

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Member for Yerrabi

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Questions on Notice Paper No 3
Friday, 7 March 2025
Question No. 162

MR EMERSON: To ask the Minister for Seniors and Veterans —

1. When will the Seniors Arts Festival be delivered?
2. What is the latest progress on this project?
3. How much of the allocated funding for the Festival has been spent?

Suzanne Orr MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Council on the Ageing (COTA) ACT has been engaged to deliver the festival following an open tender process. The festival is scheduled to be delivered in March 2026.
2. The Festival has a tripartite focus on artistic excellence, inclusive arts practice and health and wellbeing. Key activities undertaken to date:
 - a. A Seniors Arts Festival Reference Group (Reference Group) has been established to support the design, development, and evolution of the Festival. The Reference Group comprises older individuals with experience in the arts, alongside individuals with expertise in delivering arts programs for older people and ACT Government directorate representatives from the Community Services Directorate and Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (artsACT and Events ACT). Representatives from the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing are also members of the Reference Group.

- b. COTA ACT has developed a framework to guide festival programming and planning and facilitate reference group discussion in relation to positive and healthy ageing and the active and vital contributions of older people to the community.
 - c. A draft event project plan has been developed, including identification of key venues.
 - d. COTA ACT have employed a Festival Director who will lead the development of the Festival program.
3. The contract with COTA ACT is to the value of \$259,418.18 (GST exclusive). To date, funding of \$165,454.54 (GST exclusive) has been paid to COTA ACT under the contract.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Suzanne Orr MLA
Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Date: 25/03/25

This response required 90 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$144.93.