



QUESTION TIME
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

Edited proof transcript

Wednesday, 28 November 2018

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Questions without notice

Education—community schools

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, in your future of education statement, you said that the government will look to bring community school approaches to the ACT education system. Minister, what will a community school model look like for the ACT and where might these schools be located?

MS BERRY: The strategy talks about schools as communities as a broad concept that schools are more than just places for education. The ACT government has been discussing this policy or principle with school principals and school communities, including P & Cs: what school communities would look like to bring in more opportunities for people within our community to engage with the school communities. One way that we have already been implementing that kind of concept is by ensuring that our school sports facilities can be shared by the broader community as well. So now our sports clubs and organisations, as well as multicultural groups and other community groups, can access school facilities and engage with those school communities in that way.

MR COE: Minister, aside from the use of facilities, what changes to governance or decision-making might be features of a community school?

MS BERRY: The strategy talks about making sure that we have strong communities for learning in our schools, which engages broadly other parts of the community to support education in our schools but also to provide other opportunities for our schools to be opened up to the broader community. We will be developing work around how we engage more services—support services and others—in our schools to provide those better communities for learning.

Mr Coe: On a point of order of relevance, the specific question was about governance and decision-making, not about facilities or resources and I ask that she be directly relevant.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, if you could go to the point of governance.

MS BERRY: I have completed my answer.

MS LEE: Minister, what impact would the adoption of your government's vision for a community school model have on funding for other ACT government schools?

MS BERRY: There will be a whole lot of changes occurring in our schools similar to the ones that have already been announced by the ACT government to provide supports to teachers to provide the best educational outcomes for our students. So as decisions are made about spending in schools, those will be made by budgets, as all decisions about spending across the ACT community are made during the budget processes.

Canberra—population projection

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Chief Minister and relates to the ACT's population projections, which can be found on the government's website. The population for Tuggeranong is projected to fall 29 per cent from 85,000 in 2015 to 61,000 in 2040 while Weston Creek is expected to fall 42 per cent from 22,000 in 2015 to 13,000 in 2040. Is the government taking action to stem these very large population declines?

MR BARR: The projections that Ms Le Couteur refers to were issued on 13 March 2017 and I believe are now already out of date as in what was projected to occur was based on data prior to the August 2016 census. New information is available and the projections will be updated, Ms Le Couteur.

If you go to the detail of the projections they indicate, effectively, a compound year-on-year population reduction in Tuggeranong and Weston Creek of between one and two per cent each year. That appears to be at the outer end of what would be a more natural decline in population as a particular region ages.

Across the territory the number of births exceed the number of deaths each year in the order of about 3,500 to 4,000, although it is clear that, as has been the case throughout the history of Canberra, newly established areas go through an initial population boom and particularly attract younger families.

As to what the government can do, as an entity the government is obviously not in the business of making babies but people certainly are, and that would be one way of addressing that question. I also indicate that we will be looking through the COAG process to put our hand up to take more international migrants through both skilled programs and refugee programs, and we certainly encourage Australians to move to Canberra. In combination that ought to see our population increase. *(Time expired.)*

MS LE COUTEUR: Is the government considering, say, scaling back greenfield development and redirecting the ACT's population growth to support these declining areas?

MR BARR: Yes, certainly there are opportunities for increased housing density in certain locations. The Tuggeranong town centre and around Greenway are examples of such development that is occurring right now that would be addressing some of that population decline. Another factor that will come into play is the life cycle. As the inevitable happens to people in some parts of the city and they move out of housing for whatever reason, one of which would be, of course, the end of life, new people move into that housing. But I think it is fair to observe that the number of people per household continues to reduce, so the only way to address population decline in some areas will be to increase the volume of housing. That is occurring and it will continue to occur. The obvious debate, a perennial in our city, is over the pace of that change.

MS CHEYNE: Chief Minister, how is the government catering for a growing population across the entirety of Canberra?

MR BARR: It is very important that we continue to invest in infrastructure to meet

the needs of our growing population. At the 2016 election there was a very clear choice between our side of politics and those opposite on major transport infrastructure projects, just as there has been on major health, education, community services and emergency services, infrastructure and facilities that will continue to need to be built and augmented as our city grows.

A challenge for us, clearly, is that the city's urban boundaries are constrained—rightly so. We do not support development in our water catchment or in our national parks, and it will be the case that Canberra's next 100 years will not see the urban sprawl that the first 100 years have seen. That is a fact. We will need to see more population accommodated within the existing city footprint.

Of course, the rate of population growth is impacted by the rate of natural increase, the rate of international migration and the rate of interstate migration. Interstate migration is very strongly linked to the strength of our labour market. Natural increase continues to occur because it would be fair to say that the making of babies will not go out of fashion anytime soon.

Animals—off-leash areas

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for City Services. Minister, the have your say on city services for better suburbs pack 1 map has information for Canberrans to use so they can provide feedback to the government regarding responsible dog ownership. Under the heading “Walking your dog”, the map says “all dogs in public areas (except dedicated off-leash dog parks) must be on a leash”. I repeat: “all dogs in public areas (except dedicated off-leash dog parks) must be on a leash”. Yet the TCCS website identifies a wide range of other “off-leash areas” which are not dedicated off-leash parks. Some of these are shared spaces such as community paths. Minister, which is wrong: the better suburbs map or the TCCs website?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. I am happy to check the TCCS website and make sure that it is in fact showing the correct areas for off-leash dog parks.

MS LAWDER: Minister, following your checking of the website, if my information is correct will you correct the wrong information and apologise for misleading the public?

MR STEEL: I have already said that I will check the website to make sure that the information on there is correct.

MR PARTON: Minister, how can anyone comply if the message is not clear and accurate?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. As I said, we will check the website to make sure that it is correct. Whether the information is factually correct or not is not yet known. We will have to check that and find out whether that is the case. But it sounds like it is a fairly minor error, if there is an error at all.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—NAIDOC Week

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Minister, as Canberra is hosting national NAIDOC Week celebrations in 2019, could the minister please inform the Assembly about the NAIDOC Committee's recent announcement?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Pettersson for his question. I am very pleased that Canberra will host the national NAIDOC Week celebrations in 2019. The National NAIDOC Committee recently announced the theme for next year's NAIDOC celebrations. It will be "Voice, treaty, truth—let's work together for a shared future". This theme will bring focus to topics of great importance to the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the ACT government, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around the country.

NAIDOC Week 2019 will be marked from 7 to 14 July. At the very heart of NAIDOC Week is the spirit of self-determination: a recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the answers.

The impact of this year's NAIDOC Week theme is still being felt. The theme "Because of her, we can" resonated throughout communities here and across the nation.

Witnessing the profound impact of this year's NAIDOC Week theme has made the response from some regarding next year's theme even more disappointing. As Australians have come to expect from the reactionary federal Liberal Party, members of that party have called the 2019 theme divisive. I say to the national NAIDOC Committee: You are welcome in Canberra. Your theme is important to us, and we will listen to and engage with you. We will continue to advocate for the Uluru statement from the heart to be respected and to be acted upon.

The ACT is unique in having an Indigenous voice to parliament, through the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body. Australia has much to learn from our experience of an Indigenous voice. I will do what I can to demonstrate how important that voice is to the Assembly and the ACT government, including during NAIDOC Week next year. I look forward to further announcements from the national and ACT NAIDOC committees in relation to next year's activities.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, how do this event and theme tie in to the government's ongoing work with Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Pettersson for his supplementary. The government is embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led solutions into policy and services across the board. One example of this is the new ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement. Self-determination is the underlying principle of the current agreement and, based on community feedback, will be even more prominent in the new agreement to be established early next year.

For those who are interested in the progress made in developing the new agreement, I would like to take this opportunity to inform both Assembly members and members

of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that members of the elected body and ACT government officials will be at the AIATSIS market day on 7 and 8 December to meet with the community to discuss the new agreement before it is finalised in the new year.

The theme for next year is “Voice, treaty and truth”. We have a voice and, as I have said before in this place, the ACT government is open to considering a treaty for the ACT. I have discussed this possibility with the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, and the ACT government has been observing treaty-making processes for some time in Victoria and the Northern Territory, and in South Australia prior to the change of government.

The final part of the theme is “truth”. Reconciliation Day, the first celebrated in this jurisdiction this year, and the community events that support it are an important opportunity for truth telling. Reconciliation Day is a way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT to tell the true history of their people and this land. It is also an opportunity for non-Indigenous Canberrans to ask questions and learn more about the Indigenous history of our region and our nation.

I am sure that NAIDOC Week 2019 will be an opportunity for conversations on voice, treaty and truth, to continue at both a local and national level.

MS ORR: Minister, what else is the ACT government doing to support and celebrate the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Orr for her supplementary question. I was pleased recently to open the latest round of ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural, leadership and scholarship grant programs. A total of \$215,000 is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT to undertake study or leadership training and to celebrate and share their cultures.

This year a number of changes were made to the grant programs to make them more accessible and to better meet the needs of the community. The changes are a result of feedback from past grant recipients and community discussions and will mean that the grants are open all year until grant funds are allocated to the end of the financial year. An assessment panel will convene monthly to assess applications for scholarship and leadership grants and grant recipients can apply for grants in successive years. This responds to feedback that scholarship grants should be open all year so that people can plan for their future study with confidence.

Scholarship grant rounds have previously assisted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans in studying courses from certificate IV up to masters degrees as well as in attending conferences and study tours and providing cultural education to the wider community. Changes to the cultural grants mean that they will now be available for some months before culturally significant events such as NAIDOC Week, Sorry Day and Mabo Day. This means that community groups will also be able to plan better for events and other activities.

I encourage members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to check out the refreshed grant programs via the strong families website. The

ACT government knows that creating environments where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can be proud of their identity and access further education will lead to better outcomes for the entire community, and I look forward to following the progress of future grant recipients.

Waste—bulk collection

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Minister for City Services. Minister, there was an election promise made during the 2016 election campaign that a free bulk waste collection would be rolled out to all Canberra suburbs. When is that to be introduced?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. Of course, we already have the bulky waste collection service for certain residents in the ACT who are eligible. We committed in the election campaign to deliver bulky waste collection. That will be considered over the next two years of the term.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, when will the Labor-Greens government follow through on its 2016 election promise to deliver this free bulk waste collection across all suburbs in the ACT?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question and refer him to my previous answer. I note that our government has delivered on a whole range of different commitments and, just over two years into our parliamentary term, we continue to deliver on the commitments we have made. Rolling out the green bin program through the whole of Canberra is something that we committed to before the last election and something we will continue to do. We will certainly look at further measures like bulky waste to make sure we can recover resources before they go to landfill.

MR WALL: Minister, is it the government's intention still to make available the bulky waste collection service to operators of trash pack businesses? If so, why is it going to take more than two years from the time the government destroyed their business?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. We have not considered the implementation of the plan. That is something that will be looked at over the next two years.

Education—disruptive students

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, during annual reports hearings, I asked what the process was for a teacher to report an injury from a student in the classroom and was told that the incident goes to the supervisor and is logged on Riskman. When I asked what happens when the same thing happens a second time, the answer was the same. When I asked what happens when the same thing happens a third time, the answer was: "Well, it is the same scenario." Minister, despite the managing occupational violence policy having been in place since July 2017, and the findings of the WorkSafe investigation, why does your directorate still not have a clear and adequate process to deal with

multiple incidents of violence in our schools?

MS BERRY: As I understand it, those questions were asked and responded to in estimates. The Education Directorate is working very closely with our school communities to instil a cultural change within our schools that accepts that our teachers have a sometimes very challenging but very rewarding job and sometimes, as a result of that—of the challenges that some students come to school with, and the behaviour of some parents and others in the community as well—it means that they can be exposed to occupational violence. The changes that are required in schools are to ensure that teachers understand that they have the right, the same right as any other worker, to go home safely from school. It is not a judgement on their ability to teach and include students who have challenges in their lives that lead to behaviour in schools that can lead to violence against teachers. It is saying to teachers that we need them to report, and that all school communities need to encourage all school staff to report, any injuries or any incidents that occur in schools so that the government—

Ms Lee: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Resume your seat, please, minister.

Ms Lee: Madam Speaker, my question was specifically about why her directorate still does not have a clear and adequate procedure. It was not about encouraging teachers to report. I acknowledged that in my question; I would prefer the minister to actually answer the question I asked.

MADAM SPEAKER: I think that she made reference to the education department working on it, but you do have 20-odd seconds left, minister.

MS BERRY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What we will be seeing for a little while as we change the culture in our schools, not just here in the ACT but across the country, is an increase in the number of reports, which will tell us that we are making a difference within our school communities. *(Time expired.)*

MS LEE: Minister, I again ask: why does your directorate still not have a clear and adequate procedure to deal with multiple incidences of violence, and what training has been provided to directorate staff to raise awareness about the new policy?

MS BERRY: I am aware that Ms Lee referred to a number of these questions during the estimates hearings, about training that was provided, and will continue to be provided, as we roll through a significant cultural change that needs to occur in our schools. That training will continue.

Mr Coe interjecting—

MS BERRY: Well, it is a cultural change. It is not just limited to here in the ACT. The ACT government led the nation in ensuring that we have a plan in place and a policy in place to address what is a very complex issue.

Mr Coe interjecting—

MS BERRY: You can laugh about it all you like, Mr Coe, but this government is about ensuring that our schools are inclusive places for all of our students, our children, regardless of what they come to school with, as far as their backgrounds or circumstances are concerned, and that our teachers and school staff have every right to return home safely from their place of work. The ACT government has led the nation on this work, and we will continue to lead the nation on this work. It is a very complicated and complex issue, but we are getting on with the job of ensuring that both of those rights are assured.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, why did the 2012 ACT public service-wide policy on managing occupational violence not provide adequate direction for education staff?

MS BERRY: I have spoken a number of times—and I am happy to continue to speak—about the complications of a human services workforce that is sometimes required to deal with issues that can lead to exposure to occupational violence. Our schools are inclusive environments and that means that sometimes people will come into our schools with behaviours that expose some people to violence in the workplace.

Unfortunately that has led to a culture within human services systems, like schools, where staff feel that they might be letting somebody down if they report an incident that might have occurred. The government is changing the culture within that environment to say that it is okay because part of their job is to ask for help. It is not a judgement on their ability or their profession to ask for help to ensure that every child gets the support they need and for teachers to be provided with the training and support they need to support every child in our schools.

Education—community schools

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, regarding the proposal for community schools mentioned in your future of education statement, how will community schools differ from current ACT public schools?

MS BERRY: Our ACT government public schools are already very inclusive places and already have a number of partnerships with communities, businesses and sporting organisations. What this strategy will look at is what are the best kinds of community school models that currently exist in our schools, programs that we could pilot in our schools to strengthen these relationships that lead to better outcomes, particularly for those students who are disadvantaged or who come from vulnerable backgrounds.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, will your proposed community schools have more of a say about the curriculum, subjects and associated activities than existing schools?

MS BERRY: I think that there is an assumption that there will be some new schools created as a result of this strategy. What this strategy is creating are opportunities to look at the best and most innovative teaching and community school models that could exist in the ACT to support our students to be even better, to provide environments for our teachers that are even better, to provide supports to our students and to have really strong partnerships with community support organisations, with

sports groups, with businesses, with employers and with mental health organisations for psychological and other welfare supports. Those are the kinds of things that make up a strong school community and those are the sorts of things that the government is investigating as part of this strategy, to ensure that our schools are—

Mr Coe: Madam Speaker, I raise a point of order. Mrs Kikkert's question was specifically about whether school communities, as a defined term in the report, will have more of a say about curriculum subjects and associated activities. I ask that the minister be directly relevant.

MADAM SPEAKER: Could you go to those points, Minister.

MS BERRY: Madam Speaker, I must have misunderstood the question. I assumed that the question was about some schools being different to our public schools that exist right now in the ACT. I tried to clarify at the start of my answer that that is not the case. It is about investigating models existing already in our school systems, and other models that might not exist already, to build strong partnerships and build strong school communities.

MS LEE: Minister, again aside from external users who are going to be using the school facilities or buildings, what are the features of what you propose as a community school for the ACT and what decisions will the community be able to take for those schools?

MS BERRY: This is about building strong partnerships with lots of different organisations across the ACT community. I am not sure what is so confusing about that. Those relationships already exist in some of our schools.

Opposition members interjecting—

MS BERRY: I do not think it is very funny. I think it is a very important thing for our schools to be strong community partners and not just places of education; places where everybody can come together and contribute to the best possible outcomes for our students and for our teaching staff and for all our staff in our schools, particularly for volunteers and for our parents and citizens associations to be engaged in how we can strengthen our school communities to be even more inclusive and supportive, and to focus on that principle of equity to ensure that those children in our community who do not have the same chances as everyone else get the same opportunities to lift and broaden their horizons through those strong supports.

Arts—funding

MS ORR: My question is to the Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events. Minister, I note that you have made a number of announcements on the arts in recent months around grants, boards and councils in the ACT. Can you please update the Assembly on the outcome of the latest round of arts activity funding?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Orr for the question. I was pleased in May this year to announce a new, more flexible and frequent approach to funding arts projects which has been very well received across the arts community.

This year's advertised pool of \$775,000 in project funding, which is now called arts activity funding, is delivered in two major rounds each year of grants of up to \$50,000, as well as a rolling program of grants of up to \$5,000. On 31 October I announced the first recipients of the \$5,000 to \$50,000 funding round, which resulted in 16 projects being funded, to a total of \$303,000, with a further \$300,000 available in the next round, which opens on 1 December.

The quality of applications, not surprisingly, was very high. Successful projects included the recording, mixing and mastering of an EP of new hip hop music by artist KG, a visual arts project pairing seven community artists who live with disability from Hands On Studio with seven working Canberra artists, and the BOLD II Festival, which celebrates the legacy and impact of professional and community dance across all ages and cultures.

Unsuccessful applicants in this round are welcome to apply again for the next round. The up to \$5,000 funding is available all year round. To date 17 successful applications have received total funding of over \$62,000 of the \$175,000 that is available for this financial year.

There is a full list of the funding recipients on the artsACT website. The variety and strength of these successful projects further showcase the vibrancy of the Canberra arts sector and its strong contribution to the social, cultural and economic life of this city.

MS ORR: Can the minister outline what the recent grants for capacity building in the arts sector are achieving?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary question. The arts capacity building funding I announced earlier this year was in response to feedback I received from the arts and is being delivered in a number of ways. The Ainslie and Gorman arts centres have been granted funding of \$25,000 for capacity building for ACT artists in 2018 and 2019 for the design and delivery of free assistance to ACT artists to conceptualise and develop arts projects and to develop funding applications, including to the ACT government.

MusicACT has been granted funding of \$108,000 for capacity building for the live music sector in 2018 and 2019 to deliver a program of workshops and seminars on professional skills development; working with promoters, event managers and record companies; staging performance; self-promotion; the impact of digital technology; and support for all-ages concerts.

MusicACT launched the new program at Smith's Alternative on 24 October to a packed audience, and the government is committed to supporting Canberra's live music sector to enliven our city and support the night-time economy.

ArtsACT has awarded a contract to Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre for capacity building services to ACT arts organisations to increase their skills and knowledge in governance, strategic planning, risk management, sponsorship and marketing. The service will assist to build capacity, sustainability and professionalism

in ACT arts organisation, and that will commence shortly.

MS CHEYNE: Can the minister update the Assembly on the recent board and council appointments?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. Earlier this month I was delighted to announce the formation of the Minister's Creative Council and appoint its inaugural 11 members. The role of the council will be to advise the ACT government on arts and cultural sector issues to inform future policy development. The purpose and the nature of the council were determined after extensive sector consultation and it has been very warmly welcomed by the arts community.

There were 87 high calibre applications. The successful people on this council now bring to the table strong connections to the arts community, as well as collective diverse arts practice. The members of the council have among them experience in visual arts, music, dance, theatre and performing arts, literature, film, festival curation, the media, arts administration, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures, and social inclusion, including working with seniors, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and people with a disability.

The council's combined diverse experience and ties will deliver great outcomes for Canberra's arts sector. The first meeting of the council will be before the end of this calendar year. I look forward to meeting with them. I also recently announced a number of new appointments to the board of the Cultural Facilities Corporation, including a former Supreme Court judge, a former director of the British Council Australia, a former Queensland MP and the new chair of the creative council.

This esteemed group of people will be very well placed to help steer the CFC through the next exciting phase of consideration of a new theatre for Canberra and the revitalisation of the Civic Square cultural precinct.

Canberra Hospital—asbestos

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Yesterday, Minister, you told the Assembly, "I was advised about asbestos removal works in July 2017 in ward 11A. It was being refurbished at the time." Minister, has the refurbishment of ward 11A been completed? If not, when will it be completed?

MS FITZHARRIS: Yes. I believe that I also indicated in my comment yesterday that the acute aged care ward was completed and that I was very pleased to attend the opening of that in around February of this year.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, are there any wards at the Canberra Hospital which are currently closed for any reason?

MS FITZHARRIS: I am sorry; I missed the last part of Mrs Dunne's question.

MRS DUNNE: Are there any wards at the Canberra Hospital closed at the moment for any reason?

MS FITZHARRIS: I know that the oncology ward is being upgraded, but I do not believe, in terms of wards being closed and beds not being available, that that is the case. Of course, there is the ongoing upgrade of the oncology ward; I do not know precisely where that is up to. But the fundamental issue is: are beds open in certain wards? Yes, they are.

MRS JONES: Minister, how many wards on the Canberra Hospital campus are partly closed or in any way have beds taken out at the moment or are not being used because of reduced capacity for this type of matter, for refurbishments and so on?

MS FITZHARRIS: There are a number of beds open at any given point, I believe around 670 at the moment. In some instances they will be shifted around different locations in the hospital, particularly for important matters like upgrades, which we did with the acute aged care ward and which we will do with the cancer ward as well. Certainly in terms of Mrs Jones's question, none that I am aware of.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—duress alarms

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for Corrections and Justice Health. Minister, I refer to the minutes of an occupational health and safety meeting for mental health, justice health and alcohol and other drug services held on 23 August 2018. It referred to a duress alarm at the AMC not working. Minister, what were the problems with the duress alarm at the AMC in August and have they been fixed?

MR RATTENBURY: I will provide the specifics of that matter on notice to Mrs Jones.

MRS JONES: Are all the duress alarms in the justice health system currently in good working order?

MR RATTENBURY: To the best of my knowledge. Again, I will check that and if there is anything different I will let Mrs Jones know.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, are all the duress alarms in the justice health system currently accounted for, and what actions are taken to ensure that all systems are in place to protect staff, clients and visitors in the justice health system?

MR RATTENBURY: In regard to the first half of Mrs Dunne's question, I will check that. I cannot tell whether Mrs Dunne thinks that there is a problem or if she just wants to know, but I will make sure that I have a fully factual answer for her.

In terms of the second half of the question, we have discussed this many times. We have an extensive range of protections in place for staff, ranging from training and clinical techniques through to physical security responses.

ACT Supreme Court—coat of arms

MR HANSON: My question is to the Attorney-General: it has been reported in the *Canberra Times* that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has decided not to

include the Canberra coat of arms in the new Supreme Court building and is considering creating a new insignia. I have been approached by many in the legal profession who have expressed outrage at the decision not to include the coat of arms and who have apparently taken to refusing to bow when entering the courtroom. When did you first become aware that the Chief Justice had decided not to include the existing coat of arms in the new courtrooms?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Hanson for the question. There has been some consideration around a new coat of arms. In terms of the particular date, I will take that on notice. It was several months before the opening of the new building.

MR HANSON: Minister, whose decision is it to place or not place a coat of arms in the court buildings and court rooms? Is that the government's decision or is it the judiciary's decision?

MR RAMSAY: It is a matter that we have worked very closely on with the judiciary and that is certainly something that we take very seriously not only in terms of the working of the court but also the separation of powers and the rightful place of the judiciary—

Mr Hanson: On a point of order, I fear that you may not get to the direct answer before sitting down. If I could, on a point of order of relevance—and I appreciate he has only just started—the question is: in law, whose decision is it? Is it the judiciary or is it the government that makes these decisions?

MADAM SPEAKER: Attorney-General to the point, you have most of your two minutes left.

MR RAMSAY: Thank you very much. It is a matter that we believe is important for us to work together with the judiciary on. In terms of the decision within the court building, the judiciary has made clear that they would prefer not to have the current Canberra coat of arms.

One of the things that we will continue to do is invest in the best access to justice. Our investment in—

Mr Hanson: On a point of order, as I feared, he did not get to it. The question was quite clear. Whose decision is it? I appreciate that he works collaboratively with the judiciary but whose decision is it when it relates to court buildings?

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, I cannot direct the minister other than to ask him to be relevant to the question. Mr Hanson is proposing he wants a simple answer: you have more than a minute, Mr Ramsay.

MR RAMSAY: There are no current plans for the ACT government to install a coat of arms in the building and we believe that it is best determined in consultation with the judiciary, as we have done with all of the new court building.

Let me say again: the government's investment has been very significant. We believe that the most important investment that we have in this building is the additional jury

rooms, the strong support for our juries to make sure that we have good access to great technology which is leading technology. We believe that that is the key thing for the government to be investing in. We have invested in that and we will continue to concentrate on access to timely and transparent justice.

MR WALL: Attorney, will you table in the Assembly all correspondence between the government and the Chief Justice relating to the use of a coat of arms in the new court buildings, given that these documents would not constitute legal advice and therefore not be privileged?

MR RAMSAY: I will take that on notice.

Roads—traffic management

MISS C BURCH: My question is to the Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events. On Saturday, 17 November, the Anthems event was held at the National Arboretum. Patrons report that it took over an hour to get from the city to the arboretum, that they waited for over 1½ hours to get on a bus at the conclusion of the event, and that it took over 1½ hours to get from the arboretum back to the city. Minister, what traffic management plans were in place to ensure that people could get to and from the Anthems event at the arboretum quickly and safely?

MR BARR: Madam Speaker, the arboretum falls under my responsibility for territory venues. The event was a private event, organised by a private events company. So all of those questions are in fact ones best directed to that company. However, I am happy to assist Miss C Burch in seeking that information and providing it to the Assembly.

MISS C BURCH: Chief Minister, what oversight did the government have of crowd management and traffic management plans at the event and at the shuttle locations in city west car park and Lake Tuggeranong College to ensure the safety of people waiting for buses?

MR BARR: As I indicated, this was not a government event. It was held at a venue that the ACT government owns, but the responsibility for the event management sits with the private event management company. I will get that information. It was not an ACT government event but it was held at an ACT government venue. Obviously there is some confusion, including with Miss C Burch, as to whether we have responsibility for that. We do not. We were not the event organiser. We simply allowed our venue to be utilised for a private event.

MR WALL: Chief Minister, was a traffic management plan required for the Anthems event staged at the arboretum? Likewise, what additional safety or traffic management precautions or procedures were put in place in the ACT over that weekend, given that there were three major events?

MR BARR: There are traffic management plans required to stage major events in the territory. The location of those events will, of course, determine which government agency is responsible for the regulatory approvals.

In relation to the other events that Mr Wall refers to, one was held on National Capital Authority land, and they would have been the responsible agency in relation to that matter. Certainly, the street party in Lonsdale Street required street closure and road traffic management plans. Similarly, events at the arboretum would require that, but they are the responsibility of the event organiser, a private events company.

Waste—recycling

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for City Services: noting that Recycling Week ran from 12 to 18 November, can you update us on what activities the ACT government undertook to support this important initiative?

MR STEEL: I thank Ms Cheyne for her question. National Recycling Week was an important opportunity to educate the community about the environmental benefits of recycling and how we can all minimise waste and better manage these important resources.

As part of Recycling Week Canberrans were given the opportunity to go behind the scenes to see firsthand how recycling and resource recovery processes work in the ACT. Information sessions were held on how people can reduce their household food waste. A free composting and worm farming workshop was on offer for those with gardens. Behind the scenes tours were offered at Soft Landing to see how mattresses are recycled, a really great example of how we can create jobs in a new circular economy. Tours were provided through the Corkhill Bros facility to see how green waste is recycled. The community were shown through the Fyshwick container deposit scheme collection point, including the state-of-the-art sorting machinery.

The Green Shed in Mitchell showed off its upcycling skills of turning junk into art and furniture. And I was pleased to visit our recycling discovery hub at the materials recovery facility as ABC Canberra explored what you should and should not be putting into your recycling. Here in the Assembly, Zero Waste Revolution hosted a waste management best practice showcase as we continue our efforts to recover as many resources as possible before they go into landfill.

There were many more events during the week, and congratulations to Planet Ark in particular on the week. The ACT government looks forward to supporting the initiative in the future.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how is the rollout of green bins supporting better waste recovery? Importantly, how is Belconnen faring?

MR STEEL: I thank Ms Cheyne for her supplementary. The ACT government continues to deliver on our agenda and our election commitment to grow services for the community, including green bins, which are helping to reduce the amount of garden organic waste being sent to landfill. 15,735 Belconnen households are utilising the service since collections commenced at the beginning of September. In Belconnen, that represents just over 40 per cent of all households signing up for the service in the first two months of operation.

In total, 38,294 households across Weston Creek, Tuggeranong and Belconnen have

green bins, with 41 per cent being concession cardholders; 4,733 tonnes of organic waste has been collected from green bins, with an exceptional contamination rate of just 0.01 per cent; 2,746 tonnes of green waste has been collected in the Kambah and Weston Creek pilot areas since April 2017; 1,570 tonnes have been collected in the remainder of Tuggeranong since January of this year; and 417 tonnes have been collected from Belconnen so far.

Awareness is growing of the program. 2019 will be an exciting time for the remainder of Canberra, with the ACT government extending green bin services to remaining suburbs next year, ahead of schedule.

MS CODY: Minister, what impact is the container deposit scheme having on recycling?

MR STEEL: I thank Ms Cody for her supplementary. The container deposit scheme continues to be embraced by the Canberra community, helping to reduce the number of containers going to landfill. From 30 June to 18 November, more than 5.7 million containers had been returned to one of nine collection points across the city. We are working with operator Re.Group to see how we can expand the number of collection points across Canberra, and make it even easier for people to deposit their containers so that we can grow the number of containers being recycled.

As we improve recycling, we are also seeing the social benefits of the scheme, particularly through community groups and schools supporting the scheme. Just a few weeks ago, I visited Daramalan College where the school has teamed up with St Vincent de Paul to provide collection points around the school. Students are encouraged to recycle their containers properly, with the proceeds going to Vinnies. This approach has also been taken up by hotels like the Mantra on MacArthur Avenue and Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club. As a result of the CDS, St Vincent de Paul is receiving a significant revenue source to support their important work in our community.

As the container deposit scheme continues to grow, I am sure that we will continue to see the social benefits of even more containers being recycled here in Canberra.

Public housing—Chapman

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, recent media reports indicate that work has started on the Chapman public housing site before ACAT has released reasons for rejecting a resident's appeal against this proposal. Minister, why have you allowed work to commence before publication of ACAT's rationale for their decision?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Parton for this question. I have been advised that the decision ACAT made was delivered verbally to the applicant and to the ACT government, and that barristers for the ACT government and a barrister for the applicant were present during the decision.

After a decision was made, there is a 28-day time frame when an applicant can make an appeal on the decision of ACAT. I understand that that has not occurred but that

there are still opportunities, should people want to make a submission—

Mr Parton: But they have not seen the reasons.

MS BERRY: They were both told and there were barristers in the room. Both barristers were there, including the barrister of the applicant. The reason why a verbal decision was made at that point in time, I am advised, is that considerable time had passed since the time when the original ACTPLA decision was made.

Presidential Member McCarthy noted during his verbal decision, which is available on transcript, I understand, that the need for the community and industry to have confidence in the planning process and to ensure development is not delayed any longer than required was the reason why he made a verbal decision prior to putting out a written decision.

The verbal decision stands and is available, I understand, on transcript. That is the recollection that has been provided to me on what happened during that ACAT hearing.

MR PARTON: Minister, will you stop this work and allow Chapman residents, who do not believe that they have access to the reasons for this ACAT decision—they do not believe that they have the reasons in front of them—a fair go at an appeals process?

MS BERRY: As I said, the advice that I have is that the residents or the applicants to ACAT were provided with a verbal decision by Presidential Member McCarthy and were advised, I understand, with their barrister present, that they could appeal that decision if they would like. So all of that information has been provided. They had legal support, I understand, with them during that verbal decision that was made, and the appeal process was available to them should they decide to do that. So no; the process has been gone through. ACAT has made its decision and the government is able to go ahead and continue to develop public housing for some of the most vulnerable people in our community in Chapman.

MRS JONES: Why did you not inform the Chapman residents back in 2017 of intentions to sell part of the block for another use?

MS BERRY: That was a decision of government.

Government—procurement policies

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Government Services and Procurement. Minister, I refer to reports in the media of 4 October that EventsACT staff signed \$550,000 of contracts without the correct authority. Staff also gave out nearly \$700,000 of work without a contract and failed to get the minimum three quotes for about \$160,000 worth of work. When did the ACT government first become aware that EventsACT was not following the proper procurement processes in relation to the event?

MADAM SPEAKER: Chief Minister, you are taking that?

MR BARR: I will take that question. Yes, it has obviously been the subject of previous questioning and I will take that date on notice.

MR WALL: I ask either the Minister for Government Services and Procurement or the Chief Minister: what have you done to satisfy yourself that EventsACT has followed the correct procurement processes in relation to other events such as the Enlighten Festival?

MR BARR: Yes, following those particular issues there has been a series of training courses for staff in that area. The details of that were provided to the opposition, I believe, through a question on notice in the past week or so.

MR COE: Chief Minister, what changes to processes have you put in place to ensure that your directorate is using the correct procurement process?

MR BARR: The directorate is aware that they failed in this particular instance. As I mentioned in my response to the previous answer, they have put in place a range of training mechanisms and processes to address that.

Mr Coe: It's your success but their failures.

MR BARR: Ministers do not participate in the procurement process. Mr Coe knows that. That is rightly handled independently by the public service. In this instance there was a failure of process. It has been addressed, and training has been provided for staff who undertake procurement activities.

Sport—government support

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation: how do recent announcements in the sport and recreation portfolio show the confidence of sports to invest in elite content and facilities in Canberra?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cody for the question. As the calendar year draws to a close a steady flow of announcements continues to build on Canberra's place as a sporting capital. This is elite sporting codes wanting a clear presence not only in our strong community but also in our high performing economy.

The \$19 million Canberra District Rugby League Centre of Excellence and Community Hub represents a significant investment into the sport by the ACT government in partnership with the Canberra Raiders and the New South Wales government. Drawing this cross-border investment is a huge vote of confidence for Canberra's place in the region, and it is great that both governments and the Raiders have been able to come together in this way. This new facility will give the Canberra Raiders access to a state-of-the-art high performance training venue.

Elsewhere, in elite basketball the NBL has sought to explore opportunities to return elite men's basketball content to the ACT market. Earlier this month I announced that the Illawarra Hawks will play a home game at the AIS Arena on 26 January 2019. While it is a single-year agreement, the Hawks are enthusiastic to maximise

their engagement with the community and Basketball ACT in 2018-19 to demonstrate the potential participation, visitation and high performance value of a long-term engagement with the ACT beyond the current year. That includes working with the Canberra Capitals, which I absolutely encourage and applaud.

The Football Federation Australia has confirmed that the Canberra region's bid is one of six remaining bids vying for two new competition licences in an expanded A-League. The A-League team have also engaged with Canberra United, our elite women's team, and I am very happy that they have decided that is a good and successful path for them to be on.

In cricket, Manuka is of course getting ready for the historic first test this summer. *(Time expired.)*

MS CODY: Minister, what broader community benefits will the Rugby League centre of excellence have for the city and the region?

MS BERRY: In addition to providing top-level training facilities for the Raiders, the centre of excellence and community hub will significantly enhance and support the delivery of community Rugby League programs, including female, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and junior programs, in the ACT and across southern New South Wales. The community programs the facility will be used for include grassroots Rugby League programs, school coaching clinics, ACT and school touch football competitions, community coaching programs and Indigenous programs.

Not only will this facility become the home of our current crop of Raiders players, it will also play an important role in developing future Raiders players. I particularly want to thank the Raiders for working with the ACT government to adjust their designs to be more gender neutral. Again, despite what was said in this place yesterday, old-school sports pavilions with stand-up urinals are not inclusive of women. It turns out that it is quite a challenge for female athletes to use these. I know that I will have Mrs Jones's back as I implement this policy.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, how do the CBR Sport Awards help to capitalise on these milestones and further grow our sporting community?

MS BERRY: The awards, which will be held this week on Friday, are another example of how far sport has come in a few years. The annual CBR Sport Awards are an opportunity for the sector to come together and publicly acknowledge some of the great achievements that occur each year. This includes not only athletic performance but also organisational excellence through the three minister's awards: innovation, event excellence and inclusion.

Often sporting clubs and organisations and event teams and individual athletes are consumed by their own busy-ness. So much time, effort and focus can be on personal performance or on our own club competition or project that we do not have time to pause and reflect and to learn from others around us. Awards processes can provide this opportunity. They can provide the opportunity to see what others are doing and how they have done it, how they got the results, and what partnerships helped them achieve a particular win, whether it was a win on or off the park.

Since the relaunch of the CBR Sport Awards in 2016, the number of nominations has more than doubled. Nearly 100 nominations were received in 2018. The CBR Sport Awards bring together an industry that has tremendous value to the community and to our economy. It enhances community health. It builds the social fabric and volunteerism. It is great to be able to celebrate these qualities at the end of this year.

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