



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

## **Answer to question taken on notice**

---

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Peter Garrisson AM SC, ACT Solicitor-General

In relation to: The number of institutional abuse claims over the last three financial years

Hearing: 21 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 133

Transcript provided: 22 July 2026

Answer Due: 29 July 2026

[Peter Garrisson] took on notice the following question(s):

**MR EMERSON:** Would you be able to provide for those institutional abuse claims, say, over the last five financial years, the number of claims commenced in each of those years and then the number that reached a conclusion through settlement?

**Mr Garrisson:** Absolutely, yes.

**MR EMERSON:** And then the total costs of both legal costs and settlement amounts?

**Mr Garrisson:** It might take a little while to do that because, again, we will have to go into each matter to manually interrogate it.

**MR EMERSON:** Okay. If turning it into the last three financial years is better, you know, to make it a little less—

**Mr Garrisson:** Certainly. I will provide as much as I can.

**MR EMERSON:** Okay. So yes, cases, the legal costs and kind of settlement amounts.

**Mr Garrisson:** Yes.

Peter Garrisson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The number of matters opened in respect of institutional abuse claims over the last three financial year are as follows:

---

**Matters Open**

---

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| 2025-26 | 46 |
| 2024-25 | 17 |
| 2023-24 | 23 |

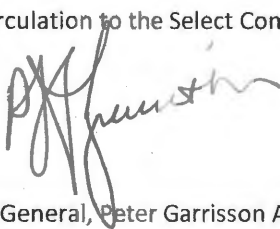
---

Of the 85 matters that were opened in the last three financial years, eight matters have settled. The Territory's contribution to the settlement amounts (inclusive of claimant/plaintiff costs and disbursements) for those matters was approximately \$3.2m. The expenditure on the Territory's disbursements were approximately \$0.126m and the costs associated with provision of legal services by the ACT Government Solicitor (ACTGS) were met through controlled recurrent payment from the appropriation for Output 1.2.

The Territory's insurer, the ACT Insurance Authority, generally covers institutional abuse claims where the alleged abuse occurred after 1 July 1998. If this is the case, any settlement amounts including the claimant/plaintiff costs and disbursements and costs associated with the provision of legal services to the Territory are covered by the insurance arrangements.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:



By the Solicitor-General, Peter Garrison AM SC

Date: 29/7/26