



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY  
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **3 March 2022**

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Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA on 3 MARCH 2022: ASH BALARETNARAJA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 3 March 2022, Page 116]

In relation to: Priority Investment Program

THE CHAIR: How many expressions of interest did the directorate receive and how many business cases?

Mr Kobus: I will pass to Mr Balaretnaraja to provide the detail on that.

Mr Balaretnaraja: It has varied through the various rounds. The jobs and economic recovery round was a two-stage process. I will have to take that exact question on notice. But it was above 20 in the first stage, and through to the second stage was, I think, around four. But I will clarify.

THE CHAIR: The detail would be great. The annual report notes that four projects received funding under the priority investment program but two were pending final contract negotiations; so they were not included in this annual report. Can you give me some details about those two businesses and just how much funding for those businesses has been set aside—what the funding is for them?

Mr Balaretnaraja: I can. I understand those contracts have now been settled. One of those projects was to the Academy of Interactive Entertainment for a film plus virtual studio, and that was \$389,000. The second was to the University of Canberra for a digital building and built environment hub, and that was \$369,000.

THE CHAIR: The funding guidelines point to the creation of sustainable jobs as part of the selection criteria to receive this funding. How many local jobs have been created by the four funded projects? Chief Minister, I am wondering if you know the answer to that.

Mr Barr: I will take on notice the exact number.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In the 2020-21 Priority Investment Program - Jobs and Economic Recovery Round, 22 expressions of interest were received, of which six projects were shortlisted to submit a detailed project business cases.

Based on progress reports received, a total of 62 local jobs have been created to date. It is expected that as these projects progress, further jobs will be created adding to this figure.

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

Signature: 

Date: 19.3.22

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA