QON No. 63

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: City Services

Hearing: 22 July 2026
In relation to: Woden Library – Access Canberra relocation costs
Question received: 28 July 2026
Answer Due: 06 August 2026

Minister

Questions around costs

1) How much will this relocation cost the taxpayer in total?
2) How much will the new fit out inside the Woden/Weston Creek library cost?
3) How much will the fit out at the Dickson offices cost,
4) How much will the costs to transfer staff be, for example IT.
5) When will the loan for the $7 million purpose-built fit out at the Cosmopolitan building be paid off?
6) Why is the government writing off the costs for the $7 million purpose-built fit out at the Cosmopolitan building?
7) What is the cost per metre of floor space at the Dickson offices and the cost per square metre at the Cosmopolitan building?

Thank you

Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1) The 2026-27 Budget has allocated $3.108m for the refurbishment of Woden Library to incorporate an Access Canberra Service Centre, offset by $7.293m of savings over the forward years. There may be additional costs for the establishment of a replacement FlexiSpace that are as yet unknown.

2) The procurement for a contractor to finalise design and deliver the fitout for the Access Canberra Service Centre in the Woden/Weston Creek library is planned for release imminently. The final cost will be determined upon completion of the design.

3) The office space at 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson is already fitted out, and the Access Canberra employees will relocate to work from this existing workspace.

4) The majority of non-Service Centre Access Canberra employees currently based at Cosmopolitan House already have remote working arrangements, including laptops and access to digitised records, and are equipped to work from anywhere. A change of location does not add additional cost to these working arrangements.

5) The loan for fitout and ICT costs has been largely paid off, with the residual to be paid in full by 8 December 2026, prior to the expiration of the lease.

6) As noted above, the loan will have been paid off in full before the expiration of the lease. Asset write-off is an issue for the building owner.

7) These costs are Commercial-in-Confidence, however the relocation of Access Canberra employees into 480 Northbourne Ave comes at no additional cost as employees will be occupying space that is already leased.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:  Date: 19/9/26

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Tara Cheyne MLA