



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–2020 and ACT Budget 2020–2021

Responses to **questions on notice** following public hearing of 22 February 2021

Treasury portfolio

ACT Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiries into Annual and Financial reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21

Index QoN—following public hearing of 22 February 2021

Treasury portfolio

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No. T#	Member	Subject	Minister	Answered
10	Lee	Budget Paper B: + MOU ACT Gov UNSW	<i>Redirected to Minister for Economic Development</i>	12 March 21



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MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Lee MLA: To ask the Treasurer

[Ref: CMTEDD Annual Report 2019–20, Volume 2.1, p. 266]

In relation to: Superannuation Provision Account

1. What is the reason for the almost \$4bn difference from the budget forecast and the actual audited figure?
2. Why has the ACT Budget repeatedly forecast a superannuation liability that is significantly lower than what the Auditor-General considers is the actual superannuation liability?
3. Has Treasury held any discussions with the Auditor-General to reach an agreed position on what would be an appropriate basis or discount rate for estimating the liability to ensure that the budget presents a more accurate picture of the Territory's finances?
 - a. If so, when were these discussions held and what were the outcomes?
 - b. If not, why not?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. As outlined in the 2020-21 Budget (Budget Paper 3, Chapter 3.8), retirement benefits in relation to the CSS/PSS defined benefit superannuation liabilities can include both lump sum payments, as well as pension payments that will continue to be paid well into the future. The estimated financial obligation is measured on a discounted basis and is the present value of the future expected benefit payments.

The variance in the superannuation liability valuation between the budget forecast and the actual audited figure is due to differences in the financial assumptions used. The Budget estimates use longer-term average financial assumptions and the financial year end valuation uses financial assumptions based more closely on current economic conditions and Australian financial market expectations to reflect the Australian Accounting Standard liability valuation requirements (*AASB119 Employee Benefits*).

Due to the long-term nature of the defined benefit superannuation obligations the liability valuation is extremely sensitive to the discount rate assumption. A 5 per cent discount rate was used for the Budget estimates, while a discount rate of 1.73 per cent was used for the actual audit outcome reflecting the yield on the 21 March 2047 Commonwealth government bond consistent with *AASB119*.



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QON No. T1

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MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

There will always be material liability valuation variances in the actual audited figure from year to year due to the ongoing changes in the Australian economic environment and financial market expectations and the changes in the resultant financial assumptions adopted – the audited outcome liability valuation has increased from \$8.6 billion at 30 June 2017 to over \$12 billion at 30 June 2020 due mainly to the decrease in interest rates and the falling discount rate assumption.

A 1 per cent difference in the discount rate assumption can change the liability valuation by \$1-\$2 billion. At 30 June 2020 Australian interest rates were at historical low levels and the low discount rate assumption required by the Australian Accounting Standard materially increased the liability valuation for the audited outcome.

The Budget valuation financial assumptions will be reviewed as part of the preparation of the 2021-22 Budget.

2. There will always be liability valuation differences between the Budget and audited outcome due to differences in the financial assumptions adopted. The Budget adopts longer-term average financial assumptions, including a higher long-term average discount rate assumption. As Australian interest rates rise the valuation variances will reduce.

The role of the Auditor-General is to audit the annual financial statements and to form an opinion about whether the financial statements are presented in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996* and comply with Australian Accounting Standards.

As set out in the 30 June 2020 Independent Auditor's Report in relation to the Superannuation Provision Account, the Auditor-General's opinion was the financial statements presented fairly the Superannuation Provision Account's financial position and were presented in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996* and complied with Australian Accounting Standards.

3. See response above.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 12.3.21

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Johnathan Davis MLA: To ask the Treasurer

[Ref: ACT Government Shareholder Voting: Superannuation Provision Account Budget Paper B p. 297]

In relation to: ACT Government Shareholder Voting

1. The ACT government is a signatory to the UNPRI. One of the principles of the PRI—principle 2—states 'We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices'. One of the possible actions listed under principle 2 is 'file shareholder resolutions consistent with long-term ESG considerations'.

Has the ACT government ever lead filed or co-filed a shareholder resolution consistent with our responsible investment policy?

2. If not, why not?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

As noted in Budget Statements B, pages 309 to 322, Responsible Investment Policy matters now fall under the Territory Banking Account, rather than the Superannuation Provision Account.

1. The Government has not previously filed or co-filed a shareholder resolution.

2. As set out in the Government's Responsible Investment Policy, the Government combines several different and effective approaches to responsible investment implementation and active ownership including:

- the use of extensive company investment screening and non-investment/divestment (integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) and international norms-based risk assessments, business activity or industry exclusions, exposures to fossil fuel reserves, level of carbon emissions and the carbon intensity of business operations); and
- actively exercising voting rights in relation to all company share investments.

In general, a shareholder resolution is a non-binding recommendation to the board of directors of a public corporation which are presented and voted upon at the corporation's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Under the Corporations Act a shareholder may give notice to the company in respect of a resolution they intend to move at an AGM where they have at least five per cent of the votes entitled to be cast or comprise a group of at least 100 shareholders entitled to vote at an AGM. The Territory does not



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QON No. T2

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own 5 per cent or more of any listed Australian company it invests in and, therefore, is unable to file a shareholder resolution in its own right.

Shareholder resolutions are only one avenue for engagement and consultation with a company and are not necessarily the most appropriate avenue in the first instance for shareholders to express an opinion or request additional information disclosure.

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Signature: 

Date: 12.3.21

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. T3

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Johnathan Davis MLA: To ask the Treasurer

[Ref: ACT Government Shareholder Voting: Superannuation Provision Account Budget Paper B p. 297]

In relation to: ACT Government Shareholder Voting

1. Why does the ACT no longer publicise how it voted on all individual shareholder resolutions?
2. Is there any reason for this?
3. Does the Superannuation Provision Account have adequate resourcing to provide this service?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

As noted in Budget Statements B, pages 309 to 322, Responsible Investment Policy matters now fall under the Territory Banking Account, rather than the Superannuation Provision Account.

1-3. Share voting activity reports are published quarterly on Treasury's website under publications (<https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/publications>).

A link to search functionality for actual voting activity (<http://vds.issproxy.com/SearchPage.php?CustomerID=8428>) can also be accessed on this webpage.

During 2019-20 financial year, there were 1,738 company meetings with over 21,821 voting proposals and 598 shareholder resolutions.

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Signature: 

Date: 12.3.21

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. T4

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: Johnathan Davis MLA: To ask the Treasurer

In relation to: Ref: Output 1.1 Major Projects Canberra MPCAR - Cycling and Walking Infrastructure

Can you please detail the cycling and walking infrastructure recently developed to fulfil the objectives of the ACT Government's Active Travel Framework?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Transport Strategy 2020 lays out a vision for a world-class transport system that supports a compact, vibrant and sustainable city. Investing in walking and cycling, as well as city-shaping public transport, is one of the pathways to achieve this vision. The ACT Government will develop a strategic plan and update *Building an Integrated Network – Active Travel* (often referred to as the Active Travel Framework) to provide coordinated active travel networks across the Territory.

In the recent months through existing programs (ongoing projects, the Better Infrastructure Fund, Age-friendly Suburbs and the Active Streets for Schools program) and through the COVID emergency stimulus funding, the Government has invested in walkable places and suburbs as well as our cycling network. These include:

- Protected bikeways in town centres, including completion of the Belconnen Bikeway and the Woden Cycle Loop.
- New Bike & Ride facilities on Barry Drive after Clunies Ross Street in Acton and at the Well Station Drive light rail stop in Mitchell to improve connections to Rapid bus and light rail services.
- Delivery of the second and third stages of the Heysen Street Link connecting Woden with Weston Creek.
- Completing the Menindee Drive missing link in the Lake Burley Griffin Circuit near the Kings Avenue Bridge.
- The roll-out of CBR cycle route wayfinding signage across the Territory to create a cohesive network of existing off-road paths.
- New priority crossings for the City-Woden cycle route at Loftus Street and Schlich Street in Yarralumla and at Theodore Street, Curtin.
- Local path connections to the Belconnen-Gungahlin cycle route on Aikman Drive as well as to UC High School-Kaleen.
- Streetlight upgrades to make it safer for the community to access bus stops.
- Road and path drainage improvements at six locations to prevent flooding of cycle paths and on road cycle lanes.
- Ongoing delivery of the School Safety Program, which includes new paths, crossings and other improvements to increase safety around schools.



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In addition to these specific projects, the ACT Government seeks to ensure that walking and cycling connections are considered in all infrastructure planning and delivery.

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Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Steel", is written over the signature line.

Date:

12 / 3 / 21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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QON No. T5

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Johnathan Davis MLA: To ask the Treasurer

[Ref: ACT Government Shareholder Voting: Superannuation Provision Account Budget Paper B p. 297]

In relation to: ACT Government Shareholder Voting

1. Does the Superannuation Provision Account follow the sustainability option recommendations of Institutional Shareholder Services on every vote?
2. Has the ACT government considered providing ISS with an ACT government specific proxy voting policy to use in the determination of how ISS frames it's voting advice to us?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

As outlined in Budget Statements B, pages 309 to 322, Responsible Investment Policy matters now fall under the Territory Banking Account, rather than the Superannuation Provision Account.

1. The ISS Sustainability voting guidelines assist investors to incorporate ESG considerations in their investment decision-making processes. The Sustainability guidelines focus on long-term economic value preservation/enhancement through promotion of corporate governance best practices that mitigate risks to shareowners and reflect recognition that ESG factors can present material risks to portfolio investments.

The Sustainability guidelines were specifically formulated to enable shareholders to consider ESG matters in their voting practices, including supporting signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment to fulfill their obligations to the PRI from a proxy voting perspective.

The Sustainability proxy voting guidelines are informed by examination of ESG matters designed to identify ESG risks and use ESG risk indicators to identify moderate to severe ESG risk factors at public companies and cover topics including environment, human rights and impacts of business activities on local communities, labor rights and supply chain risks, consumer product safety, bribery and corruption, and governance and risk oversight failures.

As an example, the Sustainability guidelines generally support proposals that promote: greater disclosure of corporate environmental policies including climate change and greenhouse gas emissions; greater transparency regarding social policies such as those concerning workplace discrimination and corporate board diversification efforts, human rights, and compliance with human/labor rights norms/codes of conduct; and reporting on sustainable business practices including recycling, water use, operations in sensitive or protected areas, energy



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efficiency/renewable energy, and incorporation of sustainability-related performance metrics into executive compensation.

The Sustainability guidelines call for a case-by-case evaluation of proposals. The Territory's share votes are made in accordance with the recommendations arising from the application of the Sustainability guidelines.

2. The development of a specific ACT Government proxy voting policy would require significant ongoing resourcing to consider and review individual country voting guidelines, over 500 categories of voting proposals covering a wide variety of matters, and additional Sustainability overlay policies that align with the requirements of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment and other internationally recognised sustainability-related initiatives.

The ISS Sustainability voting guidelines are updated annually to consider emerging issues and trends on environmental, social and corporate governance topics, as well as the evolution of market standards, regulatory changes and client feedback.

The Sustainability Proxy Voting guidelines and the Proxy Voting framework we have established in exercising our voting rights assists in applying a consistent and contemporary approach to all voting decisions and is currently meeting the objectives of the Government's Responsible Investment Policy and the requirements of the UN PRI.

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Signature: 

Date: 12.3.21

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

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Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Lee MLA: To ask the Treasurer

[Ref: Budget Statement B, pp. 43–44]

In relation to: Accountability Indicators

1. Are there periodic reviews of the accountability indicators for their relevance, currency, and usefulness for stakeholders?

a. If so:

- i. when do these occur;
- ii. who is consulted; and
- iii. what were the outcomes of the most recent review?

b. If not, why not?

2. What is the policy or procedure in guiding agencies on the application of these accountability indicators?

a. Please provide the Committee with any such documents.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The *Financial Management Act 1996* sets out the requirements for directorates and Territory authorities to include performance criteria in their budget statements each year, and provide a statement of performance as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year. Selection and review of indicators is the responsibility of directorates and undertaken according to the outputs to be delivered by the agency in that year.
2. The ACT Performance and Accountability Framework (February 2020) is a guide to performance and accountability processes including principles for setting and reviewing performance measures and indicators. It is available at:
https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1690721/ACT-Performance-and-Accountability-Framework-FEB-2020.pdf



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FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. T6

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 12.3.21

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Lee MLA: To ask the Assistant Minister for Economic Development

[Ref: CMTEDD Annual Report 2019–20, p. 49]

In relation to: CBR Screen Fund

CBR Screen Fund provided \$559,000 to seven productions to develop Canberra stories and content.

1. What assessment has been done to determine the benefit and outcome of this investment?

Please provide copies of any written assessment.

2. What were the seven productions?

3. How many viewings were there of each showing?

4. What is the total estimated viewing audience of each production?

TARA CHEYNE MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. There was an error reported in the CMTEDD 2019-20 Annual Report which stated that seven applications were approved for funding. While seven applications were assessed by the Screen Canberra Assessment Committee through the period, six of those projects were approved for a total funding investment of \$559,000. A Corrigendum to the CMTEDD 2019-20 Annual Report is being progressed to correct the error.

Projects are assessed against the CBR Screen Fund criteria which include:

- proposed ACT spend relative to the requested funding;
- project's economic, cultural and creative benefits to the ACT;
- creative quality and readiness of the project to go into production;
- market potential of the project;
- track record or potential of the applicant; and
- proposed use of ACT talent, personnel, services, facilities and locations.

Applications to the CBR Screen Fund are reviewed and assessed against the Fund criteria by Screen Canberra staff and independent screen professionals appointed by Screen Canberra. Decisions on funding are made by the Screen Canberra Assessment Committee, comprised of



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QON No. T7

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Screen Canberra Board members and an ACT Government-appointed industry professional. Written assessments of applications are subject to commercial-in-confidence considerations and cannot be provided.

2. A table of the 2019-20 approved projects is provided below. Following the funding approval for the six projects, the implications of COVID-19 led to the December 2020 withdrawal of two projects. These were the feature film *6 Festivals* and the TV series *Five Eyes*. This has resulted in a reduction in the total current investment in 2019-20 to from \$559,000 to \$305,000.

Project Title	Genre	Funding Type	Project Format	Company	Project Status
Development Slate, Production Slate	Factual	Development Cashflow Loan, Production Cashflow Loan	Development Slate Documentaries (TV & Cinema)	Wildbear Entertainment Pty Ltd	In progress
LIFEBLOOD	Drama	Development Loan	TV Series	Beyond Entertainment Pty Ltd	In progress
House of Sighs	Drama	Development Loan	Feature	Joshua Koske	In progress
Five Eyes	Drama	Development Loan	TV Series	Werner Film	Withdrawn
Jack Heath's "Escape From" series	Children	Development Loan	Multi-platform	SilverSun Pictures	In progress
6 Festivals	Drama	Gap Loan, Production Investment	Feature	Superlative Pictures (6 Festivals Films Pty Ltd)	Withdrawn

3. No projects from 2019-20 have been completed to date so audience and distribution data is not available. Theatrical success is measured in box office figures and free to air TV ratings are measured by Neilson. Streaming services do not publicly release audience figures.
4. Information on the estimated viewing audience per project is not available.



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QON No. T7

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tara Cheyne", written over a horizontal line.

Date:

12/3/21

By the Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tara Cheyne MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. T8

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

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Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Lee MLA: To ask the Assistant Minister for Economic Development

[Ref: Budget Paper B p. 3]

In relation to: 2020–21 Priorities

In the 2020-21 Budget, CMTEDD listed two of its priorities as:

“Creating, leading and fostering an innovative and responsive approach across all directorates to support economic recovery, job creation and diversification of the ACT Economy”.

“Supporting key capability industries with high growth and competitive advantages to foster business growth, jobs creation and economic recovery”.

1. What programs are being funded from this output in 2020-21?

2. Please provide a breakdown of costs for each program.

TARA CHEYNE MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:—

The following programs are delivered by Economic Development. To support these priorities, in 2021 the ACT Government funded:

- a) The Future Jobs Fund, which is designed to create or save jobs in the higher education, research and growth industry sectors. The 2020-21 Budget committed \$2.1 million in 2020-21 for this initiative.
- b) The Priority Investment Program, which is designed to attract and retain business investment and talent, and to grow and enhance Canberra’s competitive advantage by developing strengths in priority sectors. The Territory funded \$9.75 million over three years in the 2018-19 Budget for this program, with \$1 million available in 2020-21 for a round focussed on jobs and economic recovery.
- c) The CBR Innovation Network (CBRIN), which is a network linking businesses and entrepreneurs to services, facilities and stakeholders that accelerate their innovation and growth. CBRIN takes a central role in growing the innovation ecosystem in the ACT and building individual and corporate capability. The ACT Government provided CBRIN \$1.25 million in 2020-21 to support its core operations and an additional \$655,464 under a peppercorn licence for use of level 5, 1 Moore Street. Funding for CBRIN ceases 30 June 2023.



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QON No. T8

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

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- d) The Study Canberra Program, which delivers a range of programs designed to market and promote Canberra as a study destination, support and enhance the student experience, and work with tertiary institutions on a range of programs and initiatives to support their role in economic recovery, job creation and diversification of the ACT economy. The Government funds this program \$750,000 per annum, including in 2020-21.
- e) The *More and better jobs- supporting Canberra businesses to diversify, grow and innovate* initiative seeks to support key job creating industries. In 2020-21 \$377,000 was provided under this initiative to support Canberra's screen industry with continuing funding for Screen Canberra.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 12/3/21

By the Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tara Cheyne MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. T9

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Lee MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development

[Ref: Budget paper B p. 3]

In relation to: ACT Vice Chancellors Forum

The ACT Vice Chancellors Forum in June 2020 considered the impact of COVID-19 on the tertiary education sector and how to reposition Study Canberra student attraction efforts.

1. What has been the outcome of that Forum?

2. What financial impact has COVID-19 had on tertiary student enrolments, both domestic and international?

Please provide a breakdown of a) enrolment numbers; and
b) fees collected from tertiary students for the financial years:

- a) 2016–2017
- b) 2017–2018
- c) 2018–2019
- d) 2019–2020
- e) 2020–2021

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Forum members briefed the Chief Minister on the impact of COVID-19 on their operations, particularly in relation to international students. The ACT Government stated its commitment to working with the sector and the Australian Government on the return of international students when it is safe to do so. The Forum also discussed the importance of protecting and supporting a future research pipeline and how to best position Canberra-based institutions to take advantage of these opportunities, attract investment and preserve and create jobs in the sector.
2. The ACT Government does not collect this data as it is the responsibility of the Australian Government.

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FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. T9

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Barr".

Date: 12.3.21

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. T10

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Lee MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development

[Ref: Budget paper B p.3]

In relation to: ACT Gov/UNSW MOU

The MOU between the ACT Government and the UNSW was signed in December 2017.

1. What is the current status of this project?

2. How much funding has been spent on this project in the financial years:

- a) 2017–2018
- b) 2018–2019
- c) 2019–2020
- d) 2020–2021

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The MOU between the Territory and UNSW was signed in December 2017, with UNSW having submitted a formal proposal to the Territory on 11 October 2018. Following Government consideration of UNSW's Canberra City Campus proposal, the Territory and UNSW entered into a Precinct Deed in March 2020. Development of UNSW's Precinct Master Plan is underway and, upon submission, will be considered by Government for final approval.
2.
 - a. In 2017-18, the ACT Government committed \$300,000 as part of the 2017-18 Budget Review to establish the Project Facilitation Unit within Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. The unit was established to lead work on Government coordination and decision-making of major economic development investment projects, one being the UNSW Canberra City Campus proposal.
 - b. In 2018-19, the ACT Government committed \$800,000 to expand the Territory's capacity to pursue the delivery of identified projects and investment proposals that support local jobs, economic growth and industry diversification. The UNSW Canberra City Campus proposal along with other investment proposals were included as areas of focus during this time.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. T10

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

- c. In 2019-20, the ACT Government committed \$800,000 to expand the Territory's capacity to pursue the delivery of identified projects and investment proposals that support local jobs, economic growth and industry diversification. The UNSW Canberra City Campus proposal along with other investment proposals were included as areas of focus during this time.

Direct expenditure on the UNSW project for 2019-20 was \$1,250,000 (excl GST) for payment of Milestone 1 as per the Precinct Deed.

- d. In 2020-21, the ACT Government committed \$195,000 to fund a SOG A position within Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate for implementation of two strategic projects, one being the UNSW Canberra City Campus.

The costs associated with site-related investigations and assessments were unable to be compiled within the timeframes required to answer this question on notice.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 12.3.21

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA