



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MR THOMAS EMERSON MLA

Addressed to: Mr Josh Rynehart, Executive Group Manager, Delivery – Places and Spaces,
Infrastructure Canberra

In relation to: TRACKING UTILISATION OF SHARED COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Hearing: 17 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 42, 43

Transcript provided: 24 February 2025

Answer Due: 3 March 2025

Mr Josh Rynehart took on notice the following questions:

Mr Emerson: Yes, of course. So I understand that the direct kind of vacancy rates are low. But obviously we are talking about renting out facilities and their utilisation rates might be low. So do you track that? Do you go back to the community organisations who are running facilities? So I am talking about the ones that you would rent out, like the Salthouse Centre, to say, look every year can you report back and let us know how much this is being utilised?

Mr Rynehart: I may need to take the detail on notice. I feel that it would be a case-by-case arrangement for that about whether we are actually tracking the utilisation or whether it is simple. Because again, in some cases it might be that we have a head tenancy and then that is just a matter for the committee organisation, for how much it is utilised or not. But I will – I might come back on notice about the detail of how much we track the utilisation of those.

Mr Emerson: That would be great. Yes, if you have got ones, you track and what their rents are. Obviously, I am sure you have the same feedback, as you said, minister, but people feel that these are – they are community assets that have been invested in by the government. And yes, there is the need to make enough money to maintain them. I suppose it is similar to public housing, the same challenge. But people expect they are utilised. Yes, that is a perfect example of a great facility.

Ms Stephen-Smith: It is also, I mean, yes, it is also a question of – that having a community organisation manage those facilities is sometimes -like, it is a really good way to ensure that the community is fully engaged in how those facilities are used. But that comes with a cost to those organisations as well, to be able to support that.

Mr Emerson: Right. And the rest you might have with them as the - they do not want to lose the opportunity to manage it, and so maybe they do not report back on all the challenges that they are facing, there could be a perverse incentive there, they do not want that contract to go to someone

else if they were struggling. So yes, anyway. That sounds great. Thank you for taking that on notice. That is all I have on the facilities question.

MS RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA, MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR) manages a range of community venues. The full list can be accessed [here](#). The day-to-day management and booking of these venues for casual and regular events is coordinated by community organisations. For example, the Salthouse Centre is managed by Northside Community Services. iCBR does not currently actively track utilisation of community venues.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature:



Date:

1/3/25

By the Minister for the Public Service, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA