



Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Leanne Castley MLA on 03 November 2022: Ms Jaqueline Agius took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 3 November 2022, page 28.

In relation to: Inspections of Weekend Events

THE CHAIR: Yes, I think just about who is responsible in those farmers markets, that is fine, I know we are very short of time.

Ms Agius: Sorry, spot checks. Yes, so we do, we have on call inspectors working 24 hours a day and we also build in, we pay people overtime to do different things that occur on the weekend like, you know, Floriade, Canberra Show, multicultural festival, all of those things that are happening.

THE CHAIR: Can you just take on notice from me, if there have been any of those weekend events that might have—someone has had a breach, just wondering how many of those there might have been.

Ms Agius: On weekend events?

THE CHAIR: Yes, the weekend events, like the Floriades I suppose and the farmers markets and that sort of stuff? Thank you.

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Between 1 November 2021 and 31 October 2022, WorkSafe ACT undertook proactive and responsive compliance campaigns at events which ran over weekends including Floriade, Enlighten, Wine Machine, the Royal Canberra Show, Summernats and Groovin the Moo. The purpose of these campaigns was to check compliance with work health and safety, workers' compensation, labour hire licensing and dangerous substances legislation and to educate duty holders regarding their obligations.

Across these campaigns, a total of eight notices were issued to persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs).

One prohibition notice was issued during Enlighten in March 2022 for a breach of s149 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* for unsafe electrical equipment.

In April 2022, in response to a notifiable incident at the Groovin the Moo festival, one prohibition notice was issued for a breach of s39 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* regarding the provision of information, training and instruction.

Six notices were issued during Floriade in September 2022. The following five notices were issued to a single PCBU:

- Two improvement notices for breaches of s21 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the WHS Act) – Duty of persons conducting businesses or undertakings involving management or control of fixtures, fittings or plant at workplaces;
- Two improvement notices for breaches of s42 of the WHS Act – Requirements for authorisation of plant or substance; and
- One prohibition notice for a breach of s19 of the WHS Act – Primary duty of care.

The other notice issued at Floriade was a prohibition notice for a breach of s19 of the WHS Act – Primary duty of care.

WorkSafe ACT actively engages with those organising events in the Territory to ensure the full range of statutory obligations are understood and met.

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

Signature: 

Date: 4/11/2022

By the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Mick Gentleman MLA