

**Tara Cheyne MLA**

Manager of Government Business

Attorney-General

Minister for Human Rights

Minister for City and Government Services

Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 6****9 May 2025****Question No. 378****MR CAIN:** To ask the Attorney-General —

1. For each of the last five financial years, (a) how many matters has the ACT Solicitor-General appeared in before the ACT Supreme Court and High Court of Australia and (b) in how many was the Territory's position upheld.
2. Have any ACT Supreme Court or High Court judges made adverse findings or recorded judicial commentary critical of submissions or arguments advanced by the ACT Solicitor-General; if so, can the Attorney-General provide relevant details.
3. What internal or external processes are in place to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of legal advocacy by the ACT Solicitor-General, and when was the last time such an evaluation was conducted.

**TARA CHEYNE MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:


1. & 2. The matters in which the Solicitor-General has appeared for the Territory are a matter of public record. The Solicitor-General provides advice to the Territory, its government agencies, ministers and statutory office holders on a range of matters. It is the nature of legal challenges to Government decisions that they are adversarial and will be determined by the facts and legal principles in a particular matter. The Solicitor-General's submissions will be tested and commentary made in those proceedings and judgments. The arguments and submissions of a party to litigation will not always be accepted in whole or part by a Court particularly in the more complex legal matters for which the Solicitor – General represents



the Territory. A manual search of a large number of records would otherwise be required to respond to the Member's question which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

3. The Solicitor-General appears in public hearings with public outcomes, which operates as an effective mechanism to test advocacy skills.

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



**Tara Cheyne MLA  
Attorney-General**

**Date:** 24/5/25

This response required 2hrs to complete, at an approximate cost of \$348.39.