



Inquiry into Canberra's Night-Time Economy

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr James Milligan

Addressed to: Minister for the Night-Time Economy

In relation to: Types of venues – data on incidents

Hearing: 13 May 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 120-121

Transcript provided: 21 May 2026

Answer Due: 28 May 2026

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MR MILLIGAN: Just to sort of get back to the basis of the question, you mentioned that nightclubs, bars, and restaurants, have a different rate. And police and emergency services, and other activities, are a contributing factor as to you might see more shenanigans happening later at night than compared to seven o'clock in a restaurant. Have you got any data or evidence to suggest why and what cost it is to the government to suggest that they need to pay this additional fee? And surely New South Wales, particularly would potentially see more shenanigans happening than what we do here, and yet their fees are extremely low?

Ms Cheyne: Are you suggesting that we do not have a fun population? I think, Mr Milligan, and I think the best way is for me to take this on notice. Because I have a very helpful table in front of me, that for me to read out to you is going to be confusing. And it is not perfect. But it shows just—if this is suitable, it shows that an ACT nightclub, with an occupancy loading of 150 people or less, and then what the fees are, depending on what time they trade until. And then it has got a New South Wales nightclub with the patron capacity again. There is no like with like, of 120 people or less, and assuming no compliance history, risk loading or discount, and then shows what the base fee, then what the patron capacity risk loading is. And then it shows what the trading hour loading is. Because in New South Wales, it is not hour by hour, like it is here. There is before 1.30 and after 1.30.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes.

Ms Cheyne: And so on that, it is not perfect. It is picking a particular size of venue. But it shows that up to a certain point it is cheaper in the ACT. But then if you go later, it may be more expensive, unless you have a demerit point in New South Wales, or two, or whatever, where it will start to be more expensive. So let me, if I may, take that on notice and get that presented to the committee so you can see it visually.

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

ACT and NSW liquor licencing fees cannot be directly compared because of differences in the underlying policy frameworks and regulatory schemes.

While both ACT and NSW annual liquor licence fees vary by licence type, the licencing models and licence types differ.

ACT fees for each licence type are derived from the licence type and characteristics relevant to each licence type. For licence types that permit on-premises consumption of liquor, annual fees vary by occupancy loading (that is, patron capacity) and trading hours. For licence types that permit off-premises consumption of liquor, annual fees vary by the wholesale value of liquor and trading hours.

NSW fees for each licence type are derived from a base fee with risk loadings, where applicable, that consider risks arising from trading hours, patron capacity and compliance history.

The approach to trading hours in the ACT and NSW is not aligned. Similarly, ACT and NSW thresholds for patron capacity differ. The ACT does not include compliance history when imposing fees.

These differences are usefully demonstrated by comparing the hypothetical of a nightclub in each jurisdiction using 2025-26 annual licence fees.

For an ACT nightclub with an occupancy loading of ≤ 150 people, annual licence fees by trading hours are as follows:

Trading closing time	Annual fee
12 am	\$2,570
1 am	\$9,227
2 am	\$11,865
3 am	\$19,342

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

Signature:



By the Minister for Night-Time Economy, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA

Date:

29/6/26