



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Deborah Morris, MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

In relation to: ACT Fire and Rescue and drivers of staff accessing EAP

Hearing: 28 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 67

Transcript provided: 30 July 2026

Answer Due: 6 August 2026

The Commissioner took on notice the following question(s):

MRS MORRIS: Sure. Just following on from Fire and Rescue, we have seen an increase in the number of Fire and Rescue staff accessing the Employee Assistance Program, from around 19, I think, in 2022 to currently sitting on about 59. What are some of the drivers that is feeding that increase?

Mr Phillips: The exact drivers of the employee assistance program, we would have to get some data from Converge who ran the employee assistance program. That is a confidential service. We will know numbers of people who may access that, but we will not know the details of what they discussed with that employee assistance program. So I know—

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

There has been an increased drive to encourage ACT Fire & Rescue staff and their families to access the supports provided by the EAP. Increases in the accessing of EAP is a positive factor that can be associated with a strong promotion of the service offering.

The EAP does not provide specific data regarding supports for psychosocial workplace concerns or specific traumatic events, due to privacy and confidentiality reasons. The reporting is categorised into personal, work, and 'other', and the service types include:

- Employee counselling
- Career coaching
- Counselling for family members
- Crisis counselling
- Financial counselling
- Legal support

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- Manager support
- Conflict support
- Nutrition support
- First Nations Helpline.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature: 

Date: 6/8/26

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