



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 138

## WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Chief Minister, Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA:

### **Office of the Parliamentary Counsel's services accessibility**

1. What level of support does the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) currently provide to the crossbench Members of the Legislative Assembly?
2. Is there a formal policy or guideline that governs this support?
3. If a crossbench Member were to request assistance in drafting legislation or amendments, would the OPC be able to assist?
4. What criteria would be used to assess whether that support can be provided?
5. Is support prioritised by political role, legislative urgency, or another set of criteria?
6. Is there any resource or staffing limitation that restricts the OPC's capacity to provide equitable drafting assistance to all MLAs, regardless of affiliation?
7. Does the Government intend to review or clarify the role of the Parliamentary Counsel in supporting private Members, including crossbench MLAs, to ensure all Members can fully participate in the legislative process?

Answer to questions 1-7: OPC drafts Bills for Private Members on request in line with the Guidelines for Drafting Private Members' Bills, which is available on the Department of the Legislative Assembly website.

Drafting of legislative amendments for Private Members is assessed based on resourcing constraints and competing legislative priorities of the Northern Territory Government.