



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Asked by **Mr Braddock MLA** on **31 August 2022**: **Minister Vassarotti, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services** took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript] **Hansard p 967**.

In relation to: Housing ACT expenses on litigation and tribunals in the 2021/22 Financial Year

How much does ACT Housing spend on litigation and tribunals each year?

Minister Vassarotti: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The legal costs of Housing ACT for the two preceding financial years are outlined below:

	Legal Costs	ACAT Tribunal Fees	Total
2020-21	\$346,906*	\$15,147	\$362,053
2021-22	\$417,222*	\$31,405	\$448,627

*The legal costs of Housing ACT relate to contract matters (ie. review of terms, breaches of contract etc), litigation, mediation, and general support with tenant related matters (ie. occupancy agreements, discrimination, defamation, conciliation etc). The costs exclude conveyancing.

Housing ACT has a small team of Tribunal Advocates at the ASO6 and SOGC classification that represent the Commissioner for Social Housing at the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Of the 173 tenancy dispute matters progressed at the ACAT in 2021-22, only 4 required representations from the ACT Government Solicitor's Office.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: 

Date: 8/9/2022

By Minister Rebecca Vassarotti (Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services)