



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Chris Bourke MLA,
Nicole Lawder MLA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Inquiry into 2012–13 Annual reports

Office of the Legislative Assembly

Responses to questions taken on notice at public hearing of 3 December 2013



Speaker



Mr Brendan Smyth MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERA ACT 2601

Dear ~~Mr~~ Smyth,

Brendan

I refer to my appearance before your committee on 3 December 2013 and now write to provide some answers to questions that were taken on notice and also to clarify some of my comments in response to questions from committee members.

At the hearing, you asked the following question which the Clerk took on notice:

How many copies of edition 1 [of the Companion to the Standing Orders] did you print?

I can confirm that 150 copies of the Companion were printed.

Also, Ms Lawder MLA asked the following questions:

Do you get many people from outside the ACT government viewing the website and any suggestions? What kind of suggestions do you get for improvements from people outside the ACT government?

The Office undertook to provide Ms Lawder with additional information, which is included below.

- The Office has received a small number of comments and suggestions from users within the Assembly, the ACT public service, and the wider community.
- Comments have overwhelmingly been positive with users remarking on improved navigability and design.
- The Office also receives feedback from time to time from both internal and external users about individual items of content or difficulties accessing content, which are followed up. For instance, there was at least one occasion where the high volume of user traffic for live webstreaming resulted in access problems which were drawn to the Office's attention and ultimately resolved.
- Between 1 May 2013 and 1 December 2013 46 percent of visits to the website were from internal users of the site (i.e. the Assembly and the ACT Public Service) with the remaining visitors coming from externally located internet service providers.

I also wish to clarify the following comments that I made at the hearing:

- In response to Ms Porter's question about the budget arrangements for the sixth minister's suite, I want to clarify that, in my letter to the Chief Minister, I noted how important it was for the transitions and costs to be managed smoothly and effectively so as to demonstrate the prudent expenditure of taxpayers' money. I can confirm for the benefit of the committee that, since the hearing, it has been confirmed that, due to other savings, the Assembly's Capital Upgrade Program will now fund the works, which are expected to be in the order of \$23,000.
- In response to Dr Bourke's question about accessing study travel reports that have not yet been loaded onto the Assembly's website, I want to clarify that , prior to study travel reports being published on the Assembly's website, they were tabled in the Assembly.

In relation to Ms Porter's question of funding for the staff that work in my office I want to clarify that staff currently contracted to me comprise a senior adviser and an adviser. They are engaged under contracts to me on a full-time basis until the end of the current Assembly's term. Whist both staff members are fully engaged in the work of my office, they do provide limited assistance to other Liberal MLAs from time to time.

Conversely, I use the services of staff of other MLAs from time to time. For example, a staff member, contracted to Mr Wall, works from my office for two days per week, undertaking routine office work, such as reception and invitations. This is a temporary arrangement until another staff member returns from maternity leave in February 2014. In addition, I also use the services of the media adviser in the office of the Leader of the Opposition, but this is restricted to electorate matters in my role as Member for Ginninderra.

In terms of salary pledges, no amounts are pledged currently, either from my salary allocation to those of other MLAs or from other MLAs to me.

Yours sincerely,



Vicki Dunne MLA
Speaker
Legislative Assembly for the ACT

19 December 2013