



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

In relation to: Homelessness policy and services and Woden Youth Foyer

Hearing: 10 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 30

Transcript provided: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 21 November 2025

MISS NUTTALL: I am interested so, forgive me, I am just trying to find reference to how much was actually committed in that 2023-2024 budget. Do you have those numbers to hand? I am so sorry. Otherwise I am furiously Googling.

Mr Balaretnaraja: I do not have those numbers to hand. I can take them on notice. It is complex because over a number of budgets there has been commonwealth funding that has been dedicated to the youth foyer, there has been service delivery funding that has been dedicated to the youth foyer, and even in the most recent budget there was also building and maintenance funding that has been provided. So it has occurred over a number of budgets. I will take that on notice so I give you the most comprehensive answer possible. But I am going to predict someone is going to send me a message as I log back onto my computer about this.

MISS NUTTALL: Fantastic, and perhaps while you are typing and logging in, are you able to comment on or provide the actual value of the contract that the ACT government is offering as part of this?

Mr Balaretnaraja: So that question I will have to take on notice. That will be on the public record but we will need just to go through contract negotiations before I am able to advise of that.

MISS NUTTALL: Okay, got you. And probably this might be difficult to—I would be interested in what this looks like, given what you are taking on notice, but I would be interested in the value of the contract essentially comparative to other youth foyers either in the ACT or in comparable jurisdictions in New South Wales.

Mr Balaretnaraja: I am happy to take that on notice. I am happy to take that whole series of questions on notice, which is how much funding has been provided in totality for the youth foyer, and then how that might be comparable to other youth foyers.

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Funding for the construction of the Woden Youth Foyer was included in two separate budgets:
 - a. The ACT Government committed funding for the Youth Foyer in the 2021-2022 Budget as part of the broader Woden CIT Campus and Woden Bus Interchange project. Total funds of \$269.2 million were committed in this budget for the whole of campus project. A proportion of this funding was utilised for construction and fit-out of the foyer. The exact quantum dedicated to the Youth Foyer itself cannot be determined as project costs were not attributed to specific components of the campus.
 - b. A further \$10 million of capital funding was committed in the 2023-2024 Budget for construction of the Youth Foyer. These funds were provided by the Australian Government to offset the build cost of the Youth Foyer.
 - c. Operational funding for the Youth Foyer was committed in the 2024-2025 Budget. The total fund is \$3.48 million over 4 years.
 - d. Facilities management, building maintenance and building operational costs (for example, utilities) for the Youth Foyer was committed in the 2025-2026 Budget as part of a broader Business Case for the whole of campus submitted by Infrastructure Canberra and CIT. The Health and Community Services Directorate HCSD received \$432,000 for 1 year in the Business Case.

There are currently 19 youth foyers in operation across Australia. They range in size from supporting less than 20 young people (Our Place, Canberra) to over 95 young people (Foyer Oxford, Perth). To support local circumstances, the model and building is tailored to the needs of the local sector, leading to differences in foyers based on size, building format (for example, new construction or refurbishment of existing property) and how they operate.

Foyer Foundation estimated in early 2024 that the new build cost for a 40-unit youth foyer is \$18.4 million. The Woden Youth Foyer contains 20 units and is the first Youth Foyer constructed as part of a new TAFE campus.

2. The Territory is in the process of engaging a provider to operate the foyer. The Territory will be seeking to enter a contract arrangement with the provider for an initial period of up to 3 years commencing from the date of execution of a contract. The funding envelope available for the contract for a 3-year period is \$2.551 million from the commencement of operation.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

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

Date:

25/11/25

By the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, Yvette Berry MLA