visiting MLAs following the hearings.
- 1.8. The answers to questions, and a list of questions (by subject and recipient) are available in [Appendix C](#), and on the inquiry webpage.

2. Justice and Community Safety Directorate

2.1. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) comprises two primary programs: Justice and Community Safety. The Justice program comprises the following business units:

- ACT Courts and Tribunal;
- ACT Director of Public Prosecutions;
- ACT Government Solicitor;
- ACT Human Rights Commission;
- ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office;
- ACT Public Trustee and Guardian;
- Legislation Policy and Programs.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner; and
- Office of the Inspector of Correctional Services.³

2.2. The Community Safety program is composed of the following business units:

- ACT Corrective Services;
- ACT Emergency Services Agency;
- Security and Emergency Management Division;
- Strategic Policy and Programs, Community Safety;
- First Nations Justice Branch; and
- ACT Policing (as a purchased service).⁴

Attorney-General

2.3. The following matters are allocated to the Attorney-General and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate under the administrative arrangements:

- Administration of justice;
- Civil and criminal law;
- Electoral policy;
- Fair trading policy relating to Australian consumer law, fuel prices and licensing motor vehicle repairers;
- Freedom of information policy;
- Justice reinvestment;

³ ACT Government, *Justice and Community Safety Annual Report 2023–24*, pp 16–17.

⁴ ACT Government, *Justice and Community Safety Annual Report 2023–24*, p 17.

- Policy relating to incorporation of associations;
- Policy relating to liquor;
- Policy relating to retirement villages, egg labelling, sale of goods and uncollected goods;
- Policy relating to sex work;
- Policy relating to security;
- Policy relating to the licensing of agents, hawkers, pawnbrokers, motor vehicle dealers, second-hand dealers and x-rated films;
- Policy relating to the registration of deeds and charitable collections;
- Policy relating to the registration of land titles and tenancies;
- Reducing recidivism;
- Restorative justice; and
- Sentence Administration Board.⁵

2.4. The Committee notes that oversight of electoral policy matters has been allocated by the Legislative Assembly to the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders.

Matters considered

2.5. During the Attorney-General's appearance before the Committee on 13 February 2025 the following matters were considered:

- Comments by the ACT Supreme Court Chief Justice regarding sexual assault cases;
- Ministerial priorities;
- National Legal Assistance Partnership;
- Indigenous incarceration rates;
- Recidivism rates;
- Section 435 of the *Crimes Act 1900*, imposing a six-month limit on initiating civil actions against police officers;
- Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council and bail inquiry;
- Same-day alcohol delivery services;
- Independent review of the ACT Restorative Justice Scheme;
- Aboriginal court experience and potential legislative change;
- Jack's Law and knife crime;

⁵ *Administrative Arrangements 2024 (No 1)*, sch 1.

- Restorative justice agreements;
- Vicarious liability in abuse cases;
- DeepSeek and other artificial intelligence applications;
- Witness assistance support officers;
- Electronic monitoring;
- Expansion of the definition of a protection order being personally served on a respondent;
- Possible repeal of the *Sex Work Act 1992*;
- Publication of ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Annual Reports;
- Retirement village residents complaint avenues; and
- The minimum age of criminal responsibility.⁶

Key issues

Restorative justice scheme

- 2.6. JACS advised the Committee that an independent review of the ACT Restorative Justice Scheme was underway, and the final report was expected in the first quarter of 2025.⁷
- 2.7. There had been 28 restorative justice conferences in 2023–24 resulting in 16 agreements with a 96 percent compliance rate. Client satisfaction rates for the past three years had been consistently high at 98 and 99 percent.⁸
- 2.8. The directorate observed that the number of restorative justice agreements had increased in recent years after declining since about 2016, and posited that the reason for the decline had been the inclusion of adult offenders and more serious offenders in the scheme. From that point, more conferences had not resulted in a formal agreement:

... in 2016, we included adult people responsible and more serious offending. As a result of that, we received more referrals after a guilty plea or finding. When we had been working mostly with young people and less serious offences, most referrals were coming from the police, and most of them were coming as a diversion. My educated guess is that, during that period of scheme, justice was really for the victim to extract themselves. When we moved to working with adults and more serious offences and matters were continuing to the court—and we were more following parallel to the court—justice was also being extracted by the state and by the victim. The victim, I would suggest, felt less need to impose

⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, pp 45–75.

⁷ Ms Zoe Hutchinson, Executive Branch Manager, Justice Reform Branch, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 60.

⁸ Mr Richard Denning, Senior Director, Restorative Justice Unit, Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 62; Mr Daniel Ng, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 75.

an outcome. They saw that the state or the territory was taking a course of action of justice and that their needs were being met supplementary to that.⁹

- 2.9. The directorate also noted that referrals to the restorative justice scheme from ACT Policing had declined since 2019–20, and indicated that feedback from ACT Policing was that the referral rate had slowed due to extra resourcing required to implement the process for domestic family and sexual violence. These offences had been added to the scheme in 2018:

It has slowed down, and that reflects the extra working resources that are involved in working particularly with domestic family and sexual violence, which came online in late 2018. That may flow onto that kind of 2019–20 timeframe. The feedback is that that slowdown impacts on their ability to administer justice in a timely manner.¹⁰

- 2.10. However, recent increased funding for restorative justice had reduced the waitlist ‘dramatically’, which the directorate hoped would encourage ACT Policing to make more referrals.¹¹

- 2.11. The directorate indicated that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) had not been ‘a particularly active referrer’ to the restorative justice scheme for approximately 15 years, and noted that this was due to a restricted timeframe in which the DPP could make a referral:

The DPP can make a referral at the first mention, or before the second mention, of the matter. I understand from the DPP that it is very difficult for them to look very closely at their matters prior to the second mention and that this restricts their ability to make a good decision and perform the consultation that the act requires that they perform before making a referral, and that that has served as a barrier.¹²

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider expanding opportunities for restorative justice processes.

⁹ Mr Richard Denning, Senior Director, Restorative Justice Unit, Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, pp 62–63.

¹⁰ Mr Richard Denning, Senior Director, Restorative Justice Unit, Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 63

¹¹ Mr Richard Denning, Senior Director, Restorative Justice Unit, Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 64.

¹² Mr Richard Denning, Senior Director, Restorative Justice Unit, Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 64.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends the ACT Government work with ACT Policing and the Director of Public Prosecutions to address the low number of referrals from these agencies to the Restorative Justice Scheme.

Electronic monitoring

- 2.12. The Attorney-General advised the Committee that a feasibility study into electronic monitoring of offenders was nearing completion and would inform the staged implementation of electric monitoring. The first trials would be for domestic and family violence perpetrators, and an approach to the market for a provider was underway.¹³
- 2.13. The Attorney-General advised that electronic monitoring of offenders was not ‘the whole answer’ and that wraparound services and support for stakeholders was required:
- There is no silver bullet here. It is a tool that, when used effectively, can have some really positive results, but it should not be used in isolation.¹⁴
- 2.14. The Committee heard that drafting of legislation to allow electronic monitoring was reliant on the results of the feasibility study, and that procurement and implementation of the system was subject to budget processes and a timeline for these was not available.¹⁵
- 2.15. The Committee observes that the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety of the Tenth Assembly on several occasions made recommendations for the introduction of electronic monitoring as part of community corrections orders including bail.¹⁶
- 2.16. The Committee further notes that the ACT Government earlier indicated that scoping and feasibility work for electronic monitoring was to be conducted in 2023,¹⁷ and that electronic monitoring has been under consideration since at least 2001.¹⁸

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expedite the implementation of electronic monitoring of offenders granted bail.

Crimes Act 1900

- 2.17. Section 435 of the *Crimes Act 1900* imposes a six-month limitation period for initiating civil actions against police officers:

¹³ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, pp 68–69.

¹⁴ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 69.

¹⁵ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 69.

¹⁶ Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety of the Tenth Assembly, *Report 27: Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022–23*, April 2024, p 24.

¹⁷ ACT Government, *Report No 9 of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety – Inquiry into Community Corrections – Government Response*, November 2022, p 4 (tabled 24 November 2022).

¹⁸ Select Committee on Estimates 2023–24 of the Tenth Assembly, *Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023–2024 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023–2024*, August 2023, p 104.

435 Protection of persons acting under Act

(1) All actions against any person, for anything done, or reasonably supposed to have been done under this Act, shall be commenced within 6 months after the fact committed, and written notice of any such action, and of the cause of it, shall be given to the defendant 1 month at least before commencement of the action, and in any such action the defendant may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence.

(2) No plaintiff shall recover in any such action, if a tender of sufficient amends was made before action brought, or if a sufficient sum is paid into court, on behalf of the defendant, after action brought.

(3) If a verdict passes for the defendant, or the plaintiff becomes nonsuit, or discontinues his or her action after issue joined, or if on demurrer, or otherwise, judgment is given against the plaintiff, the defendant shall recover costs as between solicitor and client.¹⁹

- 2.18. The Committee noted that this section of the Act has been repealed in New South Wales as it restricts injured parties from seeking redress against the Crown.²⁰
- 2.19. The Attorney-General advised that the Bar Association had raised this section of the Act in her first meeting with them, and that she had received preliminary advice from JACS about the consequences of the provision.²¹
- 2.20. The Attorney-General told the Committee that it was ‘vital’ to have appropriate liability protection for public authorities to undertake their functions, which might not be provided for elsewhere:

My understanding is that it is not as simple as a straightforward repeal because we need to ensure that there are appropriate liability protections in place for public authorities, which includes law enforcement, and that needs to be assured in other areas of the legislation, if it is not in 435.²²

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government repeal section 435 of the *Crimes Act 1900* as soon as practicable.

ACAT annual review reports

- 2.21. In response to a question taken on notice (QTON) about the lack of recent annual reports published by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT), the Attorney-General noted that there was no legislative requirement for annual reviews to be compiled by ACAT. The

¹⁹ *Crimes Act 1900*, s 435.

²⁰ Mr Peter Cain MLA, Chair, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 53.

²¹ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 53.

²² Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 54.

2022–23 and 2023–24 reviews had not yet been completed due to ‘competing priorities, changes in leadership during the period, and workload pressures. Nonetheless, ACAT expected to publish its 2022–23 review very soon, and the 2023–24 review by the end of the financial year’.²³

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government require the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal to compile annual reviews in a more timely manner following the conclusion of each financial year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incarceration rates

- 2.22. The Attorney-General indicated to the Committee that data on incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT was complex. While the ‘accrued imprisonment rate’ for these detainees had decreased by 47.4 per 100,000 adults in the past financial year, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were still more than 22 times as likely as other people to be imprisoned in the ACT.²⁴
- 2.23. However, because of the low overall imprisonment rate in the ACT, a small change in the number of people detained could ‘greatly affect’ percentages reported.²⁵
- 2.24. The Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education (Jumbunna) had been commissioned to undertake an independent review into the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system. The ACT Government had received the first report and a second phase involving wider consultation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community was underway. The Attorney-General told the Committee that the reporting date for the second report had been extended and it was now expected before July 2025.²⁶
- 2.25. The Attorney-General indicated that the ACT Government was investigating support strategies for detainees on release and restorative and rehabilitative approaches to drug and alcohol sentencing to address re-offending rates and was hopeful of further suggestions arising from the Jumbunna report when it was delivered.²⁷

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government take appropriate action to reduce the incarceration rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.

²³ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Answer to QTON 010*, 20 February 2025.

²⁴ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 50.

²⁵ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 50.

²⁶ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 50.

²⁷ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 51.

Rehabilitation and education programs at the Alexander Maconochie Centre

- 2.26. The Attorney-General described a visit to the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) with the Minister for Corrections, saying that support for detainees during detention and for transition back into the community were ‘front of mind’:

I think it was the former Attorney who introduced the bakery. That seems to be incredibly successful, but it has given me something to contemplate, I suppose, about how much more we could be assisting detainees now and to support their transition. The Transitional Release Centre certainly does some pretty amazing work in supporting detainees transitioning back into the community. But I think there is a consideration about whether we are setting up detainees when they are released so that they are best supported—whether that is housing, having appropriate funds available to them, having a skill or a job to go to.²⁸

- 2.27. The Attorney-General compared the programs available at the AMC with those available in the New South Wales (NSW) prison system, noting a greater focus on industry and ‘keeping busy’ in NSW and suggesting that training for detainees could be expanded:

... there is a greater focus on industry and, I guess, “keeping busy”—is the way I would put it—in having a purpose each day in terms of what someone might be building, creating or servicing or whatever that may be. I certainly was struck with the horticulture at AMC, as Minister for City Services. The gardens were top-notch, with beautiful flowers and also very capable people mowing.²⁹

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine expanding the operation of the Alexander Maconochie Centre bakery and other opportunities for employment in industry, and how these could be used to facilitate post release employment options, as well as the potential expansion of the horticulture offering at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

²⁸ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 47.

²⁹ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 47.

Knife crime

- 2.28. In response to questions taken on notice relating to knife crime, the Attorney-General provided the following statistics on offences involving knives:³⁰

Year	Number of apprehensions relating to possession of a knife without reasonable excuse, reported by ACT Policing	Total number of offences reported to ACT Policing where a knife or sharp instrument was involved ³¹
2019–20	120	457
2020–21	108	497
2021–22	110	481
2022–23	121	484
2023–24	111	475

- 2.29. For 2023–24, the Attorney-General advised that 204 knife-related charges were lodged in the Magistrates Court and 38 in the Supreme Court. In the Magistrates Court, 41 accused individuals were on bail at the time of committing the offence, and 18 accused individuals were sentenced to imprisonment. In the Supreme Court, nine accused individuals were on bail at the time of committing the offence, and six accused individuals were sentenced to imprisonment. The Attorney-General noted that this data only included offences where the word ‘knife’ was included in the description of the charge and offence type and would not necessarily capture all offences involving knives.³²

- 2.30.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government appropriately resource ACT Policing to more effectively combat knife-crime.

Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council funds

- 2.31. The Attorney-General told the Committee that there have been \$1.4 million allocated to the since-disbanded Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council from its establishment up to June 2025. Of that funding, \$650,000 remained unspent. The Attorney-General indicated that the ACT Government was seeking to direct that funding ‘in a practical way to support detainee outcomes on release’.³³

³⁰ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Answer to QTON 009*, 26 February 2025.

³¹ A breakdown by offence type is provided in the QTON answer.

³² Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Answer to QTON 008*, 24 February 2025.

³³ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 57.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify exactly how unspent funds allocated to the Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council will be redirected.

Standing Committee of Attorneys-General

- 2.32. The Attorney-General referenced concerns relating to child sexual abuse survivors and victims having been raised at the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) in November 2024, with further advice to be provided to that Committee.³⁴ The SCAG was also referenced with reference to funding for Legal Aid.³⁵

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the Attorney-General provide the Committee with regular updates of the outcomes from meetings of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, in addition to the general communiques available on that committee's website.

Online alcohol sales and deliveries

- 2.33. The Attorney-General told the Committee that the ACT Government was working with other states and territories on the scope of a review of liquor legislation agreed by the national cabinet in late 2024.³⁶
- 2.34. In considering the hours of availability and immediacy of alcohol delivery, the Attorney-General said it was important to recognise unintended impacts on those who may simply be getting groceries delivered, rather than being driven by a particular behaviour or addiction.³⁷
- 2.35. The Attorney-General said that, while it could be said that the industry was regulating itself in line with 'pretty good practice', government regulation would ensure that good practice continued:

... it is all well and good to say that, but, when it does not have a layer of government regulation over the top of it, it is at the whim of industry and could change at any moment, and that may not [...] be appropriate.³⁸

³⁴ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 65.

³⁵ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 48.

³⁶ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 58.

³⁷ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 59.

³⁸ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 59.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the span of hours in which people can order alcohol via online alcohol sales.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review policy options for a safety pause for delivery of alcohol purchased online.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

2.36. The following matters are allocated to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate under the administrative arrangements:

- Bushfire and other natural disaster resilience and response;
- Emergency management (including overall coordination of hazard and risk assessment, and overall coordination of the prevention of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies);
- Emergency Services Agency (ACT Fire and Rescue, ACT Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service);
- Policing policy and ACT Policing.³⁹

2.37. The following matters are allocated to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Infrastructure Canberra under the administrative arrangements:

- Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects, programs and precincts, including:
 - delivery of a new ACT Policing headquarters;
 - delivery of a city police station;
 - delivery of Molonglo Joint Emergency Services Station;
 - delivery of Casey Joint Emergency Services Station.⁴⁰

Matters considered

2.38. During the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services' appearance before the Committee on Tuesday, 18 February 2025 the following matters were considered:

- Challenges faced by ACT Policing;
- Crime prevention approaches;
- Foreign interference risks;

³⁹ *Administrative Arrangements 2024 (No 1)*, Schedule 1.

⁴⁰ *Administrative Arrangements 2024 (No 1)*, Schedule 1.

- Incorporation of zero-emission vehicles into the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) fleet;
- Education and training for police on sexual assault;
- Cost of new enterprise agreement for ACT Policing;
- Recruitment and retention of police;
- Ambulance service emergency call-out fees;
- Impact of bail breaches on police operational duties;
- Preparations and strategies for dealing with bushfires;
- ACT Policing relationships with LGBTQIA+ communities;
- Outlaw motorcycle gangs;
- Suitability of the Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade facilities;
- Support for children coming into contact with police;
- Acton emergency services station;
- ACT Ambulance Service and the GoodSAM phone application;
- Online reporting portal for ACT Policing;
- Monitoring of child sex offenders;
- Damage to aerial pumper fire truck; and
- Police burnout and overtime.⁴¹

Minister for Human Rights

2.39. The following matters are allocated to the Minister for Human Rights and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate under the administrative arrangements:

- ACT Human Rights Commission
- Human rights and anti-discrimination policy
- Policy relating to births, deaths, parentage, marriages, civil unions, domestic relationships and end of life
- Victims of Crime Commissioner.⁴²

Matters considered

2.40. During the Minister for Minister for Human Rights' appearance before the Committee on Wednesday, 19 February 2025 the following matters were considered:

⁴¹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 February 2025, pp 85–119.

⁴² *Administrative Arrangements 2024* (No 1), Schedule 1.

- Role and priorities of the ACT Privacy Commissioner;
- The *Information Privacy Act 2014*;
- Review of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2024*;
- Compliance of the *Bail Act 1992* with the *Human Rights Act 2004*;
- Allegations of child sexual trafficking;
- Human rights compliance at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre; and
- The right to a healthy environment.⁴³

Key issues

Human rights complaints pathway

- 2.41. The Committee heard that the commencement of the right to a healthy environment in March 2025 would have a broad impact across the ACT Public Service:

We went through a very detailed process of working with directorates to understand what legislation was supposed to be brought forward. One of the key things that we worked through with directorates was that the right to a healthy environment, given its broad-ranging nature, could manifest in a range of different ways across the public service—health protection, Access Canberra and places with front-facing contact.⁴⁴

- 2.42. The directorate had conducted 10 education sessions in late 2024 with 200 participants across the ACT Government covering the Human Rights Act and public authority obligations.⁴⁵
- 2.43. JACS noted that the ability to commence proceedings in the Supreme Court for a breach of the right to a healthy environment would commence on 1 October 2028, and a review of the operation of the amendments introducing that right which must commence no later than 1 October 2027. The review must consider the justiciability of that right.⁴⁶

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reconsider legislating a pathway for human rights complaints against public authorities to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

⁴³ *Committee Hansard*, 19 February 2025, pp 129–136.

⁴⁴ Mr Daniel Ng, Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 19 February 2025, p 136.

⁴⁵ Mr Daniel Ng, Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 19 February 2025, p 136.

⁴⁶ Mr Daniel Ng, Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 19 February 2025, p 135.

Minister for Corrections

2.44. The following matters are allocated to the Minister for Corrections and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate under the administrative arrangements:

- Corrective Services.⁴⁷

2.45. The Minister provided two corrections to evidence to the Committee which were accepted as submissions.

Matters considered

2.46. During the Minister for Corrections' appearance before the Committee on Wednesday, 12 February 2025 the following matters were considered:

- Detainee assaults on correctional officers;
- Detainee to officer staffing ratio and safety measures;
- The Integrity Commission's Operation Falcon report;
- Human rights compliance;
- Staff culture at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC);
- Recidivism;
- Rehabilitation programs for people on remand;
- Frequency of lockdowns;
- Contraband entering the AMC;
- Detention Exit Community Outreach (DECO) Program;
- Transitional release Centre;
- Security of operational information; and
- Screening for intellectual or cognitive disability.⁴⁸

Key issues

Rehabilitation programs for people on remand

2.47. The directorate told the Committee that, while educational programs were available for people on remand, providing rehabilitation programs was challenging because remand could end without notice:

Part of the challenge, I think, for remandees—we rightly have no control over the point at which they stop being a remandee, so they could be halfway through a

⁴⁷ *Administrative Arrangements 2024 (No 1)*, Schedule 1.

⁴⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, pp 9–23.

program and then released, which is great, but the program might not get finished.⁴⁹

- 2.48. In response to a question taken on notice during the hearing, the Minister advised the Committee that data on how many detainees served their full sentence before release to the community was not recorded by ACT Corrective Services, and was not readily available to ACT Courts.⁵⁰

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government:

- Provide details of the activities, programs, education and therapeutic programs available for people on remand; and
- Explore options for programs that people on remand could commence while in custody and continue in the community if granted bail.

⁴⁹ Mr Ray Johnson, Acting Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 17.

⁵⁰ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Corrections, *Answer to QTON 003*, 21 February 2025.

3. Official Visitors Scheme

- 3.1. Established under the *Official Visitor Act 2012*, the ACT Official Visitors Scheme provides independent oversight of services for people in government institutions and community facilities who are dependent on service providers.⁵¹
- 3.2. The ACT Official visitors identify and address systemic service issues in the following environments:
 - Corrections
 - Mental Health
 - Disability
 - Children and Young People; and
 - Homelessness.⁵²
- 3.3. Official Visitors are engaged as independent statutory officeholders, appointed by the Minister for Human Rights for a maximum term of three years and may be re-appointed for a further term.⁵³
- 3.4. Official Visitors are overseen and supported by the Official Visitors Board.⁵⁴

Matters considered

- 3.5. During the Official Visitors' appearance before the committee on Monday, 10 February 2025 the following matters were considered:
 - Recidivism in the ACT;
 - Rehabilitation best practice;
 - Integrity Commission report on Operation Falcon;
 - Treatment of detainees and human rights compliance;
 - Education and training programs;
 - Alexander McConachie Centre complaints system; and
 - Deaths in disability care.⁵⁵

⁵¹ ACT Official Visitors, *About*, <https://www.ovs.act.gov.au/about#:~:text=ACT%20Official%20Visitors%20is%20a,Corrections> (accessed 25 February 2025).

⁵² ACT Official Visitors, *About*, <https://www.ovs.act.gov.au/about#:~:text=ACT%20Official%20Visitors%20is%20a,Corrections> (accessed 25 February 2025).

⁵³ ACT Official Visitors, *About*, <https://www.ovs.act.gov.au/about#:~:text=ACT%20Official%20Visitors%20is%20a,Corrections> (accessed 25 February 2025).

⁵⁴ ACT Official Visitors Scheme, *Annual Report 2023–24*, p 25.

⁵⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, pp 1–8.

Key issues

Rehabilitation and wellbeing of detainees

- 3.6. The Official Visitors advised the Committee that research affirmed the importance of activities and programs for detainees including access to education for rehabilitation. However, while there were already activities, programs and access to education at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), more was required to keep detainees fully occupied, for a successful transition in terms of increased self-esteem and practical skills when released.⁵⁶
- 3.7. The Committee heard that there was a correlation between high levels of boredom and drug use in the AMC:
- I have had that expressed to me anecdotally—for instance, a detainee had been clean on the outside, returned to AMC and said, “Well, what else is there to do?” There is certainly a correlation. There are obviously many other factors around addiction and so on, but I do think there is a link.⁵⁷
- 3.8. During the hearing with the Minister for Corrections, the Committee heard that there had been significant work to build opportunities for detainees in terms of programs and education if they choose to take these up.⁵⁸ The Minister advised that 31 percent of ACT prisoners were engaged in vocational education and training, compared to the national average of 17 percent, and that ensuring education vocational training and programs for detainees was her priority this term.⁵⁹
- 3.9. While the Official Visitors observed that progress had been made in this area, they expressed the opinion that more could be done and other opportunities could be explored, noting that there could also be detainee-led activities given that there were some detainees with ‘incredible skills’ seen at the AMC. It had also been observed that there were officers with such skills.⁶⁰

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government take a stocktake of the activities, programs and education options currently available to detainees, and report back to the Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in September 2025 on that as well as the ways that it intends to make available a greater range of options.

⁵⁶ Ms Claire Doube, Board Member and Official Visitor Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, p 2.

⁵⁷ Ms Claire Doube, Board Member and Official Visitor Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, p 6.

⁵⁸ Mr Ray Johnson, Acting Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 18.

⁵⁹ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 18.

⁶⁰ Ms Claire Doube, Board Member and Official Visitor Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, p 2.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government assess how detainee-led activities could be encouraged and embedded into the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) as well as how Corrections Officers can contribute their own skills to activities.

- 3.10. The Official Visitors also noted that addiction was an underlying cause of recidivism, and addressing this was important for a ‘pathway out’ of detention. They advocated for a deeper look at healthcare elements, including ensuring that appropriate medication was in place or a plan for healthcare when transitioning out of detention.⁶¹
- 3.11. The Commissioner for ACT Corrective Services advised the Committee during the hearing session with the Minister for Corrections that the AMC was one of only a few jurisdictions that allow the prescribing of certain attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medications that are non-stimulant.⁶²
- 3.12. The Committee were told that despite great efforts by the health team, there were issues with access to medications at the AMC, including for the treatment of ADHD as there were more limited criteria for eligibility compared with obtaining medication outside of detention.⁶³

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve how it ensures detainees have appropriate medication and also strengthen how detainees have their healthcare needs met while transitioning back into the community.

Corrections staff conduct

- 3.13. The Committee were interested in measures taken in response to the recommendations in the ACT Integrity Commission’s *Operation Falcon Investigation Report: An Investigation into the allegations of the omission of required medical observations and falsification of observation records* at the AMC, released 17 January 2025.
- 3.14. The Official Visitor’s Board advised that there were some reports to Official Visitors that during a COVID outbreak in winter 2024 observations were not always taken according to the COVID protocols in place at the time and that these protocols have since changed.⁶⁴
- 3.15. In a response to a question on notice, the Minister for Corrections advised that a new *Detainee Observation Procedure* was notified on 31 October 2024 in response to

⁶¹ Ms Claire Doube, Board Member and Official Visitor Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, p 2.

⁶² Mrs Leanne Close, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 15.

⁶³ Ms Claire Doube, Board Member and Official Visitor Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, p 6.

⁶⁴ Mr Peter Muir, Chair, Official Visitors Board, *answer to QTON 1: Inmate Complaints*, 18 February 2025, (received 18 February 2025).

recommendations and findings in review by the ACT Custodial Inspector and Coroner. The Minister provided the following additional information:

Training related to observations was reviewed and identified to be consistent with the procedure. The implementation process of this procedure therefore focused on communicating the importance of complying with the procedure to staff, which remains a priority.

ACTCS' custodial recruit training already covers ethics in various modules, and includes a lesson about completing documents factually and accurately. It is noted the custodial recruit training now also references the findings of Operation Falcon, including the observations made in paragraph 125, and the potential repercussions of making false or misleading observations records.⁶⁵

- 3.16. The Commissioner for ACT Corrective Services (in the hearing session with the Minister for Corrections) advised that since the tabling of the Integrity Commissioners report, the matters raised in that report had been referred to the Professional Standards Unit.⁶⁶
- 3.17. The Committee also heard that making complaints about the conduct of Corrections staff was made difficult when the officer did not wear a name tag, despite being supposed to wear one.⁶⁷

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report back to the Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in September 2025 on the measures it has undertaken since the Operation Falcon report was published as well as the effectiveness of those measures.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that all Corrections Officers on shift at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) always wear a name tag that shows their name.

Maintenance issues

- 3.18. The Committee heard that birds were nesting above cooking facilities at the AMC, an issue which had been raised by both the Official Visitors and the Office of Inspector for Custodial services as a concern over a number of years. Some efforts had been made to address it, including putting plastic strips over doorways, which had reduced but not eliminated the problem.⁶⁸

⁶⁵ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Corrections, answer to *QON 1: Operation Falcon Findings*, 21 February 2025 (received 21 February 2025).

⁶⁶ Mrs Leanne Close, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, pp 13–14.

⁶⁷ Ms Claire Doube, Board Member and Official Visitor Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, pp 4–5.

⁶⁸ Ms Claire Doube, Board Member and Official Visitor Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, p 5.

- 3.19. The Commissioner for ACT Corrective Services (in the hearing session with the Minister for Corrections) advised that plastic shields had been placed over doors to impede the birds, although this related to doorways to some of the cell blocks.⁶⁹

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government take steps to permanently address the birds nesting in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

Complaints processes

- 3.20. The Committee heard that there had been some improvements to the AMC complaints system including an increased capacity to look into issues thanks to an increase in staff in the compliance team. There were also improvements in communication around where complaints could be directed and how they should be written (hard copy versus email), however more clarity on the complaints process was needed. The Official Visitors advised that issues were raised with them because of a lack of progress on complaints. For example, it was found that a complaint had been filed but not directed to the compliance team.⁷⁰
- 3.21. While the Official Visitors had raised this with the Acting Commissioner of Corrective Services, they had not yet had a response.⁷¹

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that ACT Corrective Services clarify the complaints process in a way that is easily understandable for detainees and staff and ensure that the clarified process is communicated to all detainees and staff in an easily accessible way.

Deaths in disability care

- 3.22. Currently there is no data collected to measure differences over time in relation to deaths in disability care. The Committee heard that this meant that there was a risk that it is not known what happens inside the 330 disability group homes in the ACT. The Official Visitors advised that they had heard reports of incidents, including of ‘someone having choked to death and not having their feeding plan followed’:

It is really a question of who is protecting the rights of people and who is reviewing what has gone wrong in these cases. Some of these deaths may be

⁶⁹ Mrs Leanne Close, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 15.

⁷⁰ Ms Claire Doube, Board Member and Official Visitor Corrections, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, p 7.

⁷¹ Mr Peter Muir, Chair, Official Visitors Board, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, pp 7–8.

expected. They may be from natural causes. The answer is that we simply do not know.⁷²

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government collect and report publicly on deaths in disability care.

⁷² Mr Peter Muir, Chair, Official Visitors Board, *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2025, p 8.

4. Legal Aid Commission

- 4.1. The Legal Aid Commission (ACT) is an independent statutory authority established by the *Legal Aid Act 1977* with the primary purpose of providing vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the ACT Community involved in proceedings in ACT courts and tribunals with access to justice through a through a range of legal aid services.⁷³
- 4.2. The services provided by the Legal Aid Commission include:
- Information and referral services;
 - Legal advice and assistance;
 - Minor legal assistance;
 - Duty lawyer services;
 - Grants of legal assistance and representation in courts and tribunals;
 - Dispute resolution services;
 - Community Legal Education programs; and
 - Submissions on issues of law reform.⁷⁴

Matters considered

- 4.3. During the Legal Aid Commission's appearance before the committee on Wednesday, 12 February 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Resignation of an employee as chair of the ACT Law Society;
 - The National Legal Assistance Partnership;
 - Outreach programs; and
 - Employment of convicted child sex offender.⁷⁵

Key issues

Hiring and employment practices

- 4.4. The Committee examined the circumstances surrounding the employment of a person discovered to be a convicted child sex offender, including the process for obtaining a police check.⁷⁶
- 4.5. Legal Aid ACT told the Committee that it was standard practice to ensure that prospective employees had police clearance, but that on this occasion there was a delay in receiving a

⁷³ Legal Aid ACT, *Annual Report 2023–24*, pp 11–12.

⁷⁴ Legal Aid ACT, *Annual Report 2023–24*, p 12.

⁷⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, pp 24–34.

⁷⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, pp 29–34.

response from the Australian Federal Police and employment had commenced before it was received.⁷⁷

- 4.6. Legal Aid ACT advised the Committee that, once it became aware of the nature of the person’s conviction approximately a month after employment commenced, it took immediate action to assess risks and ensure that work roles and access to information were appropriately managed. Legal Aid ACT also clarified its requirements to prospective employees:

Legal Aid ACT has taken steps to make clearer in its pre-employment documents what standards prospective employees are likely to have to meet in respect of police checks and working with vulnerable people registration. Legal Aid ACT has also taken steps to strengthen requirements on prospective employees to provide full disclosure at interview and onboarding of information likely to be of relevance to the person being employed by Legal Aid ACT.⁷⁸

- 4.7. The Committee heard that employment application processes had since been reviewed, and Legal Aid ACT was confident that if the process was much more definitive:

We immediately reviewed our processes. I can assure you that they are as watertight as they can be. We get reference checks; we make sure that those are clear.

[...]

When we invite people to come to Legal Aid, it is so much clearer about what our expectations are, in terms of disclosure.⁷⁹

- 4.8. Furthermore, Legal Aid ACT advised that explicit questions about the ability to pass a police check were now part of the interview process:

Actually, at the interview our human resources representative on the interview panel asks questions like, “Have you got full working rights,” “You will need a police check; is there any reason why you won’t be successful in the police check?”⁸⁰

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the Legal Aid Commission ACT continue to monitor best practice recruitment and employment practices.

⁷⁷ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, pp 29–30.

⁷⁸ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 29.

⁷⁹ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, pp 33–34.

⁸⁰ Mr Brett Monger, Chief Financial Officer, Legal Aid ACT, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 34.

Legal Aid ACT grants

- 4.9. The Committee heard that Legal Aid ACT had been allocated an \$80,000 increase in funding from the National Legal Assistance Partnership, which was a very small percentage of Legal Aid ACT's annual income of approximately \$24 million.⁸¹
- 4.10. Legal Aid ACT said that it was pleased to see additional funding for community legal centres and services, but that the Legal Aid Commission still undertook over 60 percent of such work and the small increase would not allow it to address problems with private practitioner feeds or means tests:

As you know, we are talking about people getting legal aid when they are somewhere between 100 and 120 per cent of the poverty line. That means, in your hand, between \$411 and \$496 a week, after you have taken deductions. It is not much, particularly with this cost-of-living crisis. We are concerned that we will have to address some staffing issues and the levels of grants in certain matters.⁸²

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the income test for Legal Aid ACT grants so that more people in need can access free legal services.

⁸¹ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT, and Mr Brett Monger, Chief Financial Officer, Legal Aid ACT, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 27.

⁸² Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT, *Committee Hansard*, 12 February 2025, p 28.

5. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

- 5.1. The office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ACT) was established by the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1990* to institute, conduct and supervise prosecutions and related proceedings. It comprises the Director of Public Prosecutions, an independent statutory officer appointed by the ACT's Executive, and staff employed under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* to assist the Director.⁸³
- 5.2. The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is an independent prosecution authority of and for the ACT solely under the control of the Director. The Director has complete independence in relation to the operations of the office. The office however works closely with the courts, the legal profession, police and other investigators, victims' representatives, and other government agencies.⁸⁴

Matters considered

- 5.3. During the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions' appearance before the Committee on Thursday, 13 February 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Compensation for costs for discontinued trials;
 - Witness Assistance Service;
 - Referrals of prosecutions for matters of animal cruelty;
 - Sexual assault proceedings;
 - Support to victim survivors; and
 - Trial program to embed a prosecutor in the sexual assault and child abuse team of ACT Policing.⁸⁵

Key issues

Witness Assistance Service

- 5.4. The DPP told the Committee that the Witness Assistance Service had a 'tangible effect' on victims, ensuring they were supported in the best way possible. The DPP considered that the ACT should have at least 20 Witness Assistance Service officers 'at a bare minimum' to come into line with other jurisdictions in Australia. The service currently had three permanent positions, and three further positions funded by the Confiscated Assets Trust Fund. Funding for the additional positions would end in June 2025.⁸⁶
- 5.5. The Witness Assistance Service was currently only able to support sexual violence complainants and homicide family members, with occasional support for 'extremely

⁸³ Director of Public Prosecutions, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), p 16.

⁸⁴ Director of Public Prosecutions, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), p 16.

⁸⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, pp 35–44.

⁸⁶ Ms Victoria Engel SC, Director of Public Prosecutions, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 38.

vulnerable' family violence victims. The DPP observed that approximately 800 family and domestic violence matters were finalised in the Magistrates Court in the past year, and expressed the view that victims in these cases should also have access to the support provided by the Witness Assistance Service.⁸⁷

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider how it can provide ongoing or increased funding to support the maintenance or expansion of the Director of Public Prosecutions' Witness Assistance Service.

Staffing

- 5.6. In response to a question on notice, the DPP informed the Committee that the office would need 19 further prosecutors over the next three financial years to meet operational requirements. Eleven of these positions would need to be filled immediately to address demand. The DPP noted that if the Witness Assistance Service was not fully staffed, more prosecutor positions would be required as work supporting and informing witnesses and complainants would then fall to prosecutors.⁸⁸
- 5.7. The Office of the DPP had received short-term funding for two additional Crown Prosecutors and four Crown Advocates, and advised that the figure of 11 immediate positions depended on the short-term funded positions being extended. The 11 immediate positions required would be at the Prosecutor and Senior Prosecutor levels.⁸⁹
- 5.8. The DPP noted that she had been in 'continuous discussion' with the ACT Government about funding requirements since May-June 2024, and that discussions were still underway.⁹⁰

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide additional funding to the ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to hire additional prosecutors.

⁸⁷ Ms Victoria Engel SC, Director of Public Prosecutions, *Committee Hansard*, 13 February 2025, p 38.

⁸⁸ Ms Victoria Engel SC, Director of Public Prosecutions, *Answer to QON 009*, 13 March 2025.

⁸⁹ Ms Victoria Engel SC, Director of Public Prosecutions, *Answer to QON 009*, 13 March 2025.

⁹⁰ Ms Victoria Engel SC, Director of Public Prosecutions, *Answer to QON 009*, 13 March 2025.

6. Inspector of Custodial Services

- 6.1. On 28 August 2024, the Monitoring of Places of Detention Legislation Amendment Act 2024 passed, which changed the title of this legislation to Custodial Inspector Act 2017 and renamed the ACT Inspector to be ‘Custodial Inspector’. As this occurred outside the annual reporting period, the original title of the legislation and the Inspector is used for the purposes of the annual report.
- 6.2. The ACT Office of the Inspector of Correctional (now Custodial) Services (ICS) was established in 2017 to ‘oversee and critically examine the operations of the adult and youth correctional system with a preventative focus’.⁹¹ Its oversight responsibilities cover the following facilities:
- Alexander Maconochie Centre;
 - ACT Court Transport Unit, including court cells and transport units; and
 - Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.⁹²
- 6.3. The ICS’s remit also covers detained adults and young people who are in the custody of the ACTCS or the Community Services Directorate in other places, such as receiving treatment in hospital.⁹³

Matters considered

- 6.4. During the Inspector’s appearance before the committee on Monday, 17 February 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Implementation of recommendations in Healthy Centre Reviews of Bimberi;
 - Contact between parents and detainees at Bimberi;
 - Status of human rights standards for youth detention centres;
 - Cultural issues such as those raised in the ACT Integrity Commission’s report on Operation Falcon;
 - Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in youth detention;
 - Critical incident reports;
 - Potential review of the death of a detainee in custody; and
 - Health services at Bimberi.⁹⁴

⁹¹ ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), p 7.

⁹² ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), p 8.

⁹³ ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), p 8.

⁹⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 17 February 2025, pp 76–84.

Key issues

Young people in detention

- 6.5. The Inspector told the Committee that very few young people in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi) were able to attend a program, a service or a community event.⁹⁵
- 6.6. The second *Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi* released on 12 December 2024 by the Inspector raised concerns about providing effective throughcare because day leave is generally only approved for health appointments, and not to take up education, training and employment opportunities. The report also noted research that shared decision-making about day leave and community-based activities for young people in detention may assist with improved transition planning.⁹⁶
- 6.7. A culture of risk aversion was mentioned more generally in relation to decision-making on establishing protocols and practices in Bimberi such as those relating to parents hugging children:

I think there is an overtly risk-averse operational culture. In a sentence, I think it comes down to that. I think when you are worried about the risk of what could go wrong and that is driving decisions—when you are locking down a whole centre for a single code, even if it is a rolled ankle—that to me says the calibration of risk and aversion to risk is wrong.⁹⁷

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government empower a culture that maximises the opportunity for young people in detention to participate in options for day release and opportunities to participate in programs in the community or a service or community event.

- 6.8. The Committee was also told that while there were some positive instances of young people being able to maintain connections with their education provider as a part of throughcare during their stay at Bimberi, this was not the case for the majority.⁹⁸
- 6.9. The second *Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi* discussed findings from experiences of students enrolled in Muliyan (a flexible education program operated by the ACT Education Directorate) in maintaining a connection to their education:

Any delay between release and attempts made to reconnect with education can undermine a young person's return to education. The Review Team considers that students of Muliyan were in a much better position to re-engage with education on release from Bimberi, compared to young people transitioning back to a mainstream school, particularly as it was likely they had disengaged from that

⁹⁵ Ms Rebecca Minty, Inspector of Custodial Services, *Committee Hansard*, 17 February 2025, p 80.

⁹⁶ The Inspector of Custodial Services, *Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre*, December 2024, p 156.

⁹⁷ Ms Rebecca Minty, Inspector of Custodial Services, *Committee Hansard*, 17 February 2025, p 78.

⁹⁸ Mr Sean Costello, Deputy Inspector of Custodial Services, *Committee Hansard*, 17 February 2025, pp 80–81.

setting prior to their period of detention. As one staff member put it – ‘they were released from Bimberi on Wednesday, and back at Muliyan on Thursday.’⁹⁹

Recommendation 28

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand opportunities to ensure that young people can maintain their connection to their education provider while they are in Bimberi.

⁹⁹ The Inspector of Custodial Services, *Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre*, December 2024, p 138.

7. ACT Government Solicitor

- 7.1. The ACT Government Solicitor is established as a body corporate to act as legal practitioner for the Territory, its Ministers, and agencies. It is led by the Solicitor-General for the ACT, who is authorised to perform the functions of the Chief Solicitor. As well as delivering these legal services, the Solicitor-General acts as counsel for the Territory, the Crown in right of the Territory and any other Territory entity, and performs any other functions as directed by the Attorney-General.¹⁰⁰
- 7.2. The Solicitor-General’s Annual Report was omitted from the Justice and Community Safety Director’s Annual Report, and was provided after the hearing and accepted as a submission.

Matters considered

- 7.3. During the Solicitor-General’s appearance before the committee on Tuesday, 18 February 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Increase in number of opinions given;
 - Provision of the Solicitor-General’s Annual Report as part of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate Annual Report;
 - Nature of increasing complexity in the legal environment;
 - Drop in spending on women counsel;
 - Resourcing of the Government Solicitor;
 - Public and constitutional law practice;
 - Factors determining the practice focuses of legal service activity;
 - Annual report highlights.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Annual Report 2023–24*, p 52; *Submission — JACS Annual Report 2023–24 — Solicitor-General*.

¹⁰¹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 February 2025, pp 120–128.

8. Office of the Public Trustee and Guardian

- 8.1. The Public Trustee and Guardian is a statutory office holder established under the *Public Trustee and Guardian Act 1985*.¹⁰²
- 8.2. The Public Trustee and Guardian performs guardianship and financial management services when appointed by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT), acts for clients as power of attorney, supports private managers appointed by ACAT and examines accounts, and provides estate planning services. As the statutory public trustee, the Office delivers estate management services, investment services, and performs the role of Trustee for several entities.¹⁰³

Matters considered

- 8.3. During the Acting Public Trustee and Guardian's appearance before the committee on Friday, 21 February 2025 the following matters were considered:
- Information and computer technology renewal activities;
 - Increased number of guardianship referrals from ACAT;
 - Oversight of private managers appointed by ACAT;
 - Implementation of recommendations of Auditor-General's report 3 of 2023, *Financial management services for protected persons*;
 - Fraud risk of cryptocurrency;
 - Outstanding issues;
 - Movement from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making; and
 - GreaterGood.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰² Public Trustee and Guardian, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), p 4.

¹⁰³ Public Trustee and Guardian, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), p 4.

¹⁰⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 21 February 2025, pp 137–145.

9. ACT Human Rights Commission

- 9.1. Established in 2006, the ACT Human Rights Commission is an independent agency consisting of four Commissioners whose functions include:
- promoting understanding of human rights and engagement with human rights issues in by the community in the ACT;
 - review laws, including draft legislation, policies and procedures through legislative scrutiny and audit powers;
 - provide oversight of public authorities and access to remedies where rights are breached or at risk;
 - Support courts and tribunals through strategic use of the Commission’s intervention power;
 - Listen to, stand with and advocate for those in the ACT Community who are most at risk, or who have experienced violations of their rights or stands of service provision; and
 - Provide safe, responsive, and accessible services for members of the ACT community to safely raise their concerns and use the services of the Commission.¹⁰⁵
- 9.2. The Human Rights Commission is not subject to the direction of any other person of body and the President and other Commissioners must act independently in exercising their functions under the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005*. The Minister for Human Rights however may in writing direct the Human Rights Commission to inquire and report to the Minister in relation to a matter that can be complained about under the Act.¹⁰⁶

Matters considered

- 9.3. During the ACT Human Rights Commission’s appearance before the committee on Friday, 21 February 2025 the following matters were considered:
- ACT Privacy Commissioner role;
 - Increase in applications for financial assistance for victims of crime;
 - Compliance of the *Bail Act 1992* with human rights;
 - Child sexual exploitation;
 - Victim rights concerns; and
 - Minimum age of criminal responsibility.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁵ Human Rights Commission, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), pp 8, 10.

¹⁰⁶ Human Rights Commission, [Annual Report 2023–24](#), p 8.

¹⁰⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 21 February 2025, pp 146–154.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. The Committee would like to thank the Ministers, statutory officers and directorate staff who participated in this inquiry.
- 10.2. The Committee makes 28 recommendations.

Mr Peter Cain MLA

Chair, Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

30 April 2025

Appendix A: Submissions

Submissions

No.	Submission by	Received	Published
1	ACT Solicitor-General – Annual Report contribution	19/02/25	26/02/25
2	Minister for Corrections – correction of record	25/02/25	26/02/25
3	Minister for Corrections – correction of record	24/02/25	26/02/25

Appendix B: Witnesses

Monday, 10 February 2025

ACT Official Visitors

- **Mr Peter James Muir**, Board Chair
- **Ms Clare Doube**, Board Member and Official Visitor - Corrections

Wednesday, 12 February 2025

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Corrections

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Ray Johnson**, Acting Director-General
- **Ms Leanne Close**, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services
- **Mr James Taylor-Dyus**, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Custodial Operations, ACT Corrective Services
- **Ms Lizzie Spulak**, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Offender Reintegration, ACT Corrective Services

Legal Aid ACT

- **Dr John Boersig**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Brett Monger**, Chief Financial Officer

Thursday, 13 February 2025

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

- **Ms Victoria Engel SC**, Director of Public Prosecutions

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Ray Johnson**, Acting Director-General
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs
- **Ms Zoe Hutchinson**, Executive Branch Manager, Justice Reform Branch, Legislation, Policy and Programs
- **Mr Richard Dening**, Senior Director, Restorative Justice Unit, Legislation, Policy and Programs

- **Ms Wilhelmina Blount**, Acting Deputy Director-General, Community Safety

Monday, 17 February 2025

Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services (Inspector of Correctional Services)

- **Ms Rebecca Minty**, Inspector of Custodial Services
- **Mr Sean Costello**, Deputy Inspector of Custodial Services

Tuesday, 18 February 2025

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

ACT Policing

- **Mr Scott Lee**, Chief Police Officer for the ACT
- **Mr Andrew Bailey**, Acting Deputy Chief Police Officer
- **Mr Peter Whowell**, Executive Group Manager, Corporate

ACT Emergency Services Agency

- **Mr Wayne Phillips**, Commissioner
- **Ms Cherry Wang**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, ESA Finance
- **Mr Matthew Shonk**, Acting Chief Officer, ACT Fire & Rescue
- **Mr Howard Wren**, Chief Officer, ACT Ambulance Service
- **Mr Rohan Scott**, Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Director-General

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Franco Frino**, Executive Branch Manager, Capital Works and Infrastructure

ACT Government Solicitor

- **Mr Peter Garrison AM SC**, ACT Solicitor-General

Wednesday, 19 February 2025

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for Human Rights

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Ray Johnson**, Acting Director-General
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs

Friday, 21 February 2025

Public Trustee and Guardian

- **Ms Robyn Hakelis**, Acting Public Trustee and Guardian
- **Ms Dana Lacey**, Senior Director, Client Services
- **Mr Callum Hughes**, Senior Director, Finance

ACT Human Rights Commission

- **Dr Penelope Mathew**, President and Human Rights Commissioner
- **Ms Karen Toohey**, Discrimination, Health Services, Disability and Community Services Commissioner
- **Ms Margie Rowe**, Acting Victims of Crime Commissioner
- **Ms Jodie Griffiths-Cook**, Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner

Appendix C: Questions on Notice and Questions Taken on Notice

Questions on Notice

No.	Date asked	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	14/02/2025	Minister for Corrections	Operation Falcon findings	21/02/2024
2	14/02/2025	Legal Aid	Assistant Services	25/02/2025
3	14/02/2025	Legal Aid	Cyber Attack	25/02/2025
4	14/02/2025	Legal Aid	Duty Lawyer Services	25/02/2025
5	14/02/2025	Legal Aid	ACT Colleges Program	25/02/2025
6	14/02/2025	Director of Public Prosecutions	ACT Prosecution Policy	28/02/2025
7	17/02/2025	Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence	Domestic and family violence services	Redirected to the Standing Committee on Social Policy Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24
8	17/02/2025	Director of Public Prosecutions	Workplace culture	28/02/2025
9	17/02/2025	Director of Public Prosecutions	Funding	13/03/2025
10	17/02/2025	Legal Aid	Legal Aid and barristers	25/02/2025
11	17/02/2025	Director of Public Prosecutions	Witness assistance services	28/02/2025
12	18/02/2025	Minister for Corrections	Handover documents	26/02/2025
13	19/02/2025	Legal Aid	Business continuity audit recommendations	03/03/2025
14	19/02/2025	Solicitor-General	External legal advice	14/03/2025
15	19/02/2025	Solicitor-General	Claims, inquests and inquiries	26/02/2025
16	19/02/2025	Attorney-General	Freedom of information - cabinet information criteria	26/02/2025
17	19/02/2025	Solicitor-General	Practice focus	27/02/2025
18	19/02/2025	Solicitor-General	Opinions	26/02/2025
19	19/02/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Bullying	Redirected to the Standing

				Committee on Social Policy Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24
20	19/02/2025	Solicitor-General	Responsiveness	26/02/2025
21	19/02/2025	Solicitor-General	Case volumes	26/02/2025
22	20/02/2025	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Patient transport capacity	27/02/2025
23	20/02/2025	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Emergency Services Agency Cultural Review	27/02/2025
24	20/02/2025	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Role of Security and Emergency Management Division at Justice and Community Safety Directorate	27/02/2025
25	20/02/2025	Director of Public Prosecutions	Discontinued cases	28/02/2025
26	21/02/2025	Legal Aid	Employment of convicted child sex offender	11/03/2025
27	21/02/2025	Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Penalty unit review	27/02/2025
28	21/02/2025	Minister for Police, Fire and emergency Services	Experience & training for Incident Management Teams	05/03/2025
29	26/02/2025	Minister for Human Rights	Resourcing the ACT Human Rights Commission	07/03/2025
30	26/02/2025	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Firearms registry	07/03/2025
31	26/02/2025	Minister for Human Rights	Right to a healthy environment	04/03/2025
32	26/02/2025	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Policing staff profile	07/03/2025
33	26/02/2025	Minister for Human Rights	Financial assistance scheme	07/03/2025
34	26/02/2025	Minister for Human Rights	Victims' rights	07/03/2025
35	26/02/2025	Minister for Human Rights	No rights without remedy	07/03/2025
36	26/02/2025	Minister for Human Rights	Privacy Commissioner	07/03/2025
37	26/02/2025	Minister for Human Rights	Victims' rights and advocacy	07/03/2025
38	26/02/2025	Minister for Human Rights	Victim support ACT	07/03/2025

Questions Taken on Notice

No.	Date asked	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	10/02/2025	Official Visitors	Inmate complaints	18/02/2025
2	12/02/2025	Minister for Corrections	Alexander Maconochie Centre staff numbers	18/02/2025
3	12/02/2025	Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Release at sentencing	24/02/2025
4	12/02/2025	Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Contraband detection	21/02/2025
5	12/02/2025	Minister for Mental Health	Detention Exit Community Outreach Program	03/03/2025
6	13/02/2025	Director of Public Prosecutions	Prosecution of animal cruelty	28/02/2025
7	13/02/2025	Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Court experience reports	24/02/2025
8	13/02/2025	Attorney-General	Knife related offences	24/02/2025
9	13/02/2025	Attorney-General	Knife possession data	26/02/2025
10	13/02/2025	Attorney-General	ACAT Annual Reports	21/02/2025
11	18/02/2025	ACT Emergency Services Agency	Zero-emissions fleet details	27/02/2025
12	18/02/2025	ACT Emergency Services Agency	Zero-emissions fleet numbers	27/02/2025
13	18/02/2025	ACT Emergency Services Agency	Maintenance Costs	27/02/2025
14	18/02/2025	ACT Emergency Services Agency	Rosenbauer contract	27/02/2025
15	18/02/2025		WITHDRAWN	
16	18/02/2025	ACT Policing	Breach of Bail Data	06/03/2025
17	18/02/2025	ACT Policing	Breach of Bail Offences	12/03/2025
18	18/02/2025	ACT Policing	Motorcycle Gang Gatherings	17/03/2025
19	18/02/2025	ACT Policing	Online reporting tool	03/03/2025
20	18/02/2025	ACT Policing	Police overtime	03/03/2025
21	18/02/2025	Solicitor-General	Medical negligence claims	27/02/2025
22	21/02/2025	Public Trustee and Guardian	Bequests to Greater Good	28/02/2025

Appendix D: Gender distribution of witnesses

Beginning in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Committees are collecting information on the gender of witnesses. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses.

Gender indication	Total
Female	12
Male	26
No data	6