

## **Councillor Question Time**

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### **Question from Cr Pearl**

Councillor Pearl asked if officers could provide further information about whether or not ANAM sought permission to convert the kitchen at the South Melbourne Town Hall into a sound studio? If so, are there alternative arrangements that can be made to hold citizenship ceremonies at South Melbourne Town Hall or Port Melbourne Town Hall?

### **Response**

The majority of ceremonies are held at SKTH with two scheduled offsite annually, one at SMTH and PMTH.

As you are aware, the incident that occurred last year at the SMTH rendered a number of spaces uninhabitable, affecting the tenants and community users alike. Due to the limited space left within the SMTH, it was proposed that priority be given to supporting the accommodation requirements of the tenants who were unable to move out of the facility.

During this time, Officers undertook a review of all spaces within the SMTH to understand how these spaces could be better utilised to effectively support affected users. This review identified that the main kitchen had been non-complaint for a considerable period of time and that a majority of the commercial equipment had been untagged. Due to its reduced utilisation, Officers recommended that the space be temporarily converted to office space while restoration works were undertaken at the SMTH.

We have since undertaken another review of the spaces within the SMTH to consider how we can best support catered events. This review has identified that while there are kitchens available for use within the SMTH that can support smaller functions, the lack of commercial appliances (such as commercial fridge and washing up space) means we are unable to host large events such as the citizenship ceremonies at this time.

We are still planning on holding a ceremony at PMTH, however, the size of the venue limits its functionality as these ceremonies usually see 300+ people which is slightly larger than the 200 that PMTH can accommodate and so would be reluctant to hold more ceremonies there.