



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Meegan Fitzharris MLA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Inquiry into 2014–15 Annual reports

Supplementary Questions



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Megan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 9 November 2015

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

Ref: CMTEDD Annual Report 2014-15

In relation to: Employment of Women in the ACT Public Service

1. How many people work part-time within the ACT public service?
2. How many women work part-time across the ACT Public Service?
3. How many women have taken maternity leave each year for the last 5 years across the ACT public service?

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. As at June 2015, there were 4,921 people working part-time within the ACT Public Service which comprises 23.6% of the ACTPS (page 92 of the 2015 State of the Service Report).
2. As at June 2015, there were 4,153 women working part-time across the ACT Public Service. This is 84.4% of the ACTPS part-time employees (page 92 of the 2015 State of the Service Report).
3. The table below sets out the number of women who have taken maternity leave over the last 5 financial years:

2010-11	517
2011-12	500
2012-13	542
2013-14	570
2014-15	573

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA

Date: 16.11.2015

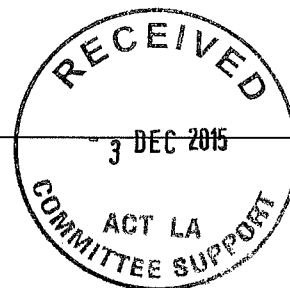


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY ANNUAL REPORTS HEARINGS

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Treasurer

Ref: CMTED Annual Report 2014-15



In relation to: Payroll Tax Revenues

1. In relation to the actual outcomes for 2013-14, 2014-15, and the 2015-16 Budget, and each year in the Forward Estimates, what is the value (dollar and percentage) of the National Wages Threshold and the number of businesses in each threshold in relation to the following:
 - a. \$1.750m - \$1.849m
 - b. \$1.850m - \$1.999m
 - c. \$2.000m - \$2.499m
 - d. \$2.500m - \$2.999m
 - e. \$3.000m - \$3.499m
 - f. \$3.500m - \$3.999m
 - g. \$4.000m - \$4.499m
 - h. \$4.500m - \$4.999m
 - i. \$5.000m - \$9.999m
 - j. \$10.000m and above
2. What is the value for the National Wages Threshold for \$5 million in relation to the:
 - a. Actual tax revenue outcome for 2013-14 and 2014-15
 - b. The 2015-16 Budget
 - c. The Forward Estimates 2016-17 to 2018-19

Brendan Smyth MLA
5 November 2015

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

1.

ACT payroll tax summary 2013-14 outcomes			
National wages threshold (\$ millions)	Number of businesses in the ACT	Estimated payroll tax paid	Share of payroll tax paid (per cent)
1.750 - 1.849	16	294,904	0.1
1.850 - 1.999	29	533,995	0.2
2.000 - 2.499	106	4,008,548	1.2
2.500 - 2.999	106	3,704,835	1.1
3.000 - 3.499	112	3,472,594	1.0
3.500 - 3.999	91	2,340,807	0.7
4.000 - 4.499	88	5,308,194	1.6
4.500 - 4.999	84	3,898,802	1.2
5.000 - 9.999	414	31,972,115	9.7
≥10.000	1,043	275,630,206	83.2
Total	2,089	331,165,000	100.0

ACT payroll tax summary 2014-15 outcomes			
National wages threshold (\$ millions)	Number of businesses in the ACT	Estimated payroll tax paid	Share of payroll tax paid (per cent)
1.750 - 1.849	19	898,556	0.2
1.850 - 1.999	33	1,953,586	0.5
2.000 - 2.499	102	4,549,870	1.3
2.500 - 2.999	95	3,084,491	0.9
3.000 - 3.499	89	2,478,019	0.7
3.500 - 3.999	86	1,806,720	0.5
4.000 - 4.499	80	3,476,024	1.0
4.500 - 4.999	72	5,289,129	1.5
5.000 - 9.999	464	38,746,496	10.8
≥10.000	1,089	296,578,109	82.6
Total	2,129	358,861,000	100.0

Please note: this data should be treated with caution due to the existence of waivers, compliance assessments, penalties, interest, and accrual accounting adjustments.

In relation to payroll tax revenue for the 2015-16 Budget and the Forward Estimates, these are modelled at an aggregate level using estimates of wages and employment growth. Hence the number of businesses and value in each threshold are not available.

2.

This question appears to be a hypothetical tax modelling question which would require significant resources. I am not prepared to allocate the significant resources required to provide the complex modelling exercise.

Approved for circulation to the Annual Report Hearings

Signature: 

Date: 2.12.15

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
ANNUAL REPORTS HEARINGS

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Treasurer

Ref: CMTEd Annual Report 2014-15

In relation to: First Home Owner Grant

1. What have been:
 - a. The number of recipients in each financial year of under the First Home Owner Grant in since 1 July 2000.
 - b. What amounts have been spent on grants for each financial year?
 - c. What amounts are provided for First Home Owner Grants in 2015-16 and each year of the Forward Estimates?
 - d. What is the number of recipients associated with these amounts?
2. What would be:
 - a. The budgetary impact of extending the First Home Owners Grant eligibility to existing homes.
 - b. What would be the number of additional recipients in the 2015-16 Forward Estimates if eligibility was extended to include existing homes?

Brendan Smyth MLA
5 November 2015

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

1. (a) and (b)
The breakdown of number of applications and amount of First Home Owner Grant (FHOG) expense are as follows:

Financial year	Number of applications paid	Amount of FHOG (\$m)
2000-01	3,118	22.2
2001-02	3,632	28.1
2002-03	2,406	17.6
2003-04	1,565	10.6
2004-05	2,077	14.2
2005-06	2,524	16.8
2006-07	2,954	19.5
2007-08	2,502	16.5
2008-09	2,958	20.5
2009-10	3,568	23.3
2010-11	2,816	17.9
2011-12	2,775	18.3
2012-13	3,037	20.6
2013-14	1,860	14.5
2014-15	1,706	17.3

(c) and (d)

The budget and forward years figures requested are as follows:

Budget and forward years	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
FHOG expense (\$m)	13.3	10.3	8.0	8.0
Number of applications	1,309	1,227	1,245	1,264

2. This question appears to be a hypothetical modelling question which would require significant resources. As per the Companion to the Standing Orders, Chapter 12, paragraph 12.28:

“12.28 Occasionally Ministers will reply to a question on notice or part of a question on notice by indicating that they are not prepared to allow the use of the resources required to obtain the information requested³⁶. This usually occurs when a question requests very detailed statistical information. The standing orders place no obligation on a Minister to answer a question³⁷.”

I am not prepared to allocate the significant resources required to provide the complex modelling exercise.

Approved for circulation to the Annual Report Hearings

Signature: 

Date: 17.11.2015

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ANNUAL REPORTS HEARINGS

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Treasurer

Ref: CMTED Annual Report 2014-15

In relation to: Government Fees and Charges

1. In relation to each of the fees and charges summarised in 2015-16 Budget Paper No 3, Page 210, Table 6.1.11, what is:
 - a. The net proceeds from each fee after taking into account collection and administration costs for that particular fee.
 - b. Collection and administration costs as a percentage of the total of each fee.

Mr Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government does not centrally coordinate the administrative work required to administer fees and charges. For example, reminders and renewals for licences, registrations, invoices are the responsibility of individual business areas.

Therefore a response to this request to allocate account collection and administration costs to individual fees would require extensive investigation. It would necessitate an unreasonable diversion of resources which would not be practical and I am not prepared to support.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2015-16

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 16.11.2015

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ANNUAL REPORTS HEARINGS

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

Ref: CMTED Annual Report 2014-15

In relation to: ACT Public Service Staff Positions

1. In relation to the ACT Public Service Position levels (ASO 1 to SOG A) listed in the ACT Government Standard Costing Parameters 2012, at Page 7, Attachment A, what will be the updated figures for 2015-16 for the columns in Attachment A.
2. For executive positions in the ACT Public Service (ie those above SOG A), what will be:
 - a. The salary and overhead components for each of those levels per the columns in Attachment A to the ACT Government Standard Costing Parameters 2012, Page 7.
 - b. The quantum of any other costs incurred for each level outside those in a. Above.

Brendan Smyth MLA
5 November 2015

Mr Barr - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The attachment referred to by Mr Smyth was publicly released as part of the written guidelines outlining the administrative procedures for the costing of election commitments prior to the 2012 ACT Legislative Assembly election. The format of this document, which is used by ACT Treasury to provide policy proposals costings to political parties on request, will be updated prior to the 2016 election and may be released by the Under Treasurer pursuant to section 7 of the *Election Commitments Costing Act 2012*. Should the Under Treasurer decide to take such action, the information will be released in a similar format towards the middle of 2016. Much of this salary-related information is, however, already publicly available through the Jobs Act website.
2. Salary-related information in relation to executive positions is determined annually by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal and is available on the Tribunal's website. This information is not translated into the same format as for non-executive positions for the purposes of election costings.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2015-16

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 17.11.2015

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

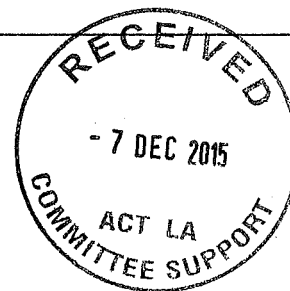
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA, Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 10 November 2015

Asked by MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA:

In relation to: Racing in the ACT



1. In relation to horse, harness and greyhound racing in the ACT, what:
 - a. Are the major racing events staged in the ACT are:
 - b. Is the amount of prize money for each event.
 - c. Contribution does the Government make to the prize money for each event.
2. Excluding contributions to prize money, what other:
 - a. Financial support does the Government provide to the three racing codes referred to in question 1 above.
 - b. Non-financial support or concessions are provided by the ACT Government to the three racing codes.
3. In the past five years, what:
 - a. Approaches have the racing community or organisations made to the ACT Government for financial or non-financial support.
 - b. Was the nature of the requests for support or assistance.
 - c. Requests were granted and what ones refused.

Ms Joy Burch MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- 1a. Major racing events staged in the ACT can be found in the table below. This information was sourced from the following sites:
 - www.harness.org.au/results/index.cfm?event=resultsIndex&search_type=daily
 - www.thoroughbredpark.com.au
 - www.canberragreyhound.com.au/
- b. The prize money for each event is included in the table.

- c. Prize money values are set by the racing club conducting the event. Information is not collected on the percentage of government funding that contributes to the prize money value of each event.

Thoroughbred racing		Greyhound racing		Harness Racing	
Event	Prizemoney	Event	Prizemoney	Event	Prizemoney
Black Opal Stakes	\$275,000	Group 3 Canberra Cup	\$25,000 to the winner	Canberra Cup	\$14,999
Canberra Cup	\$200,000	- Legends race event - Toledo Trailers	All \$10,000 to the winner	- ACT PA Final, - ACTTAB Capital Championship Three Year Old Pace, - Australian Pest Bird Management Final, - Australian Pest Bird Management Ackie Hawke Memorial - Bega Show 21st February Final - Capital Trophies Final, - Christmas Cup - John Platts Memorial	All \$10,000 per race
(Canberra) National Sprint - Canberra Guineas	All \$125,000	Climate Doctor Cannonball	\$7,000 to the winner	- J W O'Sullivan & Son Final - Lesley Catherine Redman Memorial - Movember Cup	All \$7,000 per race
Capital Cash Race days	\$159,000 per event (up to \$27,000 per race)				
Melbourne Cup Race day	\$15,000				

- 2a. The ACT Government currently provides funding to the racing industry through CPI-indexed Budget appropriations. Funding for the industry was set at \$8.022 million in 2014-15 and \$8.226 million for 2015-16.
- b. In addition to the above funding, the government subsidises some of the Canberra Harness Racing Clubs' use of office space, horse stables and other facilities in order for the club to conduct 20 race meets per year at EPIC. The Club pays a subsidised rent amount of \$2616.13 per month (plus utilities). This agreement extended in 2014 for a further three years.
- 3a. Over recent years, officials from the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate have met with the racing clubs on several occasions to discuss issues affecting the industry. Informal discussions between industry, officials and me have also occurred during this period.

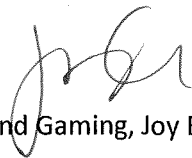
- b. The racing industry has asked for support and assistance in a number of areas including:
- i. reforms to the Race Field Information charge;
 - ii. guidance to the Canberra Harness Racing Club regarding its long-standing insurer for worker's compensation purposes;
 - iii. negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between government and industry;
 - iv. undertaking a feasibility study into co-location options for the three racing codes; and
 - v. making a submission to the sale of ACTTAB.

The government understands the racing industry's primary concerns are the ongoing viability of racing in the Territory and achieving greater funding certainty for the industry.

- c. The government delivered reforms to the Race Field Information charge, assisted Canberra Harness Racing Club with legislative advice regarding worker's compensation insurance, successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with industry and completed a feasibility study into co-location options. Information relating to ACTTAB sale outcomes should be directed to the Treasurer.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



Date:

4.12.15

By the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE Tuesday, 10 November 2015

Asked by MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA:

In relation to: A New Convention Centre

Provide a list of all Government initiatives to progress the new convention centre project along with:

1. Date of initiative
2. Cost of initiative
3. Outcome

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

Project	Date of Initiative Budget Year	Total \$'000	Expenditure \$'000	Outcome
Australia Forum ³	2011-12	1,000	1,000	Australia Forum design studies completed, including infrastructure costings. City Hill site chosen for the Australia Forum and included in the City Plan.
Australia Forum - Investment Ready ^{1,3}	2014-15	1,300	1,300	Completed reference design and economic analysis for the Australia Forum.
Australia Forum - Investment Ready ²	2014-15	200	0	Underway
TOTAL		2,500	2,300	

¹A provision of \$8 million has also been made in the 2014-15 Budget.

²This funding was appropriated to Treasury to prepare the business case for Australia Forum.

³Appropriated to Economic Development.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services

Signature: 

Date: 3.12.2015

By the Minister for Urban Renewal, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Megan Fitzharris MLA

Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
November 2015

Ms Lawder MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to: Arscott House

To provide the following information:

1. Is Arscott House being used only for student accommodation? If not, what is the University of Canberra using it for?

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In 2011 the Government agreed to the transfer of Arscott House to the University of Canberra (UC) as part of an ACT Government contribution to UC's National Rental Affordability Scheme project to develop 1,000 new affordable rental dwellings.

I am advised the UC is currently considering options for the future use of Arscott House. Demand for this style of student accommodation is low, and the Students Union was unable to maintain a financially viable operation. Between 2011 and 2014 the bed occupancy rate of Arscott House declined from 99.1% to 57.5%.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 16.11.2015

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA