

2023

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

TENTH ASSEMBLY

**Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality – Report 6 – Inquiry
into the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Amendment Bill 2022 –**

Government Response

**Presented by
Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety
March 2023**

Introduction

On 22 November 2022 the Government introduced the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Amendment Bill 2022 (Amendment Bill) to the ACT Legislative Assembly.

The Amendment Bill seeks to expand the industries to which the Portable Schemes apply. The existing Contract Cleaning Industry Scheme would be expanded to become the Services Industry Scheme and comprise of workers in the hairdressing and beauty services sector, the accommodation and food services sector (the new industries) in addition to workers in the existing contract cleaning industry scheme.

Expansion of the Portable Schemes will allow workers in the new industries to transfer long service leave entitlements between employers within the Services Industry Scheme and ensure more workers receive fair entitlements as they move jobs within their profession.

On 8 December 2022 the Amendment Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality (EGEE Committee) for Inquiry.

The EGEE Committee made three recommendations in its final report dated 23 January 2023 with one dissenting report made by Leanne Castley MLA, Chair of the Committee.

Overarching ACT Government Comments

The ACT Government is committed to job security, upholding fair and equitable work conditions and entitlements, and promoting Canberra as a community that optimises opportunities for work-life balance across all aspects of the community.

All Canberrans have a right to just and favourable working conditions, including safe and secure work.

The Government thanks the EGEE Committee for the time taken to consider the Amendment Bill and for its report to the Assembly.

Government response to the EGEE Committee's recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly pass the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Amendment Bill 2022.

Government response – Noted

The Government notes the Committee's recommendation that the ACT Legislative Assembly pass the Amendment Bill.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider and address the specific issues brought up in the submissions to this inquiry.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with industry and stakeholders in implementation of the expansion of the Long Service Leave Portable Schemes

Government response – Noted

The Government notes recommendations 2 and 3 and will continue to work with stakeholders to address areas where information about the schemes can be improved.

The Amendment Bill provides a two-year transition period during which the Government in partnership with the ACT Long Service Leave Authority (the Authority) will deliver an information and awareness campaign to industry, businesses and stakeholders to minimise, as far as possible, the regulatory impact on affected businesses entering the portable long service leave schemes.

To this effect, the Government will continue to work closely with the ACT Long Service Leave Authority in delivering targeted information to stakeholders to ensure that newly covered businesses are aware of how the Portable Schemes legislation operates, their registration obligations and the assistance that the Authority can provide businesses in getting ready for the changes.

The Government also notes that workforce analysis reviews are carried out for each of the covered industries, which may be used to assess the impact over time on workforce profiles in the expanded industries.