



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Tourism and Trade

In relation to: Tourism and Trade and ACT Events Fund - percent of new applicants

Hearing: 14 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p6

Transcript provided: 20 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

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MS LEE: Mr Emerson asked whether I was going to defend Dickson but no, I do not need to do that, but I do have some supps. Chief Minister, just in terms of the event funds, obviously there are a number of recipients, and the amount varies. Is this a matter of everyone applying for different amounts and what is the, I suppose, ratio in terms of if people apply for 30,000 and they get 20—you know that kind of—

Mr Barr: Sure. Yes, so people do apply for different amounts. Generally speaking, the requested applications exceed the size of the fund. I do not think that would come as a surprise, and so the committee that makes the independent recommendations in relation to the allocation of funding will at times agree to 100 per cent of the request, or in other instances will recommend an amount somewhat less than what has been requested, but that would still allow the event to continue, but perhaps not at the scale that the organisers might have requested, and that is necessarily a balancing act to fairly distribute the available resources. As I mentioned in the answer to Ms Carrick's question, the criteria then are necessarily broader than just geographic; they need to encompass a variety of other factors, including diversity of event types, diversity of participants, and factoring in the reality that Canberra is a relatively small place, and that the ability to participate in an event is broader than just its geographic location.

MS LEE: Of course. Just in terms of I suppose getting the notice out about the availability of these funds, just going to the success of that, do you have a breakdown of the percentage of applicants that renew each year?

Mr Barr: We would, and we can certainly—

MS LEE: You can take that on notice?

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Mr Triffitt: Yes, we could certainly provide—I do not believe—sorry, Ross Triffitt, Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT. I have read and understand the privilege statement. I do not have that information available, but we can certainly provide that. I will take that on notice.

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

1. Of the 28 event organisers supported through the ACT Event Fund 2025 round, 14 (50 per cent) received funding equal to the full amount of their request.
2. 17 applicants were previous recipients of support from the ACT Event Fund (61 per cent).
3. Previously funded events are not guaranteed funding each year. All event organisers must apply to the competitive merit-based annual funding round.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation

Signature: 

Date: 28.11.25

By the Minister for Tourism and Trade, Andrew Barr MLA