



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Sport and Recreation

Reference: iCBR

Hearing: 18 November 2025

In relation Aquatic and pools needs analysis

Question received: 21 November 2025

Answer Due: 03 December 2025

Some of Canberra's pools were established with Government funding - including CISAC, the Southside Hydrotherapy Pool, and Canberra Aquatic Centre is jointly funded by the ACT Government and Commonwealth Government. Some also get recurrent ACT Government funding and some do not.

- 1) Which pools in Canberra received ACT Government funding to establish?
- 2) Which ones got Commonwealth funding?
- 3) How much was provided?
- 4) Which pools get ACT Government recurrent funding and how much does each get?
- 5) Which pools open to the public get no ACT Government recurrent funding?
- 6) How does Government decide where to put a pool and whether to fund it or leave it to the private sector to do?
- 7) Has the ACT Government conducted an aquatic and swimming needs analysis?

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) There are seven ACT Government-owned pools within the Territory. Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR) currently has management responsibility for Canberra Olympic Pool, Dickson Pool, Gungahlin Leisure Centre, Lakeside Leisure Centre (Tuggeranong), Manuka Pool, Stromlo Leisure Centre and Erindale Leisure Centre.

All of the pools that the Territory currently owns and operates received Government funding to establish. In addition, a \$10 million grant was provided to Canberra International Sports & Aquatic Centre (CISAC) as part of the arrangements to establish the pool facilities at the Belconnen site.

- 2) The Commonwealth's current commitment to the Canberra Aquatic Centre project is the only aquatic centre to have received Commonwealth support.
- 3) The Commonwealth Government has committed \$68.9 million to the Canberra Aquatic Centre project.
- 4) All of the ACT Government-owned pools receive recurrent government funding to support the facilities including operational management by the current service providers Belgravia Health and Leisure Pty Ltd and Big Island Sports Pty Ltd. The operational subsidies for each facility for the 2025-26 financial year are as per **Table 1**. The total funding for subsidies and maintenance costings was \$7.08 million.

Table 1 – CRP Funding 2025-2026

Funding Source Name	
Canberra Olympic Pool	\$1,450,785
Dickson Pool	\$208,597
Erindale Leisure Centre	\$1,700,000
Gungahlin Leisure Centre	\$401,312
Lakeside Leisure Centre	\$751,404
Manuka Pool	\$355,136
Southside Hydrotherapy	\$349,750
Stromlo Leisure Centre	\$935,765

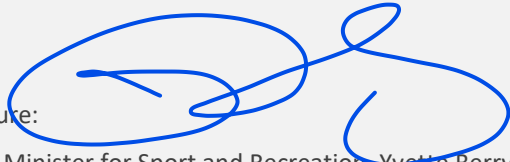
- 5) All other public pools, including CISAC, are not supported by the iCBR budget.
- 6) The existing ACT Government Aquatic Facilities Planning Framework (2013-2033) was prepared to help guide future planning decision for ACT Government aquatic facilities across the ACT. Historically, the provision of pools in Canberra include a mix of facilities owned by the private

sector and the ACT Government. Like some longer-term strategies, there is a need for them to be periodically reviewed and the ACT Government has recently committed to develop a new ACT Aquatic Strategy, with work on the new strategy to commence in 2026.

- 7) The new ACT Aquatic Strategy is being undertaken by Economic Development as part of CMTEDD and will include a facility needs analysis that considers available data from iCBR and Belgravia, including usage data of existing ACT Government aquatic facilities and updated population projections.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Y' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

19/12/25