



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

In relation to: Business, Arts and Creative Industries and how do arts facilities seek maintenance funding

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 12

Transcript provided: 26 November 2025

Answer Due: 2 December 2025

MS CLAY: Including those at community centres? Yes, that is great. And if somebody has a bid, if somebody has a repair of maintenance piece of work, how do they bring this forward? How do they get onto that list to be considered if there is no sort of ongoing asset program going on?

Mr Pettersson: If I can just jump in. I think there is a definitional question at hand here.

MS CLAY: Yes.

Mr Pettersson: Infrastructure Canberra is responsible for the maintenance and upgrades in ACT government owned arts facilities.

MS CLAY: Yes.

Mr Pettersson: Now whether you are defined as an ACT government arts facility, as I think the crux of your question here, because what you are saying is that there are things that provide spaces for art that are not necessarily classified as an ACT arts facility.

MS CLAY: Yes.

Mr Pettersson: Yes. I think that is a question best picked up with Arts ACT officials. Infrastructure Canberra, a delivery agency, they do not really decide who they provide service to. They provide service to who they are told to.

MS CLAY: Minister, can you take that on notice? Or do you need me to lodge it on notice for next session, another session?

Mr Pettersson: We will save you the paperwork. We will take it on notice.

Michael Pettersson, MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government owns thirteen arts facilities, including high profile sites such as the Canberra Glassworks, Gorman House Arts Centre and The Street Theatre.

These facilities are occupied under licence agreements by local not-for-profit arts organisations. These organisations deliver on arts policy objectives for government by fulfilling professional and community arts related business functions.

As part of the Arts Organisation Investment Program, an organisation can apply to manage an ACT Government Arts Centre, with a licence to occupy, manage, and maintain the centre for a period of five years. The next round of the Arts Organisation Investment Program is currently open for applications and closes on 19 December 2025.

Arts facility building upgrades and repairs and maintenance are managed by Infrastructure Canberra and supported by recurrent funding, the Asset Renewal Program and capital initiatives.

- The iCBR Response Centre facilitates all requests for reactive building repairs and maintenance. This service functions on both a core and afterhours footing ensuring 24-hour, 365-day coverage.
- Information regarding maintenance requests is provided with on-boarding documentation, and this was refreshed on transfer of custodianship and tenancy management to iCBR in January 2025. The iCBR Response Centre can be contacted for maintenance requests on 02 6213 0700. The tenant can also contact their specific tenancy manager via email or phone to report or log non-urgent maintenance requests.
- A comprehensive planned maintenance program is delivered by iCBR to facilitate general building maintenance throughout the portfolio. This program ensures that all iCBR owned assets are well maintained and operate according to relevant Australian Standards, Codes of Practices and Legislation.
- Funding for the provision of reactive and planned maintenance services is sourced via a Controlled Recurring Payment allocation administered by the Delivery, Places and Spaces Branch within iCBR.
- Upgrades are not covered by recurrent funding and are subject to budget bids.
- In relation to the referenced example at the Belconnen Theatre concerning an upgrade to lighting, iCBR would firstly seek to understand the operational requirements of the facility, referencing field data and seeking design solution input from electrical and lighting engineers to achieve a satisfactory end user outcome. In conjunction with Arts ACT, iCBR would then seek to prepare a budget submission for a capital grant to deliver the required works per the specified scope for consideration by Government.

All property upgrades facilitated by iCBR are based upon the needs of the tenant, life cycle of the facility and technical data either sought via a qualified third-party consultant or field reports resulting from the planned maintenance program. By adopting this approach, iCBR is ensuring that a suitable end user solution is delivered, which meets the requirements of tenants but also enhances and prolongs the lifespan of our physical built assets.

OFFICIAL

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

Signature:



Date: 8-12-25

By the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries, Michael Pettersson