



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert:

In relation to: Connect and Participate Expo  
Output class 1.2: Office for Disability, page 14.

1. The Community Services Directorate advised during hearings that some of the feedback received from the Expo held in 2019 was that it was 'of limited benefit to the sector that it was initially designed for, and that it had grown in a slightly different direction.'
  - a. What sectors was the expo initially designed for and according to the feedback received, how did the event deviate from the original intentions?
  - b. What other models is the Directorate considering as an alternative to holding an Expo?

Emma Davidson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1a. The Connect and Participate (CAP) Expo began in 2014 as a means of improving community participation for people with disability by showcasing the range of opportunities available for Canberrans to join interest groups and social clubs. The CAP Expo has become a mainstream social inclusion event for all Canberrans, and while the success of the event was evaluated it was not possible to quantify the direct impact on improving the engagement and inclusion of people with disability in community activities.

1b. Alternative methods of creating and contributing to a more welcoming and inclusive community were attempted following the decision not to proceed with the CAP Expo. This included funding a series of conversations and community engagement activities to socialise and progress universal design principles that can play a significant role in improving community inclusion. The COVID-19 health pandemic impacted the shape of the project and so it was adjusted to be conducted primarily online. Following conclusion its effectiveness will be reviewed and next steps developed and discussed with the Disability Reference Group.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature: 

Date: 25/03/2021



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**QON No. 43**

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By the Minister for Disability, Emma Davidson MLA