



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: Multicultural Affairs funding

Question received: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

The Annual Report shows that the National Multicultural Festival attracted record crowds and significant economic impact, whereas the Multicultural Grants totalled only about \$103k for 32 grantees (2024-2025).

1. How does the government justify prioritising a one-weekend city festival over substantial year-round support for multicultural communities?
2. What proportion of the multicultural affairs budget is spent on the festival compared to local community programs, and is this balance meeting community needs?

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

1. The annual National Multicultural Festival is a platform for cultural celebration and community engagement. For many multicultural community groups it is the largest fundraising opportunity of the year, and also provides opportunities to build lasting cross-cultural connections, strengthen stakeholder relationships, and promote community collaboration and cohesion.
2. In the 2024-25 financial year, operating expenditure for the National Multicultural Festival totalled \$3.6 million. Of the \$3.6 million, \$1.1 million was spent on employee expenses. The remaining \$2.5 million was spent on operational costs such as traffic management, power, security, physical infrastructure (e.g. stages and marquees), marketing and advertising and community grants.

In the 2024-25 financial year, in addition to the National Multicultural Festival funding, Multicultural ACT had an operating budget of \$4.05 million. Of this, \$1 million was spent on Multicultural ACT employees who deliver policy and program work, community engagement activities, and facilitate citizenship ceremonies. The remaining \$3.05 million funded humanitarian programs, the workforce participation program, community language schools,

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English language programs for refugees and migrants, the Work Experience Support Program, and other expenses related to the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre.

The 2024-25 National Multicultural Festival funding plus the Multicultural ACT funding represent a \$7.65 million dollar investment into multicultural affairs. This investment met the direct and immediate needs of multicultural community members, while also promoting identity, belonging, inclusion and social cohesion.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date: 4.12.25

By the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA