



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

ALISTAIR COE MLA (CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Peter Cain MLA on 10 March 2021:

Ref: ACT Audit Office Annual Report 2019-20, Funding

In relation to:

1. Does the ACT Ombudsman believe that the approximately \$3 million in funding from the ACT Government it receives [Annual Report – Page 27] is enough funding from the ACT Government to effectively fulfill its role?

ACT Ombudsman: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The ACT Ombudsman's budget proposal for 2021-22 is currently being formulated and will be forwarded to the Speaker and the Committee in the near future.

In addition, the following extract from Page 103 of the Proof Transcript of the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019-20 and Estimates 2020-21 Public Accounts Committee hearing held on Friday 5 March 2021 responds to the member's question.

MR CAIN: Do you feel you have adequate resources to meet your own targets?

Mr Manthorpe: It is always a stretch. I operate the Commonwealth Ombudsman's office and the ACT Ombudsman's office and come to governments or parliaments seeking more resources only when I am satisfied that I have done everything I can to improve the internal operation of the place and have it working as effectively as I can. It is always a stretch, but we do our best. I think I will just leave it at that.

MR CAIN: Is there proportional funding, given your commonwealth functions as well? How much money do you get for the ACT, compared to the whole pile?

Mr Manthorpe: We get about \$3 million from the ACT. That number has indeed grown in recent years as our functions have grown. We have the commonwealth and our overall budget is about \$44 or \$45 million. I have a proportion of staff who work exclusively on ACT matters and I have some staff who support the work—for example, corporate staff who work across the whole office and a bit of their activity is, in effect, dedicated to the ACT and so forth.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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QON No. 10a

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MR CAIN: Has the proportion of ACT funding increased or stayed the same out of the total funding you have got?

Mr Manthorpe: They have both been moving. I would say that, if anything, the proportion of ACT funding has increased relative to the overall office in the three or four years that I have been the Ombudsman, simply because we have moved from being just a complaint handling body to having the series of other functions that I mentioned at the outset.

MR CAIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

Date:

22.3.21

By the ACT Ombudsman, Mr Michael Manthorpe PSM