

Supplementary Questions

Questions from Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC

No 1 – Supplementary Question

(1) Could we please get an understanding of the scale of held inventory for the gift shop, in order to determine when there might be potential to source more local products, including from local social enterprises like the Social Outfit?

Answer:

As of 5 September, the gift shop has a total stock count of 4,540 items. This equates to 97 merchandise categories worth approximately \$36,813 in value. The catering team welcome feedback from the Parliamentary community regarding the gift shop inventory. In selecting new products, the engagement of new local suppliers and social enterprises where there is a gap in our current inventory is a key consideration when selecting new inventory.

Questions from Hon Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

No 2, 3 & 4 – Supplementary Question

(2) Can you please provide an update on the status of the review into security passes?

(3) Is there any progress on the idea of a register, to track how many security passes are being approved for the different roles (“authorised person”, “member spouse/partner/family”, “volunteer”, “contractor”, etc), including a specific lobbyist pass and colour?

(4) In the March 2025 Budget Estimates, I asked the following supplementary question: “Please provide a breakdown of the number of security passes currently on issue by category, including details of any access restrictions applicable.” The answer given was: “We cannot provide this information in a public forum for security reasons.” Can you please explain the security reasons for why you can’t provide the number and category of passes on issue?

Answers:

(2) The review into security passes is currently underway as part of the broader Security Review undertaken by Security Consulting group (SCG). A number of proposed changes to the access pass framework are under consideration, including measures to strengthen the accountability and transparency of pass approvals, as well as to refine existing categories such as “visitors,” “authorised persons,” “volunteers,” and “contractors.” In addition, the review is examining the feasibility of introducing a dedicated lobbyist pass, with a distinct visual identifier, to enhance oversight and ensure greater consistency in access management. Once the review has been finalised and decisions confirmed, a comprehensive update will be provided, including details of any new procedures, policies, or systems to be implemented.

(3) We maintain accurate records of all security passes and all security passes are currently recorded and tracked by category.

As part of the ongoing aforementioned Security Review, a range of proposed changes to the access pass system are under consideration. These proposals will focus on strengthening accountability and transparency in the approval process and Responsible Officers (Approvers), with particular attention to categories such as “visitors,” “authorised persons,” “volunteers,” and “contractors.” There are no changes been considered for at this stage for “member spouse/partner/family”.

The review is also considering the introduction of a dedicated lobbyist pass, potentially with a distinct visual identifier, such as a unique colour. The intent of these changes is to enhance oversight, minimise the risk of inappropriate access, and ensure greater consistency in the management of passes across all groups.

Once the review is complete and decisions are finalised, further updates will be provided, along with details of any new procedures or systems introduced to support these improvements.

(4) While we maintain accurate records of all security passes, we are unable to provide a detailed breakdown of the numbers and categories issued. This type of information is treated as sensitive because it relates directly to the way security and access is structured across the precinct. If released, it could inadvertently highlight access arrangements or potential vulnerabilities that might otherwise be exploited.

For this reason, information about pass categories and restrictions is managed in line with protective security arrangements and is only shared with those who have an authorised operational need-to-know.

Questions on behalf of the Opposition

No 5 – Supplementary Question

Mayor of Dubbo – Josh Black Investigation

(5) How much has the investigation of the Mayor of Dubbo – Josh Black issue cost?

Answer:

There was no direct cost for the investigation of the incident. The investigation was conducted by a staff member in the Workplace Relations and Support team as part of their normal duties.