



QUESTION TIME
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

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Wednesday, 29 November 2017

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Wednesday, 29 November 2017

Questions without notice:

Animals—dangerous dogs	1
Marriage equality	3
Government—land acquisition arrangements.....	4
Hospitals—emergency waiting times	5
Hospitals—emergency waiting times	6
Access Canberra—Braddon street party	6
Environment—green waste bin service	8
Roads—traffic management	9
Education—electronic learning devices	9
ACTION buses—school service.....	11
Justice—suspended sentences.....	12
Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—police apprehensions.....	12
Multicultural affairs—multicultural advisory council.....	13
Suburban Land Agency—valuations	15
Land Development Agency—processes	16
Health—preventative health strategy.....	17

Questions without notice
Animals—dangerous dogs

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. I refer to a dog attack in Watson in August in which a person went to hospital and received over 40 stitches. During this attack the dog was injured and taken to a vet. The ACT government paid the vet to treat the dog for its injuries and then return the dog to its owner. In October this same dog attacked its owner, killing her and injuring another person before being shot by police. Why did the government return this dangerous dog to its owner in August?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mr Coe for his question and note, of course, the terrible incident that occurred in October. It is also my understanding that Mr Coe was briefed on that event; he was also briefed on the fact that, on advice from authorities, this is a matter that is subject to a coronial investigation and that the prior incident is linked to Mrs Klemke's death in October. He was subsequently reminded that these matters are subject to a coronial investigation. I am not in a position to answer those questions because of that, and I am disappointed that Mr Coe would seek to raise these matters in this way on this day, simply, I think, for political gain, when he has been told on a number of occasions that these are subject to a coronial—

Opposition members interjecting—

MS FITZHARRIS: Mr Coe has a couple of the facts, but he by no means has all of the facts; neither do I. Those facts will be gathered in the course of the coronial investigation. I caution Mr Coe on seeking to make political gain out of such a tragic event when he has a small fraction of the facts, and he has been reminded—and I remind him here again today.

MADAM SPEAKER: Before you go to your supplementary, Mr Coe, I will refer you to the standing orders and continuing resolution on sub justice:

For the purposes of this resolution matters before a Coroner's court shall be treated as matters within paragraph (1) (a)...

I ask you to be very mindful.

MR COE: On the point of order first, if I may, Madam Speaker, the attack that was referred to the coroner was in October, and we are talking about events two months earlier. Whilst the minister may claim that the event two months earlier is before the coroner, I do not know how she would know that. We in the opposition certainly do not know what issues are before the coroner with regard to the death of that person.

With regard to my supplementary, minister, why did your office take numerous questions on notice during that briefing, yet still not get back to my office some five weeks later?

MS FITZHARRIS: On the point of order, it is my understanding that as part of the investigation into the incident, the police investigation is considering the prior event,

and that has been referred to the coroner. I note that a number of those questions that were taken on notice could not be answered for the same reason. That is why—

Mr Coe: A number? All of them?

MS FITZHARRIS: I would not consider them questions on notice. They were questions—

Mr Coe: They were taken on notice formally.

MS FITZHARRIS: I will follow up, again, those questions, since you have raised them today, Mr Coe, in a press statement.

Mr Coe: We clarified each one at the end of the meeting, so you were taking on notice X, Y and Z.

MS FITZHARRIS: I do not have—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Coe, can you please resume your seat. Please stop the clock. Mr Coe, I refer you to continuing resolution 10 on these matters. You may put questions to the minister about her actions, but be very mindful that matters that are before the coroner—

Mr Coe: We do not know what they are. Nobody does.

MADAM SPEAKER: I have just asked that we all be mindful of that when we proceed in questions, with this question and if there are others from the opposition on this matter.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, in relation to the matters that happened earlier this year, not the issues related to the death of the lady, were there any control orders imposed or others actions taken in relation to the dog attack in question?

MS FITZHARRIS: Not a control order; there were a range of actions undertaken as a result of that prior incident. I will take the precise question on notice. I assume—

Mr Coe: How can you answer this question and not the first two?

MS FITZHARRIS: In that case, then, I will take the question on notice and see what elements of the opposition's questions I can provide answers to.

MADAM SPEAKER: Questions without notice?

Mrs Jones: No, I have a question of clarification on the way that the question was handled; some advice from you, if you do not mind? Under what authority does a minister warn a member of the opposition in the answer to their question?

MADAM SPEAKER: I think under continuing resolution—

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: If I may, under this continuing resolution—it is page 107 in the standing orders—all of us have to be very mindful of any matters before the court. If the minister is just referring members, alerting them, to the limitations of the questions and matters that can be discussed, that is not a warning. That is clarification.

Marriage equality

MR STEEL: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, what do the recent results of the Australian marriage law postal survey mean for Canberra?

MR BARR: I thank Mr Steel for the question. They obviously have profound implications. Perhaps the best way to describe just how profound, the most eloquent I have read in recent days, has been from the federal Attorney-General, Senator Brandis, who said:

Profoundly important though the acceptance of same-sex marriage may be as a social change, its symbolic significance is even greater still. With the passage of this bill, we will demolish the last significant bastion of legal discrimination against people on the grounds of their sexuality. At last, Australia will no longer be insulting gay people by saying, “Different rules apply to you.”

The passage just a few minutes ago through the Australian Senate of Senator Dean Smith’s bill, 43 votes to 12, signals a very important further step in this long journey to equality.

The ACT has led this national campaign for over more than a decade now. We were delighted that the response to the marriage law postal survey saw the highest level of participation of any state or territory here in Canberra, with 82.4 per cent of our fellow citizens participating and the strongest level of support for marriage equality, with three in four Canberrans voting “yes” to change the law: over 175,000 eligible Canberrans, an absolutely overwhelming and, may I say, reaffirming figure for LGBTIQ Canberrans. Analysis of the results show that this is a matter strongly supported by an overwhelming number of Canberrans. (*Time expired.*)

MR STEEL: Chief Minister, what are the next steps the territory can take to assist in achieving marriage equality for all Canberrans?

MR BARR: This has been a long and difficult road, despite the overwhelming support we have seen in the survey results where, regardless of gender and across all demographics from people aged 18 to over 85, the yes vote was resounding here in the ACT. This government has a longstanding history over two decades of actively supporting marriage equality and legal equality for LGBTI Canberrans. We will not waiver from that stance. We will continue to show the community our very strong support for them and that they are not alone.

It was very pleasing in anticipation of the overwhelming yes vote that one of the most iconic Canberra things—a roundabout—could be coloured rainbow to complement our rainbow buses and our rainbow flags. While these may not seem like much, they mean the world to LGBTIQ Canberrans, to their families and to their friends. They demonstrate that this government supports them and that they are not alone. For those

who are offended by those colours in that particular order, get a life.

MS CHEYNE: Chief Minister, how will the government continue to support Canberra's LGBTIQ community moving forward?

MR BARR: Earlier this month I attended the ACT LGBTIQ ministerial advisory council's inclusive Canberra think tank. The forum that was held here in the Assembly provided a way to consult with the community on what being Australia's most LGBTI inclusive city means to them and how we can ensure that no members of the LGBTIQ community are left behind. We will continue to work closely with the ministerial advisory council and other key community groups, including the AIDS Action Council and A Gender Agenda through the newly established office for LGBTIQ affairs to achieve these goals. These include promoting inclusive events, progressing legislative and administrative reforms and ensuring that ACT government services are appropriately targeted for the LGBTI community.

We will continue to increase the visibility and participation of LGBTIQ people across all areas of life in Canberra. We will make sure that LGBTIQ Canberrans feel safe on public transport, at work and as part of our community. This includes making sure that Canberra schools continue to be safe schools.

Government—land acquisition arrangements

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Treasurer, and it relates to his approval of the LDA's purchase of Winslade, a very large farm between Mount Stromlo and the Murrumbidgee River at Cotter. Treasurer, given the Auditor-General's ongoing inquiry into this sort of land purchase, and given the estimates committee's damning commentary on this sort of land purchase, what due diligence did you do to make sure it was a safe purchase?

MR BARR: The Land Development Agency undertook a business case. It provided that to treasury for assessment. Treasury made a recommendation to support the purchase. I agreed with that recommendation. Noting that the ACT government will need to acquire land, either for environmental offsets or for new residential development over the coming decades, that particular recommendation from the LDA and approved through a treasury business case process was, I believe, an appropriate form of scrutiny and assessment.

MS LE COUTEUR: The planning committee was told by a government official that it was "a strategic acquisition for the future growth potential of Canberra". When will you be consulting the community about building suburbs all the way to Cotter?

MR BARR: As Ms Le Couteur would be aware, acquisition of that land does not mean that it will necessarily be suburban development. It could in fact be an environmental offset against other development elsewhere in the territory. As Ms Le Couteur would also be very well aware, that practice has been adopted by the territory over a significant period of time in order to support new suburban development in other areas, where areas of high conservation value have been protected as part of an environmental offset process required under national law as well as territory law. So strategic acquisition of land for environmental offset

purposes is an equally reasonable approach for the Land Development Agency and indeed for the ACT government in the context of the broader development of the territory over decades into the future. I think that this is an important point to stress. This may not be required for some time but it is appropriate for the ACT government to have the capability to set land aside as an environmental offset.

MR COE: Minister, was a new lease issued or was the old lease transferred? What purpose did the business case include? Was it an offset or a residential development?

MR BARR: I will take the detail of that on notice but I understand that the flexibility that was required in relation to that particular land would allow for both purposes.

Hospitals—emergency waiting times

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. I refer to the AIHW data of 2016-17, which shows that the median waiting time in ACT emergency departments was 30 minutes, the equal worst in the country, along with the Northern Territory. This compares with a national median waiting time of 19 minutes and a median waiting time in New South Wales of 14 minutes. Minister, why did the ACT have the equal worst waiting time in the country for 2016-17?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mrs Dunne for the question and note, indeed, that the median waiting time is 30 minutes. What I also note is that over the past five years the ACT has made the greatest gains on all indicators of emergency department access and waiting times. From 2012-13 the median waiting time has come down from 44 minutes to 30 minutes. That is nearly a 50 per cent reduction in waiting time.

I can also assure the Assembly that ACT Health, and both emergency departments, continue to work very hard on making sure that that median waiting time comes down. It is one measure, and it is an important measure, but I can also guarantee the Canberra community that when they do present, and when all of those people in our region present, to our two emergency departments, they receive excellent, high quality care. I know many members in this place on all sides have, for themselves, their families and friends, also been privy to the very high quality of care we have in our emergency departments.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, why did the emergency departments at both ACT hospitals perform poorly on emergency department timeliness when compared to peer hospitals?

MS FITZHARRIS: I think I answered most of those questions in my previous answer, but I will reiterate that we certainly need to continue to make some improvements but that we have made significant improvements. We have made greater improvements than any other jurisdiction over the past five years, and we will continue to do that.

MRS JONES: Over the past three months, by how much did the median waiting times for ACT emergency departments decline?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will have to take that question on notice, considering that,

obviously, the past three months is the busiest time in any hospital emergency department. I will take the question on notice.

Hospitals—emergency waiting times

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, the table on emergency department waiting times in the ACT Health annual report for 2016-17, page 85, shows that the emergency departments at both Canberra Hospital and Calvary did not reach their overall timeliness target for all presentations in four out of the five triage categories. The only timeliness target met was category 5, non-urgent patients. Minister, why did ACT emergency departments not meet their timeliness targets in 2016-17, despite the hard work of all the staff?

MS FITZHARRIS: It is the case that we continue to make enormous strides in meeting those targets. We have set them high in recognition of the national benchmarks for emergency department performance. We do have some work to do. That work is continuing as our city grows, as we continue to make more investments in our emergency departments.

I note from the figures that we have made significant expansion in the emergency department at Canberra Hospital. In respect of the staffing of all of those new beds and access to new beds and new units within the Canberra Hospital emergency department, the staff fully came on line with those in July. So expect to see further improvements in the subsequent financial year.

MRS JONES: Minister, when was the last time the ACT public hospitals met all their timeliness targets?

MS FITZHARRIS: A snapshot in time is fairly impossible to give. What the AIHW report gives to us is a good sense of not only where we are tracking on our own data but how we compare across the country. I note again that in the AIHW report we have seen the ACT make the most significant gains in all aspects of emergency department care, including the proportion of presentations seen on time, the median waiting time and, in particular, the 90th percentile waiting time, which is the time within which 90 per cent of all patients start clinical care.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, can you guarantee that the performance data in the annual report referred to by Mrs Jones is accurate?

MS FITZHARRIS: There is reference to the system-wide data review that is currently underway and will be completed in March 2018. I tabled yesterday corrigenda to ACT Health annual reports for the past year and the prior year. All ACT Health data is coming, as it should, with the caveat that there is a system-wide health data review underway. It will be completed in March 2018. If we need to make subsequent amendments following the completion of that review, we will.

Access Canberra—Braddon street party

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Minister, how did Access Canberra's efficient service help facilitate the fabulous results party in

Braddon after the marriage equality survey results were announced?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the question. It was a great time of celebration. The coming together of the street party in Braddon to celebrate those survey results is testimony to the reason that Access Canberra was set up. The events and business coordination team exists to help you get your event and your liquor licensing ideas over the line. They work with organisers to ensure they get all relevant approvals and provide suggestions on the best way to make this happen.

In this case, the team worked with four specific businesses, in addition to the event organiser, to ensure that relevant approvals were in place. Temporary traffic management plans, variations to liquor permits and applications to close and use a road were all processed in a timely manner thanks to the efforts of the team. They also engaged with other agencies such as ACT Policing, Transport Canberra and City Services and the Emergency Services Agency to ensure that all public safety issues were identified and addressed.

This service is not about finding shortcuts or merely waving through applications. The service is there to ensure that people or groups who are organising events or engaging with the liquor permit system have the information that they need, and this is possible because Access Canberra looks at the events in a holistic way and with a coordinated response.

It is through this coordinated response that we are better able to serve the people of Canberra, to ensure that they remain safe and also to ensure that they get out and have a good time and that innovative and exciting ideas come to fruition.

MS CHEYNE: Can the minister advise how Access Canberra aided in ensuring the safety of revellers through the process of road closures at the event?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. That fateful Wednesday was, indeed, a big day and naturally people wanted to come together and celebrate that we are inclusive society, both here in Canberra and across Australia. Access Canberra's events team provided information to the event organisers to ensure that all necessary approvals were sought and approved to allow the hundreds and possibly thousands of people who were celebrating to do so safely. This included coordinating the road closures, ensuring appropriate traffic management plans were created by relevant professionals and that approvals to both close and use a public road were processed and approved. Advice was given about how to obtain relevant public liability insurance and to ensure that the street was cleaned and ready to use again after the closure.

This team is filled with experts in all manner of issues relating to event planning and can help anyone put on something as big as a celebratory street party simply and easily. They are there to ensure that innovative ideas for events can get over the line and are run in a way that is safe so that people can enjoy themselves and even party in the streets.

MS ORR: Can the minister advise how Access Canberra was able to extend the liquor licence so that Canberrans could celebrate by dancing in the streets?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary question. Access Canberra are here to make it easier and simpler, and they are there to help. They worked with the event organisers and with Hopscotch, as the licensee, to extend the liquor licence onto the street in a safe and responsible way. Because Australia showed, through the survey results, that it wanted a change to the legislation around marriage to allow marriage equality and decrease the level of legislated discrimination in this country, we worked with the licensee to ensure that all reasonable controls and safety measures were put in place to allow those who were wanting to be dancin' and singin' and movin' to the groovin' to do so out into the street.

The team worked with the licensee to ensure that drinks served were not in glass bottles or containers so that there would not be a risk of glass being dropped and broken, meaning that those who cannot control their feet remained safe and that the street could be returned to its regular function after the party quickly and easily.

The event and business coordination team make it simpler to put on events of all sizes. I encourage all those who are looking to put on an event in a public space to reach out to the friendly staff at Access Canberra; otherwise, if there are any issues with your event going ahead, can I please say: don't blame it on the boogie.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: I commend you for finishing that question amid the somewhat distracting noise.

Environment—green waste bin service

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. On 17 November around 1,000 Tuggeranong residents who signed up for the green bin service received an email update titled, "Green waste bins are coming to Tuggeranong". The email publicly listed all recipient email addresses, a blatant privacy breach. Minister, how did this happen? Will there be an investigation into this breach?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Ms Lawder for the question and I note that there was an inadvertent breach. That was immediately detected by the directorate. It did breach residents' privacy as email addresses were inadvertently placed in the incorrect field. All affected residents have been notified of this breach, received a written apology and have been provided with further information should they wish to progress this breach further.

TCCS immediately self-reported the incident to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and following investigation found the fault to be as a result of human error. Quality assurance processes have since been established to ensure that this does not recur.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what are those processes that the government has put in place to make sure this does not happen again?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the specifics of the question on notice.

MR PARTON: Minister, can you absolutely guarantee that this will not happen again, and will the government make a public apology to Tuggeranong residents who received this email?

MS FITZHARRIS: I can certainly make an apology on behalf of the government; and the incident was certainly followed up immediately after the incident was brought to the directorate's attention. TCCS will put the procedures in place. What I cannot guarantee is an incident of human error. What I can guarantee is that processes and procedures will be put in place to ensure that, as much as humanly possible, this does not happen again.

Roads—traffic management

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, you said in the annual reports hearing that you had not yet seen the Tillyard Drive traffic management study conducted by AECOM that was completed in mid-August this year but that you expected to see the results of the study sometime last week, and that these results would include “the assessment and sort of the high-level potential options but not the full solution”. Minister, do you have the study now? If so, why has it taken more than three months for you to finally see a study that was completed in August?

MS FITZHARRIS: No, I have not. I thank Mrs Kikkert for the reminder. I will follow up on that study. I know that a lot of work has been underway within TCCS to understand the recommendations of the study and to consider their next steps.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, when exactly will you finally see the results of the study, and what exactly has delayed your receipt of it?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the question on notice and endeavour to get a reply to Mrs Kikkert as soon as possible.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, why do the results of the study, by your own admission, not include the full solution when AECOM has already been paid to provide “the final scheme for improvement”? And when will the public know the full solution?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the question on notice.

Education—electronic learning devices

MS ORR: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development: can you update the Assembly on delivery of the government's commitment to provide an electronic learning device to all ACT public secondary school students?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Orr for the question. I am very happy to provide an update to the Assembly on the rollout of devices in ACT public schools. At last year's election ACT Labor made a commitment to give every public high school and college

student access to a device in order to undertake their studies. This government is delivering on that commitment and, in fact, is ahead of schedule.

From term 1 2018, every year 7 to 11 student will receive an Acer Chromebook Spin 11, to be specific. This will make the ACT the first state or territory to provide a device to every school in the public system. The tender process for the program concluded at the end of October, and Datacom Systems Australia was selected to provide the devices. Education staff are currently trialling the rollout to ensure that the process is as smooth as it can be at the start of next year.

This program will also ensure that Canberra public secondary students will have up-to-date devices as they move through their schooling by providing new devices to new students when they start school. Chromebooks are coming to our schools ahead of time, and they are enabling all students to take advantage of technology-enabled learning.

MS ORR: Minister, how will these devices support students towards great learning outcomes at school?

MS BERRY: Giving every student a Chromebook will ensure that students have access to the textbooks of today. The rollout seeks to bridge the equity gap by giving every secondary student a Chromebook for learning. Every secondary student in Canberra public schools will have the same device irrespective of family or financial circumstances. Our students expect to be able to learn anywhere, at any time and stay connected through wi-fi available at schools, libraries and across the city.

There are significant advantages to rolling out a single device as the standard across all classes. One is that teachers will not need to be experts in every platform or be spending valuable time troubleshooting multiple devices. It will give our teachers and school leaders the chance to assess how best to utilise them in the classroom and look at ways that this can be delivered through the curriculum that can be assisted by the technology.

The full potential of these devices is yet to be realised as we open our learning spaces to this universal device. The provision of Chromebooks will provide support to every student and ensure that technology is not a barrier when it comes to public education in the ACT.

MR WALL: Minister, do you hold any concern about the use of electronic devices in a classroom setting?

MS BERRY: Of course, technology is already being used in our classrooms as we speak, across all our schools. Gone are the days of interacting with computers in a separate computer lab or the library. Computers and technology are central to nearly every school subject and are required for most assignments now in our school system.

Schools have a policy, and the Education Directorate has a policy, on the appropriate use of technology within our schools. It is important that schools, students and parents are very clear on the understanding of the use of these devices within our school system. That information has been sent out—

Mr Wall: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr Wall: The point of order is on relevance. The question was very specific, as to whether the minister held any concern about the use of devices in a classroom setting, not about their application in the broader educational space.

MADAM SPEAKER: I do not believe there is a point of order. The minister has referred to them already existing, so they are there, and also some of the frameworks around protection and use, which would go to that point. Minister, did you have anything further to add? Thank you.

ACTION buses—school service

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, recent changes to the ACT bus timetable have impacted route 455, a school service that operates from Alfred Deakin High School to the Woden interchange. The changed timetable will result in route 455 not arriving at the school until 20 minutes after the school day has finished, leaving students unsupervised while they wait for this service. Minister, what consultation was undertaken with the Education Directorate and the affected school community prior to the release of the new ACT bus timetable?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mr Wall for the question and note that there has been some more recent correspondence with the school. My understanding—I do not have the detail in front of me—is that there is a set period of time that school buses will service a school community after the final bell and that the changes in October are well and truly within that agreed time.

There will be ongoing consultation with the school. There will be ongoing discussions between Transport Canberra, the Education Directorate, individual schools and, indeed, independent schools across the territory. We will also open up early in 2018 more detailed consultation on the 2018 network to integrate with the new light rail service.

MR WALL: Minister, how many other bus services operating from schools have been affected by the timetable changes?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the specifics of the question on notice, but it was the case that a number of school services changed. There was substantial information provided to schools. Of those that I am aware of that have raised some concerns, it is only those under route 455.

MS LEE: Minister, what are you doing to rectify the problems of non-supervision caused by timetable changes that affect students?

MS FITZHARRIS: As I noted in my earlier answer, there is a period of time agreed where school bus services will service any school after the final bell, and the new

route 455 is within the already-agreed period regarding when the school bus will arrive after the last bell.

Justice—suspended sentences

MR HANSON: My question is to the Attorney-General. Attorney, the Victims of Crime Commissioner recently published a report on suspended sentences in the ACT. The report said that the ACT was the only jurisdiction where there is not a presumption that the original term of imprisonment would be imposed due to a breach, and that offenders who did breach their conditions often were not sent to jail. It stated:

... if suspended sentences are rarely activated upon breach, this makes a farce of the suspended sentence option ...

After the Law Reform Advisory Council raised these concerns in 2010, your government promised to consult on this issue, but those discussions never occurred. Attorney-General, why did those discussions not occur?

MR RAMSAY: I thank the member for his question. I am advised that a range of consultations occurred in 2011 and that, as part of that, a broad range of opinions was expressed across the stakeholders in relation to suspended sentences. In relation to the letter that has been sent through from the Victims of Crime Commissioner, as I have mentioned publicly already, I have instructed the directorate to engage in public consultation in relation to that. I note that the view of the Victims of Crime Commissioner is not the only view on this and that there have already been alternative views expressed, which is why we are engaging in consultation at this stage.

MR HANSON: Is it true that almost three-quarters of all breaches do not result in the original sentence being imposed?

MR RAMSAY: I will take the details of that on notice.

MRS JONES: Attorney, why have you stated that you will not receive the results of these consultations until the end of next year, given that they were called for as early as 2010?

MR RAMSAY: Actually, what I said publicly was that I expect the results of the consultation, which I have directed to commence, by the middle of next year. I received the advice from the Victims of Crime Commissioner in late November and I have already asked the director to commence consultations.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—police apprehensions

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Minister, the *Canberra Times* recently revealed that the number of Indigenous apprehensions by police were increasing, whilst the numbers of non-Indigenous apprehensions over a similar period were falling. Questions have been raised about unconscious bias or systemic racism. Minister, what is the directorate doing to address these issues?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Milligan for his question. It is of course the case that Indigenous people are over-represented in our criminal justice system. It is something that the whole of government is looking at, not just ACT Policing but across all of our government agencies that deal with our Indigenous population.

ACT Policing have internal workings that ensure that they deal with Indigenous people appropriately. They have a specific regime to look at Indigenous offenders, and at whether or not they can use diversionary opportunities with those offenders. We have policies right across our justice and community safety portfolio to look at assisting Indigenous people who could go into the criminal justice system.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, how many staff in ACT Policing have attended cultural awareness training specific to dealing with Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders?

MR GENTLEMAN: I do not have the actual numbers in front of me but I am happy to take that on notice and come back with the numbers of staff that have attended that training. We try to get as many as we can through the training.

MRS JONES: Minister, is such training compulsory for all ACT Policing and what is contained in the training?

MR GENTLEMAN: I do not have the details of the training in front of me, but I am happy to come back to the chamber with those details. It is important to note that it is ACT Policing's policy for their officers to take part in that training.

Multicultural affairs—multicultural advisory council

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Minister, how is the government progressing on its commitment to establish a multicultural advisory council?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Pettersson for his question. The ACT Multicultural Advisory Council has been established to provide a platform for Canberra's culturally and linguistically diverse communities to raise issues with the government and to work even more closely with the ACT government in delivering our commitments to the community, including under the multicultural framework 2015-2020.

The ACT, as you probably know, Madam Speaker, is currently home to more than 400,000 people of whom more than half have at least one parent born overseas and almost a quarter live in a household where a non-English language is spoken at home. Multiculturalism is an important, indeed integral, element of our vibrant community life.

Forty-one applications were received for the 15 positions on the council, which include 10 community members appointed in a personal capacity and five representatives from multicultural organisations. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who put up their hand to represent the community on this important new body. It was very difficult to choose only 10 community members from such a strong field of candidates.

Members were selected to ensure that the overall council reflects a diversity of cultural backgrounds, interests, age, gender and life experience. Following a call for expressions of interest from the community members of the council, I appointed Ms Antonia Kaucz as chair of the council, with Dr Kirk Zwangobani serving as the deputy chair.

I have no doubt that the council will work collaboratively with key stakeholders to achieve the best outcomes for our city's culturally diverse community and I look forward to attending its first meeting on 7 December.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, how will the council help to progress the government's commitment to hold a multicultural summit?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Pettersson for the supplementary. It is always a pleasure to highlight how the government is delivering on its commitments under the parliamentary agreement.

The government's intention is that a multicultural summit will build on the ongoing commitment of the ACT government to celebrate our cultural diversity and strengthen social cohesion across our community. Planning for the summit in the second half of 2018 will be one of the Multicultural Advisory Council's key areas of work in its first six to 12 months. When the council meets on 7 December, a key agenda item will be the formulation of its work plan for 2018, and the summit will be one of the items discussed as part of that work.

Earlier this year, the ACT government undertook extensive community engagement and consultation leading up to the highly successful ACT housing summit, attended by key stakeholders from across the sector, all contributing ideas and initiatives to improve outcomes for Canberrans facing housing stress, including members of the multicultural community.

Just as the Affordable Housing Advisory Group played a key role in the community consultations leading up to and at the housing summit, I envisage that the Multicultural Advisory Council will play an invaluable role in supporting broad community consultation to identify key issues facing Canberrans from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in the lead-up to the multicultural summit. There will also be various opportunities early next year for community members, in addition to council members, to contribute to planning for the multicultural summit, and I would welcome their contributions.

Our Canberra community is a culturally and linguistically diverse community, as I have said, and it is important that perspectives reflecting a breadth of backgrounds, faiths and languages are captured in the lead-up to the summit. I look forward to updating the Assembly on plans moving forward to prepare for the multicultural summit over the coming months.

MS CODY: Minister, how will the council contribute to the government's commitments in the multicultural framework?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for her supplementary question. In the answer to my last question, I indicated that the Multicultural Advisory Council would be guided by a work plan. Part of that work plan relates to the multicultural summit, as I said, and part relates to the ACT multicultural framework. The council will have a lot of work to do. The ACT multicultural framework 2015-20 sets out the ACT government's continued commitment to valuing, strengthening and protecting our vibrant multicultural community.

I previously reported on progress under the ACT multicultural framework 2015-20 to the Assembly in September and flagged that the council would assist with its implementation in future years. Actions and outcomes under the framework are designed to achieve three key objectives in relation to Canberra's multicultural communities. They are: accessible and responsive services; citizenship, participation and cohesion; and capitalising on the benefits of cultural diversity.

The ACT Multicultural Advisory Council will promote these objectives through oversight of the current framework action plan and assisting in formulating a new action plan beyond the 2017-18 time frame of the current three-year plan. Members of the council will draw on the outcomes of the summit and their own experience and knowledge to contribute to the new action plan. I look forward to working with them in doing this work, guided, of course, by them and their expertise. The work will ensure that we continue to provide opportunities for all to participate and contribute to the multicultural way of life we all enjoy in this capital city.

Suburban Land Agency—valuations

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. I refer to contract 28241, which is for the panel of commercial and residential agents of the ACT. Minister, how common is it for officers of the Suburban Land Agency to seek advice from the panel of commercial and residential agents without proceeding with a formal valuation of the relevant block of land?

Ms Berry: May I seek clarification on the question? Is the member asking regarding the current Suburban Land Agency, or the Land Development Agency?

Madam Speaker: Mr Parton, do you want to repeat your question or provide that clarity?

Mr Parton: It is the current Suburban Land Agency.

MS BERRY: I will take the question on notice.

MR PARTON: What safeguards are in place to stop the Suburban Land Agency from putting undue reliance on informal valuations, as happened with the LDA?

MS BERRY: As has been said publicly on a number of occasions in this place, the transparency required of the Suburban Land Agency has been made very clear. There are quarterly reports made to the Assembly on purchases. There has already been one report in this Assembly on a purchase that had been commenced by the former LDA and completed by the Suburban Land Agency. I have already responded to

questions during committee hearings about work that is continuing with the board and with the chair of the board on how we could better engage the community in the work of the Suburban Land Agency and board.

The transparency required of the Suburban Land Agency has been made very clear in this place a number of times publicly. My letter that I read out during committee hearings makes clear my expectations of the Suburban Land Agency and the board, and that work will continue.

MR COE: Minister, what safeguards are in place to ensure that the Suburban Land Agency spreads work around amongst panel members, and are you happy with the composition of the panel?

MS BERRY: The advice I have on the panel is that it is appropriate, but I will continue to work with the board to ensure that it is appropriate and as transparent as possible and that the work of the agency and the board is as clear and as transparent as it possibly can be for the Canberra community.

Land Development Agency—processes

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Urban Renewal. Minister, in a *Canberra Times* article of 23 November 2017—

MADAM SPEAKER: We had this matter yesterday. I think you are referring to suburban development.

MS LEE: I double-checked. I know that we had this issue yesterday, so I double-checked the parliamentary website. It says “Minister for Urban Renewal”, so that is why I went back to it.

Mr Barr: You need to look at the administrative orders, not the parliamentary website. There is not a minister for urban renewal.

MS LEE: Thank you, Chief Minister, for that. Whom do I address it to?

Mr Barr: It depends what the question is.

Mrs Dunne: Suburban development.

MS LEE: Suburban development? Okay; the minister for suburban development. In the *Canberra Times* article dated 23 November 2017, the ACT Solicitor-General said the Land Development Agency’s deals to buy land at Glebe Park and West Basin were untidy and that the negotiations were not optimal. He also stated that he had made clear his concerns about the LDA interpretation of a direction about purchases of land to the board. Minister, when did the ACT Solicitor-General provide this advice to the LDA board and why was it ignored?

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you responding, Chief Minister?

MR BARR: Thank you, yes; given the confusion over ministerial responsibilities

from the questioner, I will take this. Given that the issues have been extensively canvassed in the Auditor-General's report and the government response, I would refer the member to those documents.

MS LEE: Chief Minister, to what extent did the LDA's untidy decision-making processes in Glebe Park and West Basin lead to an outcome that was not optimal for ACT ratepayers, and what was the outcome?

MR BARR: That is obviously a matter of some subjective conjecture, Madam Speaker. I think it is asking for an expression of opinion from me, which is not in accordance with the standing orders.

MR COE: Chief Minister, were you or the Attorney-General advised of the concerns of the ACT Solicitor-General about the LDA's interpretation of the ministerial direction regarding land acquisitions?

MR BARR: I will check the record with the Attorney-General and his office. It would have been at that time, too; so I will need to go back and check the record on that.

Health—preventative health strategy

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, can you provide an outline to the Assembly on the recent preventative health launch?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Ms Cody for the question. I am very pleased to update the Assembly. On 6 November I had the pleasure of outlining a new approach to preventative health here with stakeholders at the National Arboretum. I did so before Canberra's many stakeholders in this field, representing the breadth of this community. This demonstrated how pervasive this issue of preventative health is to our community and how important it is to our community.

Guests from local businesses, educational institutions, and peak industry and community bodies gathered together to listen and to share their thoughts about how we, as a community, can keep our city healthy and do more to prevent and manage chronic disease. As I said on the day, we can and must do more.

While Canberra is Australia's healthiest city on many measures, with low smoking rates and a high life expectancy, many more people are living with chronic health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers, which are largely considered preventable.

With consultation to commence early next year, and a strategy to be published shortly thereafter, I was pleased to make three early announcements to get the ball rolling. First, the \$2.7 million health promotion grants program opened on 20 November for initiatives that aim to improve the health of the ACT population.

Secondly, the government will provide the University of Canberra with \$150,000 to develop a concept for a living lab for healthy and active living, together with other institutions, government agencies, businesses and the community, into a full business plan for consideration by potential funding partners. Thirdly, we were delighted to

have Petr Adamek, CEO of the CBR Innovation Network and his team who will kickstart a discussion on innovation and healthy and active living in December. Petr spoke at the event. I look forward to CBRIN's bright ideas coming forward next month.

MS CODY: Minister, how will the government's approach to preventative health enable the ACT to be Australia's healthiest city?

MS FITZHARRIS: In outlining the government's new approach to preventive health, I highlighted the following as key concerns of the strategy as it develops. We need to address health risk factors and better understand how Canberrans can make good healthy choices, helping them to make simple changes to lead a more healthy and active life.

As part of this, we will build a strong, broad-based research capability in preventive health which is able to inform policy and practice in the ACT. We will harness innovation to commercialise research in preventive health and grow and diversify business opportunities in the sector. And we must use our healthy and active living commitment as a way to attract people to live in our city as well as it being a drawcard for visitors who want to experience a city strongly committed to the health and wellbeing of its citizens.

When we get this right, there will be personal and community benefits for people being healthy and active, including longer and better quality of life and reducing inequality linked to poor health outcomes; economic benefits from business having a healthy and reliable workforce as well as the potential development of preventive health related businesses and opportunities, including the export of services; environmental benefits from a reduction in car use and the associated impact on the natural environment; reputational benefit for Canberra being a destination of choice for tourists and residents because of its commitment to healthy and active living; and increased investment in research development and extension into healthy and active living, focusing on innovative ways to translate research into tangible outcomes for everyone in our community.

MR STEEL: Minister, what can we expect to see arising from the preventative health strategy?

MS FITZHARRIS: I am very much looking forward to broader consultation with the community on a preventative health strategy. It will build on significant and highly successful work, particularly done over the past five years, underpinned to a large extent by a range of policies, in particular the towards zero growth policy, which really demonstrated a step change in how we approach preventative health, particularly related to a number of key risk factors which we know contribute to the burden of chronic disease in our community.

We are very proud of programs like it's your move, the ride or walk to school program, the fresh tastes program, the establishment of the Active Travel Office, and significant investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and in walking and cycling programs. I look forward to launching a new strategy which builds upon this work. I expect that the preventative health strategy will combine these traditional

approaches with a new holistic approach to the health and wellbeing of all Canberrans.

When we ask the community, “What does it mean to be healthy?” they tell us it means being connected, it means being included and it means understanding how they can live healthy lives. I anticipate that the preventative health strategy will continue to target the key risk factors: obesity, smoking, risky drinking and drug use, and lack of physical activity. I also expect that it will respond to community views and ambitions on what it means to be healthy and will provide a road map for the ways in which Canberrans can engage with one another and facilitate the interconnectedness that Canberrans value for their health and wellbeing.

Mr Barr: I ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.