



Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

NINTH ASSEMBLY

23 MARCH 2017

www.hansard.act.gov.au

Thursday, 23 March 2017

London terrorist attack (Statement by Speaker)	949
Standing orders—suspension.....	949
Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.....	949
Extended Throughcare (Ministerial statement)	950
National disability insurance scheme (Ministerial statement).....	954
Offensive language (Statement by Speaker).....	960
Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.....	960
Liquor Amendment Bill 2017	963
Order of the day No 1—discharge	967
Executive business—precedence	968
Community legal centres	969
Ministerial arrangements	982
Questions without notice:	
Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—detainee transfers	983
SHOUT—government support.....	984
Visitors.....	986
Questions without notice:	
Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing	986
Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation—facilities	987
Woden town centre—renewal	988
Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—educational outcomes	991
Sport—Melrose football precinct	992
Crime—offences while on bail.....	993
SHOUT—government support.....	995
SHOUT—government support.....	997
Access Canberra—service delivery.....	998
SHOUT—government support.....	1000
Planning—Woden valley.....	1001
Public housing—Northbourne Avenue corridor.....	1004
ACT Health—mental health data submissions.....	1006
Disability services—government support	1006
Supplementary answers to questions without notice:	
Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing	1008
Greyhound racing—government policy	1009
Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—unemployment	1009
ACT Health—mental health data submission	1010
Personal explanation	1010
Leave of absence.....	1011
ACT Children and Young People Death Review Committee—report.....	1011
Woden town centre (Matter of public importance).....	1013
Adjournment:	
ACT Playgroups Association	1027
Sorooptimist International—International Women’s Day event.....	1027
Canberra Institute of Technology	1029
Sport—ACT Brumbies	1030
Seniors Week.....	1030
TADACT	1031
Multicultural affairs—Harmony Day	1032

Seniors Week	1034
Child care—funding	1035
Answers to questions:	
Aged persons—respite care (Question No 66)	1037
Roads—cycle lanes (Question No 67).....	1038
ACT public service—health policy (Question No 69)	1040
Hospitals—neonatal deaths (Question No 70)	1041
Health—colonoscopy waiting times (Question No 71).....	1043
Energy—renewable (Question No 72)	1043
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate— staffing (Question No 73)	1045
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate— workplace bullying (Question No 74)	1046
Government—ministerial appointments (Question No 75).....	1047
Administrative arrangements—ministerial appointments (Question No 76)	1048
Land Development Agency—staffing (Question No 77).....	1049
Land Development Agency—Molonglo Valley (Question No 78).....	1049
Motor vehicles—insurance and registration (Question No 79).....	1050
Transport—number plate slogan (Question No 81)	1059
ACTION bus service—Nightrider service (Question No 82)	1061
ACTION bus service—school bus breakdown procedures (Question No 83)	1062
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—Molonglo Valley (Question No 85)	1063
ACTION bus service—rapid bus services (Question No 86).....	1064
ACTION bus service—rapid bus service (Question No 87)	1065
Planning—Northbourne Avenue redevelopment (Question No 88)	1066
Transport and Municipal Services Directorate—staffing (Question No 89)	1068
Capital works—projects (Question No 90)	1069
ACTION bus service—park-and-ride (Question No 91)	1070
ACTION bus service—fleet (Question No 93)	1072
Roads—school safety measures (Question No 94)	1073
Schools—computers (Question No 116).....	1074
Land Development Agency—conflicts of interest (Question No 118)	1075
Housing ACT—domestic and family violence (Question No 119)	1076
Planning—Giralang shops (Question No 121).....	1077
Planning—demonstration precincts (Question No 122).....	1078
Planning—master plans (Question No 123).....	1079
Light rail—employment (Question No 125)	1081
Minister for Planning and Land Management—travel costs (Question No 126)	1082
Crime—female incarceration (Question No 127)	1082
Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainees (Question No 128)	1084
Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainees (Question No 129)	1084
Animals—dangerous dogs (Question No 130).....	1085
Lake Tuggeranong—shared paths (Question No 131).....	1086
Animals—dangerous dogs (Question No 132).....	1087
Animals—dangerous dogs (Question No 133).....	1088

Questions without notice taken on notice:

Government—construction and development policy	1089
Territory plan—technical amendment TA2016-17	1089
Electricity—outages	1090
ACT Health—mental health data	1090
ACT Health—annual report corrigenda	1091
ACT Health—annual report corrigenda	1091
Canberra Hospital—data integrity	1091
Asbestos—worker safety	1092
Asbestos—removal.....	1092

Thursday, 23 March 2017

MADAM SPEAKER (Ms Burch) took the chair at 10 am and asked members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

**London terrorist attack
Statement by Speaker**

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, you will be aware that there was an incident at the Westminster parliament overnight. It has been reported that people have lost their lives and many have been injured. Given that only yesterday we hosted six members of the Westminster parliament here at the Assembly, I think it is appropriate that we reflect on these incidents. Thank you, members.

Standing orders—suspension

Motion (by **Mr Gentleman**) agreed to, with the concurrence of an absolute majority:

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the presentation of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 forthwith.

Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Mr Barr, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.02): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to implement and progress revenue reforms that were announced as part of the last two budgets. The bill contains amendments to the methodology for calculating rates and land tax for residential units. It also completes the abolition of insurance duties in the territory and clarifies the calculation of the uncapped pensioner rates rebate for 2017-18.

The rates and land tax burden differs significantly for houses and units with similar market values. This bill proposes a new formula for calculating rates and land tax for residential units to establish greater equity in the rates and land tax paid between houses and units. The new formula would take effect from 1 July 2017.

The current formula apportions the average unimproved value of the whole parcel of land making up a unit subdivision by the unit entitlement. The effective rating factor is applied to the part of AUV allocated to each unit. The new formula would apply the

effective rating factor to the AUV of the whole parcel of land to work out the rates or land tax payable. The amount payable, rather than the AUV, will then be allocated to each unit by unit entitlement.

Noting the progressive nature of rates and land tax, the new formula will rebalance the discrepancy between houses and units in the rating structure by applying the marginal rating factors to the overall parcel of land. To lessen the financial impact for residential unit owners, a one-off \$100 rate rebate will apply for 2017-18. This rebate will be made by notifiable instrument.

An announcement was also made in the 2015-16 budget to abolish insurance duties in the territory from 1 July 2016. This was implemented by disallowable instrument to set the rate of duty to zero and to suspend obligations for insurers to lodge returns. This bill repeals the legislative provisions that relate to insurance duty. It reinforces the government's commitment to the abolition of insurance duty in the territory and provides administrative certainty and assurance to the insurance sector.

In 2016 a change was made to the pensioner rates rebate schemes to improve equity between different rebate programs. These changes were intended to take effect from 1 July 2016. However, the amending legislation did not commence until 18 August 2016.

I approved a disallowable instrument as an interim arrangement to provide taxpayer confidence and certainty. The instrument temporarily adjusted the rates fixed charge for affected pensioners whose rates assessment notices were issued before 18 August 2016.

This bill makes a technical amendment to the Rates Act to provide that the interim arrangements, which only affected a subset of rebate recipients, do not affect the calculation of the rebate in future years. This amendment provides certainty going forward and will place all pensioners on the same legislative basis for the 2017-18 fiscal year and future rates assessment years.

I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Coe**) adjourned to the next sitting.

Extended Throughcare Ministerial statement

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Mental Health) (10.07): As members of the Assembly may be aware, I recently released an evaluation of the ACT government funded extended through-care program, which has been running as a pilot since June 2013. I am pleased today to talk to the success and lessons of the past three years.

At its heart, the extended through-care pilot program is a model that works to provide support to detainees beyond the end of an offender's custodial sentence to enhance

their transition into the community, with the aim of reducing their risk of reoffending and thereby improving community safety. Its genesis was truly a whole-of-government collaboration, working in close consultation with a range of community service providers, to address what was clearly a lack in service provision at the time.

It is well evidenced that the first three to 12 months post release from custody are crucial in terms of outcomes for detainees and the broader community. Recidivist criminal behaviour, premature mortality through accidental drug overdose or suicide and breakdown of familial relationships are unfortunately common and have both financial and social costs to the territory. While services were available prior to the commencement of this pilot program, they were somewhat patchy and often only available for a short period post release.

While the concept of through care for detainees was familiar, with a version operating in the ACT and other jurisdictions, the ACT government took a bold step in expanding this concept by funding a three-year pilot program to provide support for up to a full 12 months post release from the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

The extended through-care model, which covers the period from release through to 12 months post release, includes the following elements: a single point of service coordination; client-centric case management; services responsive to offenders' needs; established links with providers prior to release; and clear governance arrangements. The through-care unit is responsible for supporting the coordinated release of all sentenced detainees exiting the AMC. This includes both remand and sentenced female detainees.

The program is broken down into five key packages: basics, which provides intensive support for two weeks prior to release and six weeks after release for those requiring it; health services, which includes physical, mental, social and financial; housing, including transition, housing, home and maintenance; connections, be they cultural or with family and friends, and also transport; and employment or jobs, with assessment, development, maintenance and improvement.

Of interest, the basics component of this program was added after the pilot had commenced. I was advised that this was because the original design of the program had perhaps underestimated the disadvantage and barriers to reintegration some clients faced after their release. Many of our detainees, as is the case across the country, have very low literacy and numeracy skills, may have never worked a full-time job and may themselves be children of offenders or had a long history of contact not just with the legal system but with the care and protection system as vulnerable children.

Another innovation and challenge in the extended through-care approach was that ACT Corrective Services themselves took the lead as both case manager and brokerage agent with community sector partners. I mention this point specifically because there were some criticisms of this at the time, which I believe have been laid to rest in the success of the program. It was felt by some that former detainees would, perhaps understandably, not want anything to do with the organisation that had in

effect locked them up and that, once released, beyond maintaining any mandatory reporting because of continuing parole conditions, would not meaningfully engage with it, given that it was led by Corrective Services. It is, I believe, a testament to both the skill and the dedication of our Corrective Services team that this program, which is totally voluntary, has had near full take-up from what can be quite a difficult to engage cohort.

The Social Policy Research Centre based at the University of New South Wales was engaged in June 2015 to undertake an evaluation of the pilot program. The centre defined the overarching evaluation questions as:

What impact has extending Throughcare had on the client group ...

What are the costs and benefits to the justice system from extending Throughcare from custody to the community ...

How effective is the service delivery model ...

I am pleased to say that the simple answer to all of these questions is positive, but I would like to provide the Assembly with a bit more background today.

The evaluation used both a qualitative and quantitative research approach. The study group sample consisted of 616 program clients. Whilst it was initially envisaged that a control group would consist of individuals who chose not to enter post-release support, given that participation is voluntary, there were too few individuals identified who did not participate in the program and therefore an insufficient sample size. As I said, this is in itself quite extraordinary and shows the popularity of the program. An alternative control group based on the through-care clients that had also been incarcerated during the three-year period prior to the commencement of extended through care, consisting of 314 individuals, was used instead.

The evaluation concludes that the program has been very effective in terms of outcomes across both the qualitative and quantitative components of the evaluation. Qualitatively, several interview participants mentioned the value of simply being able to talk to through-care unit and service providers when they needed to. Here is an example of a quote from a participant:

They helped me with furniture, bed, food ... which is all good and well but when it came to me being down and out I couldn't talk to anyone and tell them I feel like crap. And it took me a while to be able to do that, and I rang the Throughcare worker and we'd catch up and have a coffee, and I thought, 'This guy's fair dinkum, he actually cares.'

The UNSW report suggests that, in relation to program impact, the rate of clients returning to custody has reduced and those who do return to custody are, on average, remaining in the community for longer periods of time. This is good news for clients, obviously, but it is also good news for the community. We are seeing reduced crime almost across the board in Canberra, and we are making serious headway on reducing reoffending. There is a clear link here.

The evaluation highlights that the cost benefit will increase over time and the program will provide significant savings to the government, via the broader criminal justice system, based on the cost of establishing and running the program and the initial reduction in the recidivism rate. This accords with the ACT government's strategic justice reinvestment approach to reducing crime and improving the lives of some of the most disadvantaged in our community.

The report concluded that the program has been effective in terms of outcomes for clients. Return to custody episodes for clients reduced by 23 per cent compared to the three years before the program was introduced, and those returning to custody are remaining in the community for longer periods on average.

The cumulative program funding for the four years to June 2016 was \$3.56 million, a slight increase from the original budget of \$3.31 million. For the study group the average cost was generally around \$1,500 per client for brokerage and essential support packages, with higher costs in a small number of particular high need cases. When considering the total program operating costs, it is estimated that the average cost is in the order of \$4,700 per client.

The costs of program support services are relatively marginal, given the comparatively high cost of custody, estimated at around \$120,000 per year for an individual. In this context, although there is substantial uncertainty about repeat offending, a relatively small reduction in recidivism rates is associated with substantial cost offsets in the short and medium terms and potentially ongoing, where reduced reoffending is sustained over the longer term.

This is an encouraging result and will work towards reaching the ninth parliamentary agreement commitment to reducing recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025, along with forming part of the evidence base for the justice reinvestment strategy that my directorate is currently working on.

Of course, any good evaluation should also highlight some areas for improvement. The final report indicated that we need to expand post-detention employment opportunities in a Canberra labour force where there is very little low skilled manual work and few social enterprise options for detainees. The study links employment with pro-social behaviour and reduced reoffending, which, while on some levels is quite intuitive, has provided more evidence that we need to put a greater focus on this in the future.

The report also highlights areas of concern for clients, such as the duration of the program, equity in support and, more importantly, areas of social policy that impact on the cohort, such as accessible housing and employment opportunities.

The study suggests that more focus could be given to engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients in raising awareness of the program functions. I know that this is already an area that Corrective Services and the through-care team are working on, as we recognise the need to do more with Indigenous service providers

and the community if we are to reduce over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our criminal justice system.

The community sector plays an important role in the success of the extended through-care program. Continued discussion needs to be had on enhancing community partnerships and engagement with stakeholders to meet the needs of detainees post release in the future. These discussions also need to encompass future considerations of the capacity of community sector partners with increasing client loads, and possible efficiencies to be gained from improved partnerships.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the extended through-care pilot has been independently evaluated as a positive and overall successful program that can now take its place as a mature and sustainable program in the landscape of social support services. In what I have been told is a nation first, I have made the evaluation public, and I encourage interested members to look for it on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate website. I am also happy to provide direct briefings to any members who would like more information or an insight into the personal stories that sit behind the graphs and figures.

I table the following paper:

Extended Throughcare—Ministerial statement, 23 March 2017.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Wall: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, under standing order 57, “Speaker to determine offensive words”, I note that in Mr Rattenbury’s statement there was a quote from a corrections inmate, and there have been rulings in this place previously about using offensive words even within quotes. I wonder whether you could come back to the Assembly with a ruling on that.

MADAM SPEAKER: I missed it. I will refer to *Hansard*, and if there are any comments to be made I will make them.

Mr Wall: I recall you taking a similar line last time.

National disability insurance scheme Ministerial statement

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (10.19): I am pleased to provide the Assembly today with a progress report on the implementation of the national disability insurance scheme, the NDIS, in the ACT. This is the last six-monthly

update on the trial phase of the NDIS. Any updates from here on in will be on the progress of the ACT as we transition to full scheme. The national transition is expected to occur by 1 July 2019.

I am pleased to note that we are on track for transition to full scheme. We now have more than 5,000 Canberrans who have become NDIS participants. The progress to date has not been without hurdles. As members will be aware, the National Disability Insurance Agency, the NDIA, stopped accepting new clients for one week in October 2016. The Community Services Directorate took action as soon as it became aware of this decision and Canberrans were able to be quickly reassured that the NDIS is not a capped scheme.

I can assure members that the NDIA is continuing to accept new clients, but this episode highlights the importance of clear and ongoing communication with the NDIA and federal officials and ministers as the NDIS rolls out.

We recognise that the ACT government continues to have a responsibility to monitor the NDIS rollout and to stand up for local participants and providers. Indeed, the ACT remains a significant financial contributor to the scheme. This financial year we are investing \$120 million, which equates to 59.1 per cent of the scheme's funding in the ACT. Total investment in the ACT continues to grow and will be \$342 million by 2019-20, of which the ACT will contribute 49 per cent, or \$167 million.

In this new world of the NDIS, service provision is not the role of government, but ensuring quality and safeguards absolutely is. At the December 2016 COAG meeting, all jurisdictions agreed to a national approach to quality and safeguards that will take effect as all states and territories enter full scheme. The commonwealth will be responsible for a national registrar to ensure consistency in registered services. It will also be responsible for a national complaints system and a national senior practitioner to ensure safe and careful management of restrictive practices. The states and territories will have responsibility for worker screening and for authorising restrictive practices. In the ACT these changes will take effect from 1 July 2018.

As the first jurisdiction to fully transition to the NDIS, the ACT has been leading the nation on how we invest in the community and sector to make this transition. That means the government has had the opportunity to intensively support our community, individuals and providers.

The NDIS sector development fund invested \$12 million in grants and workshops to assist people to apply for the NDIS, to develop their roles as decision-makers and decision supporters, and to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ways that they wanted and needed to be supported. In 2014 the ACT had 64 specialist service providers, and that has now grown to over 320 specialist providers.

Building the workforce is a key part of our ongoing work. As individuals are able to exercise greater control over the supports they receive, it is appropriate that the workforce grows to meet those diverse needs. We expect to need over 500 new workers each year until 2018 to meet the growing need.

To progress this we have just announced the successful tender in a project that is funded in the amount of \$1.27 million, through the commonwealth NDIS sector development fund, to build the workforce in the ACT over the next two years. National Disability Services is currently getting ready to work with the Community Services Directorate to deliver an increase to the workforce in the ACT so that participants are able to have the workforce they need to live the lives they choose.

Since the Assembly was last formally updated in August 2016, Therapy ACT has closed down and all previous clients have either transitioned to the NDIS or are accessing support through the new child development service. All staff have either taken voluntary redundancies or transferred into other roles across the ACT government, and a good number into the child development service. It is great that the bulk of that professional knowledge and experience has been retained in the ACT, and many staff who have left the public service have registered as NDIS providers or are now employed by NDIS providers. Once again, I would like to thank the staff who have made this transition so smooth and who continue to provide ongoing support for our community.

As I mentioned recently in response to a question in this place, all Disability ACT supported accommodation residents have now transitioned out of government group homes. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the huge amount of work undertaken by the team at Disability ACT, the services that people have transitioned to, the families who have undertaken this mammoth change, and, most importantly, all the people who lived in Disability ACT group homes.

The directorate has had a wide range of feedback from people with disability, their families and service providers, praising and thanking Disability ACT staff. I have also heard firsthand from providers about the professional way in which Disability ACT handled the transition. One of Canberra's longest standing services, Koomarri, has been chosen by a number of households to be their provider of choice, and Koomarri commented on the transition as follows:

What was really valuable about the process was the way that the ACT government engaged and supported the people with disability and their families to make decisions; this made it so much easier for us to be able to provide the right support.

The process felt almost seamless as we worked in collaboration to ensure that the best outcomes occurred. There was a real commitment to a shared partnership to make the transition happen well for people.

The timely and proactive release and exchange of information was critical in ensuring continuity of support. The transition of staff was also smooth as families and the people who counted were choosing who they wanted to support them. We were pleasantly surprised as to how few hiccups occurred along the way.

In the Community Services Directorate a case management approach to all staff has been implemented, with 523 staff supported across both Therapy ACT and Disability

ACT. There are now only 27 remaining Disability ACT permanent staff who are engaged in finalising arrangements for the closure of Disability ACT.

Of all staff affected by this process, 333 requested training and support. Training included certificate III and certificate IV and diploma and double diploma level of study. The qualifications and training have resulted in staff being highly sought after within the sector and this has enabled many staff to establish private practices or businesses. I am pleased to note that the majority of staff have remained within the sector. One staff member said:

The training that was provided by Disability ACT was instrumental as it aided and assisted us greatly and enabled us to manage change. This was a great asset as it played a pivotal role in managing and dealing with the challenges and stresses associated with changes that we all faced.

It is certainly gratifying to hear that the change has been managed carefully and proactively, and we can only hope that as the rest of the country transitions into the NDIS they are fortunate enough to have similar experiences.

I do need to note that despite these significant achievements and progress there have been hurdles along the way. For some services and people with disability, these are continuing and proving difficult to overcome. For example, we know that each year at least two or three individuals with disability and aged under 18 present to government requiring a significant level of support. These young people often have parents who love them and want to retain parental responsibility but require an out-of-home response. This has presented a challenge to the NDIA's expectations about parental responsibility for accommodation for young people under the age of 18. The ACT government has continued to provide a response and support to young people and their families in this situation. The directorate continues to work with the NDIA on this issue so that young people now and into the future can be appropriately supported on their path into adulthood.

I have also had some interesting conversations with service providers who are willing and keen to deliver services in an environment of choice and control but have experienced significant issues in relation to clear and effective communication from the NDIA. As the new scheme is built and implemented, changes occur which affect the viability of services and market confidence. Members would probably be aware that access to the NDIA portal to progress payments has been a real challenge for participants and providers, as has the ability to speak with staff at the NDIA in person or on the phone. Ministers have been assured by the NDIA that the portal issues are largely resolved, but it is clear that some communication issues remain.

Timely and effective communication is key to large reforms. I have made clear the ACT government's expectation that changes to the way plans and packages are determined, and any changes to remuneration levels set by the NDIA, must be communicated to participants and providers in a timely way.

Locally, delays have been experienced in the appointment of a provider for local area coordination and the establishment of an early childhood and early intervention centre.

An LAC provider has recently been announced. This provider, Feros Care, is Queensland based, and I have welcomed the way in which the community sector have said they will support Feros to settle into the ACT and make connections with local providers.

As has been reported in the media recently, there have also been delays from the NDIS in opening the grants round for information, linkages and capacity building funding. The delay in the opening of the ILC grant round has created uncertainty for a number of smaller community organisations as they seek to provide continuity for the community and their staff into the next financial year.

The grant round closed in early March and I hope that decisions are made in a timely way and communicated effectively, with maximum engagement with the community. In the meantime, the ACT government was able to negotiate an extra two months of transitional funding so that the organisations have security until the end of August.

The ongoing work of supporting people with disability to participate fully in the economic life of the community is of course broader than the support provided by the NDIS. The personalised support is essential to so many and is underwritten by the public responsibility we as a government carry to ensure we create inclusive communities.

I had the pleasure of sharing with the Assembly in December the release of the second implementation plan of the national disability strategy—driving action 2015-2018, and reaffirming our commitment to the whole-of-community effort to create the full inclusion of people with disability in the life of the Canberra community.

This government has retained its commitment to good outcomes for people with disability, as evidenced through the new office for disability, which will support a broad range of initiatives to ensure that all people with disability in the ACT and the people that care for them have opportunities to contribute and belong.

I note particularly the work of the office in hosting the Connect and Participate Expo. The expo provides the opportunity for over 120 of Canberra's community groups to seek new participants and for people with disability to see the opportunities to connect and be included in the life of the community. This year's expo will be held on Saturday, 25 March, and I hope to see many members there.

I look forward to progressing work on the NDIS, the Involve initiative and a range of other issues with the refreshed disability reference group, which will soon welcome new members. I look forward to receiving their advice on how we can keep building a stronger, more inclusive Canberra. I present the following statement:

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Role of the ACT Government—Six monthly report—December 2016—Ministerial statement, 23 March 2016.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (10.32): The minister has outlined very clearly the achievements and the praise that the ACT government has received on the implementation of the NDIS in the territory. I also take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the public servants within the directorate and the NDIA who have worked extremely hard in managing such an important and challenging rollout, working to ensure that some of Canberra's most vulnerable are not left behind.

The minister herself acknowledges that the "progress to date has not been without hurdles" and that "in this new world of the NDIS, service provision is not the role of government but ensuring quality and safeguards absolutely is". I also note she stated that "for some services and people with disability these are continuing and proving difficult to overcome".

These words of acknowledgement are one thing, but there seems to be a lack of an embrace of full responsibility on the part of the ACT government to overcome some of these hurdles. These words of acknowledgement are one thing, but there seems to be a lack of action when it is needed most, as we saw in the Assembly only yesterday, despite the government's "commitment to good outcomes for people with disability, to ensure that all people with disability in the ACT and the people that care for them have opportunities to contribute and belong".

I also acknowledge the federal government's announcement this morning of funding for two service providers to deliver local area coordination and early childhood early intervention services in the ACT. The \$17.6 million announcement today is a significant investment in the sector here in the ACT, and I thank the federal government for delivering these funds to the over 5,000 ACT NDIS participants. I think it is important that we acknowledge this, especially when those on the other side of this chamber have been too quick to shift blame or criticise the federal government, particularly in relation to issues that are outside our subject jurisdiction.

We can all agree in this chamber that early childhood intervention is an important aspect, especially within the NDIS, because it ensures that the next generation has the best chance at a fulfilling and thriving life. Again, I wish to thank all the public servants in the directorate who have worked, are working and no doubt will continue to work with the sector for our community.

The ACT government has another two years before the full transition to the NDIS is complete. I personally look forward to working with the minister and with the disability sector to ensure a better outcome for all who require support and for our community in general. I would like to conclude by joining the minister in congratulating the people who have been working on the Connect and Participate Expo and also in encouraging all members to attend. I know that I will be. I am looking forward to it being a great day.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Offensive language Statement by Speaker

MADAM SPEAKER: Before I call the Clerk, I will refer back to Mr Wall. Mr Wall raised a point of order under standing order 57. He correctly referred to the House of Representatives practice where a member is not allowed to use unparliamentary words through the device of putting them in somebody else's mouth or in the course of a quotation. We are referring to a quote in a speech by Mr Rattenbury. It was the only quote used, and it was a quote by someone who has lived the experience of the program that he was referring to. It may also be of interest that the last time the word "crap" was withdrawn was in 2009. It might have been the previous Leader of the Opposition, Mr Seselja, who was asked to withdraw that back in 2009.

I would remind people of sensitivity of language. I did not hear it; I was clearly not offended by that language at the time. Given its context and given that it was a quote by somebody who has lived experience, I do not find it offensive. I will let it stand. But it is a good reminder, every now and again, for people to be aware and sensitive of language used.

Mr Wall: Just on your ruling, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, Mr Wall.

Mr Wall: Even though it was in a quote and contextualised, I think that among people of the ACT and parliaments more broadly there is an expectation that a certain tenor of language be maintained.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr Wall: If certain words are going to be allowed in some contexts but not in others it is very vague guidance for members to stand by going forward.

MADAM SPEAKER: On that exact point, it is worth noting that a determination as to whether words used in the house are offensive or disorderly rests with the chair. The chair's judgment depends on the nature of the word and the context in which it is used. I have made my comments. I call the Clerk.

Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Mr Gentleman, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.38): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

The government is presenting the Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, which I will refer to as PABELAB. PABELAB is part of a regular program of omnibus amendment bills that make various minor amendments to legislation administered by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. This process allows various amendments to be consolidated into a single bill. This provides an effective means of keeping legislation up to date and responding quickly to changing circumstances.

This PABELAB contains two minor policy amendments and a number of technical and editorial amendments. The two minor policy amendments are to the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012 in the Climate Change and Sustainability portfolio, and to the Nature Conservation Act 2014 in the Environment and Heritage portfolio. These amendments are non-controversial and are designed to improve the effectiveness of each piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to briefly discuss the two minor policy amendments. The first is an amendment in clause 12 of the bill to the compliance information-sharing powers in section 28C of the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012. This act establishes the energy efficiency improvement scheme, or EEIS, which requires electricity retailers to conduct energy saving activities. Some examples of eligible activities under the EEIS include installing low-energy lighting, such as LED downlights, installing insulation and thermally efficient glazing, and purchasing high efficiency electrical appliances. Examples of compliance are many, but the EEIS is delivering good outcomes for the environment and for ACT electricity consumers. It is reducing costs for households and businesses and is an important part of the government's actions to improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions and address global warming.

In order to ensure the continued effectiveness of the EEIS it is vital that the compliance and administration powers in the act are working well. Coordination and sharing of information with schemes in other jurisdictions is a necessary part of this. Currently, the ACT gives the EEIS administrator the power to share compliance information with agencies in other jurisdictions, subject to a number of limitations. One such limitation is that the agency must use the information for the purpose of compliance with a relevant law.

As it is currently drafted, section 28C of the act allows the sharing of information for the purpose of a law that is adopted, applied or incorporated by an eligible activities determination or a code of practice. It has become apparent that the drafting of the provision does not achieve its original intent of allowing compliance information to be shared with administrators of all other similar schemes.

Clause 12 fixes this problem by amending the provision to instead refer to compliance with a law that makes provision for energy efficiency or greenhouse gas abatement. This is to ensure that the administrator can share compliance information in relation to relevant laws of another jurisdiction and is not restricted to sharing information in relation to laws that are adopted in the ACT.

I spoke a little while ago about examples of compliance information. Some of those that could be shared under the act relate to places where activities have been conducted and include addresses, phone numbers, the type of activity, the abatement achieved, the number of activities undertaken and the models or types of items that are purchased and installed.

There are some laws in other jurisdictions that create obligations or incentives for greenhouse gas abatement but which have not been adopted or incorporated under the EEIS. The potential for double-counting under such laws exists. However, compliance information cannot be shared with agencies administering these laws because the current drafting of section 28C is incorrect. Reducing the scope of this limitation will enable the administrator to share information for the purpose of ensuring there is no double-counting under any relevant laws.

For example, the commonwealth carbon farming initiative has not been adopted under the EEIS. However, the nature of this scheme means that it is possible for double-counting of activities under the EEIS and the commonwealth scheme to occur. Therefore, there is a need for the administrator to be able to share some compliance information with the commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of both schemes. The amendment will allow this.

I would like to emphasise that this is not a major change to information-sharing powers under the act. The information-sharing power already exists and allows for compliance information to be shared for laws of other jurisdictions adopted, applied or incorporated in ACT law.

The information-sharing power is subject to a number of limitations, and this amendment simply loosens one of these restrictions to facilitate the effective administration of the act. This will allow the EEIS to continue to be effectively administered, which will enable it to continue to deliver good outcomes for the ACT community.

The second minor policy amendment in the bill is to the Nature Conservation Act 2014 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of reporting on Ramsar wetland management plans. Ramsar wetlands are wetlands of international significance which are listed under the Ramsar convention. The Ginini Flats wetland complex is the only listed Ramsar site in the ACT. It is an area of great natural value. It is important that we conserve areas of environmental significance like the Ginini Flats wetlands. We therefore require laws that create effective review and reporting procedures for the protection of these areas.

The Nature Conservation Act sets out the requirements for making Ramsar wetland management plans. One of these requirements is that the Conservator of Flora and Fauna reports to the minister about each plan once every five years. Clause 15 of the bill amends this requirement so that reporting must now occur once every seven years. This amendment is made to align the ACT legislation with the seven-year reporting cycle under the commonwealth legislation. This will make the process of reviewing

and reporting more efficient. It will facilitate better quality reporting, and resources and time lines can be shared.

It is important that we have efficient processes to support the protection of our natural environment. While the frequency of reporting is important, the efficient use of resources and the quality of reporting is also important. Aligning ACT reporting with reviews under commonwealth legislation will ensure that the ACT can introduce the same time lines for reviewing plans, aligning management actions and reporting on outcomes. This will ultimately enable better quality reporting and management of Ramsar wetlands.

There are also a number of technical and editorial amendments in the bill. While these do not change the policy intent of legislation, they are nonetheless important for maintaining the effective operation of legislation. I would like to mention one of these as an example.

Clause 18 of the bill amends the Public Place Names Act 1989 in relation to consultation on the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander vocabulary for public place names. The amendment removes a redundant requirement to consult with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, or ATSIC, as the organisation no longer exists. In its place, the amendment requires that the minister take responsible steps, and reasonable steps, to consult with an appropriate cultural group on the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander words or names.

This amendment has a positive impact on consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups because it replaces a redundant provision with a positive requirement to find and consult with an appropriate cultural group. These groups could be local Aboriginal councils or larger state bodies, depending on the circumstances. The amendment formalises the current practice that the Surveyor-General's office has adopted in finding local groups to consult with when selecting public place names.

The wording of the amendment also recognises that not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups are the same, and some may not be resourced to respond to the administrative burden of consultation requests. The amendment provides flexibility to find groups that are willing and able to contribute, without burdening other groups with a legislative requirement to consult with them.

Madam Speaker, PABELAB makes the amendments I have mentioned, as well as a number of other non-controversial ones. These amendments will improve our planning, building and environment laws and, while only minor in nature, they make necessary and worthwhile changes. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Lawder**) adjourned to the next sitting.

Liquor Amendment Bill 2017

Mr Ramsay, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (10.48): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Liquor Amendment Bill 2017 to the Assembly today. This bill makes a number of amendments to the ACT's liquor legislation to reduce alcohol-related harm, to support a vibrant night-time economy and to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden. The range of amendments made by the bill follows an extensive process of review of the ACT's liquor laws, including significant consultation with key stakeholders, including industry, police, the liquor licensing regulator, public health advocates and the broader community.

An independent review was undertaken in 2013-14 by ACIL Allen Consulting to look at the impact of the very significant reforms made to the territory's laws in 2010. These reforms included the introduction of mandated responsible service of alcohol training for staff working in licensed premises; a risk-based licensing model; criminal offences for supplying liquor to intoxicated people or to minors; bans on promoting liquor in a way that encourages excessive and rapid consumption of alcohol; an emergency power for ACT Policing to close premises for up to 24 hours in certain circumstances; and patron responsibilities, with fines which can be issued by police to patrons for failing to leave licensed premises when directed or abusing staff at venues for refusing to serve intoxicated patrons. The ACIL Allen review was followed by consultation with key stakeholders and with the Canberra community about potential options to address harm minimisation, to reduce regulatory burden and to maintain the vibrancy of our city's night life.

Prior to the 2016 election the Chief Minister announced a range of measures which would be implemented by the government to help ensure people can have a safe night out in our city, to increase the vibrancy and diversity of the ACT's nightlife and to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden on the liquor and hospitality industry. This bill gives effect to those commitments as well as several other proposals on which public consultation has occurred since the liquor legislation was reviewed.

The first harm minimisation amendment made to the liquor legislation by this bill is the creation of a statutory power for licensees and other authorised people to evict or to refuse entry to someone who is intoxicated, violent, quarrelsome or disorderly. Under the common law there is an implied invitation for patrons to enter a licensed venue, which can be revoked by the licensee provided the reason is not discriminatory. This amendment clarifies that common law right of eviction or refusal of entry in relation to certain circumstances where it is likely to be necessary and warranted for the safety and comfort of other patrons and for the staff of the venue.

This bill also creates a new offence that will apply if a person who has been evicted or refused entry to a venue remains in the vicinity of the venue or tries to re-enter the

venue within six hours of being excluded. Vicinity of the premises is defined as meaning any place that is less than 50 metres from any point on the boundary of the premises. The offence will not apply if the person reasonably fears for their safety if they do not remain in or re-enter the vicinity of the premises or if they live in or must catch transport from the vicinity of the premises. This amendment also protects the safety of patrons and staff of a venue by ensuring that a person who may be violent, disorderly or highly intoxicated and who may be aggrieved at being evicted or refused entry does not remain around the venue causing trouble.

The bill also amends the current Liquor Act definition of intoxicated, which is based on intoxication arising through the consumption of alcohol. It will now include intoxication that occurs as a result of the consumption of drugs or a combination of alcohol and drugs. This will ensure that harm minimisation provisions in the act which relate to the refusal of service or entry to intoxicated people also apply to patrons who are intoxicated because they have consumed drugs or a combination of alcohol and drugs.

A further amendment clarifies that the Commissioner for Fair Trading may impose a licence condition requiring a licensee to fit security cameras at their venue. Security cameras have a crime deterrent effect and provide valuable evidence for the investigation and prosecution of crime. So this amendment will improve the safety of licensed venues for both patrons and staff.

Currently the Liquor Act provides that the Attorney-General may declare a product to be a prohibited alcohol product if it is likely to appeal to children or to young people or be confused with confectionary or a non-alcoholic drink. The bill expands this power to also include products with names or packaging that are offensive or indecent or likely to encourage irresponsible, rapid or excessive consumption of alcohol.

The bill also provides that a product may be declared a prohibited alcohol product if it is in the public interest to do so. An example of the type of product that could be declared prohibited under this expanded provision is powdered alcohol. This product raises health concerns that it may be snorted, and safety concerns that it may be more easily hidden than liquid alcohol and therefore taken into places where alcohol is not permitted, such as schools or underage events. A similar provision exists in New South Wales and has been used there to declare powdered alcohol a prohibited product.

The bill also makes amendments to improve the consultation requirements relating to new liquor licence applications and applications for significant changes to existing licences; for example, increases to the occupancy loading or trading hours of an established venue. The amendments will ensure that adjoining residents, along with relevant government agencies and directorates, are aware of applications and have an opportunity to understand any implications and voice any concerns. Similarly, the bill will make it easier for members of the community to express any concerns about a licensee or a venue by removing the current requirement for any complaints to be in writing. These amendments support the government's commitment to reducing alcohol-related harm.

Other amendments to the liquor legislation made by the bill are directed at promoting a diverse and vibrant hospitality sector. They include an amendment to allow an on-premise licensee to have six extended trading authorisations per year. These authorisations would allow licensees to trade outside their usual licensed hours for special events; for example, visiting bands and DJs, local festivals and televised international sporting matches. This is likely to encourage venues to host special events, which will contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of the ACT's nightlife. The bill accommodates caterers within the licensing structure by recognising that their businesses involve the service of food and alcohol at a wide range of locations, not fixed licensed premises.

The government has announced that, in addition to these measures to support diversity in the hospitality sector, it will also be reducing liquor licensing fees for smaller, low-risk venues such as those with lower occupancy levels and earlier closing times.

The bill makes a large number of amendments aimed at reducing unnecessary red tape and improving business efficiency for licensees and staff. For example, the bill will make amendments to the Liquor Act to recognise interstate responsible service of alcohol qualifications. This will remove the unnecessary time and the financial burden currently placed on hospitality employees who have RSA qualifications in other jurisdictions to retake RSA training in the ACT. This amendment will also make it easier for interstate wine and beer producers to attend one-off events held in the ACT.

The bill also introduces the ability for licensees to be issued with perpetual liquor licences. Currently the Commissioner for Fair Trading may issue only one-year or three-year licences. This means that licensees are regularly required to complete and submit time-consuming licence renewal applications. Perpetual licences will instead remain in force unless surrendered, suspended or cancelled. Licensees with perpetual licences will continue to pay an annual fee in accordance with the relevant fee instrument, noting that licensees also have the option of paying their licence fees quarterly. Perpetual licences already exist in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The bill also amends the Liquor Act to ensure that hair salons that provide customers with a glass of champagne during an appointment or florists who sell a gift pack comprising flowers, chocolates and wine are not treated like a large pub or a bottle shop and required to go through liquor licensing processes. Similarly, the bill amends the act to clarify that other businesses such as hospitals and retirement villages that provide patients and residents with a glass of wine with dinner are not required to obtain a liquor licence.

The bill creates an exemption in relation to the supply of alcohol within a traveller accommodation unit; for example, the minibar or room service of a hotel. This means that the supply of these services within the hotel room or other accommodation is not limited to the licensed times of the relevant hotel or other accommodation business. All service conducted from a public bar of the accommodation provider will continue to be subject to licensed times and other licence conditions.

Other red tape reduction amendments in the bill include the removal of superfluous regulatory requirements relating to toilets, telephones, glass washing and signage; removal of the requirement for certain low-risk venues to provide a risk assessment management plan; and clarification that company directors not directly involved in the supply of liquor are not required to hold a responsible service of alcohol certificate. These changes will make it easier for licensees to do business without compromising the achievement of the fundamental objectives of the liquor legislation.

This bill makes a number of significant changes to liquor legislation. These changes will improve the safety and vibrancy of the ACT's night life for our community and support current and prospective licensees by removing unnecessary and outdated regulation. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Hanson**) adjourned to the next sitting.

Order of the day No 1—discharge

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (11.01): Pursuant to standing order 152, I move:

That this order of the day be discharged from the *Notice Paper*.

I want to make it clear that I am speaking in my capacity as a private member and not as chair of the health, ageing and community services committee. I would like to discharge the motion from notice paper, but before I do I would like to provide an explanation for the discharge.

I first raised the issue of disability employment when I brought forward this motion referring an inquiry to the health, ageing and community services standing committee late last year. As I noted on Tuesday in my standing order 246A statement, the committee has decided that it will inquire into disability employment.

I am incredibly proud that this is the first inquiry into disability employment that will be undertaken in this Ninth Assembly. This is an extremely positive step to tackle a prevalent and complex problem. Approximately one in five people in Australia identify as living with a disability.

The Australian Human Rights Commission's national inquiry, willing to work, discovered that the ACT, aside from South Australia, had the lowest employment rate, 2.2 per cent, of people with a disability, although a report by the Australian Human Rights Commission found that the ACT was the only jurisdiction with an increase in the employment of people with a disability over the 2013-15 period. However, there is still a great barrier for disability employment, based on misconceptions about perceived cost and effort as well as a lack of awareness and confidence on how to integrate those with a disability into the workplace.

Having a diverse and inclusive workforce aids social cohesion and also has considerable economic benefits. Meaningful work will give people with a disability a strong purpose and will aid in community integration for those with a disability.

I certainly take the personal view that I want to see an increase in employment opportunities and retention for people with a disability into the future.

It has been fantastic to see great community discussion already on this important issue. On 20 March the *Canberra Times* published an article highlighting some public discussion on disability employment issues. Disability employment advocate Bill Gamack stated that more needs to be done for disability employment. He said:

People with disability generally aren't expected to achieve highly, particularly in the area of employment and building a career ...

This subject of low expectations is an unfortunate truth and something people struggle to discuss, but without first acknowledging this we can never expect to tackle it ...

A federal public servant with autism, Jeanette Purkis, also commented on the issue, stating:

If they can do the job, give them support and development and career advancement opportunities too.

Ms Purkis also highlighted the specific issues people with autism have in gaining employment. She said:

Many autistic people have heightened sensory experiences which non-autistic people tend not to.

This can mean fluorescent lights cause physical pain and background noise in an open plan office is magnified and makes it hard for them to hear their manager or colleagues.

It is great to see the discussion starting, and I encourage all disability advocates, employers, people with a disability and the general community to have a say. I would also like to congratulate the ACT government for their initiatives thus far to encourage disability employment in the ACT. The ACT has established the ACT government's office for disability and disability reference group, and these bodies will provide policy advice on disability issues.

We must continue to take steps towards increasing access to the workplace for people with a disability, and I once again welcome the inquiry into disability employment adopted by the health, ageing and community services standing committee of the Assembly. I am therefore moving that order of the day No 1 relating to disability employment be discharged from the notice paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on forthwith.

Community legal centres

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (11.05): I seek leave to amend my motion on community legal centres as published in the notice paper by omitting clause 1(f).

Leave granted.

MR RATTENBURY: I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) the important role that community legal centres have within our justice system, by providing crucial advice and representation to vulnerable members of our community;
- (b) that community legal centres are facing a funding cliff on 1 July 2017, with a cut of 30 percent of funding from the Federal Government, and that this cut will drastically impact on the crucial legal services provided to vulnerable and disadvantaged people provided by community legal centres;
- (c) that community legal centres have already been severely impacted by cuts to funding from the Federal Government, including the complete loss of funding to Environmental Defenders Offices, and such cuts will only lead to an increased burden on our legal system, leading to increased costs;
- (d) the Productivity Commission recommended in its 2014 *Access to Justice Arrangements* report that funding to community legal centres be increased by \$200 million each year from both Federal and State and Territory Governments;
- (e) that all levels of Government have a role in providing adequate resources to community legal centres, recognising the valuable services they provide to our community and the efficient and effective operation of our legal system; and

(2) calls on the:

- (a) Federal Government to reverse planned cuts to community legal centres to come into effect on 1 July 2017 and provide adequate funding to community legal centres; and
- (b) Speaker to write to the Federal Attorney-General communicating this motion.

Community legal centres play a really important role in our community, and they have been desperately calling out for more funding as demand for their services continues to grow and the centres struggle to support their clients with the insufficient resources available to them.

Since the election of the current government to the federal parliament, the community legal sector has struggled through a period of constrained funding, while demand for services ever increases. As of 1 July this year, the two ACT-based community legal centres will directly suffer cuts of a combined \$265,000 under the national partnership agreement on legal assistance services. This represents a loss of almost a quarter of funding provided under the national agreement.

This is a trend that is replicated across the country, with funding cut to community legal centres across all states and territories. This will further impact on the targeted services provided to people, from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to refugees, people with disabilities, young people and women. These cuts remain in place for the remainder of the national partnership agreement, as a continuation of the chronic underfunding of community legal centres.

I would like to recognise the crucial work that all community legal centres do for our community, in particular the community legal centres that serve our citizens of Canberra.

The Women's Legal Centre here in the ACT served over a thousand clients in the last year, providing more than 2,200 pieces of legal advice. Likewise, Canberra Community Law served over 800 Canberrans through their core services, as well as targeted disability and street law initiatives. This is in addition to the work that our other community legal centres do for our community, including the Tenants Union, the Environmental Defenders Office, and the Aboriginal Legal Service of NSW and the ACT.

These funding cuts will give our community legal centres no option but to turn people away through the necessary constraint of services that will result from the reduction in resources. This will include some of the most disadvantaged people in our community, and those who are seeking legal assistance at a time when they are particularly vulnerable.

Community legal centres are often the first point of contact for people in need, providing a crucial referral role to other support services. This is important to stress, as this unfortunately involves situations where people are trying to escape violence or facing homelessness, so this referral role can have a very real impact on people's lives; in fact, perhaps going as far as even saving people's lives in the most challenging of circumstances.

It will mean that members of our community will lose access to important advocates within our legal system. Community legal centres take on cases that other firms do not, or they take on clients who cannot afford to go to a private legal firm. Community legal centres take them on because they know that doing so is in the public interest, that their clients deserve and need access to justice. They stand up for those who may well be facing discrimination because of their life circumstances, be they economic, social or cultural.

These cuts could also mean turning away people who are caught up in a dispute with Centrelink, facing demands to repay a debt that they have no means to repay during a time when it has been made clear publicly that there are flaws in the accuracy of Centrelink's debt recovery process. We have seen public acknowledgements that there are letters being sent to people who do not have debts. For someone who is perhaps not familiar with how the bureaucracy works or how the legislation works, or who perhaps has English as a second language, having somebody who can represent them in those sorts of disputes can be the difference between sorting something out readily and sorting it out with much more drama.

It is important to note in particular the situation of the Environmental Defenders Office in the ACT. It lost all of its federal funding in late 2013 as one of the first acts of the newly elected federal coalition government. It has since become clear that there was zero consultation held with the EDOs before the federal Attorney-General decided to remove their funding, with EDOs finding out upon the release of the 2013 midyear economic and fiscal outlook that the majority of their funding had been lost.

Environmental defenders offices play a very important role as community legal centres, different from the role I have just described for individuals. Their role is much more one of a public interest situation, standing up for the environment and assisting community organisations to challenge government, developers and a range of folks when it comes to matters of the environment. They play a very important role, giving voice to and legal support for matters that deserve to be publicly contested. People will not always agree with the role that an EDO takes or the case that they take, but we cannot dispute the importance of their role and the importance of having that case made.

The ACT Greens have long called for the restoration of EDO funding, recognising the value of the service they have provided to the ACT community as well as the valuable contributions they have made towards ongoing reforms to our environmental laws. Not only do the EDOs take on individual cases; they take on an advocacy role in terms of commenting on legislation, discussion papers from government and the like. Again, that is a very important role.

To that end, I do not believe the ACT government should have to fill the funding gap left by the federal government in that case. It highlights the fact that both federal and state and territory governments need to play a role in resourcing community legal centres.

I was very pleased that through the parliamentary agreement for this Ninth Assembly, both the Greens and the Labor Party have agreed to provide funding for the Environmental Defenders Office in the ACT to ensure their continued operation. They were facing imminent closure, and the injection of \$130,000 a year will mean that they will be able to continue. I am very pleased to have been able to bring that funding about. I am disappointed the ACT has had to step into that space, but I welcome the fact that we have been able to rescue the Environmental Defenders Office from that imminent closure.

The provision of legal services through community legal centres is about ensuring access to justice. Most, if not all, of the services provided by community legal centres are provided free of charge, ensuring that those who suffer disadvantage can receive legal advice and representation in our legal system.

It is clear that these services, by and large, would not be provided by private legal firms. I know that many firms contribute pro bono work through a range of services, but overall there is a significant degree of unmet demand. I make that point in my motion because in 2014 the Productivity Commission looked at this issue in its report on access to justice arrangements. They recommended that funding to community legal centres be increased by \$200 million each year from both the state and territory and federal governments.

This goes to my earlier point about both levels of government needing to play a role. There does need to be a discussion about that, but these very significant cuts that have been slated by the federal government to take effect from 1 July this year for existing services will have a very significant impact. The Productivity Commission report highlights the fact that there is growing demand, there is an increasing need. It is not a time to be cutting. It should be a time where we are looking to prioritise this and ensure that there is adequate access to justice for vulnerable members of our community.

Access to the services of community legal centres means more effective outcomes for clients and more efficient operation of our courts. While this ultimately remains the right of the client, we know that self-representation can lead to unintended burdens on our court system as people try to navigate the complex processes and procedures of the courts.

Cutting funding to community legal centres is simply a false economy, for the reasons I have just outlined and, more powerfully, because an independent analysis completed by the National Association of Community Legal Centres found that each dollar provided in supporting community legal centres can deliver as much as \$18 in benefits to our community. That report details in quite significant ways where that figure has come from, but in short it is about the fact that there are people who do not end up in the court system, and there are obviously savings attached to that.

There are significant savings for people simply in their own lives in not having to go down the path of being involved in a legal matter. Often there are stories where people—for a range of reasons, as I have touched on, perhaps because they have literacy issues or they have issues because they have English as a second language—get caught up in something that people with stronger skills can deal with more effectively. Having the support of a community legal centre can resolve something much more quickly. That is one of the real benefits of the community legal centres.

These are, in the broad, the reasons I have brought forward this motion today. It is important for us as an Assembly to implore the federal government to reconsider these funding cuts that come into effect from 1 July. It is a funding cliff that will severely

impact on the value of the services provided by community legal centres at a time when we should be looking to increase the support they receive, not reduce it.

I am aware that Mr Hanson is bringing forward an amendment. I will discuss some of the details on that after he has introduced it, rather than pre-empting his comments. I commend this motion to the Assembly.

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (11.17): We will be supporting the motion, but, as Mr Rattenbury alluded to, we will be moving an amendment. Mr Rattenbury has already amended the original motion he put forward to remove clause (1)(f), which I think was unnecessary and probably unhelpful in the context of seeking additional funding, and I welcome the fact that he has done so.

The point of my amendment is to point out the truth about funding. It is true some reductions are coming, but it is also true there has been a massive injection of funds in this area for new projects, and the fact that that is omitted from this motion means it is not balanced and it does not tell the whole picture. It is very important that that point is made.

We will always stand up for people who are vulnerable in our community, who need access to services like community legal centres, and we will always stand up for Canberra. Although we will be supporting today's motion, there are elements of this motion that are out of balance and it would be better if the motion as amended was to be voted on eventually. I understand that will not be supported by Mr Rattenbury, and that is a little disappointing.

I have been in contact with the Attorney-General's office up on the hill. We know, as I said, that there have been significant injections into front-line legal services by the current coalition government, and I will go to that. The government is providing \$1.6 billion over the five years 2015-16 to 2019-20 to Legal Aid commissions, community legal centres and Indigenous legal assistance programs. That includes \$1.26 billion for Legal Aid commissions and \$195 million for community legal centres through the national partnership on legal assistance services, and a further \$353 million for Indigenous legal assistance programs.

In addition—and this is to the nub of it—the Turnbull government is providing an extra \$45 million for front-line legal assistance services as part of its \$200 million investment to reduce violence against women and children. Some \$16.5 million is going directly to community legal centres, and that well exceeds the amount that has been reduced in the coming budget. So it is true some reductions will be made, but they are not as much as the significant investments made by the federal coalition government in new initiatives, particularly protecting the victims of family and domestic violence.

There is also additional money in that bracket: \$50 million for specialist domestic violence services under the \$100 million women's safety package; and \$30 million over three years for legal assistance for family law services to help those affected by family violence. Furthermore, legal aid funding is increasing, and the commission will

continue to increase under the national partnership agreement. Funding Legal Aid commissions will increase by \$11.99 million.

I will now turn to the ACT. I hope Mr Ramsay and Mr Rattenbury, are listening, although they seem not to be. Mr Rattenbury will later no doubt say he has not got all the facts so he cannot support my amendment, but he is not even listening. He is not even listening to the facts. So his excuse, it would appear, for not supporting the amendment to be tabled will be, “I don’t have the detail,” but he is choosing not to listen to the detail. That goes to the way that business is sometimes conducted by the Greens in this place. The earnest, evidence-based truth-tellers of the Greens, it turns out, are not even listening to the details. So let me go into further detail now that Mr Rattenbury is listening, and this is specifically to do with the ACT.

The total commonwealth funding to community legal centres in the Australian Capital Territory has increased by 101 per cent under the current coalition government. I will say that again: it has increased by 101 per cent under the coalition government. In 2011-12, in the death throes of the previous Gillard-Rudd government, funding was \$768,000. In the coming budget, it is expected to be \$1.4 million—a 101 per cent increase not acknowledged by Mr Rattenbury in his speech. I accept that that amount is now going to be reduced, but I think we need to acknowledge the massive injection of funds not only in the ACT but across Australia that this federal government has put in. It is important that we get the facts on the table.

With the savings that are then made, which we do not support—let me be clear, I want to keep every cent coming into these services that we can—it is important to understand what they are. About half those savings was one-off funding that was never expected to be replaced. There are two elements to what is being reduced across the nation: ongoing funding that is being reduced by about \$6 million across the nation—bear in mind, I just outlined the increases—and a one-off four-year transfer made of \$6.8 million by the former Labor government that was never expected to continue. That is an important point to make to get the facts on the matter. To say this is a cliff and will be the end of the legal centres and so on and to catastrophise this is not accurate. Half of this funding was always expected to end, and that was the decision of the former federal Labor government.

I note that the federal government has asked legal centre service providers to privatise front-line activity, not managerial or administrative or campaign material. That has been acknowledged. I will quote Genevieve Bolton, Executive Director/Principal Solicitor of Canberra Community Law:

We are also well aware, in our sector, of the need to tighten budgets; and excel at performing our duties diligently, with compassion, in a resource-strapped environment.

As I have said, in acknowledging these facts, I support Mr Rattenbury’s ultimate intent, which is to make sure that we get every cent we can into these important organisations. I will just read from a press release from the sector:

In Canberra, the Women’s Legal Centre, the Care Consumer Law Centre, Canberra Community Law and the Tenants’ Union provide crucial support to

some of the most vulnerable people in our community. They provide legal assistance to people who would otherwise go without. Together, these services provided over 6000 pieces of advice and took on over 500 cases over the last 12 months.

Again, that is from Genevieve Bolton. I certainly accept there are calls from the community for funding, and that is understandable. They want as much money as they can to continue with the good work they do.

I welcome the fact that Mr Rattenbury has amended his own motion to remove the point about consultation. I have advice, as I said, from up on the hill about the number of meetings that have occurred between government members and people in community legal centres providing front-line legal assistance. I will not go to that other than to say, be careful of hypocrisy in this place. Was it Mr Gentleman or was it Mr Barr that ended the greyhound racing industry by Facebook? I do not recall much consultation happening before, from New Zealand, Mr Barr said, “Right. That is the end of greyhound racing in the ACT.” I do not think a lot of consultation occurred there.

I could go to similar issues: the front page of the *Canberra Times* and a subject of debate in this place this week—SHOUT. That has a significant number of member organisations. What consultation has this government had with Bosom Buddies, Motor Neurone Disease Association New South Wales, Friends of Brain Injured Children, the Canberra Region Kidney Support Group, People with Disabilities ACT, the Prostate Canberra Support Group? I could continue to list more than 40 members. Have they been consulted? Have they been consulted about the cuts to SHOUT? Before we start criticising others, I think we need to have the facts on the table.

We will always stand up for Canberra and we will always stand up for vulnerable people who need support—in this case, the support being provided by community legal centres. But in doing so we need to recognise the significant work that has been done and the additional funding that has been provided by the federal government: \$200 million to support victims of family and domestic violence.

To that effect I will be moving the amendment that has been circulated. It does not now change anything about Mr Rattenbury’s motion; all it does is provide in the noting section two additional clauses which provide some information about additional finances that have been provided by the federal government more broadly across the nation and also to the ACT. That is based on advice I have through the federal minister’s office. I now move the amendment circulated in my name:

Omit all words after “efficient and effective operation of our legal system; and”, substitute:

“(f) the Federal Government is providing an extra \$45 million for frontline legal assistance services as part of its \$200 million investment to reduce violence against women and children. \$16.5 million is provided to community legal centres for new services, which exceeds the savings measures forecast to commence on 1 July 2017 for existing services; and

(g) total Commonwealth funding to community legal centres in the Australian Capital Territory has increased by 101 percent under the current Federal Government from \$782 639 in 2012-13 to \$1 421 817 in 2016-17; and

(2) calls on:

(a) the Federal Government to reverse planned cuts to community legal centres to come into effect on 1 July 2017 and provide adequate funding to community legal centres; and

(b) the Speaker to write to the Federal Attorney-General communicating this motion.”.

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (11.29): I support Mr Rattenbury’s motion today. It is disappointing, at the very least, that the commonwealth has ignored calls from state and territory governments and the community sector to increase core funding to community legal centres. For the benefit of the Assembly and the *Hansard*, it is important to put on the record the response to a question on notice in the recent annual report hearings.

In 2014-15 commonwealth funding for ACT community legal centres was \$928,217; in 2015-16, the funding was \$1.122 million. Commonwealth funding for community legal centres in the ACT dropped from \$1.122 million in 2015-16 to \$1.072 million in 2016-17. It will drop again to \$807,000 in 2017-18. This represents a reduction in funding of almost 25 per cent in one year. The remaining two years of the national partnership agreement on legal assistance services will see a further \$532,000 reduction from the 2015-16 funding level, making the total reduction in funding \$897,000 over four years.

The commonwealth government has provided an additional \$350,000 per year for four years from 2015-16 to the Women’s Legal Centre for a new family violence service, but this additional finding does not compensate for the drop in core funding. The federal government has spent the last few years raising awareness about domestic and family violence—that it is not an acceptable form of behaviour; that it is against the law—but the numbers of reports have skyrocketed, and now they are pulling funding from services that support our most vulnerable.

From our perspective, the ACT government funds a number of important services in the ACT legal assistance sector, including Legal Aid ACT, the Women’s Legal Centre and Canberra Community Law. The ACT government is also one of few state or territory governments to supplement commonwealth funding to the Aboriginal Legal Service and the only one to provide recurrent funding.

The government, through the parliamentary agreement, has committed to continue existing funding for community legal services, consider whether further funding is required and fund the EDO for at least two years from November 2016. This will be progressed through normal budget processes. The government will continue to manage the service planning process in a way that will support and improve service delivery.

In that context, Madam Assistant Speaker, it is absolutely disappointing that right at this time, right when we need it most, the funding is being pulled from our community legal centres. I commend the motion.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (11.33): I support the original motion and oppose the amendment that has been moved. The government supports the motion because support for the community legal centres makes sense on every level. For many, legal centres make the justice system more accessible, they provide targeted support for some of the most vulnerable people in our community and, finally, they make economic sense. Investments in CLCs contribute to a more efficient justice system, because we know that justice is only true justice when it is accessible, transparent and timely.

Community legal centres help to achieve true justice by giving the most vulnerable members of our community a voice in the legal system. The advice and the representation they give helps people to understand the processes and to ensure that their rights and interests are protected. The decisions made in our courts can have a profound effect on people's lives. Decisions about family relationships, debts and property are made regularly.

For the most part, these decisions are made in an adversarial process that depends on competent representation. Good court outcomes depend on arguments being made about the law and the facts in each case. People who come before our courts without any chance of being represented are at a high risk. People who have legal problems before the court processes begin are at risk if they are unable to receive solid advice. That is because without any advice or representation the legal system can be quite difficult to navigate.

An all too common example of how this works in practice is someone who is struggling with debt. A notice that a debt is owing can be confronting. An unresolved debt can have serious consequences, up to and including homelessness. Legal advice makes people aware of options for negotiation, payment plans and ways to question those debts. If you look at the annual reports in the work of our community legal centres there are numerous examples of where dire consequences have been avoided through some very basic help. That help can be as simple as seeing that Centrelink did not have the right information to make a decision, and writing a letter on a person's behalf, or it could be negotiating a payment plan with a landlord to settle unpaid rent.

On every practical level—and apart from the barriers to justice that it creates—navigating the courts without advice is more costly, and it takes time. Part of what lawyers add to the process is knowing where the legal issues are and what pieces of paper need to be filed to help the court make the right decision. A well-prepared court makes matters run more efficiently and is focused on outcomes.

The Productivity Commission, which has been cited in this motion, makes clear that cuts to legal assistance are phantom savings to a wider area of law. The reason we oppose the amendment and will be supporting the original motion is that Mr Hanson

has acknowledged that core funding is being reduced. Core services are important—as important as specific services.

The clauses in the amendment suggest there will be no reduction in services as a result of cuts, but that is simply not the case. In the ACT the cuts mean there will be \$807,000 in 2017-18, down from \$1.072 million the previous year. Mr Hanson suggests this should not be seen as a cliff, but there is no interpretation of this that can be described in any other way than a cliff—and a cliff for our most vulnerable people.

The women's safety package is a good thing but it funds specific services, not the core services provided by the community legal centres. Core funding provides stability for CLCs that allows them to hire and to provide continuity of services. The same reasons that these funding cuts reduce access to justice means that they will increase cost to the community.

Choosing to skimp on funding for legal assistance is a short-sighted financial decision. Early advice and representation helps prevent legal problems from growing into serious social, economic and even criminal issues. Every person who does not get legal help is at risk of ending up with a problem that costs the courts and our social services far more to address in the long run. To quote the former High Court Chief Justice Gleeson:

Providing legal aid is costly. So is not providing legal aid.

The commonwealth's decision about CLCs will mean that the most vulnerable people in our community will have a harder time getting the protection they need from the justice system. Measured against the impact on the most vulnerable members of our community, the commonwealth's funding decision falls well short. Support for the community legal centres is support for a justice system that is accessible and for a community that is safer, stronger and more connected. I commend the original motion and I oppose the amendment.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (11.38): I want to speak in support of Mr Rattenbury's original motion and against the amendment. I am going to reiterate a number of the points my colleagues have made about the importance of community legal centres and the ACT Labor government's disappointment that the commonwealth has continually ignored calls from state and territory governments and from the community sector to increase core funding to community legal centres.

As the motion notes, community legal centres are facing a funding cliff. We are facing a situation where the federal government has continually, for a number of years, insisted that it will not provide continued core funding and, as the motion says, this will in fact drastically impact on the legal services provided to vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community. These are the people that, obviously, my portfolio deals with every single day. They are people with disabilities; they are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans; they are people from culturally and

linguistically diverse backgrounds. These are some of the people who are most disadvantaged in the legal system and for whom community legal centres are an absolutely fundamental and critical source of support.

The ACT government is one of the few state and territory governments to supplement commonwealth funding for the Aboriginal Legal Service, and the only one to provide recurrent funding for this service. If we want to close the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander overrepresentation in the justice system, the worst thing we could do would be to reduce funding for one of these services that provide support for people as they are making their way through the justice system. If we want to have a focus on early intervention and restorative justice, community legal centres are an absolutely critical part of that system.

I have been having a lot of conversations—and this will be of particular interest to you, Madam Assistant Speaker—with the disability community about disability access to justice. We have a commitment to the development of a disability justice strategy. Legal advice that is accessible and appropriate for people with disability, to understand the needs of community members who come from vulnerable backgrounds, is absolutely crucial to ensuring that people are treated fairly within our justice system.

As you know, Madam Assistant Speaker, through the parliamentary agreement the government has committed to continue existing funding for legal services and to consider whether further funding is required. And we committed to fund the Environmental Defenders Office for at least two years from November last year.

While of course we are pleased that the commonwealth has funded the Women's Legal Centre and Legal Aid to establish dedicated domestic violence legal services in the ACT, as my colleague Minister Ramsay has said, that is only one piece of the puzzle. There are much bigger issues that need to be addressed across the system, and that is why the Productivity Commission, as noted in the motion, recommended that funding to community legal centres be increased each year from both the federal and state and territory governments.

I think this motion in many ways speaks for itself, but I did want to put on record how absolutely critical the community legal centres are for the people that are supported within my portfolios and how critical they are to ensuring that our system is based on a fair go in the legal system and that it is a restorative system. I want to quote from Street Law supervising solicitor Anusha Goonetilleke, who said in a recent article:

Canberra Community Law provides early intervention by running training for clients and support workers about identifying a legal issue and their rights under the law.

It is about not just the individuals who are coming into contact with the legal system but the community legal centres that provide support across the community sector to ensure that workers across the sector are able to deal with and support people as they go through the justice system or before they get involved in the justice system. It is really crucial to early intervention and prevention in the system, as my colleagues

have mentioned. Once again, I commend the original motion to the Assembly and express my opposition to the amendment.

MR RATTENBURY (11.43), in reply: I appreciate comments from members of the Assembly today on the importance of community legal centres. I think it is a very good thing to come in here today and acknowledge their important role, to see that acknowledged across the Assembly and to be able to agree on the important thing in this motion, which is the importance of the community legal centres and the role that they play, particularly in supporting disadvantaged Canberrans.

I have looked very carefully at Mr Hanson's amendment and, as I have indicated, I will not be able to support it. There are a couple of reasons for that. One is facts and mathematics. As best I can understand it, in paragraph (g) of Mr Hanson's amendment he has talked about funding increasing from \$782,000-odd to \$1.4 million. That is an increase of \$639,000. As best I do maths, that is an 82 per cent increase, not a 101 per cent increase. That is a fact that I think is important to recognise there.

Nonetheless, I do want to acknowledge another point that he has made in his amendment, which is that there has been an increase in funding through the provision of funding for domestic violence. No-one disagrees with that—both the fact that it has happened and the fact that that is a valuable contribution.

The profile that has been given to domestic violence has been so important for our community in starting community discussions about how inappropriate it is; about giving people, victims particularly, the confidence to come forward, to seek help, to access services. This injection of funding is really important in that context. We cannot understate how much this debate has changed in the public domain in Australia in recent years.

I think we owe a lot of credit to Rosie Batty in particular for that. She has been an outstanding public advocate and has provided a lightning rod and a voice for so many in our community. I think that her recognition as Australian of the Year was very important. The tremendous role that she played as an ambassador for this very important issue has been one of the most impressive contributions I have seen from an Australian of the Year for as long as I can remember, and there have been many great Australians of the Year. The way that Ms Batty used that role, and advocated for such an important issue, is very important.

I digress slightly, but I simply want to make the point that Mr Hanson is right that additional funds have been injected. I also think, in trying to compare some of these numbers, there is real dispute, and that is the key reason that I will not be supporting his amendment today—not that I disagree with his point on the additional injection of funds, but simply the numbers. The comparison of 2012-13 with now I am not sure is an apples and apples comparison. The national partnership did not exist in 2012-13. There may well be a different basis for counting funding between what was happening in 2012-13, when there were a series of individualised agreements with community legal centres, and the situation now, where there is a national partnership. I have not been able to drill behind those figures. I have tried to, but it is somewhat murky.

The second point I would then make is that I have done further digging on where the funding is at overall. I think this is hotly disputed. I have gone to the FactCheck on the ABC's Q&A, which most people think is pretty handy. There was a significant debate about this after a discussion by the Q&A panel in November 2016 in which writer and actor Nakkiah Lui made the comment that there was a \$35 million cut to front-line legal services. This became hotly disputed; so it became the subject of a fact check.

The FactCheck says she was asked:

Is it true the Coalition government cut \$35 million to frontline legal services for victims of domestic violence?

It goes on in some detail. Members can read the whole thing, but I will try to give a fair account of it. It says:

It hasn't been cut yet. But a \$35 million cut in federal funding (spread over three years) is on the way. Under the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services (the agreement under which Community Legal Centres are funded) the federal government plans to reduce future funding for Community Legal Centres over three years. Compared with 2016-17 levels of \$42.2 million, Community Legal Centres funding will be reduced by:

- \$12.1 million in 2017-2018
- \$11.6 million in 2018-2019
- \$11.2 million in 2019-2020.

That adds up to \$34.9 million over three years. The cuts will be shared across more than 160 Community Legal Centres across Australia. So, compared to 2016-17 levels, Community Legal Centres are set to lose about \$35 million in funding between 2017 and 2020.

So Nakkiah Lui's statement is correct. But her quote doesn't quite tell the whole story.

It then goes on—and this goes to Mr Hanson's point—to say:

The federal government has announced other funding for Community Legal Centres and other services that support victims of family and domestic violence.

Under the same National Partnership Agreement on Legal Services that would result in the \$35 million cut, the federal government promised a \$12 million increase in funding for Legal Aid Commissions between 2015 and 2020.

It is a different bucket, but that is where it goes. Then it goes on to talk about some other areas, including the \$100 million announcement of domestic violence response, in which \$15 million was committed over three years to establish 12 new specialist domestic violence units within a number of legal assistance providers. And there is some more detail there. I could go on. There are several more pages of it. It finishes with the verdict:

... Community Legal Centres are set to lose about \$35 million in federal funding
 ... Other additional funding has been promised for Community Legal Centres,
 Legal Aid Commissions and other services that support victims of family and
 domestic violence.

Probably the consequence of this is that we could debate the numbers for some time. I suspect we all have a slightly different take on what they are. Rather than trying to thrash that out, where we have got to, particularly at Mr Hanson's urging, is that I removed paragraph 1(f). I think we can settle on a motion that acknowledges the things that we do agree on, which is that community legal centres are really important and that, as the Productivity Commission has identified, there is no doubt that there is more demand there and that state and territory and federal governments could do more to meet that demand. That is the important point.

I particularly welcome the unanimous support to urge the federal government to reverse the planning cuts from 1 July. We know they will have detrimental impacts on community legal centres. We know community legal centres provide really important services. I think we can agree on that fact and move forward.

I thank members for their support for those couple of key points of principle, and I do implore the federal government to reconsider this decision as it prepares the budget for 2017-18 and beyond.

Question put:

That the amendment be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 9

Mr Coe	Ms Lee
Mrs Dunne	Mr Milligan
Mr Hanson	Mr Wall
Mrs Jones	
Mrs Kikkert	
Ms Lawder	

Noes 12

Ms Berry	Ms Orr
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson
Ms Cheyne	Mr Ramsay
Ms Cody	Mr Rattenbury
Mr Gentleman	Mr Steel
Ms Le Couteur	Ms Stephen-Smith

Question resolved in the negative.

Original question resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 11.56 to 2.30 pm.

Ministerial arrangements

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (2.30): Madam Speaker, I advise the Assembly that the Minister for Health will be absent from question time

today as she is travelling to attend the health ministerial council. I will endeavour to assist members with questions in the minister's portfolios.

Questions without notice

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—detainee transfers

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion. According to the *Canberra Times* of 15 March, young adult detainees at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre who commit serious breaches are normally transferred to the AMC. Minister, what specific factors are taken into account in deciding whether a detainee is transferred from Bimberi to the AMC?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Under legislation, a young person detained under the age of 18 years may remain in Bimberi until the age of 21. For detainees between the ages of 18 and 21, the senior manager of Bimberi may make the decision to transfer the young person to an adult facility, but only if this is deemed to be in the best interests of the young detainee or other young detainees at Bimberi.

In deciding whether the transfer should occur, the following must be considered: the young detainee's views and wishes, maturity, developmental capacity and relevant known history; the time remaining on the young detainee's sentence; the behaviour of the young detainee; whether a young detainee will likely be vulnerable in an adult centre; the availability of appropriate services or programs in an adult centre; and whether the young detainee is more likely to be rehabilitated in a youth detention place or an adult correction facility.

As you are aware, Madam Speaker, I am not able to discuss the specifics of any particular case. However, I can confirm that these issues are all considered in any decision on whether to transfer a young person from Bimberi to the AMC or not.

MR COE: Are 18-year-olds, especially given the situation where an 18-year-old was recently allegedly involved in an assault at Bimberi, transferred when there is a very serious breach, such as that which occurred, as reported in the paper?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his follow-up question. I am not sure that I can add much more. As I have said, I am not able to discuss the specifics of any individual case. All the factors that I listed earlier are taken into account in relation to any request or proposition to transfer a young person from Bimberi to the AMC.

MRS KIKKERT: What was the occupancy of Bimberi at the time of the alleged assault as reported in the *Canberra Times*?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Kikkert for her question. I am not sure that I have information in front of me as to the number at that particular time. I have the number of staff members. So I will take that on notice and, if I can, I will get that answer by the end of question time.

SHOUT—government support

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the minister for disability. Given the public statements yesterday that SHOUT needs to make a decision about winding up or otherwise before the end of this month, what reassurances can you provide to SHOUT, its members and the wider community that the function that SHOUT provides—

Opposition members interjecting—

MS LE COUTEUR: will be able to continue?

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister for disability, did you hear that full question or would you like Ms Le Couteur to repeat it?

MS LE COUTEUR: I am happy to repeat it.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: That would actually be quite useful.

MS LE COUTEUR: Okay, thank you.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, this is the second time Ms Le Couteur has had to repeat her question because of noise from your side of the chamber. Ms Le Couteur.

MS LE COUTEUR: Given the public statements that SHOUT needs to make a decision about winding up before the end of this month, what reassurances can you provide to SHOUT, its members and the wider Canberra community that the function that SHOUT provides will be able to continue beyond 31 May?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Le Couteur for her question and for her interest in this issue. I have to say that since the news of SHOUT's decision last week, I have been, along with my office and the directorate, seeking to reassure SHOUT member organisations, associates and the people that they support that the government will make sure that they continue to get the support they need.

I have to say that this is not helped by comments such as Mr Milligan made on his website yesterday saying that SHOUT had, in fact, closed. That is not the case. SHOUT continues to provide very important and valuable services for a range of self-help and other community organisations, as it has done for many years.

As I said yesterday, I have been working with SHOUT, while encouraging and urging them to apply for information, linkages and capacity building funding under the NDIS, recognising that there was a possibility that they may not receive that funding.

I have been working with the health minister for some time to identify potential sources of funding, either supplementary or alternative, understanding that many of

the organisations SHOUT supports are in the health sector. There are, of course, other organisations that are neither in the health sector nor the disability sector, and this has made it an interesting matter.

Both Minister Fitzharris and I, as we said yesterday, are keen to ensure that we find a sustainable solution for SHOUT members. Our offices and our directorates are working with SHOUT and a range of other community organisations to ensure that SHOUT members are supported and that the transition to any new funding arrangement is as smooth as possible.

The Community Services Directorate has spoken extensively with SHOUT about the issues and ongoing functioning of the 12 full members of SHOUT. CSD has also spoken to the members who will be most affected by this change to gather further information on the functions and what we can do to support them. *(Time expired.)*

MS LE COUTEUR: Minister, while all of that sounds very reassuring, from the point of view of SHOUT, what can you tell them, given they say that by the end of this month they have to make a decision?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Le Couteur for her supplementary question. As I have said, both the Health Directorate and particularly the Community Services Directorate have been working directly with SHOUT and with a range of other community organisations to ensure that SHOUT members continue to get the support they need past the end of March and, indeed, beyond the end of May. CSD, as I have said, has spoken with the members who will be most affected by this change to gather further information about the functions that they receive individually from SHOUT.

Of course, I would refute the opposition's constant claim that our problem is that we do not understand what SHOUT does. I can assure the opposition that we do understand what SHOUT does. We understand what all organisations and supports do and how important they are for the community. The government, before I was around, took a good look at what SHOUT does and assessed that, indeed, it was going to be eligible for ILC funding, which is why it was pointed down that track originally.

CSD has engaged with ACOSS to progress a solution around an approach to supporting both the full members and the associate members of SHOUT. As an important immediate step, workshops with members and other community organisations are being arranged to progress the issue. I reiterate that we are absolutely committed to finding an ongoing sustainable solution for these very important organisations and supporting them through the transition to new funding arrangements.

MS LEE: Minister, given that you have now made numerous statements to the effect that the government will be supporting the member organisations, will you provide direct financial support to any of the member organisations; if so, which ones?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Lee for her supplementary question. The government already provides direct financial support to a number of SHOUT members. I do not have the details of each individual amount in front of me,

but I can certainly assure you that People with Disabilities ACT, for example, receives direct funding from the ACT government as well as the support it receives from SHOUT.

Mrs Jones: Point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, can you resume your seat for a point of order.

Mrs Jones: On relevance, the question was about whether SHOUT was going to be funded, not the member organisations. It is a very simple yes/no question.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs Jones, but a number of the questions have gone to SHOUT and its members, and the minister is responding.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Sorry, Madam Speaker; I must have misheard the question. I thought it was about direct funding of SHOUT members, so I apologise if I misheard that question. I thought I was directly answering it.

In terms of SHOUT, as I have said, we are working through the arrangements for what the new funding arrangement will look like. I am not really in a position to talk about the detail of those conversations at this point, but I can assure members—yet again—that we are absolutely committed to finding an ongoing, sustainable solution so that the important organisations that currently use SHOUT’s services will continue into the future and will continue to be supported.

Visitors

MADAM SPEAKER: I recognise, for the interest of members, in the gallery a number of senior students from the City of Casey in Melbourne. Welcome to the ACT Assembly and to the fabulous city of Canberra. It is the national capital and simply the best city in the world to live in. Welcome.

Questions without notice

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion. You were quoted in the *Canberra Times* of 15 March as saying that forums have been held with Bimberi staff over the past 10 months to “identify potential improvements in policy and processes resulting from the incident” that occurred in May last year. Minister, the CPSU has confirmed that staff at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre have been raising concerns with management. Can you please share with the Assembly what specific concerns have been raised?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Kikkert for her question and for her interest in Bimberi. In fact today, when I went to visit Bimberi, there was some additional training going on for staff specifically as a result of the review of the incident on 6 May. Of course employees raise issues on an ongoing basis with their employers about a range of matters.

Ms Berry: On a point of order, there are continuous interruptions from those opposite, in particular Mrs Jones. I am trying to listen to the answer that is being provided by the minister. Continually interrupting and making comments like “what”, “what”, “what” when she is trying to answer is not helpful at all.

Mrs Jones: On the point of order, I am more than happy to stand and ask for the relevance on a regular basis but sometimes it is simpler to draw the member’s attention—

MADAM SPEAKER: There is no excuse for interjections.

Mrs Jones: Then I will sit down and when you have finished I will raise another point.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, please continue.

Mrs Jones: On a point of order on relevance, the question was about what complaints, not the fact that complaints are made but what actual complaints. On relevance—

MADAM SPEAKER: I believe the minister is being relevant. Mrs Kikkert referred to staff, based on the issues raised in the review. Minister.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Thank you Madam Speaker. I have to confess that I do not keep a running log and the directorate does not provide me with a running log of every staff complaint that is made across my entire directorate and at Bimberi. But I do know, for example, that there was some concern expressed by staff in that review about their training in the use of force. They have received additional training in the use of force and when and where that is appropriate and how that should be done if it is appropriate. That is an example of where the feedback from staff has been actively acted on by management, specifically as a result of this incident.

MRS JONES: Minister, will you commit to formally reporting to the Assembly on these issues, including training on the use of force?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Yes, I will. There is no time frame in the question. I will certainly report back at the earliest opportunity that I can, with some further information about what training has been provided and any other outcomes from that review in terms of staff support.

MS CHEYNE: Supplementary?

Mrs Jones: We have finished with that question.

MADAM SPEAKER: There are new questions.

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation—facilities

MR MILLIGAN: Madam Speaker, my question is to the minister for Indigenous affairs. Minister, the offices of Gugan Gulwan are overcrowded, out of date and in

need of significant upgrade. What progress, if any, has been made on the upgrade of the Gugan Gulwan facilities?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Milligan for his question. Of course, this issue was raised in the annual report hearings. It is an ongoing issue, and it has been an ongoing issue over a number of years. I am certainly aware of that.

I met with Gugan Gulwan on 7 December 2016, and that issue was raised with me by Ms Davison. Gugan Gulwan has advised Property Group that they require a location near transport links and in reasonable proximity to their current facility in Tuggeranong; outdoor space to allow children and babies to participate in the programs; and sole tenancy of a property. Those were the requirements that they had previously articulated.

On return from my meeting with Gugan Gulwan, I requested that the Community Services Directorate get in touch with Property Group and with Gugan Gulwan to ensure that Gugan Gulwan fully understood what Property Group needed from them in terms of information so that they could continue to progress this request. I understand that progress is now being made on that matter.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, what consideration, if any, has been given to a new purpose-built premises for this important service?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Milligan for his supplementary question. At the moment and up until this point the focus has been on identifying an existing property that would be appropriate for Gugan Gulwan. I am not in a position to say whether previously any consideration had been given to a purpose-built facility. At the moment the focus is definitely on finding an appropriate property within the existing Property Group managed properties.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how long do you expect that this community organisation will survive without proper facilities to operate its programs?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Dunne for her supplementary question. Certainly I am aware that Gugan Gulwan has raised some concerns about its current facilities, but those concerns are managed on an ongoing basis with Property Group while the search for a new premises continues. I expect that that will continue to be the case. As I have said, I understand that progress is being made on finding a new home for Gugan Gulwan.

Woden town centre—renewal

MS CODY: Chief Minister, can you please provide an update to the Assembly on what steps the government is taking to encourage renewal of the Woden town centre?

MR BARR: I thank Ms Cody for the question. It is with great pleasure that I can announce a series of ACT government commitments to the Woden town centre, not least of which has been the positive actions that my government has taken to fill the terrible void that has been left by those opposite and their colleagues up on Capital

Hill, with thousands of commonwealth public servants being shifted out of the Woden town centre as a result of decisions of the Abbott government; the Abbott and Turnbull governments.

Mr Hanson: No.

MR BARR: As much as Hanson the moderate, the one person—

Ms Berry: Point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: A point of order. Chief Minister, sit down. We will stop the clock for you. Members of the opposition, I know it is question time; I know you like a robust debate, but the noise level is getting quite extraordinary. You showed an interest in this topic. I think the Chief Minister should be heard.

MR BARR: As I was saying, the territory government has acted quickly and decisively in response to a series of very bad decisions made by the federal Liberal government in relation to both employment in the Woden town centre and the broader economy within Woden. We have identified a number of significant projects that we can undertake that will assist Woden, not least of which has been the now completed relocation of numerous ACT government employees in the health area and in Access Canberra to new facilities, newly refurbished facilities, in the Woden town centre.

The Woden town centre master plan identifies a range of opportunities to provide new residential, retail and commercial uses. Importantly, we committed to taking stage 2 of Canberra's light rail project to Woden. Those opposite have a pathological hatred of public transport, and now they have demonstrated once again that it does not matter how many elections they lose—

MADAM SPEAKER: Chief Minister—

MR BARR: they continue to be opposed to public transport infrastructure and to investment in the Woden town centre.

MADAM SPEAKER: Chief Minister, your time has expired.

Mrs Dunne: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: A point of order, Mrs Dunne.

Mrs Dunne: There are clear rules in the standing orders about the timing for answering questions.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am glad you raise that, Mrs Dunne, because I was trying to get the Chief Minister's attention and say "your time has expired" and he could not hear me because of the noise coming from your side. So would you sit yourself down, Mrs Dunne. A supplementary from Ms Cody.

MS CODY: Chief Minister, what investment is the government making to support the renewal in Woden?

MR BARR: Significant investment, including upgrading a range of areas of public realm: paths and cycle infrastructure, a \$6 million upgrade to the Phillip oval and a \$4 million upgrade to the first part of the Woden bus interchange improvements, as well as upgrading intersections on Hindmarsh Drive, at Eggleston Crescent and Launceston Street. We continue to invest in better workplaces for ACT public servants, and we have taken a very significant step in locating around 1,000 ACT government staff in the town centre. This goes to partially address what the federal Liberal government did to that town centre, and that was to strip thousands of jobs from Woden.

Opposition members interjecting—

MR BARR: Those opposite may not like to hear it, but people know what the federal Liberal government has been doing to the public service in this city and they know that the ACT Labor government has taken active steps to address both public sector employment in the Woden town centre and to invest in infrastructure. Those opposite continue—I hope they do—to campaign against light rail and they continue to campaign against renewal of the Woden town centre, because they will continue to be sitting—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Wall and Mr Hanson, enough.

MR BARR: on that side of the chamber into their third decade.

MR STEEL: Chief Minister, how is the government consulting and working with the local community to create a sustainable Woden town centre?

MR BARR: It is very important that we continue to engage with the community around the redevelopment of Woden. I note that Mr Steel has called for a Woden community round table so that the government can continue to engage with community members, businesses and stakeholders about what will be a significant ACT government investment in public transport and in other infrastructure improvements.

I am very pleased to be able to confirm that this round table will form part of a Woden community cabinet that will occur later this year. I thank Mr Steel and Ms Cody for their ongoing work in supporting our Woden community.

The ACT government understands that the sustainability of our town centres is essential to successful urban renewal. We are acting on the recommendations of the Woden town centre master plan. We are investing in new public transport provision. We have created a big opportunity for the Woden town centre through the relocation of those ACT government staff.

We continue to support residential redevelopment. There are a number of projects already underway and in the pipeline in Woden to increase the residential population and there are a series of infrastructure investments, including the Phillip oval upgrade, including the bus interchange improvements and including opportunities to partner with the private sector. For example, the recent sale of a half share in the Westfield facility there will enable a new round of private sector investment in that facility.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—educational outcomes

MR WALL: My question is to the minister for education. In 2008 the Labor government signed up to seven COAG closing the gap indicators for Indigenous children. One of those was to halve the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade, namely, by 2018. The 2016 NAPLAN results show that, when comparing like with like—that is, comparing the ACT with major capital cities—we are significantly below our three nearest neighbours. Our Indigenous students are performing well below non-Indigenous students in the ACT education system across all year levels, and there is little evidence that the ACT is closing the gap. Minister, why has there been little to no progress in closing the gap across all NAPLAN indicators for ACT Indigenous students?

MS BERRY: What I can point to is the success of our Koori preschool program. It has been a great program that gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their children the chance to engage in school during those most important years of their lives and setting them up for a great education as they go through the education system and on into their lives.

There is no doubt that there is more work to do in the ACT in supporting those families who might need a little bit more of a hand up than others, and particularly those in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It is something that will be well considered and talked about often during the next 12 months during the future of education conversation about how we provide more equity within our education system, particularly for those students who are not doing as well as they could be.

MR WALL: Minister, what process did your directorate go through when selecting which Indigenous NAPLAN results to include and which to disregard when preparing the directorate's annual report?

MS BERRY: I will take the question on notice.

MR MILLIGAN: Will the minister fully publish, as has happened in the past, a report documenting the progress of the ACT's efforts in closing the gap?

MS BERRY: I will take the question on notice because I am not sure. I will have to check what other reports have been published. I do not think there would be a problem with that, but I will take the question on notice and find out from you, maybe offline, exactly what reporting you are talking about.

Sport—Melrose football precinct

MR STEEL: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. Could you update the Assembly on the recently completed Melrose football precinct and how it will support grassroots football in Woden and the surrounding region?

MS BERRY: Thank you very much for the question. It was great to join with Mr Steel and Ms Cody and a bunch of young footballers on 9 March to open the new Melrose football precinct at Melrose high. It is a fantastic new facility, as I think everyone will agree as they drive past it or if they have visited it.

Completion of this project delivered on a major commitment the government made to the Woden community, and it brings some fantastic facilities for both Melrose high and footballers around the Woden area. It includes a state-of-the-art synthetic football field, a natural grass irrigated school oval, sportsground lighting which meets Australian standards for both training and match play competition, a sports pavilion, change rooms, a first-aid room, a canteen, public toilets, and storage spaces as well as upgrades of the existing outdoor hard courts and a new car park.

The facility will be used by Melrose high during school hours and also support significant community use by Capital Football and its affiliated clubs outside of school hours. It will also support other schools in working out ways to put football programs together for schools for girls and boys.

There is no doubt that this facility will get plenty of use by school students during the day, club training in the evenings and matches on the weekend. It will give us the advantages of a synthetic pitch and we will be able to identify the advantages of having a synthetic pitch as we move forward in providing great sporting facilities for the ACT community.

The construction funding was \$6.653 million and was provided through the 2015 budget. I want to thank everybody who contributed to the project, particularly staff in the Education Directorate and Active Canberra.

MR STEEL: Minister, how will access to the facility be managed to ensure both the school and local clubs benefit?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Steel for the supplementary. There are heaps of people who cannot wait to have a game in this new precinct. To manage its use, an agreement is being developed between the Education Directorate and Active Canberra to balance the requirements of Melrose high and the broader community around access and use.

As I have said, the synthetic facility will be available for use by Melrose High School during the day from Monday to Friday, with the exception of some programmed maintenance activities. Outside school hours, maintenance and bookings will be managed by Active Canberra and it will be primarily used by Capital Football and its affiliated clubs.

On that note, I want to mention that the first game of the new women's premier league, which was announced by Capital Football yesterday, will be played at Melrose on Sunday at 10 am, and I encourage everybody to get along to that game. I caught up with the club's representative at the launch yesterday. This is the first year in which a women's competition has been given equal billing with the men's. I want to congratulate Capital Football and also the work of local football clubs who have been consistently promoting their girl's and women's teams towards an equal league. I know players of all ages, abilities and both genders will enjoy the experience of playing on this new synthetic pitch.

Melrose high will also have a role in maintaining the new natural grass field and the upgraded sport hard courts and the new car park.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, what new technologies have been used in the facility and how could these apply to other facilities in future?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the question. The popularity of synthetic sports surfaces is growing fast. A number of sports, local governments and other facility providers have embraced new technologies for their durability and easier maintenance. The Melrose pitch has been designed and constructed in accordance with FIFA requirements. As part of the project, a FIFA official is required to inspect the facility and certify that the construction of the synthetic grass field has been completed in line with their requirements. A shock pad has been installed below the synthetic grass surface, which is an impact-absorbing layer to make it safer for players and means the bounce of the ball is closer to that of natural grass.

New synthetic technologies are particularly useful to assist in meeting the high demand requirements for formal sporting usage. As a guide, a synthetic grass facility can accommodate usage for up to 60 hours per week without affecting the playing surface. In comparison, a natural grass field can accommodate approximately 25 hours per week in a climate like ours in Canberra. The new facility also includes a significant drainage system that will ensure it can still be used during significant rain.

Obviously, we will look at the experience at Melrose in considering future infrastructure project developments like this one. The use of synthetic grass technologies has been embraced by a number of sports, particularly football and hockey. As technology keeps progressing and more sports come on board, we can certainly set our sights on future opportunities for other sports.

Crime—offences while on bail

MR HANSON: My question is to the Attorney-General. Attorney, the DPP has provided the following two cases as examples in their latest annual report. I will quote from that report, "While the accused was on bail in respect of these offences he was arrested and charged with committing further, even more serious, family violence offences against his partner." Another example in the report is, "The accused was charged with family violence offences against his girlfriend in October 2015. At the

time he was on bail. The accused was granted bail several times in relation to these offences.” Attorney, what repercussions currently exist for those who offend while on bail?

MR RAMSAY: I thank the member for his question. There are obviously a number of matters when cases are before the court. There are ways in which the court can consider and the police can consider breaches of bail. That is a matter always for the courts to do. They are able to do that in effect with a range of possibilities under the legal system that we have. When matters are taken before the courts, courts are able to consider any situations in terms of the way that bail is considered for the future.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, the attorney is answering. If you want another question, you can have it in your supplementary. Attorney, please continue.

MR RAMSAY: There is a range of ways. Bail can be revoked. People can be taken with further charges. Depending on what the case is, there is a range of possibilities. There is a range of circumstances. It is not possible to go through one by one all of the circumstances that are the case for a range of legal provisions.

MR HANSON: Attorney-General, why is data about people offending whilst on bail not being kept by your department, because clearly the DPP is aware of circumstances occurring?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Hanson for his supplementary. We have canvassed a number of matters in relation to the integrated case management system which is being introduced across the legal system and across the court system and—

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, enough is enough. The attorney is answering the question, and you started interjecting within 15 seconds. Attorney, please continue.

MR RAMSAY: Thank you. The integrated case management system is being implemented across the court system. It has been implemented in ACAT already. The second stage has already been implemented in the civil jurisdiction, and it is being implemented by mid-2018 in the criminal jurisdiction. We have discussed in the annual reports hearing the way it is to be implemented and the effect the new reporting system—

Mr Hanson: On a point of order, if I could, on relevance: the question directly is why is that data not being collected now? The Attorney-General is talking about what might happen in the future. Why is that data not being collected? Is there a reason why?

MADAM SPEAKER: I do not think there is a point of order. He is answering around data collection. Attorney.

MR RAMSAY: The data collection system is under constant review, and part of the way that we have looked at in terms of the review and the ongoing improvement of the system is the integrated case management system.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, can you tell us about the DPP's new bail review power?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for her supplementary. The bail review power is one of the important ways that the conditions around bail have been considered over time. The bail review amendments that went through this Assembly last year are important when there are concerns around a serious offender. The bail review power means that the Director of Public Prosecutions will have a limited amount of time to be able to call for a review by the Supreme Court of a decision that has been made by a magistrate. It is one of the ways that we are working quickly and effectively to ensure the ongoing improvement of our bail system and the ongoing security of our legal system in this city.

SHOUT—government support

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion. Minister, yesterday in the *Canberra Times* it was reported that—and I quote:

SHOUT, which has been pleading with ACT Health for alternative funding since last August, has been told by Territory ministers it should seek funding from the NDIS even though many of its member groups have a health, not a disability, focus, and even though it does not meet NDIS funding criteria.

The ACT bureaucracy, pushed outside its comfort zone by an administrative change it has seen coming for more than five years, appears to have put the needs of thousands of ill and disabled Canberrans into the too hard basket rather than risk coming up with an innovative solution. It is time for the ACT Government to find a way to break this impasse and help keep this low-cost, highly valued—

MADAM SPEAKER: Is there a question, Ms Lee?

MS LEE: This is a quote. It continues:

community organisation doing what it does best—serving our community.

Minister, given that—

MADAM SPEAKER: I do apologise, Ms Lee. I thought you were just talking.

MS LEE: Minister, given that that is not the first time there have been reports that SHOUT funding is not within the NDIS ambit, why is it that you have continually asked SHOUT to apply for funding under the NDIS?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I note that I am taking this in my capacity as Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. SHOUT is currently funded under NDIS. It is

currently funded by the commonwealth government under a transitional funding arrangement that was put in place during the transition to the information, linkages and capacity building scheme implementation.

Mr Coe interjecting—

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: This transitional funding—

Mr Coe interjecting—

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: from the commonwealth government was negotiated by the ACT government—

Ms Berry: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

Ms Berry: Surely, the leaders in this place can provide a better example and not be continuously interrupting members of the government when they are trying to respond to a question about something that is of serious concern to the ACT community.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Berry. Ms Berry does remind members that every question time there are repeated calls to cease interjecting. Can we finish question time without the banter from the opposition? Thank you. I call the minister for disability.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good luck with that. As I have been saying, SHOUT was funded through the transitional arrangements to ILC from the commonwealth government because the program in Disability ACT that used to fund SHOUT and a number of other organisations was transitioned to the National Disability Insurance Agency as part of our transitional arrangements to the NDIS. Quite a number of community organisations were assessed as to their potential eligibility for ILC during that transitional arrangement. SHOUT was assessed as receiving 100 per cent of its funding during transition because, as CSD officials stated very clearly in the annual report hearings, it was considered that the types of services that SHOUT provides fitted very well into the new NDIS ILC grant program. *(Time expired.)*

MS LEE: What are the member organisations of SHOUT that the ACT government has also put into the too-hard basket?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I completely reject the premise of the question. I have said repeatedly over the past few days that I am working—I, my office, the directorate, the Health Directorate and the Minister for Health—very closely with SHOUT, with other community organisations and with SHOUT members to ensure that the services that SHOUT currently provides to its members will continue or that those members will continue to receive the support they need.

We have been seeking consistently to reassure SHOUT member organisations and associates that the government will continue to get the support they need. This is not helped by members of the opposition constantly making claims that SHOUT has either closed or is about to close and that these member organisations have been abandoned by the government. It is simply not true. We have refuted it on many occasions and I continue to do so.

MR PARTON: Will the ACT government consider waiving SHOUT's annual \$40,000 rent charge?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Parton for his supplementary question. Of course, all of the details of the new funding arrangements are the subject of ongoing discussion between SHOUT, a range of community organisations, the government and the SHOUT member organisations. These are going to be detailed discussions that need to take into account a range of factors. All I can do at this point is assure SHOUT member organisations that we are absolutely committed to making sure they continue to get the support they need.

SHOUT—government support

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. I will quote from an article in the *Canberra Times* where former Chief Minister Jon Stanhope asked:

The ACT government, with a budget of \$5 billion, can't fund \$120,000 to support children with brain injuries, women with breast cancer, children with cancer?

Minister, how did you arrive at this decision about SHOUT given the total resources at your disposal?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I am really not sure that I can add to my previous answers in relation to this question.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why can't your government continue support for SHOUT, given, as former Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said, "every government in Canberra since the 1980s has, for starkly obvious reasons, regarded the funding of SHOUT as a priority"?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: It appears that I will have to repeat what I have previously said on a number of occasions. The government remains committed to working with SHOUT, with other relevant community organisations and with SHOUT members to ensure that SHOUT members continue to be supported and that the transition to any new funding arrangements is as smooth as it can possibly be.

MS LEE: Minister, what exactly is the ACT government going to do, given that you have given numerous reassurances that you have given assurances to the member

groups that you will continue supporting them? What is it that you are actually going to do?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Lee for her supplementary question. I would refer her to the answer I gave to Ms Le Couteur earlier on in question time. Our offices—the office of Minister Fitzharris and my office—and our directorates are, as I said, working with SHOUT and other community organisations. The Community Services Directorate has spoken extensively with SHOUT about the issues and with SHOUT members about ongoing funding.

CSD has spoken with all SHOUT members who would be most affected by the changes and gathered further information that they need. CSD has engaged with ACOSS to progress a solution to this issue. As an immediate step, workshops with members of other community organisations are being arranged as we speak.

I reiterate that we are committed to finding an ongoing sustainable solution for these organisations and supporting them through the transition to new funding arrangements. Unfortunately, I am just not at liberty to talk about the detail of those conversations. But I have had conversations with Ms Lee on this matter. I continue to offer her briefings and she is welcome to come and talk to me any time.

Access Canberra—service delivery

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Minister, how is the new Access Canberra service centre building on the success of the service centre opened in 2015 in Gungahlin to help improve its service delivery in Woden?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for her question. The service centre in Gungahlin, when it opened in 2015, set a new benchmark for an integrated, streamlined customer service model for the ACT government. I was pleased to open the new centre in Woden a few weeks ago. It marked the next step in the government's intention to make it easier for Canberrans to access the services they need to go about their daily lives and to run their businesses. Access Canberra staff are now well established in Woden in a purpose-built environment designed both to offer best practice client service as well as an engaging and exciting workplace for staff.

The service begins with being greeted by a friendly concierge who can either assist you to self-serve for simple transactions at a computer kiosk or select a ticket to see an expert staff member at a counter. This is one of the ways of helping members of the public understand how they can save time by carrying out a number of transactions online. I had a brief go at concierge duties and I can assure you that the Access Canberra staff in these roles are offering an important service which takes extensive knowledge and streamlines the customer service. For more complicated issues, customers can see staff at casual desks or in semi-private booths or in private rooms if they need to sit down and work through complex transactions.

The excellent client service at Woden has already been noticed. Recently a customer wrote to Access Canberra saying, "I went into your Woden branch last Friday afternoon. I walked in upset after a difficult time with a commonwealth agency. I had

both my children with me who were also tired and a little bit difficult. The service and help that I received in particular from three of the people there was amazing. I work for a big commonwealth department and I would love to think, but very much doubt, that we could do the same. If you can keep doing what you did for me, you are doing an amazing job.”

All of this is being done to ensure that government services are being delivered in a way that is easier, simpler and faster.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how does Access Canberra’s new approach in Woden provide both improved customer service and better value for money for the budget bottom line?

MR RAMSAY: Again I thank Ms Cheyne for her supplementary. Access Canberra’s move to Woden is the first major deployment of a fully activated activity-based working environment by the ACT government. It is one more step that Access Canberra is taking to be flexible, to be innovative and to be collaborative in its workplace, and in turn delivering an energetic, motivated workforce and a fast, efficient client service.

By forgoing traditional office features such as executive offices, Access Canberra is now working in an office that feels spacious while requiring 1,300 fewer square metres of office than would a traditional fit-out. This has obvious flow-on benefits in reducing energy costs for such things as lighting and air conditioning. This fit-out was also significantly cheaper than regular office fit-outs, costing only \$791 per square metre once lease incentives that were negotiated by government were applied. These are significant savings, with a traditional fit-out in other comparable government buildings costing well over \$1,000 per square metre. Having more of our staff working in one location also helps Access Canberra deliver better outcomes for its customers.

I was able to observe the way that this innovative office fit-out encourages cooperation amongst staff as well as the energy and motivation that they derive from this unique working environment. By being physically located together and having spaces to break out and work collaboratively, multiple teams are better able to share information, tackle problems jointly and generally provide a more seamless service for Canberrans.

MRS JONES: Minister, regarding Access Canberra, what is the minister’s acceptable time frame for people to wait on the phone to Access Canberra either in their first waiting period or their second waiting period after being put through to the area and then having to wait again? What are the time frames that are reasonable to the government?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mrs Jones for her supplementary question. Access Canberra staff are regularly working on an ongoing basis to be able to improve their role. There has been significant improvement and also significantly improved satisfaction rates.

The time frames are set. I will take on notice the particular time frames for Access Canberra but what I can assure you is that not only has there been improvement, there are also ways of being able to register the increased satisfaction of the people of Canberra. We have a wonderful way as Canberrans of being able to access Access Canberra services. We are getting the feedback that people are well satisfied.

SHOUT—government support

MRS JONES: My question is to Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion. I apologise in advance if it is stressful for the minister, but I think it is quite stressful for SHOUT as well. How can you justify not funding SHOUT while happily spending \$44,000 per year providing an apartment to a light rail official who earns \$600,000 per year?

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, are you taking it under the disability portfolio? The minister for disability.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Thank you, Madam Speaker; I am taking this question as the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. I note that I am not the minister responsible for light rail. I refer Mrs Jones to my previous answers, which, to summarise, indicated how committed I remain, the Minister for Health remains and the ACT government remains to working with SHOUT and other community organisations, particularly with SHOUT members, to ensure that the important services that SHOUT members provide to the people that rely on them—whether that is through peer support, information or community engagement activities—are sustained. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that those organisations are sustained and those activities continue.

MRS JONES: Minister, how can you and the government justify not funding SHOUT at the same time as the LDA has purchased lakeside properties for 10 to 20 times their value?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I would also point out that I am not the minister with responsibility for LDA. I would also go back to an earlier point I made that actually the ACT government does not currently fund SHOUT. SHOUT is currently—

Mrs Jones: But it has.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: funded under the NDIS. Mrs Jones makes the interjection that it has. Yes, the Disability ACT program that previously funded SHOUT was transitioned to the National Disability Insurance Agency as part of the transition to NDIS. This program did not fund only SHOUT. It funded a range of community organisations. An assessment was made of each of those organisations as to whether they fitted into the information linkage and capacity building element of the NDIS.

SHOUT was assessed as absolutely fitting into that and that is why it received 100 per cent of its previous ACT government funding in new funding as part of the transition. But this new funding came from the commonwealth government.

MS LEE: Minister, even if, as you state, it is not the ACT government that is funding it, and that it comes under a commonwealth funding model, how can the ACT government justify not giving \$110,000 to SHOUT?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: As I said earlier today, both prior to the closure of the ILC funding round, and certainly since then, I have been working very closely with the Minister for Health, and our directorates have been working very closely together, to identify alternative or additional sources of funding, recognising the range of organisations that SHOUT supports. We are currently working with other community organisations and with SHOUT members to transition to a new funding arrangement that will ensure that SHOUT members continue to get the support they need to do the important work they do in the community. I would not characterise this as a failure on the part of the ACT government.

Mr Gentleman: Madam Speaker, before we go to the next question, can I raise a point of order?

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr Gentleman: On numerous occasions you have asked the opposition to remain quiet during question time. They have ignored your ruling, Madam Speaker, and continue to interject.

Ms Lawder: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: A point of order, Ms Lawder.

Ms Lawder: I am just wondering what standing order—

Mrs Dunne: When you take a point of order, you usually do it in relation to the standing orders.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, you were most helpful during the week, but I have asked, as the minister has just reminded everyone, the opposition to be quiet during question time. You have asked the minister for disability repeated questions on SHOUT, but not once have you allowed her to provide an answer without interjection. That is showing no respect or regard for your own questioner, let alone other members of this chamber.

Planning—Woden valley

MR PETERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. Minister, can you inform the Assembly about consultation currently underway on proposed changes to the Territory Plan for Woden town centre and Mawson group centre?

MR GENTLEMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Sit down, please, minister. Members of the opposition, you are within a hair's breadth of being warned, and I am very disappointed that it is Thursday and not Tuesday and that it is late in the afternoon for that warning to come. We will continue with question time without interjection. That, in short, means that if there were more hours in the day I would probably warn one of you.

Mrs Jones: Just a question of clarification, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: What is that, Mrs Jones?

Mrs Jones: I am very happy to follow your ruling; I just would like to understand if you actually require absolute silence.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Jones, the standing order says "no interjections". How about we just abide by standing orders for the afternoon? That would be a nice surprise. The Minister for Planning and Land Management.

MR GENTLEMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank Mr Pettersson for his questions. I think it is an exciting time for Woden as we move forward in renewing the area. Earlier this month I was pleased to announce the start of community consultation on two important draft Territory Plan variations. The two draft variations to the Territory Plan implement the recommendations of master plans for Woden and Mawson centres. The proposed changes will guide development and encourage renewal within the Woden town centre and the Mawson group centre.

The variations build on extensive community consultation with residents and businesses on the draft master plan so both centres could become better places for residents and more attractive to employers and employees. These proposed changes to the Territory Plan will implement the planning elements of the master plans. They will clarify the rules around building heights and open the way for new investment proposals to come forward. The variations make zone changes and update the precinct codes to encourage development. Among other things, the zone changes will allow more residences to be built, including medium and high-density housing that gives residents more housing choice and will meet the needs of older people. (*Time expired.*)

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, can you provide further detail on the Territory Plan changes that are proposed and outline the benefits to the community?

MR GENTLEMAN: As I was outlining, there are many benefits to the community from the proposed changes. In summary, the master plan and draft plan variations aim to implement planning changes that will boost livability, drive urban renewal and improve the centre's viability in years to come.

There are several changes proposed in both the Woden and Mawson centres, and I am happy to provide the following summary on some of the key changes: at the Woden

town centre, rezoning selected areas, including parts of the open space area south of the Callum offices, which will permit community facilities; upgrading the residential zoning of land in Woden Green near the corner of Hindmarsh Drive and Athllon Drive to permit higher density development; introducing building heights for the centre, potentially up to 28 storeys as well as selected sites where marker buildings will be permitted to assist identification of the centre; retaining the existing planning requirements for community facilities to be provided within the centre; and proposing additional community facility land for future facilities. The draft variation also includes heritage requirements for the protection of the Callum offices heritage character through height controls around those offices.

For Mawson, retaining the two-storey height limit within the central area to retain solar access to the public space and proposing higher development of four to six storeys for the east of Heard Street and six storeys to the west of Mawson Place are part of the plan. That variation also proposes an allowance for development of up to eight storeys near the south-eastern corner of the Athllon Drive and Mawson Drive intersection as a marker development for the centre, as recommended by the approved master plan. It rezones several areas in accordance with the approved master plan, including land along Athllon Drive proposed to be rezoned from suburban core residential and road reserve to high density residential and urban open space.

MS ORR: Minister, how can the community have their say on these important changes to the Territory Plan?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Orr for her question and her interest in the area. The plan variations 344 Woden and 345 Mawson are available for comment on the your say website until Friday, 21 April this year. I encourage the community to have a look at both draft variations and submit their comments.

Comments can be made via the survey on the your say website, and written comments can also be emailed, mailed or delivered to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. The relevant email and mailing addresses can be found alongside the survey on the your say website.

I am committed to involving the broader community in planning decisions. To this end, staff from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will attend Woden and Mawson centres throughout the consultation period to talk to local people about the plans for where they work, live, shop and socialise.

As I mentioned earlier, the proposed variations to the Territory Plan build on an extensive consultation with residents and businesses on the draft master plans. Ongoing community engagement and consultation with stakeholders and residents was key in the master planning process. It helped to identify what is important about each centre and how their character and quality can be conserved, improved and enhanced.

Feedback from the residents and businesses at this stage will again be invaluable, and I again encourage people to have their say. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will consider all comments when finalising the

Territory Plan variations. Consultation reports will document the comments and how they have been addressed.

Public housing—Northbourne Avenue corridor

MR PARTON: My question is directed to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, in relation to the permanent removal of public housing tenants from Northbourne Avenue, the *Canberra Times* on 24 June 2014 reported you as saying, “They should be allowed to stay; it’s a responsibility for all of us. I think many years ago people remember when we weren’t as good with the salt and peppering and there were pockets of disadvantage created as a result of that. We don’t want that to happen again.” On 20 January 2015, the *Canberra Times* reported that you were concerned that the redevelopment would “push tenants out of the city and turn Northbourne into a zone of ‘posh’ apartments for the rich.” Minister, why are you now turning the public housing sites along Northbourne Avenue into “posh” apartments for the rich?

MS BERRY: That is correct; I did say that. That is why I am making sure, as minister, that in the renewal of public housing there is still public housing available for tenants within the city and within the corridor. It is important that people who are in public housing and are being moved out of their homes during this process into new, more suitable housing that best meets their needs have choice about where they live. In the conversations that the task force has been having with these tenants—with the support of organisations like northside community services, Woden community services, ACT Shelter and a number of others—tenants are telling us very clearly that they want to have the same choices and options that the rest of us would like, all across the city.

We are continuing to renew and purchase public housing within the Northbourne corridor and within the city so that people have the choice to live in the city, if that is what they prefer. We are also providing housing all across the city, in Belconnen, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong, Woden and Weston Creek, so that public housing tenants have a choice about where they live that best suits their needs as we go through this renewal program.

MR PARTON: Minister, are you building any public housing on Northbourne Avenue itself as distinct from the broader corridor?

MS BERRY: I think what the member is referring to is the corridor. When we are talking about the—

Mr Parton: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Point of order?

Mr Parton: Yes, my point of order is that I am specifically asking about Northbourne Avenue—on Northbourne Avenue. It is a point of order on relevance; so it is on Northbourne Avenue itself.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Parton. Minister for Housing and Suburban Development.

MS BERRY: Yes. For Northbourne Avenue at the moment there are no plans to build public housing on the corridor at this time. But there are opportunities in the future. As I said, we want to make sure that public housing tenants have as much choice as they can for housing that best suits their needs, whether that is housing for different abilities, whether they need housing to be closer to schools so that they can have their children close to their schools, whether they are having relationships with members in their community that they want to stick by, whether they want to be closer to shopping centres or further away from shopping centres.

They want the same kinds of choices that each of us has every day about where we want to live in Canberra. Housing ACT and the renewal taskforce are talking with our tenants on a regular basis to ascertain what their needs are. Then we are building housing that best suits their needs in the suburbs and areas where they want to live.

MR STEEL: Minister, how will the new public housing improve on existing housing along Northbourne Avenue?

MS BERRY: The new housing that is being built as a result of the task force will be replacing some of the older, outdated public housing on the Northbourne Avenue corridor that is cold in winter, hot in summer—

Mr Coe: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Sit down, minister. A point of order.

Mr Coe: It is on relevance. The question was about how the new housing will replace—the benefits over the older housing on Northbourne Avenue. Therefore I ask the Deputy Chief Minister to be relevant to the original question.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, there is no point of order. Can you continue, Ms Berry. You have one minute and 22 seconds, minister, to complete your answer.

MS BERRY: The quality of the new housing that is being developed to replace some of this older housing is quite remarkable. It is being developed all across the city, as I said, in the city, in Tuggeranong, in Gungahlin.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, enough is enough. Can you be quiet?

MS BERRY: Madam Speaker, with the next public housing that is expected to be completed, I would invite Mr Parton to have a look with me at the public housing, with the public housing champions, as part of the tenants group who have been with us along the way, providing advice to the ACT government and Housing ACT about the suitability of the housing. They have also been incredibly supportive of the quality

of the build of the new public housing that will be provided to tenants in the ACT and that will best suit their needs. I absolutely welcome Mr Parton to come along. I have also invited Ms Le Couteur to come along. I again extend that invitation to her. It is important that people get the chance to see what a great quality build this is, and what a difference it will make to people's lives when they have decent homes.

ACT Health—mental health data submissions

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Mental Health. Minister, did you ask questions at any stage between November 2016 and February 2017 about whether the Health Directorate had met the deadline for the submission of mental health data to the AIHW for inclusion in the ROGS report? If not, why not; and if so, what did the directorate tell you?

MR RATTENBURY: I have had a number of conversations with the Health Directorate in the period that Mrs Dunne asked about. I owe Mrs Jones a response on notice, which I will provide shortly after question time with some more of that detail. What I can directly say in response to Mrs Dunne's question is that I have talked to them about it. I expressed my concern at the lack of ACT data in the AIHW and ROGS reports. I have discussed why that has happened, and I have discussed with the Health Directorate what they are doing to respond to it and to ensure that it does not happen again.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, do you hold weekly meetings with the Director-General of Health or other senior health officials? If yes, how often did health officials keep you updated about the progress of submission of mental health data?

MR RATTENBURY: As a matter of schedule I do. Some weeks I miss out or it gets shifted around. Some weeks there are two meetings, depending on what is going on. The general answer to Mrs Dunne's question is yes. In terms of the frequency with which I discuss this issue, certainly since probably mid to late January it has been more or less a weekly topic of conversation.

MR COE: Minister, has your directorate established whether the data issues have impacted or could impact the level of commonwealth funding for mental health services in Canberra?

MR RATTENBURY: I can certainly assure Mr Coe that it is not impacting on the treatment of individuals, let us be clear about that to start with. In terms of his broader question, I do not believe so, but I will seek further advice and confirm any more specific details.

Disability services—government support

MS ORR: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. Minister, what is this government doing to promote connection and participation in our community for people with disability?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Orr for her question, because I have not had enough questions today, Madam Speaker. It is a very timely question as the fourth Connect and Participate Expo is on this Saturday, 25 March. The expo is a demonstration of our commitment to ensuring that people of all abilities feel included in Canberra, not just in getting a job or in accessing services but in being able to do the ordinary social activities that many Canberrans take for granted.

We all know that people with a disability often face barriers in connecting with interest groups and with clubs. This social exclusion can be linked to health risks, both physical and mental. As a free event, the CAP expo, helps Canberrans of all abilities and ages to join groups and build social connections around common interests.

The CAP expo seeks to ensure that all Canberrans can enjoy, connect and participate in the social and creative life of our city. I would encourage all members to attend the expo this weekend. Transport Canberra offers a free, accessible bus service to the CAP expo, running a loop between the Civic interchange and the old bus depot building between 11 am and 2 pm this Saturday.

Given my colleagues' interest, I would also flag that the 938 service from Woden interchange stops on Wentworth Avenue just near the old bus depot where the expo is being held and, of course, off-peak travel would be free for senior and concession MyWay cardholders as part of the government's current trial.

MS ORR: Minister, what sorts of groups and organisations can we expect to see at CAP Expo?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: There will be over 110 stallholders at the CAP expo this weekend, with a variety of different groups represented, from sport and recreation groups to craft, music, performing arts, hobbyist, social and special interest groups.

On Saturday, the groups who will display at the expo include Bellyup Bellydance, a belly dance school and performance troupe based in Tuggeranong. They are a family-friendly group and share their love of belly dance with women of all ages and abilities.

Capital Petanque club will also be there, a group of players with an interest in promoting the social French bowling game. It can be enjoyed by Canberrans of any age and athletic ability. All you need is three boules and you are ready to play.

Friends of the National Arboretum, a community organisation dedicated to supporting the arboretum as it evolves into a unique attraction of international renown, will also be represented at the CAP expo. This organisation always welcomes new volunteers, and you do not need to have any particular experience of expertise in things botanical.

Many of these groups will also be providing "come and try" activities such as tai chi, Royal Scottish country dancing, and fencing. There will be dance performances,

bands playing, choirs singing and demonstrations from martial arts groups, so it should be a very interactive and fun-filled day on Saturday.

MS CODY: Minister, how can each of us get involved in achieving change that empowers people with disability to participate and reach their full potential as equal and valued citizens?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for her supplementary question. I have seen Ms Cody at a number of disability sports events, including at Sailability, and other activities.

The ACT government is committed to ensuring people with disability are given every opportunity to participate in the community. That is because we recognise and value all Canberrans as part of our unique city. One way in which we are doing this is through INVOLVE, the ACT's commitment to the national disability strategy. INVOLVE aims to mobilise all areas of our community to act together for change.

INVOLVE offers Canberrans the opportunity to make a commitment to make our city more inclusive for Canberrans of all abilities. For example, the National Multicultural Festival team pledged to ensure that the festival was more inclusive of people with disability and took practical steps to ensure that getting around the festival was easier, as I have mentioned before in this place.

Another way we can demonstrate what an inclusive community we have in Canberra is simply to recognise and acknowledge the actions of individual Canberrans and clubs who take a stand. For example, not this coming Saturday but the one after, on 1 April, the annual FEVER football carnival takes place at Tuggeranong United. FEVER, or Football for EVERYone, was founded by young Canberran football enthusiast Claire Falls after she was diagnosed with low vision in 2013. Claire found ways to continue to play the game of football and, through FEVER, raises the awareness of disability issues in football and in sport more broadly.

I encourage people to follow Claire's example, or to explore the INVOLVE website at www.involvecbr.com.au, and consider how they can make the Canberra community even more inclusive.

Mr Barr: As frustrating as it is to end this party, I ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper so that we can go on to talk about the importance of renewal in the Woden town centre.

Supplementary answers to questions without notice Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I took a question on notice earlier today about the number of young people who were at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre at the time of an incident on 6 May last year. There were four young people in the centre. For the information of members, there were, in terms of staff, two unit managers, two team leaders, six youth workers and three staff attending buddy shifts. On the oval, at the time of the incident—contrary to public reports—there were three young people. With

the three young people there were two youth workers and one of the new staff undertaking a buddy shift.

Mr Steel: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, Mrs Jones just said that the Chief Minister was misleading the Assembly. It is unparliamentary language.

MADAM SPEAKER: I did not hear it, but if you did you would need to withdraw it, Mrs Jones.

Mrs Jones: I withdraw.

Greyhound racing—government policy

MR RAMSAY: Further to my response to a question asked yesterday by Mr Parton, I can advise that all of the questions that I took on notice from Mr Parton in relation to greyhounds at the annual report hearing on gaming and racing on 8 March have been responded to. Those responses were received by the committee on 16, 17 and 20 March. I understand that, as Mr Parton is not a member of the committee, he would not have had visibility of this, although I have been advised by Mr Parton today that he has received a copy of those answers. I was, however, in error when I said that the responses were already recorded in *Hansard*. I wish to correct the record on that matter.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—unemployment

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Yesterday I took a question on notice from Mr Milligan. I gave some further information after question time yesterday, but I realised on reviewing the *Hansard* that I had taken it on notice to get back to him in relation to the broader question of employment support outside of the ACT public service. I have some further information for Mr Milligan on that.

The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs manages an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarship grants program, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to undertake study and training, education, professional and personal development.

As I mentioned, the ACT public service has a strong commitment. For example, Housing and Community Services encourage sustainable engagement and participation of specific cohorts in their total facility management contracts. As an example of the way that the ACT public sector is supporting the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in private sector employment, the Spotless contract, for example, in 2014-15 had a minimum target of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment of 10 people.

Over the last couple of years, the CBR Innovation Network created and ran an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business development and entrepreneurship program, which included a yarning circle, some workshops, a promotional video to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses in the ACT and a trade show, which I attended last year.

The ACT government was also an early signatory to Supply Nation, which is a business-to-business membership body to help identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses for organisations that are looking to improve supply. The ACT government includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses as a priority under its social tendering policy. I hope that information is of interest to Mr Milligan.

ACT Health—mental health data submission

MR RATTENBURY: Yesterday Mrs Jones asked me about matters relating to the mental health data submission, specifically whether my office advised me that we had received an advance copy of the ROGS report in mid-January and that the ACT had failed to submit data on time for publication. What I can inform Mrs Jones is that I was briefed by the health executive on 9 January about the issue and, yes, my office did indicate to me that we received an advance copy.

Personal explanation

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (3.52): Pursuant to standing order 46, I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Do you claim to have been misrepresented?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please proceed.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: On his website today Mr Milligan claimed that yesterday in question time I was, “Laughing at the plight of the unemployed Indigenous people.” “The minister laughed and then joked that employment was the responsibility of the commonwealth government.” He goes on to claim that I have a lack of interest in the many issues impacting Indigenous Canberrans.

I claim to have been misrepresented by Mr Milligan. I have reviewed the *Hansard*, which clearly shows that I was asked this question as Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations yesterday. In that context, I thought it was important to make it clear that the ACT Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations does not cover the issue of employment support, which is, indeed, a commonwealth issue, but then I said:

However, the ACT government—

At which point the opposition interjected loudly, and I may have smiled or laughed at something they said in their interjection. Madam Speaker, I categorically deny that I was in any way laughing at the plight of unemployed Indigenous Canberrans. I would never do such a thing. Also, I made the effort yesterday to provide further

information to Mr Milligan to expand on my answer yesterday. As soon as the *Hansard* came through yesterday afternoon I sent it through to my directorate and asked for some further information so that I could provide it to Mr Milligan. As for my claimed lack of interest in the many issues impacting Indigenous Canberrans, I absolutely and categorically refute that.

I would note that I wrote to Mr Milligan on his becoming the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs and offered him a briefing on any matter in relation to that portfolio in which he was interested, and I now renew that offer. Mr Milligan is always welcome to ask me for a briefing on any matter. Of course, this is an issue where we would prefer that we took a bipartisan approach to some of Canberra's most vulnerable people.

Leave of absence

Motion (by **Mr Gentleman**) agreed to:

That leave of absence be granted to Ms Fitzharris for this sitting due to her attendance at a ministerial council meeting.

Motion (by **Mr Wall**) agreed to:

That leave of absence be granted to Mr Doszpot for this sitting due to family reasons.

ACT Children and Young People Death Review Committee— report Paper and statement by minister

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (3.56): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Children and Young People Act, pursuant to subsection 727U(5)—ACT Children and Young People Death Review Committee—Retrospective Review—Progress in the ACT between 2004 and 2013—Report, dated 28 January 2017.

I ask leave to make a statement in relation to the paper.

Leave granted.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: The Children and Young People Death Review Committee exists to help ministers and directorates that operate services relating to children and young people understand and learn from the deaths of children and young people who live in the ACT. Every death of a child or young person is, of course, a tragedy and where these can be prevented we must ensure we are doing everything we can to prevent them. Understanding how and why children and young people die better equips us to achieve this.

Madam Speaker, in this report the Children and Young People Death Review Committee has adopted a social determinants of health framework to review the deaths of children and young people between 2004 and 2013. This means that the committee has examined the broader causes and risk factors, not just the immediate cause of death. The committee has recognised that these sad events are generally not the result of individual choices and that their causes can only be addressed by systemic change.

The social determinants of health framework looks at the ways we live our lives, our health, our safety, our vulnerability, the way we interact with our environment, even our own individual characteristics. These are the indicators used to consider the deaths of children and young people and what these deaths might tell us.

The committee found that, over the 10 years between 2004 and 2013, the leading causes of death of our children and young people were consistent: namely, cancers and birth defects. It also found that there was a reduction over the period in the proportion of children and young people whose deaths were avoidable. This is obviously a positive outcome, but it does not mean we should rest on our laurels and assume the trend will simply continue.

In particular, although fewer deaths occurred over the period as a result of our built environments, transport accidents and drowning occurred most frequently. This tells us that we need to remain vigilant on road and water safety. Members will be aware that water safety was a particular focus over the past summer, following a number of tragic deaths by drowning. In relation to our broader social and economic indicators, there was little change over the 10-year period, with health, safety and vulnerability indicators remaining steady over time.

It is extremely disappointing, of course, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people were over-represented in the deaths examined, with a relative risk of dying almost three times higher than other children and young people.

The committee also identified some gaps in the data that is currently held around disadvantage and diversity. The committee is looking at ways to capture this information so that we can better understand those aspects and how they are represented in child and youth mortality in the ACT.

Better systems and improved culture around information sharing will shape the way we support and protect young people. The key recommendation of this report is the need for government and related support services to improve the systems and culture

for sharing information in the interests of protecting vulnerable children. To this end, the committee has recently contributed to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate family safety coordinator-general's community consultation on information sharing to improve the response to family violence in the ACT.

The committee will continue to monitor and review the deaths of children and young people in the ACT. It has undertaken to tighten feedback loops between agencies and entities that will benefit from the evidence the committee develops. The committee will also seek to establish a reporting mechanism with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

Madam Speaker, the government is committed to working towards the prevention of avoidable deaths of children and young people in the ACT, and I commend *Retrospective: Progress in the ACT between 2004 and 2013*, a report by the ACT Children and Young People Death Committee.

Woden town centre

Discussion of matter of public importance

MADAM SPEAKER: I have received letters from Ms Cheyne, Ms Cody, Mrs Dunne, Mrs Kikkert, Ms Le Couteur, Ms Lee, Ms Orr, Mr Pettersson, Mr Steel and Mr Wall proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, I have determined that the matter proposed by Ms Cheyne be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The importance of renewal in the Woden Town Centre.

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (4.01): I am pleased to rise today to talk about the importance of renewal in the Woden town centre. As a resident of the Belconnen town centre, I know just how important town centres are for creating a dynamic community in Canberra's suburbs. Woden town centre is no exception; it is a diverse hub of good food, retail spaces and beautiful bushland for the community to discover and enjoy.

For example, take a walk around Woden town centre and you may find Cafe Ink. Tucked away inside the walls of the Woden town centre, those who stumble upon it will not only find some of the best Burmese curry in Canberra but also a remarkable story of social inclusion and strength in the face of adversity. Since 2014 Cafe Ink has been run by Loka Chanmi and his family. Loka came to Canberra in 2000 as a refugee from Burma, having lived in camps along the Burma-Thailand border. Loka now runs the cafe as a social enterprise. As a patron, you can get a cup of top-notch locally roasted coffee, freshly baked bread, meals made with local produce and organic vegetables from Pialligo. Behind the counter, Cafe Ink is offering employment opportunities and culinary skills for those who are marginalised from the mainstream labour market, including refugees and migrants.

Human stories like Loka's demonstrate that Woden town centre has a strong community with a big heart and is full of hidden gems to discover. That is why it is so disappointing that Woden has been let down in recent years by an indifferent federal Liberal government. The exodus of federal public servants from Woden has been

hammering local businesses since 2014. The federal environment and veterans' affairs departments have both left the Woden town centre in recent years.

The Department of Health, which is one of the biggest employers in Woden, has repeatedly cut jobs due to federal budgetary constraints. In 2015 Ross Peake of the *Canberra Times* described Woden as being "mugged" by public service cuts, and I think that is an accurate description. Sadly, a new round of staff cuts from Health was announced as recently as February this year.

The community has repeatedly raised concerns about this abandonment by the federal government. Even in Belconnen, I know too well the effect this abandonment has had, with more cuts to the Australian Bureau of Statistics announced just this week. Even though the department of immigration leaving the Belconnen town centre did not materialise, thanks to a concerted community campaign of which I and many others were part, and with the bipartisan support of our federal members, this had a real effect on community confidence. It would have been economically disastrous.

Against this abandonment, the ACT Labor government recognises the importance of Woden town centre, we recognise the potential of Woden town centre and we recognise the importance of renewal for the Woden town centre. In contrast to the complete abandonment of Woden by the federal Liberal government, Labor is working to revitalise the town centre by injecting new workforces and by building infrastructure to cultivate activity and community.

The government is keen to ensure that the Woden town centre realises its full potential and to bring to the centre the mix of residents, employment, retail, community facilities and open space that is working in other centres. Development in the town centre will be guided by the Woden town centre master plan, which provides a new vision for the centre. The master plan recommends changing planning controls for the centre to increase the amount of high density residential land in appropriate locations and to improve the urban design outcomes of new development. These locations are close to rapid public transport stops, shops and services, and open spaces in the centre to allow for population growth in attractive and convenient areas. Consultation on the draft variations to the Territory Plan is underway, and I encourage all Canberrans to have their say at yoursay.act.gov.au.

Renewal means looking at how people move through the centre. The master plan recommends several improvements to the cycle and pedestrian networks to make walking and cycling easy, convenient and better integrated with the bus station and public transport stops. It recommends converting part of Corinna Street and Bradley Street into a shared zone, improving the roads and intersections and providing new areas of open spaces and parks.

I am pleased to say that the ACT government has already commenced work on these improvements to the paths and cycle infrastructure around the centre. Construction of the Easty Street community path connection to Callam Street and along Easty Street is complete. Design of the Matilda Street separated cycleway and verge upgrade is complete, with construction scheduled to commence in late April 2017.

The government will deliver public safety and public realm improvements to the Woden bus interchange, including the construction of stairs, ramps and lighting, as well as the demolition of redundant structures. We will also design an additional bus depot at Woden for the operation of up to 120 buses, to improve the efficiency of the network. I and others welcome the announcement today of a round table which will be focused on renewal later this year.

Access Canberra's new Woden service centre was officially opened earlier this month. The centre brings together 350 Access Canberra staff from five locations. Up to 750 Health Directorate staff are in the process of relocating to Woden. Many staff have already made the move, with the rest moving in April. That is more than 1,000 new staff in the Woden town centre, to counteract the federal Liberal government's ridiculous move out of the town centre.

The Access Canberra Woden service centre, as we heard in question time today, doubles as a great resource for the Woden community. The community will now have access to more than 200 government services in the one hub. The new centre has also supported the revitalisation of a key building in the area through an innovative and modern fit-out.

Light rail, of course, also presents a huge opportunity to enliven the Woden town centre. Stage 2 of light rail will provide a sustainable transport option for the estimated 210,000 Canberrans who will live, work or study within one kilometre of the city to Woden corridor by 2041. It will also serve to revitalise this corridor, just as we are seeing along Northbourne Avenue.

Woden is already a great place to live and work. Labor, and only Labor, is committed to building on its existing strengths to revamp the town centre and bring new energy and life to the region.

MRS JONES (Murrumbidgee) (4.09): I thank Ms Cheyne for bringing this important matter to our attention today in the chamber. Renewal of the Woden town centre is, of course, very important. I think people in Woden and its surrounds are very aware of the fact that various changes have been occurring in Woden—that there has been a change in employment in the area and there has also been significant investment.

However, coming in here to talk about Corinna Street and Bradley Street really does not resolve this problem: if you sat today in Woden town square, you would be embarrassed by what you saw. There is at least one building which seems to have squatters going in and out of it. If you look from the seats in the town square up above the roofs of the shops, there is a row of about 20 windows, all smashed. If you look at eye level, you see shops from one side to the other, up to where the post office begins, that are covered in graffiti. It is unusual that the government would come in here and defend renewal in the Woden town centre while the grass is dead. The square itself is not managed by local developers; it is an ACT government facility, I presume, and the grass is dead. It is a dust bowl. It has not been in a great shape for a long time, but it has taken a major turn for the worse.

Let us recap what the problems are. The government have been caught completely asleep over what has happened in the Woden town square. Thanks to the community council and the work of some others, it has now been raised in this place as a significant issue. I hope the government have enough interest in their own self-preservation that they will at least address the things that they have complete control over, such as the state of the green spaces in that square.

Other questions need to be answered by people who have access to the information, which is not necessarily me. Who owns the buildings that are falling down? Some of them were vacated long before any federal government cuts of recent times. I was handing out leaflets there in 2012 and in 2008, and there were empty buildings. So what are the barriers to the redevelopment of those properties? I understand some of them, at least, are now privately owned.

When I first came into this place and I started talking about the fact that we had empty petrol station sites all over Canberra that were an eyesore, the then minister in charge, Minister Corbell, had a series of meetings with the owners of those empty petrol station blocks. As a result, at least some barriers were knocked down or there was momentum created and a number of those were redeveloped within that term. Rivett still has an empty block but Chapman, Duffy and other places are looking much better because they do not have weedy, graffiti-covered, falling down, fenced areas in the middle of each suburb.

It is the same matter here: even if it is a private development that is not going ahead, it is incumbent upon the government to use everything at their disposal, to sit down with developers and say, "What is the problem exactly?" I could guess what the problem is. We think that the increase in taxes on those who develop is a disincentive to develop. We had our own policies at the last election to improve on that for the town centres.

Mr Gentleman: How did that work out?

MRS JONES: Mr Gentleman, thanks for asking how that worked out. Our vote in Weston-Woden, percentage-wise, did go up in the last election; thanks very much.

It is a pretty scary sight right now. The graffiti is a disgrace, and I spoke many times in this place in the last term about graffiti. This government does not work very hard on graffiti. The answers that I have had in this place from ministers who have been in charge of city services have been, "Oh, we have programs for young people who are involved in graffiti so they can graffiti in the right places." That is fantastic, but it does not really change the behaviours of those who are tagging, who are showing where they are selling drugs et cetera by putting their marks all over our city. Hindmarsh Drive is a disgrace, and this square is no different.

If there is a will to deal with graffiti in my electorate then I think that would be really welcomed by the community. I would be very happy not to have to continue to bang on about it here. And this square in the middle of Woden is no different. It is absolutely covered in graffiti. There are places in the world where graffiti has been considered to be the starting point for other crimes and where governments have made

a big effort to immediately respond to graffiti. They do not just say, "It's on a property that I don't own, so I don't care." If it is in a public space, especially a place where you are wanting a high level of traffic, or where there is a high level of foot traffic, it really could be a good investment to look after these areas.

I am sad to say that I think the government have been caught with their pants down. One glaring problem is that there is no time line for the resolution of these problems. There is no specific time line for when the grass will be re-sown on the green triangles in that square. There is no particular time frame for changes perhaps to access the bus mall, which is down a windy tunnel and a windy set of stairs. It could be built into a much wider open space; the access from the bus mall could be much easier and there could be a more open experience between one and the other. Maybe that will be considered.

I live not far away from Woden, over in Weston Creek. I know we have seen businesses close down, and cafes closing or struggling. The Australia Post office building is now boarded up; they have obviously moved. We just need to know what the government are doing about it. As residents of the bush capital, Canberrans have pride in the parks and the open lands that ACT government preserve. It gives us a chance to live a good lifestyle for much of the time.

I am seriously concerned about the plans for 28-storey buildings, which are extremely high. I do not know all the details, but I have heard there are plans for 28-storey buildings either on or very close to this site. I can understand why residents would be concerned about that. That is a very significant change. I support building up the town centres, but I would question whether 28 storeys is really the best way to do it. It will leave this square in the shade for much of the year. I am not sure that that will help with the green spaces and the ambience of the area, although it would certainly mean there would be a bigger population wandering around there.

I commend Ms Cheyne for recognising the need for additional revitalisation in Woden. I am more than happy to work with the government and the community to take Woden forward into the future. I would love to see that revitalisation reflecting the master plan and addressing the needs of residents, businesses and consumers who travel to Woden. At the moment, with respect to walking through the town square, I sat there the other day at 5 o'clock, just to take it in for a little while. It was getting dark. People were scuttling through to get to the bus or to the shopping centre. I had company there; I was glad I had company there. So I think there is still plenty of work to do in this area. It is good that we are talking about it, but let us see some plans and some time lines for responses on the town square itself.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.17): I am a Woden resident and of all the places I have lived in in the world, Woden is the place I have lived in the longest. I currently live very close to Woden town centre. My first job in the public service was at the Department of Health, which, as Ms Cheyne mentioned, is no longer in Woden. I worked in both the Alexander and Albemarle buildings. They are the derelict buildings that Mrs Jones was talking about. It is really depressing walking past what used to be really nice places.

I can remember playing volleyball on what were nice grassed areas. Woden, when I was working there, was basically the centre of Canberra. Civic looked like—well, who cared about Civic? Woden was it. I believe that the population centre of Canberra at that time was actually Mawson. It was a very different place. Part of the reason, as Ms Cheyne has said, is the massive decline in employment there, which is largely due to the federal government.

Of course, that is not the only reason for the issues in Woden. Part of it is simply that we have moved the focus in Canberra from the south to the north. That is one of the things that was very obvious in doorknocking over the last election. People's views on the light rail varied on whether or not they thought it was intrinsically a good thing.

But one thing that a lot of people felt, regardless of whether they wanted light rail, was that they too should have a share of whatever was being built. Most people seemed to feel, "Why should the north have all the shiny new toys?" regardless of whether they actually wanted that particular shiny new toy.

I think it is really important that this Assembly and this government look at Woden and Tuggeranong as being parts of Canberra that deserve as much consideration as northern Canberra. In this respect, one of the things I have said is that it is probably a positive for Tuggeranong, Woden and Weston that there actually are now five electorates.

I was previously a member for Molonglo. I can remember that Woden used to be split in half. That is probably one of the reasons there has not been as much development in Woden as those of us who live in Woden, who love Woden, would like to see. It is because it was split between two electorates. Now there are five members for Murrumbidgee who all have an interest in ensuring that Woden, Weston, Kambah and Molonglo all flourish, I think this will be a positive thing for Woden.

I would hazard a guess that that is probably one of the reasons we have this MPI today and we had so many questions today about Woden-related issues. I am very pleased that the ACT government has been doing some work in moving people into Woden, moving workers into Woden, though I do reflect that the situation is quite bizarre. We had the InTACT move from the Callam Offices over to Gungahlin to try and get some employment there; so they were moving from Woden to Gungahlin. Now we are trying to move the jigsaw pieces around. The reality is that the ACT government does not have enough employment to fill the gaps that the federal government has left.

The other thing I should note from an employment point of view is that it is very positive that there is a group called the Phillip traders. Ms Cody, Mr Steel and I have attended their meetings. They are doing their best to encourage local employment and beautification of the areas around Woden from a business point of view.

Higher education is another area of concern. The Murrumbidgee electorate as a whole is lacking higher education. We used to have a CIT. In the 2015-16 budget there was the following commitment:

CIT is actively seeking opportunities to provide a community campus in the Woden Town Centre. The proposed move to Woden would provide CIT with a more modern learning environment and have an advantage of being more accessible for the public and closer to public transport.

That is absolutely spot on. This has been done in Tuggeranong. I understand—Madam Speaker, you would know if I am correct—that it has been a success there. Given that that is the case, could we replicate it in Woden? There are students in Woden. I am sure they would benefit from it.

Also along those lines, the former CIT site is basically fairly empty. We need to see some community consultation and some thoughts about what should happen to this precinct. It has been suggested often that it should be a health precinct. That seems to me to make an awful lot of sense, given that the Woden valley hospital is there. I am showing my age here. It is Canberra Hospital that is adjacent to it. I do not claim to know the answers for sure, except to know that this is a good site, an important site for Woden, and it needs to be sensitively developed.

Talking about sensitive development, community facilities are an area where Woden is sadly lacking. With the closure of the CIT campus, the state of the Woden pool, no child or family centre in Woden or Weston and no arts precinct, Woden does not have a community hub. The situation at present is that community groups in Woden have to meet in one of the three licensed clubs where they are competing for limited space. They have to meet amongst alcohol and pokies, which is not always conducive to those clubs.

The forward estimates in the 2012-13 budget contained half a million dollars over two years for a feasibility and design study for a community hub. That is nearly three years ago. As far as I know, there has been no public sighting of any outcomes from this. There have not been consultations and updates.

The community in Woden deserves a plan of what is going forward for community facilities. The same goes for sporting facilities. I am very pleased that, from a football point of view, things are going forward with Phillip oval and the complex at Melrose high. That is really good, but the ice-skating rink is clearly not in good shape. There has been a commitment to a feasibility study, which will clearly end up with an ice-skating rink somewhere else, despite the fact the Territory Plan has the only possible use for that site being ice-skating.

Again, as far as the pool goes, there is a commitment by the government to a pool in Molonglo, which leads me to the question: what is going to happen to the pool site in Phillip? It would be good for Woden to have a statement as to where sporting facilities are going in Woden, given those two key sporting facilities would appear to be departing. I think the basketball courts have just been demolished—I am trying to get my time lines right—by the Southern Cross Club. Clearly, the gymnasium that was run by the CIT is no longer being used.

I am going to run out of time, but another thing that I must mention is the Woden festival. This was run from 2007 to 2015. It was funded to a small extent by the ACT government and to a large extent by Woden Community Service. It was a really great thing for the community. I would like to see this continue and funding provided for Woden, as is the case with the other town centres for festivals to bring people together.

Arts is a really important part of any community. Woden does not want to see itself as just a dormitory suburb. A big part of the new draft Territory Plan variation is encouraging more high rise residential development, which is all very well and good, but that cannot be the only thing.

Woden should not be just high rise residential with light rail to take residents to more interesting parts of Canberra. That is not a good future for Woden. That is not the future I would like to see. Arts funding is part of making this a more positive, wonderful place to live in. Yes, light rail is a good idea. We need to work on the consultation.

I will briefly say something about the Territory Plan variation. I think it is really important that this maintains the amenity of the Woden town square. There is a real risk with 12-storey development and 28-storey development around it that the sun may never be seen in winter in Woden town square, which I think would be very regrettable.

I think there is a possibility of some land swaps for potentially better outcomes in Woden town square. If this round table happens in Woden I would hope this would be one of the subjects for discussion, because this is somewhere that government and the private sector can work together. Finally, I would like to say that the idea of building a multi-storey car park in the middle of Woden town square is appalling.

MS CODY (Murrumbidgee) (4.27): I thank Ms Cheyne for bringing this very important matter—the importance of renewal in the Woden town centre—to the Assembly today. As we are hearing today from four of our members here—I am the fourth—everybody acknowledges that there are parts of Woden that are due for renewal and reinvigoration.

As I have said many times in this place, I grew up in south Canberra. I grew up in Kambah. Woden was our closest shopping centre. Tuggeranong did not exist for many, many, many years after I was born. That is showing my age. Woden was the closest major shopping precinct. It was much smaller than it is today. Youngs was the shop of choice.

I clearly remember my mother taking my sister and me into Youngs at the end of school holidays every summer to buy our school uniforms for the year. We also used to go there to buy our good clothes—the clothes you were only allowed to wear when you were going out somewhere special, not to run around and get dirty in. Obviously, we also went there to buy birthday presents for our friends to take to the parties that we were going to.

Woden used to be the place that you would hang out as teenagers. You would catch the bus and hang around that horrible, dirty, dark bus interchange that it used to be. It was really, really bad. It was dark; it was dingy. Talking about the sun never getting in, the sun never got into Woden bus Interchange.

I note now that with the new Woden interchange it has been opened right up. The stairs are quite lovely. There is a lift to help people that may not be able to get upstairs get up to the Woden town square. It is lighter; the sun gets in. It is much more enjoyable now to get the bus into Woden, be able to wander around and to sit, as I have heard Mrs Jones mention today, in the Woden town square.

I would also like to reflect on Ms Le Couteur's comments about Woden valley hospital, as it was known many years ago. My sister was born there. It was a lovely little friendly hospital. My father used to own a courier business. We used to deliver products to the Woden valley hospital. I still remember that revolting hill that you had to drive up to get to the emergency department.

Now we have an amazing, wonderful, state of the art Canberra Hospital. It is where my children were born. It is a wonderful facility, and it is located in Woden. It is located in Canberra's geographic heart. I agree, Ms Le Couteur: there are some further health facilities that probably do need to be built in Woden. I understand that we have already started on those things. We have the women's and children's hospital that is part of Woden. We have done some major investment in the Woden hospital, which is also very good.

But I go back to the town centre and the town square. I too used to work at the Department of Health in Woden. I worked there for not very long—eight years; long enough. I too worked in the Alexandra and Albermarle buildings. They were very old then. They were very much in need of being vacated. But we do have to reflect on the number of public service jobs that have been taken out of Woden. That is something that we have heard today and we have heard in the past, but it is something that we really must reflect on.

Woden has been ripped of public servants for years. As we have all mentioned, we have buildings standing vacant. Public servants were housed in those buildings for many, many years. The ACT government is starting to rejuvenate Woden. It is trying to inject public servants back into the Woden town centre. Over a thousand have already moved in. We have the new Access Canberra. That is a wonderful, wonderful place. We heard Minister Ramsay today mention the wonderful things that have happened in the Access Canberra space.

Not only do I have brilliant memories of Woden town centre when I was growing up; I also have some bitter ones of late, some of which we have raised already, some of which we still need to talk about. We need to remember that some people say ideology does not exist in Australian politics today. I would say that what we do in situations like Woden is an example that proves them wrong.

Labor does not believe in leaving it to the market. I note Mr Hanson has been calling on government to intervene. Yes, government is intervening. It is starting to intervene. We are working on bringing light rail stage 2 to Woden. Yes, it will take some time for that to occur, but the benefits that it will bring to Woden town centre and to the people that already live in Woden in some of those newly established apartment buildings will be wonderful.

It will help to improve access and it will help to improve the viability of Woden. Everybody acknowledges, as I have already stated, that parts of Woden are due for renewal. Labor has a plan to deliver that. As we have heard from Minister Gentleman today, we are talking about the Woden master plan. It will be open for comment. It is a wonderful opportunity for people to have their say about what Woden looks like and what they would like it to look like in the future.

I am looking forward to being able to walk out of this place of an afternoon after we finish debating some really important issues for the people of Canberra, jumping on the light rail and going all the way to Woden and eventually to Tuggeranong, I would hope. That is what we see: that light rail will be able to do that. It will be much quicker and much safer than the bus routes that we have today. I am really looking forward to and am excited by that opportunity.

The rezoning and the encouragement of redevelopment is also moving thousands of jobs and residents into the Woden town centre. I understand that Mrs Jones has raised today the issue of heights. This is why we have consultation. People can raise those concerns and they can be looked at by the independent ACT planning authority. We can have those discussions and we will continue to have those discussions. We will see what is right for Woden and what the people and the community really would like to see working for them and for Woden.

I too would like to talk about the upgrade of the Phillip oval. It is a wonderful opportunity to start the process of making Woden spread across that whole precinct and stop looking at Woden town centre as the only part of Woden that is important. The opportunity to finish a football game and walk from there through a lovely revitalised vibrant area is something I think everyone in this place, including the members for Murrumbidgee, will be looking forward to seeing happen. I too cannot wait for that to occur.

I am sure Mr Steel would agree that although this is only the start of the conversation, it has to start somewhere. We are all excited about and looking forward to Woden being rejuvenated. It will be a more wonderful and vibrant place to be. I thank Ms Cheyne for the opportunity to speak to the MPI she has brought to the chamber and for allowing me to talk about some of the memories that I have had about Woden town centre.

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (4.36): It is great that we are all here talking about Woden. There will be, no doubt, some difference of opinion, but the fact that we are talking about Woden is a good thing. It is extraordinary that Ms Cody just said it is the start of a conversation and it is great that we are having this conversation now. My

question is: what has been going on for the past 16 years? This goes to the nub of the issue. This is a government that has neglected Woden. It is not just the town centre; if you go down to Phillip, to the business district there, or you go to the surrounds, you will see that Woden has been left to rot over the past 15 or 16 years by the ACT Labor government. Ms Cheyne says that we are just starting the conversation. This is not a conversation that should have just been started in 2017.

The reality is that the only reason we are having this conversation is the good work of the community council. They have been very active in this space. I commend them for raising this as an issue. I went out with the president of the community council. I posted it on Facebook and put it in my newsletter. Hey presto; we have the Labor Party now starting to pay attention. Regardless, it is good that after 15 years we have people who are paying attention. I commend the community council for what they are doing.

With regard to the buildings that have been vacated, as Ms Cody said, these were buildings that needed to be vacated. They are old; they are unsuitable. But let me quote the person who owns the building. Doma Group general manager Ivan Domazet said:

... the potential lease variation charge and now the proposed Icon Water charge meant the development was “financially unviable” ...

I say that again: the lease variation charge. This is a policy that we took to the last election that would greatly assist in the revitalisation not just of the Woden town centre but of other town centres. It has been stated by people who could get out there and revitalise Woden, but they are being hamstrung in doing that because of the punitive tax regime of the ACT Labor government.

With regard to the loss of jobs in Woden, I am sure we all regret that. But let me make it very clear and put it on the record: the jobs that were cut were cut by the federal Labor government. The decision to cut 14,500 jobs was made by the federal Labor government.

There are members here who were not here last term and involved in this debate. I refer you to parliamentary hearings on the hill on 13 November 2013, in the lead-up to the last election, about the decision to cut jobs, to put those job cuts in. Let me go to evidence provided by Mr David Tune, who was the Secretary of the Department of Finance. He made it very clear—I can give you the media article from the *Canberra Times* if you like—that Labor’s public service cuts could hamper the coalition’s plans. The reality is that with the vast bulk of the cuts that we saw, the decision was made by the federal Labor government.

There is evidence; you can go to the federal parliament website and have a look at the evidence in the transcript or go to the media articles about this. Let me quote:

In a Senate estimates hearing on Monday, Finance Department secretary David Tune said the “raw” data underpinning the 14,500 number had been progressively placed on the public record as the decisions were made by Labor.

That is from a media article, “Labor’s public service job cuts could hamper coalition’s plan”, by Noel Towell on 19 November 2013. That is the fact. They are the facts on this.

I do not like those job cuts. I do not care who is doing it, whether it is Kevin Rudd with his meat axe—he said he was going to take a meat axe to the federal public service, and then the federal Labor Party was cutting jobs—or someone else. It continued under the coalition. I do not want to see any job cuts. But if we are going to have this debate, if you want to play the blame game, as has been happening, it is not helpful to try to blame the feds while the ACT Labor government has done nothing for the past 15 years to support the Woden town centre. That is the grim reality.

When opportunities have arisen to have a better tax regime and get rid of the lease variation charge in the town centres, the Labor Party has ignored them. When there is an opportunity to relocate public servants, a significant number of public servants, from the ACT public service into Woden or other town centres, what have we done? We are building a brand-new \$400 million building in the car park here. While we have got vacant buildings in Woden, while we know that we need to revitalise Woden, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and other town centres, what is this government doing? It is building a big, new, shiny building right opposite the ACT Assembly to put everybody in. It is exactly the wrong thing to do.

They are putting jobs into Woden now, after having cut a whole bunch of other jobs. What happened to the CIT? It was relocated, moved out of that area. We are also going to see significant numbers of people move from the Canberra Hospital, previously called the Woden hospital, as we talked about, to Belconnen, under the north-side hospital plan. There are a lot of job movements going on, but the net effect is insignificant. We had an opportunity here to make sure that the ACT public service was dispersed across this town. Instead, the ACT government made the decision to put all its eggs in one basket in a new building.

There is a lot that needs to be done in the Woden town centre, in Phillip. I invite members to go down and have a look. Mrs Jones, Andrew Wall, the shadow minister for business, and I have done a lot of work to try to revitalise that area. Very little, if anything, has been done. The only initiative that the Labor government came up with essentially was to put in paid parking in Phillip. That is the only thing that they have come up with in recent history to help out that area.

It is good that we are having a conversation, but I am disappointed that, as Ms Cody says, this is the start of the conversation. This should have been an ongoing conversation. This should have been the end of the conversation that would have kept Woden town centre and its surrounds to the standard that we all once appreciated. It has been left to rot over the past 16 years of this ACT Labor government.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (4.43): I thank Ms Cheyne for submitting this matter of public importance on renewal in the Woden town centre. There is a growing optimism about Woden town centre’s future. Despite negativity from some quarters, including those opposite, Woden has a positive future. The ACT government is committed to

rejuvenating Woden as part of our vision to make Canberra a more vibrant and livable city.

One of the reasons I stood for election last October was to help in delivering this investment of rejuvenation to Woden. As a long-term resident of Woden, I know that the town centre is in need of urban renewal. While Canberra's economy is diversifying, we are still reliant in many ways on the federal government. It is upsetting that Woden has been so hurt by the federal Liberal government decisions so many times, including with the recent announcement of up to 250 more jobs to go at the commonwealth Department of Health just this month. Don't regret it: advocate; do something about it. Speak to your senator, Mr Seselja, and get him to do something for once. He claims to stand up for public servants in Belconnen, but apparently that is not good enough for Woden.

These cuts are symbolised by the Alexander and Albermarle buildings, as well as our virtually empty Lovett Tower. Woden cannot rely on public servants anymore for its future, though, and it does need further private and government support to kickstart urban renewal.

I am pleased to report from my conversations in the community over the past few months that a sense of optimism about Woden's future is returning. The ACT government has moved an additional thousand public servants into Woden in the Health Directorate and Access Canberra, which will be complete very soon. There have also recently been completed upgrades to the Woden bus interchange and Phillip Oval as well as ACT government support for the new Abode Hotel in Juliana House, an adaptive re-use project.

So we have had significant investment already. Another catalyst for renewal will be the investment in light rail stage 2 to Woden, which the Liberals categorically do not support. Contracts will be signed within this term of government. Light rail is already bringing renewal at Northbourne Avenue, and it will do the same in Woden. This is such an important project for Woden's renewal. Light rail will mean more people living close to public transport and services enlivening Woden's public spaces and providing demand for local business, which benefits the whole community. More people living in our town centres is an opportunity for quality design and development to take place and to keep the open spaces and low density in our suburbs that make them such great places to live.

It is also encouraging to see the sale of a half-stake in Woden Plaza by Westfield to Perron Investments for \$335 million in December. I am hopeful that this sale foreshadows upgrades to Woden Plaza. The last substantial upgrade was in the 1990s, and despite a fondness for the plaza by many locals, upgrades would be welcomed.

Surrounding suburbs in Woden valley are thriving. They are sought after by home buyers, with well planned communities, an abundance of parks, good schools, Canberra's major hospital—which we continue to invest in—and a growing cafe culture. With a population of 400,000, set to grow to 421,000 by 2020, we need to

mitigate this growth by building vital infrastructure like light rail now and making sure that we set up Woden for future growth.

It is important to distinguish between the recent development in Curtin and future developments at Woden town centre. Woden has a completed master plan providing clear guidance for developers and height limits consistent with a town centre setting. I get a strong sense from the community that they want urban renewal to take place in Woden town centre.

This month the ACT government opened the draft variation of the Territory Plan for Woden town centre to public consultation. This is an important step for delivering the objectives of the Woden town centre master plan. It will guide future development in the town centre. That does not mean that just any development should happen; urban renewal also means demanding quality design and construction rather than just accepting monoliths. Recent developments like Hindmarsh's Bellerive, and Trilogy apartments as well, have seen improved architecture, though I recognise this is a subjective view. It is pleasing to see new development applications being made for more interesting residential properties, and we want this investment to continue. I hope people in the community have their say about these developments. These sorts of developments and upgrades can significantly enhance community spaces while also maintaining open spaces in our city.

While the ACT's planning processes are generally good, there are some limitations. The planning process fails to reach many people in our community, like young people and working families, who have a legitimate stake in consultation. Chief Minister Andrew Barr has already raised this concern publicly. While the planning process offers the community some input into development, this can be late in the process. In this sense, consultation during the master planning process for Woden was a much more strategic and constructive discussion. These types of discussions, I think, yield much more value to our community in the long term.

The master planning process should not stop at the point where ACTPLA publishes the final plan. I believe that delivering Woden town centre's master plan's objectives should be the source of ongoing discussion between government, planners, developers, businesses and the community. That is why on 3 March I proposed that the ACT government host a round table to discuss the delivery of the master plan and start better communication between all stakeholders about planning, urban renewal and transport in the Woden town centre. I was pleased that today in question time the Chief Minister responded to my call by agreeing to host a government round table as part of a pop-up cabinet in mid-2017 at the Woden town centre. By involving all parts of the community I believe this round table will help to turn plans for Woden into renewal that benefits all Canberrans.

Discussion concluded.

Adjournment

Motion (by **Mr Gentleman**) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

ACT Playgroups Association

MRS JONES (Murrumbidgee) (4.49): I rise today to speak about the ACT Playgroups Association and the wonderful contribution it has made to the Canberra community, in particular for parents with young children.

In April 1973, 15 mothers met in Torrens community hall to form Canberra's first community playgroup. By April 1974 there were 73 playgroups operating in the Canberra area. Today there are over 200 playgroups in the ACT, with nearly 2,200 families enjoying playgroup experiences each year.

The ACT Playgroups Association is a non-profit community organisation committed to providing quality services and support to families with young children across our region. Playgroups not only give children the chance to have fun, make new friends and develop skills through informal play, but also enable parents and carers to meet new people and spend quality time with their children in a relaxed environment.

ACT Playgroups is one of the many organisations that fall under the administration of SHOUT, which will be allowed to die, potentially within a few months, thanks to the failure by the ACT government to extend its funding at this point in time. Along with the hundreds of parents and carers who rely on government funding to support their playgroups, I am deeply distressed and disturbed to hear that help for SHOUT, and subsequently for ACT Playgroups, has been deemed to be a little too hard at the moment. Even Jon Stanhope has jumped in to support SHOUT, saying:

The ACT government, with a budget of \$5 billion, can't fund \$120,000 to support children with brain injuries, women with breast cancer, children with cancer?

I would like to add that it is unbelievable that the government cannot at this stage promise clear support for playgroups all around the ACT that bring together over 2,000 parents and children every week.

The parents who have contributed to running these playgroups over the years cannot be thanked enough. Simply by bringing together their fellow parents and their children, you are enabling people to make friends, share ideas and have fun. There are also cultural playgroups. There are multi-language playgroups that are run by the Playgroups Association. There are religious playgroups. I would also like to mention president Eric Chalmers, vice-president Kathryn Moffatt and all the backroom staff and volunteers who keep this association running behind the scenes.

In closing, I thank ACT Playgroups for the work they have done in bringing together the community over the past 44 years, and I desperately hope they will be able to continue their wonderful work with support in the future.

Soroptimist International—International Women's Day event

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.52): I would like to talk about an International Women's Day breakfast that I and the Greens team attended on

8 March 2017. Soroptimist International hosted a breakfast to raise awareness and funds for the ACT Women's Legal Centre.

Soroptimist International is, as its name implies, a worldwide organisation for women in management and the professions, working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. Soroptimists work at all levels of civil society—local, national and international—and are involved in a wide spectrum of women's concerns.

The Soroptimist club of Canberra was chartered on 1 April 1955 and has met since then. My speech notes actually say it has met continuously since then, but it has not met continuously; only since then. They are an energetic group who are dedicated and committed to advancing the status of women. They have held annual International Women's Day breakfasts over the years, many of which I have had the pleasure of attending.

At this one, we heard from the current CEO of the Women's Legal Centre, Kath Taplin, who talked about the important work that the Women's Legal Centre does. This includes providing legal assistance and advice to women who would otherwise not have access to such advice about issues such as family law, victims of crime, discrimination and employment issues.

They also refer women to sympathetic lawyers and other support services, run community legal education sessions, produce information for women about their legal rights and the law and do research, law reform and lobbying activities regarding women's interests. They also provide the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's access to justice program, which provides legal information and advice, refers to sympathetic lawyers and other support services, runs community legal education sessions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and produces information for women about their legal rights and the law.

In November last year the ACT Women's Legal Centre launched its new domestic violence program, funded through the commonwealth, which in the first three months has assisted 65 women. While the ACT government funds the access to justice program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, the commonwealth government has always been responsible for funding community legal centres' core funding.

This was the subject of a debate earlier today. I am sure that everybody in the Assembly, because of this debate, knows that there have been ongoing issues with the funding and that these centres are likely to lose a significant proportion of their ongoing funds by June this year. This is really depressing, given that at this time there is a significant focus on domestic and family violence and supporting women through the system. It is important that we do not allow the Women's Legal Centre to be forced to reduce the amount of assistance that they can provide due to funding restrictions.

That is why I am particularly appreciative of the efforts of the Soroptimists in raising awareness and funds for this important service. Last year they did a fundraiser with

Rosie Batty and they were able to donate \$9,000 to the Women's Legal Centre. It is because of efforts like these that the staff and clients of the Women's Legal Centre feel valued and appreciated. All of those women combined are assisting women in the ACT to reach their potential and be the best that they can, and I am grateful for that. I congratulate the Soroptimists on their ongoing dedication.

Canberra Institute of Technology

MS CODY (Murrumbidgee) (4.56): Today I rise to highlight the excellent work of the Canberra Institute of Technology. I am a product of the CIT, and look where it has taken me! Recently I had the pleasure of visiting the CIT Reid campus. There I found myself in my old classroom and met a number of the next generation of hairdressers. These are wonderful people—young women and men who have chosen a career in hairdressing. And what a career it can be. As a Labor member, I believe that these people—those learning skills and trades at CIT—are the future of this city. The type and level of education a person receives should not predetermine a person's fate.

For Canberrans, CIT is an important tool of social mobility. It provides many options for interaction and many options for learning new skills or improving on existing ones. CIT continually demonstrates strong graduate employment outcomes. The high quality of education and training is reflected in the high satisfaction rates for both students and employers. Our local economy and community continue to benefit from the high quality of skills provided by CIT and the high quality of trade services provided by students. This is a public sector solution, providing actual skills, not paper qualifications. CIT is open to everyone. CIT has always excelled at responding to the need for individualised education.

Our community is diverse, and the people in it all have individual strengths, interests and experiences. Because of this, they have different ways of learning. It is CIT that so often provides that accessible education and training. Education is empowering, and we should encourage and facilitate it in all its forms.

CIT has won too many awards to list. This is a reflection of the high quality of education and training provided by the institution. Vocational training plays an important role in both our community and local economy. CIT always maintains strong relationships with industry. This results in excellent outcomes for graduates, as well as one of the highest student satisfaction scores in the country.

Before I came down to give this address I had an opportunity to look at CIT's latest annual report. What a great Canberra story the Labor government has delivered with CIT: 83.5 per cent of CIT graduates employed after training, compared to 74.3 nationally; 92.7 per cent employed or in further study compared to 86.5 nationally; 29,944 program enrolments; 938 international students from 86 countries; 748 self-identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. These statistics are all very impressive but it is the teaching staff, some of whom I have had the great pleasure to meet recently, who have delivered these outcomes.

I encourage all members here to support CIT, and I would particularly like to pass on the hairdressing apprentices' request that more people go along to get their hair done to give them the practice they require to get their qualification.

Sport—ACT Brumbies

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (5.00): I wish to take a few moments this afternoon to speak in support of the ACT Brumbies. The Brumbies were formed 21 years ago as one of the founding teams of the super 12, now super rugby, competition. Since that time they have become the most successful Australian team in the competition, reaching six finals and winning two: better than all the other Australian teams put together. The Brumbies were also the first team outside New Zealand to win the super 12 championship, a victory they achieved in 2001.

But the Brumbies do much more than just win their matches on the playing field. They occupy important spots in both the national and the local rugby scenes. On one hand, nearly 50 per cent of the club's representatives have earned Australian honours playing for the Wallabies. On the other hand, the Brumbies play an outsized role in Canberra's amateur rugby ranks. As noted by former club president Geoff Larkham, the community rugby program supported by the Brumbies here in the nation's capital is viewed as better than anywhere else in Australia.

I know a current Brumbies player who has expressed to me how much the club has helped him from the time of his youth till now. With his permission, I wish to share a few of his words:

I've used rugby to better myself and my family, and the opportunity to do that will be a great struggle without the presence of the Brumbies here in Canberra ... Young boys and girls won't have the pathway to make something of themselves in sports that they used to.

But the reach of the Brumbies goes far beyond the world of rugby. The club supports numerous charities on an annual basis, including Bosom Buddies ACT, the Cancer Council, Lifeline, the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, the Woden School and nearly 20 others. They also provide Brumbies merchandise and tickets to assist with fundraising and charity events, and both Brumbies players and Brumby Jack are available throughout the year to attend community events such as school visits, charity days and hospital visits.

The Brumbies are proud representatives of Canberra and the region on both the national and international stages, and I sincerely wish them all the best for their contest against the Highlanders at GIO Stadium this Saturday.

Seniors Week

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (5.02): During this Seniors Week I rise to thank Mr David Lawrance for his service to the ACT ministerial advisory council on ageing. I acknowledge the presence of Laurayne Bowler, Patrick Reid, Viola Kalokerinos and Ewan Brown, all members of the council, in the Assembly here today.

Due to recent health challenges, Mr Lawrance has decided to step down from his role as chair of the ACT ministerial advisory council on ageing. I wish to acknowledge his contribution as a member of the council since 2012 and more recently as chair. I extend my heartfelt thanks to him for the work he has done and the expertise he has provided.

As chair Mr Lawrance has presided over a council that provides strategic advice to government on the issues affecting older Canberrans. Under the leadership of Mr Lawrance, the council has consulted with seniors and with organisations to hear their concerns on how to best create an age-friendly and caring community. The ministerial advisory council on ageing engages with our community in a way that delivers outcomes for older Canberrans. The council's recent achievements include an elder abuse community education campaign, a career check-up for mature workers, which provided information on recruiting and retaining older Canberrans in the workforce, and visits to aged-care facilities to hear concerns directly from residents on what they need to lead engaged lives.

This highlights the breadth of interest of Mr Lawrance and the council, from the strategic to the detail, from the policy advice to government to the interaction with the community. As chair of the ACT ministerial advisory council on ageing David Lawrance contributed his expertise and his knowledge to seniors advocacy with great passion and with strong commitment. This experience has been developed through Mr Lawrance's career in a variety of spheres. He had a 26-year career in government working in Canberra, Darwin and offshore Australian territories. Mr Lawrance is also a former CEO of the ACT Tourism Commission, the Canberra Theatre Centre, the President of Palliative Care ACT and a mentor and friend to many, and more. We thank Mr Lawrance for this service of five years to the council and we wish him and his family well.

TADACT

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (5.05): I rise this evening to speak about a fantastic organisation doing some amazing things for our community. TADACT, or Technical Aid to the Disabled ACT, is a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation specialising in producing customised equipment and aids that are otherwise unavailable from commercial sources. These customised equipment aids benefit people with disabilities, older people and people recovering from accident or injury.

TADACT has been in operation in the ACT since 1979, nearly 40 years. Whilst not producing aids or equipment directly, TADACT has an impressive team of highly skilled and extremely creative volunteers, many of whom are retired engineers, industrial designers and other trained professionals who donate their time, equipment, workshops and energy to help create customised equipment or aids that are not commercially available.

Each piece of equipment that is produced is customised for individual need, and each piece of equipment or aid is the result of countless hours and a lot of love and care. As you can understand, Madam Deputy Speaker, this kind of dedication is pretty special

and it takes some pretty extraordinary people to do what they do. In addition to producing customised equipment, TADACT undertakes repairs, other minor modifications and provides technical advice and a referral service for clients if appropriate.

TADACT is also a community leader in preparing the next generation and works closely with both the ANU and the University of Canberra to give students studying a variety of disciplines, including engineering, design and therapy services, real-life, hands-on practical experience. TADACT also provides thesis opportunities for engineering students for the design and innovation of products that are currently not available on the consumer market.

TADACT's work has been well regarded and well recognised with the 2015 ACT volunteer team of the year and the ACT community care and health awards. One of their volunteers, Keiran McQueenie, won the 2016 skilled volunteer award. Last month I was very pleased to visit the TADACT office and meet with their executive director, Jennifer Merriman, and director, Graham Waite. The equipment they are customising is just incredible: everything from motorcycles to spoons to pool cues to cups.

Despite the important work that TADACT is doing for our community, the future of TADACT is also at risk due to the uncertainty over their funding model in this new NDIS world. As one of SHOUT's 47 member groups and affiliates, the recent announcement by SHOUT that it will be forced to close its doors by the end of May has been another blow for TADACT.

TADACT is the only organisation in the ACT that does the work it does, and it would be a tragedy indeed for our community if it were forced to also close up shop for the want of government support when it is needed most.

Multicultural affairs—Harmony Day

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (5.08): We are asked at the start of each session to reflect on the purposes for which we come to this place; on those in whose name we work.

As Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I have been reflecting this week, harmony week, on my responsibility to our multicultural communities. I recognise that our migrants and our asylum seekers carry with them a resolve that can only be admired. They have separated themselves from families, from homes, from familiar places to come to a new land, and they strive every day to do what they can to learn a new language and to adjust to different ways of working, different systems of government and different habits and social mores. All of them have sought opportunity in this new land of Australia, and many aim to find this opportunity in Canberra. Many of them are also simply seeking peace, a refuge from war, strife, starvation and harm. Many have lost loved ones or been forced to endure the unimaginable.

In this place earlier this week, we celebrated Harmony Day. Internationally, it was the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The particular focus the UN identified this year was “racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration”; “incitement to hatred”, Madam Speaker.

On that same day, the federal government announced that it will water down Australia’s race hate laws by amending section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act. Currently the act states that it is unlawful to engage in acts that are reasonably likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate someone because of their race or ethnicity.

The federal government, led by the party of those opposite, is proposing to amend this act in two ways. The first is to replace the words “offend, insult, humiliate” with the word “harass”. According to the federal Liberal Party, it is okay to humiliate someone from an ethnic minority. It is perfectly fine to insult and offend.

The second proposed change is to introduce a new test to be applied in deciding whether 18C has been breached. It is easy to ignore a slight that is not directed at you. While the commentators at the *Australian* may dismiss the concerns of our multicultural Australians, they are not the ones being insulted, humiliated and offended. Those seeking changes to 18C may see someone being mocked or taunted in the street and dismiss it as a single, unrepresentative incident, but for the woman in the head scarf or the bloke with an accent or of a particular ethnic background, this single slight, this bad afternoon, is one of many bad afternoons. It is just another reminder, another barrier, and another kick in the guts.

This is not an abstract debate for a privileged few. This is about the person on the bus, the student in the tutorial, the worker in the lunch room being intimidated and insulted because of their race. Section 18C, as it stands, makes it clear to all Australians that certain actions are unacceptable. It is a test of our values, a test that the federal government fails badly.

I am sorry to report that the Canberra Liberals are currently also failing this test. On Tuesday, 21 March, on Harmony Day, when the federal Liberals announced their decisions, I called on the Canberra Liberals, including the shadow minister for multicultural affairs and the Leader of the Opposition, to denounce their federal counterparts’ decision. Yesterday I re-tweeted that call. I hope that I will be corrected in this, Madam Speaker, but so far we have failed to find a single instance of the members of the opposition, the Canberra Liberals, criticising their federal counterparts for their decision to water down 18C.

The debate about 18C is a reminder to all of us that speech has a cost. For those affected, words have power. I renew my call for those opposite to stand up for multicultural Canberrans against their federal Liberal counterparts, who are being driven by a small group within their party to take an extremist view, and to denounce the changes to 18C.

Seniors Week

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (5.13): I want to take a moment to speak about the fact that this week Seniors Week occurred in Canberra, and to acknowledge that we have Ewan Brown, President of COTA ACT, here today.

The importance of Seniors Week is the recognition of the contribution seniors make to the ACT scene, one which cannot be underestimated. It is about celebrating older people and their continuing contribution to family, friends, workplaces and communities and across generations.

The truth is that Canberra is facing a population growing older. Figures released in the past couple of weeks reveal that the ACT population is projected to grow by six per cent in the next four years, with the number of people aged 65 to 84 increasing by 16 per cent, whilst the population of 85 years and over is projected to increase by one per cent. Let us put that into perspective. The proportion of people aged 65 years and over is projected to increase by around 7,450 people, reaching a total of about 56,500 in 2020. This will be over 13 per cent of the expected population of 421,840 residents.

Let me dispel the view, however, that seniors are a burden on our society because they are assumed to be high-maintenance residents. Yes, health issues are important to seniors, but they face disproportionate blame for rising healthcare costs. People are living longer, and thus need to access more health services, but a significant component of increasing healthcare costs is improvements in technology and the improved quality of care offered to all residents.

Moreover, a significant number, particularly here in the ACT, are self-funded retirees with no claims on the public purse. It is just the opposite, since they are active and considerable consumers, indulging in a lot of discretionary expenditure to the benefit of the ACT economy.

Too much focus is placed on the cost to support seniors rather than considering the economic value of their contributions to our society. Seniors make contributions across a range of areas. A large number have valuable qualifications and experience, which are offered free of charge to the benefit of the community through extensive volunteering involvements. Many organisations could not function as effectively as they do now without this support.

Many older residents are also involved in caring responsibilities. These include caring for their parents or spouses, caring for their children with disabilities or economic living problems, or taking on grandparent duties so their offspring can participate to a greater degree in the economy. These contributions are seriously undervalued in Canberra.

There are merits in portraying Canberra as an age-friendly city, as more seniors can be attracted to stay in or move to Canberra, thus extending this hugely valuable knowledge and experience base. Age-friendly city developments generally affect the

whole population, and make the city more livable for all, not only the seniors cohort.

The biggest problem facing seniors is that policymakers have not realised the full potential for this cohort to contribute to the territory. Nor have they sought to exploit to a significant degree the talents available. Many seniors are interested in working and are available to continue working or to offer their skills and experience on a voluntary basis, but they need encouragement and recognition rather than being pigeonholed into the category of a burdensome group needing the support of younger taxpayers.

It is time to show more respect for the contributions of Canberra's seniors community, both during this week when it is brought again to our attention but also beyond.

Child care—funding

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (5.17): As we adjourn today, the Senate is debating the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2016. This package affects 28,230 children who attend child care here in the ACT across some 379 approved childcare services. It will have a significant effect on how children can access early learning in this territory.

Child care is not just about workforce participation; it is about the early learning benefits for children. We know it amplifies children's learning, their educational outcomes and their socio-emotional outcomes.

This will have a significant impact on their participation and their ability to get better outcomes in the future. A family with one parent not working may receive no subsidised access to child care as a result of these measures. Not one minute. And children do not have any access in their own right to early childhood education or child care. That is because of an activity test which requires both parents to be working to receive subsidies.

We have heard from some of the senators today who are wavering on this issue, particularly the Nick Xenophon Team. My message is to them: don't sell our children; don't support this lie in relation to activity tests and how it will be funded.

We know that children benefit when they get access to 15 hours. That research has been done through the effective provision of preschool study, which tracked children from when they attended child care right through to when they completed their GCSEs at the end of school. We know that 15 hours benefits all children, but disadvantaged children need even more than that. They benefit from up to 30 hours, because they are not getting those vital early learning experiences in the home. This package would see only 12 hours provided for families earning under \$65,710 and some families receiving nothing at all. That is not good for children.

My appeal is to Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Senator Griff, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, and Senator Xenophon: don't support this package, at least in relation to the 12 hours provided as the minimum level under the activity test; make sure that

children get that minimum 15 hours. It is totally out of touch with families to do otherwise.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for the debate has expired.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 5.20 pm until Tuesday, 28 March, at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Aged persons—respite care (Question No 66)

Mr Doszpot asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) What is the waiting time for respite care in ACT nursing homes.
- (2) How does this waiting time compare with NSW.
- (3) What is the ACT Government's strategy to increase the number of residential respite care places available in ACT nursing homes.
- (4) Is respite care for aged persons given in ACT hospitals.
- (5) Who provides this respite care and who keeps records.
- (6) On what basis is hospital-based respite care provided.
- (7) How many bed days, per patient each year for the past five years, have been provided in hospitals for respite care for aged persons.
- (8) What is the average delay in days to make a transfer due to nursing home beds not being available immediately when it is determined a patient can move from hospital to respite care in a nursing home.
- (9) Who makes the decision about when a patient can move from hospital to respite care in a nursing home.
- (10) How long are patients in hospital on average before respite care is given (a) less than one month, (b) between one and 12 months and (c) more than 12 months.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Australian Government funds and regulates the provision of residential aged care, including respite care for older people in the ACT. ACT Health is unaware of the availability of data reporting waiting time for respite care in ACT nursing homes. There is no requirement to report on respite beds as bed numbers are not allocated. It is up to the individual provider to determine the amount of respite beds they provide. ACT Health maintains a close relationship with respite providers to enable us to have visibility of the availability of respite beds.
- (2) This is out of scope for ACT Health to respond, as per the previous response.
- (3) The ACT Government provides funding for the operation of the Burrangiri Aged Care Plus Respite Centre. The Salvation Army has operated the centre in Rivett in a building owned by ACT Health since it commenced in 1989. Burrangiri provides a unique and valuable service to the ACT community, in that older patients can quickly and easily access respite services without the need for assessment by the Aged Care Assessment Team. In 2016-17, Burrangiri is contracted to provide 4,654 occupied bed days per annum for overnight respite and post hospital convalescent care, and 3,336

occupied place days for day centre respite care. Burrangiri is not a Residential Aged Care Facility; it is purely a respite facility catering to the needs of people predominantly aged over 65.

- (4) Respite care is not provided in hospital.
- (5) Respite care is not provided in hospital
- (6) Respite care is not provided in hospital.
- (7) Respite care is not provided in hospital.
- (8) The time taken to transfer varies depending on the demand for the particular facility. Hospital patients can only be discharged to respite if they have a discharge destination following their period of respite. Patients cannot return to hospital following respite unless they become medically unwell. ACT Health is unaware of how many respite beds there are in each facility; this can be addressed by the Commonwealth.
- (9) Clinical staff decide based on patient's clinical status / stability and appropriateness of respite, which includes a confirmed discharge destination following completion of the respite period. Clinical staff also work with the patient and their family to determine if respite is appropriate for them.
- (10) It varies depending on demand and available respite beds. It can range from immediate to weeks.

Roads—cycle lanes (Question No 67)

Mr Doszpot asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) What is the current construction program for capital upgrades to community paths.
- (2) What is the current priority list for community path and cycle lane projects.
- (3) What is the current design and construct list for community path and cycle lane projects.
- (4) What is the current design list for community path and cycle lane projects.
- (5) What is the number of "Fix My Street" requests lodged in relation to the maintenance, upgrade and installation of a community path.
- (6) How many of those requests referred to in part (5) were resolved (a) between the request being lodged and (i) one month, (ii) two months and (iii) three months after the request was lodged and (b) any time after three months after the request was lodged.
- (7) Given that the priority list for community path and cycle lane projects generated on 29 January 2016 provided a list of 269 projects for community path and cycle lane

projects, how many projects have been agreed (a) to be completed and have subsequently been completed, (b) to be completed but have not been completed and (c) to not be completed.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

(1) Works being delivered in the 2016-17 Capital Works construction program are as follows:

- a) **Phillip** - Butters Drive.
- b) **Forrest** - Canberra Avenue median.
- c) **Kambah** - Athllon Drive.
- d) **Belconnen** - College St.
- e) **Deakin** - Gawler Crescent.
- f) **Holt** - Flack Street.
- g) **Florey** - John Cleland Crescent.
- h) **Acton** - Hales Street.
- i) **Acton** - Off-Lady Denman Drive.
- j) **Bruce** - Thynne Street.
- k) **Kingston** - Wentworth Avenue.
- l) **Turner and O'Connor** – Sullivans Creek Shared Path.

(2) The list of Community Path priorities is available on the TCCS website:
<http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths/cycling/community-path-warrant-list>

An updated listing of priority projects is provided as Attachment A.

(3) Works being delivered in the 2016-17 Capital Works design and construction program are:

- a) **Gungahlin** - Anthony Rolfe Avenue at Moonlight Avenue and De Bortoli Street.
- b) **Gungahlin** - Ernest Cavanagh Street and Fussell Lane.
- c) **Forrest** - Tasmania Circle.
- d) **Woden Town Centre** – Easty Street.
- e) **Woden Town Centre** – Matilda Street.

(4) Works being delivered in the 2016-17 Capital Works design program are:

- a) **Fyshwick** – Canberra Avenue.
- b) **Calwell** – Were Street.
- c) **Mitchell** - Well Station Drive.
- d) **Kaleen** - Diamantina Crescent
- e) **Kambah** – Kingsmill Street.

(5) 2016 - Fix My Street Requests

Request for path maintenance	Request for new and upgrade of paths
2200	226

(6) Requests for path maintenance for 2016

There were around 2200 requests for path maintenance during 2016, all of which have been inspected and the identified defects were prioritised for repair.

The number of these requests that have resulted in direct repair works and have been resolved:

- I. within one month is 567;
- II. within two months is 128;
- III. within three months is 49;
- IV. longer than three months is 169; and
- V. the balance have been identified as less urgent and have been scheduled in larger contracts for efficiency.

Requests for new and upgrade of paths for 2016

There were around 226 requests for new and upgrade of paths during 2016. 209 have been investigated and the resident was contacted with the outcome. The balance has yet to be investigated and the resident informed of the outcome.

The detailed breakdown of timeframes to responses is as follows:

- I. within the month is 74;
- II. within one month is 52;
- III. within two months is 53;
- IV. within three months is 18; and
- V. longer than three months is 12.

(7) Of the 296 sites identified as at 29 January 2016:

- a) 22 have been prioritised for inclusion in a program and delivered.
- b) Five have been prioritised for inclusion in a program and are designed but are not yet completed; and
- c) 242 have not been prioritised to be included in a current program.

(A copy of the attachment is available at the Chamber Support Office).

**ACT public service—health policy
(Question No 69)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) In relation to the ACT Public Sector Healthy Food and Drink Choices policy, when will the proposed ban on fundraising chocolates come into effect in the ACT public sector.
- (2) What consultation occurred with affected community groups when this policy was developed.

- (3) Are all vending machines on ACT Government premises compliant with this policy; if not, what actions are being taken to make them compliant with this policy.
- (4) Are ACT Public Sector employees still able to celebrate birthdays or other special occasions with cake or other foods classified in the red food group.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Under the ACT Public Sector Healthy Food and Drink Choices Policy, the selling of fundraising chocolates by employees or social clubs is being phased out of ACT Public Sector workplaces in an effort to enhance the availability of healthy options. The policy requirements will come into effect from 1 August 2017. These policy requirements are already in place within ACT Health and have been since 2014.
- (2) The ACT Nutrition Support Service, managed by Nutrition Australia ACT, has been contracted to provide ACT Government staff, community groups and other stakeholders with information and advice about the ACT Public Sector Healthy Food and Drink Choices Policy. This includes advice in finding healthy or other fundraising alternatives such as fruit or vegetable trays, sporting equipment, and plants or seedlings. The Government encourages these groups to take advantage of this support.

These groups can of course continue to undertake chocolate fundraising, however the sale of this type of fundraising will no longer be supported in ACT Public Sector workplaces from August 2017.

- (3) Vending machine compliance with the ACT Public Sector Healthy Food and Drink Choices Policy was most recently audited in 2016. That audit indicated a 27 per cent compliance rate which is a significant increase since the baseline assessment in 2014. This represents a reduction of 43 per cent of unhealthy red products in vending machines.

Directorates have been provided with reports from the 2016 assessment and have been asked to make the necessary changes to ensure that their vending machines meet the policy requirements. Directorates and vending machine providers have also been encouraged to contact the ACT Nutrition Support Service to assist with classifying products against the traffic light system and identify healthier vending machine options.

- (4) Yes, ACT Public Sector employees can still celebrate birthdays or other special occasions with cake or other foods or drinks classified as red against the traffic light system. Employees can also continue bringing food from home or purchasing food from external food outlets for personal consumption in the workplace.

Hospitals—neonatal deaths (Question No 70)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) How many neonatal deaths occurred in Canberra hospitals in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 (to date).

- (2) What were the causes of those deaths referred to in part (1).
- (3) How many of the deaths referred to in part (1) were considered to be preventable.
- (4) What was the cost of any compensation paid to parents.
- (5) Were the deaths investigated; if so, by whom; if not, why not.
- (6) What changes were made to hospital procedures and care programs to prevent future similar causes of death.
- (7) Were the deaths reported to the Child Death Review Committee; if not, why not.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

1.

	Year	Number of neonatal deaths
a)	2013-14	21
b)	2014-15	16
c)	2015-16	19
d)	2016-17	10 (as of 20 February 2017)

2. The two leading causes for neonatal deaths are extreme prematurity or congenital abnormalities.
3. Currently there are no Australian standardised definitions to assess preventability for neonatal deaths due to the complexity related to review of cases as well as social, maternal and neonatal factors. Work is currently being undertaken through the AIHW to determine a valid and standardised method of defining and characterising avoidability/preventable factors for neonatal deaths with the ACT participating in these working groups.
4. There are no claims meeting the criteria referred to in part (1), therefore there has been no compensation paid to parents.
5. There are several layers of review of neonatal deaths at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children to ensure a high standard of care for women and their neonates. All neonatal deaths are reviewed by both the Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality Committee and the Neonatal Morbidity and Mortality Committee. The ACT Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Committee review all cases and provide an annual report to the ACT Health Quality and Safety Committee and a five year public health report.
6. The two leading causes of neonatal deaths are extreme prematurity and congenital anomalies. Currently there are minimal interventions available to clinical staff to prevent extreme prematurity, which continues to be a global problem. The same is true for congenital anomalies.

The midwifery, neonatal and medical staff at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children undergo regular training updates to ensure that they provide a high standard of antenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care for women and their neonates. This experienced team consists of midwives, ultrasonographers, obstetricians, fetal medicine specialists, neonatal nurses and neonatologists who provide comprehensive and safe antenatal, intrapartum and neonatal care for the women of ACT and the surrounding

region founded on evidence based medicine. There are a number of ongoing courses held throughout the year that staff attend to maintain their skills in intrapartum care for evaluation of CTG's, responding to Obstetric emergencies and neonatal resuscitation.

7. The ACT Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Committee provides annual data on perinatal deaths to the ACT Child and Young Person Death Review Committee.

Health—colonoscopy waiting times (Question No 71)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) How many patients waiting for a colonoscopy in the ACT received one within the recommended 30 days and how many patients waited longer than 30 days, during 2016-17.
- (2) How many patients are currently on the waiting list for a colonoscopy and how many of these patients have waited for more than 30 days.
- (3) What is the median waiting time for a colonoscopy in the ACT.
- (4) How many patients waiting for a colonoscopy in the ACT received one within the recommended 30 days during 2016-17 and how many patients waited longer than 80 days.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Patients who are recommended to receive treatment within 30 days are classified as category one. In the 2016-17 financial year to date to 21 February 2017, 651 category one patients received a colonoscopy within 30 days and 791 waited for more than 30 days until removal from the waiting list for the procedure in ACT public hospitals.
- (2) As at 21 February 2017, 278 patients were listed as category one who were ready for care and waiting for a colonoscopy procedure. Of these patients, 173 are ready for care and have waited for more than 30 days.
- (3) The median waiting time for a colonoscopy across all urgency categories at ACT public hospitals in 2015-16 was 99 days.
- (4) In the 2016-17 financial year to date to 21 February 2017, 651 category one patients received a colonoscopy within 30 days and 582 waited longer than 80 days at an ACT public hospital.

Energy—renewable (Question No 72)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 17 February 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability*):

- (1) In relation to the ACT's wind and solar farm capacity, what is the minimum megawatt (MW) requirement for the ACT in each year from 2017 to 2025.

- (2) What is the current MW production of renewable energy.
- (3) If the (a) Horndale Wind Farm has a generation capacity of 1 232 566 Megawatt hours (MWh) per year, what is the current generation, (b) Ararat Wind Farm has a generation capacity of 271 700 MWh per year, what is the current generation, (c) Coonoer Bridge Wind Farm has a generation capacity of 81 856 MWh per year, what is the current generation, (d) Sapphire Wind Farm has a generation capacity of 349 703 MWh per year, what is the current generation, (e) Mugga Lane Solar Farm has a generation capacity of 22 360 MWh per year, what is the current generation, (f) Williamsdale Solar Farm has a generation capacity of 14 855 MWh per year, what is the current generation, (g) Royalla Solar Farm has a generation capacity of 37 609 MWh per year, what is the current generation and (h) Crookwell 2 Wind Farm has a generation capacity of 304 099 MWh per year, what is the current generation.

Mr Rattenbury: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's modelling indicates that, in order to meet the ACT's 100 per cent renewable electricity target by 2020, 3,054,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable electricity will be required. 2,314,748 MWh (or 76 per cent of the 100 per cent target) will be delivered by 639.9 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity (expected generation is shown in column 2 in the table below, and capacity in column 5). The remaining 24 per cent of the 2020 target will be delivered by roof-top solar, GreenPower purchases and the ACT's share of the national Renewable Energy Target.

Future electricity demand in the ACT will depend on population growth, and factors such as housing stock type and emergence of new technology, which influence energy efficiency and the uptake of electrical appliances. Additional renewable energy may therefore be required over time to maintain a 100 per cent target. This will be actively monitored by the Directorate.

- (2) In 2016 (the latest generation information available to the ACT Government), the combined eligible generation of the large feed-in tariff supported generators was 103,312 MWh (shown in column 4 of the table below). This was generated by 52.4 MW of constructed capacity.

A number of generators have come online since this time, and will contribute to the ACT's renewable energy generation mix in 2017. These generators include the Ararat Wind Farm, Hornsdale 1 Wind Farm and Williamsdale Solar Farm. All generators will be fully operational and generating renewable electricity by 2019.

- (3) The table below includes a column (number 4) that gives the breakdown of the generation of 103,312 MWh by the ACT's large feed-in tariff supported generators in 2016.

Column 2 shows the expected generation for each feed-in tariff supported generator. The Government's contracts with the generators require that all Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs), for which a feed-in tariff has been granted, be surrendered to the ACT Government, therefore allowing the generation to be counted towards the ACT's renewable electricity target.

ACT large feed-in tariff supported generation details

<i>1- Feed-in tariff supported generator</i>	<i>2- Expected generation (MWh/yr)</i>	<i>4- Feed-in Tariff generation, 2016 (MWh/yr)</i>	<i>5- Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>6- Feed-in tariff start date*</i>
Solar auction:				
Royalla Solar Farm	37,609	37,116	20	18-Aug-14
Mugga Lane Solar Farm	22,360	3,207	13	18-Nov-16
Williamsdale Solar Farm	14,855	0	7	3-Feb-17
First wind auction:				
Ararat Wind Farm	271,700	0	80.5	14-Apr-17
Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm	81,856	62,989	19.4	27-Mar-16
Hornsedale 1 Wind Farm	414,300	0	100	16-Feb-17
Second wind auction:				
Hornsedale 2 Wind Farm	404,066	0	100	01-Dec-18
Sapphire 1 Wind Farm	349,703	0	100	01-May-18
Next Generation Renewables Auction:				
Hornsedale 3 Wind Farm	414,200	0	109	01-Oct-19
Crookwell 2 Wind Farm	304,099	0	91	17-Sep-18
Total:	2,314,748	103,312	639.9	
*Date that large feed-in tariff supported generation commenced or is due to commence.				

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—
staffing
(Question No 73)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) How many staff have left the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) in each of the (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date, financial years.
- (2) In relation to the staff and financial years referred to in part (1), can the Chief Minister list the number of staff whose employment in the CMTEDD has ended by (a) transfer to another ACT Government agency, (b) retirement, (c) resignation or (d) termination.
- (3) Of the total number of staff who have left CMTEDD in each of the financial years referred to in part (1), how many were senior management and executive staff.
- (4) Can the Chief Minister list the total amount paid in each financial referred to in part (1) in final staff entitlements.
- (5) Can the Chief Minister list the units within the CMTEDD that have lost staff and the total number of staff losses from each unit for the period 1 July 2016 to 15 February 2017.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Total staff separation;

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 to date
(a) Total Staff Separation	139	242	162

(2)

		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 to date*
(a)	Transfer to another ACT Government agency	48	43	26
(b)	Retirement	25	81	64
(c)	Resignation	59	108	69
(d)	Termination	6	5	2

* The figures in the table above exclude separations due to the death of an employee.

(3)

		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 to date
(a)	Senior Officers	35	68	55
(b)	Executive Officers	10	4	5

(4)

		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 to date
	Final Entitlements Paid	\$6,212,748.04	\$7,255,282.56	\$6,544,422.32

(5)

	Unit**	Total
(a)	Chief Minister Stream (excludes Access Canberra)	21
(b)	Treasury (excludes Shared Services)	28
(c)	Economic Development	28
(d)	Access Canberra (includes Gambling and Racing Commission)	36
(e)	Shared Services	49
	Total	162

** Excludes the Land Development Agency

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate— workplace bullying (Question No 74)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Further to the answer to question on notice No 12, dated 7 February 2017, how many of the 12 informal complaints or issues raised regarding workplace bullying in 2015-16 for agencies or authorities under the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) were made by staff in the (a) Land Development Agency and (b) ACT Insurance Authority.

- (2) How many of the 12 informal complaints or issues raised regarding workplace bullying in the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 November 2016 for agencies or authorities under the CMTEDD were made by staff in the (a) Land Development Agency and (b) ACT Insurance Authority.
- (3) How many informal complaints or issues raised regarding workplace bullying have been generated in the period since 30 November 2016 for the (a) Land Development Agency, (b) ACT Insurance Authority and (c) remaining areas of the CMTEDD.
- (4) Do the figures on workplace bullying reveal a problem in the CMTEDD.
- (5) What is being done to reduce the incidents of workplace bullying in the CMTEDD.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

1. (a) Nil
(b) Nil
2. (a) Nil
(b) Nil
3. (a) Nil
(b) Nil
(c) 2
4. No
5. CMTEDD employees operate within the solid foundations of the ACTPS Respect, Equity and Diversity (RED) Framework, which has been in place since 2010.

Employees are encouraged to raise issues as they arise through managers, RED contact officers and HR. An emphasis is placed on expectations regarding code of conduct and signature behaviours. This is promoted at staff induction including the expectation that managers and executive lead by example.

RED Training is also offered to employees with specific sessions designated for managers. RED refresher training is also offered throughout the year and through other training sessions. The directorate has processes in place to deal with allegations of workplace bullying that are raised, and restorative actions to help address these issues.

Government—ministerial appointments (Question No 75)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Can the Chief Minister list the number of Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Ministerial Appointment instruments made each year from 2012 to 2016 and the date each instrument was made.
- (2) Can the Chief Minister outline the reason for the making of each Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Ministerial Appointment instrument in 2016.

- (3) Are Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Ministerial Appointment instruments gazetted.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) All Ministerial Appointment instruments and timing, made under the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Self Government Act) can be located on the ACT Legislative Website at www.legislation.act.gov.au
- (2) The purpose of each Ministerial Appointment is reflective of the government's continued commitment to its priorities.
- (3) There is no requirement under the Self-Government Act, which deals with ministerial appointments, to gazette instruments of Ministerial Appointment.

Administrative arrangements—ministerial appointments (Question No 76)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Can the Chief Minister list the number of Administrative Arrangements made under the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* and the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* in each year from 2012 to 2016 and the date each Administrative Arrangements were made.
- (2) Can the Chief Minister outline the reason for the making of each Administrative Arrangements in 2016.
- (3) Is it a requirement for Administrative Arrangements to be gazetted.
- (4) Has Administrative Arrangements 2016 (No 5) been gazetted; if so, what was the date of gazettal.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) All Administrative Arrangements and their timing, made under the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* and the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* can be located on the ACT Legislation Website at www.legislation.act.gov.au.
- (2) The purpose of each new Administrative Arrangement is to adjust responsibilities and reporting lines to best achieve the government's priorities and deliver on the Government's election commitments.
- (3) Section 43(3) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self Government) Act 1988* requires the Chief Minister publish in the Territory Gazette authorisations of a Minister or Ministers to act on behalf of the Chief Minister, as detailed in the Administrative Arrangements.
- (4) Administrative Arrangements 2016 (No 5) were publicly available on the ACT Legislation Website from 19 December 2016. While they were publicly available on the ACT Legislation Website from the date they were made, there was a delay in publishing them in the Gazette (21 February 2017).

**Land Development Agency—staffing
(Question No 77)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 17 February 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development*):

- (1) What is the current full-time equivalent (FTE) of the workforce of the Land Development Agency (LDA).
- (2) What is the current headcount of the workforce of the LDA.
- (3) Did the 2015-16 annual report on the State of the Service indicate that in 2015-16 the FTE for the LDA increased by 10.4%; if so, what factors caused that increase.

Ms Berry: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) As at 28 February 2017, 104.86 FTE.
- (2) As at 28 February 2017, 108.
- (3) Yes. The increase in FTE reflects the increase in the work undertaken by the LDA, particularly in the development and marketing of new estates such as Throsby, Ginninderry and Taylor.

**Land Development Agency—Molonglo Valley
(Question No 78)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 17 February 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development*):

- (1) What are the responsibilities held by the Land Development Agency to maintain urban areas in the suburbs of the Molonglo Valley.
- (2) What is the amount that was allocated in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to establish the suburbs of the Molonglo Valley and to undertake maintenance of the Molonglo Valley suburbs.
- (3) What is the amount that has been spent in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date, to establish the suburbs of the Molonglo Valley and to undertake maintenance of the Molonglo Valley suburbs.

Ms Berry: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Land Development Agency (LDA) and/or its contractors are required to maintain urban areas during construction of civil and landscaping works up until Operational Acceptance of the works, at which point the infrastructure is handed over to Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS).

The LDA protects and manages its unsold blocks of land with fencing, mowing and weed control.

(2) Budget Establishment

The total LDA budget amounts (includes all professional fees, construction costs, marketing, selling, statutory fees and other costs) to establish the suburbs (Wright, Coombs, Denman Prospect) in the Molonglo Valley over this period are:

Financial Year	Budget \$m
a) 2013-14	98.6
b) 2014-15	77.3
c) 2015-16	82.8
d) 2016-17	27.8

The figures above are LDA budget amounts and do not include budget allocations of other ACT Government agencies undertaking works in the establishment of the suburbs in the Molonglo Valley. The LDA undertakes the construction of works until Operational Acceptance, at which time the infrastructure is handed over to TCCS for maintenance.

(3) Actual Expenditure – Establishment

The total amounts LDA spent (includes all professional fees, construction costs, marketing, selling, statutory fees and other costs) to establish the suburbs (Wright, Coombs, Denman Prospect) in the Molonglo Valley and to undertake maintenance until handed over to TCCS over this period are:

Financial Year	Actual \$m
a) 2013-14	72.1
b) 2014-15	70.5
c) 2015-16	142.6
d) 2016-17	12.9

The figures above are LDA actual amounts and do not include the amounts spent by other ACT Government Agencies undertaking works in the establishment of the suburbs of the Molonglo Valley. The LDA undertakes the construction of works until Operational Acceptance, at which time the infrastructure is handed over to TCCS for maintenance.

Motor vehicles—insurance and registration (Question No 79)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) What is the total number of vehicles, including motorcycles, currently registered in the ACT.
- (2) What is the breakdown by vehicle type of the total number of vehicles currently registered in the ACT.

- (3) What premium rate has been charged in the ACT for compulsory third party (CTP) insurance over the financial years of (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date.
- (4) How much have motorists paid in total for CTP insurance premiums in the ACT in the financial years of (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date.
- (5) What is covered by CTP insurance in the ACT.
- (6) Can the Minister list any additional fees and levies, and the rates of those fees and levies, payable by motorists when registering a vehicle in the ACT.
- (7) What is the amount which has been received in payment of the additional fees and levies referred to in part (6) for the financial years of (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date.
- (8) What is the total amount that has been paid out under CTP in the ACT over the financial years of (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date.
- (9) Can the Minister break down the total amount paid out under CTP in the financial years referred to part (8), into the categories of (a) treatment and care costs, (b) general damages, (c) economic loss and (d) legal costs.
- (10) Is the CTP rate payable in the ACT still ranked as the second highest rate in Australia.
- (11) What model is used in the ACT to resolve claims made under CTP.
- (12) How does the model used in the ACT to resolve claims made under CTP compare to models used in other jurisdictions around Australia.
- (13) Has any analysis been done of CTP rates and policies in other jurisdictions around Australia to determine if the ACT system is appropriate for the needs of ACT residents.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Total number of vehicles is 328,101 as at 1 March 2017.

It should be noted that not all of these vehicles pay compulsory third-party (CTP) insurance, for example, goods trailers which total 27,921 vehicles and ACTION buses which are self-insured by the ACT Insurance Authority.

- (2)

Vehicle Type	Number of Vehicles
CAMPER	417
CONCRETE BLENDER	69
FLAT TOP	570
BONNET PRIME MOVER	90
GARBAGE COMPACTOR	84

Vehicle Type	Number of Vehicles
ZZ - OTHER BODY TYPE	2
TRACTOR (HEAVY)	22
SEDAN	161,850
VAN	5,150
GOODS TRAILER	27,921
CONVERTIBLE	2,264
PLANT	260
TOW TRUCK	8
CAR TRAILER	761
SKEL TRAILER	13
DUMP TRUCK	3
LIGHT TRUCK	26,712
LIGHT SEMITRAILER	1
LIGHT TRACTOR	24
MOTORTRIKE	18
BACKHOE	25
CONCRETE PUMPER	17
FRONT END LOADER	11
CAR CARRIER	13
JINKER	1
LIGHT BUS	359
CAMPER TRAILER	1,534
MOBILE WORK TOWER	13
SKEL	2
STATION WAGON	73,876
MOTORBIKE	12,579
MISCELLAN TRAILER	398
CURTAIN SIDE VAN	113
FORK LIFT (HEAVY)	34
RIGID BUS	577
EQUIPMENT TRAILER	272
TANKER	58
FIRE TRUCK	74
BOAT TRAILER	5,174
ARMOURED VEHICLE	13
BIN CARRIER	63
CAB OVER PRIME MOVER	76
CARAVAN	2,819
PASSENGER VAN	1,789
REFRIGERATED VAN	52
STOCK CRATE	4
BIKE TRAILER	328
FORK LIFT (LIGHT)	56
HORSE FLOAT	423
AMBULANCE	37
MOBILE HOME	26
MOBILE CRANE	32
TRAILED MOBILE HOME	1
MACHINERY TRUCK	14
PANTECHNICON	238
TIPPER	687
ARTICULATED BUS	34

Vehicle Type	Number of Vehicles
DOLLY	1
GRADER	7
MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT	31
SKID STEER	1
TOTAL	328,101

- (3) The lowest CTP premium charged for a class 1 passenger vehicle (private use) for 12 months as at:
- 30 June 2013 was \$578.20;
 - 30 June 2014 was \$590.20;
 - 30 June 2015 was \$568.60;
 - 30 June 2016 was \$549.90; and
 - 1 February 2017 was \$544.90.

- (4) Section 203 of the *Civil Law (Wrongs) Act 2002* required insurers to provide, in relation to the ACT market, annual returns for a range of insurance information, including the quantum of premiums collected. This included CTP motor vehicle insurance.

- a) In 2012-13 the premiums paid to the insurer totalled \$143.190 million; *

* This figure includes the total combined amount for Employers' liability, Aviation and CTP motor vehicle insurance for 2012-13, given the small number of insurers operating in these markets. A combined total was necessary to protect the confidentiality of each insurer's report. In the case of CTP, NRMA was the sole CTP insurer for the ACT during 2012-13.

- b) In 2013-14 the Premiums paid to the insurer totalled \$147.559 million;
 c) In 2014-15 the Premiums paid to the insurer totalled \$152.172 million; and
 d) and e)

The 2015-16 and 2016-17 premiums paid to the insurer are not available. The *Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2016* (JACSLA Act) amended the *Civil Law (Wrongs) Act 2002* to remove the requirement for annual reporting by insurers who carry on insurance business in relation to property in the ACT. The JACSLA commenced 29 June 2016:

- Reporting requirements for insurers were introduced in 2002 in response to widespread uncertainty relating to the availability and affordability of public liability insurance. These reporting requirements were removed as the ACT was the only Australian jurisdiction that continued to collect insurance data and table a report in the legislature; and
- The ceasing of insurance reporting requirements reduced the business cost burden for insurers that process claims in the ACT, and is consistent with the ACT Government's ongoing commitment to red tape reduction and the associated red tape reduction legislation put in place.

- (5) To be able to claim compensation under the ACT CTP insurance scheme, a person has to be injured in a motor accident that was someone else's fault. Fault must be investigated and proven in every case. CTP insurance covers personal injuries that you cause (as the at-fault person) to third parties including drivers, passengers, pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and pillion passengers.

If a person is injured in a motor accident and makes a claim against the at-fault person's CTP insurer, the amount of compensation they receive will depend on their injuries; the treatment they require; the circumstances of the accident; and the impact of their injuries (e.g. if they have to take time off work). If they were partly at fault for the accident or their injuries (e.g. if they were not wearing a seatbelt), this will be taken into account and is likely to reduce the amount they will be paid for the claim.

Injured people can claim for the following kinds of loss:

- Treatment and care costs – compensates for past and estimated future costs of the treatment and care needed as a result of the injuries;
- Economic loss – compensates for financial loss, which can include lost wages if the injured person can't work; and
- General damages – compensates for things like pain and suffering.

If a person is in an accident that is found to be their fault, they cannot claim compensation under the scheme. If a person is in an accident that wasn't anyone's fault (a 'blameless accident'), such as a collision with wildlife, they cannot claim compensation under the scheme, and neither can any of their injured passengers (however, a limited early medical payment of up to \$5,000 may apply).

Competition in the ACT market has led to some CTP insurers offering other benefits, like cover for at-fault drivers to increase the attractiveness of their product. However, these insurance arrangements are not a requirement of the CTP legislation and the benefits are usually very limited, with compensation covering only the more severe injuries sustained in a motor accident, such as the loss of both hands and feet or quadriplegia. Each insurer who offers this product has different terms and conditions, including specified vehicle types that are covered, and the extent of compensation provided for the particular injury sustained.

- (6) The following fees and levies, in addition to the registration and CTP components, are payable depending on the circumstances (current as at 1 March 2017):

a) Vehicle Establishment Fees

[The following are the fees that are charged for vehicles when they are first registered in the ACT].

- Original registration surcharge for a motor vehicle: \$88.20;
- Original registration surcharge for a trailer or a motorcycle: \$53.30;
- Late transfer fee: \$103.50;

b) Vehicle Registration Fees:

[The following represents the annual amount charged for each Levy or Fee. The Road Rescue Fee, Road Safety Contribution and Lifetime Care and Support Levy are all calculated (pro-rata) if registration is paid on a 3, 6 or 9 month basis. The CTP regulator levy of \$1.00 is payable each time a registration is renewed ie. each time a 3, 6, 9 or 12 month registration is paid. The short term registration surcharge of \$10.00 is applied against any registration less than 12 months]:

- ACT Registration Road Rescue fee: \$25.40;
- Road Safety Contribution: \$2.50;
- Lifetime Care and Support Levy: \$35.00;

- CTP Regulator Levy: \$1.00; and
- Short term registration surcharge: \$10.00.

(7) The following figures are provided from the act.rego system, other than the Lifetime Care and Support Levy and the CTP Regulator Levy, which are collated from the CTP Regulator and LTCS Fund Financial System.

	a	b	c	d	e
	2012-13 \$m	2013-14 \$m	2014-15 \$m	2015-16 \$m	2016-17 YTD * \$m
Original registration surcharge for motor vehicle	\$2.811	\$2.780	\$2.953	\$3.179	\$2.216
Original registration surcharge for a trailer or a motorcycle	\$0.259	\$0.274	\$0.282	\$0.292	\$0.202
Short term registration surcharge	\$5.652	\$5.994	\$4.228	\$2.735	\$1.951
Late transfer fee	\$0.517	\$0.522	\$0.515	\$0.519	\$0.353
ACT Registration Road Rescue fee	\$3.073	\$3.088	\$3.269	\$4.810	\$3.187
Road Safety Contribution	\$0.541	\$0.551	\$0.566	\$0.703	\$0.470
Lifetime Care and Support Levy	\$0	\$0	\$9.666	\$9.522	\$6.554
CTP Regulator Levy	\$0.196	\$0.456	\$0.473	\$0.489	\$0.334

* The figures for 2016-2017 YTD are up to 1 March 2017 12pm.

(8) Section 203 of the *Civil Law (Wrongs) Act 2002* required insurers to provide, in relation to the ACT market, annual returns providing a range of insurance information, including the quantum of claims paid. This included CTP motor vehicle insurance.

Caution should be exercised in drawing any comparisons between the 'premium paid to insurer data' (provided in question 4) and the 'claims paid data' in this question, as the latter data, although paid out in the relevant financial year listed, relates to premiums collected in the year of the accident (often previous financial years).

a) In 2012-13 the:

Value of claims paid by the insurer (including the expense incurred in managing the claim) totalled \$89.303 million;*

* This figure includes the total combined amount for Employers' liability, Aviation and CTP motor vehicle insurance for 2012-13, given the small number of insurers operating in these markets. A combined total was necessary to protect the confidentiality of each insurer's report. In the case of CTP, NRMA was the sole CTP insurer for the ACT during 2012-13.

b) In 2013-14 the:

Value of claims paid by the insurer (including the expense incurred in managing the claim) totalled \$95.608 million; and

c) In 2014-15 the:

Value of claims paid by the insurer (including the expense incurred in managing the claim) totalled \$91.570 million.

d) and e)

The 2015-16 and 2016-17 premiums paid to the insurer are not available. The Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2016 (JACSLA Act) amended the Civil Law (Wrongs) Act 2002 to remove the requirement for annual reporting by insurers who carry on insurance business in relation to property in the ACT. The JACSLA commenced 29 June 2016:

Refer to the response to question 4 for details on the rationale for ceasing the insurance reporting requirements.

(9) The following values of claims paid by insurers in the ACT for the various heads of damage are provided below.

Caution should be exercised in drawing comparisons between the disaggregated value of claims paid (claims paid by the various heads of damage) provided in response to this question, with the value of claims paid as outlined in response to question 8. The data in response to this question is a subset of claims paid, and does not include some costs such as claims handling expenses.

It should also be noted that:

- Treatment and Care costs comprise 'past and future treatment care costs'; and
- Legal costs consist of 'defendant legal costs', 'investigation costs' and 'plaintiff legal costs', however, solicitor-client fees are not included in the data

a) 2012-13:

i. Treatment and Care	\$10.808 million;
ii. General Damages	\$19.315 million;
iii. Economic Loss	\$10.370 million;
iv. Legal Costs	\$9.567 million;

b) 2013-14:

i. Treatment and Care	\$14.672 million;
ii. General Damages	\$23.519 million;
iii. Economic Loss	\$17.644 million;
iv. Legal Costs	\$14.244 million;

c) 2014-15:

i. Treatment and Care	\$14.186 million;
ii. General Damages	\$25.312 million;
iii. Economic Loss	\$14.153 million;
iv. Legal Costs	\$18.565 million;

d) 2015-16:

i. Treatment and Care	\$24.241 million;
ii. General Damages	\$31.563 million;
iii. Economic Loss	\$24.799 million;
iv. Legal Costs	\$26.244 million;

e) 2016-17 (to the end of December 2016):

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| i. Treatment and Care | \$11.923 million; |
| ii. General Damages | \$14.714 million; |
| iii. Economic Loss | \$9.083 million; |
| iv. Legal Costs | \$12.691 million. |

(10) As shown in the following table, the ACT currently has the second highest **total** compulsory third-party (CTP) premium in Australia at \$585.90, after NSW at \$674.79.

New South Wales (NSW) announced recently that it will proceed with reforms to introduce a hybrid no-fault CTP insurance scheme underwritten by private insurers. Under a reformed CTP scheme, NSW expects that the average CTP premium will be reduced by more than \$100. If this level of reduction is achieved in NSW, then without reform to our scheme, the ACT will have the highest CTP premiums in Australia.

TOTAL CTP PREMIUM FOR A CLASS 1 PASSENGER VEHICLE

NSW	ACT	NT	Vic	SA	WA	Qld	Tas
\$674.79	\$585.90	\$546.85	\$502.70	\$500.00	\$409.35	\$368.60	\$338.00

The total CTP premiums shown are for a class 1 passenger vehicle (private use) for 12 months across the States as at 1 October 2016, based on the lowest cost provider.

The **total** CTP premium includes levies imposed by the States on CTP; stamp duty (where applicable); as well as the lifetime care (LTC) levy. The LTC levy for a number of States is embedded within the CTP premium and is not identifiable. As such, for comparability purposes, where the LTC levy is separately calculated and identified, it is also included in the total CTP premium.

(11) The ACT CTP scheme is an at-fault, Common Law based system with settlement of claims predominantly made through the courts system.

In the first instance, the scheme provides an early payment of up to \$5,000 for treatment and medical expenses without the need to lodge a full claim, with these benefits available regardless of who is at-fault. This payment provides early access to treatment and care as soon as possible after an accident, to support a better health outcome.

However, the vast majority of claims are subject to the court's processes.

If a claimant's medical expenses are expected to be more than \$5,000 or recovery will take longer than six months, there is a requirement to bring notice of a court proceeding against the insurer for the claim, in order to pursue compensation for medical, treatment and care expenses; as well as loss of earning capacity; and for general damages as a result of injuries.

Offers of settlement, compulsory conferences, and mandatory final offers are undertaken as a way of reaching agreement on a settlement prior to a court hearing.

Integral to the resolution of the claim through the court's processes, is the need for the claimant to prove that the driver of the vehicle that caused the injury was at-fault.

- (12) As jurisdictions' systems differ in the way their CTP schemes are designed (at-fault or not-at-fault), this has an influence on how each goes about resolving claims. However, it is possible to group states with similar systems.

The ACT, NSW, Queensland and WA¹ have primarily Common Law based systems. These schemes offer Common Law settlement of treatment and care costs in addition to, for eligible persons, economic loss and general damages.

In NSW, there are two dispute resolution bodies – the Medical Assessment Service (MAS) and the Claims Assessment & Resolution Service (CARS). The MAS independently assesses disputes between insurers and injured people concerning medical treatment and impairment. Decisions made by expert medical specialists concerning treatment and permanent impairment are binding on the parties, CARS and the courts. CARS is a non-adversarial forum for resolving claims early and outside of the court system. All disputed claims must be referred to CARS for certification as a precondition to the commencement of court proceedings.

In Queensland, claimants use the CTP insurer's internal dispute resolution process to help identify/resolve issues regarding their claim. The ultimate avenue for a claimant is application to the Court. The Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC) can appoint a mediator to resolve questions/issues regarding care only.

The CTP schemes in Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory are largely no-fault schemes, where defined statutory benefits are available to those injured in a transport accident regardless of fault. Statutory payments for hospital, medical, treatment, economic loss, and impairment are paid as necessary.

In Victoria claimants can dispute a scheduled payment decision of the TAC by applying in writing through the client's legal representative for a pre-issue review (dispute application). In a number of cases, the claimant, through their legal representative, can also issue an application for review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

In Tasmania, claimants can dispute a scheduled payment decision of the Motor Accidents Insurance Board (MAIB) by applying to the Motor Accidents Compensation Tribunal (MACT). When the parties have concluded the preparation of their case, including all relevant medical evidence, the case will proceed to a conciliation conference with the aim of resolving the dispute.

If a case is not resolved at the conciliation conference it will be listed for hearing before the Tribunal, with the Tribunal making a determination. A person aggrieved by a determination of the Tribunal may appeal to the Supreme Court.

- (13) It is normal practice for the CMTEDD to keep a watching brief on all jurisdictional reviews of CTP insurance schemes. CMTEDD regularly participates in inter-jurisdictional forums to share knowledge and ideas of CTP issues that are facing all Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand.

Review of the operation of the *Road Transport (Third-Party Insurance) Act 2008*

A review of the operation of the ACT's *Road Transport (Third-Party Insurance) Act 2008* was presented to the Legislative Assembly on 5 April 2016. The review was performed by the scheme actuary with the factual findings of the review based on the claims and premiums experience over the 3 years to 31 December 2015.

The review report compared the ACT CTP system with other State CTP schemes, and provided factual findings in regard to the extent to which the CTP scheme objectives have been achieved.

The review report outlines a number of areas where progress has been made in achieving and improving on the objectives of the CTP Act. These include:

- the introduction of competition since July 2013 and reduced premiums; and
- an increase in early payment Motor Accident Notification Form (MANF) claims from 6% of all claims in 2009 to 13% of all claims in 2015.²

The review report found, however, that the operation of the scheme is being impacted by the scheme design, with few qualifying thresholds or caps on some heads of damage (such as pain and suffering). This is because the scheme structure has a strong effect on claim costs, which flows through to high premiums. As a result, despite the recent decreases in premiums, the affordability of ACT CTP policies compares unfavourably with other jurisdictions.

The review report notes that the ACT's scheme design relative to other Common Law Schemes, limits the potential for further premium reductions. In order to obtain significant premium reductions in the future, scheme reform would be required.

A comparison of the 2014-15 heads of damage with NSW and Queensland (the most comparable schemes to the ACT), shows that the ACT has a relatively high proportion of claims being paid out on pain & suffering and legal costs, compared with treatment and care costs. The report notes that the high pain & suffering and legal costs are to the detriment of treatment and care costs being paid to injured parties and/or to scheme premium levels, and are partly attributable to the CTP scheme design.

¹ While the WA CTP scheme is a common law scheme, it differs significantly from the ACT, NSW and Queensland CTP schemes, in that there is only one insurer – the Insurance Commission of Western Australia (ICWA).

² MANF claims comprise an early payment of up to \$5,000 from the CTP insurer without the need for formal claim lodgement and without the requirement for legal representation. Such claims allow 'fast track' access to medical and treatment costs allowing the speedy rehabilitation of motor accident injuries, and represent lower cost claims.

Transport—number plate slogan (Question No 81)

Mr Coe: asked the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, upon notice, on 17 February 2017 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) Who decided that a new vehicle number plate slogan was required and when.
- (2) What is the objective of a new vehicle number plate slogan.
- (3) Can the Minister outline the criteria for assessing proposed vehicle number plate slogans.
- (4) Who determined how proposed vehicle number plate slogans would be assessed.
- (5) Can the Minister list the people on the panel of judges assessing proposed vehicle number plates and their expertise.
- (6) Can the Minister list the dates and duration of the meetings held by the panel of judges.
- (7) What is the cost of the project to develop and implement a new vehicle number plate slogan and to consider which of the existing slogans should be retained.
- (8) When will the new vehicle number plate slogan be finalised.
- (9) Who will make the final decision on the new vehicle number plate slogan and the decision on which of the existing slogans will be retained.
- (10) When will the new vehicle number plate slogan be available on number plates.
- (11) Will Canberrans have a choice as to whether their vehicle number plate will include the new slogan, one of the existing slogans or neither slogan.
- (12) How long will the new vehicle number plate slogan be in use.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The initiative to simplify the number of options using a community engagement process was suggested to me by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. I agreed to it in August 2016.
- (2) The objective of the new vehicle number plate slogan was to reduce the number of vehicle number plate slogans in the ACT.

Prior to this initiative the ACT had five number plate slogans in circulation which was more than any other state or territory. The number of options created complexity and unnecessary administration for Access Canberra.

The objective of the new vehicle number plate initiative was to engage the community in the process to decide on the two number plate slogans that would be used on ACT number plates.

- (3) The short-listing of proposed new vehicle number plate slogans was undertaken by a panel that took into consideration how the slogan reflected the ACT and the community, how the slogan would generate pride in Canberra and how the slogan supported the Canberra brand.

- (4) I did on advice from the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. I agreed that once the community provided options for new slogans a panel would short-list the suggestions. The short-list would then be put to a public vote, along with the opportunity to vote on a slogan that would be retained.
 - (5) The panel members, who were selected based on their broad representation of the community, were:
 - Narelle Hargreaves OAM, 2016 Canberra Citizen of the Year
 - Nipuni (Nip) Wijewickrema, 2016 ACT Young Australian of the Year
 - Robyn Hendry, CEO, Canberra Business Chamber
 - Mark Saunders, President, ACT Council of Motor Clubs
 - Adam Stankevicius, Director, Cultural Canberra
 - Brett Swale, Manager, Road User Services, Access Canberra.
 - (6) The panel met for over two hours on 19 October 2016 to decide on the short-list of the top slogans suggested by the community.
 - (7) There were no additional costs for this initiative. Resources were provided from within the existing resources of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. The new number plates will be introduced as part of the ongoing management of the number plate system and existing stocks will be phased out over time.
 - (8) The winning new plate and existing retained plate slogans were announced on Tuesday, 14 March 2017.
 - (9) The winning new plate and the existing retained slogans were voted on by the community and those slogans with the most votes were selected.
 - (10) As soon as possible. Manufacture time is approximately four months from the time of order.
 - (11) Yes, until the existing stocks of old number plates have run out.
 - (12) For the foreseeable future.
-

**ACTION bus service—Nightrider service
(Question No 82)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Further to the answer to question on notice No 64 which appeared in Questions on Notice Paper No 1, dated 16 December 2016, what was the total payment made by the ACT Government to enable passengers to gain discounts for the cost of Uber travel for their “last leg home” after using the Night Rider bus service in December 2016.
- (2) How many Night Rider bus service passengers in December 2016 claimed the \$10 Uber discount.
- (3) How many passengers travelled on the Night Rider service in 2015-16.

- (4) Of the total number of passengers identified in part (3), can the Minister list the number of passengers travelling to (a) Belconnen, (b) Gungahlin and (c) south of the Lake.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The total payment being made to UBER for customer travel as part of the trial was \$675.60.
- (2) The total number of passengers claiming the \$10 discount was 142.
- (3) The Nightrider service in 2015-16 recorded 2,309 passenger boardings.
- (4) Of the total number of passengers identified in part (3), the number of passengers travelling to (a) Belconnen was 541 (b) Gungahlin 516 and (c) south of the Lake 1,032.

Note: The value of the promotion was up to \$10 off a connecting UBER service. UBER and the ACT Government split each fare 50/50 up to the value of \$5. Some trips did not exceed the \$10 value.

ACTION bus service—school bus breakdown procedures (Question No 83)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) What procedures should be followed when a bus transporting school students either breaks down or is involved in a traffic incident.
- (2) How many times have the procedures referred to in part (1) not been followed in the financial years of (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (3) What training is provided to drivers of school buses on the duty of care to students.
- (4) How many times has a bus transporting school students broken down in the financial years of (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) ACTION staff involved in the management of an incident involving school services follows the processes outlined in the 'Bus Accident' section of the ACTION Incident Management Manual, which outlines instructions which include the following:
 - dispatch Transport Officers to the scene;
 - follow emergency services directions; and
 - control passengers at site for safety.
- (2) TCCS does not maintain a register of instances where procedures may not have been followed in connection with buses that have broken down or been involved in a traffic incident while carrying students. TCCS is presently undertaking a review of its policies, procedures, incident management procedures and safe operating procedures with a view to providing staff with greater operational clarity around the requirements of those policies and procedures.

- (3) Drivers attend 'driver continuity training' approximately every two years. Drivers are also provided with an ACTION Bus Driver handbook that outlines the processes to follow when dealing with emergencies, including those involving students.
- (4) Buses transporting school students have broken down 57 times in the current financial year. Data was not captured in previous years where school bus breakdown data for the full year is available. Improved school bus breakdown reporting was implemented in 2016.

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—Molonglo Valley (Question No 85)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister outline the responsibilities held by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate to maintain urban areas in the suburbs of the Molonglo Valley.
- (2) What is the amount that was allocated in the financial years of (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to undertake (i) mowing services, (ii) urban park maintenance, including watering, (iii) tree maintenance and (iv) weeding in Molonglo Valley suburbs.
- (3) What is the amount that has been spent in the financial years of (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date, to undertake (i) mowing services, (ii) urban park maintenance, including watering, (iii) tree maintenance and (iv) weeding in Molonglo Valley suburbs.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Responsibilities include the horticultural maintenance and cleaning of urban open space, including pedestrian parkland, parks, underpasses, laneways, ponds, arterial roads, barbecues, bus shelters, playgrounds and fitness equipment. It excludes the maintenance of verges adjoining residential, body corporate or commercial leases (except street trees) and land currently under development or in consolidation, including private leases.
- (2) Maintenance budgets (excluding tree maintenance and watering) are allocated on a regional basis. Therefore, the budget allocated to the Molonglo Valley is included as part of the Woden Valley/Weston Creek/ Molonglo Region as identified in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Note figures for Tree watering and maintenance is costed as part of a Canberra wide contract.

BUDGET		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
i.	Mowing	360	884	885
ii.	Urban Park Maintenance*	-	222	208
	Tree Watering ¹	470	480	440
iii.	Tree Maintenance ²	6,950	7,473	7,035
iv.	Weeding	-	286	147

- * Urban Park Maintenance excludes Tree Watering.
- ¹ Tree watering is costed as part of a Canberra wide contract, excluding overheads.
- ² Tree maintenance is costed as part of a Canberra wide program.
- Information not available.

- (3) Maintenance budgets (excluding tree maintenance and watering) are allocated on a regional basis. Therefore, the budget expended on the Molonglo Valley is included as part of the Woden Valley/Weston Creek/ Molonglo Region as identified in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Actual budget expenditure on the Woden Valley/Weston Creek and Molonglo Region by activity. Note figures for Tree watering and maintenance is costed as part of a Canberra wide contract.

	2014-15	2015-16	YTD January
ACTUAL	\$'000	\$'000	2016-17#
			\$'000
Mowing	648	744	529
Urban Park Maintenance*	-	290	214
Tree Watering	446	641	97
Tree Maintenance	6,414	7,508	3,615
Weeding	-	172	81

- * Urban Park Maintenance excludes Tree Watering.
- ¹ Tree watering is costed as part of a Canberra wide contract, excluding overheads.
- ² Tree maintenance is costed as part of a Canberra wide program.
- Information not available.

ACTION bus service—rapid bus services (Question No 86)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister list the rapid bus services proposed to be introduced in 2017, along with their proposed routes.
- (2) When will the timetables for the new rapid bus services be released.
- (3) What is the expected commencement date for each new rapid bus service.
- (4) Has Transport Canberra sufficient resources, including the buses and drivers, to offer the new rapid bus services.
- (5) What is the total cost to operate the new rapid bus services in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19.
- (6) Will there be a reduction in other Transport Canberra bus services once the new rapid bus services have commenced; if so, can the Minister list the services that will be reduced.

- (7) What is the cost of the proposed free two-month trial of the new rapid bus services.
- (8) Will there be any conditions imposed on free travel on the new rapid bus services.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Rapid bus services scheduled to be introduced in 2017 includes the Blue Rapid extension to Lanyon, the Black Rapid between Gungahlin and Belconnen, and the Green Rapid between Woden and City.
- (2) Timetables for these services will be released before the commencement of the new services in line with public consultation guidelines for a timetable change.
- (3) The expected commencement date is in late 2017.
- (4) Sufficient resources will be available to offer the new Rapid services.
- (5) The cost to operate the new rapid bus network are as follows:
 - a. \$3.6 million.
 - b. \$8.5 million.
 - c. \$13.9 million.
- (6) No decisions have been made to reduce, increase or re-route services elsewhere.
- (7) The cost of the proposed free two-month trial of the new rapid bus services is \$0.14 million.
- (8) The detailed implementation plan for the proposed trial is being developed by Transport Canberra.

**ACTION bus service—rapid bus service
(Question No 87)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) What has been the cost to date to operate the trial of the City Loop bus service (route 101).
- (2) What has been the cost to date of promoting the trial of the City Loop bus service.
- (3) How many drivers are required to operate the City Loop bus service.
- (4) How many other Transport Canberra staff work in support of the City Loop bus service, including standing at the City Bus Station (Stop 3002) to monitor the service or to assist passengers.
- (5) How frequently does the service run during its hours of operation.

- (6) What is the total number of people who have travelled on the City Loop bus service to date.
- (7) On average, how many services in a day operate with (a) no passengers travelling on the bus and (b) less than five passengers travelling on the bus.
- (8) How many times have buses operating the City Loop bus service broken down.
- (9) Did the answer to question on notice No 770 of 9 June 2016 refer to the initial phase of the trial; if so, what are the various phases of the trial and the timeframe for each phase.
- (10) When will the trial of the City Loop bus service conclude.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The operating cost to date of the City Loop bus service has been \$510,000. This cost includes driver wages, fuel, workshop hours and parts.
- (2) The cost to date of promoting the City Loop bus service has been \$22,500.
- (3) The City Loop bus service requires six drivers to operate. This includes 4 full time and 2 part time drivers.
- (4) Transport Canberra staff from the City Bus Station assist with the City Loop services as required as part of their regular duties.
- (5) The service is scheduled to run approximately every 10 minutes.
- (6) As at 22 March 2017, 65,502 people have travelled on the City Loop bus service to date. September 2016 recorded the highest number of boardings at 8,662.
- (7) On average in a day when there is 72 scheduled services (a) 9 trips operate with no passengers travelling on the bus and (b) 23 trips operate with less than five passengers (1 to 4 passengers) travelling on the bus.
- (8) As at 23 February 2017, the City Loop bus service has broken down 42 times since the commencement of this trial (4 July 2016). During this period there have been 11,952 scheduled City Loop bus services.
- (9) Transport Canberra service planners are currently reviewing the service to identify further refinements or changes to the service during the trial period.
- (10) The trial of the City Loop bus services is currently scheduled to conclude on Friday 30 June 2017.

Planning—Northbourne Avenue redevelopment (Question No 88)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Why was the *Eucalyptus mannifera* species, commonly known as Brittle Gum, selected to replace the trees along the median of Northbourne Avenue when this species is known for shedding limbs and it is generally recommended not to plant this species where it can overhang dwellings.
- (2) How many *Eucalyptus mannifera* have been purchased for the median of Northbourne Avenue.
- (3) Where are the *Eucalyptus mannifera* intended for the median of Northbourne Avenue being stored.
- (4) Who is responsible for maintaining the *Eucalyptus mannifera* until the trees are eventually planted.
- (5) Are the *Eucalyptus mannifera* intended for the median of Northbourne Avenue being grown in rigid pots; if so, was consideration given to an alternative growing method.
- (6) What is the cost of (a) purchasing the replacement trees for the median of Northbourne Avenue and (b) storing and maintaining those trees until they are eventually planted.
- (7) Have any of the *Eucalyptus mannifera* purchased for the median of Northbourne Avenue died; if so, how many.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) *Eucalyptus mannifera* was chosen as the preferred species after an extensive selection process that considered the specific soil chemistry of the Northbourne Avenue median, the desired Avenue qualities to be achieved, and the operational requirements of the light rail system. The chosen species is also supported by the National Capital Authority.

The *Eucalyptus mannifera* are a local dry land species, suited to our current and future climate, with more than 100,000 already in Canberra streets and parks.

As with many of the 700,000 trees currently growing in urban areas, street verges and parks in Canberra, *Eucalyptus mannifera* can shed limbs. This infrequent occurrence is not unique to *Eucalyptus mannifera*.

- (2) A total of 1200 trees have been procured by Yarralumla Nursery in response to an order from Canberra Metro for stage one of the Light Rail corridor. This includes suitable redundancy for environmental factors, care and maintenance issues, and ensures that the individual trees eventually planted within the median are of a form that is consistent with the landscape requirements and operational considerations of the light rail system.
- (3) The trees are being stored at Yarralumla Nursery.
- (4) The responsibility for a successful landscape outcome sits with Canberra Metro. Canberra Metro has sub-contracted Yarralumla Nursery to grow and maintain the trees until they are eventually planted out.

- (5) No. The *Eucalyptus mannifera* are currently in poly woven bags with handles. This allows for greater ease of handling – both manually and by machine, a key consideration given that at the time of planting each tree will weigh in excess of 150 kg.
- (6) The Delivery and Maintenance of a fully landscaped Stage 1 corridor is an important component of the Project Agreement between the Territory and Canberra Metro. The responsibility for a successful landscape outcome sits with Canberra Metro, and is included in the contracted cost of the works.
- (7) The Territory is aware that a number of individual *Eucalyptus mannifera* trees currently at Yarralumla Nursery will not be suitable for planting in the Northbourne median, as a result of a number of factors, including size, form, bark damage from environmental pests, and irrigation failures for specific individuals.

As with any major landscape procurement exercise, suitable redundancy in the number of plants procured is required to ensure that the required number of individual trees, healthy and of the required form are available for planting.

Transport and Municipal Services Directorate—staffing (Question No 89)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) How many staff left the former Transport and Municipal Services Directorate, in the month of June 2016 before the establishment of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCSD).
- (2) How many staff of the former Transport and Municipal Services Directorate were transferred to the Environment and Planning Directorate as a result of administrative changes due to the establishment of the TCCSD.
- (3) Were any staff made redundant as a result of the establishment of the TCCSD.
- (4) Were the contracts of any senior management and executive staff of the Transport and Municipal Services Directorate concluded early in the month of June 2016 before the establishment of the TCCSD; if so, (a) how many contracts were concluded and (b) can the Minister provide, for each contract concluded early due to the establishment of the TCCSD, (i) the date each individual was advised that their contract was to conclude early, (ii) the date each individual's contract was formally concluded, (iii) if each individual was required to take leave following the advice that their contract was to be concluded and the date of effect of the conclusion and the period of that leave, (iv) the nature of the advice provided to each individual regarding their options following the decision to conclude his or her contract, (v) the date that any individual whose contract was concluded early went on leave before the formal conclusion of their contract, (vi) the date that each individual's contract would ordinarily have concluded but for the decision to establish the TCCSD and (vii) the gross payout that each individual received as a result of the early conclusion of his or her contract.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

1. Twelve (12) permanent employees separated from the former Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) in the month of June 2016. The reasons for separation include resignation, retirement, invalidity retirement, voluntary redundancy and death of an employee. Four (4) temporary and one (1) casual employee separated at the end of their contracts. The permanent separation rate for June 2016 was 0.6% of the workforce.
2. 180 employees transferred to the Environment and Planning Directorate as a result of administrative changes on 1 July 2016.
3. No permanent staff were made redundant as a result of the establishment of Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.
4. (a) There were no executive contracts ceased in June 2016, however the contracts of four executives were ceased early due to the establishment of Transport Canberra and City Services in the 2016-17 financial year.
 - (b) (i)
 - One executive was advised prior to March 2016
 - Three executives were advised on 10 May 2016
 - (ii) 1 July 2016, 10 July 2016, 10 July 2016, 4 August 2016.
 - (iii) None of the affected executives were required to access their accrued leave entitlements.
 - (iv) Each executive was provided with written notice of contract cessation that specified a notice period, contract cessation date, financial and career counselling assistance valued at \$6,000, and an estimate of their final entitlements.
 - (v) One executive chose to access accrued leave prior to the conclusion of their contract.
 - (vi) 31 January 2017.
5 August 2018.
31 December 2018.
15 June 2019.
 - (vii) The gross payout for the four executives for early termination of contracts was \$715,928 excluding accrued leave entitlements. It would be inappropriate to disclose individual payments due to privacy legislation.

**Capital works—projects
(Question No 90)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) What is the current status of the Capital Works Forward Program of local shopping centre upgrade projects in 2016-2017.
- (2) What is the current status of the planning and conceptual design for the (a) Duffy, (b) Campbell, (c) Kaleen (Gwydir Square) and (d) Fraser local shopping centres.
- (3) When is the consultation process expected to commence for works at the (a) Duffy, (b) Campbell, (c) Kaleen (Gwydir Square) and (d) Fraser local shopping centres.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The current status of the Capital Works Forward Program of local shopping centre upgrade projects in 2016-2017 follows:
 - a. \$475,000 was provided in the 2016-17 ACT Budget to undertake feasibility studies at a four local shopping centres, (a) Duffy, (b) Campbell, (c) Kaleen (Gwydir Square) and (d) Fraser, to develop sketch designs with cost estimates that will inform funding bids for the construction stage of upgrades to these centres.
- (2) The current status of the planning and conceptual design for the (a) Duffy, (b) Campbell, (c) Kaleen (Gwydir Square) and (d) Fraser local shopping centres follows:
 - a. A consultant to undertake the consultation program and a design consultant to undertake the feasibility studies and prepare draft plans for a future upgrade to all four centres were engaged in November 2016.
 - b. Site surveys and accessibility investigations have been undertaken at all four centres.
 - c. The consultations plan and program is being finalised.
- (3) The consultation process at the (a) Duffy, (b) Campbell, (c) Kaleen (Gwydir Square) and (d) Fraser local shopping centres is scheduled to commence this financial year.

**ACTION bus service—park-and-ride
(Question No 91)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister list the Park and Ride facilities located in the ACT, together with the number of parking spaces (permit and non-permit spaces) at each location and indicate which locations have secure storage for bicycles.
- (2) Can the Minister list the Park and Ride facilities where parking permits are required to be displayed.
- (3) Is there a cost to obtain a permit to park at Park and Ride facilities.
- (4) Why are parking permits limited to a three month validity period.

- (5) Why are users required to have a minimum travel credit on a MyWay card or an active autoloading direct debit payment in place in order to obtain a parking permit.
- (6) Are any checks undertaken to ensure that a parking permit holder who parks their vehicle at a Park and Ride facility does continue their journey by public transport.
- (7) What options are open to those residents who use public transport infrequently, but who may wish to access a Park and Ride facility on those occasions when they travel by public transport.
- (8) Is there a limit on the number of parking permits issued each year by Transport Canberra.
- (9) How many residents have been issued with park and ride permits in the (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date financial years.
- (10) Does Transport Canberra monitor the use of Park and Ride facilities to determine if the facilities are being used and are meeting the needs of public transport users; if so, when was the last review of the usage of Park and Ride facilities undertaken.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) See attached spreadsheet.
- (2) See attached spreadsheet.
- (3) No.
- (4) Parking permits are limited to a three month validity period to enable bus travels to be validated. Previously this period was for one month.
- (5) Having a travel credit on a valid MyWay card at the time of application is further indication of the applicant's commitment/intention to travel on Transport Canberra buses.
- (6) Prior to issuing a Park and Ride permit MyWay cards are checked to validate regular travels. If the data does not display regular travels the customer is contacted to question travel history and exceptional circumstances.
- (7) MyWay cards are active for two years from the time of purchase. Applicants can purchase a MyWay card and apply minimal balance with an autoloading to meet the requirement. Applicants are able to include a note in their application to explain exceptional circumstances. This is used when applicants have not travelled previously and there is no travel history at the time of application. \$40 or more travel credit is required on a concession MyWay card or an autoloading applied. \$0 credit is required for Senior and over 70 travellers. This can be noted in the remarks at the time of application.
- (8) No.

(9)

Financial Year	Permits issued
2014-15	3207
2015-16	3780
2016-17	2299 (to 31 Jan 2017)

(10) Studies are undertaken on an ad-hoc basis by Transport Canberra and staff to monitor the capacity of park and ride facilities. The last network wide review of park and ride facilities was undertaken by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) in May 2015. EPSDD also considers the effectiveness of all park and ride facilities through their master planning program to ensure coordinated land use and transport planning decisions.

(A copy of the attachment is available at the Chamber Support Office).

ACTION bus service—fleet (Question No 93)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) How many new buses have been (a) purchased or (b) leased for the Transport Canberra fleet in the financial years of (i) 2015-16 and (ii) 2016-17 to date.
- (2) How much has been spent on (a) purchasing or (b) leasing the buses listed to in part (1).
- (3) How many more buses does the ACT Government expect to (a) purchase or (b) lease for the remainder of the 2016-17 financial year.
- (4) What is the estimated cost of (a) purchasing or (b) leasing the buses listed in part (3).
- (5) What is the age of the Transport Canberra bus fleet, broken down into five-year brackets.
- (6) How many buses in the Transport Canberra fleet do not feature air conditioning or climate control systems.
- (7) When will the buses listed in part (6) be replaced.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Government took delivery of 29 new buses in 2015-16 and leased one bus for a period of six months during 2015-16. During 2016-17 to date, 15 new buses have been delivered. No buses have been leased during 2016-17.
- (2) In 2015-16, \$12.289m was spent on purchasing new buses and \$36,000 was spent on leasing one bus. To date during 2016-17, \$6.65m has been spent on purchasing new buses. No buses have been leased during 2016-17.

- (3) Transport Canberra expects to purchase a further 20 buses in 2016-17. There are no plans to lease buses in 2016-17.
- (4) It is expected that the 20 buses to be delivered in 2016-17 will cost \$9.19m.
- (5) The age of the operational Transport Canberra bus fleet is as follows:

0-5 years	116
5-10 years	131
10-15 years	73
15-20 years	6
20-25 years	70
25-30 years	31

- (6) There are currently 107 buses in the Transport Canberra fleet that do not feature air conditioning or climate control systems for passengers.
- (7) Of the 107 buses listed in (6) above, 20 are scheduled to be replaced in 2016-17. Replacement of the remaining 87 buses has not yet been scheduled.

Roads—school safety measures (Question No 94)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Has the trial, announced on 9 December 2015, of road safety measures around a limited number of Canberra schools concluded, if so, what was the outcome of the trial.
- (2) Will bigger and better road safety signage, dedicated crossings, traffic islands and alternative drop-off and pick-up points close to schools be installed around Canberra's schools; if so, (a) what is the budget allocation for this work in (i) 2016-17 and (ii) 2017-18 and (b) is there a priority list for this work.
- (3) Will the road safety measures be implemented at both public and private schools in the ACT; if so, can the Minister list the schools where improved road safety measures will be installed in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Yes. An evaluation report of the pilot will be completed in April 2017.
- (2) There are two projects relating to road safety around schools - the Active Streets Pilot program and the School Crossing Supervisor program. The School Crossing Supervisor Program is currently under development. The Active Streets Pilot program at four schools is currently being evaluated. A total of \$1 million has been provided across 2016-17 and 2017-18 for the Active Streets program.

(3) Following the pilot, the Active Streets program is being rolled out across 20 sites (which includes and will benefit 25 schools – 20 public and five private schools) throughout 2016-17 and 2017-18. Please see below a list of schools participating in the Active Streets program.

- Ainslie School
- Amaroo School and Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School*
- Aranda Primary School and St Vincent's Primary School*
- Calwell Primary School
- Caroline Chisholm Primary School
- Chapman Primary School
- Charnwood Dunlop School
- Curtin Primary School and Holy Trinity Primary School*
- Evatt Primary School
- Garran Primary School
- Harrison School and Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School*
- Hughes Primary School
- Lyneham Primary School and Brindabella Christian College Junior*
- Maribyrnong Primary School
- Melrose High School
- Palmerston District Primary School
- Richardson Primary School
- Sacred Heart Primary School
- Telopea Park School
- Wanniasa School

*Co-located school

Schools—computers (Question No 116)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

How many devices have been purchased for each school by name in the ACT since October 2016.

Ms Berry: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

School	Total Devices
Alfred Deakin School	63
Amaroo School	45
Arawang Primary School	73
Belconnen High School	2
Black Mountain School	3
Campbell Primary School	3
Canberra College	2
Canberra High School	26
Dickson College	44

School	Total Devices
Evatt Primary School	4
Fadden Primary School	1
Forrest Primary School	38
Franklin Early Childhood School	5
Fraser Primary School	3
Giralang Primary School	100
Gowrie Primary School	2
Gungahlin College	2
Harrison School	13
Hawker Primary School	30
Kaleen High School	21
Kaleen Primary School	30
Lake Ginninderra College	1
Lyneham High School	6
Lyons Early Childhood School	50
Macquarie Primary School	17
Majura Primary School	5
Melba Copland Secondary School	4
Melrose High School	12
Ngunnawal Primary School	30
North Ainslie Primary School	1
O'Connor Co-operative School	5
Palmerston Primary School	1
Taylor Primary School	3
Telopea Park School	30
Theodore Primary School	48
Turner Primary School	20
Yarralumla Primary School	25
Grand Total	768

Land Development Agency—conflicts of interest (Question No 118)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Is it permissible for the same entity to act as both agent for the Land Development Agency and agent for any of the property owners subject to the tender of property acquisition process.
- (2) Are consultants that evaluate tenders for the purchase of englobo lots allowed to contract in advance to act as agent for subsequent individual lot sales; if so, is this a conflict of interest.

Ms Berry: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) There is no legal restriction that would prevent an agent representing both parties in an acquisition process. However, the LDA's panel arrangements for Property Agents include a requirement that where there is a real, potential or perceived conflict the

agent must notify the LDA so that any conflict can be managed or avoided. It should also be noted that LDA Executives take necessary steps to ensure any conflicts are avoided before entering into contractual arrangements.

- (2) As per question one, there is no legal restriction that would prevent this occurring. However, again, there is a requirement for all consultants to declare any conflict as soon as it arises or becomes apparent.

Housing ACT—domestic and family violence (Question No 119)

Ms Le Couteur the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Does Housing and Community Services have a policy manual to guide Housing ACT staff in appropriate responses to those who have experienced or are escaping domestic and family violence; if so, how often do staff at Housing ACT get training in the application of the domestic violence manual and how many have been trained.
- (2) How many times have Housing and Community Services officers sought modifications to improve safety for clients who experience domestic violence.
- (3) How many applications have been made to change tenancies to allow women and children who are subjected to domestic and family violence to stay in their property.
- (4) In how many instances has debt been removed from a person's account upon evidence of any Tenant Responsible Maintenance that can be attributed to domestic and family violence.
- (5) Have there been any instances of debt pursued against tenants where there has been evidence of domestic violence.
- (6) Has Housing ACT ever pursued charges of wilful damage against the user of violence where property damage is associated with the incidence of domestic and family violence; if so, how many times.
- (7) How many people escaping domestic violence are on the priority list for ACT Housing dwellings.

Ms Berry: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Housing and Community Services (HACS) does have a *Domestic and Family Violence Policy Manual*. The manual was formally reviewed, updated and relaunched in late 2015 following an extensive consultation process involving staff and community sector organisations.

All HACS staff have been provided training around domestic and family violence and were provided a copy of the new manual. Frontline staff with regular interaction with the public attended mandatory two-day training on identifying and responding to domestic and family violence.

All other HACS staff were required to attend half-day awareness sessions. The manual is provided to all new staff and domestic and family violence training has been incorporated in the organisation's ongoing training program.

- (2) HACS sought modification to improve safety and security for clients in 41 properties in the 2015-16 financial year. Housing and Community Services works closely with the Domestic Violence and Crisis Service to deliver appropriate modifications that are tailored to the individual circumstances.
- (3) Under clause 85 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (RTA), if a tenant or joint tenant has been excluded from, being at the property by a court order, the remaining resident may apply, through the ACT Administrative Appeals Tribunal (ACAT) for the tenancy to be put in their name.

In 2015-16, no applications were made to the ACAT for substitution of the tenant under clause 85 of the RTA. None have been made in 2016-17 to date.

- (4) HACS does remove Tenant Responsible Maintenance charges where they can be attributed to family and domestic violence, consistent with the Domestic Violence Policy Manual. Housing and Community Services did not fully capture the tenant responsible maintenance charges it removed due to family and domestic violence in 2015-16 however this process has commenced in October 2016 with 7 amounts being removed.
- (5) HACS has an obligation to pursue rent in all tenancies however is very conscious of domestic and family violence experiences in homes. In instances where domestic and family violence is known, additional resources are engaged to support tenants to sustain their tenancies and prevent tenancies from progressing to legal action at ACAT. HACS recognises that economic violence can be a component of domestic and family violence. The Commissioner for Social Housing however does not have the capacity to waive debt. As outlined in the Domestic Violence Policy Manual, any determination to waive a debt owed to the ACT Government must be made by a delegate of the ACT Treasurer. In 2015-16 there were zero determinations made and zero for the year to date.
- (6) In circumstances where the Australian Federal Police are seeking to prosecute perpetrators of family and domestic violence, HACS work with the Police to identify costs and provide any evidence to support the case. Housing and Community Services do not have records about the frequency of these matters.
- (7) As at 24 February 2017, there were 10 applications on the priority list for a public housing dwelling where the applicant is experiencing domestic violence (28% of all applications on the priority list). In addition, as at 24 February 2017, there were 10 applications on the priority list for a transfer to another public housing dwelling where the applicant is experiencing domestic violence (21% of all applications on the priority list).

Planning—Giralang shops (Question No 121)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Have the lessors of the Giralang shops breached their lease conditions given that the shops have not been operational for over a decade.
- (2) What compliance activity has been undertaken at this site.
- (3) What is the status of the current development at Giralang shops.
- (4) Are there any plans to develop an overarching precinct plan for the Giralang local centre and surrounding school and community-zoned land.
- (5) Are there any active development applications for the Giralang shops.
- (6) What is the Government doing to ensure that Giralang shops are operational.

Mr Gentleman: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) A new Crown lease was registered in March 2014. Neither the previous nor the current lessors have breached their lease conditions due to non operation of the shops.
- (2) No compliance activity has been undertaken at the site since the blocks were consolidated as there is no legislative basis for such activity. The developer commenced works to re-develop the site but delays have been experienced due to legal proceedings. A new Development Application is now required to be lodged and approved for the site.
- (3) The DA for Giralang shops was approved in August 2011. Under this DA, buildings were demolished and the new development commenced with formwork for the basement and ground floor levels. However, construction works ceased due to the instigation of legal proceedings in the Supreme Court. As part of the settlement of these legal proceedings, the DA was eventually surrendered in September 2016. No further construction can commence until a new development application is lodged and approved.
- (4) There are no plans to develop an over-arching precinct plan for the Giralang local centre, surrounding school and community-zoned land.
- (5) There are no active development applications for the Giralang shops.
- (6) The ACT Government is working with the Crown Lessee of the Giralang shops to encourage the lodgement of a new development application.

Planning—demonstration precincts (Question No 122)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Did the previous Minister for Planning and Development's Statement of Planning Intent 2015 include an "immediate" action to identify a number of "demonstration precincts"; if so, how many demonstration precincts were identified and where are they located.

- (2) For each demonstration precinct listed in part (1), which priorities identified in the Statement does it address (a) innovative planning process, (b) sustainable development, (c) innovative and alternative housing options, (d) innovative models for the public realm and (e) promotion of water sensitive urban design and living (green) infrastructure.
- (3) For each demonstration precinct listed in part (1), what is the timeframe for commencement and completion.

Mr Gentleman: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) To date three demonstration precincts have been identified:
 - a) The Kamberra on Federal, 595 Northbourne Ave, Lyneham;
 - b) Dickson Group Centre, working with local traders; and
 - c) Western Greenway.
- (2) a) The Kamberra on Federal meets the following priorities:
 - innovative planning process;
 - sustainable development;
 - innovative and alternative housing options;
 - innovative models for the public realm; and
 - promotion of water sensitive urban design and living (green) infrastructure.
- b) Dickson Group Centre meets the following priorities:
 - innovative planning process;
 - sustainable development; and
 - innovative models for the public realm.
- c) Western Greenway meets the following priorities:
 - innovative planning process; and
 - innovative models for the public realm.
- d) Demonstration precinct timeframes are:
 - The Kamberra on Federal development is expected to commence late 2017 pending approval, with a delivery period of 10 to 15 years;
 - The Dickson Group Centre is ongoing; and
 - The Western Greenway proposal ensured that community, business and research sectors were engaged early to optimise meaningful, transparent and effective communications with the public. The Panel's report to government was released on 23 December 2016. EPSDD will now review the report in detail and commence discussions with existing local community and recreation groups to consider how government can support their vision and ambitions for the area.

Planning—master plans (Question No 123)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a list of the master plans that have not yet been finalised and when they are expected to be finalised.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a list of the master plans that have been incorporated into the Territory Plan and indicate whether the master plans have been fully or partially incorporated.

Mr Gentleman: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

(1) Master Plans currently in progress include:

- **Kippax Centre Group Master Plan** – anticipated to be finalised in 2017/18.
- **Curtin Group Centre Master Plan** – anticipated to be finalised in 2017/18.
- **Tharwa Village Plan** – anticipated to be finalised in 2017/18.

(2) Master Plans incorporated in the Territory Plan include:

- **Dickson Group Centre Master Plan** – May 2011 (Territory Plan variation 311 - June 2013).
- **Kingston Group Centre Master Plan** – June 2011 (Territory Plan variation 314 - May 2014).
- **Kambah Group Centre Master Plan** - July 2012 (Territory Plan Variation 317 - 30 May 2014).
- **Tuggeranong Town Centre Master Plan** – September 2012 (Territory Plan variation 318 - October 2014).
- **Erindale Group Centre Master Plan** - September 2012 (Territory Plan variation 320 - November 2015).
- **Pialligo Rural Village Master Plan** - November 2013 (Territory Plan variation 321 - August 2015).

Completed Master Plans to be incorporated in the Territory Plan include:

- **Weston Group Centre Master Plan**- December 2014.
 - A review of the Weston draft Territory Plan variation 329 is currently on hold while a contamination study is completed, as requested by the EPA.
- **Oaks Estate Master Plan** - December 2014.
 - A review of the Oaks Estate draft Territory Plan variation 328 is currently on hold while the Heritage Council considers the heritage nominations for Oaks Estate.
- **Woden Town Centre and Mawson Group Centre Master Plans** - November 2015. (Prepared simultaneously to align the relationships between metropolitan transport, land use and infrastructure).
 - The draft Territory Plan variations including replacement precinct codes for the centres are being finalised and will be issued shortly for community engagement following Government consideration.
- **Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan** - September 2016. The draft Territory Plan variation including a replacement precinct code for the centre is currently being finalised and will be issued for community engagement following Government consideration.

- **Calwell Group Centre Master Plan** –September 2016. The draft Territory Plan variation including a replacement precinct code for the centre is currently being finalised and will be issued for community engagement following Government consideration.
-

**Light rail—employment
(Question No 125)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) How many consultants or contractors have been engaged by the ACT Government to work on the light rail project.
- (2) What recruitment processes were undertaken before the position of Executive Director, Procurement and Delivery was filled.
- (3) Was an external recruitment agency used in the process to appoint the Executive Director, Procurement and Delivery; if so, what was cost of the using an external recruitment agency for this purpose.
- (4) How many applicants were considered for the position of Executive Director, Procurement and Delivery.
- (5) Who approved the appointment of the Executive Director, Procurement and Delivery.
- (6) How was the salary package of the Executive Director, Procurement and Delivery determined.
- (7) Why wasn't this position engaged by the Canberra Metro consortium.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Since 2013 eighty seven (87) providers (consultancy and other), have been engaged to undertake services pursuant to delivering the Canberra Light Rail Project. This number includes the engagement of utilities and telecommunications providers (i.e. ACTEW, ICON Water and Telstra etc).
- (2) Direct industry enquiries.
- (3) No.
- (4) One. See response at (2) above.
- (5) The Director-General, Capital Metro Agency.
- (6) Through benchmarking of market rates for individuals of like skills and experience, with consideration of the number of transportation projects in the Australian market at the time of the engagement.

- (7) Responsibilities of this position included project procurement tasks and subsequent contract management tasks. Accordingly, it would not be appropriate for this role to be the responsibility of Canberra Metro.
-

**Minister for Planning and Land Management—travel costs
(Question No 126)**

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) Did the Minister lead a delegation in February 2016 to North America with the stated purpose of looking at best practice urban design, transport planning and sustainable development.
- (2) Does the Legislative Assembly Travel Report for the period January to June 2016 show the total cost of the trip at \$16 697.69; if so, why do recent documents obtained under Freedom of Information reveal a total cost of \$70 538. and what is the reason for the variation.
- (3) Has the detailed report on key learnings from the trip that you provided to The Canberra Times also been made available to the Assembly; if not, why not and will the Minister provide that report to Assembly Members.
- (4) Was a grant of \$2 000 offered to non-government delegation attendees.
- (5) Was the actual total amount paid per non-government attendee closer to \$6 000 per attendee; if so, what was the reason for the increase.

Mr Gentleman: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Yes, I did lead a delegation to cities in the USA and Canada to view best practice urban design, transport planning and sustainable development.
 - (2) Yes, the Legislative Assembly Travel Report for the period January to June 2016 shows the total cost of the trip as \$16,697.69. This amount is for myself and did not include other members of the delegation. The total cost incurred for the ACT Government was \$70,538.00.
 - (3) I tabled a report on the travel in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday 5 May 2016. This report is available at www.planning.act.gov.au.
 - (4) Yes.
 - (5) No, the total grant was \$6,000.00. Each of the three non-government attendees received \$2,000.00.
-

**Crime—female incarceration
(Question No 127)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

What is being done about the increasing incarceration rates of women in the ACT.

Mr Rattenbury: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

The demand for accommodation for women both remanded in custody and serving custodial sentences has steadily increased since the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) was opened.

There are many complex factors in the broader criminal justice system that contribute to incarceration rates. Women detainees at the AMC demonstrate unique and complex behavioural and criminogenic needs. Many come from lives in the community where they have been victims of crimes themselves. They have in many cases experienced trauma and exploitation. Some of the women at AMC have poor literacy and levels of education and many have struggled with addictions. Often these women have poor health and wellbeing, and face difficulties in managing conflict.

ACTCS is committed to decreasing recidivism by 25% by 2025 as identified in the JACS Strategic Plan 2017-2019. ACTCS runs a range of rehabilitative programs aimed at addressing recidivism among the female detainee population, and preventing detainees returning to custody.

Within the AMC a range of rehabilitation programs and educational opportunities are provided for women targeting aspects of their lives such as parenting skills, building positive relationships and addressing trauma.

The Extended Throughcare program provides support beyond the end of a detainee's custodial sentence to assist their transition back to the community and help to reduce the risk of re-offending. All women exiting the AMC, whether they were remanded or sentenced, are provided this opportunity. The program provides practical assistance with overcoming barriers surrounding detainee re-entry across five core areas: accommodation, health care, income, connections and basic needs.

ACTCS provides programs including Self Care for Women which is a Marymead program co facilitated by ACTCS and designed for women in custody, focusing on learning strategies to cope with stress and mental health, mental illness and physical health. The Out of the Dark program is another life development program designed for women who have experienced domestic or family violence. It is a 14 hour program that aims to help participants identify issues around domestic and family violence, as well as identifying options and supports available. Additionally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women can access the Conservation Land Management program.

Additionally, the 2015-2016 ACT Budget committed \$3.228 million over three years to enhance Community Corrections, including support for a new sentencing option (the Intensive Correction Order) developed as part of the Justice Reform Strategy (JRS). The JRS provided an opportunity to consider fundamental improvements to the justice system in the ACT. It has also informed further justice reform work being carried forward including measures that could be adopted to better address recidivism and ensure community safety. Intersecting with the JRS is the Justice Reinvestment Strategy, a four year program funded in the 2014-2015 Budget.

The ACT Government is currently exploring options to provide additional sustainable accommodation options for women at the AMC.

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainees
(Question No 128)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

How many female (a) detainees and (b) remandees were accommodated in the Alexander Maconochie Centre on (a) Saturday, 24 September 2016, (b) Tuesday, 4 October 2016, (c) Friday, 11 November 2016, (d) Thursday, 15 December 2016, (e) Monday, 2 January 2017 and (f) Tuesday, 7 February 2017.

Mr Rattenbury: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

The number of female detainees accommodated in the Alexander Maconochie Centre on the requested dates were:

- (a) on Saturday, 24 September 2016 there were 28 female detainees: 14 on remand, 14 under sentence;
- (b) on Tuesday, 4 October 2016 there were 29 female detainees: 15 remand and 14 under sentence;
- (c) on Friday, 11 November 2016 there were 25 female detainees: 13 on remand, 12 under sentence;
- (d) on Thursday, 15 December 2016 there were 26 female detainees: 13 on remand, 13 under sentence;
- (e) on Monday, 2 January 2017 there were 29 female detainees: 16 on remand, 13 under sentence; and
- (f) on Tuesday, 7 February 2017 there were 29 female detainees: 19 on remand, 10 under sentence.

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainees
(Question No 129)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

Are there 29 beds designated for women in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) and has there been documented occasions where there have been 32 women held at the AMC at a single time; if so, how were the extra women accommodated.

Mr Rattenbury: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

There are 29 beds designated for women in the AMC.

On several occasions, there have been up to 32 women at the AMC at a single time. On occasions when the number of female detainees has exceeded the number of beds designated for women, the allocation of accommodation is determined according to

individual detainee needs. Female detainees housed in general population areas are always accommodated separately from men within the AMC.

Some female detainees have been accommodated in the Management Unit, comprising 14 beds. The Management Unit has two separate accommodation areas, one of five and one of nine single cell configurations. The two areas are physically separated by an enclosed officer station and security doors. Each single cell has an adjoining yard at the rear of the cell. The unit has external yards and a program/interview room. Detainees in the Management Unit are not restricted in terms of access to telephones, computers and time outside of their cells, which aligns with other general accommodation area access.

While this Management Unit is being used for female detainees, male detainees do not have access to the Management Unit.

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) was notified on 30 January 2017 by the ACTCS Acting Executive Director that female detainees were being accommodated in the Management Unit. A visit for HRC representatives to the Management Unit was facilitated on 2 February 2017 to ensure the conditions were human rights compliant.

A small number of female detainees have been held in the Health Unit for discreet periods of time, where this was determined to be necessary for their safe management and wellbeing. Furthermore, the Crisis Support Unit also accommodates women who are identified as being at risk of harm in order for these detainees to receive appropriate monitoring and treatment to ensure their safety. Women are housed in cells separately from men in each of these locations.

Animals—dangerous dogs (Question No 130)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) How many people have been treated for injury from dog attacks in each of the past five years.
- (2) What were the categories of injuries sustained.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The number of people presenting to ACT public hospital Emergency Departments with a presentation recorded at triage as being related to a dog attack was:

Year	Number of people treated for injury related from dog attacks
2012	100
2013	84
2014	127
2015	117
2016	155

- (2) The categories of injury for patients admitted to hospital in order of prevalence from most to least frequent over the past five years were injuries to:
 - wrist and hand

- head
 - elbow and forearm
 - knee and lower leg
 - hip and thigh
 - shoulder and upper arm
 - ankle and foot
 - abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine, and pelvis.
-

Lake Tuggeranong—shared paths (Question No 131)

Mr Doszpot asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) What measures have been undertaken to improve and promote good cycling and walking behaviour on shared paths around Lake Tuggeranong in the past four years.
- (2) How many new signs have been installed around Lake Tuggeranong and the connecting paths in close proximity to the lake in the past four years.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a map with the location of each signpost.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a date that each sign was installed around Lake Tuggeranong and nearby paths in the last four years.
- (5) What signs are on the shared path from Monash to Lake Tuggeranong.
- (6) How many of the signs referred to in part (5) are there and can the Minister indicate their location on a map.
- (7) Have any new behavioural signs been installed on the shared path from Monash to Lake Tuggeranong in the past year.
- (8) Are any new behavioural signs planned for the shared paths around Lake Tuggeranong and from Monash to Lake Tuggeranong; if so, where and when are they planned.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) 'Share the Path' behavioural signs were installed at various locations around Lake Tuggeranong in 2016.
- (2) 26 'Share the Path' signs were installed at various locations around Lake Tuggeranong.
- (3) Maps are provided at **Attachment A**.
- (4) The 26 signs were installed in October 2016.
- (5) No behavioural or 'Share the Path' signs are located on main community routes in Monash.
- (6) Nil.

(7) No.

(8) A review is underway assessing the main community routes that are located in Monash to extend the behaviour share the path signs recently provided around Lake Tuggeranong.

(A copy of the attachment is available at the Chamber Support Office).

Animals—dangerous dogs (Question No 132)

Mr Doszpot asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) How many owners of dogs have been successfully prosecuted for offences by dogs under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* in the past five years.
- (2) What penalties have been imposed for successful prosecutions under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* in the past five years.
- (3) How many dogs have been impounded under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* in the past five years.
- (4) How many dogs have been put down as a consequence of dangerous behaviour in the ACT in the past five years.
- (5) How many dogs have been declared as dangerous dogs under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* in the ACT in the past five years.
- (6) How many dogs that have been declared as dangerous dogs under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* in the ACT in the past five years have had the declaration rescinded on appeal.
- (7) How many dogs that were declared as dangerous dogs under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* in the ACT in the past five years subsequently had further action taken against them as a consequence of further incidents.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Two.
- (2) Prosecution penalties have included: conviction for carer allowing dog to attack a person or animal; conviction for animal nuisance; court-ordered declaration of the dog as dangerous; court-issued infringements.
- (3) 6,754 dogs from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016 including stray, roaming, abandoned, surrendered (handed in by owner) and seized dogs.
- (4) 486 dogs in the past 4 years. Prior to 2012, data on the number of euthanized dogs was not captured.

(5) 32 dogs.

(6) Zero.

(7) Three.

Animals—dangerous dogs (Question No 133)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 17 February 2017:

- (1) On how many occasions in each of the past five years have police attended incidents of dog attacks.
- (2) On how many of the occasions listed in part (1) were owners of dogs charged as a consequence of these attacks.
- (3) How many of these incidents resulted in court action.

Mr Gentleman: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

I have been advised by ACT Policing that, over the past five years, sixteen (16) incidents were reported to ACT Policing for the following offences and years as recorded in Table 1.

Table 1

Offence Type	Date Reported				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
A.C.T. - CARER ALLOW A DOG TO ATTACK A PERSON OR ANIMAL	1	5	3	1	1
A.C.T. - CARER ALLOW A DOG TO ATTACK OR HARRASS A PERSON OR ANIMAL	0	0	0	0	4
A.C.T. - KEEPER ALLOW A DOG TO ATTACK OR HARASS A PERSON OR ANIMAL	0	0	0	0	1

SAS Ref: Dog Attack Offences and Apprehensions.epg

I have been further advised by ACT Policing, of the sixteen (16) incidents attended by ACT Policing, seven individuals were charged and later appeared before the Court for the following offences as recorded in Table 2.

Table 2

Offence Type	Date Reported				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
A.C.T. - CARER ALLOW A DOG TO ATTACK A PERSON OR ANIMAL	1	1	1	2	0
A.C.T. - CARER ALLOW A DOG TO ATTACK OR HARRASS A PERSON OR ANIMAL	0	0	0	0	1
A.C.T. - KEEPER ALLOW A DOG TO ATTACK OR HARASS A PERSON OR ANIMAL	0	0	0	0	1

SAS Ref: Dog Attack Offences and Apprehensions.epg

Questions without notice taken on notice

Government—construction and development policy

Mr Ramsay (*in reply to a question by Mr Doszpot on Thursday, 15 December 2016*):

This Government is committed to banning political donations by property developers. In that context, the ACT has the power to pass legislation that identifies and prohibits money from property developers being given to political parties.

The Government's general powers to investigate and enforce its laws are strong, and include the power to follow money trails. They will be more than adequate to ensure that the ban on political donations by property developers, when implemented, is effective.

Territory plan—technical amendment TA2016-17

Mr Gentleman (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Le Couteur on Thursday, 15 December 2016*):

In regard to the Question on how much will the proponent be paying for the rights to use the additional developable airspace which technical amendment TA2016-17 of the Territory Plan relates to. If the Technical Amendment and the Development Application are approved the proponent will be required to pay full market value for this area.

To determine full market value, three valuations would be sought from members of the "Whole of Government Valuation Services Panel" and the highest valuation (as per the standing direction from Treasury) would form the sales price for the air rights.

In regard to the question about whether the government has sold development rights previously like that depicted in TA 2016-17, I provided you with an example of one located on the edge of Cooyong Street in the new development across the road from the ATO office and stated I would obtain further details on this development for you. You may also be aware that there are several 'air bridges' that connect sections of the Canberra Centre.

The development I was referring to is located on what is now known as Block 1 Section 96 City (formerly part of Section 84 City). A Development Application (DA) was conditionally approved in 2011 (DA No. 201120272) for construction of a mixed use development. The DA featured air rights for a minor encroachment over the property boundary where the development fronts Cooyong Street with conditions imposed in the approval to address this issue.

The proponent undertook certain actions to meet conditions of DA No. 201120272, however did not follow through with construction of the building. The proponent has recently lodged further DAs to construct a new building over the block, with one DA being for basement car parking (DA approved on 12 December 2016, DA No.

201630169), and another DA (DA No. 201630592) for a range of uses above ground level including commercial accommodation and residential uses. This DA is currently under public notification and is yet to be assessed.

Electricity—outages

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lee on Tuesday, 14 February 2017*):

ActewAGL Distribution has advised my Directorate of six unplanned electricity supply outages in the week preceding Tuesday 14 February 2017. The causes of these outages reflect routine and regular day-to-day electricity network operation activities, such as equipment faults and fallen vegetation.

Specific details of unplanned electricity outages are provided in the table below.

Date	Suburbs Affected	Customer Numbers	Cause
8/02/2017	Parts of Lyneham, Mitchell, Kenny, Bruce	1015	Equipment Failure
10/02/2017	Parts of Spence, Melba, Fraser	882	Equipment Failure
10/02/2017	Parts of Franklin, Mitchell, Gungahlin	2629	Equipment Failure
11/02/2017	Parts of Latham, Macgregor, Dunlop	1076	Unknown source – Outage persisted as auto restore settings had been overridden during Total Fire Ban
12/02/2017	Parts of Rivett, Holder, Weston, Duffy, Stirling	1046	Trees in Line
13/02/2017	Parts of Barton, Deakin, Griffith, Forrest, Parkes, City	841	Equipment Failure

Separate to the above unplanned outages, ACT and NSW electricity networks were being closely monitored between Thursday, 10 February 2017 and Sunday, 12 February 2017 on advice of the Australian Energy Market Operator that there was a lack of forecast reserve generation capacity in the NSW market on those days. Due to the actions of households and businesses across ACT and NSW to reduce their non-essential energy use over those days the power system was kept within stable operating ranges. No ACT electricity customers lost electricity supply as a result of either these voluntary measures or broader power system issues on those days.

ACT Health—mental health data

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to supplementary questions by Mrs Dunne and Mrs Jones on Wednesday, 15 February 2017*):

- (1) Investigations to date have not found any errors in the mental health data in the 2014-15 Annual Report. The mental health datasets will be examined further as part of the system-wide review of ACT Health data and reporting processes.

- (2) Investigations to date have not found any errors in the mental health data in the 2014-15 Annual Report. The mental health datasets will be examined further as part of the system-wide review of ACT Health data and reporting processes.

ACT Health—annual report corrigenda

Mr Barr (*in reply to a question by Ms Lee on Wednesday, 15 February 2017*):

There are a total of four corrigenda to 2015-16 Annual Reports. The Community Services Directorate and Education Directorate tabled corrigenda on 14 February 2017. Transport Canberra and City Services tabled corrigenda on 16 February 2017. Corrigenda for the State of the Service Report 2016 as advised on 27 February 2017 is currently being prepared and will be tabled at the next Assembly sitting. The Workforce Capability and Governance Division has been advised of all of these corrigenda. At this stage, no other directorates have advised they are preparing a corrigendum.

Corrigenda can be developed and tabled as soon as any errors are confirmed; there are no time limits on how long after Annual Reports have been prepared that corrigenda can be tabled.

No ACT Government directorate or agency has notified my directorate of any problems with its management of data and reporting of performance information in relation to the 2015-16 Annual Reports or other reports to the Assembly.

ACT Health—annual report corrigenda

Mr Barr (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 15 February 2017*):

Discussions about the accuracy of data occur as part of the routine data validation processes. Specific to the questions raised by Mrs Dunne, I am advised that ACT Health has regular liaison with several Commonwealth Agencies to improve data quality as required under the National Health Information Agreement (**Sections 18 and 33(e), (f), (j)**).

Canberra Hospital—data integrity

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to supplementary questions by Mrs Jones and Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 15 February 2017*):

1. The falsified data in 2012 was the record level data in the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS).

Currently, there is no evidence that raises concern with the data contained within the EDIS system.

2. Currently, there is no evidence that raises concerns with the records that were corrected within EDIS as a result of the Auditor General's report in 2012.

Asbestos—worker safety

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question by Mr Doszpot on Thursday, 16 February 2017*):

There is no requirement for air monitoring results to be collected by WorkSafe ACT as they are collected by the Procurement and Capital Works Division and are made available for inspection with all other site documentation held by the principal demolition contractor. If any results are outside the acceptable limits WorkSafe ACT is immediately informed.

Asbestos—removal

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Parton on Thursday, 16 February 2017*):

- (1) As air monitoring results on the boundaries of Mr Fluffy properties have shown no detection of asbestos fibres, there has been no need to inspect neighbouring properties. Some testing of neighbouring properties has been conducted to address specific concerns received by neighbours in some instances but no detection of asbestos fibres was made.
- (2) Appropriate clearance certificates are issued for every remediated site by a licensed asbestos assessor.