



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

Ref: JACS Annual Report, pp. 84–86, Emergency Services Agency

In relation to: ACTSES Recruitment

1. According to the section of the ACTSES website titled 'How to join the ACTSES' (<https://esa.act.gov.au/join-us-volunteering/act-state-emergency-service/how-join-actses>), the ESA 'runs one Recruit College each year'; however, there is currently a notice at the top of the page stating, 'Unfortunately the ACTSES will not be recruiting in 2022. However we would encourage you to visit this page mid-2022, for further updates about recruitment for 2023'. Why is the ESA not recruiting at all this year?
2. Does this halt on recruitment include employees, volunteers, or both?
3. Can the minister please provide current staffing numbers for each division of the ESA, including both employees and volunteers?

Minister Gentleman: I am advised the answer to the Member's question are as follows:–

1. From 2017 to 2021 the ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) focused on an extensive recruiting and training program resulting in excellent outcomes for the Service. There are currently 388 ACTSES volunteers – the largest operational numbers for over a decade. Based on the success of the campaign and to enable a balanced strategic workforce program to be fully optimised, a decision was taken in 2020 to pause recruiting for 2022 to focus on advanced specialist technical and leadership training programs.
2. The pause on recruitment is for ACTSES volunteers only, noting that an intake of new volunteers for 2023 will begin in the middle of 2022.

3. The table below provides ESA employee and volunteer numbers as at 30 June 2021:

ESA Service	Employees	Volunteers
ACT Ambulance Service	302	0
ACT Fire & Rescue	367	776 (CFU)
ACT Rural Fire Service	15	501
ACT State Emergency Service	10	388
Enabling Services	110	45 (MAPS)

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date: 16/3/2022

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman MLA