

## Answers to questions

### Hospitals—pharmacy dispensing arrangements (Question No 2083)

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 30 November 2018 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Health and Wellbeing*):

- (1) Does the ACT have the same arrangements for dispensing drugs from hospital pharmacies as other states and territories; if so, which other states and territories have the same arrangements as the ACT.
- (2) In relation to states and territories that have different arrangements from the ACT, (a) why are there differences and (b) what are those differences.
- (3) Does the ACT have any arrangements in place with the Commonwealth for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; if so, what are those arrangements; if not, why not.

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

- (1) No. The ACT, unlike other states, is not currently a signatory to the Public Hospital Pharmaceutical Reform Agreement (PHPRA). NSW is also not a signatory to the PHPRA. The ACT is currently considering this scheme.
- (2) See above.
- (3) No.

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### Municipal services—playgrounds (Question No 2084)

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) Following the announcement of 24 suburbs receiving playground upgrades, which 24 suburbs have been selected.
- (2) What is the street location of each of these playgrounds receiving upgrades.
- (3) What upgrades will be undertaken at each of these playgrounds.
- (4) What is the expected cost of each of these upgrades.
- (5) Of the five suburbs selected for a whole of suburb review (a) what factors are being considered in the reviews, (b) what consultations will be undertaken as part of the reviews, (c) who will conduct each review, (d) what is the rationale for conducting these reviews, given the recent Play Space's Forum which recently considered playground upgrades and (e) when will each review commence and conclude.
- (6) What is the expected cost of each of the three nature play spaces to be constructed at Eddison Park, Glebe Park and near Farrer shops.

(7) What is the exact location of the nature play space at Farrer shops.

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

(1-4) The funding levels and specific projects and their location was determined by a group of Canberra citizens through a participatory budgeting trial. The full details of the process and the decisions made can be found in the decision summary report, publicly accessible on [www.yoursay.act.gov.au/better-suburbs](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/better-suburbs).

In total, 32 suburbs will benefit from works. The details are listed below:

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Works to be undertaken</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1	Barton	Telopea Park	Access and inclusion	\$20,000
2	Belconnen	McDermott Place	Shade sail	\$26,000
3	Bonython	Burgoyne Street	Fencing	\$22,500
4	Campbell	White Crescent	Paths	\$2,750
4	Campbell	Glossop Crescent	Shade sail	\$26,000
4	Campbell	White Crescent	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
5	Chisholm	Alston Street	Path connection	\$7,500
5	Chisholm	Alston Street	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
6	Crace	CRIP Community Playground	Access and inclusion	\$20,000
7	Curtin	Carruthers Street	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
8	Deakin	Hannah Place	Bike track, handball hopscotch lines on Basketball Court	\$1,200
8	Deakin	Hannah Place	Shade sail	\$26,000
8	Deakin	Latrobe park	Shade sail	\$22,000 - \$26,000
8	Deakin	Latrobe park	Path connection	\$7,700
8	Deakin	Latrobe park	Natural elements seating/play	\$1,200
8	Deakin	Latrobe park	Seating boulders	\$600
8	Deakin	Hannah Place	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
8	Deakin	Bedford Street	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
9	Dunlop	James Harrison Street	Access and inclusion	\$20,000
10	Farrer	Wagga Street	Natural elements seating/play	\$1,200
10	Farrer	Wagga Street	Seating boulders	\$600
10	Farrer	Wagga Street	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
11	Florey	Kesteven Street	Fencing	\$6,000
12	Gordon	Iredale Place	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
13				
	Gowrie	Weathers Street	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
13	Gowrie	Weathers Street	Bench	\$2,000
14	Greenway	Bartlet Place	2 seats	\$4,500
14	Greenway	Limburg Way	Access and inclusion	\$20,000
15	Griffith	Throsby Lane	Park bench	\$2,000
15	Griffith	Throsby Lane	Path connection	\$5,400
15	Griffith	Captain Cook Park	Seating and tables	\$6,000
15	Griffith	Throsby Lane	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
16	Gungahlin	Linear Park	Fencing	\$8,500
17	Hackett	Bragg Street	Seating, boulders, soft fall, edging, repair of basketball	\$5,000

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Works to be undertaken</b>	<b>Budget</b>
17	Hackett	Tryon Street	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
18	Kaleen	Gwydir Square	Fencing	\$2,000
18	Kambah	Toole Place	Benches	\$4,500
18	Kambah	Toole Place	Path connection	\$6,300
18	Kambah	Boddington Cres	Fence	\$5,000
18	Kambah	Boddington Cres	Benches	\$4,500
18	Kambah	Boddington Cres	Handball/Hopscotch	\$300
18	Kambah	Toole Place	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
18	Kambah	Boddington Crescent	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
19	Latham	Umbagog District Park	Move seating to shade	\$1,000
20	Lyneham	Lambert Place	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
21	Lyons	Tooms Place	Natural elements seating/play	\$1,200
21	Lyons	Tooms Place	Seating boulders	\$600
21	Lyons	Tooms Place	Path connection	\$3,600
21	Lyons	Tooms Place	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
22	MacGregor	John Holt Street	Fencing	\$2,000
23	Nicholls	Candlebark Close	Shade sail	\$26,000
24	O'Connor	Cockle Street	Access and inclusion	\$20,000
25	O'Malley	Culgoa Circuit	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
26	Oxley	Newman-Morris Circuit	Table and Seats	\$10,500
27	Page	Burkitt Street	Shade sail	\$26,000
28	Palmerston	Spec Place	Fencing	\$5,100
29	Stirling	Bunbury Street	Play space refresh – Painting, mulch and repairs	\$30,000
30	Tuggeranong	Tuggeranong Park – Learn to Ride	Shade sails	\$26,000
31	Woden	Eddison Park	Fencing	\$11,500
31	Woden	Eddison Park	Access and inclusion	\$20,000
32	Yarralumla	Mueller Street	Move seating to shade	\$1,000

(5)

- (a) Each suburb review will look at the suburb as a whole and the availability and quality of play spaces within the suburb and in relation to other facilities and amenities, rather than reviewing one play space at a time.

The reviews will be consistent with the Priorities Framework developed by the Play Spaces Forum, to guide their funding decisions and to inform future decisions about play spaces in Canberra. The principles of this Framework are as follows:

*Principles*

- Quality over quantity: getting the right mix that delivers value (value of play, value for investment, leverage value of existing assets etc.);
- Connecting the community (physically and socially);
- Play spaces are inclusive;
- Play spaces enhance physical and mental wellbeing;
- Play spaces enhance and preserve the natural environment; and
- Equity across the city (number, variety, location).

- (b) The reviews will be undertaken as a co-design process with the local community in each suburb.

- (c) Transport Canberra and City Services staff, supported by a design and engagement specialist.
  - (d) The Forum saw these reviews as an innovative and strategic approach to planning for a better mix of play opportunities in Canberra. Each review will include the design of play concept plans for the wider suburb and the design of one key play space.
  - (e) The five reviews will occur between January 2019 and June 2019.
  - (6) \$175,000 was allocated by the Forum to the nature play space in Eddison Park, Woden and \$175,000 to the nature play space in Glebe Park Civic. \$150,000 is also available for the nature play space near the Farrer Shops.
  - (7) The location will be determined through a co-design engagement process with the Farrer community.
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### **ACT Ambulance Service—crews (Question No 2085)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) Following the review of the minimum crew level for the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS), how will it be determined when ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTFR) crews are required to respond to calls for ACTAS services.
- (2) Has the potential impact on ACTFR been considered during the review of ACTAS minimum crewing.
- (3) What were these considerations.
- (4) Is it expected that greater ACTFR resources will be required following the change in crewing policy.
- (5) What additional staff from ACTFR will be required to respond to ACTAS calls for services following this change in crewing policy.
- (6) When ACTFR crews are required to respond to ACTAS incidents, are funds or other resources transferred from ACTAS to ACTFR to compensate for the response.
- (7) During the review of the policy, which ACT Government directorates and agencies were consulted.
- (8) What consultation with ACTFR was undertaken and what were the outcomes of these consultations.

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

- 1. ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) will attend a medical assist if they are the closest unit in the area or if the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) has requested assistance. This requirement has not changed following the review of the minimum crew level for ACTAS.

ACTF&R personnel are all first aid-qualified and can provide a range of immediate assistance, including use of an advisory defibrillator. ACTF&R personnel also carry additional medical equipment, such as Epipens, allowing first response to other high risk case types including anaphylactic reactions, where they are the closest resource.

2. Yes.
3. ACTAS considered the number of medical assists attended by ACTF&R. Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018, ACTF&R attended 368 medical assist incidents, which averages to approximately one per day. To put this into context, over the same period ACTAS responded to 52,426 medical incidents, which averages to approximately 144 per day.
4. No, however, ACTAS resources will continue to grow to meet the increased demand in relation to medical incidents.
5. Nil.
6. No. Both Services are resourced through the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA).
7. Affected parties, including ACTAS staff, ESA staff more broadly, and the Transport Workers Union (TWU) were consulted. The TWU, ACTAS staff, and ESA staff are supportive of the revised policy.
8. Both ACTF&R and ACTAS are part of the ESA. The ESA has considered the outcomes of the review, and its impact on each of the Services – ACTAS, ACTF&R, ACT Rural Fire Service, and ACT State Emergency Service. This is in line with the ESA’s mission of ‘*We work together to care and protect through cohesive operations, collaborative management and a unified executive*’.

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### **Multicultural affairs—grants (Question No 2086)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What measures will be taken to make the grants application process more accessible and less cumbersome for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.
- (2) Does the Government plan to introduce paper applications for grants as a means of making grants application more accessible for CALD communities.
- (3) Does the Government plan to undertake a review of the current grants application criteria.
- (4) Are there plans to increase the amount of available funding for grants in the 2019-20 Budget so that there is an increased opportunity for CALD communities to make a successful application.

**Mr Steel:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) The Community Services Directorate uses the online Smarty Grants platform and has dedicated staff to provide technical assistance to grant applicants throughout the grant process to ensure everyone can access and understand the form and process. All grant rounds and guidelines include the direct phone number and email address for the Service Funding Support Team. The Service Funding Support Team are highly skilled in the use of SmartyGrants and in assisting with technical difficulties that applicants may be experiencing while applying for a grant.

The Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) makes the ACT Heritage Grants Program “Guidelines for Applications” available both digitally and in paper form on request. The Guidelines provide details on how to obtain the publication in alternative formats, such as large print, and contact numbers for a translating and interpreting service for those whose first language is not English.

Additionally, EPSDD grants for Actsmart programs, Community Garden Grants and Community Zero Emission Grants also use the online Smarty Grants platform for the application and assessment process.

The uptake of grants has improved since the introduction of the online system, over the previously used paper system, as it allows for a more streamlined approach for applicants and support for completion for community groups. Although the online forms are not multilingual, all applications are visible once they are commenced, which allows Actsmart to make contact and offer application support to any organisations, including CALD community groups.

Actsmart provide information sessions to allow community organisations to ask questions and seek assistance in the application process.

Skills Canberra does not directly provide grants to individuals or groups in CALD communities. Skills Canberra does provide grants to businesses which may provide services to people in Canberra’s CALD communities. For example, many successful projects targeting people in CALD communities who experience barriers to using digital technology have been funded by the ACT Adult Community Education (ACE) Grants Program in recent years. These projects are delivered by organisations with close ties to the CALD community of interest.

In 2019 the ACT Adult Community Education Grants Program will include a focus on providing opportunities for participants to develop their digital literacy, reading and writing skills.

The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program (ACTHPGP) includes details in its funding guidelines about translation and interpreting services to make its information more accessible. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact (face-to-face meetings, telephone and/or email) the ACTHPGP to seek further information about available funding opportunities, to discuss their project ideas and to seek more information about the application process.

- (2) The Community Services Directorate is not planning to introduce paper applications for grant programs. The applicant feedback received (as per below table) indicates that overall, applicants find the SmartyGrants system easy to navigate. The use of the Smarty Grants system ensures a consistent and transparent approach to the expenditure of grant funding.

Grant Round	No. of App submitted	Very easy	%	Easy	%	Neither	%	Difficult	%	Very Difficult	%
2018/19 PMG	82	10	12.20	41	50.00	18	21.95	8	9.76	3	3.66
2018/19 NMF Grants	102	23	22.55	44	43.14	16	15.69	6	5.88	1	0.98
2017/18 PMG	148	35	23.65	90	60.81	13	8.78	7	4.73	0	0.00
2017/18 CSIG	60	11	18.33	32	53.33	12	20.00	4	6.67	1	1.67
2017/18 Digital	38	7	18.42	25	65.79	3	7.89	1	2.63	1	2.63

The Environment Planning and Sustainability Directorate makes grant application forms for the ACT Heritage Grants Program, the ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM) Environment Grants Program and the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund available in paper form upon request.

In 2019, the ACT Adult Community Education Grants Program will provide additional funding to support the capacity of ACE Grants applicant organisations to make a successful application. It is anticipated that many of these organisations will be based within CALD communities.

The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program is not planning to introduce paper-based applications at this point in time.

- (3) Both the Community Services Directorate and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate reviews each grant application criteria annually prior to finalising the grant guidelines and opening the grant round.

An annual desktop review of the Actsmart grants process includes a review of the criteria and adjustments to meet the needs of the community and the policy direction of the Government.

The ACT ACE Grants Program application criteria has undergone an extensive review in 2018. The revised application guidelines are expected to be published shortly.

The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program continually reviews its grants application processes based on feedback from internal and external stakeholders.

- (4) The Community Services Directorate has no plans to increase grant funding available in 2019-20. Members of the CALD community are able to apply for a range of grants including multicultural, youth, women, disability, seniors, community support and digital.

In 2017-18, EPSDD funding for the ACT Heritage Grants Program was increased from \$180,000 to \$200,000 over 4 years 2017-2021 while Actsmart grants are funded through various programs and budget processes. At this stage there are no plans to increase funding for the current programs.

Funding for ACT ACE Grants Program projects that commence in 2019 has been increased from \$200,000 to \$400,000 due to additional funding received from the Skilling Australians Fund (SAF).

The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program is not planning to increase its budget in 2019/20 so that applications specifically from culturally and linguistically diverse communities have an increased chance of success.

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**Multicultural affairs—multicultural advisory council  
(Question No 2087)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) In relation to the Multicultural Advisory Council, besides a commitment and willingness to participate fully in Council activities, an ability to contribute to Council processes and consultation activities and a commitment to reflecting the diverse range of experiences and views of Canberra's culturally diverse communities, what other criteria is membership to the Council based on.
- (2) Is there a criterion that members are to have significant experience working within the ACT community.
- (3) Is there a criterion that members have had leadership experience within the ACT multicultural community.
- (4) During the membership appointment process, what factors are taken into account in determining what ranks one candidate above another.
- (5) Who is involved in the decision-making process of appointing Council members.
- (6) Who ultimately appoints and decides on the membership of the Council.
- (7) How many appointed members have resigned since the formation of the Council to date.
- (8) How many members have resigned from the Council to date, due to a failure of attending three consecutive meetings without an apology.
- (9) When will the Council's code of conduct be completed and implemented.

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

- (1-3) The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Multicultural Advisory Council is at <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/act-multicultural-advisory-council>
- (4) Candidates are considered in relation to the membership criteria listed in the ToR. To ensure Council membership is reflective of the ACT community, members are selected to reflect the diversity of people residing in the ACT, including a gender balance, youth and older persons and people with disability.
- (5) The Executive Director, Inclusion & Participation, presents the Council applicants to the Minister for consideration.



- (6) The Minister for Multicultural Affairs presents the proposed appointments to Cabinet for consideration and agreement.
- (7) One member has resigned since the Council was formed. The member was offered an employment opportunity abroad.
- (8) No members.
- (9) Under the ACT Government's 'Governance Principles: Appointments, Boards and Committees in the ACT', members of the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council are required to follow Section 9 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 which details the requirements of a public employee (which includes all appointees and members of an ACT Government board or committee) in performing his or her duties, and is known as the Code of Ethics.

A copy of the Code of Ethics has been provided to all Council members. Planning and structural processes for the future direction of the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council, including a specific membership-led code of conduct, are expected to be developed by the Council in early 2019.

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### **Multicultural affairs—policy framework (Question No 2088)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

Given that on 1 August 2018, the Assembly agreed to call on the ACT Government to provide a detailed update on the 28 separate actions included under the first action plan 2015–18 from the ACT Multicultural Framework, including which actions and outcomes (a) have been fully achieved and when, (b) are in progress and (c) have not been progressed yet, reasons for any delay, and projected completion dates, will the minister please provide this detailed update as described in parts (a) to (c).

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

- (1) All 28 actions under the First Action Plan 2015-18 of the *ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-20* have been actioned and work continues to ensure the intent of each action is fully realised.
  - a) to c) On 27 November 2018, I presented a paper to the Assembly outlining the Government's progress against each action of the First Action Plan 2015-2018.

A closure report for the First Action Plan will be completed in the first half of 2019.

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### **Multicultural affairs—services (Question No 2089)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What measures is the Government taking to address the needs of a maturing multicultural community.
- (2) What needs have been identified.
- (3) What does the Government plan to do to help mature members of the multicultural community retain or otherwise improve their English language skills.
- (4) Are there plans for more services to be available offline (ie, paper applications and communications) to improve accessibility of services for certain individuals and groups; if so, which services and when will they be expected to being operation offline.

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

- (1) The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing provides advice to the Minister for Seniors and Veterans on matters relating to the social inclusion and wellbeing of older Canberrans.

In 2018, additional recruitment to the Council was progressed to increase representation from members who had particular expertise relating to older culturally and linguistically diverse people. As a result of this recruitment round, Mr Grant Doran was appointed. Mr Grant Doran was previously a board member of the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services and has worked at a Senior Executive level for a multicultural Aged Care Residential Facility.

Other supports are provided through numerous programs funded through grant rounds. The ACT Seniors Grants Round is run annually, offering a total of \$80,000 in funding for innovative projects that promote seniors as valued members of the ACT community and enable older Canberrans to actively participate in community life. The program has a particular emphasis on supporting projects which address the areas of elder abuse, enhanced social inclusion and those that address the needs of diverse seniors, including culturally and linguistically diverse seniors.

Community groups who have delivered projects through this grant program (formerly the ACT Veterans and Seniors Participation Grant Round) since 2017 include: the Australian Capital Territory Maori Performing Arts Incorporated; ACT Chinese Australian Association Incorporated; ACT-Tongan Language and Cultural School and the Bangladeshi Seniors Club Canberra.

In addition, please refer to CSD Annual Report QON 99.

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) implements the Mingle Community Development Program. In 2018 the SLA worked with communities in the suburbs of Wright, Coombs and Moncrieff to develop multi-cultural activities as part of the Program. This resulted in the delivery of three multicultural events (Moncrieff Diwali, Molonglo Valley Diwali and Molonglo Valley Eid Fest) which were co-designed and led by the local maturing multi-cultural members of the community.

In addition the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate provided tailored information and advice on energy efficiency in the home to members of the maturing CALD community through the advice line and onsite workshops under the ACTSmart Program.

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) is committed to working with communities and specific groups to address their training needs. CIT has a dedicated Education Advisor for Migrant and Refugees who is available to work with individuals to determine their training needs, which includes consultations with a Careers Advisor. CIT is open to developing courses to meet needs on a commercial or cost recovery basis.

The 2018 ACT Mature Workers Grants Program targets groups traditionally experiencing disadvantage, including people from the multicultural community. The 2018 ACT Mature Workers Grants Program is making available \$500,000 for two new services to be delivered over 2 years. These new services will be announced early in 2019. Any mature worker or businessperson in the multicultural community will be able to access the service most relevant to their needs.

- (2) Older culturally and linguistically diverse people have particular risk factors in relation to elder abuse. The ACT is currently working with the Australian Government and other state and territory governments to develop a National Plan to address elder abuse.

It is also clear that culturally and linguistically diverse older people can be at heightened risk of social isolation and can face difficulties finding out about and gaining access to information and support. These issues will be considered when developing the Age Friendly Statement of Direction to be released in early 2019, and the Second Action Plan of the ACT Multicultural Framework. Both of these will be available in 2019.

The 2018 ACT Mature Workers Grants Program was informed by research that identified the need for a broad focus on literacy, numeracy and digital technology skills development among mature people in the multicultural community.

- (3) The ACT Government is delivering on its 2016-17 Budget commitment to provide funding to assist new Canberrans improve their English language skills through expanding English language programs.

In 2017-18 the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services (MARSS) received funding for four years to strengthen and expand current English language programs. The funding provides English for employment, English for Living and a Home Tutor program ensuring refugees and asylum seekers living in the ACT receive the support they need to improve their English language skills. The English for Living and Home Tutor Program are specifically designed to meet the needs of older migrants or migrants with mobility issues.

The Canberra Institute of Technology also received funding for four years to deliver English language classes to asylum seekers who hold an ACT Services Access Card.

Libraries ACT provides a range of services including Bilingual Story Times, books, DVDs, and CDs in different languages, English learning resources, and English conversation groups. Libraries ACT hosts friendly and informal English conversation groups at its branches. They are free and bookings are not required.

In addition, a range of multicultural community groups provide opportunities for older people to retain or improve language skills by holding regular social functions including dance classes, morning teas and short trips. This helps build social connections and improve language skills.

The ACT Government (through CIT profile funding) facilitates English Language programs at CIT. CIT has an agreement with the ACT Government to waive fees for ACT Access Card holders (refugees).

The 2019 ACT Adult Community Education Grants Program targets projects that assist people experiencing disadvantage, including people from the multicultural community who wish to improve their English language skills. In 2019 the ACT Adult Community Education Grants Program will have a strong focus on developing foundation skills such as reading, writing and oral communication.

- (4) Access Canberra has engaged with the Council of the Ageing and Dementia Australia (ACT) to discuss continuing service delivery for older people into the future. Dementia Australia (ACT) has undertaken audits of some service centres to advise on appropriate physical design and have partnered with Access Canberra to deliver a training program on service delivery for people with dementia.

59% of the 768 respondents to the 2018 Age Friendly City Survey ranked looking online as their most preferred information source. All age groups, including those aged 70+ and 80+ were more likely to rank 'looking online' above all other options as their most preferred way of accessing information.

ABS statistics indicate 72% of ACT residents aged 65+ live in a dwelling where the Internet is available, this is the highest proportion of any state and above the Australian proportion of 61%.

Access Canberra delivers services for all Canberrans and services are designed to meet the needs of all people. Access Canberra has a digital first service approach and has over 300 services available digitally.

There are touchscreens and concierge services available in the Access Canberra Service Centres to support people who find it difficult to engage through that channel.

The ACT Government is committed to accessibility of information for our community. In addition to translation services available, consideration is given to different printed materials to ensure they support intended audiences.

Key information for workers in the retail and hospitality sectors (including in posters and postcards) was translated into key languages represented by staff in the sector being – Simple Chinese, Hindi and Vietnamese. These materials are being disseminated in the industry.

Following a community survey conducted by the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) under the Mingle Community Development Program, the SLA is planning to deliver communications in a range of languages as well as continue to deliver Mingle community newsletters in hard copy form to all residents.

In addition the SLA website includes a Google Translate function allowing every page to be translated.

CIT provides assistance with training, this includes reasonable adjustment, and English support for students studying at CIT. Students can access paper-based information when required.

Libraries ACT provides resources for our culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and employs experienced staff, including a Multicultural Learning Coordinator to work with these communities, connect them with the library and the opportunities it offers, and collaborate with them on sharing and celebrating their cultures.

Library resources which offer opportunities to engage with cultural language and heritage include:

- Library Press Display, which provides in-language digital access to hundreds of newspapers and magazines from around the world.
- eBooks and eAudio books available via BorrowBox and digital magazines available via RBdigital.
- Print newspapers in selected languages.
- Music on CD and for digital download.
- World movies on DVD.
- Mango Languages, a language learning app with language learning courses in more than 70 languages.

Both the 2019 ACT ACE Grants Program and the 2018 ACT Mature Workers Grants Program will fund new services designed to improve the accessibility of vocational education and training services for people experiencing barriers.

The new services supporting the development of employability, learning, reading, writing, oral communication, numeracy and digital technology capabilities—under the 2019 ACT ACE Grants Program—are anticipated to begin in mid-2019.

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### **Multicultural affairs—summit (Question No 2090)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) How many people were invited to attend the 2018 ACT Multicultural Summit.
- (2) How many people (a) belonging to the ACT community, (b) from interstate and (c) from overseas were invited to attend the Summit.
- (3) How many people accepted the invitation to attend the Summit.
- (4) How many people attended the Summit.
- (5) How many people from (a) interstate and (b) overseas attended the Summit.
- (6) How many youth representatives (a) attended and (b) were invited to the Summit.
- (7) Which groups/organisations were (a) invited to the Summit and (b) were represented at the Summit.
- (8) Which groups/organisations declined the invitation to attend.

- (9) Which government agencies were (a) invited to and (b) represented at the Summit?
- (10) Were there any cultural groups that were not invited to attend the Summit; if so, which groups and what was the reason for not extending an invitation.
- (11) How many people attended (a) Workshop 1: Canberra, a city where diversity is valued, (b) Workshop 2: Canberra, a city where everyone belongs, (c) Workshop 3: Canberra, a healthy and accessible city and (d) Workshop 4: Canberra's Future.

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

- (1) Invitations to the 2018 ACT Multicultural Summit (the Summit) were sent to 179 people from 108 organisations. A list of all organisations invited is at Attachment A.
- (2)
  - a. 175 invitees belong to the ACT community;
  - b. One interstate organisation was invited and a range of national organisations.
  - c. Three international organisations (Pink Umbrella International, International Organisation for Migration and World Macedonian Congress - Australia) received invitations to attend.
- (3) 148 people accepted their invitation to attend the Summit. A list of acceptances is at Attachment B.
- (4) At least 119 people attended the Summit, with some attending part time.
- (5)
  - a. Two delegates from an interstate organisation attended the Summit; and
  - b. One delegate from an international organisation attended the Summit.
- (6)
  - a. Four delegates representing youth services, organisations and councils attended the Summit. These are highlighted in Attachment B; and
  - b. Six delegates representing youth services, organisations and councils were invited to attend the Summit. These are highlighted in Attachment A.
- (7)
  - a. Groups and organisations invited to the Summit are named at Attachment A.
  - b. Groups and organisations represented at the Summit are named at Attachment B.
- (8) Groups and organisations that declined an invitation to attend the Summit are named in Attachment B.
- (9)
  - a. All ACT Government Directors-General, the Chief Executive of CIT, and Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly were invited to attend the Summit. A number of other ACT Government staff undertaking roles relating to Canberra's culturally and linguistically diverse communities were also invited to attend.
  - b. ACT Government agencies that attended the Summit are named at Attachment B.
- (10) Invitations to the Summit were extended to all cultural groups that attended the Community Consultation Roundtables. The Roundtables were open to everyone to attend and were widely advertised. People and organisations that attended a Roundtable were prioritised for invitations to the Summit. A list of all organisations invited to attend the Roundtables is provided at Attachment C.

- (11) The Summit workshops were conducted using a ‘self-select’ methodology. Delegates chose which theme they wished to explore at the start of each session. Each room was set up to accommodate up to 40 delegates and each delegate could attend three out of the four workshops during the Summit. Each workshop ran for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

*(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).*

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### **Multicultural affairs—policy framework (Question No 2091)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) Will the ACT Government, in drafting the Second Action Plan of the ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-20, commit to specific actions with specific outcomes, responsible timeframes, and aim for 100 percent achievement of these actions.
- (2) Will the ACT Government commit to drafting the Second Action Plan in a way that will make clear the specific actions, outcomes and timeframes for achievement.
- (3) In the event that there are actions that cannot be achieved, or were not achieved on time, will the ACT Government provide explanations as to why, what will be done consequently and when.

**Mr Steel:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government will work with the Multicultural Advisory Council to develop the Second Action Plan of the ACT Multicultural Framework 2019-20 with measurable actions and specific outcomes.

It is intended that the Second Action Plan will include realistic timeframes for each outcome to be achieved. The ACT Government will aim for 100 percent achievement of the outcomes in the Second Action Plan 2019-20.

- (2) The Second Action Plan 2019-20 will be drafted to deliver on the three objectives of the ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-20. The specific actions, outcomes and timeframes will be articulated in a clear and concise manner to ensure actions, outcomes and timeframes for achievement are clear.
  - (3) In the event that there are actions or outcomes that are not achieved, or were not achieved within the nominated timeframes the ACT Government will provide an explanation as to why, including a proposal for how and when the identified actions and outcomes are expected to be achieved.
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### **Multicultural affairs—communications (Question No 2092)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What measures will the Government commit to improving communications, or assisting groups to improve communications with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups.
- (2) Are there plans to expand the Office for Multicultural Affairs to help facilitate communications and improve engagement with the CALD community.
- (3) Will the Government consider investing in the expansion of the Office for Multicultural Affairs for the 2019-20 Budget.
- (4) What measures will the Government take to ensure that individual members of CALD groups receive government and community communications.
- (5) How will the ACT Government identify isolated CALD groups in the community and promote their community engagement.
- (6) Will the ACT Government commit to provide enough funding in the 2019-20 budget to cover different and/or multiple modes of effective communication and engagement for different CALD groups.

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

- (1) The ACT Language Services Policy details measures the ACT Government is undertaking to improve communications with people who communicate in a language other than English, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The policy is available at:  
<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/publications/act-language-services-policy>

The ACT Government also provides funding support for community radio stations and programs to assist groups and the wider Canberra community improve their communications with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

- (2) The resourcing for the Office for Multicultural Affairs is and continues to meet the changing needs of our diverse community. The Office for Multicultural Affairs will build on and expanding improve engagement with the CALD community within existing resources.

The Office for Multicultural Affairs facilitates effective communications and engagement with Canberra's culturally and linguistically diverse community through a range of initiatives including grants, awards, celebrations, citizenship ceremonies, special events, policy development, employment and language programs, concessions and advocacy with other ACT Government directorates and businesses.

- (3) The ACT Government systematically reviews its resourcing, policies, programs and services to ensure they continue to meet the changing and evolving needs of our community.

The Office for Multicultural Affairs will continue to engage with Canberra's culturally and linguistically diverse community through a range of initiatives including grants, awards, celebrations, citizenship ceremonies, special events, policy development, employment and language programs, concessions and advocacy within existing resources.



- (4) The ACT Government uses a range of measures to ensure individual members of the culturally and linguistically diverse community receive government and community communications including:
    - funding community radio stations;
    - regular E-Newsletters individuals can subscribe to;
    - access to interpreters and translators;
    - meetings and engagement with community leaders, the Multicultural Advisory Council and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body; and
    - accessible information on ACT Government websites.
  - (5) The ACT Government works in partnership with community groups to identify isolated individuals and groups and supports outreach programs to promote their engagement and participation. Examples include Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services, Multicultural Youth Services and Companion House.
  - (6) Different and/or multiple modes of effective communication and engagement for different culturally and linguistically diverse groups are available through current resourcing.
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### **Multicultural affairs—community participation (Question No 2093)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What actions does the ACT Government plan to take to support the establishment and operation of community organisations, schools and groups that work to preserve, promote, educate and engage youth and their cultural language and heritage.
- (2) What tools and opportunities will the ACT Government provide for youth to be able to use their diversity as an asset to the community.

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

- (1) The ACT Government provides funding to the ACT Community Language School Association, which is an umbrella for community language schools in the ACT.

The Association has a number of objectives including promoting the teaching of languages, history and culture of ethnic communities. It also co-ordinates and promotes inter-ethnic school social and cultural activities. For example ACT Community Language Schools Day is a free Children's Week event. This event provides the Association's Members an opportunity to share their experiences and achievements with each other and the wider community.

The ACT Government also provides funding to a range of community organisations and groups to promote, educate and engage youth with their cultural language and heritage through different grant programs including the Community Support and Infrastructure grants, the Multicultural Participation grants and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander grants. More information is available at:  
<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/grants>.

Further actions may be outlined in the ACT Multicultural Framework Second Action Plan, if identified as a priority by the community.

ACT public schools are implementing the Australian Curriculum which allows schools to preserve, promote, educate and engage students in cultural languages and heritage. The Australian Curriculum, through the Intercultural Understanding General Capability focuses on students learning about a variety of cultures and heritages including Aboriginal and Torres Strait. The Cross Curriculum Priority, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures enables teachers to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education across the curriculum.

Belconnen High School is currently developing a Year 9/10 unit focussed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and Languages called Connecting to Country. This program is being developed in consultation with Aboriginal students, their families, academics in Indigenous studies and linguistics, as well as local elders.

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) Yurauna Centre is a community focused multi-functional Cultural Education Centre of Excellence that brings individuals together to learn in a culturally safe environment. The Centre is a gathering place that provides opportunity for people of all ages, including youth to gain an education that empowers individuals and community. Students are provided with information on the local traditional custodians Ngunnawal peoples.

At the CIT Yurauna Centre, all programs are based on Aboriginal pedagogical practices that incorporate the 8 Aboriginal ways of Learning. Indigenous students have an opportunity through their studies to research and further develop their own cultural identity and heritage through accredited and non-accredited activities. All students in CIT Yurauna have opportunity to research and engage widely with common Aboriginal Creole incorporated in classes as well as access their own languages and cultural information to preserve and promote for retention.

Indigenous students attend the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) through excursions. Students are encouraged to engage with their own community Elders for further information or advice to support their cultural language and heritage growth.

CIT Pathways run English as an Additional Language (EAL) programs and collaborate closely with educators who have extensive experience in creating materials and designing programs supporting the preservation, promotion, education and engagement in an individual's own and in others' cultural language and heritage.

- (2) Youth InterACT is the ACT Government's youth participation strategy which enables young Canberrans to contribute to discussions on youth issues and influence government policies and programs. Youth InterACT includes the opportunity for youth to join the Youth Advisory Council, access grants and scholarships and have their contributions recognised. The diversity of young people is both embraced and encouraged across all Youth InterAct initiatives:
  - The **Youth Advisory Council** (YAC) provides young people with an opportunity to take a leading role in participation and consultation activities on issues that affect their lives; raise awareness of the aspirations, needs and concerns of young people; and facilitate interaction between young people, the ACT Government and the wider community.

YAC has 14 members who are all aged between 12 and 25 years (inclusive) at the time of their appointment. Membership of the YAC reflects the diversity of young people residing in the ACT and has gender balanced representation as well as representation of young people with a disability and youth from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

- The ACT Government partnered with YAC to host the **ACT Youth Assembly** on 28 September 2018. The ACT Youth Assembly was a deliberative democracy process to draw out key ideas, policy recommendations, and encourage direct participation for young Canberrans aged 12 to 25 to speak on four contemporary issues important to them: Youth Mental Health; Homelessness and Young People; Youth Civic Participation and Equality and Equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People.
- **Youth InterACT Grants** to support young people to organise projects, events, activities and programs that benefit other young people in the community.
- **Youth InterACT Scholarships** are open all year round to provide funding of up to \$500 for individuals and up to \$1,500 for groups of young people to attend learning, sporting, personal and career development opportunities.
- **ACT Youth Week Grant Program** provides small grants up to \$1,500 for groups of young people to organise events for other young people as well as for a range of free public events across Canberra. The grants are funding for innovative new projects so young people can see their ideas become a reality.
- **The Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards** recognises individuals or groups of young Canberrans that have made a significant contribution to the ACT.

Further actions may be outlined in the ACT Multicultural Framework Second Action Plan, if identified as a priority by the community.

The Suburban Land Agency's Mingle Community Development Program implements Y-engage which is a youth engagement strategy to engage with youth through the establishment of local resident and volunteer groups. The program collaborates with local schools, cultural groups and local organisations to establish new ways of engaging youth. Examples of initiatives being implemented are:

- i. In Molonglo Valley the Mingle Program is partnering with Charles Weston School to produce a Multicultural Information Recipe Book which is designed to share information about cultural heritage and sensitivities. This is being coordinated directly with school students;
- ii. The Mingle Program has conducted information sessions with school students at Stromlo Cottage in Coombs to share information about the heritage of the area;
- iii. The Mingle Program has provided opportunities for youth to be involved in local art projects;

- iv. The Program provided an opportunity in Moncrieff for a young Aboriginal artist to produce artwork for signage in a new Play Space – Yungaballi Park; and
- v. The Program engaged with students at Charles Weston School to help provide input into the future play space in Coombs.

The CIT Yurauna Centre provides students with opportunities to gain the following qualifications:

- Certificate 2 General Education (equivalent to Year 10)
- Year 12 Program
- Certificate 3 Community Services (pathway to work in the community services sector)
- Certificate 2 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts (pathway to opening their own arts practice or work in cultural organisations)

Students have opportunity to provide regular feedback to CIT through the CIT Yurauna Centre and the CIT Student Association. If students wish they may elect to run for the CITSA Council.

CIT Pathways, in their Year 12 Program have a focus on valuing mother tongue and language and its use in community, culture and storytelling. EAL and Leadership students are taken to the South Coast with the Ted Noffs Organisation to surf and to value, educate and engage them with each other and the community.

### **Multicultural affairs—English language training (Question No 2094)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What government facilitated English language training programs exist in the ACT.
- (2) What incentives does the Government offer to people to encourage them to attend English language training sessions.
- (3) How much funding has/does the Government put toward English language training in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2018-19 and (c) 2019-2020.
- (4) When was the last government review into this subject and is there another one scheduled; if so, when.

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

- (1) The Commonwealth Government funds the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) which provides up to 510 hours of English language tuition to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants to assist them to improve their English literacy skills. NAVITAS delivers this program in the ACT on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

The ACT Government is delivering on its 2016-17 Budget commitment to provide funding to assist new Canberrans to improve their English language skills through expanding English language programs.

The Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services (MARSS) received funding for four years to strengthen and expand current English language programs. The funding provides English for employment, English for living and a home tutor program ensuring refugees and asylum seekers living in the ACT receive the support they need to improve their English language skills.

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) also received funding for four years to deliver free English language classes to asylum seekers who hold an ACT Services Access Card.

The Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP) is designed to assist vulnerable children, young people and their families. The program comprises a mix of services from group programs to case management. The CYFSP does not specify the delivery of English language programs, however organisations may deliver this type of support in the course of their daily work with a child, young person and their family.

While all services funded under the CYFSP work with multicultural children, young people and their families, three organisations receive dedicated funding to target multicultural communities: Companion House; MARSS; and Multicultural Youth Services.

More specifically:

#### Companion House

- Companion House delivers an integrated service model under the CYFSP. This service model includes therapeutic services; youth engagement and culturally and linguistically diverse engagement services.

#### MARSS

- Through the CYFSP, MARSS is contracted to deliver the Program for After School Studies (PASS).
- PASS is designed for clients from a non-English speaking background to assist them in their school, college, CIT and university studies after school hours.

#### Multicultural Youth Services (MYS)

- MYS offers a range of programs to promote opportunities and to address the challenges of young people from diverse backgrounds living in the ACT. This model provides outreach to young people in schools and colleges, as well as a drop-in centre and holiday programs.

The MYS program funded under the CYFSP includes the Multicultural Youth Engagement Service. This service offers:

- Case management support and group programs aimed at strengthening family and social relationships, addresses inter-generational conflict and promoting engagement with mainstream services;
- Workplace Readiness Training Program; and
- Supports culturally and linguistically diverse young people in the ACT through linking them to work experience and employment opportunities. The program also incorporates workplace language and culture training relevant to specific workplaces.

The ACT Education Directorate provides introductory English programs at six school locations across Canberra. Introductory English Centres provide beginning English students with essential conversational and age-appropriate academic language to a functional level which prepares them for transition to mainstream classroom settings. In regards to English language training, Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) supports both broad and intensive approaches to English language acquisition.

Libraries ACT hosts friendly and informal English conversation groups at its branches. They are free and bookings are not required.

In addition, CIT ensures all vocational education programs contain activities to support language and literacy skill acquisition as identified in Australian Training Packages (Foundation Skills).

Programs offering intensive engagement in language acquisition are provided through CIT's ACT Government profile funded English Language programs. These are nationally accredited qualifications and include levels of Certificate 1-4 in Spoken and Written English. English language is also offered as part of CIT's Year 12 Program.

- (2) Improved English literacy skills decreases social isolation and fosters social and economic well-being within the ACT community. The ACT Government provides funding to enable ACT Service Access Card holders, refugees and migrants to access English language classes free of charge. The ACT Government also supports women to access classes by providing grants to cover the cost of childcare to enable them to attend free English language classes.

The English conversation groups that Libraries ACT host, are open to anyone who wants to participate and improve their English language skills, their free and informal nature makes them a welcome opportunity for many.

CIT has an agreement with the Community Services Directorate (CSD) to waive fees for ACT Access Card holders (refugees). Any students on low income (Australian resident/ citizen or New Zealand citizen) are eligible to apply for ACT Government Fee Assistance each semester (up to 75 per cent of their invoice for the semester).

CIT also award and assist students with nominations for various scholarships.

(3)

(a) Funding provided in 2016-17 for the services and programs detailed above:

- Companion House was contracted by the CYFSP to the value of \$402,510 (GST exclusive).
- MARSS was contracted by the Child, Youth and Family Services Program to the value of \$56,465 (GST exclusive).
- MYS is contracted by the CYFSP to the value of \$300,445 (GST exclusive).

(b) Funding provided in 2018-19:

- MARSS is contracted to the value of \$40,000 (GST exclusive) to provide free English language programs to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.
- CIT is contracted to the value of \$10,000 (GST exclusive) to provide free English language classes to asylum seekers who hold an ACT Services Access Card.

- Companion House is contracted by the CYFSP to the value of \$443,841 (GST exclusive).
- MARSS is contracted by the CYFSP to the value of \$63,721 (GST exclusive).
- MYS is contracted by the CYFSP to the value of \$325,847 (GST exclusive).

(c) Funding committed for 2019-20:

- MARSS is contracted to the value of \$40,000 (GST exclusive) to provide free English language programs to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.
- CIT is contracted to the value of \$10,000 (GST exclusive) to provide free English language classes to asylum seekers who hold an ACT Services Access Card.
- Current Service Funding Agreements for Companion House, MARSS and MYS under the Child, Youth and Family Services Program expire as of 30 June 2019, and are subject to future procurement in line with Early Support by Design.

CIT's Profile funding for English Language training (by calendar year) is below:

- 2016 – \$415, 077
- 2017 – \$423,000
- 2018 – \$342,000
- 2019 – Pending

There is no specific funding for the English conversation groups at ACT libraries. These groups are facilitated by volunteers and Libraries ACT coordinates these groups as part of its broader service offering.

- (4) A review of ACT English language programs and eligibility was undertaken in 2017-18 to inform the design of the ACT Government's 2017-18 budget commitment to expand English language programs. A further review is planned at the completion of the current program funding period in 2021-22.

English conversation groups at libraries have not been formally reviewed.

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### **Multicultural affairs—government employment (Question No 2095)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What methods are the ACT Government currently employing to increase employment within the ACT Government for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people in Canberra.
- (2) Does the ACT Government have a goal for increasing the employment of CALD people within ACT Government positions; if so, what is that goal.
- (3) What is the percentage of people with CALD backgrounds currently working in ACT Government positions.

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

- (1) The Community Services Directorate works with the Canberra Institute of Technology to implement the Work Experience Support Program (WESP). Two WESP intakes are conducted each year with 20 participants in each program. The participants undertake a two week CIT Business Administration course followed by an eight week work placement in the ACT Government.

In the 2nd Work Experience and Support Program (WESP) for 2017-18, after only five weeks into the work placement component of the program, one participant was offered a permanent position. Additionally, nine participants were offered temporary contracts across the ACT Government.

\$307,000 has been provided to the Multicultural Employment Service to develop and implement a 12 month individual, case managed employment program for refugees, asylum seekers and people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

- (2) The ACT Government has an ACT Public Sector Employment Framework that promotes an inclusive workplace which fosters a culture and environment where employees of all backgrounds are engaged and provided with employment opportunities to better support the diverse community we serve.
- (3) The State of the Service Report identified 3,794 (17.9%) of staff were from CALO backgrounds.

### **Multicultural affairs—translation service (Question No 2096)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 30 November 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Business and Regulatory Services*):

Does the ACT Government have any plans to create an opt-out translation service for Access Canberra; if not, why not.

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

Access Canberra staff in the Contact Centre and Service Centres are well experienced in receiving calls or managing inquiries from our community. If a staff member detects that there are language barriers they actively work to offer support, either through connecting them with another staff member who is proficient in the language preference or specific translation services.

Access Canberra does this in partnership with members of our community in a respectful way so the service provided is tailored to meet their individual needs. Access Canberra advises that no concerns have been raised around how these services are provided.

Access Canberra continues to look at new ways to support information provision and engagement to support our community.



**Schools—ovals**  
**(Question No 2097)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) Given that some ACT schools have ovals as part of their overall school facilities and that those schools are responsible for the management and maintenance of these ovals, provided through their repairs and maintenance allocation, do these schools receive more funds in their repairs and maintenance allocations than schools that do not have ovals as part of their overall school facilities.
- (2) If Florey Primary School were to take over the management and maintenance of the Florey Oval, would additional funding be provided to its repairs and maintenance allocation in order to meet the cost of this.

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

- (1) The School Operational Allocation (SOA) is the mechanism that funds non-educational costs within schools. At the time of the review of SOA, utilities costs are recognised in the allocation for schools that were maintaining the ovals.

The school property portfolio is diverse and complex and it is not possible to directly compare one school with another solely on costs associated with maintaining ovals.

- (2) If responsibility for the maintenance and management of Florey oval was transferred to Education, refurbishment costs would need to be assessed as part of an annual works program. The ongoing cost of irrigation and maintenance would be a school responsibility. An assessment of the school's financial capacity to maintain this asset would be made as part of any transfer process.

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**Schools—funding**  
**(Question No 2098)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) How does an ACT government school principal determine the allocation of the budget for the school.
- (2) What groups is the principal obliged to confer with when determining the budget allocation.
- (3) Are Parents and Citizens groups and community groups able to request, from the principal, the budget allocation plans before they are finalised.

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

- (1) As outlined in *Question on Notice 2052* individual school budgets are determined through the Student Resource Allocation (SRA) program, and calculated according to a number of components, including a core allocation and loading where appropriate.

In collaboration with staff, School Board and directorate's Education Support Office, the principal identifies the operational requirements of the school and then builds in the school's strategic priorities to develop an overall picture of the resourcing needs of the school. Many schools form a finance committee with representation to support in construction of the budget. Most decisions revolve around allocations of learning resources to year groups and faculties as well as ensuring that actions relating to strategic priorities have appropriate funding to be successful.

- (2) The School Board must approve the school budget.
- (3) The School Board must approve the budget and, out of respect to the School Board, schools would rarely share a draft budget before discussion with the Board. Groups such as the school's Parents and Citizens Association can submit budget and spending proposals, but there must be alignment with school operational and strategic needs.

### **Schools—Harmony Day (Question No 2099)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) Which ACT government (a) schools and (b) offices currently recognise and commemorate Harmony Day.
- (2) What policies and goals does the ACT Government currently have to increase the commemoration of Harmony Day in ACT government schools and offices.

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

- (1) Schools and offices are able to decide themselves which international and national days, such as Harmony Day, and multicultural festivals, they wish to acknowledge and celebrate.
- (2) There are no policies or goals specific to encouraging schools to celebrate Harmony Day in schools. The ACT Government is committed to celebrating the diversity of the Canberra community consistent with the theme of Harmony Day, 'Everyone Belongs'. This includes through community grants programs and a range of community engagements and events. ACT Government schools and offices may mark Harmony Day in a range of ways. The ACT Government regularly shares with schools the opportunities available for them to recognise and celebrate events such as the National Multicultural Festival, National day of Action against Bullying and Violence as well as Harmony Day.

### **Schools—language teaching (Question No 2100)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What funding is given to the teaching of Japanese at the Kaleen, Giralang and Latham primary schools.

- (2) What funding is given to the teaching of Mandarin at Canberra High, Melba Copland and Kingsford Smith School.
- (3) What funding is given to the teaching of language at Torrens, Charnwood-Dunlop and Florey Primary schools.
- (4) How does a school determine (a) which languages it will teach and (b) how much funding will be allocated to the teaching of languages other than English (LOTE).
- (5) What is the funding given to the teaching of LOTE subjects at ACT government schools expected to go towards.

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

- (1) Schools are funded to meet the needs of all students and deliver the curriculum in line with the Curriculum Requirements Policy. All ACT government schools are required to provide at least one language program in one of eight priority languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Indonesian, Japanese, Mandarin, and Korean). Each year, from year 3 to 6, schools are required to provide students with a minimum of 60 minutes per week of languages education. In years 7 and 8, schools are required to provide students with a minimum of 150 minutes per week.
- (2) As per question (1).
- (3) As per question (1).
- (4) (a) The decision about which language/s will be taught at a school is made by the principal in consultation with the school Board.  
  
(b) The decision about the allocation of funding for LOTE is a school based decision.
- (5) As per question (1).

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### **Justice—restorative (Question No 2101)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections and Justice Health, upon notice, on 30 November 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety*):

- (1) In relation to the expansion of the restorative justice process to victims of family violence and sexual offences, what is the allocated funding for services provided by the Restorative Justice Unit (RJU).
- (2) How many clients can the RJU service at one time.
- (3) Is any part of the Family Safety Levy used to fund services provided by the RJU; if so, what percentage of the levy is used.
- (4) Which community stakeholders were consulted in the decision to move into phase three of the Restorative Justice Scheme.

- (5) When will the ACT Government website be updated to state that victims of family violence and sexual offences will now also have access to the restorative justice process.

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

- (1) In the 2015-16 Budget, the ACT Government announced funding of \$2.058 million over four years for the expansion of restorative justice to include serious offences and offences committed by adults and juveniles, progressing to include sexual and family violence offences when the Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) staff had sufficient training to manage these more complex offences. The expanded staffing included four new positions (three convenors and an administration/court liaison worker) and funding to provide professional supervision of convenors and training to build the RJU's capacity to manage domestic and family violence and sexual offences matters.

In the 2016-17 Budget, the Government announced funding for an additional Indigenous Guidance Partner to assist with the increase in referrals following the expansion of the RJU in 2015-16. This position has been recently trialled successfully as a convenor position benefiting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. In the 2017-18 Budget, further funding was provided to engage an officer to provide policy and facilitation support for adult survivors of child sexual abuse who wish to engage in a direct personal response.

- (2) Matters vary in their complexity and response needs markedly and as such it is difficult to provide a set number of referrals that the RJU can service at any one time, however at this stage it is estimated that a convenor may have between 10 and 13 cases as a lead convenor at any one point in time.
- (3) The Family Safety Levy has not been used to fund services provided by the RJU.
- (4) Community Stakeholders included in the planning of phase three of the RJ Scheme are listed on the attached 'Community Stakeholders/Organisations List'.
- (5) The new RJU website will be refreshed as part of the new JACS website platform currently under development. This is due for completion in the first half of 2019. The RJ website would not be a portal for referrals, but may, in some circumstances lead to enquiries/requests for the RJU to explore the current eligibility of a matter and subsequently prompt a referral from the relevant criminal justice referring entity.

#### **Attachment**

#### **Community Stakeholders/Organisations for Sexual Offences and Family Violence.**

<b>Community Stakeholders/Organisations List</b>
Canberra Rape Crisis Centre
Domestic Violence Crisis Service
Menslink
Everyman Australia
Women with Disabilities ACT Inc
Relationships Australia
Human Rights Commission
Victims of Crime Commissioner

<b>Community Stakeholders/Organisations List</b>
Victim Support ACT
Community Services Directorate
ACT Corrective Services
Sentence Administration Board
ACT Courts & Tribunal
ACT Bar Association
Legal Aid
Domestic Violence Prevention Council
Womens Legal Aid
Office For Women
Aboriginal Legal Service ACT
Law Society
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Kamy Saeedi Law
ACT Policing
Women's Health Service
Diversity ACT
Thomas Wright Institute
University of Canberra
ANU Centre for Restorative Justice
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
Marymead ACT
Australian Muslim Voice
ACT Youth Advisory Council

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### **ACT Policing—community engagement (Question No 2102)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) How many community requests for ACT Policing to attend as a key speaker were received in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 to date.
- (2) How many community requests for ACT Policing to attend as a community policing representative were received in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 to date.
- (3) How many community requests for ACT Policing were declined because it was deemed inappropriate for police to attend in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 to date.
- (4) How many community requests for ACT Policing were declined because there were no resources available to attend in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 to date.
- (5) Will the ACT Government plan to increase resourcing for ACT Policing in the 2019-20 Budget so that more community requests can be facilitated.

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

Direct engagement (such as an appearance as a speaker or representative) with our community is a critical component of the duties of every ACT Policing officer. As ACT Policing officers engage with community members and groups on a daily basis, often at impromptu or informal events, ACT Policing does not record every such engagement.

I am advised that ACT Policing does record community engagement requests received and/or coordinated through ACT Policing's Media team, Constable Kenny Koala Program, Community Safety team and Volunteers in Policing Team.

- (1) In recording requests for community engagement, ACT Policing does not differentiate between attendance as a key speaker or otherwise. For the total number of requests received, I refer the member to my answer to Question 2.
- (2) (a) In 2016-17, ACT Policing's Media team, Constable Kenny Koala Program, Community Safety team and Volunteers in Policing Team received 1,597 requests.  
 (b) In 2017-18 ACT Policing's Media team, Constable Kenny Koala Program, Community Safety team and Volunteers in Policing Team 1,457 requests.  
 (c) In 2018-19 YTD, as at 11 December 2018, ACT Policing's ACT Policing 's Media team, Constable Kenny Koala Program, Community Safety team and Volunteers in Policing Team have received 649 requests.
- (3) ACT Policing does not categorise the reasons for which a request may have been declined. Providing a response to the member's question would require a manual review of all requests – an onerous task that would unreasonably divert police resources.
- (4) (a) In 2016-17, 65 requests were declined.  
 (b) In 2017-18, 41 requests were declined.  
 (c) In 2018-19 YTD, as at 11 December 2018, 7 requests have been declined.
- (5) The question's premise is incorrect. As evidenced above, ACT Policing engages the community members and groups in a number of ways, with most requests, as indicated by the figures, being facilitated.

### **Schools—language teaching (Question No 2103)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What plans does the Government have to address the shortage of language teachers in the ACT.
- (2) Does the Government plan to undertake a review of policies relating to how overseas accreditations/qualifications are recognised, particularly in regards to language teaching in the ACT.
- (3) Will the Government commit to increase investment in language teachers for the 2019-20 Budget.

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

- (1) As part of the motion regarding language education in the ACT, passed in the Assembly on 27 November 2018, the ACT Government has agreed to develop an action plan to encourage, improve and support language education in Canberra schools as part of implementing the Future of Education Strategy.
- (2) All teachers in the ACT schools must be appropriately qualified and registered through the Teacher Quality Institute (TQI). There are some overseas qualifications that are recognised by TQI. Recognised qualifications for teachers who have attained their qualifications overseas are set by the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training. These recognised courses are set under the Country Education Profiles. The Education Directorate has no plan to review the policies.
- (3) The Education Directorate has a number of initiatives that support language provision in ACT schools, including the support for language teaching assistants.

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**Schools—language teaching  
(Question No 2104)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What plans does the Government have to improve collaboration between government schools and community language schools.
- (2) Which government schools currently partner with community language schools and what is the nature of the partnership.

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

- (1) The ACT Education Directorate is developing an action plan to encourage, improve and support language education in Canberra schools. This will include consultation with the Community Language Association. Currently the Education Directorate facilitates the Community Languages Network, which includes key members from all language providing services, including the Community Language Schools Association. The Education Directorate currently allocates funding to the Modern Language Teachers Association who provide professional learning each term to the community language teachers.
- (2) No ACT public school currently has a formal partnership with the Community Language Schools.

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**Schools—student congress  
(Question No 2105)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) How many students participated in the Minister's Student Congress in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 to date.

- (2) How many times has the Congress met in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18, and (c) 2018-19 to date.
- (3) Will the ACT Government consider including student representatives from (a) independent and (b) community language schools as part of the Congress; if not, why not.

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

- (1) The number of students who participated in the Minister's Student Congress 2016 – 2018, is shown below Table 1.
- (2) The Congress has met five times since 2016. See Table 1.

**Table 1**

	<b>Congress</b>	<b>Number of participating students (Q1)</b>
1	June 2016	67
2	June 2017	99
3	November 2017	102
4	June 2018	100
5	October 2018	84

- (3) The purpose of the *Minister's Student Congress* is for ACT Public school student leaders to keep the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development informed on issues that are important to them and to discuss and give advice on matters relating to public schools raised by the Minister. The Congress also forms a reference group for major initiatives affecting ACT Public Schools. Opportunities for student voice in non-government schools are organised through the relevant sector (Catholic and Independent systems) and are outside the scope of the Minister's Student Congress.

### **Community Services Directorate—community schools (Question No 2106)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Community Services and Facilities, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What will be the specific involvement of the Community Services Director (CSD) in the development and operation of community schools in the Territory under the Future of Education Strategy.
- (2) Has the CSD begun working with the Education Directorate to make plans for these schools; if not, when will such consultation begin.

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

- (1) The Human Services Directorates are working collaboratively to support alignment of key reforms across ACT Government, including the Future of Education Strategy, Early Childhood Strategy and Early Support By Design program of work.



The Education Directorate is leading development of the implementation plan for the Future of Education strategy, including activities to support the development of strong communities for learning. This includes ongoing collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Community Services Directorate.

- (2) A motion debated in the Legislative Assembly on 19 September 2018 called on the ACT Government to:
- a) continue to develop Future of Education implementation plans in consultation with government and non-government schools; and
  - b) report back to the Assembly on the Future of Education implementation plans, including measures aimed at lifting academic performance, during the February 2019 sitting.

The development of the implementation plan for the Future of Education strategy includes ongoing collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Community Services Directorate.

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### **Men's shed program—mental health (Question No 2107)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) Will the ACT Government be willing to help provide support as a joint host for Men's Shed mental health-themed events in the coming year; if not, what other ways will the Government support Men's Shed for such events.
- (2) What other measures will the ACT Government take to support and address the issue of mental health at the Men's Shed communities in the ACT.
- (3) What steps does the ACT Government recommend Men's Shed take to address the issue of mental health within their community.
- (4) What supports are available for organisations such as Men's Shed in dealing with community mental health issues.

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

- (1) The ACT Government is keen to continue its support of the Men's Shed mental health themed events in the coming year. ACT Government can contribute speakers to the event and invites representatives from Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) to contact the Mental Health Policy Team at ACT Health to discuss the matter further.
- (2) The ACT Government has proudly supported and actively engaged with ACT-based initiatives of AMSA. This includes grants that have been provided for the establishment of South Canberra's Veteran Shed in 2016-2017 and for the purchase of a scroll saw for the Belconnen Community Men's Shed in 2017-2018. In addition, this year the ACT Legislative Assembly hosted a forum with representatives from Men's Shed's around the ACT.

The ACT Government also continues to support community-based initiatives in relation to men's mental health through funding programs delivered by Menslink and OzHelp which provide support, education and training and referrals for men in the ACT.

- (3) The ACT Government encourages AMSA to reach out to local NGOs, many of whom are funded by ACT Health, to provide targeted services to men regarding their mental health. This includes Menslink who visit organisations in the ACT and the surrounding region to talk about men's mental health, mental fitness and suicide prevention and Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT) who offer education sessions to community groups to assist with understanding of mental health issues and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Men's Sheds can play a valuable role in encouraging people to seek help for mental health issues by having information on services available on site and encouraging people to talk with their GP who can also assist to manage issues and connect people to services, including low and high intensity counselling funded by the Capital Health Network.

- (4) Men's Sheds play an important role in promoting mental health and wellbeing and may be a key point of contact and connection for men facing a range of mental health challenges. In addition to the NGO's and primary care services already noted, services are also available through Canberra Health Services, who have recently launched their Access Mental Health phone line (1800 629 354). This line can help with assessment and referral to services, including secondary and tertiary mental health services delivered by Canberra Health Services.

For those men who experience mental illness, Men's Sheds are encouraged to seek permission to connect with their supports as appropriate and helpful, including family, support services (some may be funded under the NDIS) and clinical services.

The ACT Government has committed \$1.545 million from 2018-19 to establish a pilot version of the Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan Integrated Suicide Prevention Framework in the ACT over the next three years. LifeSpan aims to build a safety net for the community by connecting and coordinating new and existing interventions and programs and building the capacity of the community to better support people facing suicidal crisis. LifeSpan is an evidence-based approach that combines nine strategies for suicide prevention into one community-led approach incorporating health, education, frontline services, business and the community. Men's Sheds can take advantage of some of the resources offered under LifeSpan such as access to online training called Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) which has been made available free of charge to ACT organisations.

AMSA is also encouraged to continue to apply for community grants offered by the ACT Government for their project and equipment needs.

### **Children and young people—care and protection (Question No 2108)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What percentage of care leavers in the ACT currently request financial subsidies after age 18, and of those, what percentage are successful in obtaining this support.
- (2) In addition to subsidies, what trauma-informed continuing care models are currently being used to assist care leavers and do these also need to be opted into; if so, how does one opt in.
- (3) Does the ACT Government track how many care leavers end up homeless or coming into contact with the justice system; if so, what are these figures; if not, why not.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Of the 37 young people who turned 18 years old in the 2017-18 financial year, 11 or 29.7% requested extended financial support subsidies, of which 100% were successful in securing this support.

Of the 18 young people who turned 18 years old from 1 July 2018 to 30 November 2018, 10 or 55.6% requested extended financial support subsidies of which 100% have been successful in securing this support.

- (2) An important element of *A Step Up for Our Kids* is to ensure young people are engaged in conversations that plan for the next stage of their life. This transition planning commences for young people at the age of 15 years and continues until they reach the age of 18 years. Transition planning is not a static plan, and is built upon and changed as the individual needs and circumstances of young people change. Beyond the age of 18 years, a young person voluntarily consents to engage, or not engage, in transition planning.

ACT Together have implemented a Transition Panel to provide oversight and quality assurance of transition planning for all young people in out of home care from 15 years of age. The panel aims to ensure the development of high quality and timely transition plans that are developed with the active involvement of young people transitioning from care.

As part of the transition planning the case manager ensures that the young person is aware of their right to seek and receive aftercare support. ACT Together generally prepares the paperwork on behalf of the young person or their carer.

Aftercare support can include case work and coordination; planning and oversight of therapeutic interventions based on the individual needs; assisting access to their care records; practical supports including applying for the Commonwealth Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA), housing applications and support to access further education or employment; and supported referrals to community based support services, such as counselling and a range of other universal services.

These supports are in addition to the continuation of subsidy payments for eligible carers who continue to support young people to remain in care with them.

For young people who are in residential care, ACT Together offers a range of differential services that support young people to transition to independent living. The Community Adolescent Program (CAP) has a strong focus on supporting young people to obtain and maintain safe and appropriate stable housing. Young people have access to case management and support with an emphasis on building the young person's capacity for independent living.

The CAP Housing program offers fully furnished accommodation with individual and shared housing options, as well as flexible and hands-on support provided by CAP case managers and youth workers.

The CAP Aftercare Support program offers outreach case management support for young people aged 18 - 25 years who have previously been in care. Young people are supported to continue to develop their independent living skills and are supported to access appropriate housing options and a range of other support services according to their individual needs.

Housing ACT has a specialised Youth Team which works with young people aged between 16 and 25 years of age. The Youth Team works with the young person around their housing application and provides connection with relevant support services. Involvement with the out of home care and youth justice system provides automatic access to the Youth Team.

When a young person signs up for a tenancy with Housing ACT, the Youth Housing Manager remains the point of contact until they are 25 years of age – and sometimes longer. They will conduct client service visits and assist the young person to sustain their tenancy. The Youth Team works with many youth agencies, including ACT Together, to help achieve this outcome. This collaboration often begins when a young person is still in care and transition planning is occurring.

- (3) The ACT does not collect Territory level data on contact with the adult justice system or the housing circumstances of young people after exiting care. Aftercare support is provided with the voluntary consent of the young person and they may choose to cease their engagement with supports at any time.

### **Roads—pedestrian crossings (Question No 2109)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Roads, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) What is the prescribed safety distance for cars to park before and after a pedestrian crossing.
- (2) Is the distance consistent between all pedestrian crossings along Hardwick Crescent, Kippax.
- (3) Is this consistent at all pedestrian crossings along Canberra; if not, why not

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

- (1) The Australian Standards AS1742.9 specifies the minimum distances cars can be parked from a zebra crossing. The distances are 20m on the approach to a crossing and 10m on the departure side of a zebra crossing. These distances are based on providing adequate opportunity for a car driver to be able to see a pedestrian waiting to cross. Greater distances may be required where road geometry is substandard with poor vertical or horizontal alignment. Reduced distances can be used where parking is indented.

- (2) The minimum No Stopping distance is achieved at each of the zebra crossings on Hardwick Crescent. However, the lengths of No Stopping at each of the crossings varies to take account of the proximity of side roads and driveway accesses and the geometry of the road.
  - (3) The Standards for No Stopping distances close to pedestrian crossings are consistent Canberra wide and nationally.
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### **Canberra—population projection (Question No 2110)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 30 November 2018  
(*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) During Question Time on 28 November 2018 did the Chief Minister state “The projections that Ms Le Couteur refers to were issued on 13 March 2017 and I believe are now already out of date”; if so, are the 13 March 2017 population projections still being used for service planning and other purposes within the ACT Government, or are other population projections being used.
- (2) What is the staffing and resourcing status of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate’s demography function.
- (3) Which population projections were used for Figure 5 of the final Curtin Group Centre Master Plan released on 28 November 2018.

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

- (1) Revised projections have been completed by Treasury and are being used within the ACT Government for planning purposes. These, along with an explanatory report will be published on the Treasury website early in 2019.
  - (2) Treasury has responsibility for demographic projections and meets the cost from within its overall resourcing for economic management.
  - (3) The population projections underpinning the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan were working estimates taking into account work in progress to update the population estimates and agreed between EPSDD and Treasury for use in the publication at that time.
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### **Environment—land management (Question No 2111)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) In relation to reports that the agistment licence to keep horses and ponies on the block on the corner of Streeton and Dixon Drives in Holder has been revoked, have licences or leases for any other sites in the ACT been revoked to ensure that the land is not being degraded; if so, what action was taken by Government to ensure that these area(s) were rehabilitated.

- (2) In relation to the Holder site, did the Government previously write to the licence holder, to ask whether stock could be reduced on the site due to environmental degradation; if so, when and how often.
- (3) How will the land now be managed.
- (4) Will the land be managed by Parks and Conservation.
- (5) Will the local Parkcare/Landcare group be invited to assist with rehabilitation.
- (6) What alternative land use does the ACT Government plan for this site.

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

- (1) Livestock grazing licences are issued under section 303 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* for short term use of unleased Territory Land to manage vegetation for fire fuel reduction, conservation or drought relief grazing purposes.

Licence holders are regularly requested to remove livestock and the licence terminated once the vegetation (ground cover) has been reduced or other land management objectives achieved. The intention of managing grazing in this manner is to ensure that the land does not degrade to a point that requires intensive rehabilitation. This principle is widely understood by ACT rural landholders. Grazing licences have not been granted to members of the public for horse agistment for many years.

In this case, it is anticipated that removal of livestock from the site will support the regeneration of vegetation and ground cover.

- (2) On 11 April 2018 Leasing Services within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate wrote to the licence holder to notify them that the licence would be terminated. Since then ACT Parks and Conservation Service officers have discussed in person, corresponded over the phone, via email and via letter in relation to this matter with the licence holder on a number of occasions. There also has been two extensions granted regarding this matter.

Reduction in the stocking level was not an option due to the small size of the licence area. The Dry Sheep Equivalent (DSE) for this licence area is 6 DSE which would equate to less than 1 horse (1 horse = 10 DSE). The DSE is a measure of the maximum carrying capacity for stock on a piece of grazing land above which pasture cover and soil condition deteriorates.

- (3) Once the stock are removed and public access reinstated, the land will be managed by the custodian of the land, Transport Canberra and City Services, City Presentation Section in accordance with its landscape maintenance standards for urban open space.
- (4) No. The land will be managed by Transport Canberra and City Services who is the custodian of this piece of public land.
- (5) This is an option open to Transport Canberra and City Services once they resume maintenance responsibility for the land.

- (6) The land will be managed as part of the urban open space network. There are no plans for development or other uses for this land.
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**Schools—Teach for Australia partnership  
(Question No 2112)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:

- (1) How long has Teach for Australia (TA) had an active presence in the ACT.
- (2) What is the basis of this partnership.
- (3) What obligations, financial and otherwise, did this partnership with TA place on the ACT Government for each of the years of involvement.
- (4) How many teachers in ACT schools have accessed TA courses.
- (5) How many of those teachers referred to in part (4) are still teaching in ACT schools.
- (6) What is the average length of employment of these teachers in an ACT school following TA accreditation.
- (7) In what subjects have they been qualified.
- (8) How many ACT based TA certified teachers came from an overseas country.
- (9) What review, if any, has been done of the ACT Government's partnership with TA
- (10) If a review has been done, (a) when was this done, (b) who undertook this review and (c) what decisions have been made following this review.
- (11) Is the ACT Government continuing its partnership with TA; if not; what are the reasons for the withdrawal.

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

- (1) The Directorate has participated in the TFA program since 2011.
- (2) The TFA program provides high performing graduates in various disciplines with an alternative employment pathway into teaching. Participants (known as associates) undertake a two year placement in schools, supported by in-school mentors and TFA Teaching and Leadership Advisors. They complete a Master of Teaching through the designated university partner, presently the Australian Catholic University (ACU). Associates are matched to schools serving low socio-economic communities, aiming to meet the needs of each school's unique context and contribute to improved student learning outcomes. TFA works with each jurisdiction to determine school eligibility.
- (3) Associates teach 80 percent of a full time classroom teacher workload. Salary is 80 percent of the Classroom Teacher New Educator 1.2 rate in the first year and of the Experienced Teacher 2.1 rate in the second year. These rates are indicated in the

relevant Enterprise Agreement. Individual schools resource time release for a staff member to mentor Associates. TFA co-ordinate professional learning sessions during the midyear semester break for the Associates and conduct periodic workshops for mentors. Commencing with the 2018-19 cohort, a co funding model applies with the Directorate contributing \$15,000 per associate placed and commencing in an ACT public school on completion of their initial intensive study period. This funding is being met centrally and not from the budgets of individual participating schools.

- (4) In the period 2011 to 2017 (completed cohorts), 41 associates participated in the TFA program, of whom 21 remain teaching in the Directorate in 2018 or are accessing approved extended leave such as parenting leave.

A further 12 associates are in the 2017-18 cohort and seven in the 2018-19 cohort.

- (5) Cohort 2011-12 – 60 percent retention initially but none sustained by 2018  
 Cohort 2012-13 – 71 percent retention initially, reducing to 33 percent  
 Cohort 2013-14 – 66 percent retention initially, reducing to 17 percent  
 Cohort 2014-15 – 80 percent retention initially, reducing to 40 percent  
 Cohort 2015-16 – 86 percent retention initially, reducing to 71 percent  
 Cohort 2016-17 – 82 percent retention initially, reducing to 73 percent
- (6) The average length of employment is 1.8 years.
- (7) Associates placed in the period 2011–2018 represent the learning disciplines of maths, science, English, Studies of Society and Environment, specific languages and music.
- (8) Data on the nationality of each associate is not maintained by the Directorate.
- (9) A formal review of the TFA program has not been conducted by the Directorate or ACT Government although People and Performance Branch contributed to an external review of the TFA program in 2017.
- (10) Dandolo Partners was commissioned to conduct an evaluation of the TFA program in 2017.
- (11) The Directorate is not accepting further associate intakes from 2019 and formally ceases the program with the graduation of the most recent cohort in December 2019.
- Retention rate has been variable and investment is not necessarily providing longer term benefit.
  - The current co-funding model is not sustainable.
  - There are a limited number of ACT public schools that met the core TFA eligibility criteria of an Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) value equal to or below the national median.
  - The *Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021: A Leading Learning Organisation* and outcomes of the *Future of Education* consultation are defining a long term strategy for government education in the ACT. This includes approaches to teacher recruitment, retention and talent management.

**Arts—event fund  
 (Question No 2113)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events, upon notice, on 30 November 2018:



- (1) Noting that funding from the ACT Event Fund 2019 has recently been allocated, what is the breakdown of this expenditure by ACT electorate.
- (2) Who is represented on the decision-making panel for the funding allocated through the ACT Event Fund 2019.
- (3) Are there avenues for community events to seek funding from alternative pathways; if so, what are those mechanisms.

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

- (1) The breakdown of expenditure per ACT electorate for the 2019 ACT Event Fund under the main round (excluding pre-existing multi-year agreement funding commitments and other funding pre-commitments) is:

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Ginninderra	\$0
Kurrajong	\$84,000
Murrumbidgee	\$94,100
Brindabella	\$0
Yerrabi	\$30,000
Events with multiple locations: Kurrajong, Murrumbidgee, Yerrabi and NSW.	\$66,863
<b>TOTAL 2018-19 ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$274,963</b>

- (2) An independent panel consisting of representatives across relevant ACT Government business units and a representative from an external event stakeholder group assessed the applications to the 2019 ACT Event Fund. The membership of the assessment panel is not made public so that members are not exposed to lobbying from applicants.
  - (3) The ACT Government administers a number of grant opportunities across the ACT supporting a variety of programs. A full guide to these and other funding opportunities can be found at <https://www.grants.act.gov.au>.
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