QTON No. 120

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Canberra Institute of Technology

In relation to: Seniors fitness classes

Hearing: 23 July 2026
Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 119-120
Transcript provided: 30 July 2026
Answer Due: 6 August 2026

Mr Rogers took on notice the following question(s):

MR EMERSON: It has been put to me that there used to be a gap between classes. You know, people need a break between classes, instructors perhaps need a break, and that the instructors would be paid for that as well. But now they are just back-to-back. So it is three back-to-back rather than four with a gap. Is it your understanding that that is the case? Is that part of the cost saving?

Mr Rogers: I do not know about that one. Can I take that on notice please, Mr Emerson, and come back to you on that? I do not have the information.

MR EMERSON: Okay. Might you be able to provide on notice the cost-savings from the change?

Mr Rogers: Sure, yes.

MR EMERSON: Okay, and was there any consideration given to asking whether members would pay more for retaining the existing classes?

Mr Rogers: I do not know. If you do not mind, I will take that on notice as well. Just as an opening to that, it was not just about cost. And I had a quick look, I cannot remember, a couple of weeks ago. The costs are quite significant, particularly the weekend reduction. We are talking about tens and tens of thousands, from memory, so there is quite a substantial bit of money involved. But it was also about the usage of those facilities, wear and tear, liability insurance and a range of other issues. But I will find out whether we actually asked, and whether we put to them how much that might be.

MR EMERSON: Okay. I think it would be helpful to have as much detail as you are able to provide because I understand some of it was in relation to usage of the space outside of class times, and that may have been part of what you are talking about with respect to liability.

Mr Rogers: The cost, yes.

MR EMERSON: But I do not know that that is the primary frustration of participants; it is about the loss of the classes because they think they are all full, basically.

Mr Rogers: And also I think, to be fair, I think what was put to us publicly was the loss of the community around those classes as well, which I understand.

MR EMERSON: Yes. I understand that CIT students are trained through that centre as well, or through that program, and that the feedback I have received from constituents is that they love it because the instructors are great because they have been through CIT's programs. So I understand the point you are making about CIT's job, but can you see how that might come across as perhaps contrary to what would actually be in the public interest, even including from CIT's perspective?

Mr Rogers: Absolutely. It is why I said at the start I empathise, and I am not trying to diminish the feelings of those individuals involved who have raised something very genuine for them. At the same time, I am also trying to represent the issues of the institute with multiple competing demands, liability insurance, cost, and a range of other issues. But if I can take on notice, what I will take on notice is I will try and be as fulsome as possible with the story we provide back to you with facts and figures as well, and hopefully that might assist.

Mr Rogers: The answers to the Member's questions are as follows:

The previous and current group fitness timetables both provide a 15-minute interval between classes. This arrangement has not changed. Classes are therefore not scheduled back-to-back without an interval.

The changes formed part of a broader review of the CIT Fit & Well Fitness Centre's operating model. This included its operating hours, staffing arrangements and group fitness timetable. The review considered costs, facility usage and CIT's responsibility to manage public resources responsibly.

Compared with the 2025 operating model, the revised model is estimated to reduce annual staffing costs by approximately $190,000. CIT did not formally ask members whether they would pay higher membership fees to retain the previous model. CIT has since estimated the increase required to recover those staffing costs through membership fees. Assuming membership numbers remained unchanged, the average fee would need to increase by approximately $500 per member each year.

CIT recognises the value longstanding members place on the classes, instructors and community created through the Centre. Those concerns have been raised repeatedly and carefully considered.

CIT's primary responsibility is delivering vocational education and training. Retaining the previous operating model would require CIT to forgo approximately $190,000 in annual staffing savings. That would not be responsible in the present financial circumstances.

For clarity, these changes are not an isolated savings measure. CIT is reviewing expenditure across the Institute, including staffing, administration, travel and other discretionary expenditure. Each expenditure decision must be examined on its own facts, purpose, timing and contribution to CIT's responsibilities.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature: Date: 03/08/2026

By the CIT Board Chair, Mr Tom Rogers