

BLUE ROOM THEATRE — STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

325. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the representing the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer to the antisemitic hate speech published by the Blue Room Theatre organisation in its so called “statement of solidarity”, which quotes the anti-Semitic hate chant, “From the river to the sea”, which is a call for the destruction of Israel and the elimination of the Jewish people’s homeland.

- (1) How much funding from the state government did Blue Room receive in 2023–24?
- (2) Will the state government commit to sending a clear signal to all organisations that it will not tolerate those who foster anti-Semitic hate and division in our society by withdrawing funding from this organisation and reallocating those funds to an inclusive arts organisation?

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries provided \$350 000 in funding to the Performing Arts Centre Society, Blue Room Theatre, through the arts organisations investment program in the financial year 2023–24.
- (2) Following the issuing of a pro-Palestinian statement by the Blue Room Theatre on social media, DLGSC is reminding recipients of government funding to be mindful of the policies and guidelines related to the requirement to act in a fair and equitable way that underpins the funding agreements. The state government expects arts and culture organisations and venues that are publicly funded to promote a safe and inclusive environment for all artists and audiences.