



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Cain MLA on 24 July 2023: Sanzida Akhter took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: *Uncorrected Hansard Transcript* 24 July 2023 [Pages 11-12]

In relation to: *How were the rates for community stalls at the Multicultural Festival arrived at in 2018?*

MR CAIN: Thank you, Chair. Minister, I have heard from multiple stallholders that the revenue generated from participating barely covered the rates the government charges. What is the rate currently planned for stallholders for both commercial and community groups?

[...]

MR CAIN: So, what is the criteria to determine these rates?

Ms Cheyne: What is the criteria to determine the rates?

MR CAIN: Yes. How are the figures actually arrived at?

Ms Cheyne: The figures have maintained the same fees since 2018, Mr Cain, and really the government—

MR CAIN: Well, in that case, how were the 2018 figures arrived at?

Ms Cheyne: I will look to the team.

Ms Akhter: Sanzida Akhter, Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth and Multicultural Affairs. Thank you for the question, Mr Cain. For the 2018 festival, how the rate was set was something that we actually have to look into, but that is quite a while ago. I just want to provide another piece of information.

So as the minister mentioned, we have maintained the stall fees at a 2018 rate, but the cost for a one-day small three by three community food stall remains at the same price at 2014. So we are very mindful of the cost of living pressure that is happening for the last few years, and to support the community so that it remains to be community-led and the community are able to participate we have maintained the rate.

But 2018 was a long while ago, so we will have to look into that, how the rate was set at that that.

MR CAIN: Thank you. And just one final—

Ms Cheyne: We will take that on notice, Mr Cain

MINISTER CHEYNE: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: —

Criteria to determine rates in 2018:

Equity

1. Prior to 2018, Diplomatic cultural stalls received a free 3x3 metre marquee; however, for the 2018 festival they were charged the same rate as community stallholders. This decision was made to:
 - a. standardise the stallholder application process; and
 - b. ensure fairness regarding those with an ability to pay. This recommendation was supported by the community leaders in debriefing sessions.

Financial

2. In 2018, additional charges were applied to stallholders requesting 15-amp power cords. This was to address increased power usage requirements for some stallholders.
3. In 2018, Sunday information stalls were charged a \$150 stall fee. This had been provided free of charge in the previous years. This minimum charge was to cover the stall cleaning and reset fees.

Service of Alcohol

4. To address safety issues raised by ACT Police regarding the number of stalls selling alcohol in 2017, new categories and criteria were introduced for 2018 including:
 - a. Commercial stalls were split into two categories:
 - i. a licensed category able to sell food and liquor, with the price remaining at the 2017 commercial stall rate; and
 - ii. a food only category whose fee was reduced from the 2017 rate.
 - b. Community stalls were split into two categories:
 - i. Community stalls (groups who were incorporated associations) who were no longer eligible for a temporary liquor permit and could sell food only. The fee for this category remained at the 2017 rate; and
 - ii. Community Club stall (for clubs who already held liquor licenses) who were able to sell food and liquor. The community club fee was set at a higher rate than the community stall fee.

How are figures arrived at

The methodology used to determine the fees in the early years of the festival, upon which all subsequent fees have been based, largely includes providing an offset against the cost of hiring stall infrastructure including marquees, tables, and chairs, and the provision of stall services including waste and power.

Festival stall fees have remained consistent with no increases since 2018 to support local community and business participation.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 2 August 2023

By the Acting Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Emma Davidson MLA