

PAC – ANNUAL REPORTS INQUIRY

Supplementary Questions following the public hearing of 3 December 2009

Question #	To	Subject
1	Min. for Business & Economic Development	Inclusion of sustainability in the Innovation Indicator
2	<i>Min. for Business & Economic Development</i>	<i>Programs for companies and entrepreneurs</i>
3	Min. for Business & Economic Development	ScreenACT - contract
4	Min. for Business & Economic Development	ScreenACT - Advisory Committee
5	Min. for Business & Economic Development	ScreenACT - outsourcing
6	Min. for Business & Economic Development	Newsletters to the business community
7	Min. for Business & Economic Development	Industry Capability Network - criteria
8	Min. for Business & Economic Development	Student Internship Pilot Program
9	Min. for Business & Economic Development	Business in Focus month
10	Min. for Business & Economic Development	CollabIT program
11	Min. for Business & Economic Development	Payment of contracted services

Note: Highlighted items are those questions that were not answered as at 22 March 2010

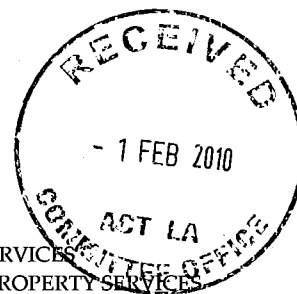


Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA



2008-09 Annual Report Hearings

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Question on Notice BED 1

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

In relation to Indicator 7 – Strengthening the Innovation Capacity, strategic investment in science and social innovation infrastructure is a key part of the Innovation Indicator, but will sustainability be included as part of the Indicator too?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

There is no intention to specifically include sustainability outcomes as part of this Indicator. The Government is examining approaches to green economic development and a scoping consultancy has been undertaken by the University of Canberra on the Government's behalf. That report will be released publicly in due course.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Business and Economic Development

Date: 28/1/.....



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Question on Notice BED 10

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

In relation to the CollabIT program, what is the success of this program so far?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

CollabIT is an engagement and business development initiative that links small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with multi-national corporations (MNCs) and other stakeholders in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

CollabIT is a joint initiative of the ACT Government and the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) and is delivered under contract by the AIIA. The contract, with a value of \$50,000 per annum for three years, was executed at the end of July 2009.

Outcomes to date include:

Membership

- Ongoing recruitment of membership which currently stands at 137 (16 MNCs and 73 SMEs with the balance a mix of recruitment, education facilities, training providers.)

Events

- Two CollabIT breakfast networking events;
- Two seminars (one held jointly with AIIA and one with the Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre)
 - average of fifty attendees per event
 - average of ten to fifteen useful connections made at each event per member
- Whole of ICT industry Christmas networking event (190 attendees).

Business Partnerships

- Three real business opportunities have flowed from introductions at events;
- Honest broker instructions have resulted in twelve companies working together (a mix of MNCs and SMEs); and

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0104 Fax (02) 6205 0433 Email stanhope@act.gov.au

- Two CollabIT members are currently working on an online capability register for all CollabIT members for use in finding suitable business partners.

Referral Service

- Circulated CVs which resulted in two permanent positions being offered to retrenched staff;
- Several contract positions brokered to start in the new year; and
- 43 referrals for services, advice and funding via ICT network (refers to the other industry associations, member groups and education facilities that CollabIT has relationships with, see list below.)

Partnerships

- Established a reciprocal partnership arrangement with the Australian e-Government Technology Cluster; and
- Established relationships with local stakeholders including the Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre, Australian Computer Society, Women in Communication, Canberra Business Council, ACT Exporters Association, NICTA, CIT and the ANU.

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Minister for Business and Economic Development

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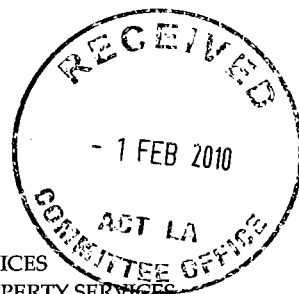


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Question on Notice BED 11

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

There can sometimes be quite a complicated process between the ACT Government contracting a service, and the contractor getting paid.

- Have any issues around contractors not being paid within 28 days of the services being rendered been solved?
- Is interest paid on late payments, paid after 28 days of service rendered/ product purchased?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I have been advised that the Chief Minister's Department is not aware of any specific issues about late payment of contractors. The Department attempts to pay invoices in a timely manner in accordance with the stated terms of payment.

I have also been advised that, while the *Government Procurement Act 2001* provides for interest payments after 25 days have elapsed from the end of the month in which the payment was due, the Department is not aware of anyone seeking payment of interest on overdue invoices.

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Minister for Business and Economic Development

Date: 28/1



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Question on Notice BED 3

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

The ScreenACT contract is only \$175,000.

- Does this include the funds for the grants to local filmmakers?
- How many grants have been given out for film production purposes? (This is not listed in the back of the report, like the ArtsACT ones are.)
- Is a detailed list of grants provided available?
- How many grant rounds have there been? (Lists for each one please)
- Were these grants primarily for film production purposes?
- How are the grant rounds promoted to the ACT community?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- The current ScreenACT contract is for a period of three years and one month at \$175,000 (Ex GST) per annum. This contract expires on 30 June 2010.
- A portion of this amount is allocated annually to a ScreenACT Project Fund which provides grants to assist local film, television and digital media practitioners advance a commercially focused project.
- There have been a total of sixteen grants awarded for pre and post production.
- Grant recipients are announced by ScreenACT and a list is maintained by ScreenACT on its website. A detailed list is at Attachment A.
- There have been three grant rounds to date. Refer to Attachment A for details.
- Sixteen of the nineteen grants (84 percent) have been for film production purposes.
- The grant rounds are promoted to the ACT, national and international communities via the ScreenACT website and newsletter and by media release to local and trade media.

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Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Business and Economic Development

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ATTACHMENT A

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0104 Fax (02) 6205 0433 Email stanhope@act.gov.au

Project Fund Grant Recipients

Round One, March 2008 – 33 Applicants - Five Recipients

Funding Total \$45,000

Cumulative Estimated budgets of Successful Projects - \$1.45 million

- 'The Dinner Party' – Feature film, Brendan Sloane
- 'Shock – And How to Survive It' – Documentary, Michael Tear
- 'Extreme Office Chair Racing' – Computer Game, Leanne Bartlett
- 'Resistance' – Live Action Adventure Series, Andrew Dillon
- 'A Comic Affair' – Documentary, Liz Weir

Round Two, January 2009 – 24 Applicants - Six Recipients

Funding Total \$55,000

Cumulative Estimated budgets of Successful Projects - \$3.5 million

- 'Urf' – animated comedy series, Michael Jacobsen
- 'Into the Shadows' – Documentary, Andrew Scarano & Paul Hignett
- 'Memoirs of a Plague' – Documentary, Robert Nugent
- 'Irimi' – Feature film, Sotiris Dounoukos
- 'Witness 19.2.42 The Bombing of Darwin' - Documentary, Mike Sweet
- 'A Comic Affair' – Documentary, Liz Weir

Round Three, November 2009 – 38 Applicants - Eight Recipients

Funding Total \$70,000

Cumulative Estimated budgets of Successful Projects - \$9.75 million

- 'Serious Game' – PC game, Tony Oakden
- 'My Note Book' - Documentary, Clare Young
- 'The Singing Bug' – Children's TV Series, Christian Doran
- 'The Competition' – Feature film, John Frohlich
- 'Joe Cinque's Consolation' – Feature film, Sotiris Dounoukos
- 'Documentary Slate' - Michael Tear
- 'Top Dogs' – Documentary, Belinda Pratten
- 'One of Us' – Feature film, James Hunter

Authorised for Publication



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Question on Notice BED 4

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

In relation to the ScreenACT Advisory Committee:

- What is the decision making process for the grant distribution?
- Who is on the ScreenACT Advisory Committee?
- How do people get selected for the Advisory Committee?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. There is no ScreenACT "Advisory" Committee. Applications for the ScreenACT Project Fund are assessed by a ScreenACT Assessment Committee against published criteria. The Committee then makes recommendations to the CEO of the Canberra Business Council Limited for grant allocation.
2. The ScreenACT Assessment Committee is comprised of:
 - (a) an industry professional assessor from outside the ACT/Capital Region who supplies a reader's report on all applications;
 - (b) an independent industry assessor from within the ACT/Capital Region; and
 - (c) a representative from artsACT.
3. ScreenACT Assessment Committee members are selected by the CEO of the Canberra Business Council.

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Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Business and Economic Development

Date: 

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Question on Notice BED 5

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

In relation to the outsourcing of ScreenACT, what is the origin of the proposal to outsource this process, and how it was decided?

Did Canberra Business Council meet with and correspond with the Chief Minister, or BID, about the outsourcing of the ScreenACT initiative?

Who represented each side?

Did CMD consult with any particular production company?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. In response to suggestions and lobbying by disparate parts of the industry itself, the Government agreed to conduct a Request for Proposal process to test the feasibility of an outsourced model at reduced funding levels.

The Canberra Business Council (CBC) in partnership with the Capital Region Development Board was selected to host and deliver the ScreenACT function on behalf of Government following a competitive request for tender (RFT) process in 2006. A number of other formal proposals were also received as part of this process.

2. No. In keeping with procurement probity requirements, no discussions were held with any potential bidders during the RFT process. Further, prior to the RFT process, the CBC did not pursue an outsourcing arrangement option with the Government or the Minister.
3. N/A.
4. No.

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Minister for Business and Economic Development

Date: 28/1/11

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Question on Notice BED 6

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

The ACT Exporters Network newsletter looks like a useful document for people – are there any other newsletters that BID regularly develops and distributes to the business community?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Exporters Network Newsletter is prepared and distributed by the Network's project officer through the sponsorship arrangement the Government has with the Canberra Business Council. Similar newsletters are prepared by the CollabIT program, ScreenACT, and the Australian e-Government Technology Cluster, all ACT Government co-funded or sponsored program initiatives.

BID also produces a monthly newsletter that is distributed via email to over 2,500 subscribers. The current and previous edition newsletters are also published on the BID website (www.business.act.gov.au).

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Question on Notice BED 7

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

What are the criteria for ACT businesses to be part of the Industry Capability Network?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Industry Capability Network (ICN) is a national network that aims to maximise Australia and New Zealand industry participation in major projects and global supply chains. It works by promoting and introducing local business capability to project proponents, prime contractors, and buyers.

The only criterion for an ACT business to be part of the national ICN database is that the business provides a specific product or service that can be purchased or delivered in a procurement project sense. The ACT ICN program provides a free-of-charge service to ACT businesses. Manufacturers and service providers are able to self-register a supplier resume, including capabilities, products and services, within the ICN online database. An ICN consultant then determines the registered supplier's authenticity and legitimacy. Businesses are also able to self-register interest in supplying major projects listed on the ICN Project Gateway.

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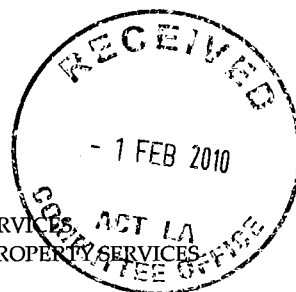


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Question on Notice BED 8

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

In relation to the Student Internship Pilot Program:

How many students are part of this program?

What sort of fields are they in?

What countries of origin are they from?

How will you be able to measure the success of this program?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Student Internship pilot program, known as *StudentConnect*, is an international student intern pilot program that has attempted to match final year students from the ANU, UC and CIT to local employers with the objective of ongoing employment and retention in the ACT.

Six students have commenced placements: three accounting students from ANU and three ICT students from UC.

The students are from India, China (2), Malaysia, Tajikistan and Vietnam.

The success of the program will be measured by:

- the number of students placed in intern positions;
- the number of students who are offered ongoing employment; and
- the number of Canberra businesses who expressed an interest in the program.

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Minister for Business and Economic Development

Date: 28/1

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0104 Fax (02) 6205 0433 Email stanhope@act.gov.au



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Question on Notice BED 9

Question to the Minister for Business and Economic Development -

In relation to Business in Focus month:

- How successful was this range of activities?
- How many businesses attended these events?
- Will it be a regular event on the calendar?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The first Business in Focus Month was very successful in gaining high participation rates. High satisfaction rates have also been achieved amongst event attendees and the majority of attendees reported that they had benefited in some way from attending a Business in Focus Month activity.
 - Seventy six activities were delivered over September as part of Business in Focus Month.
 - Fifty organisations participated as Event Partners by conceiving and hosting events.
 - Ten organisations sponsored the month-long program.
 - An average attendance rate of 69 percent of capacity was achieved at Business in Focus Month activities.
 - 91 percent of attendees were either satisfied or very satisfied with the activity they participated in.
 - 90 percent of attendees gained a benefit for themselves or their business by attending activities.
 - 97 percent of event partners were satisfied or very satisfied with the response to their activity.
2. 3,651 people attended Business in Focus Month events. An additional 4,000 people participated in OzHarvest's Share Lunch fundraising campaign which was promoted as part of Business in Focus Month.
3. Business in Focus Month will be held annually, with the next one to be held in September 2010.

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