



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Cain MLA:

Addressed to: Attorney-General

Reference: Hearing on 14 November 2023, Annual Report of Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Question Lodgement Date: 14/11/2023

In relation to: Attorney-General and Director of Public Prosecutions

- (1) Attorney, can you please update the committee on how the appointment of a new Director of Public Prosecutions is progressing?
- (2) Do you have a timeframe in mind for when a new DPP will be appointed?
- (3) Are you accepting applications for the role and have you compiled a shortlist of suitable candidates?
- (4) How will this appointment round differ from the previous appointment round in 2018?
- (5) Will there be an emphasis on demonstrably strong legal ethics as a necessary requirement for the new appointee?

SHANE RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate is procuring an independent external recruitment agency to undertake an executive search process for the recruitment of a new ACT Director of Public Prosecutions. That process is nearly finalised.

The role will be advertised nationally. A Selection Advisory Panel will independently evaluate candidates against the selection criteria for the role and requirements in the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1990* (DPP Act).

The selection criteria for the role will encompass personal qualities, including integrity. In addition, the DPP Act provides that a person appointed as Director must have been a legal practitioner for at

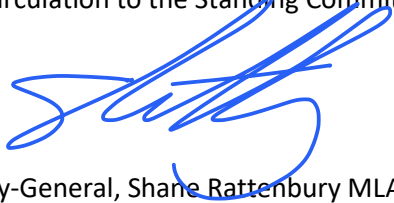
least five years. There are a range of professional obligations that apply to Australian legal practitioners, including ethical rules that must be observed.

The process for appointment will be in line with requirements for Executive Appointments as set out in the 'Governance Principles – Appointments, Boards and Committees'.

The current Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Anthony Williamson SC, has been appointed until 1 March 2024.

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

Signature:



Date:

24/11/23

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA