



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 ON NOTICE

Mrs Kikkert, Elizabeth: To ask the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs —

Hearing Dates: 19 and 21 July 2023

In relation to: Funding for youth engagement

1. How much money has been set aside for this year's Youth Week grants and also for Youth InterACT grants and scholarships?
2. Given that only one-third of the funding for Youth InterACT grants last year was given out (with the underspend used for two different projects), why was interest in applying for these grants so low in 2022-23, and what will the government do differently this year to increase awareness of and interest in these grants?
3. Given that the value of Youth InterACT grants has remained static at \$25,000 since at least 2019, the value of Youth Interact scholarships appears to have remained mostly fixed at \$25,000 since at least 2017 (with a possible increase in 2022), and the value of Youth Week grants declined between 2019 and 2022 (from \$30k to \$20k), why has financial support for youth engagement not kept pace with inflation?

MINISTER BERRY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: —

1. In 2023-24 the total budget for Youth Week grants and Youth InterACT grants and scholarships are as follows:
 - \$45,000 Youth Grants consisting of:
 - \$25,000 for Youth InterACT project
 - \$20,000 ACT Youth Week projects.
 - \$25,000 is available for Youth InterACT Scholarship program.
2. In 2022-23 the Youth InterACT Grant Program and Youth Week Grant Program were delivered as one Youth Grant Program in efforts to streamline processes and reduce grant fatigue for the sector and young people. Feedback from the sector revealed applicants only applied for one grant stream, leading to lower applications than anticipated.

The Community Services Directorate is reviewing the delivery of the Youth Grant Program and will consult with ACT youth sector to strengthen the program in 2023-24.

3. Changes to funding allocations for youth engagement grants and scholarships may be considered as part of the budget processes. Decisions to increase or expand the scope of funding allocations are considered by the Government alongside other priorities.

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

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date:

09/08/23

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Yvette Berry MLA