



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MR JAMES MILLIGAN MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ref: Output class 4: Emergency Services. Budget Outlook. JACS book D

Hearing Date: 18/07/2023

In relation to: Staff Recruitment

(1) My question is about staffing. There are a number of promises in the budget papers for additional staff, including the mention of 30 new staff on p.73 of the Budget outlook and a recruitment amount of about \$3.5 million (p.182 Budget Outlook).

(a) How many extra staff does \$3.5 million represent?

(b) With regards to this 30 new staff – it is unclear if this is a promise carried over from last year or are they to be additional staff for this year, can you clarify this?

(c) What are the 30 new staff on p. 73 – are they paramedics, office staff – can you provide some detail?

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- (1) The funding provided in the 2022-23 Budget was for 30 new staff in the ACT Ambulance Service.

The funding in the 2023-24 Budget of \$3.426 million is for several initiatives to assist with recruiting and career development in ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R). The funding will also improve staff development and wellbeing.

- (1)(a) The recurrent funding of \$3.426 million in the 2023-24 Budget is comprised of:
- \$1 million over two years for two feasibility studies at \$500,000 per year.
 - \$0.6 million for the first-year implementation of the Medical Screening Program.
 - \$0.595 million for a Career Development program to manage the impact of the renewal of the workforce and recruiting 180 new firefighters over 5 years, in line with Government commitments.
 - \$0.408 million for the overtime cost pressures associated with the accelerated Career Development program.
 - \$0.383 million to fund two FTE in 2023-24 to continue to coordinate recruitment activities associated with implementation of the workforce strategy.
 - \$0.350 million to supplement temporary overtime cost pressures due to the timing of the recruitment of 180 new firefighters and skills gap in career development created by retiring senior staff.
 - \$0.060 million for operational expenses associated with new staff.
 - \$0.030 million for the Physical Preparation Program for ACTF&R recruit college.

- (1)(b) The paragraph the question quotes from, on page 73 of the Budget Outlook, states that these initiatives were funded through the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budgets.
- (1)(c) As stated in the 2022-23 Budget Papers (page 184 of the Budget Outlook) , the 30 new staff are for the Emergency 000 Communication Centre, Extended Care Paramedics, Duty Officers, and Intensive Care Paramedics specialised in treating bariatric patients.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 27/7/2023

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