



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY  
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

#### **24 February 2022**

---

Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA on 24 FEBRUARY 2022: DAMIAN WEST took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 24 February 2022, Page XX]

In relation to: Harassment Cases

1)

THE CHAIR: Thank you. I have just a question while we are on harassment, just as a supplementary to Mr Davis' question. I notice that the reports of harassment has increased by 75 per cent since 2018 and 19, from 356 to 623. Can you just give us a bit of insight into why it has increased so dramatically since then?

Dr West: Thank you, Ms Castley. I think it is important to know, so the number of 623 is a combination of all of the possible reporting mechanisms. So one report could be reported multiple times. What I can tell you is that only 12 of those instances made their way through to a formal investigation, where they were referred to the Public Sector Standards Unit, as I said, for formal investigation. And the remaining of those were resolved within the directorates, and indicating to us that their local level responses in that process were ultimately quite timely and hopefully quite effective.

I think in the reporting year that we are talking about, there were only, of those 12, six of them referred to alleged sexual harassment, six investigations only, and I believe they are still ongoing. But I might seek clarification from Ms Thompson about that information.

[...]

Ms Thompson: Thank you. Christina Thompson, executive branch manager, Professional Standards Unit, and I have read the privilege statement and abide by it. I do not actually have the information as to whether those particular matters have been finalised or not, but we can take that on notice.

2)

THE CHAIR: Can I ask just one more supplementary here, is there were six sexual harassment, you said. What were the other six?

Dr West: I will have to take that on notice. I do not have the specifics with me.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Of the 12 investigations undertaken by the Professional Standards Unit relating to harassment, 10 matters have been finalised and 2 remain pending. Of the 12 matters 6 related to sexual harassment and the remaining 6 have been categorised as follows:

- 2 Inappropriate conduct (lack of courtesy, sensitivity or respect) and harassment
- 1 Inappropriate conduct (lack of courtesy, sensitivity or respect) and bullying
- 1 Inappropriate conduct (lack of courtesy, sensitivity and respect)
- 1 Inappropriate conduct (lack of courtesy, sensitivity or respect), bullying, harassment, intimidation
- 1 Bullying and harassment.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender Equality

Signature: 

Date: 4.3.22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA