



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
13 November 2018

Asked by MS CHEYNE MLA:

In relation to:

MS CHEYNE: So were we previously charging them the full fee?

Mr Alegria: In some cases, I believe we were.

Ms Kelly: No, it is—aside from—the primary reason was the—if we look at, say, a touch football field, as an example, the wear and tear that juniors have compared—

MS CHEYNE: Yes, okay.

Ms Kelly: —to the seniors is reflected also within that policy. So it was a number of factors that went into the reasoning behind the halved. But, as Steven made the point there, the encouragement around junior sport—

MS CHEYNE: Yes.

Ms Kelly: —is certainly the key to it.

MS CHEYNE: So, sorry—so that half fee came in a few years ago, but what was happening before that half fee?

Ms Kelly: So it was—the policy that came in 13-14 meant—was that there were some that were already half, some that were not, and so the policy objective was that all—they all reach that 50 per cent junior/senior threshold.

MS CHEYNE: Right. And so some of the—

Ms Kelly: So it was really a consistently point. Before that it was less consistent.

MS CHEYNE: Right. And so there is some that were not—

Ms Berry: Yes.

MS CHEYNE: —were paying full adult fees? Or at least more than 50 per cent?

Ms Kelly: I would probably would have to go back and check as to whether any were paying full adult fee, but certainly it was the inconsistency that was attempted to be addressed.

MS CHEYNE: Is it an enormous burden if you go back and check?

Ms Berry: We will try and find out if we can, yes.

Ms Kelly: We will see what we can find.

MS CHEYNE: Yes. Yes, if cannot find it, just—I will accept a response to a question taken on notice as “could not find it”. I will not keep pressing you, but if you could have a cursory look, I would appreciate that. Okay. So I guess that—I think that is good, to go down to 50 per cent, and to have that blanket for all sporting groups. Do you—is it—is 50 per cent still too much, though? Or is it—or is it too little?

Minister for Sport and Recreation: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:—

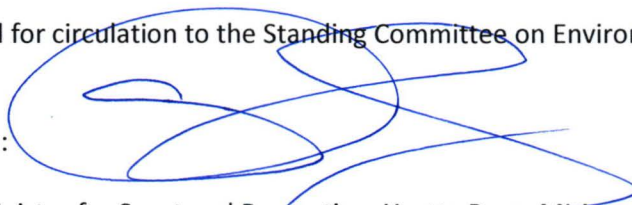
The rate for use of sporting ovals by junior teams was increased in the mid-1990s as part of a strategy to increase the “user pays” contribution to maintenance costs from a low baseline of less than 10%.

Since that time, annual increases to fees for hire of sporting grounds have been made based on the Consumer Price Index or the Wage Price Index. Increases above CPI or WPI have usually been aimed maintaining the various relativities between hiring fees, for example setting junior fees at 50% of senior fees. The “user pays” contribution to sportsground maintenance through hire fees is currently approximately 14% of overall costs.

The 50% rate for junior sport use is a well-established policy and is generally accepted by sporting groups.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date: 27/11/18

By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Yvette Berry MLA