



Inquiry into barriers in community sports

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister Berry

In relation to: Fee increases for school gym hires

Hearing: 05 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p. 99

Transcript Provided: 11 November 2025

Answer Due: 18 November 2025

Ms Berry took on notice the following question:

MS LEE: Minister, a number of witnesses have talked about cost being a very prohibitive factor, creating a barrier for participation in sport, and acknowledging that there are variables and not everything is in the ACT government control. But one of the factors that has been raised as a significant cost factor has been the fees in relation to hiring of courts.

So as an example, the North Canberra Community Council included in, as part of their submission, the increase in the school gymnasiums, and that has gone up significantly from \$26 per hour to \$86 per hour. Can you explain why that decision was made? I mean, it is such a huge increase.

Ms Berry: I do know that, but I cannot remember. It has—I think it has something to do with the size of the court and—can I take that on notice?

MS LEE: Sure.

Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Education Directorate sets annual fees and charges for hiring facilities at ACT public schools. These are non-statutory fees and charges. Fees associated with hire of school facilities are indexed each year. Rates are increased by the Wage Price Index (WPI), which for the 2025/26 financial year was 3.25%.

The schedule of fees identifies a flat rate for facility hire such as gymnasium use. The rates are set for types of spaces available for hire (hall, gym, classroom), they do not specifically identify each individual asset. Rates are set for the hire of an entire space and the cost recovery associated with the space.

The schedule of fees hire fees for gymnasiums increased from \$84 in the 2024/25 financial year to \$86.70 in the 2025/26 financial year for weekday and Saturday hire.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' shape with a loop at the end.

Date:

28/11/25

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Minister Yvette Berry