



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

In relation to: Business, Arts and Creative Industries and CFC CEO

Hearing: 19 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 66-67

Transcript provided: 28 November 2025

Answer Due: 5 December 2025

MR MILLIGAN: Yes. Just in relation to the new CEO of the arts here in Canberra. Have we got just an interim CEO?

Mr Pettersson: The cultural facility.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes. Have we got a new CEO or not? Is it interim?

Ms Fulton: I guess I am the interim.

MR MILLIGAN: You are the interim? Okay, very good. Well, it does not have CEO and CFC on it. Yes, and so what is the process that you—do we have to go to a whole new ground or—

Ms Fulton: That question is really probably for the head of service who is responsible for employment of the CEO of cultural facilities corporation. So she did process, in terms of temporary filling of this position, on the outcome of that.

MR MILLIGAN: Because you have a number of different responsibilities, right, in a number of different areas?

Ms Fulton: With cultural facilities corporation?

MR MILLIGAN: Yes.

Ms Fulton: So that would be the Canberra theatre centre, historic places and Canberra museum and galleries.

MR MILLIGAN: Okay, thank you.

MS LEE: Supplementary?

THE CHAIR: Yes.

MS LEE: Thank you, Ms Fulton. I know that—I think that your interim gig is not that coming up to an end in December—early December?

Ms Fulton: Correct.

MS LEE: Okay. Do you do you have any information to share with the committee about what the process is going to be after that? What is what is going to be in place? I mean, obviously, there is been a bit of an unsettling time for the entire organisation. They are probably wondering what is happening.

Ms Fulton: I would anticipate that a further process will be run by the head of service. But as I said, it really is a question for her.

Mr Pettersson: Yes, I have not been briefed on what is next. The CFC operates on a slightly different structure to what most people would think. The CEO is not appointed by the board. The CEO is not appointed by the minister. The CEO is appointed by the head of service.

MS LEE: Yes. So in terms of the—is it—can you just clarify that the current CEO has been stood down, but he is still employed in that capacity?

Mr Pettersson: Suspended without pay.

MS LEE: Suspended without, yes, but still employed though? Yes, okay. And there is been no decision made about that status as at this stage?

Mr Pettersson: We would have to take it on notice. If employment arrangements are...(indistinct)...[03.58.30].

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

- Section 11 of the *Cultural Facilities Corporation Act 1997* provides that the Chief Executive Officer must be a public servant and appointed under the *Financial Management Act 1996*, s80(3). The Director-General of the administrative unit responsible for the establishing Act must, after consulting the governing board and the responsible Minister, appoint a CEO for the authority.
- The Administrative Arrangements 2025 (No 1) provide that the responsible Minister for the Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) is the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries and the relevant administrative unit is the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD).
- After consultation with the governing board and the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries, the Director-General, CMTEDD:
 - determined to suspend the then CEO Mr Ramsay;
 - appointed an interim CEO of CFC for the period 13-26 October 2025 to enable the circulation of an internal request for expression of interest of the short-term vacancy;

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- appointed an acting CEO of CFC for the period 27 October 2025 – 7 December 2025 to align with relevant legal proceedings;
- has circulated a request for Expression of Interest for a short-term vacancy commencing 8 December 2025 for up to nine months noting that the appointment may be terminated earlier pending the outcome of current legal proceedings.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation

Signature: 

Date: 8-12-25

By the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries, Michael Pettersson MLA