



Mick Gentleman MLA
Manager of Government Business
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

Member for Brindabella

Joy Burch MLA
Speaker
ACT Legislative Assembly
By email: burch@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Madam Speaker *Joy*

I am writing on behalf of the Government in relation to the current public health emergency that is impacting our Territory. As the Chief Minister has advised publicly, the Government has reprioritised resources and public servants to respond to the emergency. Directorates are focusing on ways to support the Government's response.

While being respectful and mindful of the Legislative Assembly's independence, I would seek your and the Assembly's understanding in event that the Government, Ministers and/or Directorates are unable to meet timelines set by the Assembly. While all Ministers intend to fulfil their reporting requirements under Assembly Resolutions and the Standing Orders, in some instances this may not be possible as this would require diverting resources and public servants away from the current public health emergency.

This letter should not be construed as the Government avoiding scrutiny. The Government has worked cooperatively with all parties to ensure the Assembly continues to sit during this emergency.

These are unprecedented times and many things that would occur as a matter of course are simply not possible. The Government will continue to focus its energy, resources and staff in responding to the public health emergency.

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 @GENTLEMANMick

 MickGentleman

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I am advised that following Government responses maybe delayed:

- Minister for Health - Biannual Update on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Final Report: Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services;
- Minister for Health - Government Response to Assembly Resolution 22 April 2021- Endoscopy Wait Times;
- Minister for Disability - Government Response to Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing – Report 2 - Inquiry into Carers Recognition Bill - Private Members Bill;
- Minister for Multicultural Affairs - Government Response to Assembly Resolution 4 August 2021 – Language Challenges Facing Canberra’s Multicultural Community; and
- Minister for Families and Community Services- Government Response to Assembly Resolution 3 June 2021 – Out of Home Care Education.

In addition to the above, there may be further Government Responses identified in the coming months that will not meet expected Assembly timelines. The Government will endeavour to advise Members of this as soon as practicable.

While Ministers are committed to ensuring Questions on Notice (QONs) are provided in a timely manner, some QONs maybe provided outside the usual timeframe. This will arise because all Ministers, their Offices, Directorates and Agencies of the Government are focussed on responding to the threat posed by the current outbreak of the Delta strain of the COVID-19 virus.

I also request your assistance in drawing Members’ attention to this letter, should a concern be raised regarding timeliness of responses from Ministers to resolutions, QONs or other matters requested by the Assembly.

I have copied all Members into this correspondence and will formally table a copy in the Assembly at the next sitting.

Yours sincerely


Mick Gentleman MLA
Manager of Government Business

21/9/2021

CC: The Clerk
All Members of the Legislative Assembly