



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by MS CLAY on 31 July 2023: Minister STEEL (Skills) took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: *Uncorrected Hansard Transcript* 31 July 2023 [page 48]

In relation to:

Sustainability initiatives - CIT Bruce is doing insect farming and food rescue to reduce its food waste - is that just on Bruce campus or might it be a feature of all of the campuses?

MS CLAY: Okay, cool. There are a few other sustainability initiatives that are really great at some campuses and I am just wondering if you are intending on rolling them out to others. So CIT Bruce I think is doing insect farming and food rescue to reduce its food waste. Is that just on that campus or is that something that might be a feature of all of the campuses?

Mr Jordan: I would have to take that on notice.

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

Sustainability initiatives vary according to courses and facilities across CIT campuses.

Bruce campus:

- **Grind to Ground** was launched at CIT Bruce in 2020 by six CIT students. It has evolved into a not-for-profit social enterprise that focuses on building social connections and environmental sustainability by employing approximately 30 people living with a disability. This initiative transforms used coffee grounds from local cafes and sawdust from the construction teaching area to produce a soil enhancer - 'Grounded' – which is sold online and at community markets. In 2022, Grind to Ground collected an estimated 175.5 tons of sawdust and around 70 tonnes of coffee grounds.
- **CIT Horticulture and Floristry** recycle food waste and maintain a compost bay and a worm farm.

Reid campus:

- **CIT Fashion:**
 - re-uses decommissioned bed sheets provided by Capital Linen
 - provides fabric scraps to punch bag manufacturers
 - recycles and up-styles garments provided by Salvation Army and Goodbyes (Braddon)

- transforms formal wear and wedding dress donations into garments provided free-of-charge to people in need.
- **CIT Culinary:**
 - uses a food dehydrator to produce garden fertiliser from food waste
 - sells excess food prepared by students in sustainable packaging at the Apprentice Kitchen
 - donates excess food and bakery products prepared by students to OzHarvest
 - recycles used cooking oil - an estimated 1,230 litres of cooking oil, from the Culinary department and CIT Student Association cafes, canteens and restaurants, was recycled in 2022.
- **CIT Hair and Beauty** partners with Sustainable Salons to divert 95 per cent of waste products to recycling, including aluminium, plastics and hair from the student salons.

Fyshwick campus:

- **CIT Automotive and Metals** diverts waste from landfill by recycling scrap metal.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

11/8/23

By the Minister for Skills, Mr Steel MLA