



QUESTION TIME
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

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Wednesday, 13 September 2017

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Wednesday, 13 September 2017

Questions without notice:

Light rail—local contracts	1
Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—aluminium cladding	2
Litter—leaflets	3
Council of Capital City Lord Mayors—ACT relationship	3
Mental health—office for mental health.....	5
Justice—incitement offence.....	5
Education—STEM skills	6
Education—Koori preschools	8
ACTION bus service—route alterations.....	9
Access Canberra—online licence renewal.....	10
Floriade—participation regulations	11
Ginninderry—community opportunities.....	13
Conflict Resolution Service—funding.....	14
Government—gambling harm minimisation	16
Environment—healthy waterways project.....	18

Questions without notice

Light rail—local contracts

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, which Canberra businesses have a contract with Canberra Metro for the construction of light rail?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mr Coe for his question. A number of businesses have contracts with Canberra Metro to deliver stage 1 of light rail. I will take on notice the specific details of the significant number of local businesses that have been engaged not only by Canberra Metro but by Transport Canberra.

MR COE: Minister, do you receive any regular reports about the level of locally engaged contractors? If so, are you satisfied with the level of local engagement?

MS FITZHARRIS: Yes, I do and I am. I know that at different phases of the delivery of the project there are different sectors of our local economy that are engaged by Canberra Metro and by Transport Canberra and City Services.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, can you name right now a single business that has a contract with Canberra Metro for the construction of light rail?

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, would you like him to repeat that?

MS FITZHARRIS: Yes.

MR MILLIGAN: Can you name right now a single business that has a contract with Canberra Metro for the construction of light rail?

MS FITZHARRIS: I could name a number of businesses but I do not have the details. I just do not have the names of the businesses.

Opposition members interjecting—

Ms Berry: Point of order. Seriously, the number of interjections from several members opposite is really unhelpful. This is not a test for the minister. She answered the question.

Opposition members interjecting—

Ms Berry: Here they go again.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Ms Berry. Can I remind members of the opposition that there are a number of standing orders that provide that when members are on their feet they are not to be interrupted; they are allowed to be heard. Again, it was within 15 seconds or less that the sound was quite loud. I ask you, yet again, if you can please just attend to the matters; if you ask a question you should be waiting for the answer and, hopefully, listen to it. I am assuming you have finished your response, minister, yes.

Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—aluminium cladding

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Yesterday you told the Assembly that you did not know whether your directorate had ordered replacement cladding for the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. Minister, do you know today if your directorate has ordered it?

MS FITZHARRIS: If I recall correctly, my answer to yesterday's question was that I was not aware if they had done that. Certainly the advice that I have is that ACT Health are in the process of discussing a statement of requirements for the work required to remediate the Centenary hospital. Planning is underway for that. I have stated in the Assembly previously, on a number of occasions, that the advice that I will have by the end of September is whether cladding can be safely removed before cladding becomes available to then put back on the Centenary hospital. That advice will be available to me by the end of September.

MS LAWDER: Minister, will there be further delay in ordering the replacement cladding, given what we saw in the newspaper today about delays arising from the demand for new cladding?

MS FITZHARRIS: Not to my knowledge, no. I would note that ACT Health has been at the forefront of this work, both within ACT government and, as we see, around the country. It was just last week, indeed, that New South Wales Health identified the Queanbeyan hospital as potentially having this cladding as well. So ACT Health has in fact been very proactive.

They are undertaking the methodical work that they need to do now to assess where they need to replace that cladding and how much they need to order. They are undergoing a statement of requirements before—

Ms Lawder: Point of order—

MADAM SPEAKER: Resume your seat. Point of order, Ms Lawder.

Ms Lawder: Madam Speaker, as to relevance. The question related specifically about whether there would be an additional delay on when the order is being placed.

MADAM SPEAKER: I do not believe there is a point of order. I think the minister said, "Not that she was aware of," and she is providing some further details in the answer. Have you concluded?

Ms Fitzharris: Yes.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how long are you prepared to leave the women and children in the Centenary hospital exposed to the risks from this dangerous cladding?

MS FITZHARRIS: Frankly, that is a ridiculous question. As I have said and as I have been advised by consultants, by infrastructure experts at ACT Health and by ACT Fire & Rescue, the Centenary hospital is safe. I am simply not exposing women and children to harm, and I frankly think it is utterly irresponsible of the opposition to

continue this line that somehow people are not safe. People are safe.

Mrs Dunne interjecting—

MS FITZHARRIS: If Mrs Dunne is an expert in fire-related matters, then I welcome her expert advice. But I have expert advice, and that expert advice has advised me, as I have said previously, that it would be irresponsible to remove those panels immediately. There may be further risk to the building from, for example, its watertightness in a storm event or a rain event. There may be an issue with voiding building warranties if we remove the panels. It may also reduce the operational efficiency of the building if those panels are removed before replacement panels are available. The Centenary Hospital for Women and Children is a safe, modern building.

Litter—leaflets

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services and relates to leaflets left on windscreens. Minister, it has come to our attention that someone is leaving leaflets about voting no on the postal survey on cars parked at Jamison centre. These leaflets are factually incorrect and misleading. What enforcement can be done under the Litter Act 2004 to prevent this from happening?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will certainly take the question on notice regarding the Litter Act and the powers available to the ACT government. I would note that, under the Litter Act, I do not think there would be a role for the government to determine whether these pamphlets were either correct or misleading. I will take the question about the Litter Act on notice.

MS LE COUTEUR: Minister, are there any efforts that can be undertaken by the government to prevent or minimise distribution of factually incorrect material during the postal survey period?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the question on notice.

Council of Capital City Lord Mayors—ACT relationship

MS ORR: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, you recently attended a meeting of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors in Sydney. Can you please update the Assembly on the activities of the CCCLM, and Canberra's growing role in driving the group's agenda?

MR BARR: I thank Ms Orr for the question. The Council of Capital City Lord Mayors met at the end of August and the beginning of September over two days in Sydney for its annual general meeting. These meetings of lord mayors of Australia's capital cities provide a very valuable opportunity for a key group of city leaders to discuss a range of issues of shared concern and to advocate on behalf of Australia's capital cities and their residents.

The most recent annual general meeting covered a broad range of issues, including a discussion with the CEO of Infrastructure Australia on the infrastructure challenge facing cities; a discussion with the commonwealth's assistant minister for cities, the

Hon Angus Taylor, on the commonwealth's smart cities plan; an examination of the impact of climate change on cities; and a discussion of opportunities for commonwealth, state and city governments to work together to incentivise the uptake of electric vehicles.

Through the CCCLM, the ACT will continue to contribute to the development of key cities policy on issues such as city responses to homelessness and the commonwealth government's recently released crowded places strategy.

I am working to ensure that Canberra takes a leading role in this organisation. I can advise the Assembly that following the annual general meeting, I have been elected chair of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors for 2018. Having been deputy chair in 2017, it was the ACT's turn to take over the chair of this august body, and it is an ideal time for the commonwealth, together with state and territory governments, to make proper investments in our cities. *(Time expired.)*

MS ORR: Chief Minister, what benefits has the ACT region received as a result of our membership of the CCCLM?

MR BARR: There are many benefits from being engaged in this national forum. Through collective advocacy and joint policy development, the CCCLM gives Canberra a voice in the development of national cities policy and an opportunity to influence federal policy, such as the commonwealth government's smart cities plan and of course the development of city deals.

As the nation's city leaders, the CCCLM provides an opportunity for lord mayors and, indeed, one Chief Minister, to build partnerships across political, jurisdictional and geographic lines.

Working with Sydney's Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, will drive support to grow and improve the rail services between Sydney and Canberra. Lord Mayor Moore has agreed to join me in advocating for stronger public transport connections between Canberra, our nation's capital city, and Sydney, the largest city in the country.

Similarly membership of the CCCLM has directly led to the development of a smart city cooperation agreement between Canberra and the City of Adelaide. Under this agreement, the two cities have made a joint application in a nation-leading way to the commonwealth's smart cities and suburbs program for the development of an integrated smart parking application, something that will benefit drivers in both of our cities.

MR PETTERSSON: Chief Minister, how will the ACT government contribute to the CCCLM agenda for 2018?

MR BARR: The chair of the CCCLM, as I have mentioned, rotates through member cities on a yearly basis. I look forward to taking up the chair role in 2018. The key priorities that I will be working towards will be championing the importance of sustainable transport infrastructure in cities, especially light rail, strengthening international collaboration by building closer relationships amongst the CCCLM with Canberra's sister city, Wellington, and Auckland and Singapore, and continuing to

work across the lord mayors network to implement practical reforms in areas such as homelessness, economic development, infrastructure and climate adaptation.

Of course, all of this work will be occurring in the context of a possible federal election campaign, rumoured to take place in the second half of 2018, which will certainly be the perfect time to put capital city issues on the national agenda.

One of the CCCLM's key objectives, and one that I will pursue as chair, is to advocate strongly for the important role that cities play in the economic life of our nation. The prosperity and productivity of cities must be supported by strong federal leadership, a clear cities policy, but, most importantly, on-the-ground results.

Mental health—office for mental health

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Mental Health: in your ministerial statement yesterday on 12 September in relation to the office of mental health, you said, and I quote:

... there have unfortunately been some unavoidable delays in progressing formal consultation on this initiative.

Minister, what caused the delays and why were they unavoidable?

MR RATTENBURY: I did think it was worth being forthright about the fact that this is not going as quickly as I had hoped. What has come up is that there is a range of models in different jurisdictions and it has taken the directorate some time to work its way through those different models to provide me with a level of research that I was then happy to share with the key stakeholders as part of the conversation starter which I referenced in my statement yesterday.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, what will you do to ensure that the office for mental health is people-centric and not outputs driven?

MR RATTENBURY: I think a very important part of any model is that we actually want the focus to be on those who are seeking care within our system. We should ensure that the system is all about their needs because they are coming to seek support at a vulnerable time in their lives. Therefore, we need to ensure that the system is as people-centric as possible.

In that sense, it is all about making sure that the journey through the system is as smooth as possible for people, that they get the support they need when they need it and that it is clear to them how the system works.

MS LEE: Minister, how much of the 2017-18 budget appropriation of \$500,000 has been spent so far on the office of mental health initiative, on what has this been spent and will the full amount be spent this financial year?

MR RATTENBURY: I will need to take that level of detail on notice.

Justice—incitement offence

MR HANSON: My question is to the Attorney-General. Attorney, a recent High Court case concerned an ACT prisoner who drafted an eight-page plan detailing how witnesses would be forced to retract their evidence and seek another prisoner to recruit a hit man for that purpose. The High Court found that there is currently no offence of incitement to procure in the Criminal Code. The judgement stated this was a gap or omission. Attorney, you are quoted in the media as saying:

I think there's certainly a very, very arguable case that this is a serious matter and is something that we need to be looking at to change the legislation.

Attorney-General, what briefings have you had regarding this apparent gap or omission in our laws and when will you provide a response to this place or to the community?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Hanson for his question. The particular case that he is referring to is, of course, the case of the Queen v Holliday. A matter of fact has been raised. It has been looked at in relation to the drafting of our criminal laws. I have had the chance to work through the High Court decision itself. I have also spoken with my directorate on the matter, and I have also sought advice in relation to it from the Government Solicitor's office.

Members would be aware that it is not uncommon for courts to make recommendations or observations in relation to legislation. That matter was raised by the justices of the High Court and attested to the fact that if it was to be addressed it needed to be addressed by the legislature. I am working with my directorate on that. We are looking at this particularly closely and I look forward to being able to, having received further advice in relation to that particular act and in relation to that particular offence, advise in the near future.

MR HANSON: Attorney-General, have you sought advice as to whether such a law could be made retrospective?

MR RAMSAY: With the human rights in operation within the ACT, it is not something that the government is inclined to do, in relation to making any criminal act retrospective. It is not something that we would be considering in this particular case.

MR WALL: Attorney, will the facts relating to this case be considered by the parole board?

MR RAMSAY: The matter is under the Sentence Administration Board, something not within my particular area, although it sits within the justice portfolio. Matters in relation to that particular matter are rightly determined by the Sentence Administration Board itself.

Education—STEM skills

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research. Noting that National Skills Week has just concluded, can the minister please update the Assembly about how this important week was acknowledged in the

ACT?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mr Pettersson for the question. Skills Week was a tremendous success. The ACT government supported a range of activities held throughout the week as they were also celebrated in other jurisdictions. The week was used as an opportunity to promote and celebrate the career pathways available through vocational education and training.

In the lead-up to Skills Week, on Friday 25 August I attended the Academy of Interactive Entertainment's STEM future skills experience showcase for local high school students. This showcase was a fantastic opportunity for these local students to explore the world of animation, artificial intelligence and virtual reality applications and to discover the exciting pathways that STEM skills can take them on.

Other activities throughout the week included a consultation workshop to discuss training opportunities in the growing community services sector. WorldSkills regional competitions were held in Canberra surrounding National Skills Week. This included competitions in restaurant service, tiling, plastering and painting. Competitions in landscape construction, sheet metal and welding are happening over the next two weeks. The remaining competitions will occur in the following weeks through till the end of October.

Finally, the highlight of 2017 National Skills Week was the 2017 ACT training awards, held on 31 August, which showcased the commitment, innovation and outstanding achievements of all those involved in the ACT VET sector. It was a terrific night. There has been subsequent reporting of the winners of those awards. I take this opportunity to thank very much Mr Pettersson and Ms Cody, who attended, and also Ms Lee from the opposition.

MR PETTERSSON: How else is the government promoting STEM in vocational education and training?

MS FITZHARRIS: Through the government and Skills Canberra, there are a number of subsidies provided for training in many STEM-related industries. These include information communications and integrated telecommunications; electrotechnology; metal engineering and manufacturing; and surveying and spatial information.

These training packages have been identified as being highly relevant to STEM-related occupations in Australia. Qualifications from these training packages are included on the ACT skills needs list and subsidised under the ACT government skilled capital and Australian apprenticeships programs. Many training packages in the VET sector provide STEM skills and the sector is a strong contributor to STEM skills development within the Australian workforce.

The ACT has also recently applied for Australian government funding to develop an end-to-end skills education strategy for cyber security with a view to positioning Australia as a global leader in training for cyber security.

Skills Canberra is also working with the Australian Information Industry Association to understand the future and emerging skills needs within the ICT sector and, more

broadly, ICT skill sets that may be relevant for workers in all industries. In addition, skill sets are also likely to be funded through ACT government programs in next year.

MS CODY: Minister, can you tell the Assembly about some of the ways CIT partners with other organisations to offer STEM programs?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Ms Cody for the supplementary. As you know, CIT, a wonderful Canberra institution, has many programs and partnerships offering STEM-related activities. CIT has recently partnered with the Canberra Innovation Network as well as two local start-up entrepreneurs to co-host facilities equipped with 3D body scanners, 3D printers, CNC cutters and robotics. STEM-based activities are also delivered with a range of CIT qualifications, and the use of aerial drones has been included as a specialised component within the CIT certificate IV and diploma of surveying.

Some other examples of STEM-related CIT partnerships and activities include a formal partnership with renewable energy providers and a number of school-based STEM programs. CIT forensic science partners with the Australian Federal Police and the University of Canberra to provide training for police forces from Thailand, Indonesia, Iraq and various other countries. CIT forensic science also has a partnership with the Canvas Network to host a massive open online course in biometric technologies. There are partnerships with a number of IT industries to provide internships, higher apprenticeships and employment opportunities for students. CIT and the Academy of Interactive Entertainment partner as higher education providers to offer a nationally recognised qualification for the games and virtual world industries.

Education—Koori preschools

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, you have consistently stated that Koori preschools are helping to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous children. The evaluation report by the University of Sydney released in August shows that there is no evidence to support this claim. Furthermore, there are no agreed measures of student outcomes for the Koori preschool program, and KPIs have not been developed or mandated. Minister, how can you assert that Koori preschools are making a difference to the educational outcomes of Indigenous children?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Milligan for the question. I continue to support Koori preschools in the ACT, having regard to the support that they provide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children. There are a number of reports that show how much of a difference it makes to a child's learning in preschool and future years when they have more than one year of preschool education. The Koori preschools provide two years of preschool education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the ACT; that has proven to be of benefit, and it is being called for.

Mr Steel spoke about this in his adjournment speech on Tuesday evening, when he talked about a report that he was a part of producing that calls for increased preschool education for young people, because the evidence is there, the research supports it,

and it is what early childhood educators have been saying for decades: the benefits of early childhood education in preschool on a child's future learning.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, when will you establish agreed measures of outcomes?

MS BERRY: We are currently developing a strategy in the ACT for early childhood education that will also feed into the strategy for the future of education that will consider what education will look like in the ACT over the next 10 years. Part of that discussion will include the kinds of supports needed for early childhood educators to make sure they can provide the best quality early childhood education and how the sector can support young people into their future education.

MR WALL: Minister, when will you require that the early years framework be implemented so that Indigenous students attending Koori preschools do not start at a further disadvantage?

MS BURCH: As I have said, the ACT government is embarking on a conversation with the community in early childhood education and will be engaging with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to ensure that outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are improved and determine how we can build on the success of Koori preschools in providing expanded early childhood education for children in preschools.

ACTION bus service—route alterations

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, in October this year, bus route No 5 will be cancelled and routes in that area altered. Bus route No 6 will not provide the same level of service or the number of stops. Minister, why are you cancelling the No 5 bus?

MS FITZHARRIS: In fact there will be increased services offered. I know that, in particular, for residents of Narrabundah, this will present a change. There is a significant amount of information available to residents of Narrabundah in order to understand the changes that will be happening. As we move towards a network that provides more frequent services for more Canberrans and better connections to more frequent services, we will see some changes to our routes. This is one that is being introduced in October. We are delighted that the new green rapid will now be in place, offering services every 15 minutes on weekdays, which will provide increased levels of service to residents right along that route, including in the inner south in particular, including in Narrabundah.

MS LEE: Minister, what consultations did you or your directorate undertake before cancelling the No 5 bus and what feedback have you had about the cancellation?

MS FITZHARRIS: Information is being made available to residents now. The change in the network will start in early October. We have had some feedback obviously from residents who have a change to their level of service. The effort now is to make them aware of the increased connections that they will be able to take, particularly through the introduction of the green rapid. There is an extensive amount of information available on the buses themselves and from the Transport Canberra

website, and there is also ongoing engagement with local residents groups.

MS LE COUTEUR: Minister, how many people will now have to walk more than 500 metres to their nearest bus stop; if, in fact, there are more?

MS FITZHARRIS: I assume that Ms Le Couteur means on this particular route. I do not have those specific numbers at the moment. It would, of course, relate to where people are coming from and where they are going. It is important to note that there will still be services particularly to the Narrabundah shops and, of course, Winnunga Nimmityjah nearby there. There will also be increased levels of service available to people through the green rapid.

Access Canberra—online licence renewal

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Minister, how is Access Canberra making it easier to access government services, such as renewing your driver's licence?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cody for her question. This government is indeed getting on with the job of making it easier to interact with government. Access Canberra has redesigned its service centres to more efficiently service those who visit in person, and Access Canberra continues to make more and more of its services available online.

A key priority that I have given to Access Canberra is to make doing business with the ACT government easier and simpler. Where possible, it is seeking to reduce red tape, including introducing digital solutions. Access Canberra now has nearly 300 of its services available online, with that number continuing to increase. It is also the creator of some of the government's most popular online services, such as fix my street. Our most frequent user of the service submitted 353 requests in the last financial year. We then invited this particular user, with nine other "frequent flyers", so to speak, to help test and shape the next iteration of fix my street, ensuring that it has everyday Canberrans at the centre of its design.

A key new online service that I was delighted to launch a few weeks ago is online driver's licence applications. This means that many Canberrans no longer need to attend a service centre to renew their driver's licence. We have also extended the maximum validity of licences so that they can be issued for up to 10 years as well as allowing people to re-use their photos as long as they were taken in the past 11 years. Unlike others in this place who I know are looking forward to a new photo, I look forward to keeping my current photo for as long as possible.

MS CODY: Minister, how does the new online drivers licence renewal system make it quicker and easier to renew your licence?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cody for her question. The new online drivers licence system is indeed designed to make life easier for Canberrans. The majority of those who need to renew their licence will be able to do so without having to set foot in an Access Canberra service centre. Those who have had a photo taken in the past 11 years and have a straightforward renewal can now do this relatively easily online.

Access Canberra will then issue the person with a temporary licence that can be used for up to a month while the new card is posted out. The system will also provide Canberrans the option for either five or 10 years, depending on their preference.

I am happy to report to the Assembly that this is already a popular service, with 186 people renewing online in the first five days alone. There were even 44 people who were so keen to use the service that the system had to remind them that you can only renew your licence if the current one has less than a year's validity remaining.

Gone are the days when you had to take a number and wait for someone, wait for your photo to be taken, then wait for the printer to print the licence. This change will mean that the average Canberran will be able to go through the whole process without leaving the comfort of their own home.

It will also free up the resources to allow Access Canberra's talented staff to more quickly process those who do need to attend a service centre, such as those needing an eye test, those getting their Ls or those who have gotten the most out of their previous masterpiece photo and would like to have a new one. Access Canberra is all about making it easier, simpler and faster to transact with government. That is why we are putting more and more services online for those people who prefer to interact with us in that way.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how will Access Canberra ensure those who cannot renew online are still well supported?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary. The capable staff at Access Canberra remain ready and willing to help. For those without internet access, the Access Canberra shopfronts have touch screen computers that members of the public can use to lodge applications online. Those who choose to lodge their licence renewals in this way will still be able to receive a temporary licence and receive a new card in the mail so that they do not have to wait. All of Access Canberra's online applications can be accessed on these touch screens, with staff nearby and available to help should it be needed.

For those who are not comfortable transacting with us online or for those who are unable to renew online due to their circumstances, the friendly staff at the nearest Access Canberra shopfront or the Civic drivers licence centre are there to help. Staff can take a licence application in hard copy and process it while the person waits.

Whether it is in person or on the phone or online, Access Canberra is always striving to make it as easy as they can for people to do business with government. They have set up their processes so that those who want to make a quick transaction are able to do this. Access Canberra makes sure that the resources are available to ensure that those who need or want a little extra help or who have a more complex inquiry are able to be supported.

The government will be working to ensure that we have the best practices in place to ensure that our citizens' interactions with the government meet their needs.

Floriade—participation regulations

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Tourism and Major Events. Minister, the operator of the historic half-million-dollar Australia Fair organ has been part of every Floriade festival since its inception. Despite the long history of this attraction at Floriade, the operator has encountered a staggering level of red tape when seeking to be a part of the event in the past few years. These hurdles include attempts to charge him up to \$20,000 to attend as an entertainer, poor positioning within the site and lost application forms; up to this year, when the operator was notified only in the last couple of weeks that his application for the 30th Floriade had not been accepted. Minister, why is it that people wanting to continually enrich the Floriade experience have been treated with contempt; and why have applicants found out if they had a space at this year's event only a matter of days before the event's commencement?

MR BARR: I am very familiar with this particular case and this particular entertainer or participant in the event. There are a number of facts that Mr Wall has omitted from his preamble. In fact a number of the statements he made in that question are heavily contested and are not factually correct. But as it relates to this individual, he has a long history of not complying like every other either business trader or entertainer in this particular event, by either refusing to fill out the appropriate paperwork in order to gain entry into the venue or refusing to pay for various slots in the venue, like every other business has to.

In this particular context, the process, as I am aware, involved significant contact with Mr Alabaster. This is an issue that has arisen at this time of year almost every year in the 11 years that I have been involved as minister for tourism. It is not a new issue, and this is an individual who constantly seeks ministerial intervention to get around the rules that have been set quite appropriately by the event organisers. I will not be entertaining a political fix in relation to this issue. There is too much form and too much history in relation to Mr Alabaster.

MR WALL: Chief Minister, is it acceptable for participants in one of the territory's premier events to be in limbo up until the weeks prior to the event to find out whether or not they have a space to participate?

MR BARR: They are not in limbo in this particular instance. As I said, there is so much history to this case. I have dealt with this as minister in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and now 2017, where this issue of not responding to invitations to participate, not wanting to be part of a change in the nature of the event is such that unfortunately there is not a prospect for Floriade 30. Should Mr Alabaster wish to participate in future Floriades, he, like everyone else, should go through the same process; no special deals.

MR PARTON: Minister, how many performers and/or entertainers at Floriade will be paying the \$20,000 traders fee to participate in the 2017 event?

MR BARR: I do not have the exact number of performers, traders and otherwise but, as part of staging the event, contractual arrangements are entered into with those who seek to trade within the event. It is not a free-for-all; not just anyone can rock up and decide they want to sell their goods and services inside Floriade. It is a commercial event. And this is not just a performance; this is a business seeking to sell things as

well. Let's be clear on the history of this. It is not the first time this issue has been raised, and even a modicum of research would demonstrate that this is a perennial issue with this individual. As I said, I am not going to intervene again given the long and repetitive history of this approach.

Ginninderry—community opportunities

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, how is the Ginninderry joint venture, of which the ACT government is a 60 per cent partner, providing opportunities to Canberrans, particularly those in West Belconnen, to gain important skills and pre-employment experience?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the question. Those who are local in the West Belconnen community will know of the fantastic training program SPARK, a training and employment initiative which will generate economic opportunities for people in the local community over there in West Belconnen particularly. It is a program that forms partnerships with training providers, with local support organisations and with community organisations. It reaches out to individuals in the community to get them involved in training or work experience with a view to getting employment after they have completed those programs. To date, there have been 304 training places, 136 work experience places and 96 jobs gained by participants in those programs.

The programs include pre-employment, child care and youth employment pathways, as well as business administration. A number of programs are coming up and have already been announced. These are in hospitality and community care, as well as being a partner with a social enterprise which will be well known to Mr Ramsay: the Mower Shed, which was developed in partnership with the local community and UnitingCare Kippax. It is one of the things that were remembered about a former MLA in this place, who assisted with getting that social enterprise up and running. It is about delivering services to people who cannot afford to pay for them themselves. It has already won some work in that area.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, what has vocational and pre-employment training such as the SPARK program got to do with building a new community such as Ginninderry?

MS BERRY: The important part of the SPARK program and the Ginninderry development is that it is mindful of the existing community in making sure the existing community is not being left behind in the development of a new community out in West Belconnen. The building of the new community is not just about bricks and mortar; it is actually about building inclusion and bringing locals into that new development but also not leaving the current West Belconnen community behind. It is about giving people who need a job the opportunity to get the training they need to get work in their local community, and the SPARK program is helping with that.

Part of the SPARK program and the arrangement with Ginninderry as they go out to tender for stage 1 of the development includes a requirement for work experience places for people who are part of the SPARK program as well as job opportunities for those individuals.

MR STEEL: Minister, what are some of Ginninderry's most recent achievements?

Opposition members interjecting—

MS BERRY: If members opposite have questions about the program they are always welcome to go and visit the development. I know that a number of members have been on a tour of Ginninderry to have a look at what the development will offer the Canberra community over the next three decades at least.

One of the great things that have come out of that program—and people may have heard about the individual—was a young person, a teenager, Marvellous Sigudu who came from South Africa in 2012 and attended Hawker College. He did not have a lot of money for post secondary school. He saw on the noticeboard at the school a program that was being provided by SPARK. It was something that he was interested in because he could use his hands. He could then be part of a program that he could afford. It was a 10-week program.

Participants renovated the old Kippax health centre courtyard, which supported Belconnen Community Services, and also a community garden facility at Canberra City Care. The graduates received a certificate II in construction and a white card and an asbestos awareness ticket. Marvellous was one of those graduates.

I know Mrs Kikkert has attended at least one of the graduation programs, and I have as well. It is truly a moving experience to see people who might not have ever thought that they had the chance to get a qualification after completing year 12, through SPARK, getting the chance to get not only a qualification but a chance to work within their own community.

Marvellous got experience within construction sites and he experienced what construction was like. In May, only a few months after the end of the program, he accepted a carpentry apprenticeship with the Australian Training Co, being hosted by J&J Interiors, an Australian training company that does professional interior design and construction. He plans to become a fully licensed carpenter and then builder. The experience and skills that he gained through SPARK training have set Marvellous on a fantastic path. *(Time expired.)*

Conflict Resolution Service—funding

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion. Minister, you recently told ABC Radio that the Conflict Resolution Service has been responding to demands that go far beyond what they are funded for, but that you still need to determine if other more appropriate services should receive funding increases instead. Minister, why was the decision made to scale back CRS's output by half, resulting in extensive waiting lists and clients being turned away, before you knew whether any other service providers are already in place and adequately resourced to meet the needs of those no longer served by CRS?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Madam Speaker, I would draw your attention to the very lengthy question asked by Mrs Kikkert. However, I am happy to respond to it and to clarify that, of course, the government has not in any way reduced CRS's funding.

The Conflict Resolution Service is continuing to receive more than \$630,000 this year from the Community Services Directorate to support its work in general family and dispute resolution, neighbourhood disputes and mediation between young people and their families where the young people are at risk of homelessness.

Mrs Kikkert has referred to comments I made which related to an interview by the CEO of CRS, Shawn van der Linden, last week in the media where Mr van der Linden noted that CRS has had a history of never having waiting lists because they always just said yes to everyone, and he talked about an increase in referrals from a range of services. I absolutely want to commend the CRS team for their fabulous work but I also want to commend Mr van der Linden and the CRS team for the work they have done in looking at their service model to ensure that it is, indeed, sustainable into the future.

CRS is part of a service system that also includes a range of other providers. I talked on radio, for example, about community legal centres that I understand had been referring to CRS. Of course, the government committed an extra \$1.6 million to community legal centres in this latest budget.

The Community Services Directorate, as I said, continues to fund CRS for more than \$630,000 in this year and continues to work with CRS to ensure that its services are targeted to low income Canberrans who need them. The Community Services Directorate has been encouraging CRS to consider diversifying its business model and to consider financial—(*Time expired.*)

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, what other existing alternative dispute resolution services can vulnerable Canberrans who wish to avoid the justice system now be referred to?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I again emphasise that the Conflict Resolution Service continues to provide the services for which it has been funded for a number of years, specifically around the family tree house program and the other programs around general family and dispute resolution and neighbourhood disputes. The tree house, of course, is about mediation between young people and their families when young people are at risk of homelessness. That is what CRS has been funded for for some time, and that is what it is continuing to do.

As I said, they are part of a service system. There are other services that we have funded. For example, in one of my other portfolios, we are supporting a family group conferencing pilot for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families coming into contact with the child protection system to empower those families, in a mediation-type setting, to work among themselves and with community service providers to find solutions for their own challenges to keep children safe at home. As I mentioned, the most recent budget put in an additional \$1.6 million for community legal centres which provide those services.

And as I said on radio, there is a range of other services within the sector, including advocacy services, that support people in different parts of the system. What we need to do, and what we are doing, is to work with the Conflict Resolution Service to ensure that they are providing the most appropriate service, to consider their financial

model, to ensure their viability and then to continue to work with them to consider their need for future funding within the context of our move towards a restorative city.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, will the government now update the Access Canberra website, which assures Canberrans that the CRS provides “alternative dispute resolution services for the ACT ... with no waiting lists”?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I can assure the Assembly that CRS does continue to provide dispute resolution services. It received more than \$630,000 in this financial year to continue its work of general family and dispute resolution, resolving neighbourhood disputes and mediation between young people and their families when young people are at risk of homelessness. That is what it has been funded to do. That is what it is continuing to do. The Community Services Directorate has continued to work with CRS to ensure that they are able to provide those kinds of dispute resolution services to people who are in need, to the most needy, in our community.

Government—gambling harm minimisation

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services, in the gaming and racing space. Minister, the federal Minister for Human Services, Alan Tudge, said earlier this month:

Online gambling is growing faster than any other form of gambling and the incidences of problem gambling is [sic] higher. The gambling problems of the future will all come from the online space ...

Minister, you are hosting a gambling harm minimisation round table this week. If this is really about minimising gambling harm, why are you completely ignoring the fastest growing form of gambling addiction?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Parton for his question. I am surprised in some ways that he does not follow all the things that are going on in the area of gambling and gambling reform. One of the things that I was doing most recently, just last week, was gathering with the gambling ministers, as we are called, down in Melbourne, and continuing the ongoing reform to which Minister Tudge referred. I was particularly pleased to be able to be part of the group that is working around the areas of precommitment, advertising and gambling reform messaging and a whole range of national principles that we are looking to have in place by the end of—

Mr Parton: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. A point of order?

Mr Parton: The question specifically related to the gambling harm minimisation round table and its not addressing this form of addiction.

MADAM SPEAKER: I will let the minister continue. He has a minute to go. I should have stopped the clock.

MR RAMSAY: I note that the question asked why I was doing this and ignoring

other areas. I am pointing out in response to the particular question that I am actually not ignoring those other areas, but I am particularly active in those. The round table that we are having on Friday is one of a series of consultations that are taking place. This particular one is in the area of harm minimisation reform in clubs. That has been something that has been made clear; it has been something that I have made clear in the Assembly. It is something that we are working on, along with other things.

This government has been committed all the way through to reducing the impacts of problem gambling in relation to those affected through problem gambling.

Opposition members interjecting—

Mr Gentleman: A point of order, Madam Speaker. You have asked the opposition to remain quiet during question time a number of times. Mr Hanson is a repeat offender. You have asked him to remain quiet during question time.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

Mr Gentleman: He continues to interject.

Mr Coe: A point of order: was it advice to him?

Mrs Dunne: On the point of order—

MADAM SPEAKER: No, I will respond to that point of order first. When someone is on their feet on a point of order about interjections, it is really just not on, Mr Hanson, to interject on a point of order about your own behaviour. Mrs Dunne?

Mrs Dunne: On the point of order, it is ironic, Madam Speaker, that there is selective deafness on the other side; as soon as anyone talks about the Labor club and poker machines, they are on their feet taking points of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The time has expired.

MR PARTON: Minister, why does the round table not include organisations like the casino, Tabcorp and some of the gaming machine manufacturers?

MR RAMSAY: There is a range of people present at this particular round table; there is a range of people who will not be present at this particular round table. One of the key things is the workable size of a round table. As I have said, this is one part of a series of consultations. I look forward in other consultations to be working with people who are working in the clubs. They are not involved in this particular round table, but I will be consulting with them in the future.

There are other areas including industry and manufacturers. I will be speaking with those in the future.

Opposition members interjecting—

MR RAMSAY: We do not have a time when we gather everybody with any possible

interest in the one place. We do not call that a round table.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Ramsay, can you resume your seat. Members! Really? Enough. You have asked the question and you are not even bothering to listen to the answer, Minister, do you have anything else to add?

MR RAMSAY: As I say, we do not call it a round table if we gather absolutely everyone at the one time. We could call it an open picnic, if you would like. But we will be gathering particular people at particular times, and this Friday will be an important part of that.

MR HANSON: Minister, are you conflicted on this issue because of the millions of dollars received by the Labor Party and, consequently, MLAs, through the proceeds of pokies?

MR RAMSAY: No.

Environment—healthy waterways project

MR STEEL: My question is to the Minister for—

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Can you resume your seat. We are up to the final question. Then you can take yourself outside to continue your laughter. Mr Steel.

MR STEEL: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. Minister, could you update the Assembly on the progress of the healthy waterways grants and education programs?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Steel for his question and his interest in the environment, particularly in the Tuggeranong area. The H2OK campaign, the program which operates as part of the overall healthy waterways program, is a joint initiative of the commonwealth and ACT governments and includes a residential grants scheme and a targeted education program.

Both the grant and education programs play a key role in ensuring the continued success of the overall healthy waterways project. By speaking with local communities and residential households, the ACT government aims to create a change in the way Canberrans interact with their local waterways and decrease their pollution levels all around Canberra.

Over 60 applications were submitted for the grant program, and each application was thoroughly assessed, including through site visits, before the final 15 projects were selected. Spread across the ACT, the grant recipients will fund projects such as rain gardens, mulching systems, downpipe disconnection and nature strip treatments, and, for rural areas, erosion control as demonstrations of the best practices others can learn from.

These 15 successful project sites will provide practical examples of how others can implement simple solutions for managing stormwater on their block and lead to a further removal of polluting intakes from our waterways. Through our partnership with Open Gardens Canberra, people will be able to visit the sites to see firsthand how others are redesigning their gardens to make better use of water, minimise contamination run-off and ensure that only rain goes down the stormwater drain.

The broader education program, including projects such as “Drain art”, which includes the placement of painted designs and asphalt art decals and stickers in prominent areas along City Walk in Civic, will show how pollutants such as rubbish, cigarettes, oil, leaves and grass, which wash from the street into stormwater drains, result in poor water quality for water that ends up in our lakes and our waterways. *(Time expired.)*

MR STEEL: Minister, how will the grant projects help to improve the health of Canberra’s waterways?

MR GENTLEMAN: The grant program plays a very important role in getting the community involved in improving the health of our waterways. With over 80 per cent of respondents to a survey indicating that they enjoy the waterways on a regular basis for activities such as jogging, cycling or fishing, it is clear that the people of Canberra value their waterways greatly, and the ACT government is committed to keeping them healthy.

The grant program, which as I said before has seen over \$55,000 provided to 15 residential properties, will enable the delivery of projects such as rain gardens, mulching systems and, for rural areas, erosion control. These projects will provide actual benefits to the residential properties and the waterways through the reduction of waste entering stormwater drains and subsequently the waterways. But they also provide practical examples of how others can implement simple solutions for managing stormwater on their blocks.

Examples such as a property in Chisholm—where a refurbishment of an established garden to reflect better management of water, including rehabilitation of an artificial creek, conversion of an existing nature strip to a more water-friendly treatment and an upgrade of the existing irrigation system to better connect to new and existing rainwater storage—show how these improvements have been made in suburban areas; while a redevelopment in Curtin, which includes flo-cell units to be installed to support lawns fed by below-ground water storage beneath the turf, shows how more densely populated areas can also contribute.

These projects have both the practical effect of reducing the inflow of rubbish materials into our stormwater drains and subsequently our waterways and also enabling others to see what they can do on their properties, in their homes and in their suburbs to help contribute to healthier Canberra waterways.

MS ORR: Minister, how will the education campaign help to improve the health of Canberra’s waterways?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Orr for her interest in our environment. Education programs form a vital part of the healthy waterways program and contribute greatly to the cleaning up of Canberra's waterways. By providing Canberrans with information on how different items going down the drains can affect and damage our local waterways, the ACT government is working with local residents to reduce this inflow.

We want to get the message out about the impact pollutants entering our lakes and rivers have and provide simple and accessible fact sheets on what residents can do to help. Everything from raking up leaves on their nature strips to ensuring that cars or other vehicles are not leaking oil into the gutter are some of the simple things that households can do to help protect our waterways.

Further, through the grant project and our partnership with Open Gardens Canberra, people will be able to visit the sites to see firsthand how others are re-designing their gardens to make better use of water, minimise contaminated run-off and ensure that only rain goes the stormwater drain.

Lastly, the drain art project, comprising artwork, will draw pedestrians' attention to, and subsequently change, what we do in the streets and on our blocks at home. Rubbish, cigarette butts, leaves, chemicals and oil all wash down our stormwater drains and end up in our lakes and rivers. The artwork will also help people visiting the Civic area make a clear and visual connection to what goes those particular stormwater drains that lead directly to Lake Burley Griffin, on into the Molonglo river and eventually downstream to the Murrumbidgee River.

Mr Barr: Madam Speaker, I ask all further questions be placed on the notice paper.