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## **Inquiry into proposed fit-out of new leased premises for the Department of Social Services**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed fit-out of new leased premises for the Department of Social Services in the ACT.

The Department told the Public Works Committee that it is currently dispersed across six sites in the ACT. This impacts staff connectivity within the Department as well as organisational efficiency. The standard and provision of accommodation across the sites varies and the lack of uniformity affects staff amenity and internal staff movements as well as affecting the Department's ability to efficiently adapt to changes in policy and structure.

The Committee was also told that the expiry of many of the Department's leases is an opportunity to realise efficiencies through consolidation of premises and rationalisation of leases.

The Department of Social Services' proposal seeks approval for the integrated fit-out of 30,400m<sup>2</sup> in a new building in Greenway, ACT.

The estimated cost of the project is \$55.860 million.

The Committee's Chair, Karen Andrews MP, said the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in July 2014.

Full details on the project are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

### **Submissions to the inquiry close on 8 July 2014.**

**NB** the Public Works Committee is neither involved in the tendering process nor the awarding of contracts. Enquiries on those matters should be addressed to DSS.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's office on (07) 5580 9111.

**For further information**, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.