



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business and Industry

Redirected to: Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy

In relation to: artsACT Small Businesses – Events Approvals

Hearing: 10 August 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 19

Transcript provided: 05 August 2026

Answer Due: 12 August 2026

Mr Pettersson MLA: took on notice the following question(s):

MS CASTLEY: Then can I pivot, with the chair's indulgence, to events and booking

events and things like that? So yes, work, functionality, I realise, okay, that is frustrating. So if you are running an event in the ACT and you are a small business and you need to get approval to run an event, is it still the case that you can have 10 events to—fill out a big application form to have an event? If you want to stage outside, you have to make sure you tick all of the boxes, whether your directors are first aid officers and things like that. Am I in the right group now?

Ms Starick: Possibly not, Ms Castley. Probably those questions are best directed to

Access Canberra.

MS CASTLEY: Okay.

THE CHAIR: Just noting your kind of suggestion to, I think it was Ms Clay's questions, do you want to take that on notice noting that this is the last session?

Mr Pettersson: Yes. No, always very happy taking things on notice.

Mr Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Liquor licensees may apply, free of charge, to temporarily extend trading hours and/or their approved floor plan for an event up to 10 times within a 12-month period. Applications must demonstrate how liquor-related risks and community impacts will be managed and must generally be lodged at least five days before the event, or 10 days where a floor plan extension is sought.

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Access Canberra also assists business and community organisations navigate the approvals required to hold public events in the ACT. There is no single approval or permit required to conduct an event in the ACT. Depending on the nature, scale and location of the event, organisers may be required to obtain a range of approvals, permits or licences, such as approvals for the use of public unleased land, liquor authorisations, road closures, temporary traffic management, food business operations or other regulatory requirements. Guidance on planning events is available in the Access Canberra Event Coordination Guide on the Access Canberra website:

<https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/business-and-work/hospitality-liquor-and-gaming/get-help-to-plan-an-event-or-film-in-the-act>.

Under the *Liquor Act 2010*, the Head of Access Canberra may declare a significant event to be a special event where satisfied that the event is of significance at an international, national, territory or local level and that it is in the public interest to do so. A Special Event Declaration enables eligible liquor licensees to supply liquor during any extended trading hours specified in the declaration, subject to any conditions imposed, providing a consistent regulatory framework to support the conduct of significant community events.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date: 13-8-26

By the Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy, Michael Pettersson MLA