



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: National Multicultural Festival

Question received: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

1. Given that the National Multicultural Festival is held in the Civic with several hundred thousand attendees, largely benefiting the city centre, what is being done to extend multicultural events and services beyond the CBD?
2. Can the Minister provide examples of support for multicultural engagement in town centres so that CALD residents don't have to rely solely on an annual city festival for cultural expression?

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Multicultural Inclusions Grant program supports multicultural communities across the Canberra region to host events, deliver programs, celebrate cultural, religious and social events throughout the year.
2. Multicultural engagement in Canberra is supported through a wide range of ACT Government initiatives – not just the annual National Multicultural Festival. Some examples include:
 - The ACT Government funds Multicultural Hub to deliver Youth Drop-In, a program for young people from multicultural backgrounds to speak with a Youth Engagement Officer about matters that are important to them. This is delivered in Gungahlin.
 - The Multicultural Inclusion Grants have funded activities and programs across the Canberra region. These initiatives ensure the Multicultural community have ongoing opportunities to connect and celebrate culture locally throughout the year. For example:
 - the ACT Playgroups Association received grant funding to host a playgroup to build social connection for Muslim families with children up to 5 years of age in Gungahlin.

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- the Indian community received grant funding to deliver a seniors program in Belconnen to support engagement, connection and community participation.
 - the grants also facilitated events for communities to have local celebrations such as Sri Lankan New Year which was held at Melrose High School.
- Annual Diwali and Ramadan events hosted by the ACT Government.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date: 28/11/25

By the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA