



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mark Parton MLA on 26 July 2023: Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript 26 July 2023, PAGE 81]

In relation to: CBR Innovation Network.

Mr Parton: And my first question is regarding the CBR Innovation Network. Can I ask first up, Chief Minister, how does the CBR Innovation Network select the judges for the assessment of the ICON Grants? What protocols are put in place to protect the intellectual property of those applying for the grant?

Mr Barr: Who would like to assist?

Ms Arthy: Kareena Arthy, Deputy Director-General, of Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development.

In terms of how CBRIN actually conducts the ICON grants, because it is done at arm's length to us in the directorate, I think we will have to take that on notice, to be able to get the answer from CBRIN and provide it back to the committee.

THE CHAIR: All right. Is anyone able to answer if judges for the assessment of those grants are required to sign non-disclosure agreements?

Ms Arthy: Again, we will have to take that on notice because this process is run by CBRIN, not us in Economic Development.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

In relation to ICON grants, the Canberra Innovation Network has advised:

- Panel members for each ICON grant round are selected from the ACT's innovation community from different backgrounds, skill areas and industries, each with a proven track record in business and innovation.
- Each funding round, CBR Innovation Network (CBRIN) calls for nominations to be part of the assessment panel and panel members change each round to encourage fresh perspectives and new insights to applicants.
- Each ICON funding round, applicants are advised as part of the grant application process, that their application should address the grant criteria and focus on the business opportunity of their innovation rather than providing in-depth technical detail that might require the disclosure of intellectual property (IP) or commercially sensitive information. Applicants are

supported through the grant to access professional services related to patenting their innovation.

- During the assessment process, applications can be accessed by panel members, CBRIN's CEO, and the relevant CBRIN staff member with responsibility for processing these applications.
- Successful grant recipients enter into a funding agreement which clearly outlines all ownership of intellectual property rights is retained by the recipient.
- Prior to assessing the ICON grant applications, panel members attend an alignment session led by CBRIN and an ACT Government representative, which outlines and requests the panel to agree to the fair and unbiased process for assessing applications, including maintaining confidentiality. Panel members at each stage of assessing the applications are requested to declare any perceived or real conflicts of interest, including a commercial conflict. Panel members are not required to sign non-disclosure agreements.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 4.8.23

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA