

or



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. 8

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

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## Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA on 20 November 2023: Kareena Arthy took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard Proof Transcript, 20 November 2023, Pages 50-52

In relation to:

**MS LEE:** That is a good segue because the next question I want to ask is about CBR Innovation Network. With CBRIN's Innovation Connect grants, does CBRIN report to your directorate on those grants?

**Mr Maclachlan:** Yes, they do. Each year they will report through to us around the grant rounds that are run.

**MS LEE:** Is that report publicly available?

**Mr Maclachlan:** I am not sure. I can take that on notice.

**Ms Arthy:** We can have a look. I would have to look at whether CBRIN puts it into their annual report. I cannot remember. We can take that on notice and come back to you.

**MS LEE:** Okay. If it is no, could you also provide an explanation for the committee as to why it does not?

**Ms Arthy:** Yes, we can. I am pretty sure it would be in their annual report. We will check while we are sitting here. I do not see a reason why we cannot provide you with the grants. If not, we can talk to CBRIN, given they own it as well. I have just had a message saying they publish successful grants on their website.

**MS LEE:** On their website, okay. Obviously, the administration of those grants is done by CBRIN, but in terms of reporting to the directorate, and through the annual reports, what are the accountability measures that you seek, expect or ask for?

**Ms Arthy:** I will take on notice the specific measures because I do not have that level of detail in front of me.

**MS LEE:** Thank you for taking that on notice. In relation to the report details, does that provide information in relation to the number of grant recipients and how much? Is that information available?

**Ms Arthy:** Again, I will have to take that on notice, unless I can get my team to send me the information before the end of this session. I do not have that here but I am happy to look at it.

**MS LEE:** No worries. You might have to take this on notice. I also want to know whether—because his may not be available—there is information about grant recipients who have left Canberra over the last five years.

**Ms Arthy:** I do not think we would have that information because that would require looking at each company and trying to find where they are now. I do not think we would hold that.

**MS LEE:** Can you clarify whether you do not hold that; if you do, can you provide that data?

**Ms Arthy:** I will do that on notice, but I am fairly sure that we do not hold that data.

**MS LEE:** The other metric that I was interested in was whether you have any information about some of those grant recipients that are now no longer operating.

**Ms Arthy:** That would be a similar question. We do have the amount. We will get that information.

**MS LEE:** No worries; both of those metrics in the last five years.

**Ms Arthy:** Ms Starick has found the document online, and it has just come through to me as well. We can send you the link to it. All of the information is online. It has the icon “grant recipients”. It has all of the grant recipients, so it goes by the month, the time when they were provided, they have the company name, project description and the funding involved. That is all online via the CBRIN website

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

*1. Is the report [on Innovation Connect grants] publicly available?*

The name, project description and Innovation Connect (ICON) grant amount is published on the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) website at [Innovation-Connect-Grant-Recipients-Updated-July-23.pdf \(cbrin.com.au\)](https://www.cbrin.com.au/Innovation-Connect-Grant-Recipients-Updated-July-23.pdf).

*2. what are the accountability measures that [the ACT Government] seek or expect or ask for?*

Under the funding agreement with the ACT Government for the delivery of ICON, the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) is required to:

- Report at the completion of each round on the number of applications received, number of

grants awarded, total value of grants awarded and a summary of grant recipients;

- Report annually on the utilisation of the funding; and
- Attempt to track the growth and success of funded businesses.

*3. Is there information about grant recipients who have left Canberra over the last five years?*

The ACT Government does not hold information on whether any past grant recipients have left the ACT after receiving an ICON grant.

*4. Does the ACT Government have information about some of those who were recipients that are now no longer operating.*

Since 2021, CBRIN has conducted an annual survey of all past ICON grant recipients.

- In 2021 three of the 29 respondents reported that they had ceased business operations;
- In 2022 three of the 26 respondents reported that they had ceased business operations; and
- In 2023 none of the 24 respondents reported that they had ceased business operations.

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

Signature: 

Date: **28.11.23**

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA