



# Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Ms Deborah Morris MLA

Addressed to: Deputy Commissioner Scott Lee, Chief Police Officer for the ACT, ACT Policing

In relation to: Motorcycle gang gatherings

Hearing: 18 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 27

Transcript provided: 20 February 2025

Answer Due: 27 February 2025

Deputy Commissioner Scott Lee took on notice the following question(s):

**MS MORRIS:** Why is it that the ACT is so attractive to bikie members? Why are they choosing Canberra, of all places in Australia, to congregate and have their annual meets?

**Mr Lee:** Yes. Well, certainly, as I said, it is a matter for the Legislative Assembly here in terms of the legislation that exists here in the ACT. Certainly within the ACT, they can congregate. They can associate, so obviously that is the legislative framework that we have here. We operate within that though, and as I said, seek to do what we can to make sure that we manage, and we ensure that we have a policing operation in place for that. So obviously, there is an environment that allows them to do that lawfully, and as is their right, they do that, and we police appropriately.

**Dr Paterson:** And, Ms Morris, what I would say is that the three instances in the last year and a half are a perfect example that ACT Police do have the appropriate enforcement framework to be able to address these groups entering the ACT. And I would also refer you to a 2023 New South Wales review, an oversight body of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission who looked at their anti-consorting laws in New South Wales. And they raised serious concerns about the over-representation of Aboriginal people and the use of the consorting law and police targeting activity that does not fit the definition of coordinated serious criminal activity.

**MS MORRIS:** Thank you, minister.

**Dr Paterson:** So we have been through this debate and discussion many times, and basically these anti-consorting laws that have been implemented in other states are a disproportionate response, and that is what the New South Wales Law Review Committees are articulating, and basically, they are inconsistent with human rights principles that we have here in the ACT.

**MS MORRIS:** So were we to have anti-consorting laws in the ACT, we would not be seeing events of this nature occurring in Canberra?

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**Dr Paterson:** Well, you still might see them, but they might be more undercover. So I would suggest that ACT Policing's engagement with these groups actually gives them a greater intelligence base to be able to understand organised crime.

**MS MORRIS:** Okay. That is certainly one argument. How much have each of these events cost in terms of diversion of police resources?

**Mr Lee:** Well, I would need to take that on notice, Ms Morris, just in terms of—certainly with each of those runs, there was a significant policing presence to ensure that, if you like, everyone understood that the police were in charge. So I can take it on those, see if we are able to extract that cost for you.

Dr Marisa Paterson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

ACT Policing reports that the total cost to engage with and monitor the Rebels Organised Motorcycle Gang (OMCG) event in Canberra from 22 to 24 March 2024 was \$183,137 and required the dedication of approximately 153 individual police member resources. This involved the deployment of 104 members on 22 March at a cost of \$76,072, 108 members on 23 March at a cost of \$81,717 and 61 members on 24 March at a cost of \$25,348. Please note the breakdown of the headcount across these three days includes members who worked across multiple days of the event.


The total cost for ACT Policing to engage with and monitor the Comanchero OMCG event in Canberra on 7 September 2024 was \$82,043 and required the dedication of approximately 85 individual police member resources.

The total cost for ACT Policing to engage with and monitor the Hells Angels OMCG event in Canberra from 30 January to 2 February 2025 was \$144,591 and required the dedication of approximately 123 individual police member resources. This involved the deployment of 82 members on 31 January at a cost of \$57,462, 89 members on 1 February at a cost of \$74,954 and 28 members on 2 February at a cost of \$12,175. Please note the breakdown of the headcount across these three days includes members who worked across multiple days of the event.

ACT Policing allocates resourcing to OMCG events after conducting a risk assessment, and in accordance with the assessed potential impact on the community.

The costs for the OMCG runs are a combination of employee salaries including base, overtime and penalties.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature: 

Date: 17/3/25

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