



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for the Arts, Culture and Creative Economy

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Pages 113-114]

In relation to: AIE contract and funding value

Hearing Date: 31 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 1 August 2024

Answer Due Date: 6 August 2024

**MISS NUTTALL:** Yes. It is quite difficult to unpick the Budget and funding arrangements for Screen Canberra, and film and television production in the ACT, hoping this is the right session for that? Perfect.

The Academy of Interactive Entertainment looks like it is had about \$5 million worth of contracts with the ACT government since 2015. I understand this is in other arrangements they have with government funded organisations like Screen Canberra. Can you confirm, and all good if this needs to be taken on notice, how much funding AIE has received in contracts since 2015?

**Ms Cheyne:** I think we would have to take it on notice.

**Ms Arthy:** We would have to take it on notice, and just to clarify, Screen Canberra, even though it is funded by government—any relationship that they have with AIE is outside of what we would be aware of. What I am aware of in terms of contracts is in relation to funding through the priority investment program, and also there was one other. We can take that on notice, but I am not aware of to the value of \$5 million, just based on what I understand, but we will take it on notice.

**MISS NUTTALL:** Yes, that might be cumulatively. Other sort of follow-ups to that: is all of this on the contracts register?

**Ms Arthy:** If it is done through economic development, it will be on the contracts register. Some of these are grants, so this is where I might just take that—particularly the priority investment

program. It is a grant and may not necessarily appear on the contracts register, but when we do the question on notice, our response, we will indicate which ones are on the contract register and which ones are not.

**MISS NUTTALL:** Perfect. Within that information, would also love to know what kind of procurement process it went through, the services that are provided, and if possible, whether it appears in budget papers and announcements as part of the arts budget in particular.

**Ms Cheyne:** Miss Nuttall, just for my own clarification and with us responding to the question, are you asking about AIE's relationship with Screen Canberra or AIE with ACT government?

**MISS NUTTALL:** With ACT government.

**Ms Cheyne:** Okay.

**Tara Cheyne MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Economic Development has contributed a total of \$839,401 to the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) for its build of new film and virtual production facilities through the following grants.

- \$389,401 was provided in 2020-21 through a Priority Investment Program grant for a 'Film Plus Virtual Studio' – a new studio facility with one of Australia's largest LED video walls.
- \$450,000 was provided in 2021-22 through a Future Jobs Fund grant for a new sound stage and lighting, to attract high quality film and TV productions and build local industry capability.

As these were grants, the funding is not identified on the Contracts Register.

Economic Development is aware that CIT has engaged in contracts with AIE since 2015, which are identified on the Contracts Register.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

6/8/24

By the Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, Tara Cheyne MLA