

**Andrew Barr MLA**

Chief Minister

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Tourism and Trade

Member for Kurrajong

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 4**

**21 MARCH 2025**

**Question No. 222**

**MR PETER CAIN MLA:** To ask the Chief Minister

1. Who currently holds the position of Canberra Town Crier.
2. What duties and responsibilities do the position of Canberra Town Crier perform.
3. Does the position of Canberra Town Crier receive any funding or monies from the ACT Government to perform their duties and responsibilities.
4. What types of ACT Government events or functions is the Canberra Town Crier expected to attend and undertake their duties and responsibilities pursuant to their position.
5. What is the ACT Government policy on inviting the Canberra Town Crier to ACT Government events or functions.
6. How many ACT Government events or functions has the Canberra Town Crier (a) been invited to and (b) attended, per year since 2017-2018, and can the Minister provide a list of these events or functions.

**ANDREW BARR MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The current Town Crier for the ACT is Mr Joseph McGrail-Bateup.
2. The ACT Town Crier is a ceremonial role. The Town Crier can be called upon by community groups, charities and event coordinators to add colour and interest to events. The position has no specified duties and responsibilities. It is a requirement that the incumbent become a member, and maintain membership, of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Australian Town Criers.
3. The position of ACT Town Crier is purely voluntary. The Town Crier does not receive any remuneration and does not receive payment by the ACT Government or other parties for performing at events.
4. There is no expectation or requirement that the ACT Town Crier will attend any specific ACT Government events or functions.
5. There is no ACT Government policy on inviting the ACT Town Crier to participate in ACT Government events or functions. This decision will be made by event organisers based on the suitability of having the Town Crier at their event or function.

6. The ACT Town Crier is engaged directly by event organisers and is responsible for coordinating their own event bookings. The ACT Government does not maintain a record of their activities and there are no reporting requirements for the position.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Andrew Barr MLA  
Chief Minister**

**Date: 3.4.25**

This response required 2hrs 50mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$259.97.