



Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Leanne Castley MLA on 20 November 2023: Kareena Arthy took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard Proof Transcript, 20 November 2023, p 32

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Ms Arthy, I want to chat about the Canberra Convention Centre and how we got to where we are. You told the joint standing committee inquiry into fostering and promoting the significance of Australia's national capital:

... the Canberra Convention Bureau regularly provide information about the conferences we cannot accommodate here.

Can you tell the committee when the Canberra Convention Bureau started briefing you about conferences that they could not accommodate, as well as the size of each conference that they have missed out on?

Ms Arthy: Ms Castley, I have been talking to the Canberra Convention Bureau since I have been in this job, really, for about six years. At various points they have mentioned particular conferences and I have asked for detail to be provided to me. I believe they have provided information as part of the work that we are currently doing around the operational needs analysis for a new convention centre. We would have some information that has been provided to us and we can look at whether we can pull that out of the needs analysis and provide it to the committee. I just do not have it in front of me.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

During 2023, The ACT Government commissioned consultants to prepare an Operational Needs Analysis for a Convention Centre in Canberra. Key stakeholders were consulted as part of the study including the Canberra Convention Bureau who were engaged with directly and as part of the Canberra Tourism Leaders Forum board.

During the development of the needs analysis, key stakeholders provided high level data on the missed business opportunities during 2017 and 2018 at the National Convention Centre Canberra. They advise that in 2017 there were 28 missed opportunities and in 2018 that number reduced to 20. The size of each missed event opportunity varies, however, for 2017 the reported average was 550 delegates or attendees, and in 2018 the average was 600.

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

Signature: 

Date: **27.11.23**

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA