



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 65

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA,
SUZANNE ORR MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**



Asked by MR COE MLA:

Chief Minister, Treasurer and Economic Development Directorate 2016/17 Annual Report, Government Policy Reform, Output 1.1

In relation to ACT Digital Government Strategy and Governance reforms:

1. How successful has the ACT Government Digital Strategy been since its implementation?
2. Please outline what was included in the governance reforms to boards and committees.
 - a. What additional governance measures were implemented?
 - i. What do they address?
 - b. Did anything in particular pre-empt the governance reforms?
 - c. Was it applied to all boards and committees?
 - d. Have all boards and committees complied?
 - e. What checks are done to ensure continued compliance?
3. Has the government met every commitment in relation to its:
 - a. Election promises;
 - b. Parliamentary Agreements, and;
 - c. Strategic priorities.
4. The Office of Mental Health was supposed to be established in the first 100 days as part of a Parliamentary Agreement with the Greens, however has still not been established:
 - a. What action has the Directorate taken to address this?
5. Are public reports produced on whether the Government is meeting its commitments?
 - a. If so, where are these reports located?
 - b. If not, why not?
6. What powers exist to oblige the Government to meet its stated commitments?



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CHIEF MINISTER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The ACT Government Digital Strategy 2016-2019 has been successful in providing a set of guiding principles and strategic direction for digital transformation across government.

Since its release the Chief Digital Officer has conducted a series of implementation workshops with directorates to help them align their transformation journey with the Strategy. Individual directorates' digital strategies are now referencing and supporting the implementation of the principles in the Whole of Government Strategy.

The release of the Strategy was a major contributor to the ACT increasing its digital government readiness indicator score by 20%, the largest increase of all jurisdictions, in the most recent *Intermedium Digital Government Readiness Report (2017)*.

Established in July 2016 the Digital Service Governance Committee (DSGC), a sub-committee to the Strategic Board, has representation from across government and seeks to set the whole of government digital agenda. The DSGC is a point of reference for common capabilities and digital investment advice across government.

A sub-committee of the DSGC, the Budget Sub Committee has also been established to provide expert ICT advice and a whole of government perspective to budget bids containing a significant digital component. The Committee uses the principles of the Digital Strategy as a basis for their assessment of ICT/digital budget bids.

Promotion of the principles of the Strategy have also led to an increase in the uptake of Cloud services across government, a renewed interest in the use of data and analytics, both internally within government and as open data. The Strategy has also led to the development of a whole of government Geospatial Advisory Sub-Committee, which will raise the profile of the geospatial dimension across government.

2.
 - a. In April 2017 the Government released updated guidelines and a "Better Practice Toolkit" to support Directorates in developing improved governance processes for Government Boards and Committees. These resources are available online at:
<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/cabinet/governance>



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These resources were employed to reinforce the Government's culture of continuous improvement. The Government is committed to improving its processes for appointments and its governance controls for boards and committees, including:

- improved selection and recruitment requirements;
- an emphasis on open and competitive expression of interest and assessment procedures;
- consideration of designated term limits for appointments, including limits to the number of times a member can be recommended for re-appointment;
- consideration of regular skill audits to assess current or future gaps in skills and expertise;
- emphasis on diversity in recruitment with the objective of maintaining 50 per cent representation of women on boards and committees, in addition to encouraging, wherever possible, a greater gender balance on particular boards that may historically be dominated by one gender group;
- promoting representation across a broad section of the community, including community organisations; and
- encouraging greater participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) and people with a disability.

- b. No. The Government is committed to the continuous improvement of all its governance arrangements.
- c. Governance reforms were applied to those Boards and Committees as referenced in the updated appointment guidelines – *'Governance Principles for Appointments, Boards and Committees in the ACT'*.

This includes appointments made by Ministers (signed by a single Minister) and Executive appointments (signed by two Ministers on behalf of all).

- d. Ensuring compliance with the revised guidelines is an ongoing exercise of Government and is contingent upon the appointment cycle of individual boards and committees. The Cabinet process and revised cabinet template for appointments facilitates compliance with the governance reforms whenever a new appointment or re-appointment is proposed for cabinet consideration.

Directorates are in the process of reviewing the terms of reference for all appointments, boards and committees and will ensure the governance arrangements for these bodies are consistent with the revised guidelines.



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- e. CMTEDD monitor compliance with the guidelines for new appointments and reappointments as part of the Cabinet process.
3. The Government will continue to work towards delivering on all commitments within the parliamentary term.
4. Establishing the Office for Mental Health is a key priority for the government. To ensure that the Office provides the best possible support to mental health consumers, carers and their families' significant community consultation and engagement are required.

To begin this process the Minister for Mental Health has written to key stakeholders to ensure a targeted consultation process occurs. Through community consultation the Directorate is seeking to develop a model of care that effectively integrates existing programs and entrenches a person-centric approach to mental health support.

This process will involve a combination of face to face forums, workshops, as well as online and written feedback and will be a key focus of the Directorate into 2018.

5. A progress report on the implementation of the Government's parliamentary agreement commitments is available online at:
https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0013/1130503/2016-17-Parliamentary-Agreement.pdf
6. The ACT community holds the Government to account on the delivery of its commitments, every four years, through the election of Members to the Legislative Assembly.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Signature: 

Date: 24.11.2017

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA