QON No. 11

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into the procurement and delivery of MyWay+

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock

Addressed to: Chris Steel MLA

Redirected to: Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Reference: Transport Canberra and City Services

Hearing: 27 March 2025
In relation to: MyWay+ and cybersecurity
Question received: 3 April 2025
Answer Due: 14 April 2025

1. What is the risk that similar vulnerabilities exist in any ICT projects the ACT Government has undertaken or is undertaking?
2. Will future ACT Government ICT projects have an expanded cyber assurance scope of work or will this remain unchanged going forward?
3. How does the ACT Government plan to address extant ICT programs that were subject to a narrower cyber assurance scope of work?

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. There is an enduring and universal risk across all organisations, including the ACT Government, that systems, software and technologies will have a cyber security vulnerability identified. In 2024 alone, there were over 40,000[1] globally unique vulnerabilities identified and published in the official vulnerability database maintained by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology. In organisations with large technology enterprises, the identification of vulnerabilities is a matter of when, not if.

   In line with cyber security standards and frameworks published by the Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre and lead international cyber security organisations, the ACT Government implements best practice approaches to identify and remediate vulnerabilities within our systems and networks, including the requirement for our service and technology providers to do the same via contractual agreements.

[1] NVD - NVD Dashboard

These best practices include, but are not limited to, formalised approaches to vulnerability scanning, vulnerability management, penetration testing, and security by design principles. The combination of these security measures acts to mitigate the occurrence of vulnerabilities to as low as reasonably achievable, in addition to minimising the impact when vulnerabilities are identified through rapid deployment of security patches.

2. The ACT Government employs robust controls and cyber security assurance mechanisms as outlined in the ACT Protective Security Framework and the ACT Government Cyber Security Policy. The efficacy of these policies and associated controls are continually reviewed and updated to reflect best practice guidance and approaches that also take into account the evolving cyber security threat landscape.

   The ACT Government is committed to continuous improvement in delivery of ICT initiatives. The recently endorsed T*echnology Investment Framework* requires all major ('tier 1') project to use the ACT Government's *Guiding Best Practice Design and Delivery* which includes best practice approaches to ICT Project governance and cyber security, data and privacy by design requirements.

3. ACT Government policy requires that systems undergo cyclical review across their full lifecycle.

   The ACT Government employs robust cyber security assurance across its suite of technology platforms. The level of cyber security assurance required of ACT Government systems is informed by many factors including its technology characteristics, functions performed and the level of sensitivity of information it holds. Higher levels of system criticality, information sensitivity, and systems that are publicly accessible result in commensurate increases to the level of cyber assurance performed. The operation of a vulnerability disclosure program enables the rapid identification and remediation of vulnerabilities when identified and reported.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:  Date: 15/4/25

By the Minister for the Public Service, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA