



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: National Multicultural Festival - Funding

Question received: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

1. How was the \$19.5 million financial benefit of the Festival calculated?
2. What percentage of that 'financial benefit' flows to the ACT through required payments (ie Payroll tax and other ACT government business activity charges)?
3. What was the total direct revenue from Stall and other charges imposed to participate in the Festival?
4. What was the total cost of the Festival including infrastructure, equipment and ACT Government and Police costs?
5. Does the Festival make a net financial profit?

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

1. The economic benefit is calculated based on the estimated expenditure of event attendees, including interstate visitors. This is calculated by gathering information from post event incident surveys, which seeks information on:
 - a. The number of event motivated visitors multiplied by the length of their stay (if applicable) and their average daily spend.
 - b. The number of accompanying people who travelled to Canberra with an event attendee but did not attend the event itself (interstate attendees are asked this question during the survey).
2. The economic impact is reported at a direct spending level only, and no additional modelling is conducted.
3. In 2024-25, the National Multicultural Festival received \$450,967 in stallholder and sponsorship fees. This income was used to offset the Festival's operational expenditure, including the infrastructure and power required for stallholders to operate.

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4. The total operational cost to deliver the 2025 National Multicultural Festival was \$2,512,451.
5. No.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date: 1/12/25

By the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA