



QUESTION TIME
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FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

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Tuesday, 10 April 2018

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Questions without notice

Land—Dickson purchase

MR COE: My question is to the Chief Minister. Government documents relating to the Tradies land swap indicate that the Dickson Tradies Club had been seeking to obtain the adjacent car park for some years. The government obtained a valuation for the site. You said in the Assembly on 25 October:

The government put out an expression of interest to the marketplace some years ago. I will need to check the exact date that that expression of interest was put forward, but it was an open process inviting expressions of interest from all interested parties.

The process started in 2012. Chief Minister, why have you not disclosed the date that the Dickson Tradies Club first expressed an interest in obtaining this block?

MR BARR: I do not know that I have not done that but I have no problem with a search of government records to identify that date.

MR COE: Chief Minister, did the Tradies approach the government in 2010 and, on the back of that approach, what actions did the government take? And did the government obtain valuation for a potential direct sale?

MR BARR: It was eight years ago, so I will need to have a check of records undertaken by the directorate.

MR PARTON: Chief Minister, when were you first advised that the Dickson Tradies Club was interested in buying this car park?

MR BARR: I refer the member to my answer to the previous questions.

Health Directorate—proposed organisational changes

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, you recently announced that ACT Health would be separated into two organisations, one to focus on health service delivery and the other to focus on health policy. Can you advise the Assembly of the purpose of this separation?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mr Pettersson for the question and the opportunity to talk about a significant change that is coming, and which will be great for our community. As members know, ACT Health is changing in response to our city's growing needs. As the community grows and our population ages, demand for health services increases, as does the complexity of presentations in our hospitals, our subacute and community-based care. The ACT government is developing new, state-of-the-art facilities and recruiting highly specialised clinicians, medical and nursing staff for a more contemporary health system which includes two, soon to be three, public hospitals and over 7,000 staff to help respond to growing demand.

That is why, on 23 March, Minister Rattenbury and I announced that the Health

Directorate will become two distinct organisations. One will be responsible for ACT Health's clinical operations and will focus on the operational delivery of high quality health services to our growing community. A separate planning and policy organisation will be focused on delivering the strategic and policy ambitions across the health system as a whole, building the health system we need for our future: increasing community health services, embedding preventive health and working with the service delivery organisation to enhance hospital services.

This approach will bring ACT Health into line with all other Australian jurisdictions, which have structurally separated their clinical services delivery from their departments of health. In many ways this change is a modernisation of our existing system that will continue to have person-centred care at its heart.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary, Mr Pettersson?

Mrs Dunne: A point of order, Madam Speaker. In accordance with standing order 118(c), I would ask you to rule that, with respect to this question, the answer given was by way of a ministerial statement, and to grant me leave to make a statement, at the conclusion of question time, not exceeding five minutes.

MADAM SPEAKER: I do not believe that it was a ministerial statement. It was a question; it had substance, and the answer was provided.

Mrs Dunne: In relation to the point of order, the standing orders refer to where a member believes that the response to a question was in the form of a ministerial statement. This was about a significant policy change. There were a number of ministerial statements this morning, and the minister did not make a ministerial statement in relation to a significant policy change. I think that it is quite within the realms anticipated by the standing order that leave should be granted to respond to it.

MADAM SPEAKER: It leaves that basically with the Speaker, and I am not providing leave. The minister has at some points over the past week and a bit spoken quite extensively about the restructure.

Mrs Dunne: But not in this chamber. This is the first time it has been mentioned in this chamber.

MADAM SPEAKER: I believe it is right that it has been mentioned as a question. Not every bit of business has to be dealt with for the first time in this chamber. A supplementary?

Mr Coe: What is the point of that standing order, then?

MADAM SPEAKER: I suggest that you look at that in the review of the standing orders, Mr Coe. I have pointed that out before. A supplementary?

MR PETERSSON: Minister, what will be the benefit of these changes for Canberrans?

MS FITZHARRIS: These changes are focused on improving access, timeliness and

the quality of health services for all Canberrans and for those whom ACT Health services in our surrounding region. This is all about making Canberrans receive the best possible care and continue to be the healthiest community in the country. This is an essential change for our growing population and expanding health system which, as I mentioned, will soon include three public hospitals.

This will allow the planning and policy arm to meet the needs of our growing and ageing community through contemporary approaches while the operational arm will have the ability to focus on delivering quality clinical services through providing acute, subacute, primary hospital services and community-based services to the ACT and surrounding region.

The change will streamline governance, management and reporting lines and provide a more effective and efficient governance model. It will support better relationships with the community, the non-government sector, the private sector and our academic and research partners.

As the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, it is my sincere ambition that every Canberran will see and feel the benefits of this new arrangement in their interactions with ACT Health, from patients to our non-government community sector partners, carers and advocacy services. This will be achieved in conjunction with the ongoing implementation of the territory-wide health services framework, the quality and data strategies, and the development of a preventive health strategy.

MR STEEL: Minister, what will happen between now and 1 October when these changes come into effect?

MS FITZHARRIS: It is important that we take the time to get this right and that is why over the next six months consultations with staff, stakeholders and the community will be an important step in informing this piece of work. An ACT Health organisational reform reference group comprising the ACT Health deputy directors-general has been established to guide planning and delivery of the new structure and is being supported by a new transition team. This includes representatives from both the clinical and corporate and policy sides of ACT Health with expert advice being brought into the team as required.

I would like to assure staff and partner organisations that we will consult closely about the development of the new structure through staff forums, other mechanisms and a dedicated transition page on the ACT Health intranet. Staff will also be encouraged to actively contribute to the process.

In the short term, recruitment for two new leaders will commence and I look forward to keeping the Assembly updated. I note that in the interim Director-General Michael De'Ath, previously with the Community Services Directorate, will act as the interim director-general.

ACTION bus service—timetable

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the minister for transport and relates to ACTION bus timetables. Minister, when is the community going to be able to look at

and give feedback about the new bus timetables, given that the your say website says that they are to be implemented in mid-2018, that stage 2 consultation is due to end in early 2018 and that a number of community council consultations have recently been cancelled?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Ms Le Couteur for the question. The work to design network 18 was consulted on through the first phase late last year. We will need to update the your say website, because those consultation responses will be up very shortly. What I can say is that they provided very useful information to inform what is the complex design of network 18; that more detailed design of the new routes and new timetables, particularly those services that will interact directly with the operation of light rail, will undergo significant community consultation; and that the community will have significant time to input into that.

MS LE COUTEUR: I am unclear whether that means that there is any more consultation. If the minister could clarify her answer it would be most appreciated. My next question is this: will the new bus timetables include major changes to suburban routes, including, potentially, cancellation of existing suburban routes given that, as I understand it, the new timetables are based primarily on the rapid routes?

MS FITZHARRIS: To clarify—as I believe I said previously—there are two phases to consultation for the design and rollout of network 18, which is the new bus service that the city needs to coordinate and integrate with light rail operations. Stage 1 happened at the end of last year. Those results will be out shortly. Stage 2, which will involve the release of detailed routes and timetables, will come out in the next couple of months. There will be significant time for the community and interested organisations to have a look at those and provide feedback.

It is certainly the case that, in particular, the introduction of five new rapid bus services this year is a significant undertaking. Clearly there will be some changes to some existing bus services, principally those in the Gungahlin region, which will integrate with the operation of light rail. Clearly, the red rapid as it currently exists, from Gungahlin to the city, will be replaced by Stage 1 of light rail.

Visitors

MADAM SPEAKER: I recognise in the gallery a delegation of Singaporean teachers that the government has sponsored in their visit to the ACT. Welcome to the Assembly here. Question time is always interesting, and I hope you enjoy our fabulous city.

Questions without notice

ACT Emergency Services Agency—workplace culture

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Minister, on 9 April 2018, the *Canberra Times* reported on a leaked ESA—Emergency Services Agency—staff culture survey. None of the 93 staff who completed the survey had confidence in senior management. Staff in the ESA voted no confidence in the leadership of the ESA in 2016. Minister, why do staff in the ESA continue to lack confidence in the leadership of the organisation, including your

stewardship?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Wall for the question. The ESA do a fantastic job right across Canberra, providing a safe Canberra, whether it is in regard to firefighting, paramedic services or police services. I have full confidence in the ESA commissioner, Dominic Lane. He does a fantastic job and he is working through a really interesting part of the future change process for ESA, including firefighters. That is a difficult task for Mr Lane, but I support Mr Lane, and the government does as well.

MR WALL: Minister, as the minister responsible for the Emergency Services Agency, what responsibility do you take for the poor staff culture and the lack of confidence expressed in the management team?

MR GENTLEMAN: It is my responsibility, holding those portfolios as I do, and I take it very seriously. That is why we are investing more in the Emergency Services Agency every year. Of course, we are providing different opportunities for legislative changes as well to support the operations of those staff on the road in the daily aspects of their job.

It is a difficult job. It is shiftwork. Madam Speaker, you and I have both worked shiftwork before. We know what it is like. But they have my full support and I think that they do a great job for Canberra.

MR HANSON: As minister, what responsibility do you take for the lack of confidence in your policies?

MR GENTLEMAN: I do not agree with the premise of the question: that there is a lack of confidence in my policies. As I have said, the ESA do a fantastic job. Canberrans feel very safe and we know that in enormous detail that Canberrans feel this is the safest—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Wall and Mr Coe, you asked a question. Allow the minister to answer. Do you have more to add, Mr Gentleman?

MR GENTLEMAN: Yes, just to finish off. Canberrans feel the safest of residents of any city in Australia. That is due to the work that is being done by all our people on the front line and of course our managers in the ESA as well.

Schools—infrastructure projects

MR STEEL: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, can you please update the Assembly on some of the infrastructure projects recently completed in ACT public schools?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Steel for the question. The government took some significant school infrastructure commitments to the 2016 ACT election, most of which were funded in the 2017-18 budget. Many school infrastructure projects have been completed over the term of government to date. These include capacity

expansions across the ACT, such as at Amaroo School, which involves a 300-place, multipurpose classroom and gym extension. Other schools include Aranda primary, Garran primary and Telopea School, as well as Yarralumla primary. There are \$500,000 of disability access works at Alfred Deakin High School, to enable improved accessibility to music rooms; heat mitigation works at Gungahlin College, as well as at Telopea School; and external learning environments to provide landscaping, play equipment and outdoor classrooms. Nearly \$9 million worth of works have been completed as part of the public school infrastructure upgrades program. The government is also delivering school infrastructure investment through dedicated initiatives.

A range of capacity expansions in Gungahlin as part of \$24 million of investment include additional transportable classrooms at Gold Creek School junior campus, providing 50 places; additional transportable classrooms at Neville Bonner Primary School, providing 200 places; and modifications to learning spaces at Palmerston Primary School, providing 75 places.

At the start of term 1, the \$5.7 million Caroline Chisholm Centre for Innovation and Learning became available for use. I look forward to formally opening that facility and seeing some of the student work soon. There are also early works and new roof works as part of a significant \$23.5 million modernisation of Belconnen High School.

MR STEEL: Minister, what are some of the other school infrastructure projects underway?

MS BERRY: Since the 2016 ACT election and before, the ACT Education Directorate has been working hard to deliver the school infrastructure that ACT public school students need. In addition to the completed projects I have mentioned, many projects that will be completed over the coming year are underway. For example, in Gungahlin, work is rapidly progressing on the amazing new school in Taylor. I encourage members to take a drive up Horse Park Drive and check out the \$32 million facility as it takes shape.

At Mount Stromlo High School and Erindale College important roof replacements are underway that will improve comfort and support the longevity of these schools. The government is providing Narrabundah Early Childhood School with a new appropriate cultural space in support of the school's reconciliation action plan. The Woden School will be able to support its Year 11 and 12 students better with new classroom facilities that will soon be available for use.

Many more projects are either underway or in planning. The Education Directorate is doing a great job working within the ACT school communities to identify and meet their infrastructure needs. I look forward to continuing to update the Assembly as further school infrastructure projects get underway and are completed.

MS CODY: Minister, why is the government investing in school infrastructure?

MS BERRY: During the ACT election in 2016 the government committed \$85 million in capital upgrades for Canberra's public primary schools, high schools and colleges. This funding was allocated in the 2017-18 budget and will deliver

upgrades and extensions to existing classrooms, new classrooms, refurbishment of toilets and change rooms, new gardens, horticultural facilities, equipment upgrades and heating and cooling systems, and energy efficiency improvements to Canberra's public primary schools and high schools.

Alongside this investment, the government committed \$24 million to school expansions in Gungahlin, one of the fastest growing regions in the country, and provisioned \$15 million in infrastructure grant funding for non-government schools.

We funded the beginning of other big school infrastructure projects like planning for new schools in Molonglo and Gungahlin. The government is proudly making this investment because it believes that every Canberran deserves an education that allows them to get the most out of their life—in their job and their career as well as their community.

Education has the power to break down barriers, improve our health and help people lead fulfilling lives. Every child deserves a great education, regardless of their background or their postcode, and the government is giving Canberra children this opportunity through its investment in school infrastructure.

Crime—statistics

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Minister, today ABC Online revealed that ACT Policing reports rose by seven per cent, the number of burglaries rose by 32 per cent, armed robberies rose by 21 per cent, motor vehicle theft is up 41 per cent and other robberies are up 33 per cent. Minister, why did the number of crimes increase by seven per cent with double-digit growth in theft in 2017?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Milligan for the question. The advice I have from ACT Policing, and what I have said many times as police minister, is that crime is cyclical, it fluctuates and Canberra is not immune to that.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Last week you were in here saying that you were going to be very respectful and not interject. Let us just keep you to honouring your commitment. Mr Gentleman.

MR GENTLEMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There are some increases in some categories of crime over the four-year period.

It is instructive to look at crime trends in the ACT over 10 years. This is advice from ACT Policing: over the past 10 years homicide is down by 75 per cent; burglaries are down by 30 per cent; motor vehicle theft is down by almost 20 per cent; other theft is down by almost 25 per cent; and property damage is down by almost 40 per cent. The crime trends for the ACT are trending down. This is due to the hard work by ACT Policing.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, what relationship is there between crime levels and

police resources?

MR GENTLEMAN: That would need a detailed answer. I think that an expert would need to do quite a study into that. I can say that ACT Policing is in a unique position, in that ACT Policing has the ability to call on resources from the broader AFP as operational requirements arise. This includes the special response group, SRG, and canine capabilities, which have previously been grouped into the FTE counts for ACT Policing. These resources are no longer included in that staffing figure. However, they remain available to ACT Policing as required.

Mr Hanson: Madam Speaker, on relevance: the question is very much about the relationship between crime levels and police resources, not just an answer giving a long list of police resources. It is about the relationship between crime levels and police resources, and how they are affected. That is the question. I ask that the minister be directly relevant.

MADAM SPEAKER: I think that at the beginning he explained that it was a complex response and then he went into some detail about the resources available to ACT Policing. Do you have something to add, minister?

MR GENTLEMAN: Yes, I do. In regard to those resources that I have mentioned, they are no longer included in the staffing figure. However, they remain available to Policing as required. This flexibility is one of the key reasons for the ACT government's purchase agreement with the AFP for community policing services in Canberra. ACT police resources also fluctuate throughout the year due to mobility between ACT Policing and AFP national operations, as well as attrition and the timing and commencement of new recruits.

I have talked about shiftwork before, Madam Speaker. You and I both know what it is like to try to fill shifts. The FTE is 946 in the ACT. That is a strong number of people who work both on the front line and behind to support those front-line police. (*Time expired.*)

MR HANSON: Minister, what relationship is there between crime levels and population growth?

MR GENTLEMAN: Madam Speaker, if you look at the statistics there is a direct correlation between population growth and crime across the ACT. When I was born, in the ACT there were 20,000 people. The police operations then were, I think, one sergeant and four police officer guards. We have gone from that to over 946 FTE. In regard to looking at the challenges for ACT Policing and the resources that the government is providing, we are supporting ACT police through further funds, infrastructure and legislative change.

Citizens juries—process

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Chief Minister. I refer to claims reported by the ABC on 10 April about a member of the citizens jury walking out on the last day of the process claiming it was grossly corrupted and misleading. Of particular concern was the jury not being presented with critical information about whole-person

impairment until the final day. Chief Minister, what actions have you taken to ensure the citizens jury was not misled and was given all the information it needed to make an informed decision?

MR BARR: Yes, the jury was an excellent process. I met with a group of about a dozen of the jurors when they presented their report, including those who presented the minority report, to the government. I thank them for their work and I thank democracyCo for engaging the process.

MS LAWDER: I could echo Ms Le Couteur and say that I am not quite sure what the answer was there; but, to the next question: Chief Minister, what processes were in place to ensure that the process was independent of government and not able to be manipulated to result in the favoured outcome?

MR BARR: I would refer the member to the information that is publicly available on that in regard to that question.

MR COE: Minister, again, what actions have you taken to ensure that the citizens jury was not misled, or is this just another governance issue in your directorate?

MR BARR: As I said, I have met with the jurors and I am confident in the process.

Children and young people—adoptions

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. Minister, a number of people have reported that they attended a carers meeting on 9 April 2018, at which ACT Together said they will no longer be assisting foster carers with adoption applications and that all such applications are now on hold. If correct, this is out of step with the commitment to permanency outlined in A step up for our kids and contradicts the CSD's website on adopting a child from out of home care. Minister, what do you know about this meeting, and what exactly did ACT Together tell carers regarding the current state of adoption in the territory?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Kikkert for her question, and I welcome the opportunity to provide some clarity on this matter to the Assembly and to the public. I have to say, of course, that I was concerned to see some comments on social media this morning suggesting that the Community Services Directorate and ACT Together would no longer be progressing adoptions. I can assure the Assembly most categorically that this is not the case. There was a meeting, as Mrs Kikkert said, yesterday evening with carers. Child and youth protection services, CYPS, attended that meeting, at the invitation of ACT Together, to speak to carers about permanency and the adoption process. At the meeting a number of items were addressed, including enduring parental responsibility and the adoption of children and young people in care.

I am assured that CYPS reiterated their support to carers and delivered the following key messages: CYPS remains committed to supporting carers to provide the best possible outcomes for children and young people in care; CYPS is aware that carers are investing in obtaining permanency of a child or young person and will present the best possible case to the court in order for the court to make a final decision on these

matters; CYPS advise that it has taken on board some recent feedback from the ACT court about the conduct of adoption matters—and CYPS is undertaking a review this week of present adoption matters to ensure that all applications are meeting the court's expectations to present the strongest case possible; and CYPS is actively working with other relevant directorates to implement the recommendations of the adoption task force as well, the report of which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 2017.

I absolutely acknowledge that carers make a truly valuable contribution to the community by offering safe and stable environments for vulnerable children and young people. Again I can assure members of the Assembly and the public that CYPS will continue to work to support carers to achieve adoptions or EPRs. (*Time expired.*)

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, are you aware of any obstacles currently impeding or even delaying the adoption of children in out of home care and, if so, what are they?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Some of the timeliness issues were of course covered in the report of the adoptions task force and a number of those recommendations have already been addressed and others are in progress. As I said in response to the first question, CYPS is also taking on board recent feedback from ACT courts about the conduct of adoption matters and is seeking to review those issues to ensure that all applications that it makes are meeting the court's expectations.

We need to remember that adoption matters first and foremost need to be considered in relation to what is in the best interests of the children and young people involved—that is the primary consideration in relation to adoption—and to note that enduring parental responsibility orders are an alternative to adoption in terms of providing permanency for children and young people. But I reiterate and reinforce to the Assembly that finding a safe and loving permanent home for children and young people in out of home care is and remains a priority for the government under A step up for our kids.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, will you investigate and report back to the Assembly by the end of this week on what steps led to ACT Together making the statements that they appear to have made last night? What steps are being taken to mitigate the issues that have been raised by ACT Together? Will you also take steps to ensure that the people who were at that meeting get the message loud and clear that adoption is still a priority for this government?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will take on notice to come back with any further information that I can get by the end of this sitting week. But I will say that some positive feedback has also been received in relation to the information. I have been provided with an extract from an email from a participant that I am advised I am able to share with the Assembly. It says, "Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend this evening's permanency workshop. It was a very informative session. I had all my questions answered as well as gaining a much better appreciation of the process. The in-depth insight provided this evening really helped my understanding of the legislative environment, the bigger picture as well as the challenges ahead. Please pass on my thanks to all those involved in pulling the evening together. It was very

much appreciated.”

As I said, I was concerned to see some of the reporting on social media this morning. I do provide an absolute assurance to the Assembly and to the public that the CYPS will continue to work to support carers to achieve adoptions or enduring parental responsibility orders where that is in the child’s or young person’s best interests. I will provide any further information I can, certainly by the end of the week

Health Directorate—proposed organisational changes

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, on 24 March, the *Canberra Times* reported on your decision to split the Health Directorate into two new directorates, one focused on policy, the other on operations. The paper reported that you said “the new policy arm would focus on overseeing operations and policy”. Minister, will the directorate responsible for operations be accountable to the directorate responsible for overseeing operations?

MS FITZHARRIS: I cannot comment on the precise quote in the *Canberra Times* as I do not have it in front of me. Certainly the governance arrangements not only within each organisation but between them are aspects of the important work that is currently underway by the transition team. We have many examples across the country to learn from, to learn what has worked well, to learn what could be improved, and to determine what is the best model both for each organisation—

Mrs Dunne: You have already announced it.

MS FITZHARRIS: Indeed we have, and that work will now get underway. And it will involve consultation.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how will splitting the directorate in two create efficiencies in the health system?

MS FITZHARRIS: The work that the transition team will undertake over the next six months will determine the relationship between the two organisations. What it will allow the service delivery arm to do is focus solely on service delivery, whether that be Canberra Hospital, the University of Canberra hospital, our community health centres or walk-in centres, or other community-based services like hospital in the home. There will be a clear focus on delivering high quality services efficiently for our community.

MS LEE: Minister, how will an operations directorate, answerable to a policy directorate, both of which inevitably will end up with different processes, reduce waiting times in the emergency department and for elective surgery?

MS FITZHARRIS: I reject that there is an inevitability about that. What I would say is that the government has taken an important decision. We will take the time to work on the implementation plan. We will do that in consultation with stakeholders, staff and the community. That is a very normal process.

What I would also add is that we are the last jurisdiction, particularly since the

national health funding reforms were implemented between the commonwealth and all states and territories in 2011, to implement such a model. This model exists in every other jurisdiction.

As I said in my previous answer, we are not the smallest jurisdiction. We also serve a significant and growing region in south-eastern New South Wales. We have good models to work from. We will learn from those and we will determine come 1 October the model that works best for our community.

Justice—magistrates

MS CODY: My question is to the Attorney-General. How will adding an eighth permanent ACT magistrate provide greater access to justice?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cody for the question. A justice system is, as I have said before, only truly a good justice system when it is accessible, transparent and timely. Resourcing for the courts, and everyone who supports the members of our community through the courts, helps to achieve this.

The Magistrates Court undertakes critical work for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Magistrates make decisions about family violence orders in response to people seeking protection. Magistrates make decisions about bail that involve crucial public safety and individual liberty considerations. Magistrates oversee coronial investigations that uncover the causes of tragic deaths and can make recommendations for public safety.

These are vital public functions. The government is committed to ensuring that our justice system is resourced properly at all levels to provide them. The government's decision to fund an eighth magistrate is based on engagement with the courts to analyse their ongoing workload and to ensure that they have sufficient resources to keep providing first-rate court services to this community.

MS CODY: Minister, what measures has the ACT taken to ensure transparent and merit-based selection of magistrates?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cody for the supplementary question. The ACT government recognises the importance of, and adheres to, a transparent process for selecting judicial officers. The process and the criteria for selecting a new magistrate are set out in the Magistrates Court (Magistrates Appointment Requirements) Determination 2009, which is available online.

The ACT's legislative framework ensures that a transparent, merit-based selection process occurs for new magistrates. Under the framework, the government is required to seek expressions of interest by public notice and to consider applications against a set of performance criteria. The Chief Magistrate must be consulted on possible appointees.

The public set of criteria and the public advertisement process ensure that decisions about appointment are merit-based. The government recognises and values the importance of local views, and we will be seeking nominations from both the Law

Society and the Bar Association as part of this process. The government values the input of the local profession and will continue to engage with them in the context of the statutory framework.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how does the appointment of a new magistrate strengthen the government's support for access to justice across other parts of the legal system?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. This government takes a whole-system approach to resourcing the justice system. Whenever a decision is made about resourcing one part of our legal system, we must carefully consider any flow-on consequences in other parts of the system.

That is why, in the latest announcement, we are providing additional resources to the Director of Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid ACT. The DPP will receive \$987,000 over four years to employ staff to support criminal prosecutions before the new magistrate. Legal Aid ACT will receive an additional \$1.3 million for additional staff, also to assist with servicing additional demand before the courts. In last year's budget we provided \$2.477 million over four years to our community legal centres. That funding supports vulnerable people who seek protection from the courts, including women seeking family violence orders.

These resources will help to ensure that matters which come before the new magistrate are supported to achieve just, timely and transparent outcomes, particularly for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—workplace culture

MR HANSON: My question is to the Attorney-General and it relates to an article in the *Canberra Times* entitled "Justice directorate staff are concerned about bullying". The article refers to a leaked staff survey which identified "staff concerns about workplace bias, preparedness to speak-up against misconduct and confusion around areas of accountability". It reveals that the directorate has become a "toxic workplace", with a "culture of blame and little trust" and "a lack of common purpose". The report also notes that similar concerns have spread throughout other arms of the justice directorate. Attorney-General, how far have these concerns spread throughout the other arms of the justice directorate?

MR RAMSAY: I thank the member for his question. The 2017 JACS staff survey results provide valuable information on what works well in JACS and it identifies some opportunities for ongoing improvement. The survey is one tool that assists the directorate in understanding the broad culture of our organisation and makes an assessment of the level of staff engagement.

We have noticed that JACS is committed to improving its workplace culture. That is clear. The results are reflected in the differences in culture across the diverse nature of JACS's broad functions. There is more work to do, but it is positive to note that the justice portfolio has improved in its engagement rating in the culture of ambition. The directorate's results reflect that, when compared to other large public sector organisations, JACS on average is good but not yet good enough. We will continue with the great work that JACS is doing.

MR HANSON: Attorney-General, will you provide to the Assembly a full copy of the survey and, if not, why not?

MR RAMSAY: The survey is, as has been noted in relation to other surveys, confidential, so that the staff can feel confident in what it is that they are saying and what it is that they are contributing. We value that and we will continue to do that.

MR COE: Attorney-General, what are you doing to demonstrate leadership so as to avoid the department remaining a toxic workplace, with workplace bias, a culture of blame and a lack of common purpose?

MR RAMSAY: I thank the member for his question. JACS is continuing to engage in ongoing developments and improvements in its work. As I say, it is recognised that it has achieved an average level at this stage, and there is ongoing improvement. I continue to work with the head of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, the executive staff and staff throughout as we continue to build and develop a strong culture. I want to place on record my admiration and support for the leadership and all of the members of the JACS team as they contribute such important and valuable work to this community.

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, before I call Ms Lee, as we will be living as neighbours next to a construction site, we will provide advice on that. I noticed that at the beginning of question time we had a noisy jackhammer again. That has been halted now until 3.30. I will endeavour to keep the hour of question time as quiet as possible, but I look to members and know that that is not going to happen very readily. Just bear with us over time, and I would appreciate any feedback that you may have.

Education—NAPLAN survey

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, were you made aware of, or consulted about, the Australian Education Union ACT Branch survey on NAPLAN among government school teachers either before or while it was being undertaken?

MS BERRY: Yes I am aware that the Australian Education Union engages with its members in a variety of ways and I was aware of this particular survey.

MS LEE: Minister, will you be seeking the views of educators in the non-government schools sector in making any decisions about the future of NAPLAN in ACT schools?

MS BERRY: I have invited the non-government schools to engage in the future of education conversation. Through that conversation I have heard from all sectors about their views around standardised testing, league tables, and the stress and anxiety that they are bringing to our children.

Yes, they have been part of that conversation, and I will continue to talk with the Canberra community more broadly as we talk with the states and the Northern Territory about a possible review of NAPLAN.

MR WALL: Minister, are the AEU survey findings an accurate assessment of NAPLAN in ACT government schools?

MS BERRY: I have not looked in detail at the union's findings around NAPLAN in ACT government schools. But it is clear that there are some concerns in the school community, particularly in public schools, around how NAPLAN is used and whether it can be used better to support teachers to give children the best learning experiences. With that in mind, it is an important piece of information, but it is not the only piece of information that will be considered.

I look forward to having conversations with my ministerial colleagues in the very near future about NAPLAN and how we can improve that to make sure that it is providing the data the teachers need to support students in their classrooms.

National Youth Week—youth achievements

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. Minister, what is the government doing to support the celebration of national Youth Week in the ACT?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cheyne for her question. As members will be aware, Youth Week is a week-long celebration of young people aged between 12 and 25 years. This year ACT Youth Week will run from Friday, 13 April to Sunday, 22 April.

ACT Youth Week encourages us to celebrate the wonderful contribution young people make to our community while providing a platform for young people to share ideas about the future and to advocate on issues they are passionate about. I will launch ACT Youth Week at the prestigious ACT Young Canberra Citizen of the Year awards on Friday, 13 April.

To support events and activities during Youth Week, the ACT government committed \$25,000 for small grants for organisations and groups of young people to organise events for other young people as well as for a range of free public events across Canberra. The grants are funding innovative new projects so that young people can see their ideas become a reality.

The 2018 ACT Youth Week events include Black Mountain School's Youth Arts and Music Festival for All, the Dickson College ACT Youth Week expo and barbecue, an East African community youth sports and game day, and a sunset festival with the YWCA. Free events funded by the ACT government are occurring across Canberra and are open to all young people. These include Phillip Ice Skating Centre hosting "Skate it Out" in Woden and Back Bone BMX hosting BMX clinics in Belconnen and Gungahlin.

I encourage everyone to get involved in ACT Youth Week 2018. This could involve attending a local event celebrating the contribution of young people, promoting events happening across the city or even just taking the time to listen to a young Canberran about their passions and the challenges facing their generation.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how do the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year awards, as part of national Youth Week, celebrate the achievements of young Canberrans?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cheyne for her supplementary question. Of course, I will be very pleased to announce the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year awards on Friday. These awards are now in their 29th year, so they are somewhat older than the impressive young Canberrans who are acclaimed by them.

The awards recognise and celebrate young people aged between 12 and 25 years for their personal achievements and for their contribution to the Canberra community. The awards are an opportunity to recognise the innovation, diversity, talent and tenacity of both young individuals and groups across four categories this year: young Canberra Citizen of the Year, personal achievement, individual community service, and group achievement.

Each year young Canberrans are nominated for their remarkable and inspiring efforts across a range of fields, including community work, the arts, sport and the environment. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the calibre of previous young Canberra citizens we have honoured. The 2017 recipient, Mustafa Ehsan, was acknowledged as an exceptional role model who champions inclusion in the Canberra community through sport. The 2016 recipient, Jordan Kerr, established the National Youth Council of Australia. The 2015 recipient—someone I am sure we are all very familiar with—Nip Wijewickrema, was acknowledged for her contribution to the community, including her work in establishing socially sustainable florist GG's Flowers, which employs and supports people with disability.

Each of these young people is an inspirational and remarkable young person in our community. I am sure that this year's recipients will be no different. I look forward to seeing who will be this year's Young Canberra Citizen of the Year at the awards ceremony on Friday.

MS ORR: Minister, why is it important that we recognise the contributions and challenges of young people in our community?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Orr for her supplementary question. As we all know, young Canberrans have a unique experience of our city and provide a unique perspective into the challenges we face as a community. The ACT government recognises and supports young people through funding awards and the youth InterACT grants and scholarships but also through consulting young people to ensure that their voice is heard.

One way this recognition is realised is through the Youth Advisory Council. The Youth Advisory Council, or YAC, provides strategic advice to the ACT government on issues affecting young people in the ACT. Membership of YAC reflects the diversity of young people residing in the ACT, including gender balance, people living with a disability and representation from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. We are working hard towards better outcomes for young carers, young people with disabilities, young people who come from CALD backgrounds, LGBTIQ young people, young workers and young people who are involved in the justice system.

While it is important that we take the opportunity to reflect on the challenges and contributions of these specific cohorts of young people we must also ensure that we consider the experiences of young people more broadly. The celebration of Youth Week and the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year awards are opportunities to bring the stories of young people to the forefront, highlighting the successes of individual young people to remind us all of the contributions they make to our society and the unique challenges they overcome to do so. Empowering young people to celebrate each other and reflect on their own achievements sets the stage for a confident, successful and inclusive generation of Canberrans into the future.

Light rail—safety

MISS C BURCH: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, last Thursday, 5 April, you launched the rail-ready light rail safety program. Why have you not coordinated with emergency services to ensure that they were rail-ready before launching this program?

MS FITZHARRIS: We have coordinated with the Emergency Services Agency and the campaign will continue until the operation of light rail.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, why is the government proceeding with light rail track testing on public roads before the emergency services have been fully equipped, trained and resourced to deal with any accidents involving light rail?

MS FITZHARRIS: That is incorrect. We have a highly skilled and well-resourced emergency services agency, which, like all agencies across government that have involvement with the light rail project, has been consulted and engaged with since day one.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what reassurance will you give Canberra drivers, cyclists and pedestrians that they will be safe during track testing of light rail?

MS FITZHARRIS: I can give the highest levels of assurance to the community. Canberra Metro, as the builders and operators of light rail, the ACT government and, importantly, the national regulator will oversee not only the planning but also the delivery of light rail operations, which will also include, in the lead-up to operations, commencing light track testing.

Gaming—consumer privacy

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Minister, in late March this year the Gambling and Racing Commission wrote to licensed clubs across Canberra requesting that they provide the personal information of every recipient of a gaming machine payout in excess of \$1,500 made between October and December last year. Minister, why is the commission specifically trying to ascertain the identities of those receiving payments?

MR RAMSAY: I thank the member for his question. As the member would know, the GRC is independent of government and, when it undertakes regulatory

investigations or action, it is not something that it would be seeking ministerial engagement on.

MR PARTON: Minister, how can you support such a breach of privacy, and can you guarantee that this data will not be more widely distributed, either knowingly or by accident?

MR RAMSAY: I have full confidence in the GRC's actions.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, is the commission seeking similar information from the casino and Tabcorp agencies?

MR RAMSAY: I will take that question on notice.

City Renewal Authority—grants

MS ORR: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, can you please update the Assembly on the outcome of the first round of city grants delivered under the City Renewal Authority?

MR BARR: I thank Ms Orr for the question. I am advised that the City Renewal Authority has awarded \$173,614 in grants to 12 recipients for a wide variety of projects, from music festivals to public art and temporary installations. Over the next three months the city grants will help to activate and improve the city centre, with six events, three installations, a research project and an accessibility education campaign, as well as a new public art mural.

MS ORR: Chief Minister, how will the events deliver activity in the city that supports local businesses?

MR BARR: The authority is working with businesses in the Sydney and Melbourne buildings to tidy up space in the building laneways through the construction of new waste enclosures. This supports existing businesses in that area.

The city grants that I referred to previously will fund the loaded laneway festival in Verity Lane—the Sydney Building. This will be delivered in partnership with businesses the Reload Bar and Treehouse. City grants will also support the Wellspring Environmental Art and Design organisation in creating three temporary sculptural seating installations from transformed recyclables. The three sites will be designed to encourage social interaction, to promote sustainability and to bring aspects of nature into the city.

MR PETTERSSON: Chief Minister, how do these grants benefit all Canberrans?

MR BARR: The grants are funded through the city centre marketing and improvements levy, which is a contribution from building owners in the CBD that supports events and activations in the city. A vibrant and fun CBD should be the commercial, cultural and social heart of our city, and that benefits everyone.

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