



FITZROY PAVILION

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) is the ACT's preeminent large format event space and festival hub, able to host major events including large-scale concerts and community activities within a fit-for-purpose precinct.

The ACT Government is undergoing a staged redevelopment of EPIC to ensure it can continue to host large exhibitions, concerts, conferences and a range of multicultural and community events, along with a revitalised festival precinct.

The proposed redevelopment of EPIC will begin with the refurbishment of Fitzroy Pavilion.

A refurbished Fitzroy Pavilion will provide upgraded catering facilities and amenities and be suitable for hosting larger scale community and multicultural events.

THE CONVERSATION

To help inform the proposed refurbishment of Fitzroy Pavilion, the ACT Government engaged with the multicultural community members as the primary hirers of the venue.

Venues Canberra staff briefed the Multicultural Advisory Council on 27 September 2023 about the proposed changes to Fitzroy Pavilion.

The National Multicultural Festival advisory committee was briefed on the refurbishment in early October 2023.

Drop-in sessions were held at Fitzroy Pavilion on 16 October 2023, with the community invited to attend one of four sessions during the afternoon and evening.

Following the drop-in sessions, a survey was distributed for anyone wanting to provide further feedback on the designs for the Fitzroy Pavilion refurbishment.

WHO WE ENGAGED

Venues Canberra reached out to multicultural groups through peak bodies, and via partners within the Community Services Directorate.

Direct invites to the drop-in sessions were sent to community groups.

The drop-in sessions were also promoted on social media channels.



Venues Canberra spoke with key stakeholder groups, including:

- Multicultural Advisory Council
- National Multicultural Festival advisory committee

A number of representatives from the community also engaged during the drop-in sessions, including:

- Canberra Multicultural Community Forum
- Federation of Indian Associations of ACT
- African Australian Council ACT
- Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association
- National Folk Festival

Key insights from the community

Size of the venue

1. There is some support for a large venue such as Fitzroy Pavilion in Canberra, which can hold up to 1752 people.
2. A range of additional facilities would be welcome to provide added flexibility.
3. Spaces that can be used for meetings, rehearsal spaces and suitable for 200 to 500 people would be welcomed.

Amenities

4. Refreshed amenities were welcomed.
5. There was support for providing additional bathrooms for women, as well as showers.
6. Gender neutral bathrooms should be considered as well as parenting rooms.
7. Kitchen redesign was welcomed, with people appreciative of the flexibility to cook their own food or bring in catering.
8. Gas appliances would be required to allow cooking for particular purposes.

Access

9. While EPIC is accessible by light rail and car, there are concerns that Fitzroy Pavilion is too far for some people to walk from the light rail station.
10. Improving lighting to ensure safer access after-hours should be considered.
11. Ensure there is nearby parking with disabled parking spaces.
12. Appropriate measures need to be made to ensure parking is available if larger events are on at the same time.


Affordability

- 13. Hire fees need to take bump in and bump out timings into consideration.
- 14. Hire fees might be unaffordable for some groups, even at the community rate.
- 15. Consider offering hire fees without furniture and equipment (i.e. chairs and tables).
- 16. Consider scaling hire fees depending on the size of an organisations.
- 17. The cost of public liability insurance is also a barrier to access for some groups.

Availability

- 18. The “first pencil” approach was a welcome way of ensuring access is equitable for all groups.
- 19. Ensure the venue’s availability is clear at all times, so hirers know when it is or isn’t available (i.e. during Summernats and National Folk Festival).
- 20. Ensure booking requests are responded to quickly to avoid disappointment and ensure a calendar is available to show when days are already booked.
- 21. If there is an online booking system, ensure there is someone to talk to over the phone as well.
- 22. Provide details on other venues that are available around Canberra that may suit particular events.

WHAT’S NEXT?

The ACT Government will take the feedback provided through this consultation process into consideration for the design and refurbishment of the Fitzroy Pavilion.

The community will be provided with updates in early 2024.

Additional information will be developed to provide the community with information about other venues available for hire.

To be kept up to date about the improvements to Fitzroy Pavilion please email oma@act.gov.au

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK		
2 Briefings with peak organisations	4 We held 4 drop in sessions at Fitzroy Pavilion	4 Surveys were completed by 4 organisations
495 Invites sent to 495 contacts for the drop in sessions	519 We reached a social media audience of almost 520	9 Drop in sessions were attended by 9 people