

## Michael Pettersson MLA

Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries Minister for Children, Youth and Families Minister for Multicultural Affairs Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

Member for Yerrabi

## RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE Questions on Notice Paper No 7 16 May 2025 Question No. 462

CHIAKA BARRY MLA: To ask the Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

- 1. Has the issue of poor "housekeeping" at a construction site at 126 Thynne Street Bruce been raised with Work Safe ACT; if so, what action has been taken by Work Safe ACT in relation to that complaint.
- 2. Does Work Safe ACT conduct proactive inspections of work sites to ensure compliance with good housekeeping requirements.
- 3. What does Work Safe ACT do when receiving a report of a worksite that does not comply with good housekeeping requirements.

## MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. No issues associated with the construction site at 126 Thynne Street Bruce have been raised with WorkSafe ACT prior to the Member's question.

Following receipt of the question, WorkSafe ACT inspectors attended the site on 20 May 2025 to undertake a proactive site inspection to consider compliance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the Act) and *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* (the Regulation).

During this inspection, Inspectors did not identify any non-compliance associated with the Act or Regulation, including requirements associated with housekeeping at the site.

WorkSafe ACT regularly undertakes proactive inspections of residential, commercial and civil
construction sites in line with <u>WorkSafe ACT's Strategic Plan 2025-2029</u>. All non-compliance
against work health and safety legislation is treated in line with <u>WorkSafe ACT's Compliance and
Enforcement Policy</u>.

As the relevant Minister for the Act, I recently made a <u>Statement of Expectations</u> which lists the construction industry as a priority industry for WorkSafe ACT, noting that this industry is consistently one of the highest risk industries nationally and in the ACT. My expectations are that WorkSafe ACT should maintain its strong focus on construction industry safety standards and compliance across residential, commercial and civil construction sectors.

3. WorkSafe ACT conducts inspections (also referred to as workplace visits) to ensure workplaces are keeping their workers and others safe.

Data analysis and intelligence are used to guide proactive (planned) inspections, audits and inquiries. These generally occur in workplaces that have been identified as more likely to expose workers to risk. Reactive (responsive) inspections are undertaken in response to incident notifications, requests, enquiries, and complaints. Proactive and reactive work is triaged based on the seriousness of the potential breaches to ensure resources are allocated to where they are needed the most.

Where non-compliance is identified in accordance with provisions of the Act or Regulation, WorkSafe ACT Inspectors will act in accordance with <a href="WorkSafe ACT">WorkSafe ACT</a>'s <a href="Compliance and Enforcement Policy">Compliance and Enforcement Policy</a> and may issue an improvement or prohibition notice to the PCBU to rectify the non-compliance – or an infringement notice where appropriate.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Michael Pettersson MLA

Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

This response required 9hrs 33mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$847.49.