



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

Reference: CMTEDD EcoDev - Cultural Facilities Corporation

Hearing: 19 November 2025

In relation to: Cultural Facilities Corporation and First Nations Production Targets

Question received: 21 November 2025

Answer Due: 4 December 2025

- (1) What are the First Nations production targets across CFC's portfolio to promote First Nations artists and creative workforce?
- (2) Will this target change once the new Lyric Theatre comes online and, if so, what to?

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

- (1) The Cultural Facilities Corporation does not have set First Nations production targets across its venues and programs. The Strategic Plan commits to providing a means of respectful connection to First Nations arts, cultures, and history, and to do so with authentic engagement.

In 2024-25, the Canberra Theatre Centre showcased and promoted the work of First Nations artists and strengthening the diversity and cultural connection of its program through the presentation of four shows by First Nations artists or companies which represented 13 per cent of all programmed work. Through the New Works program it established the inaugural First Nations Artist in Residence, a ten-month program of mentorship and producer development with a local First Nations artist.

In 2024-25, Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) and the Historic Places engaged with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to strengthen and improve the approach to interpretation and management of First Nations stories and values through specific activities including:

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- a. creative works by First Nations artists in the permanent CMAG exhibition Canberra/Kamberri: Place and People; Djara (with Lynnice Letty Church, Tyronne Bell, Jai Bell, and Peter Swanton) and Dean Cross' digital work, Looking for the Lyre as part of the Nolan50 program;
 - b. 13 First Nations led public programs, including Cultural Weaving with Jessika Spencer, Bush Animal Weaving with Ronnie Jordon, First Nations Sky Stories at Lanyon Homestead with Peter Swanton, and a First Nations Sky Stories panel talk with Lynnice Letty Church, Tyronne Bell, Jai Bell, and Peter Swanton;
 - c. hosting a CareerTrackers intern in Exhibitions and Collections. This program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students to gain industry experience, achieve high academic marks, and secure full-time employment upon graduation;
 - d. partnering with the Humanities Research Centre (HRC) of the ANU and Canberra Glassworks, to co-host Visiting Fellow, Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba/Mutti Mutti/Boonwurrung artist Maree Clarke, who undertook a research project on the reed necklace on long-term loan to CMAG. Maree held an exhibition in CMAG on the Square, talk and a workshop on Country in 2025 as an outcome of her residency; and
 - e. the Lanyon Machinery shed's interpretative panels including a didactic panel on former Lanyon shearer, Muruwari man, William 'Deucem' Smith, produced in consultation with the Smith Family.
- (2) Cultural Facilities Corporation is committed to building on the commissioning, producing and presenting of First Nations work in the lead up to the opening of the Lyric and once it comes online. This commitment is demonstrated through the Canberra Theatre Centre's increase in First nations programming in 2025-26 including:
- a. eight shows by First Nations artists or companies representing 16 per cent of all programmed work;
 - b. one First Nations creative development; and
 - c. one First Nations producer in residence.

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 MLA