



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **1 March 2022**

Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA on 1 MARCH 2022: GRAHAM TANTON took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 1 March 2022, Page 82]

In relation to: Facility hire costs for community organisations

THE CHAIR: Thank you. I will go back to my community facilities question. Thank you for popping into the session. I am wondering how the fees are determined, broadly, for community facilities, but specifically for managing and hiring community facilities out, including schools? Is it on a full cost-recovery basis?

Mr Steel: I do not think we can talk in terms of school infrastructure, but we certainly can in relation to Property Group infrastructure and the arrangements we have in place there. I will go to Mr Tanton.

Mr Tanton: There are a number of levels of charging regime for community assets. That obviously does not include sports and rec fields and things like that. For the area that we look after, there are generally a number of ways that that can be charged. One is commercial rates, which is basically done through market reviews. That would probably be looking at some of the more commercially viable organisations, plus the tenancies of that nature. We then have community rates, which are reviewed on a site-by-site basis, where we look at recovering the cost for a cost-neutral running of a facility. They are reviewed on an annual basis. We have a number of peppercorn rents. They are generally legacy rates where there is no rental but the individual peppercorn organisations who are deemed to be acceptable need to assist in providing some costs—that is, the first \$500 of maintenance requests and things like that. Those are the three areas that we have regarding the charging regime in that space. Obviously, as I have mentioned, I cannot talk for some of those other community facilities that come under some of the different portfolios.

Mr Steel: Mr Tanton, I think Ms Castley was getting not necessarily to the cost of having a licence but more to the ad hoc rental of a community hall that might be in the Property Group portfolio, under Weston Creek community centre or something like that.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. Did you say that it was sporting ovals as well that you—

Mr Tanton: No.

THE CHAIR: All right. Then certainly I would like to zip over to—

Mr Steel: Sorry, I do not think we had your question answered, Ms Castley, on that one. Mr Tanton, do you want to provide some further detail on what the hiring rates are as opposed to the leasing arrangements?

Mr Tanton: I will take that on notice, if that is okay, Minister, because there are different scales and rates. I would like to take that on notice and come back.

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

The fees are determined by location, room type, usage, community needs, and size. Community venue operators set their own charges for venue hire accordingly with oversight provided by ACT Property Group as part of the lease agreements.

Fees are not charged on a full cost recovery basis. Fees are based on recouping operational costs. Costs such as capital repairs are funded by Government.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender Equality

Signature:



Date:

21/3/22

By the Special Minister of State, Chris Steel MLA