



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 19

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), DEEPAK-RAJ GUPTA MLA, MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by James Milligan MLA -

Ref: CMTEDD Annual Report, Output 3.1, Innovation, Trade and Investment

In relation to: CBRfree Wi-Fi

1. Why has there been a decrease of 72,000 unique access log-ins compared to 2017-18?
 - a. What impact does that have on the project and funding?
2. What is the cost of implementing CBRfree Wi-Fi across town centres and key locations?
3. Has there been any promotion or advertisement of the available free wi-fi?
 - a. If so, how much has been spent on advertising and where?

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. There is no definitive data or information to explain the decline. Informal feedback during the administration of the contract identified some potential contributing factors including the current availability of larger mobile phone data packages than were available when CBRfree was introduced and an increase in commercial offerings of 'free' WiFi.
 - a) The service charge paid to iiNet relates only to the availability and coverage of the CBRfree service. CBRfree remains an important service for low income Canberrans, students and visitors who may not have a high data volume mobile plan.
2. The total implementation fees payable under the WiFi Services Agreement with iiNet is \$2,537,407 GST inclusive.
3. The CBRfree network has been promoted through the ACT Government communications platforms including the Our Canberra newsletter. There are signs advising the availability of CBRfree around the areas and group centres where CBRfree is operating. Approximately \$10,000 has been spent on CBRfree advertising signs for supply and installation. There was a noticeable increase in usage at the time signs were installed in 2015-16. At this time there was also an expansion of the network which also likely contributed to the increase in usage.



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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Yvette Berry".

Date: 20/11/19

By the Acting Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment, Yvette Berry MLA