



Senator Glenn Sterle  
Chair  
Senate Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

On 14 February 2023, I appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing Senator Canavan asked a question in relation to the number of departmental employees who are working 100 per cent from home, specifically those employees in the ACT (page 18)

*'I want to go to a question asked by Senator Duniam at the last estimates. It's about how many staff were working at home. You provided that to a question on notice, and the answer indicated a total of 313 staff were working 100 per cent from home. I want to say at the outset we have no problem with that, particularly in a department like yours; it would be great to have more people out in the regions. But I note that 227 of those 313 staff working 100 per cent at home are actually in the ACT. Is that number declining at all? Why are so many people living in Canberra working from home that much?'*

In response I said (page 26)

*'I just want to clarify the figures I provided earlier. The ACT has 273 staff who are 100 per cent working from home, which is an increase of 46 from the information that we provided as at 30 September. And between the period of 1 July and 31 December, we've had 113 requests that have come into the system that are either for new arrangements or renewals. So, the total number is 273.'*

I wish to correct my answer. The ACT has a total of 272 staff who have had an approved application to work 100 per cent from home between 1 July 2021 and 31 December 2022, which is an increase of 45 applications received since reporting at 30 September 2022. These figures are 1 less than what was verbally reported on 14 February 2023 due to the department identifying that it had incorrectly used the date the application was lodged as the indicator for this figure, instead of the date of commencement of the approved arrangement. 272 reflects the total number of applications approved and commenced in the reporting period and does not reflect the number of ACT staff with an active arrangement still in place as of 31 December 2022.

I wish to also correct my statement that between the period 1 July 2022 and 31 December 2022, there were 113 new requests approved in the system. I would like to make a correction that there were 122 applications to work 100 per cent from home approved and commenced in that period. This figure is 9 more than what was verbally reported on 14 February 2023 due to the department identifying that it had incorrectly used the date the application was lodged as the indicator for this figure, instead of the date of commencement of the approved arrangement.

The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the hearing, is correct.

I trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Jasna Blackwell  
Chief People Officer  
People, Property and Security Division  
15 March 2023