



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for the Public Service

Reference: Government accommodation and property services

Hearing: 21 July 2026

In relation to: Woden Community Centre - site analysis

Question received: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 5 August 2026

Minister –

- 1) Will the government deliver a purpose-built government owned community centre in the Woden Town Centre? If not, why not?
- 2) If not, how will the government deliver a community centre in the Woden Town Centre?
- 3) If it will be delivered as part of a commercial lease, what analysis has been done and what criteria will the government use to determine the best site to help activate the heart of Woden to ensure the best outcome for the community?
- 4) Will the community centre include sufficient space for Woden Community Service staff and operations?
- 5) Will the community centre also include space for residents and community groups to host events, meetings, arts and community activities?
- 6) How much will the refurb cost?
- 7) What are the population forecasts being used?
- 8) What needs analysis has been done for the needs of the community?
- 9) What value for money assessment has been done?

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) The ACT Government remains committed to delivering a community centre in Woden and has announced this will now be achieved through a fit-for-purpose leased space in the town centre, ensuring the community receives a modern, high-quality facility as quickly as possible.
- 2) See answer to question 1.
- 3) A Registration of Interest (ROI) for the commercial lease option was undertaken in 2025, followed by a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) in January 2026. The ROI and REOI processes identified potential providers for the community centre.
- 4) The community centre will include sufficient space for Woden Community Service staff and operations.
- 5) The community centre will include space for residents and community groups to host events, meetings, arts and community activities.

The Community needs have been assessed through the [ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit: Final Report](#) (2025), identified future need for additional community arts and cultural facilities, including a community arts centre/theatre, and further investigation of community facility provision, including a community centre and meeting rooms.

- 6) iCBR is currently in negotiations with potential providers. The cost of refurbishment will depend on the outcome of these negotiations and will remain commercial in confidence until negotiations are completed.
- 7) The ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit: Final Report uses ACT Government population projections and projects population growth to 2051 by district as the basis for its infrastructure demand modelling.
- 8) See response to Question 5. In addition, community needs are being assessed through engagement being undertaken as part of the Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework. This engagement seeks community and stakeholder feedback on a range of issues including social and community infrastructure within the corridor.
- 9) The Government has evaluated several delivery options for the new community centre, with the commercial lease option identified as the preferred option.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:



Date:

9/8/26

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