



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** **22 February 2022**

Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA on 22 FEBRUARY 2022: ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to: Chief Minister Charitable Fund

Mr Barr: Thank you, Chair. You will find reporting information in relation to the fund is on a separate webpage that includes information on the constitution, grants and other elements of the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund. It is, obviously, one of many funds. It is managed by Hands Across Canberra. So the data you refer to may, indeed, be out of date and might reflect the start-up costs associated with that fund, but I will see if any financial in the room may be able to provide further detail. Otherwise I will get information from Hands Across Canberra for the committee.

Ms Leigh: Madam Chair, I would just add that the funding agreement does set down the parameters for the proportion of funding that can be used for administrative expenses and that is all quite clear in the deed of grant, and it is in line with industry norms and it was all carefully established and calibrated as part of setting up that fund.

THE CHAIR: Yes. Back to you, Chief Minister, I note that the figures I have got here are from the 2021 report, so could you just point me to the website that you are referring to?

Mr Barr: I will get the web link sent through to you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you so much. So I am just wondering, did you consider Greater Good as an option to manage the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund and can you just explain to me why Hands Across Canberra was ultimately chosen?

Mr Barr: Yes. There was a process. This question has been asked in previous hearings, so we will get the relevant Hansard and answers to the committee.

THE CHAIR: Okay. No worries. What are the administration fees that Hands Across Canberra are charging?

Mr Barr: That is set out in the deed of agreement which we can provide to the committee.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. So taking those ones on notice?

Mr Barr: That is correct.

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

Information produced by Hands Across Canberra (HAC) about the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund (including grant recipients and annual impact reporting) can be found here:
<https://handsacrosscanberra.org.au/who-we-are/chief-ministers-charitable-fund/>

The ACT Public Trustee and Guardian (which manages Greater Good) was considered as an option to manage the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund (CMCF). HAC was selected to manage the CMCF due to it being a local organisation that is independent of government, its partnerships with philanthropists and other charitable organisations, and its work to both advocate for and build the capacity of local organisations. All of these were considered important elements of the fund.

The ACT Government's contributions to the CMCF are governed by a funding deed which specifies an amount of funding that can be used for purposes other than charitable distributions. The deed can be found here:
https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1235109/Funding-Deed-Chief-Ministers-Charitable-Fund-Limited.pdf

Following changes to the Gaming Machine Act 2004 in 2018 which saw additional contributions from gaming machine revenues provided to the CMCF, the deed was varied to increase the amount of funding that can be used for purposes other than charitable disbursements. A copy of the deed variation is attached.

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

Signature: 

Date: 4.3.22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA