Chris Steel MLA
Treasurer
Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development
Minister for Heritage
Minister for Transport

Member for Murrumbidgee

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 9
5 SEPTEMBER 2025
Question No. 591

MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA: To ask the Treasurer

1. What is the current central expense provision for future enterprise agreements on ACT Public Service wage expenses in the 2025-2026 Budget forward estimates.
2. Does the indexation of public sector wage growth in the 2025-2026 Budget assume growth that is consistent with the forecast rate of inflation in the Budget as measured by the Consumer Price Index or the Wage Price Index.
3. Why would publishing wage growth assumptions in the budget weaken the ACT Government's negotiating position for forthcoming enterprise agreement bargaining, particularly when other Australian governments publish this information.

CHRIS STEEL MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government is committed to negotiating in good faith to deliver improved wages and conditions for ACT Public Service (ACTPS) employees, while meeting our fiscal objectives. In doing so, the Government also acknowledges the ACT's unique labour market, within which the ACTPS competes with the Commonwealth for employees.

The central provision reflects the amount of funding, above that already included in agency estimates, that may be required to meet future wage increases. However, it would not be appropriate to release the individual wage growth assumptions underpinning the central provision. To do so would pre-empt outcomes based on assumptions made prior to the discussion and consideration of claims as part of negotiations.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Chris Steel MLA
Treasurer **Date:** 3/10/25

This response required 4hrs 35mins to complete, at an approximate cost of $520.95.

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