

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 13.5

Output Number: Opening Statement

Date: 19/06/2025

From: Mr Manuel Brown

To: Hon Robyn Lambley

Portfolio: Speaker

Agency: Legislative Assembly

Subject: Increase in budget for Member Services

QUESTION

The allocated budget for the 2025–26 is roughly \$4.7m compared to \$4.5m in 2024–25. Can you explain what the increase in the Assembly services budget relates to?

ANSWER

The increase in the Assembly services budget from approximately \$4.5 million in 2024–25 to \$4.7 million in 2025–26 primarily relates to parameter adjustments applied to Territory-funded expenses. These parameters are reviewed each year to reflect current economic conditions and government policies and aim to provide agencies with adequate financial capacity to maintain service delivery at existing levels.

For 2025–26, the key contributing factor to the budget increase is the application of a 3% wages inflator, consistent with the government's Public Sector Wages Policy 2025–2028. While the Consumer Price Index (CPI) parameter was reduced from 2.8% to 1.7% to reflect lower inflation in the Darwin region, this was partially offset by the wages increase. These adjustments, combined with ongoing budget repair measures (formerly known as the efficiency dividend), result in the net variation observed in the Assembly services budget.