



# Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**TENTH ASSEMBLY**

**3 DECEMBER 2020**

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**Thursday, 3 December 2020**

**MADAM SPEAKER** (Ms Burch) (10.01): Members:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.  
Yanggu ngalawiri, dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.  
Nginggada Dindi dhawura Ngunnaawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.

The words I have just spoken are in the language of the traditional custodians and translate to:

This is Ngunnawal country.  
Today we are gathering on Ngunnawal country.  
We always pay respect to Elders, female and male, and Ngunnawal country.

Members, I ask you to stand in silence and pray or reflect on our responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

## **Petitions**

*The following petitions were lodged for presentation:*

### **Waste—proposed Fyshwick facility—petition 13-20**

*By Ms Lee, from 1,737 residents:*

#### **To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly**

The following residents of the ACT draw to the attention of the Assembly that the ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011-2025 outlines the benefits arising from co-locating waste facilities in the Hume Resource Recovery Estate, including increasing resource recovery and reducing costs and traffic movements.

We fully support this initiative; however, we note this aspiration is being threatened by proposed large scale heavy waste facilities in locations other than the Recovery Estate, and less than one kilometre from homes, childcare centres, food markets, retail shops, cafes and environmentally-sensitive wetlands in Canberra's Inner South.

Allowing large waste facilities in Fyshwick will see various waste streams processed too close for comfort and safety to where Canberrans live, work and play. This includes more heavy vehicle traffic and heightened risks of odour, dust, noise, and fire from:

- putrescent organic waste,
- asbestos-containing material,
- shredding car bodies,
- crushing construction and demolition waste,
- grease trap, drilling mud and oily water liquid waste.

The load proposed across the two locations is 1.4 million tonnes a year (around 130,000 waste trucks) which is 40% more than the ACT's current annual waste at Mugga Lane (around one million tonnes).

The potential impact on the comfort, well-being and safety of thousands of people who visit the precinct daily is affecting business confidence and threatening the jobs of 13,000 workers.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the Assembly to reject any current and future proposals for waste processing facilities in Fyshwick and work with the proponents to find more suitable alternate sites.

*The Clerk having announced that the terms of the petition would be recorded in Hansard and referred to the appropriate ministers for response pursuant to standing order 100, the petition was received.*

*Pursuant to standing order 99A, the petition, having more than 500 signatories, was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.*

### **Motion to take note of petitions**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Pursuant to standing order 98A, I propose the question:

That the petition so lodged be noted.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Leave of absence**

Motion (by **Mr Gentleman**) agreed to:

That leave of absence be granted for all Members for the period 4 December 2020 to 8 February 2021.

Motion (by **Mr Hanson**) agreed to:

That leave of absence be granted to Mr Coe for today due to family reasons.

### **Standing orders—suspension**

Motion (by **Mr Gentleman**) agreed to, with the concurrence of an absolute majority:

That so much of standing orders be suspended as would allow the time allocated for the adjournment debate for today continuing past 30 minutes.

### **Standing orders—suspension**

Motion (by **Mr Gentleman**) agreed to, with the concurrence of an absolute majority:

That:

For the sitting period 9 to 11 February 2021, so much of Standing Orders be suspended so that:

(1) The ordinary business of the Assembly shall be:

Prayer or reflection

Presentation of petitions

Ministerial statements

Notices and orders of the day (Executive business)

Questions without notice

Presentation of papers

Presentation of Private Members' business (as ordered by the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure)

Notices and orders of the day (Executive business)

provided that at 2 pm on each day the Speaker shall interrupt the business before the Assembly in order that questions on notice shall be called on; and

(2) Following the conclusion of question time and presentation of papers on:

a. 9 February 2021, Executive business shall be called forthwith to enable the Treasurer to present the appropriation bills to the Assembly; and

b. 11 February 2021, Executive business shall be called forthwith to enable the Opposition to present a reply to the appropriation bills; and

(3) On 9-11 February 2021, Assembly business shall have precedence over Executive business in the ordinary routine of business for 45 minutes from the conclusion of consideration of any Executive notices of intention to present bills and when the time for precedence to Assembly business expires, any Member may move that the time allotted to that business be extended by 30 minutes and the question on such motion shall be put forthwith without amendment or debate.

## **Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2020**

**Mr Rattenbury**, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (10.05): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 to the Assembly. The bill is an omnibus bill which makes minor, technical or non-controversial amendments to laws falling primarily within my portfolio as the Attorney-General.

The bill makes amendments across 17 pieces of legislation. These amendments will improve the administration and operation of the territory's laws for different groups in our community. The amendments will not only improve the regulation of government, professional and community bodies; they will also provide better protections and promote better services for vulnerable persons. There will also be improvements to the clarity of the territory's laws, particularly through the updating of unclear and outdated references and provisions.

I am pleased to note that the bill today is the first Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill in the Tenth Assembly, in this new term of government. As the bill is also a result of consultation with government and community bodies, the presentation of the bill today demonstrates that the government is quickly and diligently delivering on its commitment to listen to and work with the community to ensure effective laws in the territory. I thank those who have given their time to engage with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate throughout the development of this bill.

This bill contains amendments which improve protections and promote better services for the more vulnerable in our community. The changes to the Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991 recognise the vulnerability of principals with decision-making capacity under enduring powers of attorney and the challenges they face in enforcing their rights.

The changes allow the Public Trustee and Guardian, Public Advocate, ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal and relevant persons to take action to protect a principal even with decision-making capacity. The Public Trustee, Public Advocate and the tribunal will also be able to provide better services to the community, as these amendments assist them to protect vulnerable principals.

Similar improvements in protections and services to vulnerable principals are made by the amendments to the Powers of Attorney Act 2006 and the Public Trustee and Guardian Act 1985. The amendments make permanent certain measures which were initially introduced on a temporary basis under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Legislation Amendment Act 2020 (No 1).

The bill makes amendments to the Powers of Attorney Act 2006 that will permanently require attorneys to keep accurate records and keep their property separate from the principal's property in property matters, irrespective of a principal's decision-making capacity. The bill will also permanently require individuals, in addition to other entities, to provide the Public Trustee and Guardian with information or documents relevant to the exercise of the Public Trustee and Guardian's functions.



These measures will reduce the potential for financial abuse of a principal under an enduring power of attorney, provide the Public Trustee and Guardian the continued ability to enforce the rights of protected persons, and assist the Public Trustee and Guardian to conduct its statutory functions without impediments.

It is important to note that the bill further improves the administration and operation of the territory's laws by updating unclear and outdated references and provisions. An example of this is the amendments to the Administration and Probate Act 1929. The bill updates an archaic reference to and confusion about the term "Ordinary in England" when describing the Public Trustee and Guardian's functions and obligations in the administration of intestate estates.

The amendments also allow an intestate estate to vest absolutely in people who are both unmarried and under the age of 18. The amendments to the Administration and Probate Act bring this outdated law into line with contemporary community standards, engaging and promoting the right to equality and non-discrimination.

This bill contains a number of amendments which clarify or ensure the efficiencies in the financial operations of government and community organisations. The bill makes amendments to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008 and ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Regulation 2009 which will clarify the operation of the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Trust and its related processes. This fund is currently used for a range of important purposes, including the administration of the ACAT.

The amendment to the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 streamlines the financial operations of small incorporated associations in the territory. The amendment today reverses the unintended consequence introduced by the Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2018. This means that members can review their association's statement of accounts where the associations are not registered under the Commonwealth's Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. This removes any added cost and inconvenience to small incorporated associations to comply with the provision in the territory.

The bill also makes improvements to the laws applying to government and the legal profession. The amendments to the Legislation Act 2001 and the Public Sector Management Act 1994 strengthen oversight over the regulation-making powers of the territory's executive. The amendments now require that a statutory instrument may only be taken to be signed by the executive where it is signed by both the Chief Minister and the relevant minister. The consequential amendments also provide options for when the Chief Minister is not available to sign an instrument in specific circumstances.

The bill also amends the Legal Profession Act 2006 to improve the regulation of the legal profession in the territory. It will now require legal practitioners holding or applying for a practising certificate or persons seeking admission to the legal profession to disclose whether they are or were a director of an incorporated legal practice under external administration. Relevant legal authorities must also consider

this matter when determining a person's admission to the legal profession, or when they grant or renew a practising certificate.

The bill will also provide an amendment which requires the relevant law councils in the territory to remove information about a person from their registers of disciplinary action where the person is deceased. Through these improvements, there will be additional safeguards for the community against dishonest legal practitioners, and safeguards which protect the integrity of and public confidence in the territory's legal profession.

I will also briefly mention several other important amendments in the bill to introduce a 30-day survivorship clause in cases of intestacy under the Wills Act 1968; remove legal impediments for the Public Trustee and Guardian to establish a wills bank in the future under the Public Trustee and Guardian Act 1985; make changes to the Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act 2015 to reflect the relocation of the affected person and youth justice victims registers from the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the Community Services Directorate to the Director-General of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate; and update and clarify references and definitions in the Residential Tenancies Act 1997, the Retirement Villages Regulation 2013 and the Security Industry Regulation 2003.

I am pleased to say that this bill is compatible with human rights and will, in fact, promote a number of rights. I am confident that the amendments in this bill will improve the effective administration and operation of the laws in the territory, and I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Lee**) adjourned to the next sitting.

## **Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2020**

**Mr Rattenbury**, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (10.14): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 to the Legislative Assembly. This bill will amend four existing acts to make minor but valuable improvements to legislation that support our criminal justice system.

Firstly, the bill will amend the Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act. This act was amended earlier this year to introduce an unexplained wealth scheme. Under this scheme the court can make an unexplained wealth restraining order. This type of order prevents a person from disposing of their assets if there are reasonable grounds

to suspect the person's total wealth exceeds the value of the person's wealth that was lawfully acquired, that the whole or part of the person's wealth was derived from serious criminal activity, and that the property may be required to satisfy an unexplained wealth order.

The new unexplained wealth scheme included a provision that enabled a person subject to an unexplained wealth restraining order to apply for some or all of their property to be excluded from the restraining order. The court must grant an exclusion only if it is satisfied, among other things, that the property is not required to be restrained to satisfy an unexplained wealth order.

Currently, there is some ambiguity as to whether a person whose property is subject to an unexplained wealth restraining order can apply to have property excluded relying on the restraining order exclusion provisions that are in the act to deal with applications for exclusion of property from other types of restraining orders. These other exclusion order provisions do not require the court to be satisfied that the property does not need to be restrained to satisfy an unexplained wealth order.

The amendments to the Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act make it clear that individuals subject to an unexplained wealth restraining order must use the particular provisions in the act that are part of the unexplained wealth scheme to seek any exclusion of property from an unexplained wealth restraining order. This will ensure that the unexplained wealth scheme operates as intended and, importantly, the court cannot exclude property from an unexplained wealth restraining order unless the court is satisfied that the property is not required to satisfy an unexplained wealth order.

Secondly, the bill will amend the Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act provisions relating to intensive correction orders. An intensive correction order allows an offender to serve a sentence of imprisonment in the community under strict conditions. If an offender who is serving an intensive correction order is convicted of a new offence punishable by imprisonment, this is a serious breach of a core condition of the order, and the court which imposed the intensive correction order must cancel the order, unless cancellation is not in the interests of justice. Where an intensive correction order is cancelled, the offender must serve the remainder of their sentence by full-time imprisonment.

The amendments made by the bill clarify the process for bringing an offender who is serving an intensive correction order when convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment before the appropriate court. The amendments also clarify which court must deal with the intensive correction order breach, depending on which court made or amended the intensive correction order and which court convicts the offender for the new offence.

Thirdly, the bill will amend the provisions of the Criminal Code establishing the offence of serious vilification. This offence is an important protection against the most extreme and threatening forms of discrimination. The amendments made by the bill will rectify a drafting error in the definition of one of the elements of the offence. This error arose when amendments were made to the offence provisions, and a consequential cross-referencing change was not included. The bill does not change the

nature of the offence or the types of behaviour this offence covers. The error has not affected any potential prosecutions of the offence.

Finally, the bill will amend the Magistrates Court Act to change the time frame for appeals against Magistrates Court convictions. Currently, a person convicted by the Magistrates Court has 28 days after conviction to lodge their appeal. Sometimes their appeal window is closed before they know what their sentence will be. This means defendants must sometimes decide whether to appeal against their conviction without being able to take their sentence into consideration. This also means defendants sometimes need to lodge two different appeals—one against their conviction and another against their sentence.

This amendment will allow defendants to appeal against Magistrates Court convictions in the 28 days after their sentence is confirmed. This will allow defendants to make an informed decision about whether to appeal. It will also streamline the appeals process, as fewer defendants will file separate appeals against their conviction and sentence. The Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety recommended this change in 2015 as part of its *Inquiry into sentencing* report. I am pleased to present this amendment, which delivers on this recommendation.

The amendments made by this bill, while minor or technical, will contribute to an efficient and effective criminal justice system. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Lee**) adjourned to the next sitting.

## **Standing orders—suspension**

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.20): Before I move to suspend standing orders, can I advise the chamber that the motion I moved earlier in regard to the period 9 to 11 February did not contain all of the detail. I refer members to the circulated motion. I move:

That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent Private Members' Business Notice No 1 being called on and debated forthwith.

Question resolved in the affirmative, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

## **Clubs—government support**

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (10.21): I move the motion standing in my name on the notice paper:

That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the important contribution made by community clubs in the ACT including:
  - (a) a social contribution of \$39 million through community donations, subsidised access to facilities and volunteering;

- (b) an investment of over \$150 million in local sporting teams and sporting infrastructure since 2000;
  - (c) jobs for 1,700 people;
  - (d) that clubs maintain and operate the vast majority of the ACT's sport and recreational infrastructure; and
  - (e) the support clubs provide to more than 1,000 community and sporting groups;
- (2) further notes that the ACT's community clubs have been heavily impacted by a combination of legislative change, government rates and charges and more recently by the COVID pandemic as evidenced by:
- (a) the closure of seven clubs in the last five years; and
  - (b) a reduction of gross gaming revenue in the last financial year of \$40 million with the likelihood of further reductions in the current financial year;
- (3) further notes that in his response to the Neville Stevens AO Report in 2018, the then Minister committed to a moratorium on machine reductions for five years; and
- (4) calls on the Government to:
- (a) protect the jobs of those 1,700 plus club staff by not legislating or taking any other action that would deter or impair clubs' ability to hold onto these;
  - (b) implement the Minister's stated commitment to a moratorium on machine reductions and regulatory change until 2024;
  - (c) establish a rigorous, Territory wide self-exclusion mechanism across the ACT for people experiencing gambling harm;
  - (d) make the necessary adjustments to allow clubs to diversify to other revenue sources;
  - (e) conduct an urgent review into water costs for those clubs maintaining sporting infrastructure; and
  - (f) report back to the Assembly on progress on each of these commitments no later than 24 June 2021.

Firstly, can I say genuine congratulations to everyone who was elected in October. Good on you. You have campaigned hard. You have taken your message to the electorate. They bought it and here you are. It is good. This is called democracy and it is a beautiful thing. It is a beautiful thing and I think that we all have to respect it. I think we would all agree, would we not, as opposed to, say, President Trump, that we can all respect the will of the people?

There are three parties represented in this chamber. Two of those parties went to an election six weeks ago promising a moratorium in the clubs space: the moratorium on machine reduction for our clubs and the moratorium on regulatory and tax change in the gaming space. One party, the party that secured 14 per cent of the primary vote, had a different view. I do not fully understand how it is that somehow we are going to implement the policies of that view, the policies of that minor party, to absolutely

trash the club sector, because it just does not sound like democracy to me. It just does not sound like it.

I know that I will hear from Minister Rattenbury on this motion. He is now the minister; so of course we are going to hear from him. We all know what his position is. He made it abundantly clear in a motion that he ran in this chamber in July. It was a motion that was heavily amended by Labor, through Gordon Ramsay, to reflect reality. If the motion in its original form had been voted on, it would have gone down 23 votes to two. Six weeks later and much of it is going to become government policy, despite the fact that 85 per cent of the electorate did not vote for it. I know that we will hear from Mr Rattenbury.

What I am keen to see is if anyone from the Labor Party is prepared to raise their head above the bunker and just explain to this parliament and explain to the club sector, explain to the employees of clubs, explain to the sporting groups, explain to the community organisations why their sensible, evidence-based approach for a moratorium on machine reduction and a moratorium on regulatory change is not their position now, because it was six weeks ago. I do not get it.

I did forecast this five months ago in this chamber. Five months ago in this chamber, back in July, I said, and these are the exact words:

... Labor's gaming policies are ... irrelevant. We all know that if there is to be a continuation of Labor government here in the ACT, it will be with the assistance of the Greens. ... Standalone Labor gaming policy is completely irrelevant. It will always become a victim of power-sharing agreements.

And I said back then:

Mr Ramsay can go back to the clubs and say, "We're really sorry, guys; this is what we wanted to do, but the Greens made us do this instead."

Mr Ramsay is no longer here, but I can guarantee that no-one from Labor is going to be brave enough to go back to the clubs and say, because this is what Mr Ramsay said when he met with clubs finally, at the end of the term, as the Indians were circling the wagon, "I know you have done the heavy lifting. I know that there will not be any more machine reductions and regulatory change. That is what we said. But we sort of led you up the garden path and it is going to be tough now, is it not, because you are on your own. Good luck. Good luck with Mr Rattenbury." Make no bones about it, Mr Ramsay was smart enough to know that things would be tough under these now-announced changes.

I respect that the motion that Mr Rattenbury brought to the chamber in July was not exactly what appears in the Greens' power-sharing agreement but certainly there are many aspects of that motion that do. When we debated Mr Rattenbury's motion back in July, Mr Ramsay said:

In relation to Mr Rattenbury's call for bet limits, it is important to note that there are significant challenges in implementing these restrictions for the existing gaming machines ... there will be costs involved and there are significant questions about whether clubs can bear those costs ...

Mr Ramsay went on to say—this is the champion of the clubs industry:

The capacity for the industry to engage in reform ... at this moment is ... limited ... Clubs are currently focused on their sustainability—

and survival—

so that they can continue to provide the services ...

They were the words from Gordon Ramsay who, at the end of the day, was not considered a friend of the clubs industry but who was savvy enough to wake up to the situation. He was savvy enough to read the wind and see what was going on out there.

Of course we know that the government took reform very seriously. They engaged Neville Stevens to conduct a review, which was long. It was a costly and exhaustive process. Recommendation 2 of the Stevens report is as follows:

The government commit to no change to gaming taxation measures and no further compulsory reduction in the overall number of gaming machine authorisations ...

These are not ideological games. What we are talking about here today are the jobs and the livelihoods of over 1,700 Canberrans.

But it goes much wider than that, and we saw this during the shutdown of the pubs. The shutdown put enormous pressure on so many of the suppliers to the clubs. So many businesses and their workers were threatened with closure and unemployment, such was the impact that the club shutdown had on all economic activity around our clubs.

The other thing that we learned—or at least I think most of us already knew it and it was reinforced during the clubs shutdown—in regard to the Greens’ apparent mission to lower problem gambling rates in the ACT, which I think is a great mission, and what we saw during the shutdown, particularly once the New South Wales clubs reopened many, many weeks before ours, was that that is where ACT pokies players went to play.

You could see this in a number of ways. I made a number of trips to Queanbeyan during this period and was astounded at the number of ACT numberplates in the car parks at the Kangaroos Club and the Queanbeyan Leagues Club. It was abundantly clear that most of the clientele at these clubs was from the ACT; and this is borne out by figures from ClubsNSW. ClubsNSW data released soon after the reopening compared per machine turnover in the fortnight prior to shutdown with per machine turnover in the fortnight after reopening. Across New South Wales the per machine turnover increased by a healthy 87 per cent in the fortnight after reopening. That is the New South Wales figure, 87 per cent. In Queanbeyan the figure was well in excess of 500 per cent. It was 87 per cent across New South Wales but in Queanbeyan it went up 500 per cent.

Why would the Queanbeyan figures be so much higher than the figures for the rest of the state? There can only be one explanation. It was the flood of players from the ACT, which saw a fivefold increase in the amount of money going into the machines in Queanbeyan.

I think that that is extremely significant when we consider the bigger picture of what is going on here, because I think it is clear that the Greens are on a mission to clear poker machines out of the ACT. I know that is not what they will say. They will just want to continue reducing them until they get down to nil. They want to reduce the number of poker machines to protect problem gamblers. They want to put in regulations to protect problem gamblers while jobs are lost here. It is crystal clear that ACT punters will just go across the border.

So jobs will be lost here. Clubs will close. Sporting teams will lose their facilities and their support. So many community groups will find themselves without funding. The suppliers who serve those clubs will also be forced to reassess their business. And the effect on problem gambling? Nothing; nothing at all. We will just go across the border and do it in Queanbeyan.

The biggest effect will be that this government will lose a source of revenue that is, in theory, going to assist those suffering problem gambling. The problem gamblers will still exist; but we will just have to find the means to assist them.

I am going to give Mr Rattenbury some credit, believe it or not. In the clubs industry there is a belief and a perception that Mr Rattenbury will engage with them more closely than Mr Ramsay did. Certainly my motion has included some of what I think are extremely positive aspects of the Labor-Greens power-sharing agreement in the club space, because I applaud them and I think we should march forward and institute them as quickly as we possibly can. I live in the hope that we can find a more pragmatic gaming minister in Mr Rattenbury; but I also understand that he is going to be hard pressed to do so because his voter base is demanding otherwise.

At this stage of the game I have not seen the amendments from Mr Rattenbury. I was certainly expecting some amendments. Wow! Give me a week to read those and I am sure that I will respond to those when Mr Rattenbury tables them.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (10.31): I thank Mr Parton for bringing forward this motion. The government recognises the important contribution that community clubs make to the ACT community. They do it in a number of ways, including providing facilities and activities for the community to use and enjoy; providing financial and in-kind support to the community; funding sporting teams and sport and recreation infrastructure; directly employing many Canberrans; and, as Mr Parton noted in his remarks, indirectly supporting further employment through their suppliers and contractors.

The clubs have been a really important social hub for so many in our community, and the historical origin of the clubs particularly speaks to that, where they were about the



community's interest and particular groups providing a focal point for their communities. Of course that has evolved over time but, nonetheless, the clubs remain a really important part of the social fabric of this city.

As we all know, 2020 has been a difficult year for the whole community in Canberra and beyond. I know the club industry has keenly felt the impacts of temporary closures and ongoing social distancing requirements, and I thank the clubs for playing their part in following the COVID-19 public health restrictions which have been so important in keeping our community safe. I know the clubs have also stepped up in a range of other ways through providing meals and really thinking about how they can use their capabilities to support the community during some of the difficult periods of COVID.

The parliamentary and governing agreement for the Tenth Legislative Assembly sets out this government's vision for the next four years for reducing harm from gaming whilst supporting sustainable clubs. This government sees clubs as spaces for Canberrans to gather with their friends and families for events and activities where the risk from gambling harm is reduced. We want clubs to be safe spaces for the whole community and we want them to be there in the years to come, as I spoke about in question time yesterday.

The government will engage with the club industry, unions and other key stakeholders through a ministerial advisory council. I appreciate Mr Parton's remarks on this. I am very keen to get that conversation going with the clubs and the other stakeholders that have an interest in this space. We need to think about the sustainable future of clubs, and we can best think about that through having an open dialogue and hearing each other's views.

Based on the conversation that I have had with some members of the clubs' community in recent times—not all, but some—I know plenty of people are up for that conversation and are looking forward to having it. I appreciate the positive feedback I have had in the first few weeks of this term from the people I have managed to speak with who have said that they are also looking forward to that conversation.

The club industry has already shown its willingness to engage with the previous government's reform agenda, most notably through the pathway to 4,000 gaming machine authorisations by 2020. With the support of incentives made available under the pathway and subsequent COVID-19 support measures made available to clubs, the number of gaming machine authorisations in the ACT has reduced from 4,946 in August 2018 to 3,868 today. The parliamentary and governing agreement includes a commitment to take a further reduction in the number of gaming machine authorisations to 3,500 by 1 July 2025. To get there we will look at incentives for clubs to further reduce their gaming machine authorisation numbers and explore the options for some clubs to go pokie free. Not every club is going to go pokie free, but we think that a number of clubs might look at a different business model, and that is the conversation we plan to have with them over time.

The ACT Greens have long advocated for a reduction in bet limits and load-up limits on gaming machines. Under the current bet limit of \$10 per spin, a person can lose more than \$1,000 an hour. The previous government ensured that any gaming machines introduced in the future into a redeveloped casino would be subject to \$2 bet limits. The industry has indicated that there may be some challenges in implementing lower limits on existing machines; and, while there are undoubtedly challenges, it is the government's view that it is time to work hard to reduce the potential harm of gaming machines by setting a lower maximum bet limit.

Of course this is the situation in all other jurisdictions except for New South Wales and the ACT. I note Mr Parton's remarks about people simply going over the border to Queanbeyan. It is a bit of a theme of some of the policy discussions we have had in this place, that Mr Parton comes here and says, "Well, New South Wales has poor laws and poor policies so the ACT should accept that standard." That is what he is saying, because he is opposing the bet limits that every other jurisdiction except New South Wales and the ACT have. Everyone else thinks that they are a good idea; but the industry lobby in New South Wales is particularly strong and Mr Parton suggests they are the standards we should be bound by. Well, I do not accept that argument; the ACT can and should do better.

These measures are harm minimisation measures. They are not saying you cannot play a poker machine; they are simply saying these machines are designed in a way that is problematic for some people in our community. We know that there are ways to minimise that harm. Measures can be put in place to limit that harm whilst still enabling poker machines to operate in this territory.

The parliamentary and governing agreement includes a specific commitment to introduce \$5 bet limits and \$100 load-up limits. To borrow a phrase, it won't happen overnight, but it will happen. We will consider the technical issues and develop a staged rollout for the implementation of these reduced limits, with the rollout starting by the end of 2022 at the latest. The transition plan will take into account the need to manage impacts on clubs, particularly smaller clubs that upgrade machines less frequently.

The government will establish a rigorous, across scheme, new self-exclusion regime across the ACT and there will be significant penalties for breaches. In developing this regime we will look at aligning with or exceeding reforms that are currently progressing in New South Wales and we will make sure to exceed other harm reduction reforms in New South Wales, such as cashless gaming, with appropriate safeguards.

Clubs have previously raised concerns about the planning system. Under the parliamentary and governing agreement, we have committed to consider how we can facilitate planning and other processes to support clubs in their efforts to diversify their revenue streams. The government is already undertaking a major review of the planning system which is addressing some of the issues raised by clubs. Minister Gentleman is progressing that work at the moment, and members will have seen the papers released earlier this week.

Club workers are such a critical part of what makes our clubs a great place to visit. We want to ensure that clubs look after these workers as the industry transitions away from gaming machine revenue. In the climate policy agreement we talk about the necessity for a just transition, and that is equally important here. As the necessary shift occurs in this sector, we want to ensure that workers are part of that journey and that retraining and new opportunities are provided where necessary.

Some clubs have raised the cost of water as an issue affecting their sustainability. In 2021 we will conduct a review into the water costs for high-intensity users of non-potable water. Clubs will also have access to a \$5 million building and energy efficiency upgrade fund to support them in making investments in their buildings that will have ongoing benefits through water and energy efficiency, reducing their fixed running costs. One of the key challenges for clubs during COVID was that patrons could not come because of the public health emergency but the bills kept coming in. If we can reduce those bills, that is one extra way to help the clubs.

Last summer showed us just how brutal and extreme the weather can be as the community endured heat, smoke and hail. Because of climate change, summers like the last are likely to become more common. We have committed to supporting clubs to become refuges for the community in such times of need. This could involve consideration of air filtration systems, as well as financial payments to venues that are designated official, extreme weather refuge sites.

We need places in Canberra where people can go when those sorts of circumstances arise, and looking to our clubs to be those places potentially provides them with a new source of revenue as government potentially pays for that service and keeps them relevant in our community, as well as being a place that people feel comfortable in.

These are the sorts of things that we can be innovative about in working with our clubs to think about. Not everyone is going to be able to go to the mall. Not everyone can fit in the libraries. We need more places where people can go under these extreme conditions and our clubs, we think, can be part of that solution. They have terrific facilities right across the community. They have lots of space. They are ideal for the sorts of needs our community will have in the future.

That is just one example of the sort of thing that I look forward to working on with the club industry and with other key stakeholders as we seek to implement this government's commitments as set out in the parliamentary and governing agreement. This important work over the coming months and years will help shape the future of the industry and enable clubs to continue their role as a key part of so many of Canberra's social occasions and events.

I have circulated an amendment—Mr Parton noted its length—but I felt it was important to include a range of things that Mr Parton left out of his motion. Mr Parton's motion essentially ignores the fact that the parliamentary and governing agreement exists. He calls for a range of policy measures which are not the policy measures that Labor and the Greens have agreed to. Just to make sure that it is clear, I have included in my amendment the terms of the parliamentary agreement because

that is the agenda over the coming four years. It is important to be transparent about that. We were transparent about it in the election campaign. The policy was out there for everybody to see. I do not recall seeing a policy from the Liberal Party on the club sector at all.

**Mr Parton:** There very much was, Mr Rattenbury, very early on in the piece.

**MR RATTENBURY:** I must have missed it. It was such a gem that no-one actually spoke about it publicly, but that's okay. Nonetheless, this amendment makes a couple of factual updates to the early part of the motion and then notes the plans for the government, moving forward. I commend the amendment to the Assembly. We are committed to working with the club sector to build a sustainable future for clubs, as I spoke about in question time yesterday. I move, by leave:

(1) Omit (1)(d), substitute:

“(1) (d) that clubs maintain and operate a portion of the ACT’s sports and recreation infrastructure;”

(2) Omit (2), substitute:

“(2) further notes that the ACT’s community clubs have been impacted by the COVID pandemic as evidenced by a reduction in gross gaming revenue in the last financial year of \$40 million with the likelihood of further reductions in the current financial year;”

(3) Omit all text after (2), substitute:

“(3) notes that seven clubs have closed since 2014 for a range of reasons;

(4) further notes the range of measures implemented over the past term that have significantly reduced the number of gaming machines operating in the ACT, while helping clubs take steps to diversify their revenue streams, including by:

(a) reducing the number of poker machine licenses from 4 938 to 3 888, a reduction of over 20 percent, through an innovative cash support and a land fees and charges offset scheme to help clubs develop their land holdings;

(b) offering a community club grant of \$10 000 to every small and medium club to provide immediate assistance to fund cost-saving measures, such as putting solar panels on a club roof;

(c) establishing an ongoing tax rebate for small-to-medium clubs of 50 percent of their gaming tax revenue;

(d) establishing a new small clubs liaison role to work with and assist clubs to navigate regulatory and administrative requirements;

(e) instituting quarterly tax lodgements for small clubs to ease their administrative burden; and

(f) reviewing and reforming the ACT Community Contributions Scheme to improve the transparency of funding, and to maximise this benefit to the community;

- (5) notes also that through the Covid-19 pandemic and associated necessary club and gaming room closures, the ACT Government stepped in to provide significant financial support to community clubs by:
  - (a) providing a six-month rebate of their fixed water and sewerage charges;
  - (b) making an additional \$1.5 million contribution to the Clubs Diversification Fund, distributing \$3.3 million from the Diversification and Sustainability Support Fund to fund workers' award wages, and allowing clubs to claim staff wages and COVID 19-related community aid as community contributions;
  - (c) waiving or refunding gaming machine tax liabilities for the first quarter of 2020; and
  - (d) paying \$15 000 for every gaming machine license voluntarily surrendered, to help with clubs' immediate cashflow issues;
- (6) notes that problem gambling, including poker machines, can cause significant harm to people, their families and communities. Many clubs are highly dependent on poker machine revenue and there is a need for new financial models for clubs that do not rely on people experiencing gambling harm;
- (7) notes that the 2018 Government Response to the ACT Club Industry Diversification Support Analysis Recommendations (the Stevens Review), committed to no further compulsory surrender processes once 4,000 authorisations was reached, as well as not to change the key elements of the trading scheme until 2025;
- (8) notes that the current approach of Government is to work collaboratively with clubs to diversify revenue streams and to provide incentives to encourage clubs to go pokies-free;
- (9) notes that to support clubs and reduce gambling harm, the government will prioritise implementation of the gambling reform measures agreed in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement which commits to:
  - (a) establish a Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council with government, industry and unions to build a long-term, sustainable clubs sector in the ACT;
  - (b) target a further reduction in the number of electronic gaming machine licences in the ACT to 3 500 by 1 July 2025, and support this through the introduction of incentives for Clubs to consider, including additional incentives to move to zero machines within a venue location;
  - (c) establish a rigorous, across-venue self-exclusion regime across the ACT for people experiencing harm from gaming, with significant penalties for breaches;
  - (d) match or exceed any further harm reduction gaming reforms commenced in NSW, such as cashless gaming;
  - (e) introduce the harm reduction measures of \$5 bet limits and \$100 load-up limits following a thorough review and transitional plan to manage impacts on clubs, particularly smaller clubs that upgrade machines less regularly, by the end of 2022;

- (f) facilitate planning and other processes to allow clubs to diversify to other revenue generating streams, particularly development of available land for social housing and land supply purposes, that are supported by the community;
  - (g) provide a just transition for workers in the community clubs and gambling industry by ensuring that new or transferred employment is on permanent and secure terms, providing support and retraining for employment in new jobs of their choosing and ensuring worker entitlements are secure in business transfer or winding up;
  - (h) conduct a review into water costs for high-intensity club users of non-potable water in 2021, with the goal to allow clubs to maintain operations while not requiring cross-subsidisation by other ACT water users;
  - (i) establish a five year \$5 million Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund, to be accessed by community clubs; and
  - (j) support clubs to become heat and smoke refuges for local communities. This will include ensuring appropriate air filtration systems, and financial payments for venues designated as official extreme weather refuge sites; and
- (10) calls on the Government to report back to the Assembly on outcomes of consultation with the sector including with the Ministerial Council, and on progress on each of these commitments no later than the last sitting day in October 2021.”

**DR PATERSON** (Murrumbidgee) (10.43): I would like to speak, with respect to Mr Parton’s motion during private members’ business, in support of the amendments put forward by Minister Rattenbury.

Clubs play an important role in the Canberra community. They are part of this city’s social fabric and provide facilities and support for many leisure, entertainment, sporting and recreational activities that Canberrans enjoy. However, what we cannot ignore in the ACT is the harm experienced by 10 per cent of the community as a result of gambling. This level of harm is not acceptable in our community.

I agree with Mr Parton that during the shutdown people did go to Queanbeyan. This demonstrates the level of the problem. We need to do better in the ACT. These are exactly the people for whom we need to be advocating when it comes to services and support. It is for this reason that the club sector has been, and will continue to be, required to move away from a reliance on revenue from poker machines.

With change comes opportunity. Where we move now is to a position of innovative initiatives, future thinking and new opportunities to secure the future of clubs in our community. The government has provided significant financial and non-financial support to clubs to assist them to become more sustainable and diversify their revenue streams away from gaming, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable clubs. We have provided \$14.4 million in incentives for the voluntary surrender of gaming machine authorisations. This includes \$648,000 in cash incentives and \$13.7 million in offset incentives for land-related payments, fees and charges.

The government's *Pathway to 4,000 gaming machine authorisations by 2020* proposed the creation of the diversification and sustainability support fund, whereby the government agreed to match industry contributions for the first three years of the DSSF's operation.

There are also extra incentives and supports for small and medium clubs, including \$10,000 community club grants to support viability. The 50 per cent gaming machine tax rebate serves to support their capacity to pursue revenue streams unrelated to gaming, which will continue until 2022. The administrative burden on small and medium clubs has been reduced by allowing them to submit quarterly, rather than monthly, gaming machine tax returns and payments. A small and medium clubs liaison function in Access Canberra has been established as a single point of contact for regulatory and administrative issues, and assistance to support diversification activities.

However, COVID-19 has thrown unprecedented challenges at the ACT and the club sector. Supporting the club sector through the COVID-19 public emergency has formed an important part of the overall public health response and will form an important part of the economic recovery.

As Mr Parton stated in his motion, gross gaming machine revenue has decreased by around \$40 million this financial year. However, it should be noted that the actual net revenue impact is lower as a result of significant ACT and commonwealth government support during the COVID-19 closures. We have provided a range of support measures to clubs through the COVID-19 economic survival package. These include suspending clubs' obligation to make payments to the diversification fund for 12 months. It should be noted that the government has continued its own contributions. The Minister for Gaming can declare certain payments to be emergency community purpose contributions for a certain period during and after the emergency closure directions.

In April and March the government delivered emergency funding relief of approximately \$3.3 million to clubs from the diversification and sustainability fund to support them to keep workers employed. Since June the government has offered cash payments of \$15,000 to gaming machine licensees—clubs and hotels—in exchange for surrendered gaming machine authorisations. To date, a total of 129 authorisations have been surrendered by clubs under this incentive, for cash payments totalling \$1.9 million.

What I have demonstrated here today is that the ACT government values and supports the ACT club sector and will continue to do so. That is why I support Minister Rattenbury's amendments to Mr Parton's private member's motion.

**MS VASSAROTTI** (Kurrajong) (10.48): I would like to take a few moments to speak in support of Mr Rattenbury's amendments and reflect on the fact that there is tri-party agreement and recognition that a significant contribution is made by community clubs. However, discussions have been going on for a long time now on the need to introduce sensible reform around gambling harm in this community.

When Mr Parton talks about the Greens voter base, what he is actually talking about is the Canberra community. A significant community conversation has been going on for many years around the impact of gambling harm. Dr Paterson talked about some of the reforms that have been happening for some time.

A report that was put out by the ACT government last year noted that there was significant concern about the impact of gambling harm and that there was significant gambling harm caused in the ACT community. We are talking about the lives of people, and we are talking about the introduction of sensible reform. I am yet to meet one person who has walked into a gambling venue and actually made a decision to lose the amounts of money that can be lost in one hour.

We absolutely need to ensure that we continue to work with industry, support sensible transition and introduce the commitments that we have made to the community through the parliamentary agreement.

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (10.50): I note that Mr Rattenbury continues to suggest that clubs have too much reliance on gaming machine revenue. The pertinent question would be: what is the optimum level of reliance on gaming machine revenue? Surely, we have to have a target here. What is the magic number? I am sure it is not 80 per cent, as is the case for Tradies and the Burns Club. What is the figure? Is it 60 per cent? Is it 40 per cent, which seems to be the benchmark for the Southern Cross Club? I am sure Mr Rattenbury, as the minister, is across these figures. Is it 25 per cent, which is pretty much where the Harmonie German Club sits?

This minister is about to harm the club sector by chasing a magical figure on what is the optimum level of reliance on gaming revenue, but we do not know what the magic number is. In reality, I think that we do know what it is, Madam Speaker. According to the Greens, the optimum level of reliance on gaming revenue is about half as much as what it is whenever you ask the question. Whenever you ask the question, the optimum level is, "About half as much as that." If you ask the question again, a year down the track, it is half as much again.

At the end of the day, according to the Greens, although they will not be brave enough to say it, the optimum level of reliance on gaming revenue is nil. That is what it is; it is nil. As long as a single individual is suffering from gambling harm, that is too much reliance on gaming revenue. What we are talking about here ultimately is a move towards prohibition because this activity does not suit their agenda.

I will refer to the massive amendments—and they are massive. Firstly, in regard to Mr Rattenbury's speech, he referred again to \$1,000 an hour. In the debate on his motion in July last year we discussed the fact that I could get onto the TAB app on my phone. I think the biggest bet through Tabcorp on Winx was \$500,000, half a million dollars, which was done in 60 seconds; but he referred to \$1,000 an hour.

When Mr Rattenbury says that he is looking forward to working with the club sector, to me it sounds like the kidnapper saying that he is looking forward to working with the hostage, but I hope that those discussions can be productive. I was most pleased to



hear from Dr Paterson. At the end of the day, it does not really surprise me, considering her history, that she has entered into this debate, but she has done so in a very sensible and level way.

The size of the amendments is enormous. The fact is that I was presented with them as I stood to debate the motion. There are some good things in this. There are some really good things and there are some bad things; but there is no point in undertaking the exercise of going through the amendments clause by clause. As a consequence, we cannot support them.

Question put:

That the amendments be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 14

Noes 7

Mr Braddock	Dr Paterson	Mr Cain
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson	Ms Castley
Ms Cheyne	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson
Ms Clay	Mr Steel	Mrs Jones
Ms Davidson	Ms Stephen-Smith	Mrs Kikkert
Mr Davis	Ms Vassarotti	Ms Lee
Mr Gentleman		Mr Parton
Ms Orr		

Amendments agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

## Inaugural speeches

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Before I call Dr Paterson, I remind members that it is traditional that inaugural speeches be heard in silence.

**DR PATERSON** (Murrumbidgee) (10.57), by leave: I begin today by acknowledging the traditional custodians, the Ngunnawal people. I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging and those that are here today and online. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

I am so proud to stand here as a member for Murrumbidgee. I am privileged. Thank you. The campaign period was a rather rushed “get to know you”, and now, people of Murrumbidgee, we can really get to know each other. I will invest time to build relationships, to build your trust and to demonstrate that I will be a fearless leader for our community.

I understand that we do not all have the same views. However, what I promise you is that I will listen. I know I have something to learn from every conversation and I will

work hard to navigate fundamental differences of opinion and to promote and empower people through evidence, transparent practices and ongoing dialogue.

I would now like to share a bit about my history and experiences. All have shaped my views and values and, ultimately, the attributes I will bring to my role as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Firstly, I would like to thank those people who have shared this journey with me.

I would like to acknowledge the other members of the Assembly and say that I am very excited that I will work with all of you over the coming years. I would like to thank the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, Madam Speaker and my fellow Labor colleagues. Thank you for supporting me to get here today. I feel very privileged to work in your company. To my four fellow members for Murrumbidgee, it was an absolute pleasure getting to know you over the campaign period, and it is going to be a colourful few years. Minister Steel, as a fellow Labor member for Murrumbidgee, I am dedicated to working with you in a strong team, delivering positive outcomes for our community.

Thank you to my parents, Annie and John. You instilled in all your four children a sense of social justice and the importance of making a contribution to your community, which is a large part of why I am here today. To my sister, Felicity, and my brothers, Malcolm and David, and their families, thank you for your unwavering love and support.

Thank you to Mark Nelson. When I came to him as a complete unknown, wanting to run as a candidate, he believed in me. Thank you for your support, advice and friendship over the campaign period. To my team—Bentan, Rhys, Ella, Dorathee and Abby—thank you for going above and beyond. To my ANU colleagues, thank you. To Emily's List and my mentor, Sarah Lovell MP, thank you for your support. To my beautiful friends, my life is so enriched by you all.

To the party office, the Weston Creek Molonglo and Woden sub-branches, and the volunteers and supporters who worked with me over the many months of the campaign, thank you.

To my partner, Darrin, you have been the most unbelievable support to me. You are my best friend in the world, and I love every second of life with you. To my partner's family, especially Valerie and Ray, thank you for your ongoing and amazing support. To my three children—Bill, Estelle and Josie—you light up my life. Every day I am so proud to be your mother. Every pamphlet you letterboxed, every person you talked to and every moment you were with me contributed to me being here today.

I have spent the majority of my adult life living in the ACT in the electorate of Murrumbidgee. I did, however, grow up in Melbourne, in the 1980s and 1990s. My father works in business, and my mother is an olive oil producer in East Gippsland. I grew up with my sister and two brothers in a largely non-political household. My mother's side of the family were and still are farmers in East Gippsland, so my childhood was spent between Melbourne and the farm.

My first introduction to politics was around my grandparents' kitchen table. My grandfather, president of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria for 13 years, led the cattlemen in a bitter dispute with successive state governments over grazing rights in the high country. As a child, I found this fascinating—how so many people could be mobilised around one issue, and the way the issue unified the community. I saw passion and enthusiasm channelled into intense strategy meetings and debates about ongoing developments. I deeply admired my grandfather and my uncles, who have, since the early 1980s, fought for sustainable land and fire management practices in the high country.

I loved growing up in Melbourne. I loved the sport—AFL in particular—and Melbourne was a city that prided itself on multiculturalism and diversity, which I embraced. I loved the busy and crazy that is a big city.

However, I always had a strong desire to find my own path outside my comfort zone and outside Melbourne. I was desperately seeking independence and ready for the world. I spent my first year out of school travelling overseas, for the most part working with a US youth volunteer organisation that engaged with aid projects in South-East Asia, India and Nepal. I had all manner of resilience-testing experiences on this trip. Ultimately, the experience made me very appreciative of what we have in Australia, particularly health and education. However, it also sparked in me a drive to show that because we were such a well-off country we could do better.

Following this, I went to Monash University to do an undergraduate degree in psychology and anthropology. Like most young people, I worked a variety of jobs over those years. I worked in hotels, bars and supermarkets. I sold credit cards for a very short time. I had one job for an entire summer doing data entry for a corporate clothing company, entering in Qantas's new uniform orders.

I moved to Canberra in 2005 to study at the ANU. I came to do a Master of Applied Anthropology degree. I have always been fascinated in human behaviour: why people do what they do and how culture and society influence and interact. My particular interest was in mental health and addiction research.

Most of the people I met through my time at ANU had spent time living and working in remote Aboriginal communities. This spurred my interest and by the end of the year in my master's program I moved to the Northern Territory. I lived in Darwin's rural area and worked in a bar, serving beers to all manner of wild characters who would pull off the Stuart Highway.

Like many students fresh out of uni, I struggled to get a job. It was a few months before I was successful in winning a PhD scholarship to study at Charles Darwin University, to study gambling and the impact on remote Aboriginal communities. Within a short period, I moved out to a community called Maningrida.

Maningrida is located in Arnhem Land, at the very central northern tip of Australia. I lived in the community for about 18 months. My time there was a significant learning curve. Each day out there was navigating life and death. It was as beautiful as

it was harsh. The deep intrinsic synergy between people in this community—their families, their country, their language and their culture—provided the foundation with which people coped with the daily routine of poverty, violence and trauma. I am forever grateful to the families in Maningrida and the other communities that I have since worked in for guiding my understanding and teaching me.

The last months of my time living in Maningrida coincided with the announcement and rollout of the Northern Territory emergency response, commonly termed “the intervention”. On a TV in a tiny township in the middle of the most remote bush, we watched the Prime Minister, John Howard, announce the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act, and emergency powers were put in place to enact a raft of measures and controls that directly impacted each and every one of the 2,000 people living in that community. No-one, including me, understood what was happening and why. The fear, misunderstanding and misinformation in the community were palpable. There was fear that the government was coming to take their children, again.

In the days following, there were planes, large and small, landing on the dirt airstrip, full of politicians, bureaucrats, doctors and lawyers. The Army trucks drove the 600-kilometre road from Darwin, deployed to the community, and arrived in full force. Police set up checkpoints at every point of entry and exit. As instructed, the townships were compulsorily acquired, government business managers were sent in, health checks were conducted and incomes were quarantined. This was Australia in 2007.

I witnessed firsthand what it actually looks like when government has unprecedented powers, and powers directed to target a specific racial group. This was a pivotal moment in my life. It enshrined in me an understanding of the systemic level of racism and ongoing colonisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this country.

As I now move into politics, I do so very consciously with a recognition of the true power and impact, both intended and unintended, that government policy has on people and their lives. I take the gravity of this position as a member of the Legislative Assembly very seriously.

After leaving Maningrida and the Northern Territory, I moved back to Canberra, to Weston Creek. Over the next few years, I worked to finish my PhD while having three beautiful children. Subsequent to the time I spent in the remote community, I also spent months conducting fieldwork in the Darwin casino. Having grown up in Melbourne, the Melbourne Cup—which every few years coincides with my birthday—was a very important day in the social calendar of my childhood. I was a teenager when Crown casino was built in Melbourne, and most of my 17th year was spent waiting to be 18, when I could engage in the nightlife that the casino had to offer.

Since 2005 until about four weeks ago when I was elected, I have worked conducting research with thousands of individuals and families that have been harmed by gambling, and the services who support those people in our community. For the last three years I was Director of the Centre for Gambling Research at the Australian National University. Today, I do not have to speak to sample sizes and statistical

significance to tell a story. Today, I can speak for my constituents. My feelings about gambling have drastically changed since my teenage days. Today, I can speak about the feelings of despair a woman described to me about the exact moment she found out her husband had been drawing down on their mortgage without her knowledge as a result of his gambling, meaning they would lose their house. She told me of the deepest sense of betrayal she felt.

Today, I speak about the powerlessness felt by a child who walks home from school. Mum is not home. He waits. Hours go by. There is a sinking feeling in his heart because he knows she is at the club. Today, I can express the helplessness of a man and what he feels when he picks up his elderly mother from the club each afternoon. It once was once a week; now it is almost every day. She is lonely and filling in time, she says, but he knows she is going without food. There is no end to these stories. Sure, we know many people gamble and experience no harm. Good luck to them. I represent a community that cares about the 10 per cent of the Canberra adult population and their loved ones who do not walk away unscathed.

Absolutely we must address online racing and sports betting. Their advertising has riddled our entertainment and sports for over a decade now, and has ensured that if you are a male in the ACT under the age of 45, one in five of you have a predicted probability of being an at-risk or problem gambler. Whilst new forms of gambling are growing at exponential rates, there is no getting away from what we cannot ignore in our community, and that is poker machines. Playing a poker machine is the most significant predictor of gambling harm, and one-third of the number of people sitting at machines in the ACT are experiencing harms associated with their gambling.

It is not just the people using the venues who experience the harm. We know from research in other jurisdictions that staff who work in these venues report double the rate of harm from gambling than the general population. Poker machines are the dark heart of our clubs. These machines directly contradict the narrative that clubs are a positive contributor to our community. While I have many conversations with people about harm from gambling, I also talk to many people who see the social and community value and resource in clubs. Eighty per cent of Canberrans attended a club last year. This demonstrates that clubs have more to offer than their pokies.

Clubs provide important jobs and sporting infrastructure, and support community and local sporting groups. I challenge the club sector in the ACT to reframe their businesses, to be the drivers of reform, to be proactive in addressing harm, and to be progressive in having women on their boards and as their senior staff. Nothing can hit the club sector harder than COVID did; now is the time to embrace the opportunity for change. Look to your members, your staff and your community, and your community will support you in this move.

Over the past decade, I have become very invested in my local community through the schools and sporting clubs that my children have attended, and the healthcare and community sector support I have received. I love our beautiful nature reserves, tree-lined streets and parks that I walk most evenings. When I first moved here I knew no-one. Over time, I became part of a community. Every day, my connections would form just a little bit further, from the local shop owners and neighbours, who,

particularly in my early days, were my first connections, to the networks that I built through my children's schools, playgroups, sports and connections I built through work, local clubs and community events.

Over time I have grown to care very deeply about our Canberra community. I would not want to live anywhere else in the world. An important part of my work as a researcher has always been to remain independent. Two years ago I was at a point where I felt maintaining independence was compromising action and advocacy. It no longer worked for me. So I joined the Labor Party. Joining the party has been a remarkable experience. It has been a great relief for me to be surrounded by people with similar worldviews and values, all working together to make the world a fairer and equitable place. I have been humbled by the sense of community in the party and time and resources that people volunteer. I thank the party for supporting me to represent the community of Murrumbidgee.

As we all know, there are life-shaping experiences that we strive for and there are those that are put upon us. In August last year I nominated to run as a Labor candidate for Murrumbidgee. Four days earlier I had submitted a formal complaint to my workplace evidencing over two years of sexual harassment, stalking and bullying that I had experienced by a very prominent New Zealand professor who was also pro-vice-chancellor of one of New Zealand's leading universities. Academia is a hierarchical sector. Professors, the majority of whom are male, are most often highly revered and respected. Most academics specialise in quite niche fields. Your career progression is as much dependent on the quality of your research as it is on the relationships within your own university and other international and national institutions.

My situation started in what was a mentor type of relationship. He was a distinguished leader nearing the end of his career and I was just starting mine. My marriage had ended and I was on my own with three very young children. I very acutely felt the pressure of my income being the only income. I felt that making a formal complaint directly jeopardised my job and my career prospects. I attempted to navigate the situation for over two years. I asked him to stop so many times and he did not. It was very distressing for me to take this complaint to my workplace. I am someone who derives a lot of self-worth from my work. I work hard and I pride myself on my professionalism. This threatened what I had worked for, what I had diligently built.

Unfortunately, the complaint process failed me and failed everyone. Despite hundreds of pages of texts and emails evidencing what had happened, there was no investigation into what had happened and no disciplinary action was taken. This man continued to hold a position of power over my career and, after I had made a formal complaint against him, that felt even more threatening. I had no protection and no justice. In January this year I contacted one of New Zealand's leading journalists, who was dedicated to investigating me-too stories. My story broke in New Zealand on 24 May and the fallout from it has been on the front page in New Zealand's media. The articles that have come out over the months have unravelled a decades-long culture of sexual harassment and cover-ups at this university.

Of course, I was not the first woman to be sexually harassed by this man and I was not the first woman to make a complaint against him. My story has not yet been resolved. Over the past months, several senior staff and executives have resigned, including the individual I made a complaint against. An external independent review into sexual harassment at the university is being conducted by one of New Zealand's leading QCs and a coalition of hundreds of New Zealand academics is publicly demanding that an independent national body be established to address sexual harassment on campuses in New Zealand.

Ultimately, what has played out in my situation is the norm in a lot of workplaces, including our federal parliament. Men in powerful positions will work to protect each other regardless of the cost to other people and ultimately the enormous reputational cost to their institutions and organisations. Sexual harassment is an abuse of power—a corruption of power—and is largely gender based. My personal wellbeing, my mental health and my career should not suffer because I will not engage with someone sexually.

The reason I chose to tell this story today is that I feel it is important in demonstrating to the community what type of leader I will be. The experiences I have described are some of what I have seen along the way. These experiences form my vision. It has taken me 37 years to learn to stand up for myself. I can do that now, and that means that I can confidently say to the people of Murrumbidgee and Canberra that I can stand up for you; I can fight for you. I will fight very publicly at times and I will do the long, hard yards and have the hard conversations; and I will take the small steps that are needed at other times. From dealing with the streetlight that has stopped working and the shopping centre upgrade to the systemic, structural, cultural change that is required in our society, I will walk with you every step of the way. Thank you.

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (11.19), by leave: I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people whose lands we meet on. I pay respects to their elders past, present and emerging. I acknowledge them as the true custodians of this land and I will try and learn from our First Nations peoples and care for our land better.

Now that we are in a climate emergency, what are we going to do about it? I am seriously worried about climate change. I have known about it my whole life. Back when I was a kid we called it the greenhouse effect. I thought that by the time I grew up someone else would have fixed it, but no-one has. I grew up in a world of denialism. There were endless, tedious debates about whether the climate was changing and whether it might be a result of human activity. In the late 1990s, when I was at uni, Australia signed the Kyoto Protocol. "Great," I thought, "that's settled it. We've accepted the problem; now someone else can fix it." I was wrong.

We have since had two more decades of rising emissions, two more decades of missed opportunities. It is 2020 and I do not need to tell you what that means. The predictions made by Ross Garnaut in his 2008 climate report have come true. Flood, drought, hail, heat and fire—climate change is here, and it is a blazing disaster.

I do not come from a line of prophets and doomsayers; I come from lawyers and artists. My dad, Peter Clay, was a really good lawyer and a very kind man. He helped a lot of people by quietly getting on with the job. My uncle on one side and my aunt on the other were artists. I can think of no greater joy than making something just because you want to.

So I went to uni and I studied law and creative arts. I had a lot of fun and then I had a career. I worked on legislation and policy—it was a good way to make money—but I came to doubt each role, no matter how rewarding it was. “What is the point?” I thought. “This does not deal with the problem.”

I have taken a lot of gap years in my life. My first was at 17 and I worked in an English boarding school. I travelled about with a very good friend who is here today, and I have been addicted to wandering ever since. I have lived in several countries and I have done a lot of snowboarding and diving and some really fun, silly stuff. I have lived two entirely perfect days, which is two more than most people get. “But I am flying away from the problem,” I thought, as I tore off the lid on another airline meal and listened to the jet engines, “and I am making it worse.”

I like to create things. I have made stories and books and films and I have mucked about with art. I have won some awards and I have had a book published. But that nagging voice continued. I realised that everything that I made was about apocalypse. There is a reason that our TV screens are full of end of the world fiction—ecological disaster and social collapse, and armies of zombies mindlessly consuming the world. Our artists cannot imagine any other future. For many, it is already here.

That is the first half of my speech and the first half of my life. Now let us get on to the hard bit. Why am I here in the Assembly? Because we are in a climate emergency. Change is no longer a choice; change is already happening. The EV did not ruin the weekend and the Greenies did not cancel Christmas; the bushfires did that. Green tape did not kill business; smoke-pocalypse did. The hippies are not coming for your steak; the cows died in the drought.

It is 2020, the year of the mask, and now we are living through another disaster. This one is not caused by climate change. Coronavirus has disrupted everything about how we work and play and make our money and spend our time. 1.5 million people have died around the world. Everyone is affected. There is a lot of suffering but there is also hope. For the first time in my life, global emissions have dropped. Coronavirus hit the pause button. So what are we going to do?

I have learned a lot since accepting that I am part of the problem. I have learned far more working on solutions than I ever did running away from them. For a start, I learned the word no. I have been in the environmental movement my whole life but that mostly involved signing petitions, writing emails, donating money and agreeing that everything was awful. I stood up for real after having a baby. Like many new parents, I looked at my daughter and I looked out the window at the world she was inheriting, and I said no. I joined the protest movement.



Climate activism is a global phenomenon; and Canberra is no exception. We have 350, XR, Knitting Nanas, the Artivists, Stop Adani and many, many more. I have helped out where I can. I have seen arresting art and actual arrests, giant banners and bigger boycotts, and grannies that shut down banks by sitting quietly outside with their knitting. Then there are the school strikers; I have marched with my daughter alongside thousands of children, and I have listened to them beg for their lives. Like any grown-up with a beating heart, I find this part of the movement incredibly painful.

The kids put it best in their own words. Here are a few of their slogans: “Why go to school if you don’t listen to the educated?” “If you act like children, we’ll act like adults.” “I have seen smarter cabinets at IKEA.” “You will die of old age; we will die of climate change.” Our children will die of climate change. All we have to do to make that happen is nothing. “Why aren’t those kids in charge?” I thought. “I cannot wait to see what happens when they are.” But we do not have time to wait and it is not their job to fix this; it is ours.

Despite my fears for the future, I am a positive person at the core. As well as learning how to say no, I have learned how to say yes. I began my postgraduate education with Pedal Power. I started out as a bureaucrat who liked bikes. After eight years I transformed into a lycra-clad street warrior. It was a joyous adventure. Cycling is the most delightful treatment for whatever ails you. Climate change, congestion, obesity, poor mental health—it does not matter what your problem is, cycling is your solution if you are lucky enough to be able to ride.

I wanted to learn more about environmental management; so I took a job in waste. I then partnered up with a colleague on a recycling venture. National recycling expert Graham Mannall came up with the neat idea to tackle a problem waste stream. We threw it together, patented it and launched Send and Shred. I learned business, e-commerce and the white-knuckle hope of the start-up.

I had the great privilege of working with the talented team at the Green Shed. Sandie, Charlie, Elaine and Tiny have been rolling out local solutions to the world’s big problems for years. Between them, they have built dozens of successful businesses, saved over 70,000 tonnes from landfill, donated over \$1 million to charity and supported a rich ecosystem of artists, entrepreneurs and traders. They have been personally applauded and nationally lauded. They have even had an effigy in cake. Tiny has a simple life motto that drives him through his philanthropy: if you can, you should. It is a powerful motto. A little rubbed off on me.

While I was running Send and Shred, I decided to set up a new venture to tackle climate change. “Something small and manageable,” I thought. “How about cutting 75 per cent from my carbon footprint?” I learned carbon accounting and web development and I set up the Carbon Diet. I slashed my footprint and that of the average Australian through a series of one-week experiments: fly less, swap steak for chicken and snowboarding for surfing, turn down the heater, try out an EV.

Our federal government makes so much fuss about tiny cuts; so I assumed my ambitious target would be a spectacular failure. I finished the project earlier this year.

While the federal inventory claimed a 0.1 per cent emissions cut, mine cut 77 per cent. Apparently I am 7,700 times more effective than our federal government. It is almost as if they are not really trying. While my project succeeded, my mission is in peril.

I always intended to finish my climate change project by looking at its victims. I planned to interview an overseas refugee from some remote island that was sinking into the sea—Tuvalu or Kiribati or the Marshall Islands—someone else from somewhere else. But this year I have had climate refugees living in my house. Theirs burned down in the fires. My final interview was not with some foreigner from a distant place; it was with Ted Pettigrove, volunteer patrol captain from the Broulee Surf Club. Ted found a new role on New Year's Eve running an evacuation centre on our local beach. This is what climate change feels like.

I have been exchanging pleasantries with the Greens my whole life, but I only recently came to the party. Like many Canberrans, I have always viewed politics with fascinated distaste. When I was a public servant, it never seemed right to join a political party, although public servants can join, and the world would be better if more did. I voted Greens. I watched what Greens did. My heart broke every time a Greens idea failed or, more often, was killed.

I was particularly interested in the ACT Greens, who had somehow managed to enter not only the Assembly but government itself. I crossed paths with Shane and Caroline while working on cycling, recycling, plant foods and climate change. I watched what they said; but, more importantly, I watched what they did.

Caroline told us at a 2010 climate rally that we would have 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2020. I thought what a crazy dream. Here we are! With Greens in the Assembly, Canberra passed one climate milestone after another: declaring a state of climate emergency, setting a real action plan, making big cuts to our emissions, rolling out effective transitions. I saw a salve to the great despair of why people in power do nothing for the climate. Some do and more could.

A little over a year ago I had a conversation with another renowned Green, Tim Hollo. We talked activism and the environment. We talked about Belconnen. I said I grew up in Weetangera and I lived in Macquarie with my family and I adored the whole place. Tim asked me an intriguing question, "Would I run?" It had never occurred to me to enter politics; but I desperately wanted more environmentalists in every parliament at every level. If not me, then who?

I thought about timing. I could. So I did. It is not easy running a political campaign. I do not mean for the candidates, although we work hard; but there are so many other people behind the scenes slogging their guts out. It is a huge drain on their time and energy, and it comes at no personal gain and at great cost. We have a huge community of staff, volunteers and members. I particularly thank Adam, Adele, Annie, Barbara, Ben, Callum, Chris, Clancy, Eddy, Fiona, Hugh, John, Josie, Maverick, Michael, Nick, Peter, Paul and Trevor. Thank you all. We would not hold these seats without you. My support candidates, Katt Millner and Tim Liersch, led volunteers and listened to the community and kept coming back for more, no matter how much I asked of them. Thank you. You both did an amazing job. My partner, Rob, and my daughter, Xander,

have been incredibly supportive and have put up with my constant distraction and frequent absence. I love you both.

We Greens have been extremely lucky this year because, no matter how much people give, a campaign does not always lead to a seat. This one led to six. I am blessed with a spot at this table and I will do my absolute best for the climate. I am glad that, here in the ACT, politics has moved beyond outright denialism. That election proved it.

The ANU Smartvote survey asked each candidate two questions about climate change. The responses showed that, while plenty of climate denialists ran, none were elected. In this building, at least, we have moved beyond the toxic debate about whether climate change is happening and whether people are responsible for it. It is. And we are. But the older I get the less I care about what people say. I care more about what they do. It is a better guide to what they believe, and it shows what they will actually achieve.

Do not talk to me about food politics. Show me your dinner plate and I know who you are. I am not interested in theories of divestment. Give me five minutes with your accountant. It is a frightening position, I know. Anyone who aims for an ideal is doomed to fall short. The only thing Australians hate more than a hypocrite is a politician. I guess I will have to live with being both; but it does not matter.

We are in a climate emergency and I know what we need to do. We need to do everything, and we need to do it now. I will do it for the planet, and I will do it for today's refugees. I will do it for the school strikers until they are old enough to take over from me. I will do it for my daughter and for hers, assuming we are lucky enough and bold enough to succeed.

## **Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Report 1**

**MS BURCH** (Brindabella) (11.35): I present the following report:

Administration and Procedure—Report 1—Report on a referral to the Commissioner for Standards, dated 2 December 2020, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

**MS ORR** (Yerrabi) (11.35), by leave, I move:

That the report be noted.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**Sitting suspended from 11.36 am to 2.00 pm.**

## **Questions without notice Government—seniors policy**

**MS LEE:** My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, the *Canberra Times* in 2018 suggested that there was “a recurring theme of Mr Barr’s that older

Canberrans have a disproportionate say”. This was evidenced by his comments regarding a “certain generation of Canberrans” in February 2018. Chief Minister, what do you say about concerns raised by seniors that the non-existence of a dedicated seniors portfolio in your cabinet is more evidence of your disrespect for them?

**MR BARR:** It is a curious matter that the older you get the more this accusation is made. At one point I was verbalised as saying that people over 40—even though I was over 40 myself—were people that I was not interested in. I simply made the observation that I wanted to hear more from younger Canberrans because their voices were not being heard. This has been spun around by those opposite and used to a degree of political effect to suggest that somehow that meant that because I wanted to hear more from young people that would be to the detriment of older Canberrans.

Let me be very clear. The views of all are welcome, but the government will go out of its way to include people whose voices have not been heard. There are so many opportunities for some Canberrans to participate and so few for others that I do see it as an important role of government and an important opportunity for this place, as I have throughout my career, to seek to address that imbalance.

We all know that the events that we turn up to, and the organisations, are dominated by particular cohorts. I think that it is incumbent upon us to go out of our way to try and include others. At various points in my career, that has meant going out of my way to ensure that the voices of LGBTIQ Canberrans have been heard when they have been pushed to the sidelines for so long, and it has meant at times going out of my way to ensure that the voices of younger Canberrans are heard. There is no disrespect to older Canberrans, but sometimes you need to do more for young people. *(Time expired.)*

**MS LEE:** Chief Minister, what measures have you undertaken to assist seniors groups and stakeholders in this ministerial transition and ensure that they know where best to raise concerns and seek additional resources?

**MR BARR:** As members would be aware, the administrative orders outline ministerial responsibilities. Minister Davidson, in her portfolio as Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, has responsibility for a range of community organisations, including seniors and veterans. Whilst it is possible to have an individual portfolio title for every possible area of interest of the community, that would lead to ministers having very long titles.

**Ms Lee:** Point of order, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Point of order.

**Ms Lee:** The question was very specifically: “What measures have you undertaken to assist the groups?” The Chief Minister has not made that point.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** The Chief Minister is on a policy area and has time left.

**MR BARR:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. If it is okay, Ms Lee, I think I am allowed two minutes to answer the question. I have said, in the context of the administrative arrangements, who the responsible minister is. Of course, the government seeks to engage across all sectors of the community, and we will continue to do so.

The point I was making was that it is simply not possible at times to have an individual portfolio title for every single area, so we have, in the titles of ministers and in the titles of directorates, titles that cover a range of different policy areas, as members are accustomed to. In this instance, the administrative arrangements are very clear.

*Mr Parton interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Parton, that is enough.

**MR BARR:** The administrative arrangements are very clear. Portfolio arrangements are very clear. We will get on with the business of governing. *(Time expired.)*

**MR HANSON:** Chief Minister, will you commit to re-establishing a dedicated minister for seniors and veterans?

**MR BARR:** We have a dedicated minister for seniors and veterans, but if it is of such importance that I add a couple of extra words to a ministerial title when we next update the administrative orders, I am happy to do so.

### **Transport—active travel**

**MS CLAY:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and relates to cycling and walking numbers during COVID. Minister, has the ACT government undertaken or commissioned a count of pedestrian and cyclist numbers on key active travel routes since the beginning of the COVID period to get a better understanding of shifts in transport patterns over the past year, and to get a better understanding of how we can use this opportunity to increase active travel?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Ms Clay for her question and for her genuine interest in active travel. I congratulate her on her maiden speech earlier today. The ACT government have been very closely monitoring—as far as we can—the amount of activity that has been occurring, particularly through walking, cycling, running and forms of active travel during the pandemic. We have been meeting with stakeholders like Pedal Power, as well, throughout the period to get a sense of how the trends are changing during this period.

We have seen a marked downturn in the overall travel of Canberrans. We saw an 80 per cent decrease, at the lowest point, in the number of public transport patrons. We saw a 40 per cent drop in the number of people using private vehicles around Canberra at the height of the pandemic. What we have seen, through sources like the app Strava, Google mobility and Apple travel data, is a huge increase in the number of people cycling and walking around our community. But the nature of those trips has

been quite different. One of the data sources that we use, and that we hope to augment in the future, is the bike barometer on Sullivans Creek, which is a popular travel route, particularly to go through to the ANU. That has seen a decrease during the pandemic in the number of people cycling through the area. That is still down, at the moment, by about five to 15 per cent on last year's numbers.

So the nature of the travel has been different for local travel and for recreational travel by cycling and walking. We want to make sure that people continue this trend of cycling and walking beyond the pandemic. That was the focus of the ACT government's transport strategy which we released just before the caretaker period.

**MS CLAY:** Minister, in the context of increased walking and cycling since COVID, and the different travel patterns that we have seen, has the government considered installing pop-up cycle lanes in areas with high cycling activity, which is something that occurred in other places?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Ms Clay for her supplementary question. The ACT government's focus has been on building new cyclepaths and augmenting our existing 3,000 kilometres of cyclepaths and footpaths around Canberra. That has been a focus of the many screwdriver-ready and stimulus packages that we have fast-tracked through the pandemic. Certainly it has been the focus of groups asking us to focus on those areas as a way of making sure that, beyond the pandemic, in this new normal, we can support more people to cycle and walk around our community, beyond just a pop-up or a temporary structure that could have been put up during the pandemic period.

We did, particularly in one area, try to establish a pop-up cyclepath on Commonwealth Avenue. We were in discussions with the NCA for a period of time in relation to that, because it is one of those areas where people are cycling and walking for recreation as well as for commuting to work. Unfortunately, ultimately that was not approved by the National Capital Authority, so the focus has been on making sure that we are building our new cycle routes and maintaining our footpaths and cycle routes around Canberra.

We have, however, worked with Pedal Power on a new initiative, which is the Slower Streets initiative, which has been implemented in about 11 suburbs around Canberra to try to slow traffic and get neighbours to understand that there are more people out walking and cycling in the community. That has been very successful and is something that we want to continue in the future. If other suburbs want to join, they are absolutely welcome to.

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, what new cycling and walking infrastructure was delivered as screwdriver-ready projects completed as part of the government's response to COVID?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Mr Davis for his supplementary question. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACT government has had a focus on active travel through each fast-track stimulus package that we have brought forward, as well as the funding that the Commonwealth has brought forward for projects that we have proposed.

Those have included \$10 million for new active travel paths around Canberra. We have done that based on community feedback. They are footpath priority projects that have been put up by the community, as well as stakeholders, across a range of different areas for walking and cycling. That has included 60 projects, including cyclist priority crossings and bike-and-ride facilities, to facilitate the connection with public transport.

There have been quite significant projects in my electorate of Murrumbidgee. One of those is the further kilometres of shared path that we installed on the Cotter Road, connecting the Molonglo through to Curtin and the city, and also through to Cooleman Court. These were key missing links in our cyclepath network that we have been able to plug by building that new infrastructure, and we will continue to do that over the term of government. I know that, through the parliamentary and governing agreement and through our shared commitment to building more cycling infrastructure, we will augment our city cycle network even further and hopefully encourage more people to take a bike or walk throughout our community in the future.

### **Government—schools policy**

**DR PATERSON:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs. Molonglo Valley is a rapidly growing part of the Murrumbidgee electorate. I ask: how is the government providing excellent public school infrastructure to the growing community there?

**MS BERRY:** I thank Dr Paterson for her question. Of course there is the importance of a new school, the Evelyn Scott School, being named after an Indigenous Australian political activist and educator herself, in Denman Prospect. I have seen for myself that the building work has been progressing well, that the admin and preschool areas of the building are now being occupied by leadership and admin teams and that the school will be open from day one of first term next year. The multipurpose gym will be ready in the middle of the year. The school hosted a community day, and I understand a couple of hundred people attended to see the new school as it is being progressed. I know that there was a lot of excitement about that as well. The school is already valued by its community and I am looking forward to the community moving in and for schoolchildren to be taking advantage of that wonderful space.

**DR PATERSON:** My second question is: how is the government improving public schools across our city for the 2021 school year?

**MS BERRY:** There is a lot of work happening across our public schools, and it will happen over the summer holidays to cater for the changing population which I referred to yesterday in responding to a question from Mr Davis that our population growth in the ACT is even faster than it ever has been.

The use of solar energy in our schools, across all the electrical systems, will be upgraded. There are new transportables going in across schools. Even on the hottest days some of those new transportables are using clean electricity that can power other classrooms by reducing school energy bills.

Several schools also have had LED lights installed to make sure that they are cooler and more sustainable. Calwell Primary School's admin area has been upgraded with a new disability toilet as well. The preschool and the hall are also having the heating system upgraded to electric. Torrens is seeing improved disability access. Hawker College will see new classrooms and upgraded lifts. Weetangera Primary School will see existing spaces refurbished. UC Kaleen High will have new learning spaces for small groups. These are just a few examples of the work that is happening over the summer holidays, getting ready for the 2021 school year.

**MS ORR:** Minister, with Canberra's growing population, how will the government ensure that families have access to new and better schools?

**MS BERRY:** As I said, the population growth in the ACT is faster than we have ever seen, and over the next four years that means that there will be significant infrastructure projects across our city.

In the north we will be adding additional primary school capacity in north Gungahlin, a new high school in Kenny and a new high school in Taylor. We will also be building additional college capacity in north Canberra as well.

In the south the government will upgrade and expand Narrabundah College. There has already been a lot of consultation and planning there and there are also going to be new, expanded schools in Woden and of course Molonglo, which I just talked about.

All of the new schools this government builds will have zero emissions that maximise energy efficiency.

### **ACT Policing—occupational health and safety**

**MR HANSON:** My question is to the minister for police. Minister, Comcare has recently ordered ACT Policing to correct health and safety hazards at its Belconnen traffic operations centre because the building breaches work health and safety laws. This comes more than two years after the danger was identified. The Australian Federal Police Association said the situation had been managed poorly, warning that many other buildings occupied by ACT Policing were also defective and in need of repair. Minister, why are so many ACT Policing buildings defective and in need of repair?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Mr Hanson for his question and his interest in the safety of ACT Policing. We have funded \$9 million in the budget for upgrades to policing accommodation across the territory and we will be rolling that out. In this particular circumstance, the TOC is an older building which has, as you have heard, some issues for workplace safety for the staff. We are working through those issues to ensure that we can remedy them. There are some that can be remedied in quite a timely manner, I think. But there are some others that are less able to be remedied in such a timely manner and we have to take careful thought about how we can work on those.

**Mr Hanson:** It has been a few years now.



**MR GENTLEMAN:** Yes, that is correct. But these are matters that are to do with a psychological aspect for those who have dealt with trauma in the workplace, and it is important that we do the right work for them in a methodical and careful way.

**MR HANSON:** Minister, why is it taking so long to fix these safety hazards at the Belconnen traffic operations centre, given that they were first identified over two years ago?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** Some items have been remedied along the way. Other items are being remedied as we speak. But there are some larger aspects of the way the TOC operates that require further work. That is why we have funded some of that accommodation work and we will continue to look after the safety and wellbeing of ACT police operations.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, why is the safety of the accommodation for our police force not an urgent priority for this government?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I do not agree with the premise of Mrs Jones's question. It is a priority and that is why we have funded it.

### **Building—combustible cladding**

**MRS JONES:** My question is to the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction. Minister, in December 2019 your predecessor put out a statement saying that the government would start work on identifying the use of combustible cladding on private buildings in the ACT. On 27 August this year it was also reported that \$2.5 million would be provided for the removal of combustible cladding from eligible private buildings. Minister, what investigation has the government conducted to establish the extent and risks of dangerous cladding in non-government buildings?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** I thank Mrs Jones for the question. You will note that the issue of cladding has been an issue of community concern. The government has been working on these issues. In 2019 an audit response team was established to look at these issues. There are two elements of the program, including a government program and a private sector program. The government program has been progressing, and I can provide details of that, but you have asked specifically about the private program.

We are creating a program to support the replacement of combustible cladding across private sector buildings. This is a two-stage voluntary scheme. It will look at the testing, assessment and potential rectification of cladding in private buildings that meet certain criteria. We are looking at part 1 as a testing and assessment phase, and at part 2 as a cladding rectification phase.

A project team within Major Projects Canberra has been established to progress the development of the eligibility criteria and the administrative processes, which are being finalised over the coming months. We are expecting information to become available over the first half of 2021. We are looking at focusing on the market

segment that is most in need of practical assistance; that is, multiple owner residential developments, rather than single owner buildings that are assessed as potentially having combustible cladding. We will be engaging with industry associations and representatives to enable industry input around the development of the scheme.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, when can we expect, in the first half of 2021, to perhaps get a report on the cladding problems in non-government buildings?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** In relation to private buildings, this will be a voluntary scheme. It will be important that private owners come forward and let us know about the issues.

**Mrs Jones:** A point of order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, Ms Vassarotti.

**Mrs Jones:** By way of clarification, the question was: when will a report come out?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** It is not a point of order. I think the minister is replying to your question about the work that can be done in the private sector in the future.

**MS VASSAROTTI:** Because we are in the early stages of establishing the program, and it will be a voluntary program, as we develop the criteria we will continue to report to the Assembly on progress.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, what advice has the government provided to the property management sector in relation to eligibility for and the accessing of the \$2½ million voluntary scheme that was announced in August?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** As noted in my previous answer, we are establishing the eligibility requirements. We are working with industry regarding those eligibility requirements. As soon as the program is up and running, we will be working with property owners around eligibility and how to access it.

### **Health—nurse-led walk-in centres**

**MR DAVIS:** My question is to the Minister for Health and it relates to the Tuggeranong Walk-In Centre. I want to congratulate you, Minister, on the success of the government's walk-in centres, including ones opened as a result of last term's parliamentary agreement. What impact has the opening of the Tuggeranong Walk-In Centre had on demand in emergency at the Canberra Hospital?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Davis for his question and his interest in health care closer to home for the people of Tuggeranong in his own electorate of Brindabella. It is not really possible to tell with precision what impact each individual walk-in centre has had on emergency department demand. But what we do know is that, as the walk-in centres have opened, we have seen a reduction in categories 4 and 5 presentations at our emergency departments at the same time as we have seen an increase in categories 1, 2 and 3 presentations. So overall demand has increased on

our emergency department, but those lower categories of 4 and 5 have continued to reduce.

What I can tell Mr Davis is that from 1 January this year to 30 November there were 16,169 presentations at the Tuggeranong Walk-In Centre. This really demonstrates that the walk-in centres continue to be a stand-out success for the ACT, and the number of presentations is a demonstration of what we hear also from our community that Canberrans and Tuggeranongites—what's the right word for people who live in Tuggeranong?

**Mr Davis:** Tuggeranites.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** That Tuggeranites are big fans of the walk-in centre. Of course, the Tuggeranong Walk-In Centre was established in 2014 as part of the expanded Tuggeranong Community Health Centre, so that \$18.9 million investment to build the Tuggeranong Community Health Centre with the walk-in centre has delivered not only the walk-in centre but a range of appointment-based services in a refurbished building including: maternal and child health; early parenting support; allied health; adult community mental health support; alcohol and drug counselling; community nursing; and allied health services including physiotherapy and podiatry, dental and oral health and nutrition. So it really is about health care closer to home for Tuggeranites.

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, what is the government's strategy to encourage more use of the walk-in centres and to lessen the burden on our emergency healthcare departments?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Davis for the supplementary. Well, of course we have seen our emergency departments very busy over the last month. Members would be very well aware of that. So we are working to encourage Canberrans to understand what can be treated at walk-in centres and to let them know that walk-in centres are open from 7.30 am to 10 pm every day of the year, providing local, fast and, importantly for some of the most vulnerable members of our community, free access to health care for one-off issues. That is obviously a wide range of issues, and if people download the ACT Health app they can get a broader cross-section of that.

But the top five presentations at walk-in centres include for wound dressings, musculoskeletal conditions, colds, wounds such as simple lacerations and ear conditions. Having spoken to an advanced practice nurse at one of our walk-in centres, I know the difference it makes when people can come in and have their ear conditions treated for free and professionally by our highly trained and skilled nurses. It makes a massive difference to their wellbeing.

We really want everybody in the ACT to download the ACT Health app, which provides real-time average wait times for the walk-in centres and for Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public Hospital emergency departments, helping consumers to understand what is available and to get the right health care when and where they need it.

The app also contains the COVID screening tool for those who visit our hospital and health centres. It is a really great app—another example of our Digital Solutions Division in the ACT Health Directorate really leading the way when it comes to digital health solutions.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Minister, when does the government intend to open a walk-in centre in south Tuggeranong, an issue close to my heart?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Braddock for the supplementary question. The ACT government has committed to an additional five walk-in health centres across the city, bringing that health care closer to home, and one of those is, indeed, in south Tuggeranong. We will work very closely with the communities of these five regions, including in south Tuggeranong, to understand what services should be available in each centre, with a focus on preventive health services to keep our community healthy and to prevent avoidable hospital admissions.

The network of centres will be somewhat different from the walk-in centres that people have become used to. This is about both providing walk-in and appointment-based services, providing that holistic care where the focus is on prevention, early intervention and the management of chronic illness in our community.

That is why we have committed to the five walk-in centres as part of our strategy to deliver a more integrated healthcare system, working with general practice, working across our acute-care system, working with our non-government and community partners to deliver integrated health care, closer to home, right across Canberra, including south Tuggeranong.

### **Building—quality**

**MR PARTON:** My question is to the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction. Minister, last July, the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism reported on its inquiry into building quality. Among its findings, it recommended the establishment of a dedicated building commissioner as an independent office to ensure compliance with building standards and the Building Code. Minister, why are you rejecting the considered advice of the EDT committee for an independent watchdog after it put so much effort into researching and developing its recommendations?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** I thank Mr Parton for the question. As noted, we did provide a government response to the inquiry report yesterday. I thank members of the inquiry for a really useful report that contained 48 recommendations. Mr Parton refers to recommendation 3, around establishing a building commissioner as an independent statutory officer. We absolutely agree that there is a need for an independent statutory officer. In fact, there is already an independent statutory officer in the Construction Occupations Registrar. They deal with many of the issues that were identified in the recommendations, including audits, enforcing site inspections and managing licence compliance for practitioners. They also have an education role and extend beyond just building codes and standards; they include plumbing, gasfitting, gas appliances, electrical work, energy efficiency assessments and other related work.

Given the increased profile of this regulator, we do not believe that it would be helpful to introduce a new statutory officer that has duplicated roles and would actually confuse the items.

We did agree to the next recommendations on establishing a comprehensive audit scheme. We also looked at the issue of strengthening the disputes processes that were identified in these recommendations, but, again, we have already established an independent statutory officer to look at these issues.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, given the Labor-Greens government's failure to deliver building quality outcomes so far, how can you guarantee that there will be an independent oversight function for building quality without the appointment of a dedicated building commissioner as an independent officer?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** Again I question the premise of the question, given that there has been a reform process that has been going on since 2013. The issues of building quality are a significant community concern and are not just within the ACT but are a national issue. There has been a significant body of work that has already happened. Most of the recommendations from the 2016 report have been delivered. There is a commitment for more work to be done and a significant program of reform to continue.

**MRS JONES:** With continued concern about a crisis in building quality—

**Mr Gentleman:** Madam Speaker, I have a point of order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr Gentleman.

**Mr Gentleman:** There have now been a number of questions from the opposition that have preamble in them. A supplementary question should go straight to the question.

**MRS JONES:** It is not a preamble if you start with the word “with”. That does not necessarily constitute a preamble, does it, Madam Speaker?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I bring everybody's attention to not just you and not just this supplementary.

**MRS JONES:** Is this a preamble?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mrs Jones, I ask you to start again with your question.

**MRS JONES:** With continued concern about a crisis in building quality, what quality assurance will change in the coming year?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** There is still a significant body of work in terms of reforming building quality issues, and a second stage will commence. Some key issues that we will be looking at include addressing issues of licences and accountability for the people designing, building, certifying and contracting off the plan; looking at

insurance and other protections for clients; and implementing a residential building dispute resolution scheme. Also contained within the parliamentary and governing agreement is a commitment to a range of other items, including a licensing scheme for property developers; establishing a team of building certifiers within the ACT public service; and introducing a registration scheme for engineers in the building sector in this term of government.

### **Children and young people—child protection**

**MRS KIKKERT:** My question is to the Minister for Families and Community Services. Minister, ACT Labor and the Greens have committed to developing a charter of rights for parents and families involved with the care and protection system, but in February our Human Rights Commissioner stated that a lack of external merits review makes the territory's child protection legislation incompatible with human rights laws. Will the ACT government bring the Children and Young People Act fully into harmony with human rights laws before issuing this charter of rights and, if not, why not?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mrs Kikkert for the question. I do note that the Children and Young People Act 2008 was introduced after the Human Rights Act 2004 and that, at the time that it was introduced, it was found to be compatible with human rights. But things have moved on and we have recognised, including in the response to the Legislative Assembly inquiry into Child and Youth Protection Services, which will be tabled this afternoon, and in the comments I made when that report was delivered, that the current Children and Young People Act does need to be updated.

It would not make a lot of sense to, as Mrs Kikkert has suggested, make one lot of amendments to the act to make those changes in relation to external decision review, which we are doing currently quite a lot of work on, and then to come back and make another set of amendments to the act to introduce the charter of rights for parents and families. My expectation is that those two pieces of work will actually work in parallel and that when we bring back amendments to the Children and Young People Act we will bring all of those things together with a set of clear priorities, including priorities like ensuring that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle is more clearly articulated in the Children and Young People Act, which has clearly been a very significant concern in the Our Booris, Our Way review.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Minister, when will you bring the amendment to the children's rights act?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I assume that Mrs Kikkert means the Children and Young People Act. We will do that work very carefully and very closely with the community. We will do that work as quickly as we can, but the Children and Young People Act is a very long and very complex piece of legislation and we have come to the conclusion that it will be better to do some significant work to look through that act rather than trying to make piecemeal changes.

In relation to Mrs Kikkert's first question, and the external review and the work that I mentioned earlier, we are also doing a lot of work on internal decision-making and internal review of decisions, which can be rolled out without changes to the Children and Young People Act. We are also implementing, from early next year, a therapeutic children's court for child protection matters, which will also help to ensure that parents and families are fairly heard in these matters. So there is a lot of work going on in this space. I am not currently able to put an exact time frame on amendments to the Children and Young People Act, but there is a lot that we can do in practice as well as in legislation.

**MS LEE:** Minister, will the promised charter of rights include the right to access family group conferencing before a care and protection matter is referred to the Childrens Court and, if not, why not?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her supplementary question. It was the last ACT Labor government that introduced access to family group conferencing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, recognising that this is an evidence-based way of approaching things. It is not necessarily going to be possible for every family to have access to family group conferencing before emergency action is taken. Sometimes it is necessary to take emergency action to secure the safety of a child or young person, and that has to absolutely always be the priority in the child and youth protection system.

But absolutely we are continuing to work towards a more restorative child and youth protection system. That is exactly why we are introducing the therapeutic court process. Some families will not engage until they are at the point where they are going to a court process. That is why making the court process itself more therapeutic, more restorative, more like a family group conference, is an important part of our reform. But we also remain committed to continuing to embed family group conferencing as part of our processes.

### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—government policy**

**MS ORR:** My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Minister, how is the ACT government supporting new and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled organisations?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Orr for her question. The ACT government is committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations to grow and thrive in the ACT. We know that it is only through self-determination that we will be able to deliver equitable life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans.

The New and Emerging Organisations Support Program encourages the establishment of new community-controlled organisations and those that are in their infancy. Founding a community-controlled organisation is a complex process that requires significant engagement with many people in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. I am delighted that Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal

Corporation has been successful in the 2020-21 new and emerging organisations grant round, for a total of \$25,000, as announced today. Yerrabi Yurwang, meaning “walking strong” in Ngunnawal language, is a recently formed Aboriginal-led not-for-profit organisation that seeks to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and families in Canberra’s north-west.

Yerrabi Yurwang will provide holistic services, activities and supports that are managed by the Aboriginal community, primarily aimed at children and families. Yerrabi Yurwang will also collaborate with relevant organisations so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can be referred to other community-controlled health, early intervention, legal and employment services while supporting access to community and culture.

The ACT is home to a number of strong Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, and it is great to see that people will be referred to other community-controlled organisations, where possible, for the support or help that they need. I want to congratulate the directors and founders on all the work they have done to get to this point, and on receiving this grant. I look forward to working with the organisation and watching it grow.

**MS ORR:** Minister, what else is the ACT government doing to support self-determination in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Orr for her supplementary question. The ACT government recognises the strengths of Canberra’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and we are proud of our commitment to establish a \$20 million healing and reconciliation fund. The fund will deliver on the priorities identified in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement, the national agreement on closing the gap, and other issues identified by the community as they arise.

We have clearly heard that the community’s priorities include establishing a Ngunnawal language centre and continuing to support opportunities to rediscover and share Ngunnawal language and culture; working with Ngunnawal traditional owners to progress and support a treaty process in the ACT; supporting the development of sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations in areas such as child and family services that I have just talked about, as well as justice, housing and disability; and returning Boomanulla Oval and Yarramundi Cultural Centre to community control.

The healing and reconciliation fund represents a significant commitment to First Nations leadership and self-determination, and I look forward to delivering this. In line with our commitment to self-determination, we will work with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the United Ngunnawal Elders Council and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to discuss how the fund can best be designed to meet the needs of the community. We understand that healing from the devastating cultural trauma of European invasion and 200 years of racist policies and practices is complex and takes time. By encouraging more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans to step into leadership roles, to control and



deliver more services, and to have more opportunity to reconnect and celebrate culture and history, we will make progress together.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, why is it so important that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community shape and deliver the services they use?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the supplementary. The ACT government knows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations carry the trust of the community that they serve. They are best placed to deliver culturally specific and safe programs and services that the community will actually use. Our commitment to a vibrant and strong community-controlled sector is reflected in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement, and in the fact that the ACT was the first jurisdiction to sign the national partnership agreement on closing the gap, which put community-controlled organisations at the decision-making table on an equal footing with governments.

The ACT is fortunate to have two established community-controlled organisations in Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services and Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation. I had the opportunity to visit Winnunga on Tuesday and got a tour of its fabulous new building, which is almost complete, with its CEO, Julie Tongs OAM. I look forward to the completion of that project so that the community can get the health services they need in a purpose-built and culturally safe facility, and a facility that absolutely speaks to the respect that we have for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. When people see it, they will be blown away by how beautiful it is in delivering self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with Winnunga having been absolutely in charge of that process.

Work is also continuing on a new purpose-built facility for Gudan Gulwan in Wanniasa. I was pleased recently to meet with Kim Davison to discuss the progress made to date, and our ongoing commitment to collaborating with Gudan on this important piece of work. I think everyone is looking forward to the project getting underway and being completed as soon as possible. In line with our principle of self-determination, Gudan will be in the driver's seat to shape their building to their needs. Smaller community-controlled organisations like Yeddung Mura, past recipients of grants, will also—*(Time expired.)*

### **Environment—climate action**

**MR BRADDOCK:** My question is to the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction. Given the urgent need for climate action, what is the government doing to phase out fossil fuel gas as quickly as possible, and can we really wait until 2045 to get to zero emissions?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Given the statement in the declaration of this Assembly that we are in a climate emergency, it is obviously in our interest to reduce our emissions as quickly as possible. I have always held the view that the targets that the ACT government has set have always been at the latest and, where both progress and

technology allow us, we should seek to meet those emissions goals as soon as possible.

Look at the advice that is given about carbon budgets, as has, for example, been provided to the ACT govt by the Climate Council. It talks about the notion of there being an overall carbon budget and the earlier you make more reductions the more time you have got to deal with those harder sectors. So we should be looking to make those early wins as soon as possible.

Certainly the ACT government has been very successful in cutting our emissions through the move to 100 per cent renewable electricity. Gas now is more than 20 per cent of the ACT's emissions; so we do need to begin to phase out fossil fuel gas in the ACT as one of our larger sources of emissions.

The parliamentary and governing agreement contains a number of commitments to deal with gas phase-out, and that includes the commitment to end gas connections in new suburbs from 2021-22 and from infill developments from 2023. There are a couple of steps. We have also committed to, as Minister Berry spoke about earlier, new schools being built as all-electric. The new expansion of the hospital is being done as an all-electric development and of course there is the commitment that the new Molonglo development in the western part of the city will be an all-electric commercial centre. There are a number of important initiatives being moved forward by the government.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Minister, why is there a difference between the timing of banning gas connections in greenfields versus infill developments by 2021-22 for greenfields and 2023-24 for infill developments?

**MR RATTENBURY:** These are policies that are about making the first important step. The first thing we can do is to stop making the problem worse, and ending new connections means that we are not putting in infrastructure that will become stranded assets that the community will have to pay for but we will not get a full life out of. That is the policy purpose behind ending the new connections.

When it comes to greenfields, it does have an earlier time frame because we believe it is more easily and readily implemented. We have already seen it with the Ginninderry development, which sought the government's support to actually be a gas-free development. For infill developments, given the planning and design issues, we believe it will take a little longer. But that is not to stop a developer actually looking forward and making the decision to end gas connections even sooner than that. I would certainly encourage developers, whether they be new suburb developers or building developers, to be looking to the future.

We already see a lot of Canberrans disconnecting their own gas supply because they know it is both environmentally sound and it is proving to be very economically sound for them as well in removing that connection fee that they are otherwise paying every year.

We believe that these two timely differences that Mr Braddock has identified in his question are practical time lines that enable our developers to get organised for but also move us out of fossil gas as quickly as possible and prevent the installation of stranded assets.

**MS CLAY:** Minister, how will you approach the interim period before gas connections are banned? Won't we just be making the problem worse with new gas connections until then?

**MR RATTENBURY:** The time lines that have been set out are designed to move as quickly as possible whilst allowing industry time to adjust. What I would say is that we do not want to roll out more gas connections. There has been some very interesting commentary about the need to remove devices and the like, and I find that an interesting discussion.

The government has been very clear that it is about when a device reaches the end of its natural life. We would encourage people to replace it with an all-electric device because they are more cost effective and better for the environment. But in the meantime I would encourage people to really look at the options. The new devices are so much cheaper to run and it makes sense to make that investment choice yourself. There are timetables to make sure that overall we make this transition and do it in an orderly way. But I would encourage individual householders or people who are designing buildings or giving advice to customers to really look at all the options that are there, both for the environment and for economic reasons.

### **Transport Canberra—ticketing system**

**MS CASTLEY:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. In 2017 your government allocated \$7 million to upgrade Canberra's public transport ticketing system. In February this year you said that the current MyWay ticketing system is outdated and that it is much easier to use public transport in other cities. You also said last February that you were committed to updating the ticketing system so that debit and credit cards could take the place of MyWay cards and that a sole-source contractor was set to be selected by the middle of this year. Minister, has a provider been appointed yet?

**MR STEEL:** No, a provider has not been appointed yet. The ACT government has been going through a procurement process for not only a new ticketing system but a whole back end with other functions as well. That process has not concluded at this time.

**MS CASTLEY:** Minister, when will a contractor be selected and when will Canberrans be able to use the ticketing system?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her supplementary. When the procurement process is finalised.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, why have you failed to manage this upgrade to your own announced time line, and did you ever believe that this could be delivered to the time line that you announced?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. I am not sure that it is quite valid under standing orders to ask for a statement of opinion, but I can say that we are going through this process. Of course we would have hoped to have had a new ticketing system by now, but we have had a major global pandemic in which this procurement has been occurring, and a range of factors have come into play in relation to this procurement.

I look forward to updating the community and the Assembly, once that procurement has been finalised, on the future of a ticketing system in the ACT, which the ACT government is committed to delivering to make sure that we remove barriers for people using public transport through better ticketing options, with a range of different options to access public transport, rather than just using the legacy MyWay system.

### **Schools—maintenance**

**MR CAIN:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs. Minister, in a recent *Canberra Times* article it was reported that parents are worried that a lack of funding and long-term vision for school maintenance could put students and staff at risk. The ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations president was quoted as saying:

Parents are worried that rectification work only fixes what's crumbling or what is most immediately placing kids and staff at risk. We aren't getting ahead of this problem or planning long term.

Minister, why are you not planning long term, or is the P&C council president wrong?

**MS BERRY:** On infrastructure and the maintenance of our public schools, the ACT government and the Education Directorate take expert advice from people in the field who understand the issues and can provide advice to the Education Directorate on how to best manage it. I work very closely with the P&C, and have for the last three years, particularly this year. There have been many challenges for our community. The P&C president who has just finished up—Kirsty McGovern-Hooley, who has now been replaced—and the ACT government worked very closely together. We are all very proud of our public schools and we want to make sure that they are the best possible places—

**Mr Hanson:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order on relevance, the question was: "Why are you not planning long term?" That was the question, not whether she worked well with the P&C.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** The minister has a minute left to respond to the question.

**MS BERRY:** I think I have referred to that. The answer to that question was that the ACT government provides funding to manage, remediate and maintain our schools, based on expert advice.

**MR CAIN:** Minister, what ACT schools are affected by lead paint or asbestos, and what action is being taken to immediately rectify the problems at each of these locations?

**MS BERRY:** I thank Mr Cain for the question. There are quite a number of schools, like any old buildings in the ACT, that have materials like lead paint. They are managed according to expert advice. Each school that has hazardous materials has a hazardous materials plan, and that plan is available at the front office for the school community to observe.

**Mr Hanson:** On a point of order, again on relevance, the question is: “What schools are affected by lead paint?” If the minister does not have that information available, maybe she could table it later.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. I am not going to direct the minister to answer when she is answering in order and is describing, as I think her words were, a number of older buildings that have contaminants.

**MR HANSON:** Minister, why are so many public schools in disrepair after 20 years of this government?

**MS BERRY:** They are not.

### **Business—COVID-19**

**MR PETTERSSON:** My question is to the Minister for Business and Better Regulation. Can you please update the Assembly on the government’s COVID-19 compliance program for business?

**MS CHEYNE:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the question and his interest in this area. The government, through Access Canberra and the Health Protection Service, is undertaking an extensive program of compliance activities to help keep our community safe and protected from COVID-19. Access Canberra operates according to the COVID-19 public health emergency response risk identification and treatment options by business sector procedure, as endorsed by the Chief Health Officer. It adopts a risk identification and treatment options approach by business sector to complement this. As at 24 November 2020, Access Canberra had undertaken 6,272 proactive inspections and engagements across business and industry, subject to the public health directions and restrictions. Some 298 proactive inspections across these sectors were undertaken in the past fortnight.

In addition to identified high-risk classes of businesses such as restaurants, bars and clubs, additional engagement and compliance checks took place at theatre halls and art and music centres. This is important, noting that gathering sizes continue to

increase in these venues. Venues visited in the past couple of weeks include the Canberra Theatre Centre, the Street Theatre, Llewellyn Hall, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Gorman House Arts Centre, the National Convention Centre, Wesley Music Centre, Belconnen Arts Centre, Erindale Theatre, Theatre 3 at the Canberra REP, and Kambri at ANU.

Feedback received has shown that venues appreciate that engagement with the government's compliance officers, and a high level of compliance was identified at these venues, including the management and tracking of patrons.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, what is the government doing to ensure the public's safety in venues that present the highest level of risk to the public?

**MS CHEYNE:** The Health Protection Service, through the Chief Health Officer, leads the ACT's overall compliance response to COVID-19 and public health directions. As a key regulatory partner in these efforts, Access Canberra takes a risk-based approach to its business compliance activities. This means that inspection efforts are focused on industry sectors that have been identified by the Chief Health Officer as presenting medium to high risks for COVID safety, due to the nature of the business and their activities.

Businesses considered as medium to high risk include restaurants, bars, clubs, the real estate sector, nightclubs, gyms, gaming venues, adult entertainment venues and brothels. To date, 85 per cent of all inspections undertaken have focused on businesses in these categories because those businesses undertake a high level of activity where close contact may occur. Some 209 educational warning letters have been sent out to businesses to support their COVID-19 compliance. Most of these letters have related to COVID-19 occupancy requirements and the requirement for certain types of businesses to have a COVID-19 safety plan.

As part of its compliance activities, a dedicated team within Access Canberra promotes adherence to the public health directions and works in collaboration with the Health Protection Service and ACT Policing to carry out compliance inspections. The team undertakes an approach of engagement, education and enforcement and regularly engages with industry sectors regarding their compliance with directions that will help protect our community from COVID-19.

**DR PATERSON:** Minister, what is the government doing to support venues and businesses to adopt the Check In CBR app and keep their patrons safe?

**MS CHEYNE:** Thank you, Dr Paterson, for the supplementary. The Check In CBR app is a free, easy and secure solution for Canberra venues to meet their requirements to collect patron contact details under the public health directions. As the Minister for Health noted yesterday, Canberrans have now downloaded the app more than 80,000 times and more than 2,800 venues have registered to use it. Under stage 4 of Canberra's recovery plan, which came into effect at 9 am yesterday, businesses and venues are required to use the app if they wish to have one person per two square metres in their indoor spaces.

When restrictions are eased or changed, Access Canberra provides sector-specific letters to approximately 7,000 regulated businesses and other sector licensees, proprietors and contacts informing them of the new requirements. Access Canberra has sent over 200,000 direct emails regarding changes to public health directions to support business compliance.

Businesses have been and are being contacted directly to advise them of the requirements if they wish to implement the new density measure. The information they have been and are being provided will clearly outline how they should go about registering for the Check In CBR app. In addition to online information, at each compliance visit Access Canberra encourages licensees, managers and business owners to adopt and use the Check In CBR app to support contact tracing capabilities.

**Mr Barr:** Madam Speaker, we are running a bit late for some inaugural speeches, so I ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.

## **Inaugural speeches**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Before I call Mr Davis, I remind members that it is traditional that inaugural speeches be heard in silence.

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (3.03), by leave: I would like to begin by acknowledging that we meet on the stolen lands of the Ngannawal people. I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. I would also like to acknowledge any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who join us today, physically or digitally.

It is the greatest honour of my life to stand before you as only the 82nd person elected to this place. Coincidentally, it was 82 votes that made the difference in my election, in what turned out to be a much closer contest than many had anticipated. Eighty-two has become my new lucky number.

I am extremely proud to represent the good people of Brindabella for the ACT Greens. My community is often one lauded as the conservative part of Canberra, a part of Canberra that does not get the Greens and that the Greens do not get. To say I am delighted that the election result has proved otherwise is an understatement. We took a very deliberate approach to this election: to offer every Canberran a Greens candidate that they could vote for and a Greens candidate that could win. For more than 12 years, and across four election campaigns, I have passionately pounded the pavement of Tuggeranong in promoting the ACT Greens, and that slow burn has paid off. Greens voters and people who share Greens values have always lived in Tuggeranong, and finally those people now have a seat at the table. I look forward to four years of service to my community, informed by those Greens values.

My contribution to this Assembly will stem from my deeply held belief that social and economic inequality is the most significant political issue we face. The gap between the haves and the have-nots has never been wider. The fact that there are people in our city who own multiple homes while so many people do not have a home at all is unacceptable. That is not to say that property investors are bad people. I have worked

with and for property investors for more than a decade, and I genuinely understand and empathise with people finding ways to secure their economic future and the economic future of their families. The housing crisis is not one fixed through shaming and guilting people who have used the policy of subsequent governments to negatively gear and improve their personal economic position. This is actually about governments taking leadership to remove systemic advantage and treat housing as a fundamental human right.

I am a loud guy. I am a “heart on his sleeve” kind of guy. I probably got that from my dad. I am a guy with a big personality. That may lead many to be confident that they already know me, but there is a lot that many would not know about me. I am someone who grew up in public housing, and I struggled with my education in my primary years. I was one of those kids that we often talk about in education policy who falls between the cracks. I am a person who helped to raise their siblings, and I provided care to someone close to me who struggled with drug dependency. I am someone who, in my lifetime, has found myself homeless, and I know what it feels like to have experienced sexual assault. There is a lot more to me, and indeed to any one of us, than we often give each other credit for. I am the sum of my diverse experiences, and those experiences inform my values.

The prominent Greek statesman Pericles once said:

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.

In 2006 politics took an interest in me. I was a student at the former Kambah High School when the then Stanhope Labor majority government proposed the closure of 39 ACT public schools, including Kambah high. From that position, and from that young age, it became almost impossible for me to ever see the Labor Party as a party motivated by the same values as me. I could not fathom how a political party that my parents had loyally voted for, a party I was raised to believe was the champion of the working class and of public institutions, could make such a bad decision that so disproportionately affected people who needed their support.

You may ask yourself why a 15-year-old would care so deeply that his school stayed open. Surely, most 15-year-olds cannot wait to get out of school. For me, my school community was the first place that I ever felt truly safe, truly seen, and truly supported and celebrated for my full humanity. The idea that that could be taken away from me was deeply personal.

Throughout the course of the school closures campaign, I learnt of all the ways such a terrible policy impacted so many young people and their families. This experience brought to life for me the feminist saying, “The personal is political.” To this day it has inspired me, and it will inspire my work to be this Assembly's strongest and most passionate advocate for an accessible, equitable and secular public education system. I will be a voice for every public school student, every public school educator and every parent who makes the choice to send their child to a great ACT public school. My vision is for a public school system that is the envy of the world and the choice of every Canberra family.



I left school before completing my year 12 certificate not because I do not value education; far from it. I left school before completing year 12 because my life experiences to that point led me to desperately seek economic security—security which working-class and lower-middle-class people are always seeking. The so-called “poor man’s mentality” led me straight into the workforce to avoid the debt that currently comes with higher education and precludes a significant number of our community from those opportunities.

I got through school by taking up a range of part-time jobs. I worked late at night at the Hyperdome, cleaning out the cinnamon doughnut machine at Donut King. I worked in retail and hospitality. I even delivered pizzas in my 1979 Holden Barina with the ding in the side.

I got into real estate because it was an industry that seemed tailor-made for my skill sets—a hard worker who loves working with people, someone who loves to be of service, combined with a naturally competitive nature to win and succeed. When I entered the real estate industry I was just 16 years old; I was experiencing homelessness and I was living off Newstart, until that elusive first commission cheque would come in. It took a few years. I saw little prospect for myself in school that would not trap me in a cycle of poverty. Real estate gave me an opportunity to break through and support not only myself but, more importantly to me at that time, the people that I cared about, in a real and meaningful way.

You can never have too much money when you are raised working class. I can empathise with the mindset of being one pay cheque, one tough decision, one crisis away from the kind of poverty that leads to every subsequent decision being one that is made from fear.

Politics took an interest in me a few years later, when I came out openly as gay. While I am a product of a much more socially progressive and open-minded generation, there were at that time, and still are today, barriers in the way of my full equality and the full equality of those that I know and love.

I was acutely aware of the discrimination and prejudice that I may face in my later years when I came out to my dad, who said, “I love you, but I am just so worried for you.” It bears noting at this point that my dad is my best friend, and he joins us in the gallery today. But the genuine fear and concern that he felt for how different my life would be and for my welfare was yet another poignant reminder that reinforced my progressive social values.

The idea that an innate part of who I am, something that I could not and would not change, was going to make my life harder or more difficult was so confusing, and it grew to become infuriating. Over time that experience helped to broaden my perspective to appreciate how many other people battle a more difficult world simply because of the things that make them unique. That is why, for as long as I am in this place, the things that make you different, the things that make you special, will be not only acknowledged but celebrated. Not only will they be recognised but also they will be legislatively and politically supported.

To that end, I would like to offer a personal thankyou to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, your leadership in advocating for the rights of sexuality and gender diverse Canberrans has had a profound impact on me. Your leadership and courage, both personally and politically, make it so much easier for me, a proud gay man, to stand up in this place. You have made our city better, not only for me but for people like us. There is so much more work to be done to ensure full equality for the diversity of people in our shared rainbow family. I offer myself sincerely and genuinely to assist in those efforts.

All of these things explain a story of me and who I am. These things inform my values. But they will not entirely define my work or my contributions to this place. I believe that the unregulated excesses of capitalism have reinforced the privilege of individuals and corporations who are able to collect and hoard great wealth at the expense of everyday people and our planet. What we are building through our global green movement is a strong political response to global, economic and wealth inequality, propped up by the active destruction of our planet.

Obscene wealth and inequality are almost always acquired at the expense of our environment. The desire for inordinate wealth is the single biggest contributing factor to the climate crisis we are facing, with a small percentage of our society consuming and hoarding well beyond their needs, to the detriment of us all.

I want to make sure that the Greens share our just and equitable vision with the tradie with a cert IV certificate, the single mother living in public housing, the person who took a risk in small business, and the pensioner trying to maintain their independence. I want these people to know that the Greens are a party for them—people like my dad. My dad is someone who, by his own admission, was a Labor voter. He was a Labor voter because he is a proud working-class man—the kind of man who leaves for work before the sun rises and does not get home until the sun sets, the kind of man who needs to warm up his V8 engine in the garage at 5 am, much to the frustration of our neighbours.

I am someone who takes my work seriously, but I rarely take myself too seriously. I am by nature a jokester—a class clown, the funny man. Now seems to be the best time to apologise in advance to Madam Speaker and to warn my fellow class clowns that there is a new sheriff in town—Mr Hanson and Mr Parton, of course!

Through humility, through humour and through hard work, I want to achieve meaningful change for the 70,424 people that I now work for. I believe by breaking down this perception that politics and this place are separate from community, by humbling ourselves to our constituents, and by being genuine and authentic in our interactions with them, we can demonstrate a more collaborative way of doing politics.

While I am incredibly proud of my membership of the ACT Greens, I do not pretend that we, or that I as an individual, come to this place with all of the answers to every problem. I genuinely look forward to working with all of my colleagues across the political spectrum so that we can find common ground and solutions that place our community's interests front and centre. In particular, I would like to extend a genuine

offer to you, Madam Speaker, and to our fellow Brindabella colleagues Mr Parton, Ms Lawder and Mr Gentleman. I believe that ours is the best community in Canberra, although I accept that I am a little bit biased. I especially look forward to working with you to ensure the best representation for our community and that the people of Tuggeranong are most effectively represented in this place.

It is in that vein that I would like to encourage all of you to join me for an informal Brindabella caucus in this Tenth Assembly—a non-partisan effort that sees all five of us working together and meeting regularly to discuss issues of concern to our constituents. I am happy to facilitate the first meeting. We can have it at Brew Bar on Anketell Street, and I will even shout you to lunch.

Although I stand proudly today as the 82nd person elected to this place, it is not my first time in this building. In fact, the by-product of my campaign against the school closures of 2006 was a period of work with then Liberal MLAs Brendan Smyth and Steve Pratt. Suffice to say that the development of my political values and ideology has not seen me as an advocate for the Liberal cause. However, through my work with Mr Pratt and Mr Smyth I developed a deep appreciation for the awesome impact of the work of this place and the impact that that work can have on everyday people in our communities. They demonstrated to me at a young age a model for parliamentarism for which I am very grateful.

However, what I learnt through that experience was that the Liberal Party did not reflect my values, yet I had a yearning to contribute to public policy and politics. In my time here, I did get to witness firsthand the hard work of the late ACT Greens member for Brindabella, Dr Deb Foskey, and her team. They inspired me to take another look at the Greens. I say “another look” on purpose because the Greens were often referred to in my home, rather disparagingly, as an intellectual inner-city elite. “Latte sippers,” Dad would say. I am more of a flat white guy myself! I thought it was a party that did not and could not represent me or my values. The work of the late Dr Deb Foskey and her team showed me that this was not true; in fact, it was often only the Greens who were ever really standing up for working-class people and people living in poverty.

Another core reason for my ever-developing interest in the Greens at that time was the dinnertime conversations in my family that were, to be kind, disparaging towards all politicians and politics in general. Of the many expressions that my dad has used over time—and members, I warn you, you will hear many of them over the course of the next four years, most of them terribly unparliamentary—one of my dad’s more famous quotes was to “follow the money”. When following the money, it shocked me to learn about the mega amounts of cash donated often by profitable corporate interests and the wealthy elite that swirls through the two old parties. I could not understand why these people and their businesses would give so much to these two political parties. I then spent some time working in small business, and even owning and operating a few small businesses myself. I learnt that no businessperson makes an investment without expecting a return. That begged the obvious question: what was it exactly that these big corporations and wealthy elite were getting out of the two old parties?

Of the many things that make me incredibly proud to be a member of the ACT Greens, it is that our policies and our work in this place and other similar places are always motivated by the needs of the community, informed by evidence and the hopes and aspirations of our active membership. Fellow members, I promise that, even on days when you disagree with me, everything that I say in this place will be motivated by my values, by the active and informed membership of the ACT Greens, by the constituents of Brindabella and never by the insidious and toxic influence of donations from people or businesses that would seek to influence my work.

To end, I could not be here today without the hard work and the admirable commitment to the cause of the Brindabeleever Greens team. Thank you to my fellow candidates Laura Nuttall and Sue Ellerman. Anyone who has ever had the pleasure of even a short interaction with Sue would have heard the phrase, “Look after yourself.” Sue, I thank you for all the times you have looked after me over the years and your commitment to looking after people and looking after the planet. You have been a faithful servant of the Greens for a long time. Our party is stronger and our city is better for your contribution.

Of all the words that could be used to describe Laura Nuttall, the simplest is “good”. She is just a good person. It was remarked often by other candidates and volunteers from the other parties throughout the election campaign how lucky we were to have Laura on our team. Her genuine enthusiasm, her earnest attitude and unquestionable commitment to the cause is inspiring. I have no doubt that it inspired many to place their trust in the Greens at this election.

To all the Brindabeleever Greens, I say thank you. Grassroots democracy is more than a tagline; it is genuinely how we Greens get things done, through hours of hard work by volunteers who want to secure a fairer, cleaner, safer and more just world. An honourable mention must go to the core team—Pascale, Julie, Jordan, Matthew, Erin, Hannah, Marcia, Elizabeth, Aidan, Jana and Carolyn.

Thank you to our campaign manager, Clancy, his right-hand man, Adam, and our party director, Adele. Thank you to the party co-conveners, Jo and Denby, for their leadership. Thank you to all members of the election campaign team, and thank you to each and every member of the ACT Greens for placing their trust in me and preselecting me as a representative of our movement for the fourth time.

Thank you to Shane Rattenbury for your leadership of our party, your support through this campaign, and in particular your guidance as I navigate the weird yet wonderful complexities of the new world that I inhabit.

Thank you to some of my dearest friends. While there are too many to mention, I would like particularly to thank Ashleigh Maloney and Douglas Robinson. I hope that each of my fellow members has friends as good as Ash and Doug. They will keep you level on the hard days, celebrate the good days and take you down a notch when you are getting a little too full of yourself.

Thank you to the 5,985 voters of Tuggeranong who gave their number one vote to the ACT Greens. You chose to vote Green when those in the media and those who commentate on elections wrote off our campaign and said we could not win. You backed us. You stood up for your values at the ballot box and now I have the humbling privilege to make good on your trust over the next four years.

Especially, thank you to my dad, Tom Davis, the greatest man I have ever met. Members, I cannot wait to get to work.

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (3.25), by leave: I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the country that we meet on today, the Ngunnawal people, and recognise their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture. These lands were stolen and sovereignty was never ceded. I also pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

Once again, and I am sure it will not be for the last time, I have been called upon for the hard act to speak after my good friend Mr Davis. I know of no other person who is more passionate for his community of Tuggeranong. Whilst I might be of the view that he is wrong, misguided and delusional, as Tuggeranong could never compare to the greener pastures of Gungahlin, I respect and love him for the passion that he brings. I thank the house for the indulgence to give leave so that I can wax lyrical about God's country, also known as Gungahlin. He is unable to interrupt me for once.

Just as a side note, to all the new members who have spoken over the past two days, did you not realise the opportunity you have forgone? You have unlimited time to speak, every word is protected by parliamentary privilege, and the other members are unable to interrupt you. It does not get better than this.

I would love nothing better right now than to take off my jacket, remove this noose from around my neck, roll up my sleeves, take a swig of coffee and start to pace around whilst I talk. Alas, it is not to be. To those behind me, I am sorry that you are looking at my back right now whilst I talk. I am sure some of you might even think it is my best side.

In researching what to say during an inaugural speech, you become aware of a certain pattern or expectations that are placed on a member: telling a story of self and of policy and politics that are important to oneself, a sort of, "Who am I? Whence do I come? Where am I headed?"

I had no ambition to join politics until about five years ago. Sure, as a teenager I dreamed of being a benevolent dictator of a small coastal town. I can only claim to have achieved one out of those three. On reflection, I see a number of life challenges that have led me to this point.

I was a shy little boy who did not make friends easily but who preferred to spend a good part of his childhood playing in a Queensland creek, battling lantana, climbing fallen logs, getting muddy and playing in the floodwaters. It is nature that has always struck me and given me a sense of peace and harmony.

In my 20s I faltered when faced with climate change. It was too big, too confronting for me. I turned away my face, for which I am sorry. I do not plan to turn away a second time.

Like many Canberrans, I moved here to work for the public service. I made the active choice to live here, to settle down and raise a family, to serve the Australian community in a quiet, humble sort of way.

The stillbirth of our son, Connor Jack Braddock, taught me how bad things can happen to good people, providing me with a greater understanding of the tragedies, the challenges and the sadness that many carry in their hearts.

I am a carer to my wife, who has mental and physical disabilities, and I have had my own experiences with depression. I get the silent battles that happen within people's heads. I can categorically state to you, "You are not alone."

Becoming a father to twins not only introduced me to extreme sleep deprivation but opened my eyes to how we are mere temporary caretakers of our environs. In time, we pass on the baton of this responsibility to our children.

Finally, being a father to a child with additional needs is an enormous ongoing parenting challenge. It was also a marked lesson in humility when I realised that my then three-year-old daughter was a much better negotiator than I am.

Many in our community are doing the best they can in the circumstances in which they find themselves, with the tools they have at their disposal. I am not blind to the unscrupulous who move amongst us, but they are the few as compared to the many. In my view, it is the role of government to provide the support and the tools to enable people's best to be better. To everyone in the community of Yerrabi, whether you are struggling or not, I say, "I am here to serve you."

Thirty years ago, Gungahlin was a sheep paddock. Now it is home to 81,000 people. This brings great vibrancy and potential. Gungahlin is in the process of defining itself. Stories are not yet written. Gungahlin is not weighed down by traditions and expectations. We do, however, need to build our confidence in our own identity, embrace who we are, and proudly push back against those who look down on our home.

Ms Castley yesterday proudly owned the term of being a Charnwood chick. Today, I will claim being a Bonner boy. We need to be proud of our still-building suburbs, home to so many people new to Canberra, and proud of our green spaces. We need to revel in the finest playgrounds. We need to embrace the many cultures coming together and the opportunities that are found in such a setting.

I love how diverse Yerrabi is. There are 38 different nationalities represented in my children's school. It reminds me that we, as a group of representatives, need to ensure that those in Canberra's multicultural community have their voices effectively brought into this Assembly. I promise that I will make this a personal priority of mine.

We have many opportunities in Gungahlin to leverage the light rail, integrating walking and cycling so as to reduce our car dependency. This is the key to creating a healthier, more livable and more convenient city. Duplicating roads is akin to loosening your belt to cure obesity. As a middle-aged man with a spreading waist, I can assure you that this is not a winning strategy.

As the final packages of land in Gungahlin start to build out, their importance increases. It is the gaps in the painting that can bring the greatest potential to a piece of art. The process of filling those remaining gaps will be of great interest to me. The community has already expressed its views on this in many ways—in YourSay surveys; via the Gungahlin Community Council, of which I have the privilege of being on the executive; and to me directly, during multiple campaigns.

People have called for the prioritisation of green and community spaces, a diverse range of services, and opportunities for employment, so as to enable Gungahlin to maximise its potential as a community in which to work, live and play. I will diligently represent these views in the chamber. During the campaign, I stated very clearly that I would be an alternative voice for Yerrabi. That is exactly what I will do in this Assembly.

I am here to serve my local community: to represent their views authentically; be frank and honest in all dealings; take long-term views; develop nuanced approaches based on evidence; call out what needs to be called out; and work constructively with all parts of community. Having actively made the choice to live here, I am here to serve with quiet humility, dignity, respect and hard work, so as to carve out a future for all of us. I am not here to play politics. I will work with anyone here who wants to have a constructive conversation. With self-deprecating humour, willingness to listen, and understated style, I will work to serve.

For those who wish to work with me, I must admit that, despite many roles over the course of my professional life, I still possess an engineer's brain. The practical, tangible, on-the-ground outcomes to create a better future for our community will resonate with this simple MLA. To those in the chamber today, I apologise in advance, but I will challenge the status quo, the conventions, the way we have always done things. I will not change my behaviour, but I feel better for having warned you and apologised in advance. I always have that urge to figure out a better way of doing things.

In a final nod to tradition, I would like to pay tribute to the family, friends and fellow Greens travellers who helped me get to this esteemed place. I thank my wife, Deb, who, for the past five years, had to endure this crazy dream. I still recall that night when I had to come clean, explaining to an exhausted mother of two-year-old twins why I had just joined the Greens—because I wanted to run as a candidate, of course. Why? In order to work here in the Legislative Assembly, of course. Why? To help save the world. Deb, I thank you for not leaving me that night.

To everyone in my family who helped me become who I am and get here today, I say thank you. In particular, I thank my mother, who gave me the critical nudges needed

when I hesitated in this endeavour. My daughters, who are not here today—let’s face it; they don’t listen to daddy at the best of times, let alone for 10 to 20 minutes—have made many sacrifices as I undertook Greens work, and I hope to make those sacrifices worthwhile.

I thank so many within the Greens who pulled together as one awesome team. To mention you all would take too long, but from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Now I would like to depart from tradition and finish with a call to action. As I stand before you, I am being judged. Every time I sit in this chamber, I will be judged. For the entirety of the time that I serve as a member for Yerrabi, I will be judged. I will be judged by myself in those dark moments of the soul when I stand in front of the mirror. I will be judged by history, which will, in the fullness of time, come to a verdict on what I did—or, perhaps more importantly, what I did not do. I will be judged by the voters of Yerrabi, each of them my ultimate boss, who will have their say in 2024. But the harshest judges of all will be my own children. Once they become aware of the state of the climate, I will need to look them in the eye and be answerable to them.

If you want to know what is driving me, it is this: if you think I will be alone in the dock, you are very much mistaken. We are going to be all in it together. It is the future of my children, of all children, that is at stake. “Normal” does not cut it anymore. We congratulate ourselves on 100 per cent renewable electricity. It is not enough. Natural disasters, bushfires, smoke and a pandemic are a new normal. This last decade, the hottest on record, will be the coolest decade for the rest of the century.

I am not worried for the sake of our planet. This lump of rock will continue to go on. Life, in some form, will continue. It is humanity that I worry about. It is our own survival. We need to act fast, act with determination, and act with boldness and courage. We need to collaborate. We cannot be complacent. We have to move faster and harder. I exhort all here today to take up this challenge.

I want to pass on a better future for our next generation. My promise to this Assembly, to my children, and to all of our children, is, “I will single-mindedly apply myself to this issue every day.” The future is not fixed. We have the opportunity here to craft something better, and we need to do just that.

## Papers

**Madam Speaker** presented the following paper:

Inspector of Correctional Services Act, pursuant to section 27—Report of a review of a correctional service—ACT Corrective Services Court Transport Unit 2020, by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, dated November 2020.

**Mr Gentleman** presented the following papers:

A Step Up for Our Kids—Snapshot Report—A Presentation of Data covering 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2020.



ACT Public Health System—Investing in Our People: A System-Wide, Evidence-Based Approach to Workplace Change, together with a statement.

Asbestos related works across Canberra—Annual statement 2020.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the National Boards, reporting on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme—Annual Report 2019/20.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, pursuant to subsection 15(3)—Minister’s annual report 2019-20.

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 39—Copy of notices provided to the Ombudsman—Freedom of Information requests—Decisions not made in time—Education Directorate—dated 24 November 2020.

Gene Technology Act, pursuant to subsection 136(2)—Operations of the Gene Technology Regulator—Annual reports—2019-20, dated 11 September 2020.

Health, Ageing and Community—Standing Committee—Ninth Assembly—Report 11—Report on Child and Youth Protection Services (Part 1 and 2)—Government response.

Health (National Health Funding Pool and Administration) Act, pursuant to subsection 25(4)—Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool—Annual report 2019-20.

Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020—Final Progress Report 2020.

National Health Funding Body—Annual report 2019-20, dated 24 September 2020.

National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner—Annual report 2019-20.

Water Resources Act, pursuant to subsection 67D(3)—ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group—Annual report 2019-20, together with a statement.

## **Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010—annual report**

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.38): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, pursuant to subsection 15(3)—Minister’s annual report 2019-20.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (3.38): I am pleased to table the 2019-20 minister’s annual report under section 15 of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Reduction Act 2010. As required by that

legislation, the report sets out the following three things: the actions taken in 2019-20 by the responsible minister under the act; the effectiveness of government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a cost-benefit analysis of government policies and programs implemented to meet the climate change targets in the act.

The ACT is a leader on climate change action. We are recognised nationally and internationally for our climate leadership. 2019-20 was a significant year in our climate leadership journey. It was the year we met our longstanding target to achieve 100 per cent renewable electricity. We are the first jurisdiction outside Europe with a population over 100,000 to achieve this goal. We will maintain 100 per cent renewable electricity from now on, as required under the act.

Through our fifth renewables auction in 2019-20 we secured renewable electricity to support our growing population and help us replace fossil fuel gas and transport fuel with zero emissions electricity from wind and solar farms. Achieving this target is a great outcome in itself. It also means we have more opportunities for continued emissions abatement.

We know that all-electric options for homes and businesses do not just save money; they are also now emissions free. As we look to take more action in the transport sector, electric vehicles offer a good solution, reducing noise in our streets, improving air quality and providing a zero emissions alternative to fossil fuels.

Achieving 100 per cent renewable electricity is also the major contributor to meeting our target to reduce the ACT's greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent on 1990 levels. Our emissions in 2019-20 were actually 45.3 per cent below 1990 levels, exceeding that target. Some of this was, unhappily, due to the way COVID-19 impacted our economy, and we expect that there will be some rebound of transport emissions as our economy continues to recover. But we remain on the path to our longer term emissions reduction targets.

Our next challenges will be to reduce our emissions from transport and gas, which together account for more than 80 per cent of the ACT's emissions. In 2019-20 we released the ACT Climate Change Strategy. The strategy outlines the next steps to meet our emissions reduction targets and prepare for climate change. To complement that strategy, we also release Canberra's living infrastructure plan, Cooling the City. The plan builds on the ACT Planning Strategy 2018 to make Canberra sustainable, livable and resilient and to help address the urban heat island effect.

Following the recent ACT election, we are now implementing a range of new measures that will build on the strategy and the plan. The ACT community have given us a clear signal that they want the ACT to continue to be a leader in this area, and we remain fully committed to doing all we can to place us on track for a zero emissions community that is resilient to the effects of a changing global climate.

In 2019-20 we made significant progress in a range of areas, in addition to reaching 100 per cent renewable electricity. I will briefly mention a few key achievements that show the diversity of our activities. As part of our COVID-19 response we have funded the installation of solar panels on a dozen public and community housing

properties. These systems will generate over 340,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year, and the tenants will see reduced energy bills as a result. This will be a model for how multi-unit residences in future can participate in the solar revolution.

In April 2020 we put forward a variation to the Territory Plan with interim effects removing the mandatory requirement for new estate developments to have natural gas connections. We also released the sustainable energy policy 2020-25 discussion paper for public consultation, seeking views on issues such as how we plan for the transition out of natural gas use. In this next term of the Legislative Assembly we will build on these developments with clear steps to accelerate this transition.

We supported ACT residents to transition to electric vehicles in 2019-20 through the stamp duty exemption and a 20 per cent registration discount for zero emissions vehicles, amending planning rules to make it easy to install public electric vehicle charging, and opening our transit lanes to electric vehicles. We entered into a partnership with ActewAGL and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, or ARENA, to pilot good connected electric vehicle batteries. This world-leading project will test batteries' potential to support the grid during peak demand and reduce ownership costs for drivers and fleet operators.

We continued to deliver programs that support businesses, households, schools and the community to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions, alongside other benefits. These included our Actsmart programs for businesses, schools and households and events, and our community zero emissions grants program. We continued to administer the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund, or REIF, and other programs to make the ACT an internationally recognised centre for renewable energy, innovation and investment.

We continued the important work of transition in the ACT to zero emissions vehicles and we have continued to engage in research partnerships to ensure that our policies are informed by the most up-to-date information and experience. We extended our partnership with the New South Wales government to deliver comprehensive, up-to-date climate projections for the ACT. These projections will help us prepare for climate risks. We also continued to jointly fund research and development under the ANU's battery storage and grid integration program.

The ACT government is leading by example through its zero emissions government framework. The framework commits the government to achieving zero emissions in its own operations by 2040, five years earlier than the community as a whole. In 2019-20 government emissions were 40 per cent lower than in 2018-19 due to the achievement of 100 per cent renewable electricity. ACT government agencies collectively beat their emissions reduction target for 2019-20.

In 2019-20 we ran several projects to bring down ACT government emissions, including developing options for the new Canberra Hospital extension to be all electric, to take advantage of our 100 per cent renewable electricity supply. In September 2020 the government announced that the facility will be all electric. This is a first for a major medical facility in a cold climate.

We ensured that 57 per cent of our new passenger vehicle leases were zero emissions vehicles, exceeding our target of 50 per cent. We finished building the Dickson office block, which is the first major all-electric zero emissions office building in the territory. As part of our COVID-19 response we funded three public swimming pools to switch from gas to renewable electricity-based heating and two public schools to install solar panels and battery systems. We also provided zero interest loans to ACT government agencies to support emission reduction projects.

I will now turn to the effectiveness of government actions as required by the act. The ACT greenhouse gas inventory showcases the impact of our actions. It shows that in 2019-20 the ACT needed 1,684 kilotons of carbon dioxide equivalent. This was 45.3 per cent lower than in 1990, meeting our target of a 40 per cent reduction on that year. The target was primarily delivered by achieving 100 per cent renewable electricity supply.

On top of the reduction in our electricity emissions, the ACT's transport emissions were also lower during 2019-20. This was largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so we will likely see some rebound in transport emissions in future. However, the government is clearly committed to addressing transport emissions, and the new parliamentary and governing agreement includes a range of measures to promote zero emissions vehicles. As life returns to normal, we will work to lock in emissions reductions wherever possible.

Emissions from the ACT government's own operations were also significantly lower in 2019-20 than in previous years. We emitted 63.7 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, which was 40 per cent less than in 2018-19. In 2019-20 the ACT government was nationally recognised when being awarded both the Renewable Energy Achievement Award and the Energy Efficiency Achievement Award from the national Cities Power Partnership.

The renewable energy award was for our \$25 million Next Generation Energy Storage Program, which continues to support the rollout of smart battery storage to homes and small businesses. The energy efficiency award was for our Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme, which we extended in 2020 for a further 10 years. The EEIS requires energy retailers to help households and businesses reduce their energy demand—for example, by installing energy efficient appliances.

I am also required to give a cost of living statement. Given the impending demise of the clock, I will simply table the rest of the statement so that it is available to members:

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, pursuant to subsection 15(3)—Minister's annual report 2019-20—Tabling statement.

I am sure members will be interested in that element of it in particular.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020—final progress report**

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.49): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020—Final Progress Report 2020.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (3.49): The Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020 includes a commitment to table progress reports in the Assembly. This is the final report for this strategy and provides an update on progress against the targets in the strategy and the government's achievements against the actions.

I am pleased to inform the Assembly that, overall, the number of property offences in the ACT has been decreasing over the four years since the strategy was introduced. In 2019-20 there were 17,737 recorded property offences, which is 3,933 fewer than four years earlier, in 2015-16. Within the property offence category, the strategy aimed to keep crime rates low in five target areas: unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft, bicycle theft, other theft, and property damage.

The good news is that four of the five targets under this strategy have been achieved. The ACT was below the national rate of 683 victims of unlawful entry with intent per 100,000 population, with an ACT rate of 613 in 2019. The year-on-year increase in the other theft rate has stopped. The ACT recorded 139 per 100,000 population in 2019-20, 82 fewer than in 2015-16. There were small increases in property damage in 2016-17 and 2018-19. However, in 2019-20 the rate of property damage was 94 per 100,000 population—31 fewer than in 2015-16. And the bicycle theft rate has remained steady at 17 thefts per 100,000 population.

The main challenge for the ACT in relation to property crime continues to be motor vehicle theft. The target to date has not been achieved, with the ACT remaining above the national rate. To assist in addressing this challenge, the “lock and hide to protect your ride” component of the Outsmart the Offender campaign was released in October 2019. This campaign will continue in 2021, and motor vehicle theft will remain a key focus for ACT Policing and the Directorate of Justice and Community Safety. The Outsmart the Offender campaign is a key initiative under the strategy, aimed at raising awareness of what an individual can do to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim to property crime.

The campaign includes these key messages, targeting important areas of prevention: “Lock and hide to protect your ride”, targeting motor vehicle theft and theft from vehicles; “keep out a break-in”, targeting home burglary; “lock up and cover up”, targeting theft from apartments; “lock it or lose it”, targeting bicycle theft; “keep

burglars out of your business”, targeting theft from small businesses, and “make your tools tough to take”, targeting tradie tool theft.

The ACT Policing social media team leading the Outsmart the Offender campaign has had some great results in social media on a topic where it can be difficult to engage people. “Lock and hide to protect your ride” had a reach of over 105,000 people on Facebook, with total engagement sitting around 3,500. “Keep out a break-in” reached over 120,000 people on Facebook and over 21,000 on Twitter, with engagement across the two platforms sitting at around 7,800. Engagement across other areas for key messages was also high, sitting at between 70,000 and 100,000 people reached. This campaign has been developed with longevity in mind and will continue to be rolled out over the coming year. While COVID-19 restrictions did stall some campaign activities, we look forward to being able to promote these messages further as community events ramp up again as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease.

Under the strategy, other key actions in 2019-20 that contributed to keeping Canberra a safe place in which to live and preventing property crime include the SafeHome program currently run by SupportLink, which provided 157 home safety assessments free of charge for people vulnerable to property crime. Minor modifications were carried out on 87 properties to increase home security. An independent evaluation and cost-benefit analysis of the program is currently underway to inform decision-making around the future of this program.

Enhancements to the ACT Policing website statistics and an independent review of the ACT criminal justice statistical profile are improving the accessibility of crime and justice data. ACT Policing’s community policing Proactive Intervention and Disruption Team commenced in October this year and are focusing on working with partners to solve problems and reduce the impacts of repeat calls for service, including intervention and diversion strategies for property crime offences. Through ACT Crime Stoppers, police are able to receive vital information from the community that may be the missing link police need to help solve an investigation. In 2019 contact via ACT Crime Stoppers resulted in 3,688 information reports being raised and passed on to police investigators in the ACT. ACT Policing provided funding assistance for a new website for ACT Crime Stoppers to improve mobile responsiveness and reporting speed.

In 2019-20 all Suburban Land Agency design of public parks, playgrounds and streets actively considered and complied with the crime prevention through environmental design principles. Place-making remained an important component of designing new developments, with a sense of place created by using themes and public art. Finally, the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2019 strengthened the ability for tenants to make modifications to their rental property which improve the security of the premises for the tenant or other people on the premises. These could include installing deadlocks or security cameras. These are just a few examples of the great work carried out under this strategy to prevent property crime.

Although Canberra is one of the safest places in which to live and we experience lower crime rates than other jurisdictions, we face some challenges and we need to ensure that we do not become complacent. The government will continue to play a

role in making places more difficult and less appealing for criminal activity. We will continue to work closely with ACT Policing to raise awareness and empower the community to safeguard their property. The minister has tabled the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020 and I am pleased to provide this information to the Assembly today to give a snapshot of the report.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Adjournment**

Motion (by **Mr Gentleman**) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

## **World AIDS Day**

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (3.56): I rise today to mark World AIDS Day, which took place on Tuesday. World AIDS Day is held on 1 December each year to raise awareness of the issues and experiences faced by people living with HIV and to commemorate those that we have lost to AIDS. This year's theme is "Now more than ever". This theme was chosen to encourage sustained community education, the promotion of prevention strategies and to continue to fight against stigma and discrimination.

Ending HIV is an ongoing project, and HIV continues to impact the lives of hundreds of Canberrans, their family, their friends and their allies. Locally, rates of transmission of HIV in our community continue to fall steadily, thanks in large part to the hard work and dedication of Meridian, known formerly as the AIDS Action Council of the ACT. The AIDS Action Council was formed by a group of gay men and their allies who came together in Canberra in 1983 to organise a community response to HIV.

The council worked closely with affected communities on specific projects established for gay men, injecting drug users, sex workers and people with haemophilia. Now known as Meridian, the council changed their name this year to continue to reflect their increasing care and support for a wide range of communities, including LGBTQIA+ people. This name pays homage to Canberra's first and only social organisation for LGBTQIA+ communities, the Meridian Club.

I was privileged to attend Meridian's World AIDS Day event on Sunday morning at their space at Havelock House and to have visited the AIDS Garden of Memorial at the National Arboretum. This year Meridian provided 1,500 safe-sex packs and over 1,760 clean syringe packs. They have conducted over 139 community-based sexual health tests and have provided over 1,000 occasions of service to people living with HIV within our Canberra community. This is a considerable achievement, given the impact of COVID-19 on community organisations and particularly those working with people with chronic health conditions such as HIV.

I am a proud member of Meridian and I thank them for their work. I extend my unending thanks to the community activists, advocates, policymakers, nurses and doctors who led the fight against HIV. As a result of the leadership of the LGBT community, drug user leagues, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health organisations, the promotion of safe sex and drug harm minimisation is now part of the fabric of our public health system. This progressive approach to health care has saved and will continue to save lives. In particular, I thank Philippa Moss, the CEO of Meridian, and Joshua Anlezark, Deputy CEO of Meridian, as well as Jacob White for his personal and powerful Dr Peter Rowland Memorial Address.

In recent years, medical advancements such as pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, have drastically reduced the number of transmissions of HIV in countries with strong public health systems such as ours. PrEP is a daily dose of HIV medication taken by a HIV-negative individual to prevent getting HIV. I am proud to be someone taking PrEP and I am proud to be proactive about my health and wellbeing as a gay man, as well as the health of my community. Research shows that PrEP is more than 99 per cent effective in preventing HIV transmission. Alongside routine HIV and STI testing, community awareness training and the high adherence of the HIV-positive community to HIV medication, the rates of transmission of HIV will continue to drop significantly.

I am grateful to our community organisations, medical professionals and public health systems who have enabled, encouraged and supported the community to be empowered in their own health and wellbeing.

### **Valedictory**

#### **Schools—languages curriculum**

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (4.00): As we approach the end of 2020, I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the residents in my electorate of Ginninderra who, in October, asked me to return to this place to make sure that their voices are heard. I value every vote that was cast next to my name and once again pledge my service to the good people of Belconnen. I likewise thank all those who supported my election campaign in any way. I also thank my staff for their hard work and dedication, which helped to carry me for the past four years. I am pleased to have Sylvia, Joe and Brett back with me for the next four years.

Like many others, I am looking forward to the arrival of a new year with hope for new and better things. There are resolutions to be made, goals to be set and achievements to pursue. My hope is that our hard work in the present will carry forward to the new year and give us a solid foundation for future growth.

Sadly, this will not be happening for many year 6 students at Hawker school. Hawker has a strong reputation in a number of curriculum areas. This includes its French program, taught to children from kindergarten to year 6 by a specialist teacher. Previously, students who wished to build on this strong foundation by continuing to learn French at high school could do so because the school to which they were assigned by the ACT government offered instruction in both French and Indonesian.



These language options also served students from Weetangera Primary School who, likewise, studied French, and Florey Primary School, where students learnt Indonesian, creating a seamless education pathway.

But no more. Both French and Indonesian have been dropped from the curriculum of Belconnen High School, essentially throwing up a roadblock to language learning for students from all three primary schools in the priority enrolment area. This decision has caught families by surprise and disappointed many young learners. It also violates the ACT government's Curriculum Requirements in ACT Public Schools policy, which mandates that all high schools in the territory must provide students in years 7 and 8 with at least 150 hours of instruction each week in one or more of eight priority languages, which include French, German, Italian, Spanish, Indonesian, Japanese, Mandarin and/or Korean.

I pause here to make it very clear that families are not opposed to the new curriculum that has replaced the teaching of French and Indonesian at Belconnen High School. To the contrary, they speak highly of it, but they cannot understand why the introduction of new and welcome teaching must mean the end of important other parts of the school's offerings, ones that are actually mandated by government policy.

I take this opportunity to raise the concerns of these families and call upon Minister Berry to fix this problem before the new school year begins. I hope that she cares about this matter, not just because she is the minister for education but also because she is meant to represent the Ginninderra electorate too.

My very best wishes to all for a happy and safe holiday.

### **Valedictory**

**MR CAIN** (Ginninderra) (4.04): I thought I would like to share something light-hearted with you all and then something on the more serious side. I am sorry that not everyone is here, particularly for the first bit.

I would like to tell a joke. I had my special moment yesterday with my inaugural speech, and I would like to think that this is my special moment for today. The story goes like this. Twenty-five MLAs walk into a bar. Because I said 25, that means the Chief Minister is part of that Assembly. If I said that 24 MLAs walked into a bar, it would have a different meaning. That is not the joke yet. Twenty-five MLAs walk into a bar. You would have thought one of them would have seen it.

On the more serious side, whether people are watching here or not, whether they are watching virtually or not, I would like people to reflect on the first syllable in Christmas and what that has meant in our culture and society, going back approximately 2,020 years. Hopefully, you might think it means something to you. It certainly does to me.

### **Education—class of 2020**

**MS CASTLEY** (Yerrabi) (4.06): I take this opportunity to speak of one group of very special Canberrans, to pay tribute to a select category who number in their thousands,

a cohort of survivors, brave warriors, women and men, battle weary, worn after a long and taxing year. They have been in trenches made even more treacherous by something called online learning.

I am talking about the class of 2020. In this case, I am not referring to the students, although I salute our tough young scholars, all 4,858 of them, and wish them well in their future endeavours. I am honouring the mums and dads, the carers and partners, who have swotted and sweated through 2020 with their year 12 cherubs. I speak from experience because I am one of them. All I can say is: thank goodness it is over.

On many occasions over the last 12 months I have looked at my gorgeous daughter and thought, “We could not be more different.” I think back to my year 12 experience at Copland college. I did everything I could to get enough points to leave school early. I was the kid in the library doing my homework at lunchtime to get it out of the way and hand it in early, way before it was due.

This has not been the case in our household this year. Far from it, in fact. Of course, a lesson that parents and carers must learn is that our kids are different from us. They will do it their way and they will forge their own paths. Often, as parents and carers, we feel completely at sea in terms of parenting and how to connect and get through to our kids. We always struggle with the best way to help and support them. That is all we want to do.

My daughter was one of the many year 12 students who struggled with online learning when our schools shut their doors. For a lot of the time she did not work. I tried to encourage her to set up a comfortable, clean study area and whipped up snacks and treats to keep her going—whatever might work. To use the jargon, I did my best to reach out to my daughter. But she, like many other teenagers, prefers not to talk about school. Earlier today, when I mentioned that I would speak about this in the Assembly, she said, “Mum, there were so many times we did not speak.” Yes.

I really do not know how that was for her. But gee it is tough on a mother. My daughter is independent and does not like receiving help. Like many teenagers, she absolutely hated me nagging her and checking up on her. There were the constant questions from Mum: “Have you done this? Have you handed this in? Did you go to class today? What have you got on at the moment?” There was a lot of tension at home. It was pretty stressful. I do not think that it was any different in my home in Ngunnawal than in many homes across my electorate of Yerrabi and the rest of Canberra.

I remember one occasion when she did reach out and ask for help with a project. Her timing could not have been worse. It was late at night—close to midnight, I think. I was just on the verge of entering delicious deep slumber when my precious girl lobbed into my room, laptop in hand, bright as a button. “Are you awake?” “What’s wrong?” I said. “You have to help me,” came the pressing response. It was a project due the next morning that could not wait.

No parent or carer would be surprised to hear that I sat up in bed, woke myself up as best I could, and tag-teamed with my daughter to get the assignment done. I typed,

because I type faster, and we ploughed through. I have not pulled an all-nighter like that for decades. It was a fun night—a bit too late for this old girl. But such is the calling of the dizzy vocation we call parenting.

I want to pay tribute to the amazing dedicated teachers at Gungahlin College for getting my daughter and the rest of the year 12 students through.

Let me share some pearls of wisdom. Lesson 1: pick your battles. We hear it often, but this time it is time for that. Lesson 2: keep your children's teachers close. I would go one step further and say, "Put them on speed dial." Lesson 3: give your kids space. Dare I say it: maybe even leave them alone. Finally, and let's be brutally honest, stock up the cellar, because there may be the occasional—and only the occasional—evening when you really need a glass or a bottle of something strong.

## **Valedictory**

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (4.11): The year 2020—what a year it has been, from go to whoa. There have been bushfires, hailstorms and, of course, the pandemic. I think that is how most people will remember 2020, but those of us in this room will remember 2020 as an election year. Members here will remember it as a year that we were elected—and good on us! I am told that I increased my primary vote by 26 per cent. It was not enough to beat you home, Madam Speaker. It is difficult for me to feel anything other than a sense of failure, to be honest. I was part of a collective that set out to win government from Labor and the Greens, and as a collective we failed. I share that responsibility and I am sorry for the people that I let down.

This week is an exciting week. We have had a swag of wonderful inaugural speeches. Again, I welcome all of the enthusiastic new members. I still remember the early days in the last term, when I vowed, Mr Davis, that I would spend most of the sitting time in the chamber. I am sure that will change before too long—not because we are lazy but because you can get more done in your office. As we revel in the excitement of the newly elected members at the end of this year, I just want to press pause for a moment, and talk about the people who are not here with us today.

There are six MLAs who contested the election but were not re-elected, and the pain that they all feel is immense and very real. To Andrew, Bec, Candice, Gordon, James and Deepak, I just want to put on the record that you all remain friends of mine and that your work in this place was extremely worthwhile. The loss of your seats is no reflection on who you are. I can genuinely say that I will miss all six. I had a beer with Andrew, I have spoken to Bec and Candice, and I sat with Gordon as he was clearing out his office. I spent time with James—Millo—at his place last week and had a long chat to Deepak this afternoon. I have told them all that I share the pain of their forced departure. And I do.

This is a brutal game we play in here. We will have differences of opinion over the next four years. We will argue and we will fire shots across the chamber, but let us not ever forget that we are 25 people who have all come here to represent our electorates. I find it very difficult to hate anyone, I tried to hate Johnno for a couple of weeks, but I could not even do that. We have all come here to make Canberra a better place. We

have different ideas on the best way to achieve that, but all of us share a common goal of representation and service. So, please, can we never forget that we are all regular people. We all cry, we all feel pain, we all have insecurities and we all have vulnerabilities. In that vein, may I wish a Merry Christmas to everyone in this building and to all those in my electorate of Brindabella, and make special mention of my hardworking staff, Rob Lovett and Chelsea Dempster, who are as loyal to me as my kelpies, if not more. I love your work. That's all I have.

### **Valedictory**

**MRS JONES** (Murrumbidgee) (4.15): My deepest thanks go to the voters of Murrumbidgee for the faith they have put in me to represent them again. This is one of the greatest honours of my life, for the third time, and I will continue to do all I can for them. I am not going to sugar-coat it: it has been a bloody weird year. But there have been a few strangely beautiful moments. As a mum of six kids and the wife of a military officer, I know that people can often see that we go through a lot as a family, but this year has actually been one of the greatest ones of growth for team Jones. During iso, I was so happy to have a household full of my loved ones and so much company while others were alone. I spoke to many of those who were alone, and it made me even more grateful. I never thought that, as an MLA, part of my job would be precuring toilet paper for those in my electorate, but I was very happy to do whatever I could to assist. My youngest turned two and my second youngest turned five, and we perfected the iso carport party.

In the office and around the Assembly, I was grateful to so many people this year and for so many things. I got back on my bike to ride to work. As it turns out, I have common ground with Ms Clay because I found out it was, indeed, a joy. I have kept it up, even if not every single day. I am grateful for all in this place—the attendants for their kind greetings and the committee office staff for their support, especially Mr Sneddon, my committee secretary for the JACS and scrutiny committees. We may have broken some kind of record for online hearings and reports delivered during the caretaker period.

I teamed up with Mr Hanson for the campaign, and we did much together. For those who have known us for a long time, it may not have seemed like the first choice we once would have made, but it was a new and positive way of doing our work. Perhaps that is our new normal. One beautiful surprise was that my two eldest boys really came into their own on the campaign this year. My husband, Bernard, has always been an amazing supporter of my ambitions and my hopes for my electorate. But Felix, who is 14, perfected the art of team letterboxing and Leo helped keep me company at the shops. One morning he even asked me if, when he takes the dog for a walk, he could please take a hammer. As any parents of children with ASD and additional needs would know, various possible explanations for the question crossed my mind. So I asked him why. He said, “So I can hammer your signs back in, Mum.” What a relief! “Yes,” I said, “but keep it in a backpack and do not be seen swinging it around.”

This year, some people helped me to believe in myself, even when I was perhaps, at times, flagging—especially Daniel Tedeschi, the friendliest and most encouraging

human being alive, who distinguished himself by sticking up for Fiona Carrick when someone was verbally abusing her. Good on you, Daniel. The master of so many things, Liam Develin, has been my absolute rock and honest adviser for many years now. I thank him for doing three people's work. I thank the most able and capable Elli, who is always patient with me and is amazing in taking on new tasks and adventures.

I thank all the part-timers who work out in the community. By the end of the campaign, we were all spent—no more than Alistair himself. Alistair was much maligned by our political adversaries, but a more dedicated, hardworking and kind leader you could not ask for. He is a great advocate, especially for those who many would prefer not to think about—the marginalised, those on lower incomes and those living with disabilities in our great city. As Leanne said yesterday, those people often do not enjoy the benefits of Canberra as much as others do.

Politics is a cruel business and sometimes it really seems so unfair. We will miss our colleagues who did not return. I acknowledge those on the other side, and I will miss those who are no longer here—Candice, James and Andrew especially. I will also miss Bec and, when the chamber gets cold, I will miss chatting to her about the need for knee blankets and so much more. It is good to be opposite Yvette and that she has made it back here. I thank her for her kindness.

Welcome to the new members, especially our new members Leanne and Peter; their energy is refreshing. I thank Elizabeth for her kind, generous, dedicated professional leadership. I wish everyone here a happy Christmas and a blessed festive season. May we all come back in a much better mood next year to serve our communities, our voters and those who rely on us to put the case for them every single day.

## **Valedictory**

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (4.19): What a year; what a god-darn year! I am very thankful that the year is nearly over. I am not sure that all of you can tell, from your distance to where I am standing, that I have bags under my eyes and I have put on a few kilos. It has been a long year, and I am counting down the days until it is nearly over. We have seen bushfires, we have seen smoke, we have seen hail, we have seen a global pandemic and we have seen a national recession. Thankfully, it is the home stretch. I am not sure that we can fit in too many more surprises now. There are only so many days left, so if the UFOs could hold off for a few more days, I would appreciate it!

I have a few thank-yous that I want to make to the many people that make this place work. To the entire OLA, I say thank you—to Hansard, the attendants, the tech support, the chamber support, the committee secretariat, the wider ACT public service and, in particular, the cleaners. It is a bit clichéd to say it, but you are all essential. You are essential to our democracy, and how appreciated you are is not said often enough. Thank you.

Hopefully, all of us have some recreation planned for the coming weeks—a bit of a rest after a very tiring year. I know that many of us have plans to spend time with

family. To everyone that will be working over this time to allow others to spend time with their families, I say thank you.

I want to thank my staff. They have worked particularly hard this year. To Josh, who a lot of you know, and who recently left for bigger and better things, I say thank you. I thank Zoe, Abby and Flynn. There has been a lot of hard work this year, both in the office in the middle of a pandemic and out on the campaign trail. We worked pretty hard this year and we got a good result; I think we are all happy to be back here. I do not think any of us really want to test our skills in the market in the middle of a recession. We are still gainfully employed; we are all very happy about that.

I famously described Josh, the staff member that I mentioned who recently left, as the most popular member of the Pettersson office. I have already noticed fewer visitors to my office. If anyone wants to change that trend, I am happy to have visitors at any time. I also got to witness a bit of a Mexican stand-off in the office in the past few weeks, because Josh's desk has been sitting empty and other staff members have been eyeing each other off as to who is going to claim Josh's desk. When you do swing by, make sure you check out who has claimed Josh's desk. You might be surprised!

As Mark did in his speech, I want to think of some colleagues that are not with us. Whilst I am very excited to make new friends and develop new relationships with our recently elected colleagues, there is something quite sad about not being joined by those that you were so close to. I say to my former Labor colleagues—Gordon, Deepak and Bec—that I miss you already. I say to my former colleagues across the aisle—Andrew, Candice and James—that it is a different place without you here. Personally, I will miss Bec a lot. The back corner will not be quite the same. Bec was always good at making the maybe less than exciting proceedings of this place a little bit more fun with an inappropriate joke that, thankfully, the microphones could never pick up.

In closing, I want to thank the voters of Yerrabi for once again placing their trust in me. It is the greatest honour of my life to serve and represent them and their interests, and I look forward to doing that in the next four years.

### **Valedictory**

**MS CHEYNE** (Ginninderra—Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Minister for Human Rights and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.23): As has already been said, there is always room for more thanks. In speaking in this place for the last time in the year that was 2020, it seems fitting to do just that.

Thank you to the people of Ginninderra. It remains enormously humbling to be a representative of the home that I love so much, in the city that I love so much. I know just how lucky I am. Just under four years ago, I promised to be committed, available and accessible, to be energetic, hardworking and to get things done, and I reaffirm that here today.

Thank you to my incredible team of volunteers who got me here, again. I could not ask for better. Thank you to my mum, who is always behind me, propelling me forward. From doing my washing to standing at pre-poll every single day, she is right there. Of course, huge thanks go to Mel James and the team at the party office who got us all here.

I wish a very warm welcome, or welcome back, to each of my colleagues. I genuinely look forward to working collaboratively with each of you. I also want to acknowledge those members who have not found themselves back here in the chamber, many of whom I call my friends. In doing so I pay special tribute to Gordon Ramsay. Mr Ramsay gave an extraordinary amount of himself and, in four years of hard work, he did leave Canberra in a better place.

I also want to thank all of those who were candidates but do not find themselves here. Very few of us in this room get here on the strength of our own vote alone, so we remain indebted to the hard work, and the preferences, of our colleagues and candidates, and the hard work of all of the teams behind them, too.

Today marks a month since the ministries were announced, and it has been an incredible whirlwind. Thank you to my colleagues for this opportunity. There is so much good work to get on with, and I am humbled to have been trusted with this important work. Thank you to all of the public servants who have welcomed me and with whom I am now working closely, who have been patient and understanding, and incredibly adaptable to my very particular way of working. Please call me Tara.

It is not lost on me just how hard the public service works every year, but especially so in this year, in keeping our city safe, in keeping our city beautiful, in keeping our city cared for, and in keeping our city functioning. We have much for which to be thankful to you.

Thank you especially to Kim and Stacey, who have been given the challenge of helping things make sense to me. I thank our DLOs—Gez, Butters, Tom, Fleur and Karen—all of whom have worked so cheerfully and professionally as we have navigated the past month.

My special thanks to Jemma, who I am not sure quite knew what we were in for when she agreed to stick around. She has worked tirelessly and with the same merriment that she has given me since I started in this place. We look forward to welcoming Nick back after his period of parental leave, and we wish Emma very well in her new role in the Chief Minister's office. A very warm welcome to Joe, who starts with us on Monday as my chief of staff.

Thank you, of course, to our Assembly staff, who do so much in helping us, who help us to navigate this place and who help us to get things done. I have said it a few times over the last month: there is hope and optimism, and there is urgency, as we race towards the end of the year. This feeling, this mood, in this city is ours to grasp. There is a lot of good work to get on with, but there is time, too, for a little rest and a little care for ourselves. Merry Christmas.

## Valedictory

**MS LEE** (Kurrajong—Leader of the Opposition) (4.27): Joy to the world. It is a line from a traditional Christmas carol and it seems a bit odd to use it and your name, Madam Speaker, but I do so now because I think that we could all use a little more joy in the world and I do not want this to be another speech about the unprecedented or challenging year we have had. We have heard it all and I have certainly used those terms myself ad nauseam.

So I want to focus this year's valedictory speech on some good stuff that happened in 2020. We have already heard about some good things happening around the world: lockdowns demonstrating just how much our teachers should be valued and respected, how people have stepped up to be there for their elderly neighbours who have been cut off from regular visits from their family, how local and small businesses have evolved and innovated to make sure that everyone has access to the goods and services they need.

But I want to tell a story that is much closer to home. "A" is an elderly Canberran, a fiercely independent woman who lives alone and still wears high heels whenever she goes out. Unfortunately, she broke a bone this year and was forced into hospital, then into respite. "P" and "J", who are also well into their years themselves, stepped up to support her, taking her to and from doctors' appointments, making sure her groceries were stocked up and making sure that she had company. This went on for a number of weeks, and whilst A has now recovered from her injury I know that P and J's generosity and A's gratitude will last a lifetime—small acts of kindness and thoughtfulness that in 2020 have gone a long way.

Whilst 2020 did not deliver us the election result we wanted and worked so hard for, I am so grateful to welcome Leanne and Peter to the Canberra Liberals parliamentary team. I think, from what we heard yesterday during their inaugural speeches, that both the chick from Charny and the teacher who grew up to be a lawyer bring so much depth, colour and huge diversity of life experiences to the Assembly. I know they will both make an enormous contribution to the Canberra Liberals and to Canberra and I cannot wait to see them grow as parliamentarians. I of course also congratulate the other new members of this place.

Even closer to home, whilst the early stages of COVID were difficult, juggling working mostly from home with child care and a partner suddenly working 12-hour days, six days a week, I was so thankful for the opportunity to spend more time with my daughter, Mia. It being an election year, I had, with great regret, almost accepted the reality that I would miss a big chunk of Mia's first year. The silver lining in the early stages of the pandemic was the chance to be there up close to see how beautifully she is growing. 2020 is the year that she started school, as we call her early learning centre. 2020 is the year that she took her first steps. And 2020 is the year that she saw her mother make history and become the first Asian-Australian leader of a major party.



What a privilege to be standing here even giving this valedictory! I am honoured that the people of Kurrajong once again put their faith in me to be their voice. I am humbled that my party room colleagues put their faith in me to lead our party this term and I am hopeful, now more than ever, of the strength of resilience and the humanity of Canberrans. It is this hope that I will take with me into 2021 as I continue to serve the people of Canberra.

## **Valedictory**

**MR COE** (Yerrabi) (4.31): 2020 has been a year like no other. Whilst it was surely a challenging year to govern, it was also a difficult year to be in opposition, to be an alternative government. Yet through the fires and the smoke, all the health and economic challenges of the pandemic, oppositions are simply not the go-to for public information. Whilst there were times where I obviously had a different perspective to the government about restrictions and the one-size-fits-all approach, I thank and congratulate the government, be they ministers, advisers or public servants, who helped navigate the ACT through this difficult period.

To my colleagues, thank you for your support and loyalty. I congratulate and thank Elizabeth Lee and Giulia Jones for your new leadership of the party. I have much hope and confidence in you both. I also, of course, thank the voters of Canberra for again sending me to represent you here in the Assembly.

There are many people that made huge sacrifices to support me in the leadership role. I thank my staff, including Steve, David, Deborah, Ausilia, Elysse, Ollie, Joel, Emily and Sarah. I also particularly thank Nicole Lawder for her friendship, support, advice and loyalty. I thank Josh Manuatu and John Cziesla for their management of the party and their confidence and friendship. I thank the many volunteers in the party for all that you selflessly do. It is true that the election and the years leading up to it did take a toll and the weeks since have been tough.

The job of being a representative and legislator is never done. Whilst I have derived much satisfaction from putting forward bills and motions, proposing policy ideas and asking questions in estimates or coming up with a new angle for a media story, it is the personal stories and individual representations that bring about the most contentment. Be it helping a family to navigate the citizenship process, supporting a business fighting for a tax concession, helping a single mum advocate for a public housing property, helping a family lobby for a school enrolment, supporting a community group with their funding requests or helping someone on the elective surgery waiting list—these are all things that we are sent here to do.

I am proud of the policies that we took to the election. I worry about the working poor in this city. I worry about housing affordability and the dream of home ownership. I am proud of our advocacy, outreach and representation of our wonderful multicultural and faith communities.

I very much hope that Canberra does get a residential postnatal depression facility. I hope that we do get a technical school where we elevate the role of the trades and

better engage students. I hope that a poverty inquiry is initiated so that we can better understand the extent of this hidden challenge. I hope that the cost of living does not price people out of this city. There is much to do.

I am proud of the Liberal Party. I joined the party 20 years ago, and the federal party has a great story to tell. But, as I regularly say, nobody gets into politics to be in opposition. It is a slog. To speak out as a Liberal in Canberra is countercultural. It is often very intimidating for Liberal-minded people in Canberra to stand up against trends or the most vocal. I do not think it is fair that some people are shunted to the fringes if they have a view that is not in keeping with the intelligentsia or the outspoken.

I thank my family. To my parents, Maurice and Barbara, thank you for the default “yes” for every request I have ever made, whether it was babysitting, letterboxing, editing or the multitude of other tasks. I know that my parents often felt every bump along the road more than I did. To my parents-in-law, thank you to Gerry and Karen. They have been a tremendous support to our family. As I said on election night, the grandparents of Canberra do a huge amount of heavy lifting. Thank you.

To my beautiful kids, Angus and Annabelle, thank you for providing so much joy and love in my life. My being out night after night was the norm for them but in recent weeks I have enjoyed spending much more time with them and I will work towards that being the new norm. Angus and Annabel, I am proud of who you are and I look forward to continuing to admire you as you grow and learn.

Of course, it is to Yasmin that I owe the most thanks. With love, dedication and humility, she has done so much. Much of it I will never know. In addition to being a very capable professional and running a growing business, she is an exceptional mum, friend and companion. Thank you for all that you do. I will strive to support you in the same way that you have supported me. I wish all a merry Christmas.

## **Valedictory**

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (4.38): In the festive adjournment debate of the last Assembly, I remarked on how we had worked hard to make Tuggeranong an even better place than it was four years before. I am honoured to be back here again with you, having again earned the trust of our fellow south-siders to keep delivering for the best place in Canberra to live.

As we head towards the holiday season, I want to thank the hardworking staff of the ACT public service, especially given the tumultuous year we have had to date. Thank you to the thousands of people who, despite the uncertainty of this year, have worked harder than ever to support Canberrans and our community. I thank the nurses, cleaners, teachers, garbage truck drivers, police, firefighters and so many others who, throughout the public health emergency, worked harder than ever to protect and save their communities. Many of these people will be continuing to work hard over the Christmas period. I thank them for their service and for this sacrifice.

I also recognise the many workers who will be working long hours this holiday period. Without their hard work, the rest of us would not be able to spend this time with friends and family. Thank you for what you do.

This gratitude must not be just empty words, Madam Speaker. We owe all these people safe and secure work. The lesson of this year has been, above all, that secure work is good for everyone. It keeps workers and communities safe. Workers should not have to choose between providing for their family and protecting their community. Protecting and promoting secure jobs is one of my top priorities across all of my portfolios. I look forward to continuing this work, which will improve the lives of Canberrans and support the community into the future.

I want to thank my fantastic staff for the support they give to me. Every single day, I look forward to coming in to work with my staff. They are fantastic.

I wish everybody a merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday period. I look forward to working with you all in 2021.

### **Valedictory**

**MS BURCH** (Brindabella) (4.40): With indulgence, I would like to say a few words from the chair. Firstly, as many have done, I want to thank the staff of the Assembly for the help and the guidance they have provided through this year.

I give my great gratitude and thanks to the people of Brindabella for their faith in me yet again and look forward to serving with the other members of Brindabella here. I am ever grateful for those in our community who kept this community going over this very challenging year from January through to January. There are many in our community, the unsung heroes, who have stepped up each and every time.

I have noticed this year, more than ever, that, come 1 December, everyone has moved into the Christmas spirit. Merry Christmas to my family, particularly and especially my grandchildren, Hunter, Kade, Fletcher and Loup. Members, I wish you all a very safe summer.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**The Assembly adjourned at 4.41 pm until Tuesday, 9 February 2021, at 10 am.**

## **Answers to questions**

### **Gungahlin—swimming pool (Question No 1)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What are the government-owned pools in Canberra.
- (2) Have all of the pools referred to in part (1) reopened since closing due to COVID-19.
- (3) When did all the pools referred to in part (1) close and when did each pool reopen.
- (4) Has the Gungahlin Leisure Centre's 50 metre pool reopened; if not, why not.
- (5) What is the problem with the 50 metre pool referred to in part (4).
- (6) What work was done when the Gungahlin 50 metre pool was closed for two months last year and how much did it cost taxpayers.
- (7) Has any work been done on the Gungahlin 50 metre pool this year; if so, what has been done and how much has it cost.
- (8) What repair work needs to be done and why.
- (9) Are there problems with the pool's foundations.
- (10) How much will the repair work cost.
- (11) Who has been contracted to do the work and can the Minister provide details of the contract.
- (12) When will the work (a) begin and (b) finish.
- (13) Where will the money come from and has money been allocated from the Budget for the work.
- (14) When will the pool reopen for the Gungahlin community.
- (15) What information has been provided to the Gungahlin community about the pool's closure and when was the last information given.
- (16) Who is taking responsibility for fixing Gungahlin's pool.
- (17) If the pool cannot be used again, will a new 50 metre public pool be built in Gungahlin; if so, what is the timeframe and how much will it cost.

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

- (1) There are 7 ACT Government-owned pools in Canberra, being:

- Stromlo Leisure Centre
- Gungahlin Leisure Centre
- Lakeside Leisure Centre
- Canberra Olympic Pool
- Dickson Pool
- Manuka Pool
- Erindale Active Leisure Centre

In addition to the above, there are also four hydrotherapy pools in schools (Black Mountain, Cranleigh, Turner and Malkara). While there is some community use of these pools for therapy purposes, these pools are not available for recreational use.

(2) Yes.

(3)

- Stromlo Leisure Centre – was being built at the time of the COVID-19 shutdown and officially opened on 15 August 2020.
- Gungahlin Leisure Centre – closed on 23 March 2020, commenced reopening the gym on 4 July 2020 and the program pool on 3 August 2020.
- Lakeside Leisure Centre – closed on 23 March 2020, gym reopened on 1 July 2020 and pool facilities reopened on 28 August 2020.
- Canberra Olympic Pool – closed on 23 March 2020, gym and 50 metre pool reopened on 15 June 2020, dive pool opened for the summer on 1 November 2020.
- Dickson Pool – closed for the winter shutdown period prior to commencement of the COVID-19 shutdown and opened on 31 October 2020 for the normal summer season.
- Manuka Pool – closed for the winter shutdown period prior to commencement of the COVID-19 shutdown and opened on 31 October 2020 for the normal summer season.
- Active Leisure Centre – closed on 23 March 2020 and reopened on 4 June 2020 for lap swimming/gentle exercise to a maximum of 20 patrons at any one time, in line with the restrictions at the time.

(4) The 50-metre pool at the Gungahlin Leisure Centre remains closed to address pool tiling failures.

(5) As above.

(6) Routine maintenance which was carried out at no additional cost to taxpayers.

(7) Yes. Minor tiling repairs were undertaken in April at a cost of \$5,200.

(8) The ACT Government is working with experts to determine the appropriate rectification work which is required.

- (9) The ACT Government continues to work with experts to determine the cause of the issue. However, the ACT Government is not currently aware of any problems with the pool's foundations.
  - (10) As above. The ACT Government is working on this matter as a priority, however, due to the complexity of the issue the cost is yet to be finalised.
  - (11) As above.
  - (12) As above.
  - (13) As above.
  - (14) The timeframe for reopening of the 50-metre will not be known until a remediation program and method has been finalised.
  - (15) The Gungahlin community was advised on 1 December 2020 that the 50-metre pool is closed until further notice to address ongoing pool tiling failures and the ACT Government is working with experts to get the pool back and operational.
  - (16) Major Projects Canberra and ACT Property Group are both involved in fixing the pool, which is owned by the ACT Government.
  - (17) There is currently no indication that the issues with the pool cannot be rectified.
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### **Animals—breeders licence (Question No 3)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Can the Minister advise how many applications were submitted for a 'sexually entire animal permit' in (a) 2019-2020, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2017-2018 and (d) 2016-2017.
- (2) Of the applications referred to in part (1), how many were unsuccessful.
- (3) Can the Minister provide the total cost associated with obtaining a 'sexually entire animal permit' in (a) 2019-2020, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2017-2018 and (d) 2016-2017.
- (4) Can the Minister advise how many applications for a breeders license were submitted in (a) 2019-2020, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2017-2018 and (d) 2016-2017.
- (5) Of the applications referred to in part (4), how many were unsuccessful.
- (6) Can the Minister provide the total cost associated with obtaining a breeders license in (a) 2019-2020, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2017-2018 and (d) 2016-2017.
- (7) Can the Minister advise what the average infringement cost was for individuals caught with an animal that has not been de-sexed in the relevant timeframe and without a permit in (a) 2019-2020, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2017-2018 and (d) 2016-2017.

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

1)

2019-20	43
2018-19	26
2017-18	30
2016-17	No data available

2) Domestic Animal Services (DAS) is not able to provide data on how many Sexually Entire Animal Permit applications were unsuccessful in (a) 2019-2020, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2017-2018 and (d) 2016-2017.

3) DAS does not record the total staffing costs associated with obtaining a Sexually Entire Animal Permit yet the legislated fees for the relevant years in question are as follows;

a) 2019-2020 - \$424.00;

b) 2018-2019 - \$413.70;

c) 2017-2018 - \$397.80; and

d) 2016-2017 – \$390.00, Pensioner \$80.00, Member of ACT Canine Association/Australian National Cats - \$119.50.

4) Seven breeders' licenses were issued in 2019-20. Data for 2018-19 is not available.

5) DAS is not able to provide this data.

6) DAS does not record the total cost associated with obtaining a breeder's license however the legislated fees for the relevant years in question are as follows;

a) 2019-2020 - \$424;

b) 2018-2019 - \$413.70; (Year of Introduction)

c) 2017-2018 – N/A

d) 2016-2017 – N/A.

7) The average infringement cost for individuals caught with an animal that has not been de sexed in the relevant timeframe and without a permit is as follows;

a) 2019-2020 – Dog - \$500, Cat - \$350;

b) 2018-2019 – Dog - \$75, Cat - \$75;

c) 2017-2018 - Dog - \$75, Cat - \$75; and

d) 2016-2017 – Dog - \$75, Cat - \$75.

### **Municipal services—playgrounds (Question No 4)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

(1) How many playgrounds are there throughout Canberra.

(2) Of these playgrounds, can the Minister advise how many have (a) shade sails, (b) tables/benches, (c) drinking fountains, (d) rubbish bins and (e) recycling bins.

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

- (1) There are currently 513 playgrounds managed by Transport Canberra and City Services throughout Canberra.
  - (2) Of these playgrounds there are (a) 115 shade sails across 77 playgrounds, within 50 metres of these playgrounds there are: (b) 238 tables and 1,145 seats (c) 56 drinking fountains (d) 166 rubbish bins and (e) 24 recycling bins.
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### **Municipal services—local shops (Question No 5)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many local shopping centres are there in Canberra suburbs.
- (2) Of these local shops, can the Minister advise how many have (a) rubbish bins, (b) recycling bins, (c) public toilets and (d) drinking fountains.

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

- (1) There are 66 local shopping centres where the public space is maintained by Transport Canberra and City Services.
  - (2) At these local shopping centres, there are: (a) 152 general waste bins, (b) seven recycling bins, (c) 12 public toilets and (d) 20 drinking fountains.
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### **Animals—infringement notices (Question No 6)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many infringements were issued under the Domestic Animal Act 2000, section 44, Dogs in Public Places in 2019-20.
- (2) How many warnings were issued under the Domestic Animal Act 2000, section 44, Dogs in Public Places in 2019-20.
- (3) How much was the average cost of an infringement issued under the Domestic Animal Act 2000, section 44, Dogs in Public Places was in (a) 2019-2020, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2017-2018 and (d) 2016-2017.

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

- 1) In the period 01/07/2019 to 30/06/2020, 106 infringements were issued under section 44 (1, 2 and 3) of the *Domestic Animal Act 2000*.
- 2) There were 13, section 44, *Domestic Animal Act 2000* warnings recorded for 2019-20.



- 3) The average cost of an infringement issued under the *Domestic Animal Act 2000*, section 44 (1,2 and 3) are as follows:
- a) 2019-2020 - \$300.
  - b) 2018-2019 - \$300.
  - c) 2017-2018 - \$150.
  - d) 2016-2017 - \$150.
- 

**Transport—electric buses  
(Question No 7)**

**Ms Clay** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

What planning and provision has been made to provide charging facilities for electric buses at the City West bus layover.

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

- (1) The existing City West bus Layover is managed by ANU. It is not required as a bus layover following the completion of the Turner Bus Layover which is under construction.

The scope of the Turner Bus Layover includes the provision for electric bus charging facilities within the project, including making space for charging platforms and installing the conduits to future proof for power supply connections.

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**Municipal services—cyclepaths  
(Question No 8)**

**Ms Clay** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) When were each of the ACT Government's identified principle cycling routes last inspected.
- (2) In the most recent inspections of principle cycling routes, were any of those paths or path sections given a High or Very High risk rating; if so, can the Minister provide details, including which sections of which paths were identified as either High or Very High risk.
- (3) Since the most recent inspection of each of the principle cycling routes, have any path sections that were given a High or Very High risk rating been repaired or replaced; if so, can the Minister provide details of which sections of which paths, and what type or repairs were conducted; if not, can the Minister provide details of which sections of which paths have not been repaired or replaced.
- (4) Do all sections of the principle cycling routes comply with the Municipal Infrastructure Standard 05 – Active Travel Facilities Design requirements for path widths; if not, can the Minister provide (a) details of which paths or path sections do

not comply and (b) a cost estimate for upgrading the existing principle path network to this standard width within the next ten years.

- (5) Can the Minister provide information about when each principle route or sections of principle routes are due for re-inspection.
- (6) Can the Minister provide information about the methodology the directorate use to establish and assess acceptable path user volumes to manage path congestion.
- (7) Can the Minister provide information about the directorate's current assessment of congestion across the shared path network, broken down by each path and the relevant sections of each path, including information about which sections of which paths have not been assessed for congestion.
- (8) Can the Minister, for the entire shared path network, provide a list detailing (a) the directorate's priority list of scheduled upgrades, including repairs, replacement of sections, repaving, drainage upgrades etc, in priority order and (b) the missing links that have been identified across the network, and the priority order for addressing these.

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

- (1) Transport Canberra City Services (TCCS) currently inspects paths under two categories: defects and condition. Both programs include principal cycle routes. This program is ongoing and has a planned and a reactive component. The planned component is for 32 higher-risk suburbs and follows a four-year rotating inspection program based on priority. The reactive program encompasses the whole of the ACT and responds to defects reported by the community through Fix My Street and other sources. Where a reported defect is assessed as suitable for repair then these repairs are programmed in packages dependent on the length, location, material and contract.

Sections of principal cycle routes within the 32 higher-risk suburbs are inspected for defects on a five-year priority basis. Outside of these 32 suburbs, principal cycle routes are inspected by TCCS officers when defects are reported by the community, through Fix My Street or other sources.

For each of the 10 principal cycle routes, the most recent planned inspection was undertaken on a suburb-by-suburb basis:

- C1 City-Gungahlin: City (September 2019), Gungahlin (April 2020), Turner (September 2019)
- C2 City-Queanbeyan: Fyshwick (April 2020), City (September 2019)
- C3 City-Belconnen: City (September 2019), Belconnen (October 2018), Turner (September 2019)
- C4 City-Tuggeranong: Philip (September 2020), Mawson (September 2018), Greenway (June 2020), Conder (October 2017), City (September 2019)
- C5 Belconnen-Tuggeranong: Belconnen (October 2018), Greenway (June 2020)
- C6 ANU-Dickson: Acton (July 2018), Dickson (February 2019)
- C7 Belconnen-Gungahlin: Belconnen (October 2018), Gungahlin (April 2020)
- C8 City Loop: City (September 2019)
- C9 Airport-Gungahlin: Gungahlin (April 2020)
- LBG Lake Burley Griffin Circuit: Yarralumla (October 2020), Barton (April 2018)

- (2) TCCS assess individual defects rather than path sections. Defects include cracks (vertical displacement), gaps (horizontal displacement), debris, holes. Each defect is rated based on safety risk. Defects have several common causes (e.g. tree roots, vehicles, age) that are also captured when they can be determined

TCCS is currently expanding the planned inspection component by undertaking an inspection program for community paths that aligns with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) condition rating. This rating is applied to path segments as opposed to individual defects. It reflects a more holistic path condition (Very Poor; Poor; Fair; Good; Very Good). This program is funded through the 'Jobs for Canberrans' program during the 2020-21 financial year 2020-21. The path condition data will inform future path related programs and projects.

Following the completion of the Condition Inspection in June 2021, information on Poor and Very Poor condition paths will be available. This data will provide a more accurate response to the question.

- (3) As noted in the response to Question 1, where a reported defect is assessed as suitable for repair, these repairs are programmed in packages dependent on the length, location, material and contract.

When a larger segment of shared path or cycle path is assessed as failing, then replacement of the segment is prioritised and delivered through the annual capital works program.

Sections of path on principal cycle routes that were replaced through the 2020-21 capital works program include:

- A 4.3 kilometre section of the Lake Burley Griffin Circuit between Yarralumla Reach and Acton Peninsula.
- A 600 metre section of the Belconnen-Tuggeranong cycle route in Macquarie.

- (4) Asphalt paths on principal cycle routes comply with the infrastructure standards that were in place at the time that they were built. Current Municipal Infrastructure Standards apply to the construction of new assets. They do not require existing assets to be retrofit to meet an updated standard. As the Municipal Infrastructure Standards for path widths were updated in 2019, the majority of existing paths in the ACT were built to the previous 2.5 metre minimum width as opposed to the current 3.0 metre minimum width. In terms of network distance, 25 per cent of the current principal cycle route network consists of shared paths that meet the current standard of 3.0 metres wide or wider. The network distance of paths that are less than 3.0 metres wide is approximately 143 kilometres.

Laying additional asphalt to widen paths can result in gaps or an uneven surface, so replacement of the entire path is typically required to achieve the additional width. It would cost approximately \$250 million to remove and replace the 143 kilometres of non-compliant paths, much of which is otherwise fit for purpose.

- (5) Please refer to the response to Question 2.
- (6) In addition to Municipal Infrastructure Standards, TCCS uses guidance developed by VicRoads and Queensland Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to assess potential congestion for new shared paths as well as separate walking and cycling paths. As

paths are rarely congested, the methodology considers potential passing events as a function of both cycling and walking volumes as well as directional flows. TCCS has used this guidance to inform the design of recent projects including the Belconnen Bikeway.

- (7) As few links within the current path network are congested, this methodology has not been applied to assess potential congestion along the current shared path network. This assessment could be included as part of the CBR cycle routes network plan which the Government committed to undertaking.

I should note that the Canberra Strategic Transport Model (CSTM) considers future congestion for cycling on cycle paths.

- (8) As outlined in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement, the Labor Party is committed to delivering:

- An updated active travel framework identifying future priorities
- Design and construction of the Sulwood Drive path
- Design and construction of Stage 2 of the Belconnen Bikeway
- Design and starting construction of the Garden City cycle route through Braddon, Ainslie, Dickson, Downer and Watson
- Widening key sections of the Lake Ginninderra Circuit path

In addition, TCCS maintains a database of missing path links based on community enquiries through Fix My Street and other sources. Assessment of missing links in the shared path network is based on criteria such as safety, strategic connectivity, community attractions, desire lines, proximity of public transport and demand. Currently, the assessment has been completed for over 300 requests for missing links.

The recent Fast Track ‘screwdriver-ready’ stimulus program identified 62 missing links to be addressed in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years, a total length of more than 15 kilometres of footpath and cycle path.

In addition to the aforementioned network improvements and missing links, the Government has committed to investing \$3.7 million in cycle path maintenance, with priority given to paths that are assessed in higher risk categories.

The final list of improvements delivered in the 2020-21 financial year are subject to contract packaging and a procurement process.

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## **Transport—bicycle storage (Question No 9)**

**Ms Clay** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many new bike racks have been installed by the ACT Government across Canberra in each of the most recent three years that data is available for, broken down by region, or suburb level if possible.
- (2) Of the new installations referred to in part (1), how many were installed as a result of requests in ‘Fix My Street’ or other feedback or input from community members.

- (3) How many locations for new bike rack installations were identified solely by ACT Government staff.
- (4) What mechanisms are available for Canberra residents to contact the ACT Government to make a suggestion about the installation of additional bike racks, or bike rack locations.
- (5) What efforts have been made by the ACT Government to inform the public about how they can contribute to this process.
- (6) Have improvements to this process been considered, such as through the 'Fix My Street' website.
- (7) What is the average cost per installation for a new bike rack.
- (8) How is demand and use of bike racks assessed to determine whether additional bike racks are needed.

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

- (1) From 2018-2020 288 bike racks have been installed in new locations by TCCS through the Capital Works program and Light Rail Stage 1. Refer below for location details.

<i>Capital Works initiatives (2018-2020)</i>	152
<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>
Braddon (Inner North)	25
Brierley/ Trenerry Street square (Weston Creek)	9
Erindale Group Centre (Tuggeranong)	6
Belconnen Learn to Ride Centre (Belconnen)	6
Tuggeranong Learn to Ride Centre (Tuggeranong)	7
Hibberson Street (Gungahlin)	11
Gungahlin Place (Gungahlin)	8
Gungahlin Playground (north of Efkarpidis Street, bounded by Gungahlin Place) (Gungahlin)	4
Alinga Street, Civic (Northbourne Ave and Moore St) (Inner North)	12
Goyder Street Narrabundah (Inner South)	6
Anketell Street upgrade (Tuggeranong)	20
Waramanga playspace (Weston Creek)	2
Torrens playspace (Woden)	2
Tuggeranong Town Square /Cowlshaw Street (Tuggeranong)	9
Flemington Road shared path (Mitchell)	5
Active Streets for schools (various schools/ suburbs)	20

<i>Provision at stops - Canberra Metro Light Rail Stage 1</i>	136
<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>
Gungahlin Place	20
Manning Clark North	9
Mapleton Avenue	6
Well Station Drive	6
EPIC and Racecourse	7
Phillip Avenue	16

Swinden Street	16
Dickson	20
Macarthur Avenue	8
Ipima Street	4
Elouera Street	4
Alinga Street	20

- (2) TCCS does not track who identified the need for individual bike racks and cannot provide detail on the number of installations in response to requests in 'Fix My Street' or other feedback.
- (3) New bike rack locations are not identified solely by ACT Government staff.
- (4) Fix My Street, The Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) via community groups (such as Community Councils, Pedal Power and Vets Cycling) that participate in the BAG, Capital Works consultation processes and Community requests to government.
- (5) TCCS promotes the use of Fix My Street on an ongoing basis.
- (6) There have been improvements made to the Fix My Street website, however, there is not a specific category to request additional bike parking facilities such as bike racks. The ACT Government can consider an additional category for bike parking facilities in future improvements to Fix My Street.
- (7) The average cost is approximately \$1,000 per rack for supply and installation.
- (8) The need for new bike racks is identified through community input (fix my street, information from community groups, Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG), community requests), by demand analyses (Bike & Ride Investigation and Light Rail Stage 1) or as a requirement of Capital Works public area refurbishment works projects.
- Requests for bike racks from the community, whether through Fix my Street, community requests, community interest groups and BAG are assessed on a site by site basis.
- The Municipal Infrastructure Standards are used to inform decision making, and usage of and demand for bicycle parking is also assessed for public transport services.
- Through the TCCS annual Capital Works program consultation identifies provision and location for bike racks.
- The consultation phase of Shopping Centre and Town Centre upgrades at Erindale, Weston and Gungahlin provided opportunity for the community to suggest the installation of bike racks which informed the decision to install new bike racks at these locations.
- A demand analysis for bike parking was undertaken for Light Rail Stage 1 which identified the number of racks at each stop as indicated under Question 1.
- Additionally, Transport Canberra City Services undertook a network-wide Bike & Ride Investigation. This Investigation identified works funded through the Look and Feel of the City stimulus package including Bike & Ride facilities at ANU/Barry Dr and the Well Station Dr Park & Ride. These facilities are not complete and are therefore not included in the above numbers.

**Infrastructure—mobile phone towers  
(Question No 10)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 4 December 2020 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) What negotiations were held between Icon water and Telstra to facilitate the construction of mobile reception tower at the Lower Molonglo water Quality Control Centre.
- (2) What was the final cost to the ACT Government in constructing this tower
- (3) What is the breakdown of this cost.
- (4) Did either Icon Water or Telstra contribute financially to the cost of the tower; if so, what was their financial contribution.
- (5) What factors were considered in the placement of the tower to ensure optimal coverage.
- (6) Was a feasibility study commissioned to determine the feasibility and need of the tower; if so, can the Chief Minister provide the document.
- (7) How long was the process to completion and activation of the tower.

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

This was a commercial transaction between Icon Water (Icon) and Telstra. Icon has provided the following information:

- (1) Icon investigated improving mobile phone reception at the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC) site for operational reasons, including the enhancement of remote monitoring and emergency management capabilities.

The site is located on land leased by Icon in an isolated valley area west of Belconnen where the mobile phone reception was poor. An existing communications tower on site hosting a 3G receiver was identified as having potential to host a 4G receiver.

It was demonstrated that this would deliver the desired improvements in mobile phone reception, without the need to construct a new tower.

- (2) The ACT Government was not a party to this transaction and therefore did not incur any costs.
- (3) Icon paid \$262,700 (excl. GST) for the installation of the 4G receiver and \$10,000 for design costs.
- (4) The works undertaken to improve mobile coverage at LMWQCC included additional antennae, cabling, and new equipment. The costs were significantly lower than the construction of a new tower due to there being existing infrastructure on the Icon land site, including pole, electricity/data lines, a building to house the equipment with separate air conditioning and security systems.

- (5) Optimising the coverage of the tower/base station is firstly a matter for Telstra and the commerciality for a particular location. As noted, there was an existing communications tower on site and consideration was given to whether a new tower was necessary. However, it was determined suitable coverage could be achieved from the existing infrastructure and a new tower was considered to be an unnecessary investment for Icon Water.
  - (6) As the existing communications tower was a suitable host for the upgraded 4G receiver, a feasibility study was not required to be undertaken for this particular installation. In addition, as the land is leased to Icon Water, any arrangement with Telstra was a private arrangement between the two parties and did not involve the Territory. More information about the LMWQCC mobile reception base station can be sought from Telstra at [basestation.enquiries@team.telstra.com](mailto:basestation.enquiries@team.telstra.com), referencing [www.rfnsa.com.au/2615014](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/2615014) and ACMA Register of Radiocommunication Licences Site registration No. 9027112.
  - (7) Work to design and install the 4G receiver commenced in 2014 on the existing tower. On 4 August 2016 installation commenced and went live on 15 September 2016.
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### **Infrastructure—mobile phone technology (Question No 11)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 4 December 2020 (*redirected to the Minister for Economic Development*):

- (1) When is West Macgregor scheduled to receive 5G cell reception.
- (2) How many cells will be placed within the area.
- (3) Where will these cells be placed.
- (4) What factors will be considered in the placement of these cells to ensure optimal coverage.
- (5) Is the rollout of 5G reception cells being handled by the NBN; if not, which organisation is being contracted by the ACT Government to provide 5G cell reception.
- (6) What is the cost of that contract.
- (7) Will there be any cost to the ACT Government for the installation of 5G in West Macgregor; if so, what is the cost.

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

- (1) Installation of 5G technology in particular locations is a matter for the licenced mobile carriers, namely Telstra, Optus and TPG Telecom. The ACT Government has not been advised on any plans by the mobile carriers to install 5G technology in West Macgregor.
- (2) Refer to (1).
- (3) Refer to (1).



- (4) There are no ACT or Australian Government requirements to ensure optimal coverage; the placement of 5G cells and other 5G technology is a commercial decision for the mobile carriers.
  - (5) The rollout of 5G technology is being undertaken by Telstra, Optus and TPG Telecom in the ACT. The ACT Government has no contracts to provide 5G cell reception.
  - (6) The ACT Government has no contracts to provide 5G cell reception.
  - (7) There will be no costs to the ACT Government for any future installation of 5G in West Macgregor by the mobile carriers.
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### **Education—languages (Question No 12)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) In relation to language instruction at Belconnen High School and the three primary schools that share its priority enrolment area (PEA), when was the decision made to cease teaching Indonesian and French at Belconnen High School.
- (2) Who was consulted regarding this decision before it was made, and when/where did these consultations take place.
- (3) When and how were residents within Belconnen High School's PEA informed of this change.
- (4) What public options exist for families who live in the Belconnen High School PEA where children wish to continue their studies in Indonesian or French at high school.
- (5) Noting the Government's Curriculum Requirements in ACT Public Schools (P-10) Policy 2009 requires all high schools in the Territory are to provide a language program of 150+ minutes per week to students in years 7–8 in one of eight priority languages: French; German; Italian; Spanish; Indonesian; Japanese; Mandarin; and/or Korean and that Belconnen High School no longer complies with this requirement, why has a decision been taken that now makes Belconnen High School non-compliant with government policy.
- (6) Does this non-compliance in any way increase the enrolment options for families where children wish to be able to continue their language studies; if so, in what way/s, for example, is enrolment preference given to such families at schools outside of their PEA.
- (7) What steps will the ACT Government take to bring Belconnen High School back into compliance with this policy and when will this be complete.

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

- 1) The decisions to discontinue French and Indonesian occurred during the 2017 school year.

- 2) After significant effort to maintain and sustain the languages program were unsuccessful, consultation with the local Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association led the School Board, including the Principal, to make the school-based decision to discontinue both French and Indonesian. This occurred at the school in 2017.
- 3) Residents within Belconnen High School's Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) were informed of this change through involvement with the P&C, and via the school's newsletter, website, prospectus and parent/student information nights. Initial notifications occurred in 2017 and the information about the change of program is still available on the school website.
- 4) The Directorate currently offers a pathway for French language learning for families who live in Belconnen. Melba Copland Secondary School is a hub for language provision, including a clear pathway in French. French language is offered at both the high school and college campuses. Canberra High School also offers a French language program.
- 5) The ACT Education Directorate continues to work with Belconnen High School to seek opportunities to deliver language options for students. A school's ability to provide and sustain language education in a specific language, such as French, is strongly influenced by the availability of suitable language teachers. Language teachers are specialist teachers who have substantial language learning experience and fluency in the target language. They also need to be qualified teachers who meet the requirements to hold a Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) registration. The Directorate is continuously working to ensure appropriately qualified staff are providing quality education to our students.

The low numbers of language teachers is a national issue and the ACT is tackling this through targeted national recruitment campaigns and specific scholarship programs to both attract new languages teachers to the ACT and to develop the skills of our current workforce.

To provide a language option for students, the school collaborated closely with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop and implement the unique Connecting to Country course, which includes both language and cultural components.

- 6) If continuation of a particular language is important to a student, the family can apply to enrol into a school outside of their PEA that offers this language. Schools may consider applicants whose PEA school does not provide a specific curriculum choice, including preferred language choice. Enrolment will be considered as per standard enrolment criteria where a school has capacity to enrol out of area students. More detail about enrolling in out of area schools can be read on the Directorate's website: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school/enrolling-in-kindergarten-to-year-12>.
- 7) The ACT Education Directorate will continue to work with Belconnen High School around language options for students. The school offers Connecting to Country for year 7 and 8 students which aligns with the Australian Curriculum subject Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages. Spanish, Chinese and Japanese are also offered as electives for year 9 and 10 students, leveraging the language resources of teachers of other subject areas to support this offering.

## Youth—housing (Question No 13)

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Noting the Parliamentary and Government Agreement between ACT Labor and the ACT Greens includes a commitment to ‘develop youth specific social housing services, such as the Government’s previously announced commitment to a youth foyer at CIT Woden’, can the Minister provide detailed plans for this ‘youth foyer’, including its design, operation, intended function, cost to build, and cost to operate.
- (2) What other youth-specific social housing services are included in this commitment, including possible location, intended users, costs, and etc.

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

- (1) The Youth Foyer planned for the CIT Campus-Woden development is currently proposed to include 20 rooms for young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, or who are otherwise eligible to utilise the accommodation.

The co-location of the Youth Foyer on the new CIT campus is intended to provide occupants with a ready pathway to education opportunities that will range from life skills to formal vocational education and training qualifications.

The location of the Youth Foyer will afford access to public transport, which will be available in the new Woden transport interchange on Callam Street which adjoins the CIT Campus site. It will similarly provide occupants with convenient access to shops and services outlets through being located in the Woden Town Centre.

The detailed design of the Youth Foyer is currently being developed by Major Projects Canberra in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the Community Services Directorate. The design will provide for a safe and secure living environment for each occupant.

The Youth Foyer will incorporate dedicated bedrooms providing independent living accommodation for each occupant as well as communal functional areas such as a shared foyer; communal kitchen; laundry; dining, living and activity areas; administration and interview rooms and an external recreation courtyard. The cost to build the youth foyer is integrated within the total cost of the CIT Woden campus, which is subject to a procurement process commencing in 2021.

Community Services Directorate through Housing ACT is supporting Major Projects Canberra (MPC) in relation to the inclusion of the Youth Foyer model at the new CIT Woden Campus site, particularly to develop the functional requirements of the model. Housing ACT will be responsible for establishment of the Youth Foyer accommodation model, and service funding arrangements will be made separately by Housing ACT for the ongoing funding of the model. This is expected to occur in 2022-23.

- (2) Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) in partnership with Housing ACT, is progressing the Co-design Therapeutic Residential Build project in Canberra's North. The project will involve a design and construct process for a purpose built therapeutic residential care house for young people who are unable to live at home with their families. The five-bedroom accommodation will cater for children with alternate caregivers on a short or long-term basis, with twenty four hour live-in support. The model is focused on providing children with safety, stability, and a sense of security, in a group-home setting. CYPS is leading the project, facilitating consultation activities with the sector and engaging with young people with lived experience in out of home care to take part in the co-design of the new homes. Housing ACT is responsible for managing the detailed design phase, procurement of a builder, and construction project management.

CSD Strategic Policy and Housing ACT, in partnership with the Youth Coalition ACT (YouthCo) and Community Partners is also delivering the Safe and Connected Youth project, as part of the COVID Support Packages. Based on the successful Ruby's Re-unification Model from South Australia, an existing Housing ACT owned property in Canberra's South will be refurbished to provide crisis, transitional and respite accommodation for young people who are either experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness due to family conflict and/or breakdown. The refurbishment will provide a fit for purpose six-bedroom residence with counselling and overnight rooms for carers. The project is scheduled to be tendered early 2021. Community Services Directorate was granted \$1 million in 2020-21 through the ACT Government Fast-Track (Screwdriver Ready) Program for the refurbishment, and \$840,000 through COVID Support Packages for the current Safe and Connect Youth services and accommodation brokerage.

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### **Planning—McKellar shops (Question No 14)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Who is the current leaseholder of the McKellar shops site.
- (2) On what date was the current lease obtained.

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

- (1) Bennetts Close Pty Limited is the current lessee.
- (2) The lease was obtained by Bennetts Close Pty Limited on 3 September 2015.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—transitional release centre (Question No 17)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What facilities make up the transitional release centre at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

- (2) At what point in an inmate's sentence are they transferred to the transitional release centre.
- (3) What additional freedoms and or privileges are afforded to inmates in the transitional release centre.
- (4) What other criteria are factored into determining the eligibility of an inmate being transferred to the transitional release centre.
- (5) How many individuals can the transitional release centre hold.
- (6) How many of these spaces are dedicated to (a) males and (b) females
- (7) Is the transitional release centre only available to males; if so, why.
- (8) How many individuals are in the transitional release centre as of 3 December 2020

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—disciplinary action (Question No 18)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What steps are taken to discipline the perpetrator in cases where bullying by an inmate to another inmate has been identified at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What steps are taken to discipline the perpetrator in cases where assault upon an inmate to another inmate has been identified at the AMC.
- (3) What is the name of the document that such cases are recorded in.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—education and training programs  
(Question No 19)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What is the highest level of qualification an inmate can study within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What education institutions does the AMC partner with to deliver these high level qualifications.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee employment  
(Question No 20)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What paid work options are available for inmates inside the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What are the different award rates for each paid job available to inmates.
- (3) How many paid work hours are done by inmates in total per week (a) within and (b) outside the AMC.
- (4) How many paid work hours are worked in each by inmates, broken down by job roles.
- (5) How many inmates, as a number and percentage, are engaged in paid work (a) inside and (b) outside the facility
- (6) How does an inmate apply for a paid position within the facility.
- (7) Is there a waiting list for any paid position in the facility; if so, what job roles have waiting lists and how many inmates are on that waiting list as of 3 December 2020.
- (8) Is there a waiting list for any paid position outside the facility; if so, what job roles have waiting lists and how many inmates are on that waiting list as of 3 December 2020.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—firearms policy  
(Question No 21)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Are there any firearms within the AMC or within the grounds of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC); if so, how many are there.
- (2) How often are they inspected for security and maintenance.
- (3) How many staff are qualified in the use of firearms at the AMC.
- (4) At the beginning of (a) January 2020 and (b) December 2020, how many firearm qualified staff had been reassessed and found competent within the last 12 months.
- (5) Is there a minimum number requirement of firearm qualified staff to be on site at anyone one time; if so, what is that minimum requirement.
- (6) Are police officers allowed to bring their firearms on site; if so, what procedures or paperwork must they fill out in order to do so; if not, why not.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—medicines policy  
(Question No 22)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How is medicine distributed to inmates in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) Which job role has the responsibility for the distribution of medicine and what training do they undergo to distribute the medicine.

- (3) What measures or practices are taken by staff at the AMC to prevent medication being taken by other detainees the medicine is not intended for.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees and Pacific Islander employees  
(Question No 23)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many employees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) have either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.
- (2) What is the job role breakdown of these employees.
- (3) How many employees at the AMC have Pacific Islander Heritage.
- (4) What is the job role breakdown of these employees.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—cultural programs  
(Question No 24)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

What (a) programs and (b) facilities in the AMC are exclusive to indigenous inmates.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.



In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—health services  
(Question No 25)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) For how long after admission is free pharmacotherapy available for inmates wanting to quit smoking.
- (2) How many inmates are currently utilising pharmacotherapy to assist them in their withdrawal from alcohol and other drugs including tobacco.
- (3) Have these pharmacotherapy methods resulted in any negative side effects on the inmates resulting in the need to see a health care worker.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—worship facilities  
(Question No 26)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What multifaith worship facilities are available at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- (2) How often are these facilities used per week.
- (3) What faith groups are currently being provided worship facilities.
- (4) Have any inmates of a particular faith group been denied use or access to worship facilities; if so, which faith groups and why were they denied.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—staffing  
(Question No 27)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many staff are employed at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) on a full-time or full-time equivalent basis.
- (2) How many staff are employed at the AMC on a part time or casual basis.
- (3) What is the breakdown of staff per role, such as guard, administrative or custodial.
- (4) How many staff identify as either male, female or other.
- (5) What is the projected employment level of the AMC for 2021-2024 by staff role.
- (6) Are male guards ever scheduled to work in female dominated areas of the prison; if so, how many days per week, on average, are male guards scheduled to work in female dominated areas of the prison.
- (7) Are female guards ever scheduled to work in male inmate dominated areas of the prison; if so, how many days per week, on average, are female guards scheduled to work in male inmate dominated areas of the prison.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainees with a disability  
(Question No 28)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What is the unemployment pay for an inmate at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) with a disability who cannot work.
- (2) How many inmates in the AMC have a disability that prevents them from being able to work.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainee programs  
(Question No 29)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What programs in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) are exclusive to female inmates.
- (2) What are these programs.
- (3) How often are these programs available during the month.
- (4) What criteria is used to determine whether a requested program will commence.
- (5) Is there a minimum number of individuals that must register interest with an activity or program before the program is made available.
- (6) What programs have been requested by female inmates that the AMC has either declined to offer or has been unable to offer.
- (7) Why did the AMC not deliver these programs.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—living facilities  
(Question No 30)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Do the cell sizes in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) conform to Standard Guidelines of Prison Facilities in Australia and New Zealand.

- (2) What are the measurements of the single person cells and double ups.
- (3) How many cells are designated as single person cells.
- (4) How many cells are designated as double ups.
- (5) Since the opening of the AMC, how many single person cells have had their designations changed to double ups.
- (6) How many of these cells are less than 12.75m<sup>2</sup>.
- (7) What is the design capacity of the AMC.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—maximum security  
(Question No 31)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What information is given to detainees in maximum security accommodation to assist them in leaving maximum security.
- (2) Besides verbal communication, how else is a detainee in maximum security accommodation able to find out what pathways are available for them to leave maximum security.
- (3) Since 1 January 2020, how many inmates have succeeded in leaving maximum-security accommodation and moving to a less secure wing of the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- (4) How many inmates were in maximum security accommodation at the beginning of 1 January 2020?
- (5) Are there any differences in these pathways for male and female inmates; if so, what are the differences.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee clothing  
(Question No 32)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Noting that Standard 47.8 of the ACT Standards for Adult Correctional Services, the correctional centre is responsible to obtain clothing for an inmate if they have no means to obtain clothing themselves, what is the process for obtaining clothing for a detainee.
- (2) Is there a monetary figure attached to how much can be spent by the correctional centre on clothing.
- (3) Does the inmate have any input into what clothing is bought.
- (4) Does the Alexander Maconochie Centre first obtain the detainees measurements before clothing is bought.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee consultation  
(Question No 33)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How often are inmates consulted about what goods should be sold at the prison shop.
- (2) When was the last time inmates were consulted about what goods should be sold at the prison shop.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—living facilities  
(Question No 34)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

What measures have been taken, at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, to ensure sufficient privacy for inmates in their cells according to standard 43.8 in the ACT Standards for Adult Correctional Services.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—anti-smoking measures  
(Question No 35)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) According to Standard 78.5 in the ACT Standards for Adult Correctional Services, what progress has been made on transforming the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) into a smoke-free prison.
- (2) What studies have been done on the feasibility of a smoke-free prison at the AMC.
- (3) What are the names of those studies.
- (4) Is there a timeline for when the ACT Government intends the AMC to be smoke-free; if so, at what stage in the timeline is the AMC at.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—emergency procedures  
(Question No 36)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many different coloured emergency codes are at Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What criteria determines a code red situation.
- (3) What protocols or procedures must be undertaken by AMC staff during a code red situation.
- (4) What criteria determines every other colour coded situation.
- (5) What protocols or procedures must be undertaken by AMC staff during each other colour coded situation.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—parental contact  
(Question No 37)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many inmates of the Alexander Maconochie Centre are mothers.
- (2) What are the different mediums of contact a mother can have with their children.
- (3) Are mothers afforded any additional contact/visiting hours with their children beyond that which is offered to childless inmates.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—children residing onsite  
(Question No 38)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) In relation to children in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) and standard 8.4 and 60.1 in the ACT Standards for Adult Correctional Services, are there any parents with children staying with them in the AMC.
- (2) Are there any dedicated accommodation types for parents with children with them.
- (3) What is the minimum and maximum age for a child to be allowed to stay with their parents at the AMC.
- (4) Are fathers allowed to have their children stay with them at the AMC.
- (5) Are parents with children staying with them afforded any additional privileges or rights.
- (6) How many children have been accommodated with a parent in the AMC since the opening of the AMC.
- (7) How many of these children end up separated from their parent and taken into Child and Youth Protection Services.
- (8) How many of these children have since been reunited with their parent.
- (9) What support are parents in this situation being given to be reunited with their children.
- (10) Is there a minimum or maximum age limit for children being accommodated in the AMC.
- (11) According to standard 60.1 in the ACT Standards for Adult Correctional Services, children under two years of age can reside with their primary caregiver in the correctional centre if it is in the best interest of the child to do so; once the child turns two, are they then removed from their primary caregiver; if so, what is the process for this.
- (12) What input does the mother have during this process.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.



**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee award rates  
(Question No 39)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What is the award rate for inmates at the Alexander Maconochie Centre at (a) Level 1, (b) Level 2 and (c) Level 3.
- (2) What determines which award rate an inmate is eligible for.
- (3) Does any kind of tertiary education influence the award rate an inmate is eligible for.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—security patrols  
(Question No 40)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Are nightly patrols around the perimeter fence at the Alexander Maconochie Centre currently part of standard procedure.
- (2) What paperwork is an employee required to fill in when beginning or ending a nightly patrol around the perimeter fence.
- (3) What is the title of this paperwork.
- (4) Have nightly patrols around the perimeter fence ever not been part of standard procedure and routine; if so, when did they cease being a part of standard procedure or routine and why were they stopped.
- (5) What incidents involving the perimeter fence have happened or may have happened during the time when nightly patrols were ceased, for example, things being thrown over the fence, the fence being damaged and inmates being in contact with the fence.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—lockdowns  
(Question No 41)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many lockdowns have occurred at the Alexander Maconochie Centre since 1 January 2016.
- (2) How long did each of these lockdowns last.
- (3) Briefly, what was the cause of each lockdown.
- (4) What is the name of the document(s) that records details of each lockdown.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—staff training  
(Question No 42)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many staff, divided by gender, are trained and up to date with trauma informed searching techniques as of 1 December 2020.
- (2) Is there a minimum number requirement of trauma informed searching technique trained staff that must be on-site at any one time.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—disciplinary action  
(Question No 43)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many instances were there of an inmate being sent to separate confinement as a means of punishment or discipline since 1 January 2016 at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- (2) Of these inmates, how many were released within (a) 24hrs, (b) 3 days and (c) 1 week.
- (3) Of these inmates, how many spent longer than a week in separate confinement.
- (4) What is the longest someone has remained in separate confinement.
- (5) How many instances were there of an inmate being sent to separate confinement as a means of punishment or disciplines since 1st January 2020.
- (6) What opportunities does an inmate have to socialise with other inmates while in separate confinement.
- (7) What activities remain available to an inmate in separate confinement.
- (8) Of the activities that remain available, are many of them able to be done with other inmates or people.
- (9) What is the difference between segregation and separate confinement from Corrections ACT's perspective.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—chemical agent use  
(Question No 44)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Under what circumstances is the use of chemical spray (CS gas) or similar substances allowed at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What permissions must be given, and from whom must they be given by to use CS gas or similar substance.

- (3) Has CS gas or similar substance been used in the AMC for the purposes of protection or offence; if so, how many times has it been used; if not, how many times has the use of it been requested, but denied or not responded to.
- (4) What is the brand of the CS gas or similar substance used in the AMC.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee consultation  
(Question No 45)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) When was the last staff-detainee forum.
- (2) When is the next staff-detainee forum.
- (3) What was the agenda for the last staff-detainee forum.
- (4) What is the title of the document that contains the minutes from this last staff-detainee forum.
- (5) Who runs the staff-detainee forums.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—capacity  
(Question No 46)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What is the total capacity of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What is the total inmate population at the AMC as of 1 December 2020.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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#### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—menu (Question No 47)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What traditional indigenous food is available on the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) menu as of 1 December 2020.
- (2) How much time in advance are the AMC menus prepared.
- (3) What are the menus at the AMC for breakfast, lunch and dinner for the next three months, if available

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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#### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—staff training (Question No 48)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Do staff undergo refresher training for use of equipment such as chemical spray, riot shields, batons and tear gas.
- (2) How often do staff undergo this refresher training.
- (3) When was the last time staff were offered refresher training.
- (4) How many staff attended the last refresher training.
- (5) Is such training mandatory.

- (6) How many staff are qualified for using this type of equipment.
- (7) What are the titles for each training course.
- (8) What was the format for each training course, ie slide show presentation, practical, video.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—assaults  
(Question No 49)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many incidents have there been involving assaults on members of the staff in the last two years at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) How many of these assaults have happened (a) within the AMC and (b) while in transit outside the AMC.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—staffing  
(Question No 50)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many staff at the Alexander Maconochie Centre are primary educators or trainers.
- (2) How many of these staff are (a) full-time, (b) part-time and (c) casual.
- (3) How many of these staff have indigenous heritage.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—education and training programs  
(Question No 51)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many short courses are on offer to short stay detainees.
- (2) What is the maximum amount of time a detainee can stay in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) and be classified as a short-stay detainee.
- (3) How many of these short-stay inmates, between 2017-18 and 2018-19, enrolled in a short-stay course.
- (4) How many completed that course.
- (5) Of those who did not complete the course, how many did not complete the course due to being released from the AMC.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—community support of former detainees  
(Question No 52)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What support does the ACT Government offer to former inmates of the Alexander Maconochie Centre that is specifically for former inmates.
- (2) Do these supports include (a) employment opportunities, (b) education and training pathways, (c) housing support, (d) access to healthcare as well as any addiction, mental health or other rehabilitation requirements, (e) financial assistance and (f) obtaining transport whether private or public.

- (3) What community organisations does the ACT Government work with to provide these supports.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee privileges  
(Question No 53)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) In general terms, what is the privilege system at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- (2) What is the highest level of privilege and what privileges does one attain at this level.
- (3) What is the lowest level of privilege and what privileges does one retain at this level.
- (4) How is an inmate able to move up in the privilege system.
- (5) How does an inmate move down in the privilege system.
- (6) Is there a maximum level of privilege an inmate can attain depending on the severity of their sentence and offence.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—education and training programs  
(Question No 54)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What education programs are available at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What resources exist for inmates to find out about these programs.



- (3) Is there a document that lays out all education programs and/or courses that inmates can choose from.
- (4) Are inmates able to pick and choose which education programs they participate in.
- (5) Are inmates able to not participate in any education program
- (6) Can an inmate drop out from the education program at any time.
- (7) How many inmates enrolled in pre-certificate level one courses between (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 and how many completed their course.
- (8) How many inmates enrolled in secondary school education courses between (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 and how many completed their course.
- (9) How many inmates enrolled in vocational education and training courses between (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 and how many completed their course.
- (10) How many inmates enrolled in higher education courses between (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 and how many completed their course.
- (11) Can the Minister provide the school timetable for each non-vocational course.
- (12) Is the Education Directorate providing lessons inside the AMC.
- (13) What other education resources are provided to inmates.
- (14) From which organisations are the certificates of completion of courses awarded from.
- (15) Does Canberra Institute of Technology aware any certificates of completion of courses; if so, which courses.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, it is inappropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's questions. I do however offer the member a verbal briefing with relevant officials to discuss the questions asked.

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### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—child placement (Question No 55)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020 (*redirected to the Minister for Families and Community Services*):

- (1) The 'Our Booris Our Way Final Report' (December 2019) recommends that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles are 'explicitly

designed into policy and practice’ (p 75) and ‘explicitly enshrined in legislation’ (p 77). These principles include ‘The participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives, external to the statutory agency, is required in all child protection decision making, including intake, assessment, intervention, placement and care, including judicial decision making processes’. As the Government has formally agreed to this recommendation, and Minister Stephen-Smith signed up to the Family Matters commitment in September 2017, which includes the application and implementation of these principles, are any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives, external to Child and Youth Protection Services, currently participating in decision making as noted in this principle; if so, who, how, how often, and in what areas (intake, assessment, intervention, placement and care, including judicial decision-making processes, etc.); if not, why not and when will the commitment to implementing this principle be fulfilled.

- (2) When will the ACT Government amend the Children and Young People Act to include these principles, as recommended.

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

- (1) The ACT Government is increasing the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives in child protection decision making — a critical component of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle. This is being delivered through training, development of policy and practice guides, Family Group Conferencing (FGC), Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT) and the development of a unified internal and external merits review model.

*Our Booris, Our Way* recommended the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle be designed into policy and practice (recommendation 3) and to ensure that the full intent of the Child Placement Principle is reflected in the *Children and Young People Act 2008* (recommendation 5).

To give immediate effect to recommendation 3, Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) engaged Curijo Pty Ltd, a local Aboriginal-owned organisation, certified with Supply Nation, to commence development of a Practice Guide. Curijo staff attended a two-day SNAICC seminar on embedding the Child Placement Principle before undertaking workshops, consultation and drafting the Practice Guide to ensure consistency with SNAICC policies, procedures and resources. To further inform the Practice Guide, Curijo provided a draft Practice Guide to SNAICC and the *Our Booris, Our Way* Steering Committee for feedback. The Practice Guide titled *Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families: Providing Culturally Responsive Practice* was finalised in September 2019.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations are regularly engaged in child protection processes for individual children, young people and families. For example, they may be advocates, members of a care team or service providers working collaboratively with CYPS to support families to keep their children safe. The importance of engaging cultural expertise and support services is emphasised in the Practice Guide.

The Ngura Naraganabang (Safety in the Pouch) Advisory Group was established in July 2019, to provide advice and feedback to CYPS on policy and resources to support practice when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families and communities. The advisory group comprises representatives from

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Legal Service ACT/NSW, OzChild, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, Red Cross, ACT Together, ACT Health and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

The ACT Government supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to participate in decisions that affect their children and young people through restorative practices and intensive services, including FGC and FFT.

FGC continues to be guided and supported by an Advisory Committee that includes independent representation from a range of external organisations, with knowledge and skills that support the continued delivery and evaluation of FGC. These organisations include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, Curijo and Professor Morag McArthur, Australian Catholic University.

The FFT Program is delivered in partnership with OzChild and Gugan Gulwan. The partnership delivers a culturally responsive model proven by research to support families and is underpinned by the principle of self-determination.

- (2) The ACT Government will commence work to amend the *Children and Young People Act 2008* to enshrine the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, as agreed in the Government Response to the *Our Booris, Our Way* Final Report (in July 2020). Preparatory work will commence in the first half of 2021 and will be informed by engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

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### **Municipal services—cyclepaths (Question No 57)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What was the (a) projected cost and (b) actual cost of building the recently completed Belconnen Bikeway
- (2) What was the cost broken down by (a) actual bikeway, (b) associated infrastructure and (c) landscaping for each segment of (a) Florey to the nearest end of the old Belconnen Busway, (b) the length of the old Belconnen Busway, (c) the end of the old Belconnen Busway to Aikman Drive and (d) Aikman Drive to Haydon Drive.
- (3) What is the length of each segment referred to in part (2).
- (4) What is the length of the stone wall built as part of the Belconnen Bikeway between Aikman and Haydon Drives.
- (5) What was the complete cost of building this stone wall.

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

- (1)
  - a) The construction cost estimate at the time of tender was approx. \$5.653m (ex GST); and

b) The final cost to construct the Belconnen Bikeway was \$6.291m (ex GST).

(2) Below is the approximate cost breakdown for each segment:

Section	(a) Actual bikeway (\$M)	(b) Associated infrastructure (\$M)	(c) Landscape (\$M)	Total (\$M)
(a) Florey - Old Busway	\$0.352	\$0.264	\$0.088	<b>\$0.704</b>
(b) Old Busway	\$0.712	\$0.356	\$0.244	<b>\$1.312</b>
(c) Old Busway - Aikman Drive	\$1.128	\$0.705	\$0.253	<b>\$2.086</b>
(d) Aikman Drive - Haydon Drive	\$1.265	\$0.632	\$0.292	<b>\$2.189</b>

(3)

- a) Florey to Old Busway – approximately 440 metres;
- b) Old Busway – approximately 890 metres;
- c) Old Busway to Aikman Drive – approximately 1410 metres; and
- d) Aikman Drive to Haydon Drive approximately 1580 metres.

(4) Four stone retaining walls of varied heights were constructed between Aikman Drive and Haydon Drive, with a total length of 505 metres.

(5) The total cost of the retaining walls constructed in this location was approximately \$0.380m.

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### **Municipal services—trees (Question No 58)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Noting that as of March 2001, ornamental *Pyrus ussuriensis* (Manchurian pear) trees had been planted on unleased land in McKellar in Absolon Place, Bancks Crescent, Burns Circuit, Hetherington Circuit, and Joseph Place and that this species of tree has now been deleted from the ACT Government's list of approved trees in Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects (April 2019), how many Manchurian pear trees have been planted as street trees in McKellar since its development.
- (2) How many living Manchurian pear trees currently exist as street trees in McKellar.
- (3) Are any of these trees in streets not named in part (1); if so, in which streets.
- (4) In each of the past ten financial years, how many Manchurian pear street trees in McKellar have been removed and replaced, and in which streets.
- (5) Have any of these been replaced with a species other than Manchurian pear; if so, (a) how many, (b) in which streets and (c) why.
- (6) Have any Manchurian pear street trees in McKellar been removed but not replaced; if so, (a) how many (b) in which streets and (c) why.
- (7) When were Manchurian pear trees deleted from the list of approved trees in the ACT.

- (8) How many complaints has the ACT Government received about damage to private infrastructure (including but not limited to paths, drives, walls, structures, and sewage lines) caused by the roots of Manchurian pear street trees, in each of the past ten financial years.
- (9) How many times has the ACT Government reimbursed a leaseholder for damage caused by the roots of a Manchurian pear street tree, in each of the past ten financial years
- (10) In each case, what has been the (a) total request for reimbursement and (b) amount actually reimbursed to the leaseholder.

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

- (1) TCCS digital records indicate that only one *Pyrus ussuriensis* (Manchurian pear) has been planted in McKellar since 2002. This was planted in Burns Circuit McKellar in Autumn 2017.
- (2) TCCS does not have a record of the number of *P. ussuriensis* in McKellar.
- (3) TCCS data indicates that there are no additional streets in McKellar that were planted with *P. ussuriensis* as the official street tree species beyond the five streets listed in (1).
- (4) No digital records exist that show an instance where *P. ussuriensis* was removed and replaced with another *P. ussuriensis* from a street in McKellar.
- (5) TCCS digital records indicate that:
  - a. two *P. ussuriensis* were removed from Burns Circuit in 2013 because of damage sustained during a storm. Both trees were replaced with *P. calleryana* 'Aristocrat' (ornamental pear) in 2013.
  - b. Two trees were removed in Dumas Street in 2014 due to storm damage, neither of these trees were replaced.
  - c. Two trees were removed in Bancks Crescent in 2014 due to storm damage, neither of these trees were replaced due to overcrowding and proximity to other infrastructure.
- (6)
  - a. One tree was removed from Jeanne Young Street in 2014 due to storm damage, this tree was not replaced.
  - b. One tree was removed from Jeanne Young Street in 2019 due to storm damage, this tree was not replaced due to the narrow verge width.
- (7) April 2019 as part of an update to the Municipal Infrastructure Standards 25: Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects prior to the release of the updated document in April 2019. *P. ussuriensis* was removed from the approved species list due to the propensity of the species to exhibit poor branch structure that can result in splitting. *Pyrus calleryana* 'Aristocrat', a pear species of similar size and form, is now used instead as it has better branch structure, requiring less maintenance and providing greater longevity.
- (8) Information management systems do not allow a search of claims by species.

(9) See (8).

(10) See (8).

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**Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—contractors  
(Question No 59)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many contractors currently hold contracts with City Services.
- (2) Are any of the contractors referred to in part (1) located outside of the ACT; if so, can the Minister provide the (a) name of contractor, (b) location of contractor, (c) service contracted for, (d) dollar value of contract, (e) expiration date of contract and (f) length of time that this contract has been held by the same contractor.

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

- (1) As at 5 December 2020, 71 contractors were engaged through labour-hire arrangements in City Services.
- (2) Residential data is maintained by the labour-hire agency and as such is not available.

\* For the purpose of this response contractors is defined as workers engaged on labour-hire contracts. It does not include senior executive level contracts, ACT public service employees on fixed-term temporary employment or casual temporary employment; or contractors engaged through commercial procurement arrangements.

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**Municipal services—drinking water stations  
(Question No 60)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

On what date was the water refill station at the Charnwood shops installed.

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

Mid-August 2020.

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**Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—staff qualifications  
(Question No 61)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many Transport and City Services (TCCS) officers have a (a) certificate III in horticulture and (b) diploma in horticulture.

- (2) What training and/or education do TCCS officers need to undertake before working to maintain and service this city
- (3) What is the required training and/or education for (a) mowing, (b) park maintenance, (c) playground maintenance, (d) Maintenance of public shops, (e) road maintenance, (f) footpath maintenance and (g) tree maintenance.

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

- (1) There are currently:
  - (a) 83 staff who have a Certificate III in Horticulture and a further 14 who are currently undertaking the Certificate III course; and
  - (b) Six staff have a Diploma in Horticulture.

*The above information is sourced from the TCCS Learning Management System (LMS). Qualifications obtained or received prior to the employee commencing in the ACT Public Service are not recorded within the LMS, and there may be more staff who hold these qualifications than are reported above.*

- (2) Some positions in TCCS, including a number in City Services, require job-specific mandatory or highly desirable qualifications, such as the Certificate III in Horticulture. It is expected that an employee would hold or could obtain these qualifications within three months of commencing in one of these positions. Additionally, all TCCS employees are required to complete the following core training:
  - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness (available to all staff but mandatory for managers and supervisors)
  - Disability Awareness (available to all staff but mandatory for managers and supervisors)
  - Fraud and Ethics
  - Respect, Equity & Diversity
  - Security Awareness
  - TCCS Directorate Induction
  - Work Health and Safety
- (3) The required training and/or education for the identified jobs is as follows. All roles also require a White Card (WHS) and Asbestos Awareness:
  - (a) Mowing
    - Operate Ride on Mower
    - Manual Handling
    - Temporary Traffic Management (where required)
  - (b) Park maintenance
    - Safe Handling of Sharps and Infectious Waste,
    - Manual Handling
    - Chainsaw
    - Operate mobile chipper
    - Temporary Traffic Management (where required)
    - Chemical User Certificate III.
  - (c) Playground maintenance
    - Safe Handling of Sharps and Infectious Waste
    - Manual Handling

- (d) Maintenance of public shops
  - Safe Handling of Sharps and Infectious Waste
  - Manual Handling
- (e) Road maintenance – core training for road maintenance staff includes:
  - Temporary Traffic Management (TTM)
  - First Aid
  - Trim and Cross Cut (Chainsaw)
  - Crystalline silica (for on-call workers)
  - Manual Handling
  - Truck licence (Medium Rigid or Heavy Rigid)
  - Dam Safety Management system
  - Assetic System Training
  - AIMS (incident management – select staff)
  - Working in confined spaces (select staff)
  - Chemical User – Cert III (if required)
  - Chemical User – Cert IV (if required)
  - CPR
  - Elevated Work Platform (if required)
- (f) Footpath maintenance - Roads staff contract the laying and fixing of footpaths. The Roads staff are only inspectors but are provided with the following training:
  - TTM,
  - First Aid and
  - Asset management system training.
- (g) Tree maintenance
  - Chainsaw
  - Elevated Work Platform
  - Manual Handling
  - Operate mobile chipper

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### **Municipal services—footpaths (Question No 62)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

Did the Minister state in a letter to me regarding the installation of a footpath along Blackman Crescent, Macquarie, that the footpath would be placed on the community path infill program listed to be considered in 2020-21 capital works program; if so, has this footpath (a) undergone consideration for construction and (b) been scheduled for construction in either 2020 or 2021.

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

- (1)
  - a) Yes, consideration was given to construction in 2020-21, however at this stage the project has not been approved for construction in 20-21. The current program of community path projects are listed on the City Services website available at: <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/Infrastructure-Projects/programs/community-paths-program>. If not constructed in 2020-21, the project will be considered for construction in 2021-22.



b) See a).

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**Roads—maintenance  
(Question No 63)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many potholes were recorded in the Ginninderra Electorate during 1 August and 1 December 2020.
- (2) How many of these potholes have been repaired.
- (3) How many of these potholes needed to be repaired more than once during this time.
- (4) What different methods were used to repair these potholes.
- (5) What is the estimated or average cost of each repair using each method of repair.
- (6) What is the estimated cost of the repairs for all potholes repaired during this time in the Ginninderra electorate.
- (7) How many potholes were repaired by removing the entire length of bitumen they were on and then laying a new length of bitumen.
- (8) What were the locations of the potholes that were repaired in this way.
- (9) Does the ACT Government plan to repair other potholes in this way; if so, where are those potholes.

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

- (1) In the Ginninderra Electorate during 1 August 2020 to 1 December 2020, 144 requests for pothole patching were received through Access Canberra and Fix My Street (i.e. from the general public).
- (2) During 1 August 2020 and 1 December 2020, 94 potholes in the Ginninderra Electorate were repaired.
- (3) Records indicate that out of the 94 potholes fixed, seven (7) potholes had to be repaired more than once.
- (4) Reactive hand patching is initially undertaken using 'cold mix' asphalt to repair potholes. Roads ACT then undertakes planned resurfacing works utilising 'hot mix' mechanised asphalt and bitumen chip seal to prevent potholes forming in the first instance.
- (5) The cost of each pothole repair using reactive hand patching using cold mix asphalt is approximately \$50 - \$70 per m<sup>2</sup>. The cost of hot asphalt patching varies significantly depending on the specific application, location and the magnitude of work undertaken due to typically high establishment costs. A small mechanised asphalt patching team undertook repairs between \$61 - \$183 per m<sup>2</sup>.

- (6) Approximately \$8,500 for reactive pothole repair across the ACT during 1 August 2020 and 1 December 2020.
  - (7) Resurfacing is generally planned during the summer months. 124,400 m<sup>2</sup> of road was identified for preventative resurfacing works using bitumen chip seal in the Ginninderra electorate in the second half of the financial year. 11,823 m<sup>2</sup> of heavy patching has commenced in preparation for bitumen reseal and an additional 10,955 m<sup>2</sup> of milling will be undertaken in the second half of the financial year.
  - (8) The specific suburbs are in Belconnen, Bruce, Hawker and Spence with various streets in these suburbs receiving maintenance treatments. Most of these roads will be resealed in second half of the financial year (early 2021).
  - (9) Yes, a detailed annual resurfacing program is available on the City Services website for reference.  
[www.cityservices.act.gov.au/roads-and-paths/road-infrastructure-and-maintenance/road-resurfacing](http://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/roads-and-paths/road-infrastructure-and-maintenance/road-resurfacing)
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### **Mental health—Official Visitors program (Question No 64)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) On what date were Official Visitors first appointed for disability services.
- (2) What are the complete roles and responsibilities of an Official Visitors.
- (3) What criteria is considered in the making of a decision to appoint someone as an Official Visitors, ie qualifications, experience etc.
- (4) Are there any limitations to the number of Official Visitors that can be appointed; if so, what are the minimum and maximum number of Official Visitors that can be appointed.
- (5) How many Official Visitors are currently appointed and what are their names.
- (6) Is the ACT Government currently seeking more Official Visitors to be appointed; if so, how many.
- (7) Are Official Visitors employed by the ACT Government; if not, how are they imburSED for their work.
- (8) What is the total number of complaints received by Official Visitors for each year the past four years.

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

- (1) The first Official Visitor for Disability Services was appointed on 4 September 2013.
- (2) Official Visitors for disability aim to safeguard standards of treatment and care and advocate for the rights and dignity of people described as entitled persons under the *Disability Services Act 1991*.

The objective of the scheme is to detect and prevent systemic dysfunction in the specified environments. Official Visitors achieve this by visiting visitable places, talking to entitled persons, inspecting records, reporting on the standard of facilities and reporting to the operational Minister and other public authorities. Official Visitors also fulfil a more direct and informal function within their respective environments by resolving grievances and lesser issues.

The roles and functions of Official Visitors are set out in the *Official Visitor Act 2012* and the relevant operational Acts for the Official Visitor's purpose, namely the Disability Services Act 1991 for Official Visitors for Disability Services. Activities are also guided by the Official Visitor Guidelines 2020.

- (3) As a ministerial appointment, nominees must be agreed by Cabinet and considered by the relevant Legislative Assembly standing committee. Appointments are governed by the *Legislation Act 2001* and guided by the *Governance Principles – Appointments, Boards and Committees handbook*. Expressions of Interest processes are undertaken to select nominees for appointment. Criteria for those processes include demonstrated proficiency with:
  - i. human rights;
  - ii. quality service delivery;
  - iii. communication with people with a disability; and
  - iv. navigation of local service, support, oversight and other systems.
- (4) Minimum numbers of Official Visitors for each operational Act are listed at section 10 of the *Official Visitor Act 2012*. In the case of the *Disability Services Act 1991* the minimum number is one. There were two part time Official Visitors from 2014 until 2020.
- (5) Official Visitors are appointed by disallowable instrument. They are part time. All currently appointed Official Visitors and those appointed in the past can be found on the ACT Legislation Register. Current Official Visitors for Disability Services are Ms Mary Durkin, Mr Chris Redmond and Mr Rob Woolley.
- (6) A third Official Visitor for Disability Services was appointed in 2020 in response to increasing numbers of entitled persons in the ACT. There are no current plans to appoint additional Official Visitors for Disability Services.
- (7) Official Visitors are appointed and remunerated as Part-Time Statutory Office Holders at a rate determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal.
- (8) Complaints received by Official Visitors have not been uniformly recorded or collected in aggregate. In their last publicly available Annual Report (2018-19) the Official Visitors for Disability Services reported handling 46 complaints. I note that only some of the activities of the Official Visitors for Disability Services derive from complaints.

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**Community Services Directorate—Office for Disability  
(Question No 66)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) On what date was the Office for Disability established.
- (2) What are the complete roles and responsibilities of the Office for Disability.
- (3) What data does the Office for Disability collect in relation to people living with disability in the ACT.
- (4) How many full-time equivalent staff are there currently employed in the Office for Disability.
- (5) How many staff are currently employed, what are their work classifications and what type of employment are they engaged in, ie full-time, part-time, casual etc.
- (6) What is the total number of complaints received by the Office for Disability for each of the past four years to the date this question on notice was published.

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

- (1) The Office for Disability was instigated in October 2016 as part of preparations for the imminent closure of both Disability ACT and the ACT National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Taskforce and the commencement of the NDIS in the ACT.

The ACT NDIS Taskforce and Disability ACT closed at the end of June 2017. The Office for Disability was launched in December 2017 to deliver the strategic leadership to support the Territory's continuing responsibility to people with disability and its investment in the NDIS.

- (2) The Office for Disability provides strategic advice to government and practical implementation to support the inclusion of people with disability as citizens of the ACT. The Office for Disability progresses the objectives of the National Disability Strategy (NDS) and supports the implementation of the NDIS.

Work under the NDS includes equal access to justice for people with disability through the ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-29; supporting the implementation of Disability Action and Inclusion Plans across government and community; running the Disability Inclusion Grants to provide increased opportunities for people with disability to participate in community; promoting International Day of People with Disability; recruiting affiliates to the ACT Companion Card program; and supporting the Disability Reference Group, the ACT Inclusion Council and the Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards.

The Office for Disability leads strategic engagement and policy reform on issues impacting people with disability through inter-jurisdictional working groups and Commonwealth agencies.

The Office for Disability is also responsible for the implementation and delivery of the Integrated Response Program that provides coordination and emergency funding for people with disability with complex needs who are in crisis or emerging crisis.

- (3) The Office for Disability does not collect data in relation to people with disability in the ACT. The Office for Disability does however have access to publicly available data such as that provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

- (4) There are currently 14.87 full-time equivalent (15 head count) employed in the Office for Disability.
- (5) The number of Office for Disability staff currently employed and their work classifications are outlined in the following table:

Classification	FTE
CE1.4	1
SOG A	2
SOG C	5.87
ASO6	4
ASO4	1
ASO1	1
	<b>14.87</b>

Of these staff: 14 full time; 1 part time; 10 permanent and 5 temporary officers.

- (6) The Office for Disability has not received any complaints regarding its functions for each of the past four years to the date this question on notice was published.

### **Disability services—research and development (Question No 67)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) In accordance with the Disability Services Act 1991, what activities has the Minister (or past relevant Minister) approved as a ‘research and development activity’.
- (2) What criteria and considerations must be met for ministerial approval to be given.

**Ms Davidson:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) There have been no research or development activities approved and listed on the legislation register under section 9 of the *Disability Services Act 1991*.
- (2) Beyond the definition of ‘research and development activity’ in the dictionary of the Act and existing guidelines for undertaking research set by the National Health and Medical Research Council, no further guidelines or criteria have been established for approval.

### **Disability services—government support (Question No 68)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a complete list of businesses and organisations relating to disability in the ACT as an attachment to the answer to this question on notice.
- (2) Which of the groups mentioned in part (1) receive support from the ACT Government and what has been the nature of that support

- (3) Can the Minister provide a complete list of significant dates and/or events, projects and initiatives relating to disability in the ACT as an attachment to the answer to this question on notice.
- (4) Which of the significant events receive support from the ACT Government, and what has been the nature of that support.

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

- (1) The National Disability Insurance Agency report in their ACT September 2020 dashboard identifies 1,053 NDIS registered service providers in the ACT. Providers include sole traders to larger for-profit companies and provide a range of services from domestic services, personal support services, supported accommodation service through to specialist therapy services. A full list of registered providers in the ACT is available on the NDIS website at: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/working-providers/find-registered-provider#provider-lists>.

Other disability organisations not included in the NDIS registered service provider list include the two Disabled Peoples Organisations; Women with Disabilities ACT and People with Disabilities ACT, along with another ACT peak disability body, National Disability Services.

- (2) The ACT Government annually funds the following four peak disability organisations to provide systemic advocacy for people with disability:
  - Women with Disabilities ACT;
  - National Disability Services;
  - People with Disabilities ACT; and
  - Carers ACT.

The ACT Government also provides annual funding to both the ACT Disability Aged Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS) and Advocacy for Inclusion to provide individual advocacy for people with disability, and additional work that relates to the ACT Disability Justice Strategy including disability awareness training and supported decision making activities.

- (3) Disability related dates and/or events, projects and initiatives are the:
  - International Day of People with Disability (I-Day) held annually on 3 December
  - Disability Inclusion Grants Program conducted annually
  - I-Day Grants Program conducted annually
  - ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards held annually around the date of I-Day
    - the Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards were not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 health emergency
  - ACT Companion Card Program
  - ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-29
  - new National Disability Strategy expected to be launched in September 2021
  - ACT COVID-19 Disability Strategy and Action Plan

- ACT Disability Reference Group meetings held every two months
- ACT Inclusion Council meetings held every two months
- ACT Disability Justice Reference Group meetings held bi-annually

(4) The ACT Government:

- supports I-Day by promoting the aim and theme of the annual celebration and informing the community of events that are taking place in Canberra
- provides \$100,000 in annual funding for the Disability Inclusion Grants Program
- provides \$25,000 in annual funding for the I-Day Grants Program
- is a major sponsor of the annual ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards, providing funding for event management and facilitating the nomination and judging process
- supports the ACT Companion Card Program by recruiting business affiliates
- is providing \$4.8 million over the first four years of the ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-2029 to implement the First Action Plan, including:
  - developing a Disability Action and Inclusion Plan in ACT Corrective Services
  - undertaking a scoping project to inform the development of a Disability Action and Inclusion Plan for Canberra Health Services
  - employing Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) in justice agencies who will form a community of practice to foster cultural change and implement practical changes or people with disability in the justice system
  - advancing supported decision-making principles and pathways to support people with disability to retain autonomy and support in making decisions that affect their lives
  - continuing Canberra Community Law's Socio-Legal Practice Clinic
  - implementing trials of a needs identification tool across the justice system that will help organisations identify and implement appropriate reasonable adjustments for people with disability, and
  - developing an evaluation framework
- supports development and implementation of the new National Disability Strategy through engagement with the Commonwealth and other State and Territory governments
- provides funding through the COVID-19 stimulus package for the ACT COVID-19 Disability Strategy, supported by an Action Plan that includes funding for:
  - additional advocacy services for people with disability
  - extra support for the disability sector through National Disability Services
  - communication targeted at people with disability, their families and their carers delivered by a range of disability support organisations
  - ensuring that people with disability can access Personal Protective Equipment
  - strengthening and supporting the marketplace for providers of positive behaviour supports
  - building the capability of the disability and family violence community sectors to identify and assist people with disability who may be experiencing family and domestic abuse

- supporting the uptake of accredited infection control training by disability support organisations
    - helping people with disability and their families deal with the impacts of COVID-19 and transition them through recovery
    - supporting people with disability and their family members who experience isolation and quarantine
  - provides secretariat support and resources for the Disability Reference Group, Inclusion Council and the Disability Justice Reference Group.
- 

**Government—disability services policy  
(Question No 70)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Is there currently a comprehensive disability framework and strategy by the ACT Government.
- (2) Are there currently any reporting obligations against any disability frameworks and/or strategies.
- (3) Is there currently a charter of rights for disability in the ACT
- (4) How many people and what percentage of people are identified in the ACT as living with a disability.
- (5) What is their age, gender and assessed degree of impairment.
- (6) How many of these people and what percentage of these people are identified as culturally and/linguistically diverse.
- (7) How many of these people and what percentage of these people are identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
- (8) What disabilities have been identified in the ACT community, in order from most prevalent to least.
- (9) How many people and what percentage of people live with each identified disability.

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

- (1) The ACT Government is committed to a Disability Framework under the National Disability Strategy, called INVOLVED. INVOLVED demonstrates how the ACT Government is meeting the expectations of the community to create an inclusive Canberra for all people, and specifically, how people with disability are supported to have better life experiences. The ACT Government is obligated through COAG to implement the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the next strategy, which will be launched in mid-2021. In addition, the ACT has a Disability Justice Strategy and an ACT COVID-19 Disability Strategy.
- (2) The ACT is obliged to report on the priorities of the National Disability Strategy every few years and contributes to a nationally consolidated response which is published through the Department of Social Services website. There is an annual reporting



requirement for the ACT Disability Justice Strategy. The first report was published in September 2020. The ACT COVID-19 Disability Strategy is subject to annual report requirements under the auspices of the Community Services Directorate. Australia signed up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the UNCRPD) in 2008. Australia reports to the United Nations every four years, and all Australian Governments including the ACT contribute to this national response.

- (3) There is no charter of rights for people with disability in the ACT, however the *Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)* and the *Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT)* protect the rights of people with disability. Additionally, the *Disability Services Act (ACT) 1991* includes the requirement that:

“Services should be designed and administered so as to ensure that people with disabilities have access to advocacy support where necessary to ensure adequate participation in decision-making about the services they receive” (Schedule 2 item 11).

Amendments to the *Disability Services Act* made in 2012 gave the Minister the power to approve disability service standards and to make regulations under the Act.

The rights of people with disability are also protected by other Commonwealth and international laws such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- (4) According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings*, released on 5 February 2020, in 2018 there were approximately 80,000 people with reported disability in the ACT representing an estimated 19.4 per cent of the total ACT population.

- (5) a) The following data is sourced from the ABS publication *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* (2018). The information requested is given at higher levels of aggregation to support use of the most robust data available. Information available at finer levels is not recommended for discrete use. Note also that people with disability can fall into multiple disability groups.

	Persons aged 0 to 64 years	Persons aged 65 years and over	Males	Females	All persons
ESTIMATE ('000)					
Profound or severe core activity limitation	14.8	9.6	11.9	11	23.2
Moderate or mild core activity limitation	20.6	11.7	13.5	19.7	33.3
Schooling or employment restriction	34.5	5.3	19.8	21.8	40
All with specific limitations or restrictions	44.3	21.5	32.6	35.2	67
All with reported disability	53.1	24.5	34.7	41.9	77.3
No reported disability	307.3	25.9	168	164.9	332.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>358.6</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>202.7</b>	<b>207.7</b>	<b>410.6</b>

- b) The following table, sourced from the ABS publication *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* released on 5 February 2020, provides a breakdown of the estimated number of people with a disability in the ACT by age group:

Age Group (years)	Number with reported disability (estimate)
0–4	1,100*
5–14	8,100
15–24	7,100
25–34	4,800**
35–44	10,300
45–54	8,400
55–59	6,400
60–64	6,200
65–69	7,100
70–74	6,500
75–79	4,300
80–84	4,000
85–89	2,600**
90 and over	2,800
* The ABS note that this estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.	
** The ABS note that these estimates have a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.	

- (6) The ABS does not provide data on the number of culturally and linguistically diverse people with disability in the ACT, however, information about the characteristics of NDIS participants in the ACT is available through the most recent NDIS *Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers*, published on the NDIA website. Of the 7909 NDIS participants as at 30 September 2020 there were 858 active NDIS participants who identified as culturally and linguistically diverse, equating to 10.8 per cent of total NDIS participants in the ACT.
- (7) The ABS does not provide data on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability in the ACT, however, information about the characteristics of NDIS participants in the ACT is available through the most recent NDIS *Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers*, published on the NDIA website. Of the 7909 NDIS participants as at 30 September 2020 there were 330 people who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, equating to 4.2 percent of total NDIS participants in the ACT.
- (8) The ABS does not provide data on the disability characteristics, numbers or types experienced by each person with disability. There is information available from the NDIS *Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers*, published on the NDIA website, that provides information about disability characteristics, along with the number of people of NDIS participants in the ACT. The following table outlines the disability type and numbers of people experiencing each type in the ACT who access the NDIS, at 30 September 2020.

The 7909 people with disability accessing the NDIS are a subset of the 80,000 people with disability in the ACT.

Table L.12 Participant profile per quarter by primary disability group – Australian Capital Territory <sup>526 527 528</sup>

Disability	Prior Quarters		2020-21 Q1		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Autism	2,173	28%	83	33%	2,256	29%
Intellectual Disability	1,380	18%	<11		1,388	18%
Psychosocial disability	946	12%	25	10%	971	12%
Developmental Delay	657	9%	76	31%	733	9%
Hearing Impairment	405	5%	<11		414	5%
Other Neurological	331	4%	<11		339	4%
Other Physical	499	7%	11	4%	510	6%
Cerebral Palsy	276	4%	<11		278	4%
ABI	182	2%	<11		187	2%
Visual Impairment	163	2%	<11		165	2%
Global Developmental Delay	159	2%	<11		167	2%
Multiple Sclerosis	182	2%	<11		187	2%
Stroke	109	1%	<11		110	1%
Spinal Cord Injury	66	1%	<11		67	1%
Other Sensory/Speech	105	1%	<11		105	1%
Other	28	0%	<11		32	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,661</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>100%</b>

(9) The information is contained in the combined response in question 8.

### Disability services—sport (Question No 71)

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020  
(redirected to the Minister for Sport and Recreation):

- (1) How does the ACT Government support disability in sports.
- (2) What government initiatives support disability in sport.
- (3) What groups and organisations in the ACT support sports for people living with disability.
- (4) What disability sports groups and organisations are supported by the ACT Government and what is the nature of the support provided.
- (5) What percentage of people living with disability in the ACT are known to be engaged in community sport.
- (6) What concerns have been identified by the ACT Government in relation to disability sports, and what measures will the Government take to improve and/or resolve these concerns.

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

- (1) The ACT Government works with the sporting sector to promote and support inclusion in sports, including for people with a disability. Through funding and facilities provision, sports can deliver targeted programs for people with disability, often in partnership with disability support groups to help reach the intended audience.
- (2) Disability participation is supported through available funding categories within the Sport and Recreation Grants Program including the Inclusive Sport Grants Program. Disability Inclusion Grants are also available through the Community Services Directorate, with sporting participation an eligible funding outcome.
- (3) Many clubs and state sporting organisations provide participation opportunities through inclusion in mainstream activities or more targeted/specialised initiatives, while specific disability groups also deliver some programs. Examples of these include:
  - Canberra District Rugby League’s Wheelchair Rugby League Program;
  - Basketball ACT’s Ivor Burge program for people with Intellectual Disabilities;
  - Table Tennis ACT’s Para Table Tennis Activities;
  - Cycleabilities Cycle skills program targeted at children with Autism/Asperger’s; and
  - Capital Football’s Powerchair and Canberra United All-Abilities Academy.
- (4) In 2020 and 2021 the following activities targeting sports participation for people with a disability have been funded by the ACT Government:

Directorate	Recipient	Project title	Amount
CMTEDD	ACT Little Athletics Association	All Abilities Athletics - Come and Try & club/centre, coach and officials education	\$2,700
CMTEDD	Pedal Power ACT	Expansion of Fitability Inclusive Cycling Program	\$5,200
CMTEDD	ACT Tenpin Bowling Association	Development of disability bowling program	\$15,000
CMTEDD	Cyclabilities	Move-Abilities - ride and road safety disability program	\$15,000
CMTEDD	Deaf Sports ACT	Together More Active - Deaf sport program	\$15,000
CMTEDD	Royal Life Saving ACT	WaterAbilities - Swim and survive pilot project for children with autism	\$15,000
ACT Health	Warehouse Circus	Circus for Health - Schools Spin Out Program	\$109,094
ACT Health	Warehouse Circus	Circus for Health - Schools Spin Out Program	\$149,154
CSD	Table Tennis ACT	Development of disability action plan and volunteer inclusion training	\$4,500
CSD	Rowing ACT	Equipment for Para Indoor Rowing Program	\$2,600

- (5) According to the most recent AUSPLAY data (released 30 October 2020), 80.2% of respondents (aged over 18) with a disability that “restricts life in some way” were physically active at least once per week. Available AUSPLAY data does not break this physical activity data into organised sport and non-sport.
- (6) The ACT Government is currently discussing the opportunities to develop a more strategic approach to the provision of sector support with a number of disability sports stakeholders and other jurisdictions. Several areas need to be considered including funding models, sustainable program development, facility access and enhancement to communications to ensure available program opportunities reach the intended audience.

## Disability services—housing (Question No 72)

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020 (*redirected to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development*):

- (1) Is there currently an ACT disability housing strategy.
- (2) How does the ACT Government support disability housing, in relation to both public and private housing.
- (3) How many applicants on the ACT housing waiting list are identified as living with a disability, to the date this question on notice was published.
- (4) How many of these applicants are currently on the priority waiting list.
- (5) How many people living with disability are currently residing in ACT housing, to the date this question on notice was published.
- (6) What percentage of ACT housing properties accommodate people living with disability.
- (7) What concerns have been identified by the ACT Government in relation to disability housing, and what measures will the Government take to improve and/or resolve these concerns.

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

- (1) The ACT Housing Strategy (the Strategy) outlines the ACT Government's strategy for disability housing and includes a range of commitments specific to this issue. The ACT Housing Strategy can be found at <https://www.act.gov.au/homes-housing/act-housing-strategy>
- (2) The ACT Government supports the full continuum of housing needs, as set out in the Strategy. The Strategy recognises that there are people in the ACT community on low incomes and facing disadvantage who are left behind in the current housing market. It continues the ACT Government's long held commitment to intervening where the housing market fails to provide for these people in our community. The Strategy is based around five goals that focus on making improvements in the housing market to address issues of most concern to the community. Goal one within the Strategy is "an equitable, diverse and sustainable supply of housing for the ACT community," with a key objective to encourage well designed, environmentally sustainable, and accessible housing.

Actions under this goal include planning for the integration of new housing types in existing urban environments, including links to transport, open space, community and cultural facilities, and undertaking appropriate planning and design for greenfield estates to support a variety of housing types and urban environments. In addition, new requirements under the *Civil Law (Sale of Residential Property) Act 2003* require property owners to disclose whether the home is an adaptable housing dwelling when it is advertised for sale or lease. This will help buyers to determine whether the property is adaptable to their needs, prior to viewing the home.

The ACT Government has supported two disability accommodation projects under the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund grants. The Summer Foundation has developed a new housing needs tool, to support people with disabilities and their families to find suitable accommodation. Rights and Inclusion Australia is undertaking a project to reduce housing stress amount people with a disability in the ACT, by identifying suitable housing options available to this cohort.

Through the public housing Growing and Renewing program, the ACT Government is delivering high-quality modern public housing to meet the diverse needs of the Canberra community. The program is well underway and will deliver, where possible, purpose-built Class C gold (or higher platinum) standard housing that adapts to the needs of people living with disability and as people age in place.

As a registered NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) provider, Housing ACT is currently in the process of enrolling disability housing properties for SDA. Once SDA is established, there will also be a focus on identifying further opportunities and partnerships for the provision of affordable disability housing to people with moderate to low support needs and people otherwise ineligible for social housing.

- (3) Among households who had applied for social housing (as at 4 December 2020) there were 490 households with at least one person with disability. Among these 490 households, were 554 persons with disability (some households have more than one person with disability) and 188 of these persons identified their primary disability as being physical.
- (4) Of the 490 households on the social housing waitlist with persons with disability, 61 were on the Priority waiting list. Among these 61 households on the priority list were 100 people who were identified as persons with disability, 25 of whom identified their primary disability as being physical.
- (5) On 4 December 2020, there were 5,508 households in Housing ACT public housing with at least one person with disability. Among these 5,508 households there were 6,298 people with disability.
- (6) Of the public housing properties held by Housing ACT at 4 December 2020, 51% are occupied by households with at least one person with disability.

The total Housing ACT property portfolio also includes properties managed under the Housing Asset Assistance Program (HAAP). These properties are leased to community organisations and other entities for the provision of community housing, homelessness, and other welfare services. Some community housing providers under this program offer specific housing for people with disabilities (for example Focus ACT, L'Arche). Specific household and tenant information is limited for HAAP properties and has not been considered in the above answers.

- (7) The ACT Government provides support for forums where people with disability and their supporters can safely discuss issues regarding disability housing and raise concerns.

The Office for Disability have run several consumer forums. The *Having a Home* forums provided an opportunity for people with disability, their family and carers to discuss housing-related issues they have experienced living in the ACT.

The ACT Government has heard about the lack of accessible and affordable housing in the Canberra housing market and this feedback has shaped the ACT Government's actions and commitments. The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory also includes a commitment to amend building legislation to set a proportion of new residential properties in the ACT built to meet Universal Design standards to make them able to be adapted and accessible to all people regardless of age, disability or other factors.

The ACT Government has supported two disability accommodation projects under the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund grants. The Summer Foundation has developed a new housing needs tool, to support people with disabilities and their families to find suitable accommodation. Rights and Inclusion Australia is undertaking a project to reduce housing stress amount people with a disability in the ACT, by identifying suitable housing options available to this cohort.

The outcome of these projects will provide information to the Government about the issues faced and types of enhanced support required for members of community with disabilities.

An example of the Government's work to address the issues raised, was the completion of 66 Class C Adaptable two-bedroom units at Kaleen ('Toolangi') in March 2019. Thirty three units at the site have been identified as public housing and are managed by Housing ACT and the remaining 33 units are managed by CatholicCare and target low to middle income households, older people (particularly women) in rental stress and people with disability.

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### **Health—disability services (Question No 73)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020  
(*redirected to the Minister for Health*):

- (1) Is there currently an ACT disability health strategy.
- (2) How does the ACT Government support disability in the ACT health sector, both public and private.
- (3) How many people living with disability are waiting on specialist appointments in the ACT, to the date this question on notice was published.
- (4) What percentage of the waiting list comprise people living with disability.
- (5) How many people living with disability are waiting on elective surgeries in the ACT, to the date this question on notice was published.
- (6) What percentage of the waiting list comprise of people living with disability.
- (7) What concerns have been identified by the ACT government in relation to disability health, and what measures will the Government take to improve and/or resolve these concerns.

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

- (1) The ACT Government committed to developing an ACT Disability Health Strategy during the recent election campaign. In 2021, the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) will commence work on a developing the strategy informed by the lived experience of people with disability, relevant non-government organisation (NGO) disability sector organisations and government stakeholders.

When drafting the Strategy, the ACTHD will be reviewing existing disability strategies, including the ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-2029 to consider lessons learnt. Consideration will also be given to pandemic and emergency planning in the development of the Disability Health Strategy.

- (2) The ACT Government funds a range of acute, sub-acute, primary and community-based health services and support that are delivered across both the public and private sectors to a wide range of people with disabilities in the ACT.

In 2020, the ACTHD's *COVID-19: An ACT Operational Plan for People with Disability* outlined the actions and responsibilities of the ACT Health Directorate, hospital, primary healthcare and specialist disability services to support people living with disability and their carers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ACTHD funds 19 organisations to deliver support services, including for people with disability and their carers, under the Community Assistance and Support Program (CASP) and the Flexible Family Support program. These services complement the many services provided by the Commonwealth under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

- (3) Currently, there is not an accepted and robust definition that can be applied technically to data for 'a patient with disability' within the hospital system. As a result, the ACTHD is unable to identify the relevant patient cohort in order to respond to this question. Feedback from the Disability Reference Group indicates that data collection and quality will be a key consideration in the Disability Health Strategy.
- (4) Refer to response to question 3.
- (5) Refer to response to question 3.
- (6) Refer to response to question 3.
- (7) The ACT Government recognises the importance of providing appropriate health services and support to people with disability. The Government's commitment is underscored by the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability hearings into the experience of people with disability and health.

The importance of addressing barriers faced by people with disability in accessing health services, including those recognised by the ACTCOSS Imagining Better report, has been a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barriers for people with disability accessing health services during the COVID-19 period will continue to be addressed through the ongoing refinement and implementation of the *COVID-19: An ACT Operational Plan for People with Disability* (published on the ACT Government COVID-19 website).



Canberra Health Services (CHS) is also currently in the process of gathering information to develop a Disability Action and Inclusion Plan (the Plan). Consumer feedback and findings drawn from previous bodies of work will be used to develop the Plan to improve the care provided for people with disability, their families and carers. This will allow CHS to identify set transparent goals and actions around equitable access and interaction with the organisation. This plan will complement the ACT Disability Health Strategy.

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**Chief Minister—award grants  
(Question No 77)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What was the inaugural date of the Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards.
- (2) Can Minister provide lists of award recipients relating to disability for each year as an attachment to the answer to this question on notice?
- (3) What was the inaugural date of the (a) Disability Inclusion Grant and (b) I Day (International Day of Disability) Grant.
- (4) For the grants listed in part (3), (a) how many grant applications were received in total, (b) how many grant applications were rejected, and what was the reason for each rejection, (c) where grant applications were rejected for not meeting certain requirements, were applicants notified and given an opportunity to resubmit their application and (d) how many grant applications were successful, for the past financial year to the date this question on notice was published.
- (5) When did the Minister (or past relevant Minister) last review the effectiveness of the (a) Disability Inclusion Grant and (b) I-Day (International Day of Disability) Grant and what were the findings.
- (6) What recommendations were made to improve the effectiveness of disability grants.

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

- (1) The first Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards was held in 2005.
- (2) Past recipients of a Chief Minister's Inclusion Award are listed on the ACT Inclusion Council website: <http://actinclusion.com.au/>
- (3)
  - a) The Disability Inclusion Grant program commenced on 20 September 2017.
  - b) In 2009 the ACT Government commenced the I-Day Community Governed Grant.
- (4) **Disability Inclusion Grants**
  - a) Since the Disability Inclusion Grant program commenced in 2017, 217 applications have been received.
  - b) No grant applications have been "rejected" rather, applications may be deemed non-compliant/ineligible when they do not meet the pre-eligibility requirements under the Grant Guidelines.

- c) If applications are deemed ineligible, the organisations are contacted and notified prior to the grants closing and given an opportunity to meet the eligibility criteria.

They are only able to re-submit their application if the applicant's status changes and they are able to meet the pre-eligibility requirements under the Grant Guidelines.

- d) In the 2020 grant rounds 14 Disability Inclusion Grants applications were successful.

### **I-Day Grants**

- a) 24 I-Day Grant applications were received in the first two years of the I-Day Community Governed Grant Program. Disability ACT outsourced the management of the I-Day Grant program from 2011 to 2012 and the number of applications received during this period is not available. However, since the Community Services Directorate brought the grant program in-house in 2013, 110 I-Day Grant applications have been received.

- b) No grant applications have been "rejected" rather, some applications may be deemed non-compliant/ineligible when they do not meet the pre-eligibility requirements under the Grant Guidelines.

- c) If applications are deemed ineligible, the organisations are contacted and notified prior to the grants closing, and given an opportunity to meet the eligibility criteria.

They are only able to re-submit their application if the applicant's status changes, and they are able to meet the pre-eligibility requirements under the Grant Guidelines.

- d) In the 2020 grant rounds seven I-Day Grant applications were successful.

(5)

- a) Disability Inclusion Grants

The Minister for Disability is consulted when the Community Services Directorate periodically review the effectiveness of its grant programs. For the Disability Inclusion Grants, it was reviewed in 2018 and the Minister for Disability sought Government support to double the funding for the Disability Inclusion Grants to \$100,000 each year with no set minimum amount and a maximum amount of \$20,000, per organisation.

In February 2020, the Disability Inclusion Grants were reviewed to evaluate their success and make recommendations for strengthening the guidelines. The Minister for Disability provided advice to split the grant across two funding rounds with each round offering \$50,000 (ex GST) in funding. However, due to the impact of the COVID-19 health emergency, the grants were delivered in one grant round. The Guidelines were subsequently updated to include some expectations and disclaimers related to the COVID-19 health emergency.

- b) I-Day Grant

The I-Day Grant program has been reviewed on many occasions since it began in 2009 to ensure fitness for purpose. The I-Day Community Governed Grant Program was rebranded in 2012 as the I-Day Grant program and in 2013 increased total funding to \$25,000. In 2016 both grant programs were reviewed to ensure they

were in-line with other Community Services Directorate grant programs when the Directorate adopted the online SmartyGrants system. Ministerial Offices were informed of the reviews and any changes to the mechanism of grant dispersal.

- (6) As outlined above the Minister(s) for Disability advised that the Disability Inclusion Grant available funding be doubled and seek to divide the grant round into two rounds. The funding was increased but the grant round was not divided in 2020.

There has been no advice in recent years on the I-Day Grants.

### **Disability services—arts (Question No 78)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020 (*redirected to the Minister for the Arts*):

- (1) How does the ACT Government support disability in arts.
- (2) What government initiatives support disability in arts.
- (3) What groups and organisations in the ACT support arts for people living with disability.
- (4) What disability arts groups and organisations are supported by the ACT Government and what is the nature of the support provided.
- (5) What percentage of people living with disability in the ACT are known to be engaged in community arts.
- (6) What concerns have been identified by the ACT Government in relation to disability arts, and what measures will the Government take to improve and/or resolve these concerns.

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

- (1) The ACT Government supports disability in the arts through providing funding opportunities, and through access to arts facilities, for artists or community members with a disability. The ACT Government has been involved in an interjurisdictional working group on renewal of the National Arts and Disability Strategy. The new National Arts and Disability Strategy will be closely aligned with the National Disability Strategy, which is being developed by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Along with other jurisdictions, artsACT has also contributed funding to Choose Art, the national accessible directory of inclusive and accessible arts activities, events and opportunities.
- (2) There are a number of government programs that include support for disability in the arts including the Pop-Up arts events and activities, Art Not Apart and DESIGN Canberra festivals, and the Community Outreach Program delivered by the Belconnen and Tuggeranong Arts Centres, and Canberra Symphony Orchestra. Artists and arts organisations are also able to apply for funding through the ACT Disability Inclusion Grants and I-Day grants. ACT public schools also offer a range of creative arts opportunities for all students, including students with a disability.

- (3) Key Arts and Program funded arts organisations have general programs that are accessed by people living with disability. A number of these organisations including the Belconnen and Tuggeranong Arts Centres, Music For Canberra, Warehouse Circus, Rebus Theatre and M16 also have specific programs for people living with disability. Hands On Studios located at M16 Artspace also has programs for people living with disability.
- (4) Rebus Theatre received \$57,691 in 2020 and will receive \$72,974 in 2021 in arts funding to support artists and community members with a disability to participate in its theatre making programs. Rebus Theatre has accommodation at the Gorman House Arts Centre, including access to theatre facilities at the centre.

Four arts projects were successful in the 2020 round of the I-Day grants:

- Ms Ruth O'Brien to form an Arts Disability Advisory Group (\$3,684), and
- The Australian Talented Youth Project for an I Dance Festival (\$5,000).
- Ms Maria Rosini for a short film 'Disability Inclusion in the workplace' (\$5,000)
- Women With Disabilities for 'Disabled Voices: Arts and Performances' (\$3,900).

Warehouse Circus was successful in its application for a 2020 Disability Inclusion Grant of \$7,000 to access specialised staff training in managing and delivering classes to children and young people on the Autism Spectrum.

- (5) This data is not collected by the ACT Government.
- (6) National consultation is being undertaken regarding the renewed National Arts and Disability Strategy. This work is being coordinated by the Australian Government Office for the Arts with input from the ACT Government. Once this Strategy has been finalised, the ACT Government will consider the best way to implement any actions.

Concerns have been identified about physical access at various ACT Government-owned arts facilities. These sites of concern have been assessed and improvements will be made as funding is available. Concerns raised about access at Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres are being reviewed as part of the final design project related to the upgrade of these centres.

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## **Disability services—providers (Question No 79)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Who are all the specialist disability service providers in the ACT and what is the nature of the service that they provide
- (2) Has the Minister (including past relevant ministers) approved any standards about the provision of any specialist disability services by the providers listed in part (1); if so, what standards and for what services.
- (3) Has the Minister (including past relevant ministers) approved any grants of financial assistance to service providers; if so, (a) which providers were granted assistance, (b) when was assistance granted, (c) how much assistance was granted and (d) for what purposes.

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

- (1) The National Disability Insurance Agency reported 1,053 National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) registered service providers in the ACT in their ACT September 2020 dashboard. Providers range from sole traders to larger for-profit companies, and provide a range of services from domestic services, personal support services, supported accommodation service through to specialist therapy services. A full list of registered providers and the service they provide is available on the NDIS website: [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)
- (2) The *Disability Services Act 1991 (the Act)*, and associated regulations and instruments, is the legislation that guides the oversight of Specialist Disability Service Providers (SDSP) operating in the ACT. The Act requires that all SDSPs comply with relevant standards as well as with other quality and safeguarding provisions.

Standards approved by the *Disability Services (Standards) Declaration 2014 (No 1)*, made under section 5A of the Act include:

- Home Care Standards
- National Standards for Disability Services
- National Standards for Mental Health Services
- Disability Standards for Education
- Disability Advocacy Standards

Regulation of NDIS registered disability providers is the responsibility of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and managed through practice standards made under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013*.

- (3) The ACT Government has provided assistance to disability service providers during the transition to the NDIS (2013-2020) through several programs and grants. This funding has supported providers to supply services under the NDIS and to transition their business models to adapt to new funding models introduced by the NDIS. Support has also been provided to those services delivering Information Linkages and Capacity Building programs.

Detailed information on this funding is available in the Community Services Directorate Annual reports and can be found at <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/publications/annual-reports>

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—dental services (Question No 80)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How often are dental services provided on site at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) How many dentists work at the same time each day that dental services are available.

- (3) How many dental chairs are in the AMC.
- (4) How many patients are the dentists able to see in one day.
- (5) What is the waiting list for dental services.
- (6) How many inmates have left the AMC for routine dental work in the last two years.
- (7) How many inmates have left the AMC for emergency dental work.
- (8) How many inmates have had emergency dental work in the last two years either inside or outside the AMC.

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

- (1) Dental services are provided at the AMC three days per week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- (2) One dentist is rostered per day when the dental services are scheduled at the AMC.
- (3) There is one dental chair at the AMC located within the Hume Health Centre (HHC).
- (4) The number of detainees seen in a day can vary dependent on the nature of dental work required. Typically, five detainees are seen per day when dental services are scheduled.
- (5) If a detainee requires to see a dentist, they can complete a Health Centre Request form or advise a Custodial Health Nursing staff member. Once, a Custodial Health Nursing staff member is aware a detainee requires to see a dentist, a dental triage form is completed.

Once a dental triage form is completed, the detainee will be triaged as urgent or non-urgent. All urgent categories are booked for an appointment accordingly. Non-urgent categories are placed on the non-urgent waitlist. There is no waitlist for urgent categories as they are always booked an appointment immediately.

The non-urgent dental waitlist as of 8 December 2020, has 112 detainees waiting for a non-urgent dental appointment at the HHC.

- (6) Custodial Health is unable to retrieve the number of external medical escorts for routine dental work from Custodial Health reporting systems.

It is unlikely any detainees have required an external referral as routine dental work would be triaged to be completed at the HHC.

Medical escorts are coordinated by Custodial Health with ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) who manage and maintain records of the escorts of detainees from the prison for any purpose, including access to health care.

- (7) Custodial Health is unable to retrieve the number of external medical escorts requiring emergency dental work from Custodial Health Reporting Systems.

Oral Health Services (OHS) and Custodial Health Medical Officers can refer detainees for emergency dental work outside of the AMC. If a detainee is required to leave the AMC for emergency dental work, this is treated as an external medical escort and is coordinated by Custodial Health and ACTCS.

Medical escorts for emergency dental work would usually be related to trauma relating to assault. Detainees requiring dental work as a result of trauma require review by specialist surgeons at the Canberra Hospital

- (8) Custodial Health is unable to retrieve the number of emergency dental services provided outside of the AMC from Custodial Health reporting systems.

Internal emergency dental appointment figures (treated by OHS dentists at AMC):

- a. Number of AMC detainees receiving emergency dental appointments from 1 December 2018 – 1 December 2020 was 418.
- b. Number of emergency dental appointments between 1 December 2018 – 1 December 2020 was 778.

It should be noted that some detainees present with multiple complex dental needs at the time of incarceration at the AMC. Some detainees receive multiple appointments to address their urgent dental needs.

OHS and Custodial Health can refer detainees for emergency dental work outside the AMC. Custodial Health is unable to provide the number of external medical escorts requiring emergency dental work.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service (Question No 81)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What services does Winnunga provide at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) Is Winnunga providing all services they wish to provide at the AMC.
- (3) Has Winnunga been refused the ability to provide any services they have requested to at the AMC; if so, why were they refused.
- (4) How many staff does Winnunga have at the AMC.
- (5) How many of these staff are (a) part-time, (b) full-time and (c) casual.

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

- (1) Services Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services (WNAHCS) provide at AMC through the current Service Funding Agreement include:
  - MBS Item 715 consultations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health check assessments;

- MBS Items 721, 723 for mental health care plans;
  - MBS Items 2715, 2717 for chronic conditions management plans;
  - MBS Items 2721, 2725 for focussed psychological strategies;
  - MBS Item 732 for review of care plans;
  - MBS Items 735, 739, 743 for case conferencing with other professional; and
  - MBS Items 3, 23, 36, 44 for standard and out of hours consultations.
- (2) WNAHCS currently provide all services consistent with the Service Funding Agreement. WNAHCS is always seeking new and innovative ways to increase service supports and these will be incorporated into future service funding agreements, as they are supported by evidence.
- (3) No, however on occasion due to operational requirements, programs such as the drug and alcohol rehabilitation and support and yarning circle programs have been rescheduled.
- (4) WNAHCS have seven full-time staff at the AMC.
- (5) Refer to response to question 4.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—health services (Question No 82)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) What on-site healthcare facilities are available at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What on-site rehabilitation or addiction recovery/treatment facilities are available at the AMC.
- (3) How often is an inmate able to access any of these facilities.
- (4) How many dedicated healthcare professionals work on-site at the AMC.
- (5) What is the breakdown of job roles among these healthcare professionals.
- (6) How many (a) part-time or casual and (b) full-time healthcare professionals work at the AMC either on-site or remotely.
- (7) What roles are fulfilled by remote healthcare workers.
- (8) How often do these remote healthcare workers work and do they have specific days that they are made available to inmates.

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

- (1) The Hume Health Centre at the AMC has consultation spaces, a dental room, a treatment room and medication management and administration facilities. There are also three satellite clinics across the prison.



Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service has a standalone health and wellbeing service at the AMC. This integrated model of holistic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care in a correctional setting is an Australia-first.

- (2) Justice Health Services has three Alcohol and Drug Nurses that provide clinical care including:
- Assessing and managing withdrawal from drugs or alcohol;
  - Assessing and managing intoxication or overdose;
  - Assessing and managing patients on Opioid Maintenance Treatment (OMT) programs such as Methadone and Buprenorphine;
  - Managing health issues related to drug and alcohol use, in consultation with other specialists where appropriate;
  - Managing chronic pain, in consultation with Primary Care specialists;
  - Managing high risk pregnancies for drug dependent women;
  - Referring detainees to ACT Corrective Services alcohol and other drugs programs for case management support; and
  - Supporting continued care on release to the community through OMT release planning services.
- (3) Detainees can request to see a nurse or doctor and are seen by a nurse for an initial assessment and triage. Nurses visit each accommodation unit twice a day and detainees can discuss any question or concerns at these times as well.
- (4) Justice Health Services has approximately 54 staff who work at the AMC.
- (5) Justice Health Services has approximately 30 nurses, 15 mental health clinicians, four GPs, two psychiatrists, and three administration service officers.
- (6) Justice Health Services has no casual staff. There are approximately 15 part-time staff. These part-time staff have all requested part-time hours. There are approximately 39 full-time staff.
- (7) Justice Health Services does not employ remote health care workers.
- (8) Justice Health Services does employ four visiting medical officers – two GPs and two psychiatrists. There is a psychiatrist and a GP available Monday to Friday, with GP phone support provided after hours and weekends.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—optometry services (Question No 83)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How often are optometrist services provided on site at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) How many optometrists work at the same time each day that optometrist services are available.

- (3) How many inmates can see the optometrist in one day.
- (4) What is the waiting list for optometrist services.
- (5) How many inmates have left the AMC for routine optometry work in the last two years.
- (6) How many inmates have left the AMC for emergency optometry work.
- (7) How many inmates have had emergency optometry work in the last two years either inside or outside the AMC

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

- (1) There is one optometrist clinic every month provided onsite at the AMC.
- (2) There is one optometrist who provides services at the AMC.
- (3) Approximately eight clients are seen in a day's clinic.
- (4) There are 27 clients on the optometrist waitlist, as of 16 December 2020. Wait times for an appointment are 8-12 weeks.
- (5) Nil.
- (6) Nil.
- (7) Nil.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—podiatry services  
(Question No 84)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) Does the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) provide any on site podiatrist services; if so, (a) how often do podiatrists come into the AMC and (b) how many podiatrists come into the AMC.
- (2) What is the waiting list for podiatry services.
- (3) Do inmates have to leave the AMC to access podiatry services.
- (4) How many inmates leave the AMC per week to access podiatry services.
- (5) Is there a set schedule for when inmates can leave the AMC to access podiatry services.

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

- (1) Justice Health Services does not provide onsite podiatry services. All detainees requiring podiatry services are referred to the Canberra Hospital outpatient clinic.

- (2) Detainees are placed on the public health outpatient clinic and wait the same amount of time as any other member of the ACT community for a podiatry appointment.
  - (3) See response to question one.
  - (4) The number of detainees accessing podiatry services can vary significantly each month, as appointments are worked out with ACT Corrections, or re-triaged according to clinical urgency. For the month of December 2020, there are three detainees booked for outpatient podiatry appointments.
  - (5) Podiatry referrals are triaged by Canberra Hospital outpatient services and placed on a waiting list. Justice Health Services, with ACT Corrective Services, manages all outpatient referrals and escort requirements so that detainees can attend their scheduled appointments.
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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—staffing  
(Question No 85)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 4 December 2020:

- (1) How many clients of Winnunga in the Alexander Maconochie Centre have had their appointments cancelled due to a lack of guards being able to provide an escort, in the last two financial years.
- (2) What has been the average waiting time, since 1 January 2018, for an inmate to wait for a re-scheduled appointment after cancellation.

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

- (1) This data is not collected.
  - (2) Refer to response to question 1.
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