



# Debates

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Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**TENTH ASSEMBLY**

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**Thursday, 24 June 2021**

**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.

### **Chief Minister—New Zealand trade mission Ministerial statement**

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism) (10.02): I am pleased to update the Assembly on the ACT government’s recent trade mission to Wellington and Auckland last month.

New Zealand continues to be an important trade and tourism partner, as reflected in Canberra’s international engagement strategy. Last month’s delegation was an important opportunity to discuss the re-establishment of direct flights between Canberra and New Zealand, and to strengthen our relationship with our sister city, Wellington.

The pandemic has clearly impacted on the ACT’s international partnerships, including global trade and tourism opportunities, with governments around the world necessarily shifting their focus to managing public health emergencies and economic crises. Like Australia, New Zealand has not emerged from the pandemic unscathed. However, it has been in a better position than many other countries thanks to considered and decisive action, particularly at the height of the first wave of the pandemic. It is this response that has helped allow travel to resume between our two countries.

Of course, Canberra has enjoyed flights to and from Wellington before, and we are committed to re-establishing aviation routes between the ACT and New Zealand again. So in that context, I am pleased to inform the Assembly that discussions with key aviation industry and government figures around the establishment of direct flights with Wellington and Auckland have been positive, and there is genuine interest in either connecting or reconnecting to Canberra. This included productive meetings with Auckland Airport, Tourism New Zealand and Air New Zealand.

Members will be well aware of the government's continued efforts to support the visitor economy in light of the pandemic, noting that international tourism has been completely wiped out. Tourism is, of course, central to the territory's economic recovery. A job in our city is created for every \$152,000 spent by visitors in Canberra. So making it easier and cheaper to fly to and from the ACT is a significant part of our strategy to attract more visitors, as well as fostering trade, investment and business opportunities and, of course, the diplomatic engagement that comes with our national capital role.

Today, we have a strong track record of securing, developing and sustaining new aviation routes. Canberra is better connected within Australia than ever before. For the first time in more than a decade, we have direct flights to every capital city in the country. Just a few weeks ago we witnessed a new milestone, with Jetstar announcing flights in and out of Canberra for the first time in the airline's history. Jetstar will begin flying between Canberra and Brisbane in early September, just in time for Floriade. Jetstar, of course, is the latest in a group of airlines expanding into Canberra, including Rex, Alliance, Link and FlyPelican.

Unfortunately, it will be some time before we see frequent international travel. However, the ACT government will continue to work with Canberra airport and our counterparts in New Zealand to establish and, in the case of Wellington, re-establish trans-Tasman services.

Last month's trade mission was an important step in this process. From here, we will continue working with all potential aviation partners, including Air New Zealand, Qantas and Virgin, to progress options for flights from Canberra to Auckland and Canberra to Wellington. Auckland is a larger city than Wellington, and in our approach there is clearly scope for different airlines to connect Canberra to each city, to cater for each distinct market. Auckland's larger airport also presents more opportunities to connect Canberra with the rest of the world, including destinations in North America.

The New Zealand trade mission was also an important opportunity to strengthen Canberra's ties with Wellington. I had not had the opportunity to meet with Wellington's Mayor, Andy Foster, since he was elected in October 2019, in large part due to travel restrictions. We were pleased to be able to discuss the Canberra-Wellington sister city agreement ahead of its five-year anniversary next month, as well as aviation opportunities between our two cities.

The mayor and I are both committed to continuing and strengthening our partnership and look forward to reviewing and progressing the sister city agreement. The agreement is an ambitious one that has benefited both cities, with mutually beneficial opportunities across a range of key sectors, including the arts, innovation, space, cyber, sport and LGBTIQ+ affairs, as well as between governments and businesses. Of course, it would be remiss of me to forget to remind the Assembly that the "ale of two cities" will next be brewed in Wellington.

The re-establishment of flights between Canberra and Wellington was an important talking point. I am pleased both administrations are supportive of a direct connection

and we look forward to working collaboratively with our friends in Wellington to make this a reality. July marks the fifth anniversary of our sister city agreement and I have invited the mayor to bring a delegation to Canberra to celebrate this milestone. I hope he will be able to visit the ACT in September.

Meeting with the Mayor of Wellington also created an opportunity to engage with Wellington's peak LGBTIQ body, Rainbow Wellington, to discuss some of the issues facing our communities, as well as how our two cities might continue to engage on these matters in future. I was also pleased to discuss LGBTI health with New Zealand's Associate Minister of Health, Ayesha Verrall.

Members may be aware that Minister Verrall spent time in Canberra working at Canberra Hospital. This fostered a very productive discussion about several issues, including shared support for the Darlington statement, health issues amongst transgender and intersex communities, and the intersection of LGBTIQ+ rights and inclusion within the Human Rights Act. We look forward to continued contact between the ACT and New Zealand governments on these important matters.

Of course, the New Zealand trade mission would not have been possible without the efforts of Australia's High Commissioner, Her Excellency Patricia Forsythe AM. Her Excellency hosted the ACT delegation at the Australian High Commission, alongside the Mayor of Wellington, New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson, Zealandia CEO Paul Atkins, Wellington Botanic Garden manager David Sole, and ACT Chief Minister's Export Awards winner Richard Brown of Canberra firm Cogito.

Cogito now has an office in Wellington and delivers cybersecurity services across the New Zealand government, including more than 70 government entities. So it was a great pleasure to officially open Cogito's Wellington office and to meet the team, which continues to be a great example—a premier example, Madam Speaker—of how Canberra businesses can leverage the sister city partnership.

Of course, the ACT also values our strong relationship with Auckland. I was pleased to meet with Mayor Phil Goff and the Auckland Unlimited chief executive Nick Hill to discuss, amongst other things, the aviation links between our two cities. Like Canberra, Auckland has been heavily impacted by the loss of international students and the challenge of returning those students, as well as international tourism more broadly, and the city is working to diversify its economy.

International travel was also central to discussions with the Auckland Business Chamber. The chamber's CEO, Michael Barnett, has been working closely with a number of Australian and ACT stakeholders—including the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Canberra airport, the Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum, VisitCanberra and the Office of International Engagement—regarding travel between our two countries. I am pleased that the chamber is supportive of the additional aviation routes and will continue working with the territory on this issue, as well as to further business opportunities between our two cities.

Trade was an important area of discussion with stakeholders, including Australia's Consul-General in Auckland, the Hon Craig Knowles, who is also the Senior

Australian Trade Commissioner to Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. This discussion was a valuable insight into the opportunities for Australian businesses in New Zealand and the Pacific—opportunities that again align with Canberra’s international engagement strategy and the government’s key capability areas. This was also an opportune time to discuss the territory’s work to foster two-way trade between Australia and New Zealand, the forthcoming Canberra Pacific forum later this year and the appointment of a Pacific liaison officer to work with the Pacific Island missions based in Canberra.

The mission was also an opportunity to further Canberra’s growing reputation as a go-to destination for filmmaking. Canberrans will recall the filming of the car chase scene for *Blacklight* that occurred not far from here, including the eye-catching prosthetic head of actor Liam Neeson. I understand Screen Canberra has been inundated with interest and queries since that particular filming. I thank Screen Canberra CEO Monica Penders for her enthusiasm and engagement with a range of industry stakeholders in New Zealand, including the New Zealand Film Commission and Screen Wellington.

COVID has clearly created challenges for trade and tourism across the globe. It is clear that effective responses from governments to the pandemic—including, most importantly, here in the ACT—and continued support for trade and tourism has placed us in good stead to leverage these trans-Tasman opportunities.

I thank the commissioner, Brendan Smyth, and the office for their continued work, including organising the recent trade delegation. We are committed to strengthening our significant relationship with New Zealand, including our sister city relationship with Wellington, and we look forward to the re-establishment of direct flights between Canberra and New Zealand in the near future. I present the following paper:

Trade mission to New Zealand 26-29 May 2021—Ministerial statement, 24 June 2021.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Environment—Namadgi National Park**

### **Ministerial statement**

**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) (10.13): I am pleased to update the Assembly on recovery and management in Namadgi National Park.

As we celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June, I took particular pride in noting that no other state or territory in Australia sets aside more land for conservation, as a



proportion of total area, than the ACT. Namadgi National Park, plus an interconnected network of parks and reserves all over the territory, make up over 65 per cent of the ACT.

Our parks conserve a diverse array of our most loved, unusual, most endangered plants and animals. They bear witness to a rich and varied human history which has been guided over thousands of years by the hand of the Ngunnawal people. They provide the drinking water on which we depend and provide an iconic backdrop to our city. The enjoyment our parks provide to so many of our residents and visitors is difficult to truly quantify.

At the conservation heart of the ACT lies our own Namadgi National Park. Lying almost at the northern limit of an unbroken chain of alpine environments, collectively termed the Australian Alps national parks, Namadgi National Park protects over 100,000 hectares of high country, afforded National Heritage status.

Today its distinctive rocky peaks are revered by the traditional owners of Namadgi, the Ngunnawal, as they were by their ancestors before them. Of the many sites in Namadgi that bear witness to a long history of human habitation, few are as impressive as the Yankee Hat rock shelter with its canvas of rock art, a rare find in the Australian Alps.

Namadgi National Park has been shaped by the elements for millions of years. But today the park has to contend with the effects of human-induced climate change. I have spoken in this chamber before about the bushfires that burnt over 80 per cent of Namadgi in February 2020 and the severe storms that followed. Namadgi is resilient and today we see large areas of recovery in the park.

However, science tells us that the rapid onset of climate change may overwhelm some park habitats. A warming climate will push the snowline higher and expose the park to more severe weather events on a more frequent basis, including potentially more severe fire events. Our park managers recognise that they will come under greater pressure to manage these impacts and to maintain park infrastructure and safe public access to the park.

Guided by our bushfire and flood recovery plan, the sustained and relentless efforts of our staff to recover Namadgi over the last 18 months have yielded incredible results. When we embarked on the recovery program more than 18 months ago, we committed to a number of principles, the most significant of which were to genuinely engage the Ngunnawal community and Canberra's volunteer community in restoration and adopt a "build back better" approach to replacing damaged infrastructure.

Currently, an important consultation on planning is occurring with the traditional custodian community around the Yankee Hat art site. This process will take time, given the significance of the site and the importance of achieving an outcome that balances the need to preserve the site's values and provide opportunities for the public to learn about and appreciate the past, present and ongoing connection that the community has with this place.

Representative Aboriginal organisations, traditional custodians and heritage specialists have been engaged to assess any damage to cultural sites and artefacts from the fire and floods. Popular areas within the park, including Bulls Head, Square Rock and Gibraltar Falls, were made safe and reopened within nine months of the fire.

Staff worked tirelessly through COVID and the March 2021 floods, and in April 2021, just in time for the Easter school holidays, we were able to welcome back visitors to almost all of the park. The commitment from staff to recovering the park's assets has resulted in the park opening two years ahead of schedule. This was an extraordinary effort, and I thank the staff for all of their hard work.

In May 2020 the ACT government approved \$305,000 to improve catchment health and \$1.066 million for critical infrastructure works impacted by the fires. I am pleased to say that these funds have now been fully committed to projects that will greatly improve the visitor experience, reduce sediment from entering our waterways and, importantly, help safeguard the park against the impacts of climate change.

Approximately 70 kilometres of walking trails were impacted by the fire and flooding events. Fifty kilometres of the worst-affected trails have been repaired, with further improvements planned under the three-year "build back better" initiative. The refurbishment of the Mount Tennent walking track, one of the ACT's most popular bushwalks, is well underway. Wooden bridges have been replaced with steel, log stairs with rock and, consistent with our "build back better" principle, an additional and exciting new section of the walk will be completed in the coming weeks.

The new section avoids the fire trail and leads walkers to the summit via rocky outcrops, and offers incredible, uninterrupted views towards Canberra and southern Namadgi. The walk is already experiencing unprecedented numbers of walkers and on the night of the recent "blood moon" hundreds of walkers made their way to the summit to witness the event. We continue to receive incredibly positive feedback from the public who have visited popular walking trails, including Booroomba Rocks, Mount Tennent, Mount Gingera, Gibraltar Falls, Rendezvous Creek and the Australian Alps walking trail.

The entire south-east of Australia was fortunate that good rains have aided the recovery of so many fire-impacted areas. In the spring of 2020, Namadgi saw one of the most prolific spring flowering events in years. In other parts of the park, we have had to turn our hand to active intervention. Specifically, our bogs and fens, which are home to a range of precious alpine wildlife and vital for Canberra's water supply, have been the subject of major works over the last 18 months. In a truly collaborative partnership, our rangers, scientists and community have placed shade cloth over sphagnum moss to accelerate regrowth and reduce mortality in the most impacted areas and placed coir logs in drainage lines to trap and slow water, thus keeping priority alpine "kidneys" wet and healthy.

We have also increased efforts to control invasive weeds and pest animals, including deer and pigs. In the wake of the bushfires, deer have become a major threat to recovering, sensitive riparian ecosystems and to water quality. I am pleased to report

that we are amongst the first in Australia to trial new methods to help manage these species.

In May this year, thermally assisted aerial management was undertaken, with enormous success. Seventy-two deer were culled during this program compared to 12 deer removed through on-ground techniques in all of 2020. This is the first time thermal technology has been used in Australia to locate and control sambar deer. The knowledge and data gained out of this trial will inform future conservation outcomes for vertebrate pest management.

More work is planned to expand weed control operations to highly impacted areas throughout the park and engage volunteers in identifying and treating new incursions, continue with pest control and catchment stabilisation works and work with the Ngunnawal people to help better protect culture and the environment.

We know that Canberrans love their bush capital, especially Namadgi National Park. The many volunteers who care for the park are a testament to this. Since the fires, we have partnered with the Orchid Society of Canberra to monitor populations of 20 rare, fire-sensitive plant species, including eight beautiful orchid species. Volunteers have also worked with our ecologists to monitor fire impacts on eight fire-sensitive or threatened ecological communities.

As we continue with our journey of recovery, volunteers will be a critical element of our success. Namadgi National Park has greatly benefited from the commitment, passion and enthusiasm of so many. Our challenge now will be to make Namadgi resilient, to use our ingenuity to counter the adverse effects of climate change and to direct our energies to where it has the best outcome for our precious national park. This government will partner with traditional owners, land managers, ecologists and volunteers to do just that. I present the following paper:

Recovery and management in Namadgi National Park—Ministerial statement, 24 June 2021.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**MS CASTLEY (Yerrabi) (10.23):** The Canberra Liberals are ambitious for our territory's environment and future. We strongly believe that nature must be respected and protected. As the Canberra Liberals shadow minister for the environment, I welcome and am pleased to speak on Minister Gentleman's ministerial statement about the recovery and management of Namadgi National Park.

Canberrans are proud of our green spaces, nature parks, reserves and waterways, which, as the minister rightly pointed out, comprise more than 65 per cent of the ACT. We are well aware of the devastation caused by bushfires early last year and the severe storms that wreaked havoc soon after.

The Canberra Liberals join with the Labor-Greens government to acknowledge and thank our hardworking and dedicated team of rangers and park staff for leading the recovery effort, which, as the minister revealed, is well underway. This is welcome news to Canberrans and their families, who demand that our park infrastructure be well maintained and improved.

It is welcome news that, of the 70 kilometres of walking trails damaged by the fire and floods, a total of 50 kilometres of the worst-affected trails have been repaired. That is great news not only for our bushwalkers and families, but also the scores of groups who use the nature parks, ranging from scout troops and schoolkids to older Canberrans and people with disabilities.

We know that Canberra is a great place to live and raise a family. That is largely due to our cherished green spaces, parks and nature reserves. That is why I have raised concerns that parks and reserves are poorly maintained, nature strips are often weed infested, many streets in Canberra's newer suburbs are almost treeless and the community is deprived of much-needed green space.

The Canberra Liberals share people's concern about the loss of trees because we know how much our trees add to our environment, wellbeing and quality of life. Tree canopies are under threat, particularly in our older suburbs, with development leaving only a postage-size-stamp garden, and certainly no tree canopy planting.

Too many Canberrans are mourning the loss and lack of trees in neighbourhoods that are increasingly barren and grey. In my electorate of Yerrabi, you only need to visit Yerrabi Pond to realise the government still has a lot to do in making sure our parks, green spaces and waterways are pleasant for Canberrans and families, not eyesores that people are avoiding because there are so few bins, disgusting toilets, little seating and insufficient parking.

In conclusion, I join the minister in saluting a growing army of environmental groups and volunteers across the territory for their hard work, which includes weeding, pest control, repairing trails and so on. We thank the volunteers. Canberrans relish the natural environment that we are lucky enough to call home.

**MS VASSAROTTI** (Kurrajong—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) (10.26): I thank Minister Gentleman for the statement and commend the wonderful work that is being done by ACT government land managers, ecologists, traditional owners and volunteers in rehabilitating Namadgi National Park.

I also take this opportunity to add some complementary information around the work that is happening to secure threatened species in a time of changing climate and to highlight the important work that environmental volunteers are doing to assist the recovery of this protected park. There are 53 ACT species and three ecological communities listed as threatened under the Nature Conservation Act 2014. This means that they have been assessed as likely to become extinct in the foreseeable future.

As we heard from Mr Gentleman, the Orroral Valley bushfire severely impacted a range of species and communities. Human-induced climate change is already here, and our ingenuity needs to be directed towards protecting our unique biodiversity. Environmental scientists have been working hard to understand what climate change might mean for the environments they manage. This is a huge undertaking, and we will need to draw on all of our ecological management tools to grasp the extent of the problem and deploy solutions to secure our threatened species that we need into the future.

However, I feel really optimistic that our ecologists are up to the challenge. To illustrate this, and to share some good news, I would like to share with you two local examples led by conservation research, which I also shared when I addressed the National Parks Association last week at their annual general meeting. First, we know that improving connectivity between protected areas will help with the movement of animals and plants in response to climate change.

To this end, our ecologists are working on a holistic model to predict individual species' needs in response to the challenges that climate change poses. The glossy black-cockatoo and the iconic gang-gang cockatoo will be the first two species to benefit from an analytical modelling technique that will bring together species data, climate modelling and habitat requirement data with a view to creating a species-specific road map. The road map can then be used by park managers to calculate what interventions are needed, and when, to ensure the survival of the species. The great thing about this approach is that the logic framework can be applied to any species, as long as the data is available.

I will be very interested to see how this project develops and continues to assist in the recovery of Namadgi National Park, as our work is not yet done. This is exactly the sort of practical approach that we need to roll out measured interventions to mitigate the impact of climate change, which of course includes bushfires, on our plants and animals. Importantly, though, there is a degree of risk in all of this as we can never be entirely certain that our actions will be effective. However, it is important for us as a community to allow our ecologists and management practitioners to take measured risks. If we do not, we will almost certainly be too slow in responding to the issue that is here with us now.

The second example I would like to share relates to our iconic corroboree frog. Not that long ago these brightly coloured frogs existed in good numbers in the sub-alpine bogs of Namadgi National Park. The Ginini Flats wetlands was a stronghold. More recently, their numbers have dwindled in the wild and have almost disappeared altogether.

Many years of captive breeding at Tidbinbilla have provided us with a stable population from which we might contemplate reintroduction, but along came the effects of climate change to mess things up. Since 2000 the frogs' habitats have twice been impacted by large, hot fires. Rather than rely on small, remnant, vulnerable patches of habitat for reintroduction, could frogs survive at lower altitude wetlands in the park? A release was indeed undertaken at Nursery Swamp in 2020 and the great

news is that surveys have shown that these frogs have persisted in their new home. Again, taking calculated risks will continue to be important as we grapple with the challenges in the years to come.

Next I would like to talk about the importance of environmental volunteers in caring for Namadgi country and share some of the new research findings showing how the country cares for them. Last Saturday, I had the joy of lending a hand, alongside a dozen or so other volunteers, the Southern ACT Catchment Group, in their work in improving habitat for birds and macropods that was impacted by the January 2020 fires.

The Southern ACT Catchment Group have been working with Landcare ACT and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service to organise and host a series of community volunteer events to enable the ACT community to help in the recovery effort of Namadgi National Park. This was the seventh volunteering event that the Southern ACT Catchment Group has hosted under the program, with the final event occurring in July.

I would like to extend invitations to other members of the Legislative Assembly because, as I will touch on next, this type of volunteering can help dissipate workplace stress and provide tangible improvements in health and wellbeing. We know that caring for country, helping to heal the charred landscape, has helped Namadgi National Park recover in some of the most amazing ways that my colleague Minister Gentleman has just spelt out. But it can also help us care for ourselves and build our own personal and community resilience.

I was delighted to hear from the ACT government that this program has been valuable for both environmental and wellbeing outcomes. Volunteers who participated in these events have described the emotional impact of seeing the park in its current state and appreciating the opportunity to work closely with Parks and Conservation staff, giving them a sense of agency and ownership in the park's recovery.

I was also excited to read a recent study by KPMG that was titled, "Building resilience in local communities: the welfare benefits of participating in Landcare", which looked at these benefits on a larger and more quantifiable scale. This study sought to understand the question: what is the impact of caring for the land on people that care for it? This study confirmed what I think many of us intuitively knew, that Landcare volunteers benefit from a significant increase in mental and physical wellbeing. Excitingly, these wellbeing impacts have a tangible economic benefit through a combination of avoided healthcare costs and improved productivity. Conservatively, the approximate discount for avoided healthcare costs is \$57 million for the estimated Landcare population across Australia. While First Nations people have always understood the importance of connection to country for wellbeing, it is exciting to quantify this in new ways.

Given that the issue of funding of environmental volunteers has tripartisan support across the ACT Assembly, none of these benefits will come as any surprise. Madam Speaker, I am sure you will share my delight that the ACT government will be delivering on the ACT Greens commitment outlined in the parliamentary and

governing agreement to provide secure, stable funding to environmental volunteer groups over the next four financial years.

Providing reliable, ongoing funding for Canberra's community local environmental volunteer-based groups beyond 30 June will allow groups such as the three ACT catchment groups, ACT Wildlife and the urban parkcare groups to continue their valuable work in caring for the ACT's environment, including Namadgi National Park.

**DR PATERSON** (Murrumbidgee) (10.36): I echo Minister Gentleman's statement that Namadgi National Park is a special place for our community and for flora and fauna. It is important that we continue to protect the vast swathes of the ACT that are conserved as national parks, reserves and green spaces, for visitor and recreational opportunities and to safeguard against the impacts of climate change.

Our man-made and natural outdoor environments across the ACT play a crucial role in our health and wellbeing. Research has shown that feelings of loneliness can be reduced significantly by spending time outdoors. This is particularly important for people who live alone, where outdoor spaces provide opportunities for gatherings and chance encounters. In addition to the many physical and health benefits of spending time outdoors, in national parks such as Namadgi and in our nature reserves, reducing loneliness has many other positive impacts on individual health and wellness. It can lead to reduced risks of depression, heart disease and dementia.

Natural environments are also mood enhancers and can provide relief from social and other anxieties suffered by so many people in our communities. They can encourage relaxation and provide us with different perspectives of the world around us. There is a term, "lean on green", which I quite like. It reminds us of the importance of connecting with nature.

Outdoor opportunities and experiences in natural environments provide respite and help us break down inequalities and injustices that we otherwise face in many other aspects of our lives. Nature is a leveller. Protecting nature and green spaces supports individual and population health, as well as helping to minimise the impacts of climate change. It is for all these reasons that I moved a motion in the last Assembly calling on the ACT government to explore the opportunity for Canberra to become a national park city.

Namadgi National Park was badly damaged in the 2020 bushfires and this was very unsettling and disturbing for many people in our community. They were distressed by the loss of wildlife and flora and by the restrictions on visitations and use. It is with much joy for our whole community that we are starting to see the environment rejuvenate. Most areas of the park have been reopened and will continue to do so.

I welcome the commitment and investment being made by the ACT government to "build back better" and to work with Indigenous traditional custodians through the recovery project. I thank everyone involved—our Parks and Conservation staff who work tirelessly, the many volunteers who dedicate time and resources, and traditional custodians who bring valuable skills and knowledge to park management.

I encourage Canberrans to enjoy our natural and outdoor spaces. It is good for you, it is good for us as a community, and there are so many experiences and adventures to be had. We are so lucky to live in a city that is surrounded by and intertwined with nature and green places.

Debate interrupted.

## Visitor

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Before I close the debate, I draw members' attention to the presence of the Hon Heidi Victoria and welcome her to the ACT Assembly. Heidi Victoria is a former minister in the Napthine Liberal government in Victoria. As I understand it, you were the Minister for the Arts, the Minister for Women's Affairs and the Minister for Consumer Affairs. If I am not mistaken, I think we may have shared a 'min co' or two back in the day. Welcome to the Assembly.

## Environment—Namadgi National Park Ministerial statement

Debate resumed.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## Justice—age of criminal responsibility Ministerial statement

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong-Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (10.40): I rise today to update the Assembly on the progress of the ACT government's commitment to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the territory. We first committed to this reform by a motion I initiated towards the end of the Ninth Assembly and we reaffirmed that commitment this term through the parliamentary and governing agreement. We have been getting on with this as a high priority, and I am pleased to update members on a significant milestone, the release of a public discussion paper to progress some of the more complex issues.

Yesterday, along with Minister Stephen-Smith and Minister Davidson, I released this discussion paper, which is available on the YourSay website. This reform is a big one for us here in the ACT. It will do a lot of good for the kids affected, as well as with the community being more effectively protected. However, there are some questions we need to grapple with before we can bring it into effect. These questions should not, as we see elsewhere in the country, be used as excuses to delay this work indefinitely. They, instead, are merely part of the work of making this a reality.

The community will be vital in helping us to solve some of these more complex issues. These issues include matters such as: what should our alternative model for engaging with children who engage in harmful behaviour look like, and how will we deal with cross-border issues like extradition for Canberran children who commit offences



interstate? It also asks what police powers should be available for such kids and canvasses whether there need to be exceptions to the raised age.

This is a great opportunity for us to face these issues as a community and set about resolving them, not shying away. The ACT government is committed to ensuring that this reform gives appropriate attention to safeguarding the community. We will work to ensure that members of the Canberra community who are affected by the harmful behaviour of children and young people under the revised age are able to access the same supports and services they would be entitled to before the age was raised.

It is critical that the community knows that removing the avenue through the criminal justice system by raising the age does not mean that we are removing the concept of consequences for serious or repetitive harmful behaviours. It means we are planning for a system that changes the trajectory for these kids instead of setting them up for future offending.

I have been working with my colleagues Minister Stephen-Smith and Minister Davidson to undertake broad consultation with a range of groups to discuss how these reforms will impact the Canberra community. These discussions have included community groups, legal organisations, service providers, victims of crime and justice organisations. We have received significant support from the community sector, various justice and legal groups, service providers and victims of crime to take this historic step.

It is clear that the success of this complex reform will be predicated on a number of careful and innovative policy responses that span across the breadth of the ACT government. We expect that this discussion paper will assist and stimulate the community's consideration of some of the tough questions that surround this important issue and allow us to be guided by the insights and ideas from across our community. The discussion paper will be located on the YourSay website and is open for input until 5 August 2021. I encourage all interested Canberrans to take the time to send us your thoughts and feedback.

This historic reform remains a very high priority for the ACT government. Raising the age will assist us to align to our international obligations and ensure that our children and young people do not face disproportionate and traumatising consequences for their behaviour before they are old enough to make better decisions. This reform will also improve the safety and wellbeing of our children and young people, their families and the broader Canberra community by preventing children under the age of criminal responsibility from engaging with the criminal justice system, which we know can and does result in lifelong patterns of offending and antisocial behaviour.

The medical evidence tells us that children and young people under the age of 14 that display harmful, risky, unsafe and sometimes violent behaviour predominantly do so as a result of trauma, poor mental health, abuse, neglect or disability. This same evidence tells us that early involvement with the criminal justice system has a significant impact on the neurological and social development of children and young people and often leads to further offending.

Not only does imprisonment harm these young offenders and prevent them from getting care and assistance that can set their life on a better course; it actually makes the whole community less safe. We also know that these impacts are felt heavily by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, whose children are over-represented in our justice and care and protection systems.

The ACT government is committed to working in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to develop holistic and equitable solutions in the spirit of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028 and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility will be an important step towards ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT can thrive in a safe environment and have access to quality services that support the positive development, health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Raising the age of criminal responsibility will involve sustained “front-end” investment in diversionary and support programs that address the causes of youth offending. To manage this we must invest in the programs and services that address the underlying causes of youth offending and divert our children away from the justice system. As much as prison is not the right answer, the government understands that there does still need to be an answer. The service system and legislative reforms require careful planning if the change is to be implemented successfully here in the territory. It is crucial that we have the right systems in place to support children below any revised minimum age who exhibit harmful behaviours.

This is a real opportunity for the government to chart a better way for these young people. Unfortunately, this opportunity is apparently too daunting a challenge for many other Australian governments, but the ACT has determined this change is too important to wait on an extremely slow national process. We have children in the ACT that we have the power to help, and so we should.

As part of our planning for diversionary and support programs, the ACT government has committed \$120,000 for an independent review of the service system needs and implementation requirements for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the ACT. This review commenced in February 2021 and is being led by Emeritus Professor Morag McArthur in a consortium with Aboriginal consultancy Curijo and Dr Aino Soumi of the Australian National University. The consortium will work to identify what changes are needed in the ACT service system to support a higher minimum age of criminal responsibility. I thank them for their dedication and expertise in this vital step towards change.

The government is already working to identify what restorative and therapeutic services need support and what gaps need to be filled to ensure that children who are at risk of harming themselves or others can be appropriately cared for and diverted to a better life trajectory. We know that raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility will not change the reality that some children and young people can and do behave in ways that impact the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others.

However, we also know that the response must be evidence based and targeted, rather than primarily punitive. This reform will provide us with the tools to respond to these harms as an inclusive and compassionate community by using a needs-based approach that will ultimately improve community safety across the territory. This is a significant change for our youth and justice system. We take our responsibility to do right by them very seriously. I commend the consultation paper to both this Assembly and the community more broadly as an opportunity to discuss the important issues that this reform raises. I present the following paper:

Minimum age of criminal responsibility—Ministerial statement, 24 June 2021.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH** (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health) (10.49): I am very pleased to speak on this ministerial statement on raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and I was equally pleased to join with my colleagues Minister Rattenbury and Minister Davidson as a co-sponsor of the discussion paper released yesterday.

This is a very important issue in supporting the wellbeing and the rights of young people and children in our community, and community safety. Mr Rattenbury has very clearly laid out the fact that better support, more therapeutic support and earlier intervention are essential for children and young people aged 10 to 13 in our community who are exhibiting harmful behaviours that may be harmful to themselves and particularly harmful to others. If we can put in place the right therapeutic interventions and responses for those children and young people, that is not only better for them, for their life trajectories, but also better for the community.

This provides us with an opportunity to divert people from the criminal justice system and to see them going on to not engage with the criminal justice system as older young people. That is a critically important part of the conversation that we are having with the community, and a critically important part of the work that Morag McArthur, Curiyo and others are doing with the community to understand what our service system looks like at the moment and to understand how we can adjust. Minister Rattenbury said that when young people under the age of 14 engage in these harmful behaviours there is a consequence, and we must ensure the consequence is aligned with the evidence we have very clearly about young people's development.

As the discussion paper very clearly outlines, the scientific evidence regarding brain development suggests that children under the age of 14 simply have not developed the maturity necessary to form the intent for full criminal responsibility. This developmental immaturity relates to multiple areas of cognitive functioning, including impulse control, reasoning and consequential thinking. The report from the committee on the rights of the child describes this time in a child's life as a window of potential vulnerability in the early to mid-adolescent period during which the likelihood of impulsivity, sensation seeking and risk-taking behaviours is raised.

The paper also makes the point that these issues can result in lack of capacity for those children to be able to engage properly in the criminal justice system and necessarily understand what is happening. That can mean that they are more likely to plead guilty, they are more likely to say what they think the people they are speaking to want them to say—whether that is police or their lawyers—and may not be able to keep track of court proceedings.

We also know that many young people who engage in harmful behaviours have a background of trauma. The best response for those young people to address their behaviours is not a punitive response but one that addresses the underlying issues, the cause of why they are acting out and behaving in the way they are. Again, it is not about there being no consequences of young people's disruptive and difficult actions; it is about those responses being appropriate for the young person and ultimately the best responses to keep the community safe.

We are not talking about a large number of young people in the ACT who are engaged in the criminal justice system under the age of 14. Over the last five years the largest number of youth justice supervision orders that were managed by the Community Services Directorate for young people in this age group in any one year was 15. It is important to recognise that does not necessarily mean 15 young people; young people may be subject to multiple orders in a year. So the people of this age engaged in the youth justice system is a very small number. It is important to recognise that that number does not include young people in the community being supervised by their parents who might have been involved in the justice system and received a fine or diverted to other services in the community. But we are talking about a relatively small number of young people and we have the capacity to support those young people.

I want to take the opportunity to recognise that in many instances we are already providing really comprehensive case management for many young people of this age who come into contact with the youth justice system. It is unfortunate that in some cases it is only when they come into contact with the youth justice system that those really strong wraparound supports are available and they get access to services that they need—they get the diversionary response.

Part of the work that needs to be done is to understand, without that engagement in the criminal justice system, how we identify those young people early, how we identify those problematic behaviours and how we put a support around those young people to ensure we are not just delaying their engagement in the justice system to when they are older but we are still providing that intensive therapeutic response that sees them change their life trajectory and genuinely be diverted from engagement with the criminal justice system in the future.

We have already been making investments in this regard. The Community Services Directorate and our partners do an incredible job in supporting some of our most complex and difficult young people. Over the last couple of years we have made investments at multiple stages in the system. Last year my colleague the then Attorney-General Mr Ramsay made an investment in a trial of functional family

therapy youth justice so we could trial this family-centred response for young people coming into contact with the youth justice system as part of the work to support raising the age.

We have also been investing in our safe and connected youth program to ensure young people disengaging from school and their families get a comprehensive response that works with families to address conflict, works with young people to understand why they are disengaging and works to keep them safe with their family wherever possible or find alternatives where that is not possible. Those are just two examples of the work we do.

As minister with responsibility for youth justice for four years, it is always distressing when you get the data and see that a young person under the age of 14 is in Bimberi. Very often you understand the circumstances of these young people because there are only a small number of them. Sometimes they come in on remand, they go and you never hear about them again; sometimes they come in again and again. It is incredibly distressing when you realise that they are perpetrating problematic behaviours in order to get into Bimberi because it is the place they feel safest. That is one of the problems of engagement with the justice system.

Even if children are never convicted of an offence, once they are in on remand and start getting into that cycle, the risk is that that escalates. If that option is not available, if it is a requirement that we have to put something else in place, we break that cycle of engagement with the justice system, and we have the opportunity to do that. And I want to be clear that we can.

We have seen young people come through in this incredibly difficult situation who have been engaging in sometimes quite violent behaviours, and we have been able to put supports in place to address the underlying trauma, to work with those young people and to get them on a trajectory for a better life. It is absolutely possible that we can do this and it is absolutely the right thing to do. It is also really important that we engage in a conversation with the community to address all of the complexities that Minister Rattenbury has talked about.

The Attorney-General has been clear that we are not talking about a system without consequences for young people aged 10 to 13 who engage in problematic behaviour; we are talking about a system that has the right kinds of consequences—that victims receive support and that young people not only see a consequence for their action but also receive the therapeutic interventions and supports needed to change the trajectory of their lives.

I encourage anyone with an interest in this to read the discussion paper, to think about the complexities of the issues and to have their say on this really important issue. I look forward to hearing the community's feedback and I look forward to us taking the next steps to raising the age. I acknowledge all of the people in the Community Services Directorate, across our justice system and in our community sector who work with some of the most complex young people in our community and try to deliver these better outcomes every day.

**MS DAVIDSON** (Murrumbidgee—Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health) (11.00): I thank the Attorney-General for raising this important issue. As the minister responsible for youth justice, I would like to inform members that the ACT has very low numbers of young people of any age in Bimberi and these numbers are even lower for children under the age of 14. As of this morning there was only one sentenced young person in Bimberi and nine young people on remand, with none under the age of 14. These low numbers mean we have increased insight into the lives of these young people and their families, and this gives us a unique opportunity to look at individualised pathways away from the youth justice system.

I have previously spoken about the ACT government's functional family therapy youth justice pilot, which is a great example of our investment in whole-of-family support for children and young people who are at risk of sustained contact with the justice system. The pilot program commenced in early 2021 and will support 20 young people and their families from entering or re-entering the youth justice system. As at 8 June 2021 a total of 19 young people have been referred to the program, and OzChild has commenced working with these young people and their families.

Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility means diversion not just from Bimberi but from the youth justice system entirely, including community sentencing. These children and young people should also be provided with mechanisms to support them to access services and support without resorting to a justice system response.

Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility compels us to look at the root causes of child and youth offending. As Minister for Mental Health, I am acutely aware of the negative impact of intergenerational trauma. As Minister for Disability, I know children and young people with disability are over-represented in the youth justice system. Raising the age is an important intervention tool to make absolutely sure we are supporting children and young people who need extra mental health and disability care amongst other social and emotional supports.

We will achieve better outcomes in a more cost-effective manner for young people and their families by delivering these supports in the community rather than in the justice system. The ACT commitment to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility has been met with wonderful support from the community. We are a progressive jurisdiction and I am very happy to be part of a community looking to deliver therapeutic supports over youth justice responses.

In addition to the benefits for children, young people and their families, I note that there are benefits for the entire Canberra community if we can invest in community-based supports for young people instead of locking kids up and delivering supports in a justice centre or via a community order. Investing in support in the community will enable us to solve problems sooner rather than later. If the ACT increases investment in timely responses to young people engaging in antisocial behaviour, we can make our whole community safer. Raising the age not only ensures

the safety of children and their families but improves relationships with friends and neighbours and creates safer, happier environments in our neighbourhoods, schools and our community.

Most importantly, though, supporting young people and addressing the social determinants of offending behaviour are an act of kindness that all young people deserve. After all we have learned about coming together as a community to solve difficult problems over the past 18 months, I think we can agree that kindness is at the core of a healthy, safe community.

I heard Hugh Mackay say recently that if just a small room of people could be just a little bit more radical in their kindness over the next week there would be ripples across the whole ACT. Providing the supports for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility is an act of radical revolutionary kindness that will have ripples across future generations and throughout our community. We do not practise kindness because we expect it to be returned to us; we do it because every young person is worthy of kindness. I look forward to working across each of these portfolios and with my ACT government colleagues to respond to these whole-of-government needs.

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

## **Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2021**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**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) (11.05): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am very proud of this legislation and I am proud this government has always stood on the side of workers. This bill amends the Work Health and Safety Act to include industrial manslaughter as an offence. This is a key legislative commitment of this government and we are delivering it today. At the centre of this commitment is the protection and creation of secure jobs. A job that is not safe cannot be secure.

It is a lamentable fact that every second day an Australian worker dies from traumatic injury sustained while at work. While appalling in its own right, this figure does not include worker deaths from occupational diseases like silicosis or deaths of bystanders from traumatic incidents at worksites. The rate of workplace deaths in Australia has not changed over the past five years despite public awareness campaigns and technological advancements in the fields of safety and emergency medicine. Stronger

action is required to prevent deaths at work. I am introducing this bill because everyone has the right to come home safe every day.

Today I introduce this bill in memory of those who never came home from work, who have left empty chairs at dinner tables and a gaping hole in the hearts of their family, their colleagues and their mates. This bill is a promise that they will not be forgotten; it is a promise to do better.

Workplace safety is everyone's responsibility. However, in workplaces specific obligations are placed on persons conducting a business or undertaking. The bill provides a mechanism by which companies or the people that direct them can be held accountable for a workplace death caused by recklessness or negligence.

This bill removes the industrial manslaughter offence from the Crimes Act in favour of including the new offence under the Work Health and Safety Act. The ACT Crimes Act currently includes an industrial manslaughter offence. The ACT Labor government was the first government in Australia to introduce an industrial manslaughter offence, back in 2004.

The new offence will improve on the current Crimes Act provisions in several important ways. Firstly, the current Crimes Act offence can only apply where a company or a senior officer of a company causes the death of an employee of that company. Obligations on employers and their officers under the Work Health and Safety Act are broader and extend to protecting the health and safety of any person affected by their work.

By positioning the industrial manslaughter offence within the Work Health and Safety Act, obligations flow to the industrial manslaughter offence. This means the offence could be applied where reckless or negligent action or inaction causes the death of any person, be they an employee, a contractor, a subcontractor, a visitor to the workplace or the employee of another employer present in the workplace. This approach acknowledges and better accounts for the diverse nature of contemporary workplaces and employment arrangements.

The current offence also only applies to persons and corporations. Under the proposed arrangements this will be expanded because the Work Health and Safety Act places obligations on PCBUs. This category of potential offender is broader and would, for example, include partnerships. The Work Health and Safety Act currently provides for three prosecutable categories of work safety offence, with escalating penalties based on the seriousness of the breach. By placing an industrial manslaughter offence within the Work Health and Safety Act, it will allow for a fourth category of offence.

The introduction of this most serious offence will provide a strong deterrent to dangerous and dodgy workplace practices that lead to serious injury and death. This will in turn allow for more effective education and awareness-raising about the consequences of poor safety practices. Overall, these enhancements will provide a more effective deterrence for poor workplace safety.



The bill will establish an offence of industrial manslaughter within the work safety framework. A charge of industrial manslaughter could be brought where work conduct that is reckless or negligent causes the death of a person. The charge of industrial manslaughter could be made against a company or other entity whose business undertaking committed the reckless or negligent conduct. A charge could also be brought against an individual officer of the business or undertaking. The maximum penalties that could apply would be 20 years imprisonment for an individual or a \$16.5 million penalty for a company.

Importantly, the bill does not reduce existing work health and safety obligations. These include an obligation to identify hazards arising from work and to identify and implement available and suitable control measures to eliminate associated safety risks. If elimination is not possible, the risks must be minimised to the maximum extent reasonably possible. These longstanding obligations have been in place for many years.

Over that time the ACT and other governments have provided extensive education, information, tools and other resources to assist employers to understand and discharge their safety obligations. The government and the ACT community expect employers to understand their obligations and to behave responsibly. They also expect that where a gross deviation from a reasonable standard of care causes a person's death the consequences for those responsible should be severe.

The bill is evidence of this government delivering on its commitments. We have committed to progressive reforms to improve outcomes for our workers and ensure worker safety under our laws. Protecting workers through strengthening workplace safety laws benefits families and the community. Despite this, the federal Liberal government have refused to support changing national workplace safety laws to include an industrial manslaughter offence. Their lack of support for workers and their families is shameful.

This bill is about working people and their families. This government will always stand up for working people, and so will I. I plan to work closely over the coming months with unions, industry and the wider community to design and implement reforms that will better protect workers from silicosis and other dust diseases. Like many of us, I have been terribly concerned about the frequency of silicosis disease being seen in Australian workers whose duties involved cutting engineered stone. It is a debilitating disease that severely reduces victims' life expectancy. That is why the ACT government has legislated for a better resourced and independent ACT WorkSafe.

The Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2021 will leverage our continuing investment in the work health and safety regulator by enhancing the compliance and enforcement tools available to WorkSafe ACT. These and other measures will ensure the territory has a strong contemporary work safety framework with a well-resourced and effective safety regulator. The bill is integral to our strong workplace safety commitment, and I commend it to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Milligan**) adjourned to the next sitting.

## **Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2021**

**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)(11.14): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill makes necessary changes to ACT legislation to improve the clarity and effective operation of criminal justice legislation. The bill amends five pieces of legislation to support our efforts to keep vulnerable people safe, to support police in the field, and to ensure that our criminal justice system functions in line with the ACT community's high expectations.

Firstly, I will detail the amendments that enhance protections for vulnerable people. This bill contains important amendments to the Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005 to make certain that courts are required to consider family violence as a separate factor in sentencing for a family violence offence.

It is important to note up-front that this is the first of two stages that the government is committed to with respect to family violence sentencing. This first stage establishes the requirement to consider family violence in sentencing, in recognition of how severe family violence offences are. Through these provisions we ensure that courts are able to respond adequately to deter family violence, engage with the need to prevent it and ultimately protect the community.

The second stage of the government's reforms in this area will be the consideration of a scheme of aggravation for family violence offences, ahead of the government's bill on a range of family violence issues to be presented later this year. The government is engaging, and will continue to engage, with stakeholders to ensure this will reflect community standards.

In the February 2020 decision of *R v UG*, the ACT Court of Appeal gave reasons for declining to re-sentence an offender who was convicted of serious offences against his partner and young children. The Court of Appeal held that absent a statutory provision there is no place for a separate sentencing regime that applies to offenders who commit family violence offences, whether it be a more lenient or a more severe sentencing regime. The Court of Appeal also noted that while current section 34(2) of the Crimes (Sentencing) Act specifically requires the court to not reduce a sentence's severity due to family violence, there is no requirement to increase it.

The government is committed to ensuring that perpetrators of domestic and family violence are held to account and is progressing amendments in a phased approach to address the issue identified in *R v UG*. A phased approach is being taken to fully address the complexities around ensuring family violence legislation provides the greatest protection possible for victims and appropriate consequences for offenders, recognising the need for a nuanced response given the nature of family violence itself, and family violence offences.

I note that on 10 May this year the shadow attorney-general, Ms Lee, released her own draft amendments to progress a reform of this type for public consultation. I look forward to working with Ms Lee and other members to ensure we arrive at the most effective and well-supported approach to sentencing for family violence offences. There is no single best approach to achieving the shared aim of preventing family violence, which is why we need to work with the community and develop the regime.

The amendments to the Crimes (Sentencing) Act contained in this bill are the first phase of amendments to address the need to recognise the severity of family violence offences. The amendments create new section 34B which mandates that the court must consider certain factors when sentencing for a family violence offence. The insertion of new section 34B as a separate sentencing consideration in addition to the factors outlined at existing section 33 of the act is not intended to reduce a judicial officer's discretion when considering sentencing factors but to ensure they are required, when sentencing for family violence offences, to consider additional factors as part of the sentencing process.

The factors that must be considered are: firstly, the matters mentioned in the preamble to the Family Violence Act 2016, recognising the features of family violence, including that it extends beyond physical violence and may involve exploitation of power imbalances, and that children exposed to family violence are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of that exposure; secondly, whether the offending occurred at the home of the victim, the offender or another person; thirdly, whether the offending occurred when a child was present; fourthly, if the offence was a serious family violence offence, whether the offender has any previous convictions for serious family violence offences.

The operation of the new provisions will be monitored to ensure they are operating as expected. I take this opportunity to advise the Assembly on the detail that government is considering options for phase 2, recognising strong support from community stakeholders for an aggravated offence approach. This is more complex as it represents a material change to the way in which sentencing law currently operates in the ACT, requires further input from stakeholders on exactly the right form of the approach given the potential for family violence to be involved in any number of offences, it may have resourcing implications for justice agencies including for ACT Corrective Services, and raises more complex human rights issues which would need to be addressed to ensure the reforms are compatible with the Human Rights Act 2004. I look forward to presenting that bill later to further the government's measures to ensure our courts have every tool available to prevent family violence.

I now turn to the part of this bill that strengthens protections for children. The bill amends the Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Act 2005 to add the commonwealth offence of possession of a child-like sex doll to the schedule of offences that can result in an offender being on the child sex offender register. The amendment will have the effect that people convicted of that offence will be required to be on the child sex offender register unless they come within limited circumstances of exception, including where the offender satisfies the court that they are not a risk to the lives or sexual safety of children.

The purpose of the scheme and the amendments proposed in the bill are to reduce the likelihood that registrable offenders will reoffend against children, including any escalation of offending. This can include a person progressing from non-contact offences like the commonwealth offence of possession of a child-like sex doll to contact offending, for example indecent or sexual assault of children. It protects children from potential predators and reflects the expectation of the community that laws support the safety and protection of children from sexual assault and violence.

Other amendments made by the bill are intended to support the effectiveness, transparency and fairness of criminal investigations and law enforcement. The bill makes amendments to the Crimes (Surveillance Devices) Act 2010 and the Listening Devices Act 1992 to support the use of body-worn cameras by police officers who are performing their duties in a range of situations, including in public places and private premises.

Body-worn cameras are widely used by police throughout Australia and internationally, and they have been infamously critical to ensuring justice for some individuals. While ACT Policing has used body-worn cameras since 2019 in a range of situations, including automatic activation where a firearm or taser is drawn, there is value in the transparency and clarity that these provisions provide about how this tool is to be used. These provisions will promote the safety of police and members of the community, increase transparency around police conduct and support police in gathering evidence in a timely and effective way.

The proposal relating to body-worn cameras was the subject of community consultation through a YourSay community panel survey process and a public information paper published on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate's website, which sought broader community feedback on the reforms. Public feedback was broadly supportive of the reforms, with many individuals and organisations taking a particular interest in the accompanying safeguards, including around privacy and access to footage.

Safeguards have been built into the amendments to ensure an appropriate balance between what is required to satisfy the operational needs of police and the right to privacy. Under the new provisions, body-worn cameras can be used in the course of a police officer's duties, although the use must, subject to limited exceptions, be overt. The exceptions include where overt use would cause or increase the risk of safety to a person.

Where an officer is wearing a body-worn camera it must be used in dealings with members of the public, subject again to some limited exceptions. The exceptions include if the use of a camera is not reasonably practical or use could cause or increase risk to a person's safety or use would unreasonably limit a person's privacy.

Guidelines will be developed as a disallowable instrument that will further detail the circumstances where body-worn cameras can and must be used, including providing more detail and examples of the exceptional circumstances where use is not required or appropriate. The guidelines will be issued by the Chief Police Officer and must contain a statement about how human rights have been considered.

A further amendment to the Crimes (Sentencing) Act rectifies an anomaly that prevents appeal courts from amending a non-parole period where a sentence of imprisonment is set aside or amended on appeal. The amendments are to the effect that any non-parole period to which the offender is subject is automatically cancelled and the existing provisions in the act for setting non-parole periods apply to the appeal court in setting any new non-parole period.

This bill also amends the Terrorism (Extraordinary Temporary Powers) Act 2006, extending it for 12 months from its current end date of 19 November 2021 to 19 November 2022. This follows the recent review of the operation and effectiveness of the act where an ongoing concern about the importance of limiting rights intrusions was made clear. The short extension of this act is to allow further consideration of opportunities for change to further enhance the right to personal liberty while still ensuring that the legislation supports the safety and security of the community.

Finally, this bill also refines the operation of provisions that improve and maintain the conditions and human rights compliance of our correctional centres and detention places through amendments to the Inspector of Correctional Services Act 2017. This amendment changes the review period for the examination and review of correctional facilities from at least once every two years to at least once every three years to support the effective response to and implementation of the outcomes of reviews by the Inspector of Correctional Services. A three-year review cycle reflects practice in other jurisdictions, and I emphasise for the benefit of the Assembly that it does not prevent the Inspector of Correctional Services from conducting reviews more frequently where that is appropriate. The amendment also ensures early scrutiny of newly declared correctional centres and detention places by requiring their first examination and review within the first two years of their declaration, with the three-yearly cycles commencing after that.

Taken as a whole, this bill represents another example of the government's ongoing commitment to improvements to the criminal justice system. We will keep listening to and working with our justice system stakeholders and, indeed, our whole community to ensure that our laws reflect and deliver on our community's rightly high expectations. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## Senior Practitioner Amendment Bill 2021

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MS DAVIDSON** (Murrumbidgee—Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health) (11.27): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Senior Practitioner Amendment Bill 2021. The bill amends the date for review of the Senior Practitioner Act 2018 from the end of its third year of operation to the end of its fifth year of operation. This means a review will be conducted and a report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 2023. Although the bill is largely administrative, the amendment is important because it supports a robust and thorough review of this most important act.

The Senior Practitioner Act 2018 created the role of the Senior Practitioner as well as providing a formal framework for the overall reduction of restrictive practices in the ACT and for working to achieve the elimination of their use in individual circumstances where possible. The act defines a restrictive practice as one which is used to restrict the rights or freedom of movement of a person for the primary purpose of protecting the person or others from harm. It includes the use of a chemical substance to restrict a person's movement and the seclusion or confinement of a person.

We know restrictive practices are most likely to be used on some of the most vulnerable people in our community—people with disability, older people, and children and young people. The ACT government is committed to the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices in the ACT.

Since 2018 the Senior Practitioner has worked closely with the ACT community to provide education on and improve awareness of the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices. During this time data collection and reporting has been introduced to gain insight into the use of restrictive practices over time. The first year of comprehensive, although manual, reporting was in 2019-20. Further reporting will provide trend data for the review.

The ACT is unique in being the only jurisdiction in Australia to have combined under the same legislation child protection, disability—recently including aged-care settings under the NDIS—early childhood and education. In addition many of the providers operating within the sectors covered by the act are new to a regulatory approach to the reduction, elimination and authorisation of the use of restrictive practices. This context creates a complexity in gauging the effectiveness of the act's implementation and the efficacy of the provisions in reducing and eliminating restrictive practices.

Extending the time frame for review also recognises the resourcing impact that successive public emergencies during 2020 have had on the Office of the Senior Practitioner and the sectors which are oversighted by the act. I will provide a summary interim report to this Assembly covering the work that has been undertaken so far by the end of February 2022.

The act contains provisions that both promote and limit human rights in order to regulate and reduce the use of restrictive practices on vulnerable people. During its development due regard was given to the act's compatibility with human rights as set out in the Human Rights Act 2004. Because this bill extends the period of time before a review of the act is to occur, consideration had to be made that this extension may potentially engage and limit human rights as it may delay the identification of human rights concerns arising from the operation of existing legislation.

The act contains a range of protections devised to address potential human rights limitations, in particular the right to privacy and reputation and the right to liberty and security of person. For example, the act was designed to ensure that any restrictive practices permitted in positive behaviour support plans are the least restrictive way of protecting the person or other people from harm. Plans also must include strategies to support behaviour that will lead to a reduction in the use of restrictive practices.

Furthermore, the act includes a range of safeguards, including the requirement for authorisation of the plan by a panel, in accordance with guidelines and clear principles, consideration and registration by the Senior Practitioner, limited time frames for operation and review, reporting and monitoring requirements, and clear complaint and independent review mechanisms. It is also an offence to fail to report the use of a restrictive practice. I am confident that, in light of human rights scrutiny of the bill, the safeguards included in the act and the absolute importance of a robust and effective review, the extension is demonstrably justified.

The Senior Practitioner Act 2018 supports the ACT government's commitment to improving the lives of all people who are at risk and potentially subject to restrictive practices, as well as upholding their human rights. This bill will support the comprehensive evaluation of the legislative impacts of the act across all sectors. I take this opportunity to thank our community and sector partners for their participation in the consultation process and look forward to the outcomes of the review in 2023. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Milligan**) adjourned to the next sitting.

## **Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Report 5**

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER** (Mr Davis): On behalf of the Speaker, I present the following report:

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee—Report 5—Report on the Conduct of Mr Milligan MLA, dated 24 June 2021, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (11.32), by leave: I move:

That the report be adopted.

It is useful to go to the findings of the report. Recommendation 1 of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure is that no further action be taken against Mr Milligan for a breach of the code of conduct. With respect to the reason for that, the findings of the commissioner are quite clear. The commissioner was not able to find any evidence that he had misused his emails. Also, an important point was that at the time Mr Milligan was not a member of the Assembly and was not subject to the code. I have paraphrased his findings. The summation is:

Since I am unable to find that Mr Milligan inappropriately used information derived from his constituent list and the Thank You note was disseminated when he was not a Member of the Assembly, I recommend that the complaint be dismissed.

Recommendation 2 of the report says:

The Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, as part of its major review of standing orders during this Assembly, will consider the need for some effective means of ensuring that Members are bound to not misuse information when they are no longer members

That is fine; that is a statement, and that is something to look at. In reading that recommendation, it is also important to reflect that it does not suggest that Mr Milligan has misused information. In fact, the finding of the commissioner makes that clear.

I want to make the broader point that I think this whole exercise has been fraught. I think that the aim of it was to embarrass Mr Milligan. That was the intent of the motion that was put forward. It suggested that there had been breaches of the law in regard to the Electoral Act, privacy legislation and a whole raft of things, and the commissioner has made it clear that that is just not true.

You could argue that that is part of the cut and thrust of politics—that, from time to time, Labor members and Greens members will come in here and attempt to attack Liberals baselessly. That is what has happened here; it is a baseless attack on a Liberal by the Greens and Labor. That is not unsurprising. We see it a lot. Perhaps they have nothing better to do than to come in here and cast aspersions and try and sling mud. I expect to see more of it. There will be more mudslinging from across the chamber at the Canberra Liberals.

Ms Burch did this as Ms Burch. In fact, there was a ruling from the chair, Mr Pettersson, that Ms Burch was doing this as a member, not as the Speaker. Ms Burch, from the floor, tried to argue, “No, I’m doing it as the Speaker,” even though there had been a ruling the other way. This has caused some consternation, I have to say. If members of the Greens and the Labor Party want to get down into the bearpit, on the floor, and sling mud at the Liberals baselessly, we will fire back and



we will respond. We will counter those arguments and we will expose what is going on here.

The problem is that it is done by Ms Burch, who, in another guise, is the Speaker. At some stage she can take on a prosecutorial role, as the accuser-in-chief, but at other stages she seeks to preside as the Speaker, and indeed as the drafter of the report that has been tabled today. That is of significant concern to the Canberra Liberals, and indeed to the Assembly.

Regardless of which political party the Speaker comes from, it is very important that they be seen to be above the fray. You and I, Mr Assistant Speaker Davis, will have our barneys and our debates; we had one yesterday. But you do not do it from the chair, Mr Assistant Speaker Davis. You do not do it in a different guise if you are the Speaker.

We are deeply concerned. I have to confess that this has caused some loss of confidence from the opposition in terms of impartiality. We have not gone as far as moving a substantive motion today involving the Speaker, but it is certainly something that we have considered. It would certainly be useful if Ms Burch were to reflect on this as the—

**Mr Gentleman:** A point of order, Mr Assistant Speaker.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, resume your seat.

**Mr Gentleman:** Mr Assistant Speaker, I ask that you look at the standing orders and see whether Mr Hanson is now reflecting on a decision of the Assembly or on a decision of the Speaker, and see whether that is contrary to the standing orders.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Minister Gentleman, given my relative inexperience in the chair, I will reserve judgement and review the *Hansard* later. I will remind Mr Hanson of the standing orders and ask him not to reflect on decisions made by the Assembly. That is indeed the invitation, and I will reflect on it after reviewing the *Hansard*.

**MR HANSON:** Mr Assistant Speaker, this goes to my point. There are debating points that I want to make, but I cannot make them in this case because I am constrained by virtue of the fact that there is confusion on this matter. That is the point that I am making. As I said the opposition is concerned by what has happened. At this stage I will not move a substantive motion, but it does not mean that the opposition is not concerned by this whole process that has unfolded.

**Mr Rattenbury:** A point of order, Mr Assistant Speaker. Mr Hanson knows exactly what he is doing. The standing orders are clear. If you want to reflect on the Speaker, you have to move a substantive motion. With what he is outlining here, he is running a little smear tactic. He does not have either the wherewithal or the content to move a motion; instead he is skating on the edge of it, so that he can make comments which are outside the standing orders. He needs to either put up or shut up.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Rattenbury, I will confer with the Clerk for a moment. On reflection, I am inclined to agree, Mr Hanson. It is a matter of skating on thin ice. I would remind you to be relevant to the question, which is that the report be adopted.

**MR HANSON:** I have nothing further to say, Mr Assistant Speaker.

**MR BRADDOCK (Yerrabi) (11.41):** I, for one, welcome the report from the Commissioner for Standards and from admin and procedure on this matter. I note that the commissioner, as part of his findings, did not feel that the referral of this matter was vexatious or politically motivated. In fact, he has drawn our attention to an area where we need to strengthen the standing orders and the code of conduct in terms of examining the misuse of information by members who have become ex-members of the Assembly. I look forward to working on this matter as we undertake the review of the standing orders in the middle of this term.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee Statement by chair**

**MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (11.42):** Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety. At a private meeting on 16 June 2021, the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into community corrections.

The committee will inquire into and report on the operation of community corrections, with particular reference to the parole system, intensive correction orders, the Sentence Administration Board, drug and alcohol treatment orders, recidivism outcomes, experiences of offenders and their families, experiences of victim survivors and any other relevant matter. The committee will today call for public submissions.

### **Paper Out-of-order petition**

**MS ORR (Yerrabi) (11.43),** by leave: I present the following paper:

Petition which does not conform with the standing orders—Bonner Oval facilities—Ms Orr (250 signatures).

It is a paper copy of the e-petition that was lodged on Tuesday in regard to the Bonner bubbler. I want to make sure that everyone who is passionate about this cause has their passion recorded on the record.

### **Loose-fill Asbestos Legislation Amendment Bill 2021**

Debate resumed from 3 June 2021, on motion by **Ms Vassarotti:**

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (11.43): I am not sure that there is a great deal to be said about this bill, which removes the current funding limitation deadline of 17 August this year. It will enable any further loose-fill asbestos situations that might be discovered to be resolved through the normal budget procedures, and this is a very good thing.

As demonstrated with the previous loose-fill asbestos remediation scheme, it is quite a traumatic experience when people discover that, in a lot of cases, their precious home, which has been their home for many years, has been, in effect, condemned. Almost 1,000 homes have been demolished, with far-reaching consequences for the personal wellbeing of affected residents. I think that we all appreciate and understand that.

As we were advised in the brief provided by Minister Vassarotti's office, there is some chance—and there will be some chance potentially for decades, I think—that other affected homes may be detected. It is possible that others will be detected. There is no argument from the Canberra Liberals on this front. Compliments to the government for their prudence in ensuring that there is no budget process impediment when new contamination situations are detected.

I do hope, in the unfortunate event that any new contamination situations are found, that the affected owners and residents will be treated with fairness and compassion. I would certainly hope that that is the case, and I am sure everyone in the chamber will be very disappointed if anything other than a very small number of homes are detected. Fingers crossed, Mr Assistant Speaker; let us hope that there are no more discovered.

Finally, I wish to thank Minister Vassarotti for making her staff available to brief us on this bill. I did remark to Ms Vassarotti earlier today that it was quite refreshing for us to be dealing with something in this place that did not involve us arguing about anything. May there be more of it.

**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) (11.46): I am pleased to speak in support of the Loose-fill Asbestos Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The eradication scheme was developed to address the significant health, financial and social risks to the Canberra community of the continuing presence of loose-fill asbestos insulation in more than 1,000 homes across Canberra.

As members know, asbestos was frequently used in building materials in Australia until the mid to late 1980s. The use of materials containing asbestos lessened after the time, until it was banned in 2004. It is important that we tackle the issue, and I am proud of the work that the government and officials have done. This has been a nation-leading program. I thank the team, particularly in EPSDD, for their excellence in public policy.

I want to acknowledge the work of officials in helping families and Canberrans impacted by Mr Fluffy. A key success of these officials has been maintaining a focus throughout on people—providing compassionate support, clear guidance and meaningful assistance. This bill builds on this important work.

The bill ensures that these risks are significantly reduced by ensuring that home owners who discover loose-fill asbestos insulation in their properties after the end of the current scheme will be supported by the government, and will have options and assistance available to them similar to home owners whose properties were identified earlier.

I understand that, at the end of April 2021, 992 of the 1,027 Canberra residential properties identified as containing, or having once contained, loose-fill asbestos insulation had been demolished, both within the scheme and privately. Since the announcement of the current scheme in 2014, the government has continued to actively strive towards reaching the goal of eradication from the ACT community.

The asbestos literacy of most Canberrans has improved since the announcement of the scheme in 2014, and community expectation is for government to effectively manage loose-fill asbestos properties in a compassionate and timely way. The ongoing scheme addresses that expectation; it will continue to support community safety through the identification of properties containing loose-fill asbestos insulation and effectively manage their removal from the community. As this work continues, WorkSafe will continue its important role in keeping our broader community safe.

In summary, I believe the bill supports the government's commitment to eradication of loose-fill asbestos insulation from the ACT residential community.

**MS VASSAROTTI** (Kurrajong—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) (11.49), in reply: I am pleased to discuss the Loose-fill Asbestos Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I would also like to thank members for their contributions to the debate on this bill today.

The Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme was introduced in 2014 to provide a mechanism for home owners whose properties were affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation to consider the options available to them in managing their properties. As the original scheme reaches its end date of 17 August, I would like to begin by marking this milestone and briefly reflecting on the experience. Unlike the 2003 bushfires that were so visible and touched so many, the Mr Fluffy crisis was comparatively silent and invisible to many Canberrans who were not directly affected.

The effort to rid Canberra of loose-fill asbestos has been a long, difficult journey for affected home owners in Canberra. I would like to acknowledge the personal toll that it has taken on many families. It is clear that, while most of the affected properties are now gone, the trauma endures. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless work of the public servants in the Asbestos Response Task Force, who have worked with individual home owners—with each case different in its own way—since 2014. The

task force also shares the burden of this effort. The task force continues to work with a small number of remaining households.

Sitting beside the work of the task force has been the Community and Expert Reference Group. Since 2014, the reference group has provided the task force with independent expertise, feedback and advice on the scheme's operation, evolving needs and emerging issues. I thank the reference group for their invaluable input to me and previous ministers. Much of their work has been in supporting the human elements of this scheme—ensuring that there was consideration given to health impacts, how to reflect and remark on this event in our history, and how to ensure that there is good information contained in public services once the bulk of the work has been done. I look forward to the continuing work of both the task force and the reference group as they continue their work over the next year.

The buyback program, a program available under the scheme, provides for the government to offer to buy all residential properties affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation in the ACT, once the affected property has been added to the Affected Residential Premises Register. The program is voluntary to home owners and provides home owners with options other than private demolition, suited to their individual circumstances.

As the buyback program is set to close on 17 August 2021, the bill supports the eradication of loose-fill asbestos insulation from any newly identified affected properties beyond the closure of the buyback program. These home owners will be in the same position to access the government's offer to buy their affected property once it has been added to the register.

Noting that the same potential risk to occupants and the community exists from any affected property that is yet to be identified, providing a comparable buyback option after 17 August 2021 is considered appropriate. To not offer this option for properties identified later is inconsistent with the government's commitment to eradicate loose-fill asbestos insulation from Canberra homes.

The management of affected properties identified in future years is important not only to support community safety by limiting exposure risk but to maintain consistency in responding to new finds as well as to support efficient government processes.

The effect of the bill amends the definition of "buyback scheme" within the Civil Law (Sales of Residential Property) Act 2003, the Dangerous Substances Act 2004, the Government Agencies (Land Acquisition Reporting) Regulation 2019, and the definition of "loose-fill asbestos insulation eradication buyback program" in the Planning and Development Regulation 2008, so that these definitions no longer refer to the Appropriation (Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication) Act 2014-2015.

From 18 August 2021, all financial and budget implications for any newly identified affected property that participates in the scheme will be funded through existing budgetary mechanisms. By providing that the funding arrangements are no longer associated with the appropriation act, the bill supports the continuation of the scheme for affected properties identified after 17 August 2021. In addition to the new

properties that may be identified, there are still a small number of home owners that are managing their properties under the current scheme, and we will continue to work with those who may find themselves in a similar position after this time. We remain committed to ensuring that we eradicate the risk faced by this issue, which is the consequence of activity that occurred decades ago.

In summary, the Loose-fill Asbestos Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 makes a number of minor but necessary changes to ensure that the government's commitment to eradicate loose-fill asbestos insulation from the ACT residential community remains. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

**Sitting suspended from 11.55 am to 2 pm.**

## **Ministerial arrangements**

**MR BARR:** Madam Speaker, as you may have noticed, Minister Gentleman is absent from question time today. I will endeavour to answer members' questions in the minister's portfolio. Whether I get quite the same level of amusement from the opposition for my answers, time will tell!

## **Questions without notice**

### **Parking—Campbell shops**

**MS LEE:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, the single biggest issue raised by Campbell residents this year has been the lack of parking at the Campbell shops. This is a chronic issue at many local shops across Canberra. Given the plans for upgrades to the Campbell shops, how many additional car parks are going to be in the final plans?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question and certainly recognise the importance of parking and making sure it is well managed in our suburbs, particularly suburbs like Campbell, where there has been a substantial amount of recent development. We have been consulting with residents on various streets about what measures might be put in place to help manage those issues appropriately in their streets. Various solutions have been put up, including the introduction of "No stopping" signs in some locations. It is something we are going to need to continue to work with them on.

In relation to the upgrades to a range of different shopping centres, including the shopping centre at Campbell, we are consulting with the community, and have been

over the last few months, about the upgrades. We are now in the process of compiling that feedback. That will inform the final plans, which have not yet been developed.

**Ms Lee:** Point of order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Minister, resume your seat.

**Ms Lee:** The question specifically was about how many additional car parks. I ask that you ask the minister to direct—

**MR STEEL:** On the point of order, the Leader of the Opposition is asking me to make an announcement in question time about the final upgrades to the shops. I am just not in a position to do that, and I will not do it in question time.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Ms Lee, a supplementary question?

**MS LEE:** Minister, does the government accept that there is an urgent need for more parking, with the Campbell shops servicing both Campbell and Reid, including their new apartment buildings?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. When proposals come forward for new developments, traffic and parking issues are considered. There are, of course, parking codes that are required to be complied with in relation to the development of new buildings. So each new building will have its own parking available. We will need to continue to work on what the impacts are as our city grows. This is not just going to be an issue in those areas; it will be an issue right across our city. We want to encourage people to take more sustainable forms of transport—active travel and public transport in particular.

We are not planning on significantly increasing parking in those areas. That would simply induce demand for more cars and more people parking in the streets and would make the problem even worse.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, given the government's plan for 70 per cent housing infill, do you agree that this parking issue will only continue to get worse?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. As the city grows, there will be challenges that we confront in relation to traffic in our city and parking more broadly. We need to make sure that there is an appropriate level of parking when new developments are built. That is done as part of the planning process. Working with the community, getting the community's feedback, is part of that statutory process under the Planning and Land Development Act. We will continue to monitor the city as it grows and what measures we need to put in place. But we have been clear through our Transport Strategy that we will be shifting our investment towards public transport and active travel to make sure that people can move around more easily by foot, by bicycle, by the use of personal mobility devices or by getting onto public transport. That is the best and most sustainable way to grow as a city as our population grows to 500,000 by 2029.

**Health—walk-in centres**

**MRS JONES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, on 14 September 2020, your party put out a media release which said:

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will build on our successful nurse-led Walk-in Centres and Community Health Centres with five new local walk-in health centres offering accessible public health care across Canberra's suburbs.

On the same day the Stroke Foundation tweeted:

We welcome ACT Labor promise of five new nurse-led walk in centres. A stroke occurs every 9 minutes in Australia and the majority can be prevented; we'd like to see F.A.S.T. (signs of stroke) community education as part of the preventive health service. @RachelSS\_MLA @ACTHealth

Minister, you both liked and retweeted this post. However, in this chamber last sitting week you stated, "We were very clear throughout the election period that these were not going to be nurse-led walk-in centres." Minister, why did you like and retweet this incorrect statement about your commitment?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mrs Jones for the question. I have to admit that when I reread the tweet, I did realise that they had not included the word "health" in their "walk-in health centres". I did consider un-retweeting it, but I thought that, given that I had already retweeted it, given that they were welcoming ACT Labor's commitment to five new walk-in health centres across Canberra—in South Tuggeranong, in the Inner South, in West Belconnen, in North Gungahlin and in Molonglo—I wanted as many people as possible to know about the ACT government's plan to deliver health care—both appointment based and immediate health care—to people closer to home right across the ACT.

**MRS JONES:** I have a supplementary question. Minister, given that many news outlets published the claim that there would be five new nurse-led walk-in centres, can you please table correspondence that your party or you had with those outlets asking that they correct the record.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mrs Jones for the question. I do not believe that we actually wrote formally to any of those outlets asking them to correct the record but I can say that on multiple occasions, in multiple press conferences, in my own social media, and in ACT Labor materials and social media, we were very clear that the model for the new walk-in health centres would not be the same as the existing nurse-led walk-in centres and that neither would it be the same as our existing community health centres but that these centres would offer a mix of appointment based and immediate healthcare services that would be co-designed with the communities in which they are going to be based—in South Tuggeranong, in the Inner South, in West Belconnen, in North Gungahlin and in Molonglo—and that we would work with each of those local communities to ensure that we were meeting the health needs of those communities, which are clearly going to be quite diverse.



We are talking about some very new communities in the ACT and some ageing communities in the ACT—some communities where the population is ageing and some where more of the population are younger families. We were very clear throughout the election—and in the last budget we committed \$2 million to feasibility work—that we would do that work with communities and to look at exactly where these centres will be located. We repeatedly made those comments to journalists throughout the election and encouraged them to be very, very clear that we were talking about a mix of appointment-based services and immediate care, and that these would not be the same as the existing nurse-led walk-in centres that are so well loved by Canberrans and that the Liberals have finally decided they need to support, because Canberrans welcome them so much.

**MR HANSON:** I have a further supplementary question. Minister, will you now apologise to the people that you allowed to be misled?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Hanson for the question and completely reject the premise of it.

**Mr Steel:** Point of order: I think Mr Hanson just implied that the minister has misled, and that is clearly unparliamentary language.

**Mrs Jones:** On the point of order: Mr Hanson did not suggest that the minister had misled, but that she had allowed people to be misled.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** As members would know, the claim of misleading the Assembly is only made through a substantive motion. My understanding of the words was that they were “allowed the community to be misled”. That has been bandied around, unfortunately, across the chamber before. I caution members to be very mindful of their language. We had an incident earlier in the week where people were jumping to conclusions, as well, so I ask members to be very mindful.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I have completed my answer.

### **Schools—school banking**

**MR DAVIS:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs. Minister, in February I was delighted that this Assembly unanimously supported my motion to phase out school banking programs by mid-2021. Given that the ACT government committed to transition away from school banking programs by the end of this financial year, could the minister update the Assembly on this transition process?

**MS BERRY:** The transition is still occurring right now. The ACT Education Directorate is assisting the 12 schools that are left who have been using school banking to ensure that they can cease their school banking and have those programs end, in line with the motion that we all supported.

Between 2018 and 2021, 42 public schools had already ceased school banking. We know that schools wanted to look at different ways to provide financial literacy to their students. I also want to acknowledge, through those school banking programs, the incredible work of the ACT's P&C volunteers, who have contributed really well to those communities over the years through those school banking programs.

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, since passage of the motion, I have been contacted by a number of educators and organisations who run a range of innovative financial literacy programs. Has the minister received similar representations—

**Mr Hanson:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order—

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Can you resume your seat?

**Mr Hanson:** That sounds like significant preamble to the supplementary. I would ask you to rule on that.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** To the question, Mr Davis.

**MR DAVIS:** Has the minister received similar representations and, if so, what has been the outcome of those representations?

**MS BERRY:** The ACT Education Directorate has been partnering with ASIC to formalise and extend the good work that they do in ACT schools that are already doing financial literacy education. We have been further promoting the use of ASIC's Moneysmart for school resources as well.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Are those resources now available for students in ACT schools?

**MS BERRY:** Yes.

### **Sport—swimming pools**

**MR HANSON:** My question is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. Several Canberrans have contacted the Canberra Liberals with concerns about the 50-metre pool at the Stromlo Leisure Centre, reporting issues with water pumping. The \$36 million pool was opened less than a year ago and is meant to serve more than 100,000 Canberrans in the area. Minister, in a 13 August media release you described the leisure centre as “a world-class facility for the community to enjoy”. We have heard such statements before in relation to the closed 50-metre pool at the Gungahlin Leisure Centre, which has been plagued with problems. Minister, what is the problem with water pumping at the Stromlo 50-metre pool?

**MS BERRY:** I will take that question on notice.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson.

**MR HANSON:** Minister, does your government have any intentions to close the Stromlo 50-metre pool and, if so, when will you be advising the community about what is going on?

**MS BERRY:** I will need to take that question on notice too.

**MR DAVIS:** A supplementary.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Davis.

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, can you confirm that all pools in the ACT will be included as part of the government's ongoing work for a facilities management plan?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Ms Berry, if that is related to maintenance of the pools—

**MS BERRY:** I am not quite sure I understand the question, whether that is for me to announce some future commitment that the government might be making; so I might just have a look at the question.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** No, we will let the question go.

### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—elected body**

**DR PATERSON:** My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Can you please update the Assembly on the process for the upcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body elections?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Dr Paterson for her interest in the elected body elections and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs more broadly, which I know is of great interest to her. As Dr Paterson notes, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body is currently going through its election process. As members are aware, the elected body was first formed in 2008 as a democratic mechanism for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT to advocate on issues that are of importance to them and to scrutinise government action against those priorities.

The ACT's elected body is the first and remains one of only two state or territory elected First Nation bodies, with Victoria having a First Peoples' assembly specifically related to its treaty process. Other jurisdictions have advisory bodies, but members are appointed, not elected.

Since its formation the elected body has held its elections every three years in 2011, 2014 and to 2017. The next election was due to be held in 2020, but it was delayed due to the impacts of the pandemic. We are now well underway in the election process, with the elected body in caretaker mode. Candidates were declared earlier this month, and I was very pleased to see a mix of experienced elected body members—both from the current caretaker elected body and previous elected bodies—and new face us among the 18 candidates vying for election.

Voting will open at 9 am on Saturday, 3 July at the NAIDOC Awards Ball—sorry, I think that should be the NAIDOC Family Day and will close at 5 pm on Saturday, 10 July with postal votes being accepted until 5 pm on Friday, 16 July. There is then a process of review and scrutiny before the results can be declared.

**DR PATERSON:** Minister, how is the government ensuring broad participation in the elections?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** Again, I thank Dr Paterson for the question. As voting in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body elections is non-compulsory it is really important that we ensure that the opportunity to vote in this election is well communicated to the community. Every vote in the election strengthens the elected body's mandate as a true representation of self-determination.

The Community Services Directorate and Elections ACT are working together to ensure that the elections are promoted to the community effectively. I was pleased to be able to attend the launch of the elections with the ACT Electoral Commissioner, Mr Damian Cantwell AM, and the outgoing chair of the elected body, Ms Katrina Fanning, last month as well as a meet the candidates event last night. A video of that event will be available online today or tomorrow, and it was great to see almost all of the candidates participating.

Polling will be conducted at a number of communities events, including at NAIDOC Family Day and the NAIDOC Awards Ball, to ensure voting is easy and convenient for all members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Polling places will also be set up at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, the National Indigenous Australians Agency in Woden and sites in Civic, Belconnen, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong. There will even be a polling place at the Canberra Raiders home game on Saturday, 3 July and at the Boomanulla Raiders home game on 10 July.

I urge all members here to use their networks and promote this important election and to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their electorates to get involved and get voting when the polls open. The Elections ACT website is a valuable source of information about the elections process and also about the candidates. And as per the ACT election, each candidate has been invited to provide a photograph and a statement about who they are and what they stand for.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, what are some of the achievements of the outgoing elected body?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the question and the opportunity to remark on, to congratulate and to thank our outgoing elected body members. It has been an absolute privilege to be the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs throughout this term of the elected body. This term has been an outstanding example of what a democratic voice to government can achieve for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The elected body has been our partner in the work to develop the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-28 and, through the Coalition of Peaks, the national agreement on closing the gap. These two agreements will guide our whole-of-government approach to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the next decade.

The elected body has driven real change through direct advocacy and partnership with government. The body has pushed the government to return Boomanulla Oval to community control, and this is now being prioritised through the healing and reconciliation fund. The elected body guided the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older persons housing projects delivered by my colleague Deputy Chief Minister Berry, and the elected body pushed for the investments we are now making to deliver a purpose-built facility for Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation.

Those are just some specific examples of the elected body's achievements in addition to its ongoing efforts to consult with the community, to work with government agencies and drive improvements in their services, and to hold government to account through its formal hearings.

I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing members of the elected body for their contributions over the last four years, especially those members who have chosen not to recontest these elections, which includes Caroline Hughes, Uncle Fred Monaghan and chairperson, Katrina Fanning. Katrina has been a strong leader of the elected body over the last four years and an invaluable partner in my work as minister and across government. The expertise and experience of Katrina and the other outgoing members will be missed, but this also presents a fantastic opportunity for new voices to emerge.

### **Environment—single-use plastics**

**MR PARTON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, I refer to the phasing out of single-use plastics that comes into effect on 1 July. In an interview on local ABC radio last month—in fact, 26 May—Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson lamented that biodegradable knives and forks would still end up in landfill because the ACT does not have the infrastructure—a separate collection system and commercial composting operation—to recycle these products. Mr Whish-Wilson said, “If you put them in the rubbish bin they go to landfill and if you put them in the recycling bin they go to landfill. Unfortunately these products aren't suitable for either bin.” Minister, what is the point of phasing out single-use plastics when replacement products will still end up in landfill?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. I refer him to the legislation, where it is very clear that we are banning those so-called compostable plastics. They won't be able to be supplied in the ACT from 1 July—in relation to single-use cutlery, expanded polystyrene and stirrers—with further tranches to come.

We recognise that they cannot be at the moment commercially composted. There are two different standards for compostable products: a household standard and a

commercial standard. We know that it is very confusing for people who want to know whether that product can in fact be recycled or composted. That is why we are phasing out those products from 1 July.

In the future, if we do have the ability to be able to compost those products—the government currently is planning a new in-vessel composting facility—we may need to reconsider that.

In line with the approach that has been taken in other jurisdictions, those products will be phased out because they cannot be recycled in the ACT. If they do go into our recycling stream, they contaminate it and that puts at risk all the material that has gone through to the MRF that is meant to be packaged up, bailed and sold off to be remanufactured. It is a contaminant in our waste stream at the moment. That is why we are phasing it out from 1 July, starting with the products that have been listed under the Plastic Reduction Bill expressly, with further products to come by regulation following a regulatory impact statement being provided.

**MR PARTON:** Given the confusion expressed by this Greens senator, is there confusion in the business community over what falls in and what falls out of biodegradable and non-recyclable products?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. Yes, this is a challenge for the community in terms of making sure that people are educated about which products can be recycled and which cannot, and which are better for the environment and which are actually worse for the environment. Some of the so-called biodegradable products are just plastics that break down into microplastics that cause a huge problem for the environment and are not necessarily better than other alternatives like paper products, bamboo products or products made out of organic materials that can easily be recycled or composted.

We have a bit of an education focus in the lead-up to this phase-out. We have been engaging with hundreds of businesses at their door with that very clear message about what alternatives are appropriate. We have been clear that those compostable alternatives are not allowed as a replacement and that the so-called biodegradable products are not allowed.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, is the government going to set up its own commercial composting solution for this?

**MR STEEL:** In mentioned in my first answer that planning is underway for a large-scale in-vessel composting facility in the ACT. The reason we are doing that is that we recognise that we need to have in place waste facilities here in the ACT that can take on both our garden waste and our food waste as well as, potentially, those products that can be composted on the basis of that commercial composting standard. That is the work that is underway now. At the election, Labor committed to build that facility. We are getting on with the work of delivering it in government. I look forward to updating the Assembly as things progress.

## **Health—National Health Co-op**

**MS CLAY:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, the National Health Co-op has announced that they are going into voluntary administration. What is the ACT government doing to ensure that Canberrans, especially those in Belconnen, have access to affordable healthcare services?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Clay for the question. The news earlier in the week that the National Health Co-op was going into voluntary administration was certainly distressing news for the 30,000-odd members of the National Health Co-op. The very first thing to say about that is that, as the administrators, Slaven Torline, have indicated, it is important to understand that the National Health Co-op has gone into administration while it is solvent, and it will continue to trade on a business-as-usual basis for the time being, with no disruption to services.

It is really important that members recognise that they can continue to use the health co-op's services. In fact, it is important that they do that. The more that people are using those services, the more income will be coming into the organisation while it is in administration, and the better chance the administrator will have of ensuring that they can find a way through this so that the organisation can continue in some way, shape or form. That is a very important point to note.

However, as Ms Clay indicated, if this service were no longer to exist for the 30,000 members—and that is clearly a risk but not an actuality at this point in time—this would be a significant blow to the availability of affordable and bulk-billed primary care services in the ACT. I have written to Greg Hunt, drawing his attention to the situation, reminding him again that it was the commonwealth government that cut the bulk-billing incentive at the beginning of last year from the ACT. That incentive still exists for regional and rural areas, but the ACT was deliberately removed from GPs here being eligible for that bulk-billing incentive. I have asked him again to reinstate that, and I have asked him to ask his officials to work with ACT government officials to see what we can do to address the unacceptably low rate of bulk-billing here in the ACT.

**MS CLAY:** Minister, moving forward, how do you expect access to bulk-billed services to improve for Canberrans?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** This is a fundamentally difficult question. Primary care and funding for general practice are not a responsibility of state and territory governments; they are a responsibility of the commonwealth government. We have repeatedly made the point to the commonwealth that here in the ACT we have the lowest rate of bulk-billing in the country, and we have the lowest number of general practitioners per 100,000 people, in the ACT. This creates significant problems in terms of access to primary care, particularly for low income people, and people with chronic and complex conditions.

I absolutely recognise that general practitioners here in the ACT do a fantastic job, and that many of them do bulk-bill their existing patients who need that. They do

bulk-bill people who are low income, people who are pensioners; they often bulk-bill for children and for people with chronic and complex conditions. But for those people who do not have an existing GP, trying to find a service that will admit that it will bulk-bill is very difficult. That presents a real barrier to primary care, and that then creates further expense right across the system, because people who are not accessing good primary care end up not getting their conditions treated early and end up in the secondary and tertiary systems, which are not only more expensive for the ACT government but also have a cost to the commonwealth.

That is why I have asked Minister Hunt to get his officials to work with ours. I have indicated that we are very open to innovative ways of providing better access to primary care, particularly for those on low incomes and those with chronic and complex conditions in the ACT. The ACT is a great place to pilot innovative mechanisms to do that. I am happy to keep Ms Clay updated on those conversations, but we have only just written that letter, and I am hoping that Minister Hunt agrees to do this work with us.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, what open and transparent process did the government go through in deciding to enter into the \$700,000 agreement with the National Health Co-op regarding the Coombs clinic last year, which is now in doubt, and was there a tender process?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mrs Jones for the question. She is well aware that there was not a tender process for this. This was, of course, an election commitment, so we have been talking to the National Health Co-op about some of the challenges that they were facing.

Members would be aware that the Coombs location was something that was supported by the ACT government through a capital grant, which was a competitive process. It was open to anyone to apply for those grants that were around supporting bulk-billing in parts of the ACT that had low bulk-billing rates. The National Health Co-op were successful in that process and received a capital grant to support the establishment of the Coombs clinic.

The National Health Co-op drew to our attention that they were not using the full space in the Coombs clinic. We were looking to, as I have previously indicated, establish the new medical imaging centre, a community-based imaging centre, at the Weston Creek walk-in centre, and that was going to mean that we would need a new location for our MACH services, but we were also looking to do some innovative things through our walk-in centre announcement. This looked like a really good opportunity to partner to get access. To be clear—and I have said this before—this was going to be a sublease arrangement with the National Health Co-op for that particular space, so that Canberra Health Services could set up the walk-in health centre. But being co-located with a general practice gave that opportunity to do some innovative things.

We have certainly said that we want to work with all of the GPs in the area to understand what it is that we are delivering, and how we can work with all of them. Indeed I will be attending a GP forum this evening to have those conversations.



### **Municipal services—Gwydir Square shops**

**MR MILLIGAN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. The community consultation on the Gwydir Square shops in Kaleen ended on 10 May. Over two months ago, on 7 April, the Canberra Liberals wrote to you asking you to meet with traders but have not received a response. Minister, will you meet with the Gwydir Square traders who want to speak to you about their concerns?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. In relation to the upgrades that our government committed to undertake right around Canberra, including at Kaleen Gwydir Square shops, we have been engaging with the community. Officials were holding pop-ups at the shops and listening to the views of the community. I have been down there myself to speak with some of the business owners as well, including when I launched the consultation on the upgrades.

We are looking forward to having all of that input from the community, business owners and community members in Kaleen and beyond; in Lawson as well. I know many people from right around Belconnen come to use the shopping centre. That will all feed into the work that will be done on the final designs. We will take that community feedback on board to make sure that these important community hubs remain fantastic places to visit, to do business and, for children, to play. We are looking forward to those designs being released in the future, and I hope that will not be too far away.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Milligan.

**MR MILLIGAN:** Minister, what was the outcome of the Gwydir Square community consultation? Will you meet with residents and traders as a group, and what is the outcome of their concerns about wanting public toilets?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. I do not intend to make announcements during question time, Madam Speaker. That would, of course, be out of order. What I can say is that we will take on board the community's feedback. The Canberra Liberals seem to have a concern with us doing consultation with the community on upgrades. We undertake consultation in the lead-up to the upgrades we will be doing on Lake Tuggeranong foreshore. I know Ms Lawder has had an issue with that.

We will do it in relation to shopping centre upgrades and playground upgrades because we want to hear from the community about those issues. I have been very clear that we have not ruled out anything in relation to upgrades and, of course, we will hear their views in relation to issues like toilets. If toilets are opted for, it means we cannot do as many other things around the shops, so that needs to be taken into account, and it will be, in the final designs, which I look forward to seeing once they are developed by Transport Canberra and City Services on the basis of the consultation that has been undertaken directly with the community.

**MS CASTLEY:** Minister, will the government consider adding a container drop-and-go pod to Gwydir Square, given that Kaleen has three sets of shops and no container drop-off point?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. Of course, I am always interested in looking at how we can see further expansion of the container deposit scheme to help build a circular economy in Canberra. We will, of course, work with our partners Exchange for Change and also Re.Group, who manages the scheme through the Return-It brand, to look at how we can encourage take-up of the scheme. That may include additional locations from time to time. I know that they are currently working on some options in relation to that around Canberra. I am happy to take that suggestion on board and see whether it fits in with the plans around trying to encourage greater take-up. Of course, we have seen the Belconnen depot open, which has been highly successful as a place to drop off containers in the ACT.

However, we do need to take into account a range of different issues—where that would be sited, what impact that might have. If it is located in a car park, it may result in less parking being available, and I know that more parking has actually been raised as an issue at that particular shopping centre. We would have to take into account a range of different issues. But I am happy to take on board that suggestion and see what we can do in relation to expanding CDS drop-off points more broadly around Canberra.

### **Arts—funding**

**MR PETTERSSON:** My question is to the Minister for the Arts: can you update the Assembly on the outcome of the Amp It Up! program to support live music in the ACT?

**MS CHEYNE:** I thank Mr Pettersson for his question. The Amp It Up! Fund was developed to assist small to medium live music and performance venues to recover after the impacts of COVID-19 by offsetting the costs associated with programming, production and promotion.

Due to the high quality of applications and the sheer amount of interest, the ACT government has been able to increase the amount of funding to support as many venues as possible.

I am pleased to announce that 23 venues from across the ACT have been successful under the Amp It Up! fund, totalling just over \$790,000.

Locals and visitors to the region can now look forward to a huge range of gigs and performances from now until the end of November, thanks to this much needed boost to the sector.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, what are the different types of venues that have been funded through Amp It Up!

**MS CHEYNE:** I am happy to report that the 23 recipients who have been successful under the Amp It Up! fund represent a diversity of venue types across the ACT. There are city stalwarts, such as Smith's Alternative and King O'Malley's, who are already renowned for their programming of local artists and familiar surrounds, to dedicated events venues such as UC Live and Rose Cottage, who continue to mount innovative gigs of all sizes. I'm particularly pleased to see that some of our community clubs have been successful through Amp It Up!, such as Belconnen Bowls Club and the RUC, bringing live music and performance right to the doorstep of our suburbs. The full list is available at [act.gov.au/livemusic](http://act.gov.au/livemusic).

**MS ORR:** Minister, what are the different types of performances that have been funded?

**MS CHEYNE:** I thank Ms Orr for the question. There are a huge variety of performances to enjoy thanks to Amp It Up. There will be live music shows featuring all manner of genres, ranging from jazz, alternative rock, pop, funk, rap and R'n'B, reggae, blues, metal and more. Some venues have also proposed to include other live entertainment, such as comedy or performance art. Most importantly, by supporting these 23 venues in the ACT, the government will also be supporting the artists from the ACT and beyond who will be booked to perform, as well as those who make sure these events happen: the technicians. I look forward to exploring each venue's program, and I hope to see some of my fellow Assembly colleagues in the audience with me.

### **Planning—green waste**

**MRS KIKKERT:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, thousands of Belconnen residents were relieved to hear that your government has, at the eleventh hour, finally agreed to allow Canberra Sand and Gravel to continue providing green waste services at Parkwood. This decision follows overwhelming community opposition to the closure, which you should have predicted if you had bothered to consult. The announcement noted that alternative sites will be identified "on the north side". Minister, can you assure doubtful residents that a green waste management service will continue in the Belconnen area as opposed to other north side areas?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. The ACT government has been undertaking a significant amount of planning for waste facilities around Canberra, including in relation to the new in-vessel waste composting facility, which we are looking at Hume as a place for; we are also, of course, looking at what is available on the north side through a review which is still underway.

We recognise that that review is not aligned with the closure of the Canberra Sand and Gravel site at Parkwood nor the rehabilitation of the west Belconnen landfill. As a result of that, the ACT government has put in place steps to temporarily extend that service on the current site at Parkwood. We are looking at what other sites might be available potentially at the northern end of the Parkwood site for that service to continue for a period.

However, in the long term, we know that that site is not going to be available, because it will be redeveloped into recreational facilities and housing for the growing Ginninderry region—indeed for the rest of west Belconnen. That is why the planning work is also looking at additional sites around the north of Canberra, with a particular focus on the west Belconnen region, with a view to making sure that we have appropriate combined waste facilities that are available for the people of Belconnen and Ginninderry as well as Gungahlin in the future.

We recognise that there has not been alignment of that piece of work. That is why we have put in place measures to extend those services for people on the north side in the interim.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Minister, what assistance will the government now offer CSG to help them relocate, given that they have said they want to stay in the west Belconnen area?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. Through officials, we will continue to have discussions with Canberra Sand and Gravel about their services into the future and those sites which I have mentioned. We have been clear with them, though, that in the long term, in relation to Parkwood, we will not be able to have those facilities there. In the short and medium terms, of course, there are options, and we are talking with them about how they can continue—as part of the extension of services—the availability of composting and green waste drop-off. But we also recognise that they have other business concerns or other services that they want to offer. I know that those are potentially services that new residents in Ginninderry may benefit from. We are working on that with them. We will look at how we can facilitate that.

We have funded Canberra Sand and Gravel to deliver these services—the green waste drop-off and composting—under our existing contract and through the extensions. We will work with them on what is appropriate, and I will be advised on what is appropriate in relation to procurement.

**MR CAIN:** Minister, is this yet another display of your ministerial style, where you make massively unpopular decisions without consultation—

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Cain, can you start again? I missed the first bit.

**MR CAIN:** I will gladly start again, Madam Speaker. Minister, is this yet another display of your ministerial style, where you make massively unpopular decisions without consultation and then backflip when the community reacts, just like you did with Coolo Park?

**MR STEEL:** No. What we are showing is that we listen to the community, and we are undertaking long-term planning to make sure that we meet the needs of our growing city. Yes, that will mean sometimes that—because of the rehabilitation of an old landfill site, for example, which is absolutely critical because it has reached its end of life—we will need to make tough decisions and work with the community and

with businesses in the area to make sure that we have the services that they need into the future.

That is the work that we have been doing. I appreciate that the planning work has not aligned with the closure of the site. That is why we provided an extension. It is a very pragmatic approach. If that is my style, I am very happy with it.

### **Municipal services—Canberra Cemeteries**

**MS LAWDER:** My question is for the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, the Canberra Cemeteries online grave search has been unavailable for approximately a year and the website states that it will return as soon as possible. A constituent of mine was informed yesterday that the service was back online, only to be told later that afternoon that it will hopefully be available by the end of September. Minister, are you able to provide a definite timeframe of when it will be available for Canberra residents?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. I am very happy to come back to the Assembly about when the online grave search might be available. I did, personally, go onto the website and noticed that certain parts of the website were down. I raised that with the ACT cemeteries and crematoria authority to rectify. That did not include just that function; it included information about basic burial and interment services in Gungahlin cemetery in particular. I will certainly raise that particular issue and come back to the Assembly via a question taken on notice.

**MS LAWDER:** I have a supplementary question. Minister, why is it that Canberrans usually have to chase these issues up themselves, rather than getting the basics right with these types of services?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. I just said that I actually chased it up myself, to address the issue. I appreciate that the ACT cemeteries and crematoria authority is an arm of government, of course, and has its own board. I raise these issues with them when they come up and when they are drawn to my attention. Of course, that information should be available in a timely way to Canberrans so that they can make the best decisions about end-of-life matters.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, why has this important service been unavailable for a year?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. I will come back to the Assembly with further information about that particular service and when it can be made available.

### **Trees—urban canopy**

**MR BRADDOCK:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services: I welcome your announcement this week on the street forestry program and the inclusion of the suburb of Ngunnawal, in my electorate. My question is actually on behalf of a constituent, Lynette from Bonner, who laments the lack of tree cover in her suburb and asks that Bonner can be included in this program.

**MR STEEL:** I thank Mr Braddock for his question and note his interest in the tree canopy on the north side in Gungahlin in particular. As part of our commitment to grow Canberra's tree canopy and renew our tree canopy we are engaging the community. That is a big part of our strategy going forward to make sure we are working in partnership with local neighbourhoods on tree plantings so that they understand the benefit of the trees being planted and so they can have a role in decision-making on the tree species planted in the streets and parks around Canberra.

We have been piloting the program initially with six suburbs—Ngunnawal, Florey, Scullin, Mawson, Kambah and Bonython. We have engaged with more than 1,100 Canberrans. It has been very successful. Those areas have been identified specifically because they have low canopy cover and are more at risk of a heat island. That has been based on CSIRO modelling.

We will be looking at other areas in the future. We think this program will be a good way to engage with the community. It is not going to be the only way; of course, we have had other programs—whether it be Adopt a Park or other programs that have been delivered across government that can contribute to the canopy. But I am certainly happy to take the suggestion of Bonner on board in relation to that, and I think clearly in the areas of Gungahlin we have identified there need to be a lot more trees planted.

In relation to new suburbs, significant numbers of trees are planted by the Suburban Land Agency when they are developing those suburbs, and also their partners who are delivering on global developments. Examples are Thorsby, with 2,631 trees, and Taylor, 8,112 trees. So significant number of trees planted in the greenfield suburbs when they are built and we are looking how to increase that with new suburbs like Whitlam, as they are progressively built. Once they are handed over to Transport Canberra and City Services we will look at how we can plan even more. (*Time expired.*)

**MR BRADDOCK:** What advice would you give to residents of new suburbs which are suffering from heat island effect to increase the tree canopy cover in their suburbs?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. These programs are not the only way to engage in helping to grow and maintain our tree canopy in Canberra. We need to maintain the trees we have and when trees are planted they are watered every six to eight weeks for up to five years by contractors and Transport Canberra and City Services. But residents can help by pouring on a bucket of water from the shower, grey water, if it is particularly hot to make sure the existing plants thrive. They can plant trees on their own private lease land, if they have the opportunity to do that, rather than just rely on the trees on public land.

And, of course, new residents can benefit from a program that is very well regarded and has great longevity in the Canberra community—the plant issue scheme—to pick up plants from our government nursery, Yarralumla Nursery and plant those in their gardens. We have made sure there are tree species available as well as low-lying

shrub and ground cover so that people can pick and choose which species they would like in their gardens and help them to grow and contribute to our canopy cover. There are a range of different ways people can contribute, and we are looking forward to engaging more with the community as part of our approach under the urban forest strategy going forward.

### **Arts—COVID-19**

**MS CASTLEY:** My question is to the minister for business. In April the government eased COVID capacity restrictions for live music venues, but these new rules do not apply to live performance or dance venues. One of those live performance businesses is Flazeda in Belconnen, where the capacity restrictions are hitting their business hard. In a letter to Flazeda, you wrote that “Unfortunately, the viability concern that was presented to the office of the Chief Health Officer related specifically to live music and therefore that was the way everything was written.” You added, “I have discussed with Minister Stephen-Smith my views around this.” Minister, why has your government relaxed COVID capacity restrictions for live music businesses but not for live performance businesses?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** Madam Speaker, given that public health directions are the responsibility of the Chief Health Officer, I have taken this question as Minister for Health. I think that was answered in Ms Cheyne’s correspondence. The original request that was put to the Chief Health Officer to consider was specifically in relation to live music venues, and that announcement was made in relation to live music venues. We are certainly aware, and the Chief Health Officer is certainly aware, of the concerns of businesses that do similar activities that do not necessarily involve music. There has been some planning in relation to that. But with the current situation that we have seen in Victoria and New South Wales, obviously, now has not been the time to make any further announcements about easing of restrictions.

I would certainly encourage any venue that does have concerns to also make direct contact with the exemptions team to talk about the events that they are conducting. The team is incredibly helpful, and those venues that have been talking directly with the team have certainly been able to get some really good advice from them. This is certainly an issue that we are well aware of and the Chief Health Officer is actively considering it.

**MS CASTLEY:** My question was initially to Minister Cheyne about her views. What are your views that you referred to when you answered this constituent about live performance venues?

**MS CHEYNE:** My views are that all live performance venues ideally would be included. With the way that it was written, it ended up being a particularly narrow definition. I have engaged with Minister Stephen-Smith. As Minister Stephen-Smith has noted, she has engaged with the office of the Chief Health Officer regarding this. If we were in a position that we were leading towards a further easing of restrictions, that would be the appropriate time. This is simply no longer the appropriate time.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, what support is your government giving to struggling live performance businesses in the interim while you are awaiting the changes?

**MS CHEYNE:** I believe I detailed the answer to this previously, to my colleagues Mr Pettersson and Ms Orr. We have heard about this loud and clear from live performance venues. Largely, they are live music venues, but we appreciate that live music venues do not just have music; they also have performance, they have burlesque, comedy, poetry readings—all sorts. That is exactly why the Amp It Up! fund is not just about funding live music performances. Also, as I specifically stated in my answer earlier to Ms Orr, programs that venues have put forward that included things like those other types of performances were successful. We are pleased that we were able to increase the pool of funding that was available from \$700,000 to \$790,000, to help as many venues as possible, given the huge interest in the program, which, I think it is fair to say, reflected the demand that is out there. We very much, as a government, value our live performance sector as a whole. It is critical to the character of the city. The arts as a whole are critical to our wellbeing as a city, and ensuring their survival has been a personal mission for me. We were very pleased that we were able to bring this together and that we were able to make the Amp It Up! announcement yesterday. Again I think we can all do our part in making sure, over the coming months, that we go out and support these venues that have had a particularly tough time of it.

### **Florey shops—delivery vehicles**

**MR CAIN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, I recently wrote to you about delivery trucks at Florey shops being forced to block the street because the loading bay is not big enough. In response, you said that TCCS had inspected the area and “would continue to monitor truck parking”. When pressed, you revealed that TCCS had inspected the site for one hour on a Friday morning, and under this extra scrutiny, you committed to a traffic study. Minister, when can Florey residents expect to see that study completed?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. I will take that on notice.

**MR CAIN:** Minister, thank you for taking that on notice, but why is this not a priority, given that you had already committed to my office to undertake such a study?

**MR STEEL:** I am sure the study will be undertaken.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Minister, how many other community requests do you ignore until there is a public outcry? When will you get the basics right?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for the question. I reject the premise of the question. This is an example of where we have not ignored the community. In fact, we are taking action in the form of a traffic study to get the evidence around what intervention should be made in relation to traffic issues around a particular shopping centre.



I think this is more of a Dorothy Dixier about what the government is actually doing to address the needs of the community. We will continue to. There are many issues across the community—many hundreds and thousands of issues that are raised with me—on a monthly basis. We have to assess those based on the best evidence and based on the priorities across the whole ACT community.

We are looking at that one. I am sure that, following that traffic assessment, there will be recommendations about what measures need to be put in place to address the issues there once that study has been completed. That just shows the approach the government is taking—an evidence-based approach—to address the needs of the community and deliver services.

### **Municipal services—Canberra Street Art Festival**

**MS ORR:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, can you please outline the goals of the Canberra Street Art Festival and how it will support artists?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Ms Orr for her question. I am really excited about this new festival. I was very pleased to announce the new festival that will be taking place in November of this year. Running from Friday, 5 November through until 7 November. Canberra's first street art festival will see some of the blank surfaces in our city become canvases for colourful urban creations. The name of the festival, Surface, is about encouraging Canberrans to dive beneath the surface of each mural to explore the deeper meaning of the artwork.

As Ms Orr indicated with her question, this is just another example of how our government is supporting artists and local businesses following quite a difficult year, particularly for businesses in the CBD and the Braddon area, which have had to adjust to more people working from home. That is why the core of the festival will be held in the Braddon-Civic area so that festival goers can more easily move between artwork sites in a central location.

At present the festival production team is identifying potential blank walls and liaising with owners to get permission for their use. I should mention that locations will only be included in the festival with the full consent of property owners. Anyone who has been out to Braddon recently will know that there are quite a few new developments with some very large concrete blank walls that will be a fantastic canvas to add colour and texture to the area. I look forward to announcing the locations of the community canvases closer to the festival, with a list of at least 15 walls identified.

**MS ORR:** I have a supplementary question. Minister, how is the government supporting and encouraging involvement from the Canberra community?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Ms Orr for her supplementary question. When the festival gets underway, we will see local and interstate artists working across several days to paint their wall canvases with colourful textures and wild surfaces. This builds on work already undertaken by our government. Over the past 12 months the ACT government

has been working closely with local artists to have artworks and murals painted in suburbs throughout the city. With the Surface festival adding new and exciting pieces of art to our public realm we anticipate that there will be diversity of themes and subjects in the artworks, including portraits.

While the festival will be focused on Braddon and Civic, certain feature pieces will also appear in Canberra's suburbs, with more information to come in the lead-up to the festival. An expression-of-interest process was held to identify participants, which closed on 18 June. I am told that an impressive number of local and interstate artists have put their hands up to take part. In addition to undertaking the painting of the artworks, there are opportunities available to host workshops, panel talks, exhibitions and Covid-safe tours of the artworks for the community. We will soon be announcing the full range of artists and other community members who will be helping this festival come together.

**DR PATERSON:** Minister, how will the festival support local businesses?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Dr Paterson for her supplementary question. With new and vibrant art works to be painted, the festival will enliven our streets and laneways across Civic and Braddon. The importance of festivals like these for our community—in particular for small businesses—was outlined by the festival director Tim Phibs who, to paraphrase, stated, “Festivals make a positive economic contribution to communities by enhancing areas and creating social destinations.”

Having at least 15 dynamic and colourful artworks created in the heart of our city will lead to an increase in foot traffic and attract more people to the city centre and Braddon. This event is also a direct investment to support local artists and support the production of the festival—all of which benefits our Canberra economy and helps to create jobs. With these paintings here to stay, the impact of the Surface festival will be felt long after November of this year, and will become yet another drawcard for visitors to our vibrant city.

**Mr Barr:** Further questions can be placed on the notice paper.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Before I do call ministers for matters arising from question time, I will just remind members the rules for asking questions. Standing order 117 states that questions shall not contain inferences, imputations or ironical expressions. I note that Mr Cain and Mrs Kikkert have had a few borderline questions this week, so just be aware that, when we return in August, I will be paying some close attention to that standing order.

## **Supplementary answers to questions without notice**

### **Environment—single-use plastics**

**MR STEEL:** Earlier in question time Mr Parton asked me a question in relation to compostable or biodegradable plastics and whether they are included in the Plastic Reduction Bill and the phase-out from 1 July. I present the following paper:

Cleaning up our ACT: Single-use plastics ban—ACT Government leaflet and flyer.

Part of this is headed “Prohibited items”. It says very clearly that bioplastics are banned under the legislation, with the phase-out. It outlines what bioplastic is. These were provided to businesses in the lead-up to the rollout to make sure they could provide alternatives that met the requirements of the legislation.

### **Health—walk-in centres**

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I present the following paper:

Media release—Pilot healthcare facility to provide better healthcare for growing Molonglo region, dated 16 September 2020.

This is a press release from ACT Labor leader Andrew Barr in relation to a pilot healthcare facility to provide better healthcare for the growing Molonglo region, in response to questions I was asked earlier about the Coombs walk-in health centre, which explicitly says:

With a number of young families in the Molonglo Valley, the partnership will focus on maternal and child health by offering a range of maternity health services such as pre-natal checkups and screening closer to home.

There were a range of other things that made clear the difference between this and a nurse-led walk-in centre.

### **Municipal services—Gwydir Square shops**

**MR STEEL:** Earlier in question time Mr Milligan asked me about Kaleen shops and the upgrades there. He stated that I had not responded to correspondence from the opposition regarding Kaleen shops. In fact, I had signed a response to Ms Castley on 12 May which was emailed to her office on 13 May.

### **Mr Ian Duckworth—retirement Statement by Speaker**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Before we go to the tabling of papers, I would like to make a brief statement on the impending retirement of Ian Duckworth. I would like to acknowledge the impending retirement of one of the Office of the Legislative Assembly’s longest-serving officers, Mr Ian Duckworth. He has managed not to be present at the moment. He is the Executive Manager of the Business Support Branch.

After many years working within the Chief Minister’s department, and before that the commonwealth Department of Administrative Services, the Public Service Commission, Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Department of Employment, Education and Training, Ian joined what was then called the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, initially for a 12-month period.

Since then, Ian has had a long and distinguished career within the office. I am advised that, on the date of his retirement, 29 July this year—not long—he will have been here

for 25 years and one day since he joined the office to head a small corporate service team. I do not know what happened to his 12-month stint!

Since that time in the office, Ian has been instrumental in advising and supporting members and their staff on a wide range of matters, including human services, building services, members' entitlements, scrutiny, security, information, communications, capital works and finance.

In advising successive speakers and almost every member, Ian has always exemplified the values of the office—they are professionalism, impartiality, integrity and transparency.

During that time Ian has implemented a number of reforms and innovations in the way the Assembly has been governed. Perhaps Ian's finest legacy is the configuration of this building. Ian led the project to expand the Assembly building and to relocate office staff to the North Building as part of the Assembly's expansion to 25 members prior to the 2016 election. Even the modifications to this chamber that we sit in today were a project that Ian brought to a conclusion.

I would like to note that I have known Mr Duckworth since I came to this place in 2008, and he has always been responsive. I thank him for his patience, because sometimes I know that my office has said, "But what does that mean, Ian?"

In the course of getting information for this, I asked many for a small example of the life of Ian Duckworth in the Assembly. Nothing was forthcoming, so perhaps after 25 years and one day many things will be left unsaid. I note, though, that Mr Ian Duckworth likes to write the occasional letter to the editor. On a Google search, I found one. He likes his food. Perhaps with his retirement we will see more letters to the editor from Mr Duckworth. Many in the chamber will look forward to that.

Members, on behalf of us all, I wish to thank Ian for his commitment to the institution of this parliament and his dedicated and distinguished service to the Assembly, and to wish both he and his wife, Barb, all the best in their retirement.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (3.09), by leave: Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that Ian is one of those people behind the scenes that enables this Assembly to run as effectively as it does. The whole of OLA does that, but Ian has certainly been one of the key figures in that space.

I also came here in 2008 and, as Speaker at that time, I dealt with Ian quite regularly, and I regularly received his advice. He has always been very focused on the logistics and practical issues. As you touched on, he has been at the forefront of dealing with a number of key changes in this building, including, from my perspective, the changing role of the crossbench over the years and the various needs that has facilitated. He has always been very helpful on that front. I refer also to the increase from 17 to 25 members, and the practical issues that flowed from that, including increasing the

footprint across to the North Building, shuffling a lot of people out of this building and shuffling a lot of new members in. In the time that I have been here, there has been an increase from five ministers to nine, which included the need to move the library to fit in the ministers, and various things. He also played a key role in ensuring that this is a healthy and safe workplace.

As you touched on, Ian has always been very professional. He has understood the complexities of working in a political environment, but focused very clearly on the practicalities that help support people from all political parties equally, which I think must be very challenging in this place at times. I think he has done it with great aplomb. He has been a friendly face ever since I arrived in this place. I thank him for that, and wish him well in his retirement.

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (3.10), by leave: Madam Speaker, it would be remiss if someone did not say something on behalf of the Canberra Liberals. As a member of the class of 2008—we are a very tight bunch, Ms Burch, Mr Rattenbury and I; you probably wonder why we are all such good mates, and that explains it—I would like to put some comments on the record as well.

What you said was eloquent and fulsome. When I first got here, Mr Duckworth was responsible for deciding whether we could distribute material in the electorate or not, under what was called EOA. Members might recall that. You would have to go to Mr Duckworth's office to see whether you could get something approved. He showed his experience of having worked in the bureaucracy for over 20 years. He would give comments like, "Well, it wouldn't be incorrect to not do that, Mr Hanson." I would then go back to my office, and my staff would say, "Is it okay to release?" I never really knew, to be honest. That exemplifies his skills as a bureaucrat. I appreciate that he has done other stuff in his time as well.

He has been a pleasure to work with. On behalf of the Canberra Liberals, as a whip and as a member of the class of 2008, we express our support and thanks for everything he has done as well.

## **Commissioner for Standards—member conduct**

### **Statement by member**

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (3.12), by leave: Madam Speaker, yesterday, on 23 June 2021, I chaired a private meeting of the EGEE committee. Other members of the committee, as you would be aware, are Ms Orr, the deputy chair, and Mr Davis. Following the meeting, one of the committee members, Ms Orr, contacted one of my colleagues in this place seeking clarification of a highly personal matter which I had raised in the course of the meeting. Ms Orr has therefore, in my belief, disclosed my personal information to another person and, furthermore, has done so using information she had access to as a member of the EGEE committee, provided during a private meeting.

I believe this to be a breach of several clauses of the members code of conduct. As such, I have today written to the Clerk asking him to forward this matter to the Commissioner for Standards for investigation.

I urge all members in this place to consider their use of committee information carefully. I should not have to remind members of this. Furthermore, I ask them to consider the privacy and dignity of other members of this place, and indeed members of the public, when discussing matters.

I reiterate for the record that this is a highly personal matter for me, and it has caused me considerable distress to have other people talking about it without my knowledge or consent, compounded by the fact that the information came from a private committee meeting.

## **Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee Membership**

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

That Ms Lawder be discharged from the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality and Ms Castley be appointed in her place.

## **Papers**

**Madam Speaker** presented the following paper:

Legislation Act, pursuant to subsection 228(1)—Schedule of relevant committees to be consulted in relation to appointments made by Ministers to statutory offices, dated 23 June 2021.

**Mr Steel** presented the following papers:

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act—pursuant to subsection 8(5)—Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Directions 2021—Notifiable Instrument NI2021-373, dated 18 June 2021.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—Bimberi Headline Indicators Report—June 2021.

Financial Literacy Education and School Banking Programs—Government response to Assembly resolution of 10 February 2021.

Projects Assisting Victims' Experience and Recovery (PAVER) Review—Final report, by the Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU, dated February 2021.

University of Canberra Act—

Pursuant to section 36—University of Canberra—Annual Report—2020, dated April 2021.

Pursuant to section 43 (3)—Report on the Review of the University of Canberra Act—dated 26 May 2021.

## **Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—report**

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee—Minister for Skills, Minister for Transport and City Services and Special Minister of State) (3.15): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—Bimberi Headline Indicators Report—June 2021

**MS DAVIDSON** (Murrumbidgee—Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health) (3.15): I am pleased to present the seventh Bimberi Headline Indicators Report. This report demonstrates the ACT government's ongoing commitment both to transparency for Bimberi Youth Justice Centre's operations and performance, and to the safety, health and wellbeing of the young people detained there.

The seventh report provides data for the first and second quarters of the 2020-21 financial year. It provides for continuing scrutiny of a range of indicators relating to the safety and care of the young people in Bimberi and provides trend data to monitor performance against operational indicators.

In the first half of the 2020-21 financial year, there was a decrease in the number of young people detained in Bimberi, with an average of 11 young people in Bimberi per day. There has also been an increase in staffing numbers, which means better outcomes for young people in Bimberi.

Staff recruitment has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of operational lockdowns required in the first half of 2020-21, with only nine operational lockdowns lasting for one hour each. By the same time last year, Bimberi had already needed to utilise operational lockdowns on 145 occasions. Reduced lockdowns allow young people more time to participate in education, recreation, and social and emotional activities.

Bimberi continues to recruit biyearly to ensure staffing numbers adequately meet operational needs. A recruitment round is currently underway and 12 new youth workers are expected to complete their required training in mid-June 2021.

There were no category 1 incidents in the first half of 2020-21, and there was a 33 per cent decrease in category 2 incidents when compared to the same period in the previous year. However, the number of assaults by young people against staff and other young people has increased. This is highly regrettable, and in many instances reflects the trauma that many young people in Bimberi have experienced in their young lives. Reducing assaults for the safety of staff and young people requires ongoing support to develop prosocial behaviours and relationships. This work is ongoing.

The number of segregation directions made in the first half of 2020-21 remains high. This is largely due to the ongoing public health emergency in the ACT and the precautionary approach to test all young people displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Bimberi works closely with ACT Health to ensure that the health and safety measures in place respond to the specialised environment of Bimberi and the current level of COVID-19 risk in the community.

The 15 segregation directions made to the end of December 2020 include five safety and security segregation directions, and 10 health segregations. All young people tested for COVID-19 have returned a negative result. These data points tell an important story, and tracking and sharing this data is key to ensuring transparency within our youth justice system.

In updating the Assembly, I would also like to tell some stories about some of the young people in Bimberi, their interests, hobbies and what they do on a daily basis. Access to education, vocational training, work experience, rehabilitation programs and recreation is a focus in Bimberi, and young people consistently report that they highly value participating in the Murrumbidgee School.

During the 2020-21 financial year, 100 per cent of young people residing at Bimberi engaged in educational programs. Two young people completed modules towards their year 12 certificate. Participating in a range of programs and services to meet individual needs also ensures young people are well prepared when they return to our community.

On a recent visit to Bimberi, I attended a Friday lunch, where children and young people in Bimberi eat communally with the Bimberi and Murrumbidgee School youth workers and staff. The young people I sat with told me they like learning maths and playing music, and we chatted about chess and guitar. I also spoke to some of the teachers about the value of making strong and early connections with their schools or colleges back in the community.

Following that visit, the young people in Bimberi participated in a charity chess tournament that the centre organised and ran. I visited to hear from the young people about the tournament and the tutoring they have been receiving from a national chess champion. On my visit, I had the pleasure of playing against the two young people who had made it to the grand final. Despite practising, I lost both games—pretty overwhelmingly. They were tough competitors who had clearly been working hard, and it was wonderful to see how chess was helping them to develop their patience, their perseverance and their positive sportsmanship. Almost \$1,000 was raised for Lifeline, the young people's charity of choice.

Each of my visits to Bimberi has been valuable in affirming to me that the ACT government continues to ensure that the centre is as restorative, beneficial and as safe as possible.

The children and young people in Bimberi are supported to pursue their interests and their goals, attend school and make friends. In many ways this re-creates essential, normal parts of life, but there should never be anything normal about a child or a young person being in a youth justice centre. While I am pleased by the reduced numbers of children and young people in Bimberi on an average day, I still look forward to the day that the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is empty. I look forward to having a discussion about chess with young people at a tournament in the community. I look forward to attending music performances at a local community school or youth centre.



That is why, in addition to continuing to support the children and young people in the centre, I commit to working on diversion initiatives such as family functional therapy and raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

I table the following paper:

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—Bimberi Headline Indicators Report—June 2021—Tabling statement, dated June 2021.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Lake Tuggeranong—amenities**

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (3.21): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) the importance of Lake Tuggeranong as the primary recreation area for Tuggeranong community since opening in 1987;
- (b) that residents would like to see improved amenities at the lake with particular consideration to:
  - (i) number of toilets and their amenity;
  - (ii) improved signage;
  - (iii) landscaping and replanting of bushes and grass;
  - (iv) number of tables, bins and barbeques to cater to local demand;
  - (v) recreational facilities for young people; and
  - (vi) path improvements for pedestrians and cyclists; and

(2) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) consult with the Tuggeranong community to inform improvements and future upgrades;
- (b) consider further upgrades to Lake Tuggeranong in future ACT budgets; and
- (c) support Tuggeranong Lake Carers to engage in this process.

I rise today to speak on something that I am sure is dear to the heart of every member for Brindabella—the amenities around Lake Tuggeranong. I often refer to the lake as the jewel in the crown of Tuggeranong. There are so many residents who love to use the lake and the area around it, whether for kayaking and other water activities; fishing, a very popular pastime in the area; riding bikes; walking; running; walking dogs; or taking kids to the learn-to-ride park. It is a really popular area, and I would love to see it further improved.

Before I get to some of the specifics, I want to make it quite clear that my motion today is not about water quality. It may touch on littering, but it is not about water

quality, which is being addressed through a range of other measures. Whether that will be a success or not is yet to be determined. This is about the amenities around the lake, not about water quality. I will be more than happy to come back and talk about water quality another time or more than once.

Lake Tuggeranong could certainly do with a bit of love and attention. I took heart recently from a motion moved by my Greens colleague Mr Braddock about Yerrabi Pond. I was heartened by the tripartisan support for that motion, with everyone agreeing that Yerrabi Pond could do with some upgrades. That was great to see.

I took inspiration from that and I thought, “Why don’t I ask for pretty much exactly the same thing for Lake Tuggeranong?” That was the genesis of this motion. They do say, Mr Braddock, that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery; I am more than happy to acknowledge that what I am asking for here today is pretty much—

**Mr Braddock:** Point of order. I do not mean to interrupt, but it was actually Michael Pettersson’s bill.

**MS LAWDER:** Was it? You must have had a different Yerrabi one.

**Mr Braddock:** I did.

**MS LAWDER:** Sorry. Let me make that clearer: it was Mr Pettersson’s motion about Yerrabi. Well done to Mr Pettersson and the other members who supported it. I am very sorry that I got that wrong. Thank you, Mr Pettersson. I am more than happy to make that acknowledgement. It was passed with support from all parties. I thank Mr Braddock for clarifying that.

I have visited both Yerrabi Pond and Lake Tuggeranong recently. I have done a little list of the amenities and facilities in both locations—the number of bins, tables and chairs, shade sails, dog poo bag dispensers, nature play areas, playgrounds, other recreational facilities, lighting and toilets. The list goes on and on. I did a bit of a numerical comparison between the two locations.

Apart from the number of facilities in each of those categories, many people I have spoken to feel that Yerrabi Pond looks a little better cared for than Lake Tuggeranong. That is one of the first things I would like to say: a bit of love and attention would go a long way around Lake Tuggeranong.

For many residents in the Tuggeranong area, the lake is a place they go to relax and unwind. They can enjoy the natural facilities and they can enjoy some of the built facilities—for example, the playgrounds and the learn-to-ride park. There is a skate park near Lake Tuggeranong as well. Many local parents have children’s birthday parties down there. The learn-to-ride park is a very popular place.

For years now we have had some issues with water quality. I am not going to go into water quality now because that is going to take some time and effort—and probably money—to fix. But there are things we can do now to improve the facilities around Tuggeranong for local residents.

Increasing the number of toilets is something I have spoken about for some time. There is one new toilet block under construction—it must be just about to be opened—near the learn-to-ride park. I am pretty excited to have that there. I started a conversation about that years ago with Ms Fitzharris when she was the minister for city services. Parents who took their kids to the learn-to-ride park had told me that the nearest public toilets at the Sea Scouts hall were too far away for parents with small children, especially if they have more than one child. Children being children, they usually leave it right to the last minute to tell you when they want to go to the toilet. It is really hard to pack up your kids, some of whom do not want to leave the learn-to-ride park, and walk 150 metres or more around the bend to the public toilets near the Sea Scouts hall. Now, 150 metres does not sound very far, but for little kids, with their bikes, scooters and nappy bags, often kids who do not want to be going, it is quite a long way. And because it is around the bend and around another bay, and there are lots of trees down in that area, you cannot leave your other child or children at the learn-to-ride park while you take one child to the toilets. I am really pleased that, although it has taken quite a long time, we are finally getting another toilet block at Lake Tuggeranong.

I must confess that it is not as popular with a couple of residents who have recently moved into the units at Greenway. When they purchased their unit, they may not have known that there was going to be a toilet block built on the foreshore. It is not quite in front of their block, and Mr Steel assures me that it has been located so that it is not visually intrusive. But for the greater good, for the benefit of more people, I am really pleased to see more toilets down there. It is not before time. That is a very positive thing. I have been asking for it for years, and it is great that it is finally getting done.

I also think that there would be some scope for improved maintenance of the grassed area, the bushland and the trees. In the past, I have written many times about trees that had fallen down or trees where branches had fallen off and needed to be removed, possibly for safety reasons. In many cases, it was apparent that there were dead trees or trees that had already dropped branches and were on the way out. A bit more care around the bush and the trees would go a long way.

Signage is an area where we do not necessarily need a lot more attention. On a walk around both facilities, it seemed to me that there were about three times as many signs around Lake Tuggeranong as around Yerrabi Pond. Yet I still get calls for more signage. A lot of that relates to keeping left, keeping dogs on the lead, and ringing your bell if you are on a bicycle. People still feel that there is a need for better behaviour by some people using the area. But is it more signage that is needed? I am not necessarily convinced, given that there is already quite a lot of signage.

Another issue that is raised very commonly with me is the maintenance of the paths, and even the widths of the paths and some of what I think are called banana rails around the lake, which some people feel are quite dangerous. Parkrun uses part of the path around Lake Tuggeranong each Saturday morning, and occasionally they have a water hazard on the course—a bit of mud and water over one part of the path near the Monash end. Between the pedestrian foot bridge and the road bridge, there is an area that can get quite muddy and the path gets covered.

There are also desire lines. I have written to a succession of ministers about this. Desire lines are paths where people like to walk, usually the shortest path between point A and point B. There are a couple of examples where people are walking where there are no paths. This means that there is a lot of degradation of the soil in those areas. There is no grass left; the topsoil gets washed away; it becomes very rocky underneath; nothing is going to grow there for a long time. I have written about having paths built on those desire lines, but I have yet to have that achieved.

A couple of examples specifically come to mind for me. When you come down off the bridge on the Drakeford Drive side of the lake towards the dog park side, people cut the corner. There is a lot of degradation of the slope there. Another one is near the Sea Scouts hall, where there are some barbecues and a little jetty; people often cut that corner. There is a well-worn path. It would be great to make that a more formal path. Again, it gets rutted out and really muddy. Then people walk further out into the grassed area and it makes more and more trouble. Installing additional barbecues, tables and bins is a practical measure that would make the area even more attractive than it already is.

Litter around the lake is something I have raised with a succession of ministers. Members of the public request more bins. Various ministers have come back with a range of reasons why more bins are not possible. That is not what the community are asking for. They hate seeing litter. There are people who actually litter. With any luck, if there were more bins around the lake, some of that litter would end up in a bin rather than around the lake. I must commend a number of locals who pick up litter when they are out and about walking around the lake. That is a great thing to see.

Some recreational facilities for younger people could be provided at Lake Tuggeranong. At Yerrabi Pond they have public graffiti walls. The minister was talking about a street art festival there soon. They have a BMX track, a basketball court, a skate park and a flying fox, which is a bit more than we have around Lake Tuggeranong.

At the very least, I would like to see Tuggeranong residents get the same level of attention for their major recreation area that Yerrabi Pond is getting. Tuggeranong residents often say to me that they feel neglected. ABC radio were recently down in Tuggeranong, and I think that was their headline takeaway from their time down there on 19 May. The headline was “Tuggeranong residents say they’re being left behind as Canberra’s population and infrastructure investment head north”.

This is an opportunity for us to come together—just as we did with Mr Petterson’s motion for Yerrabi Pond—and say to Tuggeranong residents, “We hear your concerns about Lake Tuggeranong and we will support more infrastructure and a bit more love, care and attention for the area around Lake Tuggeranong, because we acknowledge how important this is for local residents.” I look forward to hearing the views of other members of this place in support of my motion today.

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee) (3.34): I thank Ms Lawder for bringing forward this motion, which supports Labor’s election commitment to upgrade the Lake

Tuggeranong foreshore. I am really pleased to talk about this as the minister responsible for this initiative and as a lifelong south-sider and Tuggeranong resident.

As Ms Lawder and the other Brindabella members would be aware, during the election, we set out Labor's plan for Tuggeranong, which, among a significant range of investments, included over \$4 million in a commitment for major improvements to the Tuggeranong foreshore precinct, from Reed Street South to Tuggeranong town park and beyond. We also committed to consult with the community as part of that process. We are looking forward to delivering four budgets over the next four years delivering on our election commitments.

The commitment was made to undertake a range of upgrades. They will be based on community consultation but could include a new playground, recreational facilities, better green spaces and accessibility improvements. We have already got to work on a new toilet to provide people with access to toilet facilities near the learn-to-ride area and Mimi's Pit Stop.

I would have been equally pleased to talk about the Canberra Liberals' plans for Tuggeranong and their plans to upgrade Lake Tuggeranong. Unfortunately, the Canberra Liberals did not release a plan for Tuggeranong before the election and made absolutely no commitments to improving the lake whatsoever. This goes to a theme that we see with the Canberra Liberals: they never promise and they cannot deliver. Sometimes the Greens get criticised for taking credit for things, but I think that is unfair to the Greens. This is a clear example of the Liberals taking credit for Labor's commitments to upgrade the Tuggeranong foreshore, which we are so committed to. I want to acknowledge the work that has been done by Joy Burch in relation to raising these issues, which resulted in our commitment, which we will deliver in this term of government.

The commitment recognises the importance of Canberra's lakes to their local communities as destinations for recreation, exercise and socialising. Members would recall that in November 2020 the ACT government opened new laneways in Tuggeranong town square, an upgrade that represented a significant investment in revitalising the town centre. Tuggeranong residents saw what investments our government was making in Tuggeranong as a result of the work on the laneways, as a result of the work on Anketell Street. That was reflected in the election result, where Labor got a seven per cent swing towards us. The Liberals are now reeling and, with this motion, trying to catch up and attempt to take credit for our election commitments and the work that the ACT government has been doing more broadly to revitalise Tuggeranong town centre.

The laneways project reimagined the connection from Anketell Street to the lake shore and the town square, opening up views of the lake and making pedestrian access easier from Anketell Street to the lake shore. It included spaces for outdoor dining; new shade structures; seating; water; permeable paving around trees; rain gardens on Cowlshaw Street; a level and accessible place open for everyday use and events; approximately 40 deciduous trees; and a new grass space on the lake foreshore, which looks absolutely fantastic. That is right next to the newly upgraded Tuggeranong

rowing club, which our government invested over \$200,000 to upgrade and which has supported more people to use the lake for recreation.

The upgrades to the laneways and the rowing club followed the upgrades to the Tuggeranong town centre, with the upgrades of Anketell Street completed in 2017, with urban realm improvements on the street and an entry to the laneways area with new pavers and tree replacements. It really is coming along. That project has been denigrated by those in the opposition; but, combined with the laneways project, it has made it a real difference to Tuggeranong. It has made it a really fantastic town centre to visit and dine in.

The stage 2 upgrade completed in 2019 reconfigured the carriageway to create a slow traffic and pedestrian-friendly environment with a raised pedestrian zone, off-road cycle lane and pavement improvements. It created more opportunities for outdoor dining as well as better access for pedestrians and more trees.

More recently, construction commenced on the Tuggeranong pathways project to improve existing paths and connectivity in the Tuggeranong town centre, which is based on the lake. These improvements will be undertaken along Reed Street North, Reed Street South and Soward Way, including a new protected cycle lane, pedestrian refuges, prioritised pedestrian crossings and general kerb and pavement improvements.

On the other side of the lake, as I mentioned, a new toilet recently has been constructed in the Lake Tuggeranong District Park adjacent to the learn-to-ride facility and nearby barbecue facilities and within walking distance of the Greenway enclosed dog park.

We have upgraded the dog park, with the installation of new irrigation to address dust and surface issues, as well as the planting of more shade trees to improve amenity for dog owners and their pets. I have been down there many times with my dog. Over time, they do tend to kick up dust and prevent grass growth. We are hoping that the rehabilitation of this important recreational space will be much valued by pet owners once those works have been completed.

These staged improvements confirm the government's continued investment in revitalising the Tuggeranong town centre and the Tuggeranong foreshore. When it comes to investing in Tuggeranong, ACT Labor has detailed plans that we committed to at the election, and we are getting on and delivering on those promises.

In delivering all these upgrades for the Tuggeranong community, the ACT government recognises that involving the community and seeking their input into improvements and upgrades around Canberra ensures the best outcome for those who most often use these areas. This has been evident in the recent improvements completed in the Tuggeranong town centre. Whether it is the Anketell Street upgrades or the laneways upgrades, extensive consultation was undertaken with the local community, including the Tuggeranong Community Council. The outcome has been a really fantastic newly upgraded space that is being enjoyed by many people in our community.

Our recognition of the importance of the local community's input and support has been demonstrated in other recent consultations. In Gungahlin, on the north side, we have already received 1,000 pieces of feedback from the local community in relation to upgrades at Yerrabi Pond, which again were a Labor election commitment that we are now getting on and delivering. And we are doing so in consultation with the community. The consultation process involved a range of pop-ups and meetings with community councils and local resident groups as well as letterbox drops, flyers, onsite signage and social media. No doubt we will continue to do that type of engagement with the community on similar projects, including our planned works on the Lake Tuggeranong foreshore upgrades that Labor committed to and is delivering.

We are actively committed to engaging with as many members of the community as we can on these types of projects. Our varying methods demonstrate this. It is not just formal consultation processes that trigger our engagement with the community; we are out there regularly engaging with local communities and stakeholders. Ms Burch has been a shining example of that, bringing many of these issues to light and actually doing the policy work and getting the policies worked up ahead of the election so that our party could commit to those and then deliver them in government.

In addition, we are regularly engaging with local community councils, including the Tuggeranong Community Council, and residents associations, whether it be via direct email, phone contact or attending their monthly meetings. This will continue, particularly as the new budget is handed down in August and we commence work on a range of new projects. I am excited to let not only the Tuggeranong community but all Canberrans know what is coming in their region. I will keep them involved and updated as projects progress.

I again thank Ms Lawder for the opportunity to talk about Labor's record of investment on the south side and our commitment to upgrades around Lake Tuggeranong. They have been substantial in previous years, in the previous term, and they will continue in this term, as we deliver on what we committed to do, what we said we would do, building trust with the community and getting on with the job. That is in stark contrast to the Canberra Liberals, who never promise and cannot deliver.

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (3.43): I rise to speak to Ms Lawder's motion on Lake Tuggeranong and the amenity of the Lake Tuggeranong area. I was very excited when I saw it appear on the notice paper. It speaks to me of the blessed hybrid we have as members of the Legislative Assembly, as both state MPs and city councillors. Yesterday I had a healthy and robust debate with Mr Hanson from the opposition around an issue that other state MPs would usually debate. But on issues of city council responsibility, it is wonderful to be able to work together with the other members for Brindabella, when what matters is not your political stripe but what part of town you are from, how much you love it and how prepared you are to fight for it.

I really like Ms Lawder's motion. I cannot think of any amendments or anything I would not have said myself. It reflects clear consultation with the community, and it makes recommendations consistent with what I heard at stalls and meetings, and through correspondence, from the residents I represent in Tuggeranong even before I had the pleasure of being elected to this chamber.

Time and time again—I am sure my Brindabella colleagues will agree with me when I say this—we hear and read from Tuggeranong residents that they feel left behind—that infrastructure, investment and even the beautification of Canberra seems to come to us last. This motion reflects a clear and concerted effort to address this disparity. I think I speak for a lot of Tuggeranong residents when I say that I will be excited to see what comes out of it.

I am hard-pressed to find anything here to dispute. Lake Tuggeranong has been a primary recreation area for the Tuggeranong community since 1987. Like so many Tuggeranong residents, I have fond memories of Lake Tuggeranong. I had my first date walking around the lake as a teenager. I used to sit by that nasty old broken gazebo near the old laneways projects to have lunch most days as a student at Lake Tuggeranong College. I am really glad to see that the government has fixed up that area and made it into quite a beautiful spot.

Quite recently, Sandi from the India Australia Association was kind enough to invite me to speak at their family fun day event at Tuggeranong Park, where we all had the pleasure of enjoying the amenity of the area. The park draws families. It has playgrounds for young kids; a skate park for the older ones, and for Minister Davidson; a dog park much loved by the local residents; and a leisure centre for everyone. It has barbecues and cycle tracks. It draws communities like parkrun and other local groups.

What it does need is a bit more TLC to make sure that we have amenities and resourcing to support our vibrant community. Ms Lawder's motion identifies a number of amenity improvements that I, too, would love to see around the lake.

Providing more toilets is a given. I am sure that no-one in Tuggeranong would be surprised to know that we receive a fair bit of representation about improving our toilets around the lake. Good facilities can make a difference to a good day out.

Many Tuggeranong residents have let me know that they want better signage around the lake. Above and beyond better signposting for facilities and locations, people are interested in having signs encouraging users to keep their waterways clean.

I love the idea of making our landscapes as green and well-maintained as possible. Part of the Greens' repairing the land package that we brought to the last election was to advocate for planting and installing hundreds of thousands of trees and shrubs. We know that grass coverage and green space are absolutely vital for a healthy ecosystem.

Tables, bins and barbecues mean that more people are able to enjoy a comfortable day out in the sun. Mr Assistant Speaker, it is a big yes from me. As the Greens spokesperson for young people, I welcome the proposal for more recreational facilities for young people. With Lake Tuggeranong College so close by, it is important that we continue to invest in Tuggeranong so that our young people do not feel compelled to play and study elsewhere.



I saw a gleam in the eye of my colleague Ms Clay when the issue of path improvements for pedestrians and cyclists came up. Active travel is an important part of getting people moving around our city, reducing congestion and carbon emissions, and improving public health. That is why the Greens are constantly talking about increasing the amount of money spent on constructing and maintaining active travel infrastructure to be 20 per cent of our roads budget.

The thing I particularly love about investing in our public infrastructure is that it benefits everyone. Everyone can turn up and use the dog park, the skate park and the play park. Anyone can go for a walk around the lake in the afternoon with their date. Anyone can sit under the new gazebo on their lunch break. It heartens me to know that the investments we make to Tuggeranong Lake will be enjoyed by all Tuggeranong residents. Given that the beauty of public spaces is that they are available to everyone, I strongly believe that any development we do should keep accessibility at the forefront. I am aware that an access committee is being formed; I hope they will be consulted on this development to make sure that Lake Tuggeranong is a great place for everyone.

It would be remiss of me not to touch on one more thing that we have received a fair bit of communication on—the state of the lake itself. We are more than aware that algal blooms pose a great threat to our water quality, and therefore a risk to residents who would otherwise enjoy their time on or by the lake. I was proud to stand with the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Rattenbury, as he announced a floating wetland trial in Lake Tuggeranong earlier this year to stop algal blooms from seeding and spreading. It will run for two years. It is the first of its kind in the ACT, and will, hopefully, act to protect and improve the water quality of Lake Tuggeranong. I hope this signals to the chamber that we take all elements of Lake Tuggeranong seriously.

On water quality, I noticed that the motion makes special reference to the Tuggeranong Lake and Catchment Carers, a group operating under the Southern ACT Catchment Group. These hardworking volunteers have worked tirelessly for years to give Tuggeranong lake a bit of TLC. I would like to thank them sincerely for their ongoing commitment to the Tuggeranong community.

In conclusion, yes, we should consult frequently and earnestly with the Tuggeranong community to inform improvements and future upgrades. Yes, we should consider further upgrades to Lake Tuggeranong in future ACT budgets, as well as upgrades to the greater Tuggeranong area. And, absolutely, we should support hardworking groups of volunteers like the Tuggeranong lake carers to engage in this process. I thank them and other hardworking groups for keeping Lake Tuggeranong cleaner, fresher and livelier.

In this place it can be easy to get caught up in partisan politics, to oppose something for the sake of the party's broader political strategy or for opposition's sake. If there one thing I hope to stress to the chamber, and to the Canberra community, it is that I am not here to get in the way of good policy and good ideas. I am not ashamed to say that I wholeheartedly agree with my Liberal Brindabella MLA colleague Nicole Lawder.

**Mr Parton:** Is this the same guy?

**MR DAVIS:** I will take the interjection; I appreciate it. Funnily enough, Mr Parton, it is the same guy. This is what it looks like to take things issue by issue and respond on merit. This is what not treating every single policy under a strict, rigid ideological framework looks like. This is what it looks like to work with all 25 members when they have great ideas but to be active and prepared to call out things that you do not think are good ideas. That is what an active and considered democracy must look like.

Yes, it is fair to say that in the short time I have been here, I have been quick to call out other members of this place who I do not feel have gotten the policy solutions right. But on this issue—an issue about Lake Tuggeranong and amenity around the lake and in the lake, improving infrastructure for our shared constituency—I stand shoulder to shoulder with Ms Lawder. I commend her motion.

**MR PARTON (Brindabella) (3.51):** I rise to wholeheartedly support my friend and colleague Ms Lawder in her attempts to bring improvements to Lake Tuggeranong. Sometimes when you listen to debates in this place, you read budget papers and you watch slick PR videos from the Chief Minister's massive machine—it is a bit bigger than ours—you would swear that Canberra falls off a big cliff south of Hindmarsh Drive, that you just drive along and when you get to Hindmarsh Drive it is gone.

There is a big part of Canberra south of Hindmarsh Drive. I have said in this chamber before that when I have been trying to explain Tuggeranong to those who have never been to Canberra, I say that Tuggeranong is the part of Canberra that is most like the rest of Australia. Often, we appear to be punished for that and often we seem to be left behind.

Although the minister rose and suggested that he was committed to Tuggeranong and the lake, residents and community members are not as buoyant in assessing what the government has delivered thus far, as evidenced by the speech from my Greens friend Mr Davis. Mr Davis said that he could not think of any way to amend this motion because it reflects the views that are coming to him from constituents.

It was wonderful for Mr Steel to stand up in this chamber and talk about the box-ticking exercise that this government has done on Anketell Street. Do you want to hear about box ticking? Mr Steel spoke about the bike infrastructure on Anketell Street. I am a cyclist, and Anketell Street was not a road that I would have chosen to ride on, because there are a lot of places where two lanes come down to one; there are too many cars; and there is not enough bitumen. I was over the moon when we were told we were going to have this new bike infrastructure on Anketell Street. I remember that on the day I went to ride it, I thought, "Hang on a second; this doesn't actually connect to anything." There is no safe way to ride your bike to the section of new bike infrastructure on Anketell Street. It looks wonderful, but it is like a bridge to nowhere. That is the biggest single reason that nobody uses it. It is wonderful infrastructure as a stand-alone, but it does not connect to any part of the network, so cyclists are faced with exactly the same problems they had before. Mr Steel is probably quite aware of this, and I am hoping that it does get fixed, but I do not think

that it can be trumpeted as a great victory for Tuggeranong along with the big speed hump in Anketell Street.

We often see this north–south divide evidenced here in the chamber. It was evidenced earlier this week by a motion by my Labor colleague Mr Pettersson which called upon the government to expand the e-scooter scheme, but only to Gungahlin and Mitchell. The people in the south of our city have every right to feel neglected and left behind by this Labor-Greens government.

What a test this motion is for this Assembly. It is very similar to the earlier motion on Yerrabi Pond, but it is not talking about Gungahlin; it is talking about Tuggeranong. Lake Tuggeranong is an important part of the Tuggeranong Valley.

Over breakfast this morning, my wife and I were discussing the proceedings in the Assembly. What else would you be talking about over breakfast in Canberra? She asked me about this particular motion. She asked me how many times I believed I would have circumnavigated the lake or part thereof. I could not answer. It would be hundreds. I have done nearly 70 official parkruns at Lake T. Additionally, my road bike has been around the lake on countless occasions—

**Ms Cheyne:** You almost get a T-shirt!

**MR PARTON:** I have, yes. It does not look good on me; it is red. On dozens of occasions we have taken a gentle stroll all the way around. In fact, every time in the last four years that my Strava app has said, “Congratulations on your longest run ever on Strava,” it has been Lake Tuggeranong. I am just saying that it forms a pivotal part of the recreation of many people.

The lake, or at least its immediate surrounds, has changed during my time in Canberra. Much of it is courtesy of this government’s urban infill targets, targets which will be almost impossible to fulfill in Tuggeranong as a district. We have seen the addition of many new dwellings in close proximity to the shores of Lake Tuggeranong. This has led to a level of disruption to life around the lake as things are built. It has led to traffic congestion as we have never seen it before in the town centre, I think people would agree. It has also led to more recreational use of the lake. But the massive increase in the recreational use of the lake has not been matched by a commensurate increase in facilities. We are well and truly feeling that.

It is interesting to talk about the planning vision. I spent a number of years as the planning shadow for the Canberra Liberals. When you look at the Labor planning vision, it is very clear that they see a strangulation of the population in Tuggeranong. All the population projections across the city see Tuggeranong’s population declining. So it is no wonder to me that they are going through what is really just a box-ticking exercise for Tuggeranong. They do not care, Mr Assistant Speaker. They do not really care.

It is well past the time that the government should be having more robust conversations with the community to get a handle on what the people of Tuggeranong want and then provide those improvements. I join with Ms Lawder—I am sure most

users of Lake Tuggeranong and all those in the Tuggeranong district join with her—in calling on this Labor-Greens government to show Tuggeranong the respect that it deserves, to support Ms Lawder’s motion and to deliver on those commitments.

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (3.58), in reply: I thank members for their support of my motion today. I was a little perturbed by some of Mr Steel’s commentary. I have gone back to my motion. I thought I knew what was in it. On re-reading it, I did know what was in it. It is not about Tuggeranong town centre, Anketell Street and Reed Street; it is about Lake Tuggeranong and the foreshore area.

Mr Steel did make reference to the foreshore area and the connection through Tuggeranong town square or whatever you want to call it, where the gazebo that Mr Davis so lovingly referred to, from his lunchtime attendance, used to be. I have not said that there was anything wrong with those improvements. That was not what the thrust of my motion was about today. I am not talking about Anketell Street improvements, Mr Steel. I am not talking about the laneways project either. I am talking about the recreation area around Lake Tuggeranong.

I think most members here understood that that was exactly what I was talking about. And whilst I also was not talking about water quality, I can absolutely take Mr Davis’s comments on board. I, too, am deeply concerned about water quality in Lake Tuggeranong and I will continue to pursue the matter. It is just that that was not the thrust of my motion. My motion was not about the town centre, and it was not about water quality and algal blooms. We have a beautiful resource in the centre of the Tuggeranong district and it can be so much better.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Tuggeranong Lake carers and the groups that meet twice a year for a clean-up around Lake Tuggeranong. They are supported by the Tuggeranong Community Council, who do their bit to keep litter down on the lake. I join with them whenever I can, often in my kayak, so that I can access material floating in the lake or stuck in the reeds rather than focusing only on the shore itself.

Despite Mr Steel’s comments—I am not quite sure where he gets his information from—in the last election we did have a campaign promise to improve Lake Tuggeranong’s surrounds and water quality. It was on our campaign materials, which were letterboxed to all Tuggeranong households. As usual, I am sure that Mr Steel did not want the facts to get in the way of a good story, so he chose to make up his own narrative when we clearly did have policies about Lake Tuggeranong’s surrounds and water quality.

There are many good things about Lake Tuggeranong and its surrounds. We want to make it even better for the residents of Tuggeranong. We hear from residents of Tuggeranong every day. Whilst we do not have the resources of government at our disposal, we do have our own pop-up stalls. We do doorknocking. We do meet people at coffee shops and chat to them. And we do receive dozens, if not hundreds, of emails, letters, calls and comments on our social media pages from residents. This is where we draw our knowledge of these types of issues from. Mr Davis clearly has a similar experience to ours.

This government should be adding to the narrative about what the issues are for local residents, not trying to dismiss them as out of hand because they have their own consultation process. There are people who might come to us and there are people who might go to the government pop-ups, but they are all residents. They are all constituents. They are all taxpayers and ratepayers. They deserve to have their views heard and represented here in this place. That is exactly what we are trying to do here today.

I thank members for their support and I very much look forward to improvements at Lake Tuggeranong, which, despite political rhetoric, is what I think we all want.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Education—school policies**

**MR DAVIS (Brindabella) (4.03):** I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) acknowledges that:

- (a) in 2019, the ACT Assembly declared support for the ACT Strike for Climate demonstrating the Government's support for youth-led climate action;
- (b) the foundations of the ACT Education Directorate's Future of Education Strategy are to:
  - (i) place students at the centre of their learning;
  - (ii) empower teachers, school leaders and other professionals to meet the learning needs of all students;
  - (iii) build strong communities for learning; and
  - (iv) strengthen systems to focus on equity with quality;
- (c) civics and citizenship education is a core component of the Australian curriculum where students develop understanding of the Australian political process and critical engagement with social issues;

(2) notes:

- (a) best practice pedagogy requires teachers to provide students with opportunities to lead and direct their learning and create bridges between new knowledge and the outside world;
- (b) a responsive and relevant education system is underpinned by community involvement and recognises the role of the community, families, and civil society in the education of young people;
- (c) engaging in peaceful protests and non-violent direct actions is an important form of political expression, essential for a well-functioning democracy; and
- (d) since October 2018, Australian students have demonstrated their leadership, political understanding, and the use of peaceful protest

through the School Strike 4 Climate movement which has seen over 350 000 Australians leave work and school to support action on climate change; and

(3) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) give effect to an ongoing policy of support for teachers and schools to allow for students to attend organised peaceful protests or demonstrations that accord with standard ACT Government policies around the management of peaceful protest;
- (b) consider strengthening support to Elections ACT and the ACT Legislative Assembly education offices to support teachers to offer increased civics and democracy education for ACT school students; and
- (c) provide a copy of this motion to the Education Directorate and instruct them to ensure that, consistent with the Australian curriculum and the *Australian Education Act 2013* (Cth), public schools should provide all students with an understanding of, and ability to participate in, civil society and democratic processes.

I proudly rise today to speak to the motion in my name that supports the active participation in decision-making of young Canberrans. The ACT Greens believe in empowering the next generation to be involved in the decisions that will impact them. We believe that in a healthy democracy young people should be supported to be engaged and active public citizens. The ACT Greens believe that the views and interests of young people must be given the same weight when it comes to the decisions that will affect their futures.

This motion secures support for students to participate in peaceful protest by fulfilling the promises we made to them during last year's election campaign: to support their right to strike from school and strengthen civics and democracy education. I am proud to continue the important conversation about young people's representation in our democracy, a conversation which the ACT Greens have been having in this Assembly since 1996—when I was just five years old.

Young people are immensely diverse and active participants in our democracy and public institutions. The ACT Greens know that it is a matter of social, economic and environmental justice that their voices and votes should be represented in our parliaments and in civil society.

Supporting youth democracy is an issue close to my heart, both as the youngest member of this Assembly and as someone whose political career began when I was just 15 years old. In 2006, when I was in year 9, my peers and I were forced to protest the closure of our local school. As this Assembly now knows well, 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 mine. I organised protests, spoke with politicians and engaged my fellow students about the impact of the proposed closure on my school and the local community.

This experience significantly altered the course of my life and led me to understand the role of peaceful protest and community action in changing the lives of people like

me. Students—young people—led the campaign to keep Canberra’s schools open in 2006. I was lucky enough to not only bear witness to this process but actively represent and advocate for students and their families during this campaign. The mobilisation of young people organised by young people during this time was pivotal to protecting public assets and ensuring that key school infrastructure has remained in some of our most heavily populated areas. It was the foresight shown by young people that first identified population trends that would necessitate the retention of these schools.

I have had the privilege in my time working and organising with the ACT Greens to have supported many young people to participate in our party and in the political system that will determine their future as we grapple with climate change and ever-growing wealth and economic inequality. I understand that we are not the only party who have seen membership growth from young people in recent years. Josh Manuatu, former Young Liberals president, who appeared before the inquiry into the 2020 ACT election and the Electoral Act, proudly claimed that the Young Liberals were the largest youth political movement in the country despite arguing we should not lower the voting age. This tells us that young people, regardless of their experiences, belief and philosophies, are active citizens, involved in political movements, and believe that their voices are necessary and valued in political and policy debates.

As the wording of my motion seeks to emphasise, students participating in protest is important not only to raise their voices in our democracy, but as a form of visual learning. I cite the experience and political engagement of the work experience student in my office this week, Juliet, who has participated in climate strikes since she was 13 years old. To quote Juliet:

I have been to the school strike for climate rallies three times and it is always a great experience. It is an opportunity where I can help protest on climate change and feel like I can be a part of getting the community’s collective voice heard on the issue. I often attend climate strike rallies, not only because I find it important to contribute to the cause, but also because ... the environment at the rallies is super supportive. Anyone is welcome to show up. Everyone is there to have a good time but more importantly to speak up about climate change. There are always a bunch of people and friends from my school who I know go to the rallies regularly, which definitely gives me more motivation to go myself.

Juliet’s words show that young people are active participants in our community and that the movements they are building to solve the world’s most complex problems are inclusive, welcoming and effective. This motion ensures that students are supported to attend and encourages their teachers and educators to make valuable learning experiences of these opportunities.

Research in the space of young people and politics evidences a need for innovative and engaging civics and democracy education in Australia. My motion is designed to support teachers to provide facilitated learning opportunities to students here at the Assembly and to increase support for teacher training through the Education Office at the Assembly and through Elections ACT.

Research also shows us that young people are increasingly utilising digital tools to organise and participate in our society. It would be great if our hardworking and highly skilled education unit right here at the Assembly was resourced more generously to deliver high-quality and modern education to our young people that reflects the way that they engage in politics.

We need to support our teachers to provide opportunities to educate our students and to make it easy for them to build the confidence of teachers to teach in this area. It is essential to build the confidence of young people to contribute to our society by involving them in our political systems and processes.

Earlier this year, my office was lucky enough to meet with Lucy Stronach, the current Australian youth representative to the United Nations. Lucy is travelling around Australia this year to identify the needs and experiences of diverse and under-represented young people before she reports back to the Australian government and to the United Nations. We talked about the experiences of LGBTQIA+ young people, young people who have experienced family violence, youth homelessness and young people's participation in politics and Australian democracy.

A 2019 report card on children's rights in Australia published by the Australian Human Rights Commission found that Australians under the age of 18 felt that they have no voice in society. Lucy's work is one really important way of capturing the voices and experiences of young people in all their diversity, and I look forward to welcoming her back to the Assembly later this year to present to all of us on her findings. This is not about a meet and greet with "the youth"; it is about young people being an active and engaged part of political processes, so that they are heard, represented and can seek justice on the issues that they care about.

Young people are a diverse social group, and they experience the complexities and challenges of our economic and political systems. Young people pay taxes when they work and they spend their money. They shape our education systems. They can apply for jobs in the military. They make medical decisions about their own bodies. They can be carers for their family. Including these people in our democratic systems is an essential part of making these systems robust and reflective of the diversity of our city. This motion goes some way to ensuring that inclusion, but there is more to do.

Young people over 16 should have the right to vote. The politics of lowering the voting age were first introduced to the Assembly in 1996. We have been talking about young people in democracy in this place for 25 years now. With the serious existential crisis that young people are now facing, now is the time to ensure that they are allowed to engage in this way.

We believe that engaging young people in participatory democracy such as protests and demonstrations increases their knowledge, understanding and capacity to participate. This is necessary, as we know our young people need to be engaged. They are the future. Young people are not just citizens of the future; they are citizens right now and providing young people with the means and rights to practise this citizenship is about building an inclusive society.



This is not about gaining votes for progressive political parties, as some have insinuated. Contemporary research from Monash University shows that 18-year-olds do not vote progressively en masse but weigh up a range of social, economic and political factors just like the rest of us. This should not come as a shock. As I have already demonstrated in this speech, young people are not one homogenous group but represent the diversity of society as a whole.

Withholding the vote from young people is an issue of national and local justice, and I look forward to continuing this conversation in the Assembly. Young people deserve this motion today. Young people are this motion today. I commend it to the Assembly, and I look forward to any discussions forthwith with any members, regardless of their political party, on the continuing participation of young people in ACT democracy.

**MS BERRY** (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (4.13): I am happy to support this motion today, which builds on the government’s support for young people participating in collective action. I have grown up attending protests, marches, strikes and pickets for most of my life as a young person and in my working life, continuing on into this place. Who would I be if I did not support organised action? That is why I was happy in the previous Assembly to jointly move a motion with Mr Rattenbury in reiterating the government’s support for youth-led action to secure a sustainable future in a time of climate emergency. It is great to see that newer members in this Assembly are joining that interest in this important issue.

I will always support school students and young people participating in collective action to improve our communities. As I have said before, participation in activism such as the climate strike is a learning experience too. Education does not just happen in the class. The government understands that today’s children and young people, including students in ACT schools, will live in a world that legislators and policymakers like us leave them. When young people show leadership and use their voice, it is important that members of this Assembly listen.

As the motion states, the government’s future of education strategy places students at the centre of their learning. In fact, they made up the majority of the contributions during its development. I hear from young people that they want a say in what and how they learn. We know that when students have agency, they are more likely to engage in their learning.

As Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, I listen to the advice of students and young people through the Student Congress and the Youth Assembly, as well as my Youth Advisory Council. The last Student Congress was just last month and I was happy to hear all the great ideas that students have from public primary schools, high schools and colleges. The theme chosen by students was “Creating respectful school environments”, and I am looking forward to hearing about how the ideas they created on that day are being implemented in public schools across Canberra.

Teachers across Canberra teach civics and citizenship through the Australian Curriculum. For young students, this could be working with students to understand the role of the rules in their community and the importance of making decisions democratically. In the higher school years, students could be evaluating Australia's political and justice systems and analysing what it means to be an active and informed citizen in different contexts.

Canberra is an ideal place for students to learn about civics and citizenship and to see Australian democracy and their role in this system. Institutions such as the Australian Parliament House, Government House, the High Court of Australia, the Museum of Australian Democracy and, of course, Elections ACT and the ACT Legislative Assembly all offer programs for schools.

Earlier today, along with other members in this place, I attended the Parliament of Youth on Sustainability, which gives students from kindergarten to year 12 an opportunity to participate in a mock parliament, grapple with complex environmental issues and collaborate on ideas for change. We all listened very carefully to their ideas, and I have already offered to work with some of them on their initiatives.

Tomorrow I will be opening the 2021 ACT Youth Assembly, which provides a platform for young Canberrans to engage in a dialogue with the ACT government and to share ideas on how to advance the broad agenda for youth issues. These kinds of activities ignite curiosity and passion in young people and make a significant contribution to our community. This government has a very proud history of achievement in supporting student participation in democracy, and this motion is a further indication of that commitment.

Now, it comes to the part where I have to put my mother's voice on and clarify for the Assembly that students have never needed to seek permission from me or the Education Directorate to participate in protests. Of course, students need to have permission from their parent or carer to be absent from school or to participate in an offsite excursion. It is really important that we are clear on that because schools need to know where children and young people are in order to keep them safe.

I am very happy to support students and young people from participating in organised action. As I said, who would I be if I did not do that? But please make sure that the appropriate permissions are in place so we can ensure that young people are kept safe.

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (4.18): I thank Mr Davis for bringing forward this motion to the Assembly. As citizens of a strong democracy in Australia, protest is an essential part of our civic participation. I remember my first protest against the cuts to the education sector during the Howard years. We want to ensure that our youth can embrace and learn from this valuable tool for democratic participation. I support strengthening civics education to not only give our youth an understanding of their rights but to provide a platform for our youth to exercise those rights.

An education that both encourages students to exercise their right to protest and educates them on their rights as Australians is a civics education our youth need. A

strong civics education ensures that our youth know where their vote goes. It allows them to know their rights. It allows them to exercise those rights to the fullest. It allows them to be heard not just by me, as a representative for Yerrabi, but by all of us in this place whose duty it is to represent them.

We want to encourage more active participation by young people to make our democracy richer. This motion is a step forward in getting Canberra's youth involved and ready to participate in our democracy. To encourage our youth to participate in democracy, we need to ensure that it complements their schooling. This motion will give the opportunity for young people to partake in protests while being supported to complete missed work and assessments. With this support, more of our students will be able to practise their right to protest with the support required.

As Mr Davis mentioned, one-quarter of voting citizens are unengaged in democracy. By strengthening civics education, I believe we can reduce that number. We can empower young people to be involved in politics, make informed decisions and understand the importance of voting. These actions will create a better and stronger democracy. These young people will soon be adults. They are our future, and the more we empower them to participate in politics, the more vibrant and healthy our democracy will be. A large, strong and diverse democracy is what we need to ensure that the next generation has a say in the world they will inherit.

To close, I will quote Nikos, an intelligent young man working in my office who, incidentally, wrote this speech. He has a keen interest in civics education and said:

By not improving civics education we are blocking out a possible generation. Opposing this motion will make it harder for younger generations to be involved. This will harm politics in the future, we will be in the same spiral of having people not engaged with democracy and not understanding where their vote goes.

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (4.20): As I said yesterday, I am always happy to engage in a conversation about education.

*Ms Cheyne interjecting—*

**MR HANSON:** The interjections start already! Let me get beyond a couple of minutes. I am delighted to talk about this; the Canberra Liberals are big fans of civics education and big fans of getting younger people engaged in these debates. I have two sons who both have active minds and we have regular conversations at home about political issues of the day. It is fair to say that they do not always agree with me, and it is very important that they get their information not just from Dad but from a broad range of sources both at school and elsewhere. It is always a bit of a challenge to make sure that they are accessing information, and I think it is good if young people are engaged in the debates of the day.

I will make a couple of comments, and I need to make sure that Mr Davis does not mischaracterise what I say; I think he did a bit of that yesterday, in my view. There are some issues with encouraging and endorsing children to get involved in political activities that we need to be cautious about, and I will raise those here. This is not a

commentary on the issue of climate change; that is a matter for Ms Lee and Ms Castley and we have expressed our strong commitment to addressing climate change. But I want to make a couple of points.

If children are going to be participating in protest activities, we want to make sure that there is no harm done to them with anxiety and mental health. Our kids are facing a lot of stress at the moment through COVID and climate change, and we have to find the right balance between informing children, making sure they are aware, but also making sure that they are not overexposed and that they do not become frightened and plagued with anxiety.

If you look at the statistics, it is certainly the case that young people are confronted with a lot of depression, a lot of anxiety. I will quote from an article written by Ellouise Bailey entitled “Belonging to a radicalised youth: a heartfelt letter to our young people”, a young lady climate change activist who participated in these sort of activities:

The real pandemic the youth are currently facing is their mental health and obviously gearing up fellow youth for battle will only make matters worse.

According to the World Health Organisation depression is one of the leading causes of illness and disability among adolescents and suicide is the third leading cause of death in 15–19-year-olds.

The seven year study on youth mental health produced by Mission Australia and the Black Dog Institute found rates of psychological distress among young people had risen 5.5 per cent between 2012 and 2018. I can only see this instability rising in coming years.

We have to be careful in terms of our approach around the age at which children participate in these activities. You might engage in civics activities in a college environment and so on—you might have been a young Johnno Davis involved with political activism as a 15-year-old. But we have to be cautious about much younger children and how they will interpret some of those messages. We have seen images that have been taken from the climate protests in Australia, and particularly in Canberra, of very young children with signs saying, “You’ll die of old age; I’ll die of climate change”, and I want to make sure that that sort of activity does not have an unintended and negative effect on young children. That is the point I would like to make.

The second point I make is that if we are going to endorse or encourage or support children to participate in these activities, they should be respectful. I quote one sign, “Hope Scott’s house burns down”. Is that the message we want to be sending out there to young children? Other examples are “Climate change is not a joke but ScoMo is”, “Coalition climate criminals”, “ScoMo more like ScumMo”, “Break the Liberals, not the planet”—I’ve received advice I cannot use the full term for the next one, but I will leave it to the imagination—“Eff ScoMo”; “Frack you, ScoMo”; images of children with placards of Liberal members that have been pasted over and defaced; “You, sir, are a baboon”, with a picture of the Prime Minister; “Liberals suck corporate”—and there is more language that goes with that that would not be

appropriate for this place—and “When I said I’d rather die than go to maths class, that’s hyperbole, a-holes”.

If we are going to get in the business of encouraging kids to get involved in debates—and getting involved in political discourse is a good thing—I caution against those two factors. If we are exposing younger children to messages that might cause them anxiety, we should be cautious. Secondly, if we are exposing young people to messages which I consider offensive, we must consider that as well. I support civics education, and encouraging young people to participate in democracy, but let’s make sure that when we do that there are no unintended consequences in terms of increasing anxiety amongst particularly young people and that they are not exposed to messages many people would consider offensive. Calling on someone to burn someone’s house down seems to me not a good message to be exposing young children to or some of the language.

I am always happy to debate education, always happy to make sure that our kids are learning. But if we are going to support this sort of motion, I want members to do so with their eyes wide open and ensure that we do not cause any harm in the process. If politicians and teachers endorse a protest, it might be the kiss of death because it will not be a protest anymore, but we will wait to see if that is the case. Most protests are a little bit reliant on—

**Ms Cheyne:** Being radical.

**MR HANSON:** Thank you for your interjection, Ms Cheyne; that expresses it well. With those comments, I will leave it there.

**MS DAVIDSON** (Murrumbidgee—Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health) (4.29): I thank Mr Davis for this motion that aims to support young people in the ACT to engage in democracy and strengthen support for civics education. As the minister responsible for youth justice, I understand how important it is that young people in the ACT are well supported to understand how they can engage in action for change, and influence democracy and law-making. As Minister for Mental Health, I also have an interest in this issue through its impact on the wellbeing of our young people.

Over recent years, we have seen an increase in young people in the ACT concerned about climate change and a correlation between mental health and the environment as issues that young people believe are most important for Australia. The 2019 Mission Australia youth survey showed the top two issues facing Australia for ACT young women were the environment, at 55.7 per cent, and mental health, at 40.8 per cent. For ACT young men, the top two issues were the environment, at 55.1 per cent, and mental health, at 24.8 per cent.

The 2020 Mission Australia youth survey showed that ACT young women said the top three issues facing Australia were equity and discrimination, at 50.9 per cent, the environment, at 38.2 per cent, and mental health, at 33.8 per cent. For ACT young men, the top three issues were COVID-19, at 44.1 per cent, equity and discrimination,

at 38.4 per cent, and the environment, at 33.5 per cent. In addition, one in eight ACT young people in 2020 felt negative about their future.

Noting the higher correlation for ACT young women compared to young men between mental health and the environment as top issues, I also note that more than double the proportion of young men than young women felt very positive about the future—15.3 per cent of young men compared to 7 per cent of young women.

Young people are physically demonstrating how important the environment and climate action is to their mental wellbeing, through climate strikes. Mission Australia's youth survey report from 2019 talks about the benefits for the mental wellbeing of young people when they are able to participate in climate strikes and other events that allow them to express their views.

We are also seeing growing numbers of young people who are worried about equity and discrimination, which is why it is so important that we support young people to access their democratic rights and engage in action for change. It is inequitable to not support their participation in these critically important public conversations about how we achieve real climate action when it is young people who will have to deal with the consequences of our failure to act.

The urgency to take action on issues of importance to young people is something that plays out in my own home. The reason I am here in this place today is because of my eldest daughter. When she decided to join the ACT Greens as a young person wanting real action on climate change, I joined to support her. This week she is attending the ACT Youth Assembly at ANU. My youngest daughter is here this week doing work experience under the expert guidance of the ACT Greens spokesperson for young people, Mr Davis, and she tells me that she has found it a very interesting week. My son has been talking to me this week about his views on freedom of speech and corruption in New South Wales politics.

Young people want to engage in politics and policy issues, and it is our responsibility to support and enable that. For this reason, I am particularly supportive of Mr Davis's advocacy for the right to vote for young people aged 16 and older, and paragraph (3)(b) of Mr Davis's motion. Strengthening support to Elections ACT and the ACT Legislative Assembly education offices will enable more of our ACT young people to understand how our ACT democracy works and how they can best engage in action for change on the issues that are most important to them.

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (4.33), in reply: I thank all members who have taken the time to contribute to this debate. In particular, Minister Davidson has a unique ability to combine radical love, radical kindness and an analytical data spreadsheet. I always find that combination impressive.

One of the things that I want to say in closing is that there is an acute awareness of the growing burden of mental health, anxieties and depression amongst young people. I strongly encourage members to dig deeper into that analysis and explore why that may be. I would argue that many of the anxieties and frustrations that younger people are experiencing are what is taking them to protest movements; invoking a sense of

activism; and bringing them to fight against injustices, the biggest being the continued abuse of the planet by the human race.

Mr Hanson and I had a good go at one another yesterday, and I am doing my very best not to do that today, but I do seek to take issue with one point, about some of the posters you might see at a climate rally that are a bit colourful. They are certainly a bit colourful. Nothing invokes your emotional temperament quite like pending climate doom. In those instances, I forgive some of those young people for their colourful use of language.

I would caution members, though, against being too selective in their evidence. As a young person, I spent way too much time walking past anti-marriage equality rallies in the city when there were some very interesting posters and things said.

I can still remember conversations in our family, particularly with female members of my family, during the period that this nation was led by a woman for the first time and some of the choice poster art we saw—not held up by a frustrated 10-year-old in Glebe Park but held up right next to the head of the Prime Minister at the time and not condemned. We do owe honest and earnest engagement in the debate to be not selective in our evidence.

I cannot speak to the experience of being a parent. I will say that all members who have spoken, irrespective of their party, have spoken quite well about their experience as a parent. It relates slightly to the conversation that we had yesterday about schools. As someone who is not a parent, it is my responsibility, as one of the 25 members of this place, to genuinely listen to parents and seek to understand the challenges that they face in raising children in a very complicated world. I can truly appreciate how difficult it must be for parents to try and navigate all the new and complex challenges that their young people are facing.

I would encourage all parents—not just members of this place but all parents in the Canberra community more broadly—to really engage young people in their households on all these issues: to engage them earnestly and honestly in these conversations and to explore them. The best civics and citizenship education on democracy starts at home. There is only so much that this Assembly and this government can do.

I encourage every member to pick up the phone tonight to a young person or go home to a young person and talk to them about this motion today and ask them what it means to them. As cited in my comments earlier, I know that my conservative friends have many young people they can talk to. During our committee inquiry it was put that the Young Liberals are the biggest growing political movement, so there will be lots of conservative young people with whom to have ferocious and robust debates in the future.

In my time here, I look forward to bringing more motions to this Assembly that empower, encourage and celebrate young people's activism and that empower, celebrate and encourage young people's continued contribution to public life in this

city and the continued efforts they are making to hold their political leaders, including all 25 of us, to account on the decisions we are making that will impact their futures.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Commissioner for Standards—member conduct**

### **Statement by member**

**MS ORR** (Yerrabi) (4.38), by leave: Madam Speaker, I want to make a statement regarding Ms Lawder's statement after question time today. The matter that I believe Ms Lawder is referring to has been a point of discussion between Ms Lawder and I on multiple occasions outside committee meetings. The colleague I spoke to about these matters was the opposition whip. I spoke to them in my capacity as government whip. Before doing so, I raised the need to do this with Ms Lawder in the committee, and Ms Lawder raised no objections. Now that the matter has been referred, I would like to state for the record that I will participate willingly and fully in the process.

## **Adjournment**

Motion (by **Ms Cheyne**) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

## **Women—leadership**

**DR PATERSON** (Murrumbidgee) (4.39): I am glad to be speaking directly after Mr Davis's motion, because my adjournment speech speaks directly to his call to empower and celebrate young people in our community.

Last week I hosted a year 10 work experience student from Mount Stromlo High School in my office. I asked that student, June Jamieson, to do some research into the challenges and barriers of female leadership in politics. My speech today is written by June as part of her work in my office. She wrote:

The importance of female leadership and having women in political positions is immeasurable.

There has been much recent discourse about women's safety—whether that be in relation to sexual activity, workplace culture or daily life.

It is clear, now more than ever, that we need more women to play pivotal roles in leadership and politics.

In Canberra, we are fortunate to have a legislative body with substantial female representation ... Unfortunately, this is not the case for many other parts of the country; let alone our federal parliament.

Under-representation of females in politics and leadership positions, stemming from systemic and socio-cultural barriers, often results in poorer decision making on all levels of governance, and poorer outcomes for our community.



Several studies show the enhanced effectiveness and success of female leadership. So why does underwhelming representation continue to be a problem?

There are a range of factors.

Even in our modern world, women often bear much of the domestic workload, which can prevent or dissuade women from taking on external opportunities—especially those as demanding as political work.

Furthermore, female politicians often come under greater scrutiny and criticism than their male counterparts—

by the media in particular, and at rallies, as we have just discussed—

However, research from the Harvard Business Review reveals that women outperform in 17 of 19 leadership skills; and it has been argued that this is due to their inclination toward transformative leadership.

In their approaches to policy, female leaders globally have debunked deeply patriarchal standards and demonstrated the benefits of female leadership without the need to emulate men's qualities ...

There is no denying that women are capable of being great leaders. We bring to the role our own styles and attributes to engage and to understand the important issues that matter most to our community.

Decision-making processes need to reflect diverse input from leaders across all intersections of identity and experience ...

By engaging our diverse community in leadership positions, we foster a legislative system and community that utilises the unique qualities and aspects that distinguish us from each other.

We all have different ideas and qualities based on our own lived experience. It is more important than ever that we engage these differences to bring about meaningful, systemic, and lasting change.

Encouraging political engagement and participation requires a grassroots effort that should ultimately provide females within our community with the tools and confidence they need to actively participate.

While gender quotas can compensate for inherent biases, it is just as important to recognise and condemn the behaviours that make such regulations required in the first place.

Encouraging women's participation and garnering the ambition that is required to engage in community and political endeavours is a crucial step in improving the perception of female leadership and opportunities for women in our community.

I thank June for this wonderful speech. She has a great speech writing career ahead of her and a very bright future.

## **Youth homelessness—government funding**

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (4.43): For many years, experts have raised concerns about the lack of specialist homelessness services for young Canberrans below the age of 16. Research conducted in the territory by the ACU reveals that overwhelmingly these kids leave home to escape family conflict, violence, abuse, the impacts of alcohol or drugs, or the impacts of poor mental health. When these young people are picked up by the police, they sometimes spend a night at the watchhouse before being returned to their homes or placed in foster care. None of this fixes the problem.

I therefore welcomed the announcement two years ago of funding for a pilot project called Safe and Connected Youth. This program, which involves the Youth Coalition, Woden Community Service, Northside Community Service, Conflict Resolution Service and Marymead, supports these kids and works with them and their families so that they can return home.

The pilot was very successful, and the Canberra Liberals made continued funding for this program an election commitment in 2020.

During the budget estimates hearings in February, I sought assurance from Minister Stephen-Smith that this important program would be funded beyond 30 June this year. The minister noted that, whilst the next budget would be delayed till August, there was “capacity to make early decisions”. She stated that ongoing funding had not been provided for in the current budget because they were waiting for its evaluation to conclude in May. She then said:

So I think you can be confident that the service supports will continue.

When I specifically asked if any kids needing this service would be left in limbo, she told me that they would not.

In stark contrast, today one can read in the local media that “urgent funding is needed to ensure Canberra’s Safe and Connected Youth Program can continue beyond 30 June” and that “uncertainties around funding” are making it difficult for the program to take on new clients—leaving kids in limbo, exactly as I feared.

I am here today to remind the minister of her assurances that this would not happen. The evaluation has been completed. The program met all its key outcomes. Many young people were able to return home safely, and those who were not have been successfully diverted away from homelessness. I call on the ACT government to immediately provide the funding security that this program requires to keep operating between now and August, and into the future.

## **Community gardens**

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (4.46): Mental health care, social activities, nature, providing food for those who are struggling to make ends meet, neighbours meeting neighbours, environmentally-friendly food consumption, and a hotel for native bees.

What am I talking about that could meet so many needs in the community? The answer is community gardens.

My office recently visited Crace and Mitchell community gardens, and I was inspired by the role that these gardens play in the community. The wonderful volunteers at Crace showed me around their garden and spoke to me about the joys and challenges of running a community garden. The Crace community garden donates food to the Mustard Seed Pantry at Gungahlin Uniting Church, which provides low-cost food for those in need or on low incomes. The garden includes a native bee hotel, which is home to many species of local bees. The garden also brings together its diverse members for social activities, including barbecues.

The convenor of the Mitchell community garden told us that a key contribution of community gardens is their role in reducing loneliness and combating mental health, especially for older residents. Narelle described how a disabled man, as part of his NDIS plan, has a support worker who helps him to get out of his house and visit the Mitchell community garden. He cannot physically garden anymore, but enjoys the opportunity to socialise with fellow gardeners and reduce his social isolation.

Most community gardens, including Crace and Mitchell, have a waiting list because the gardens just cannot keep up with the demand from the community. This is a testament to how valuable they are to the community.

For example, the Canberra Organic Growers Society—COGS—operate 12 community gardens in the ACT, including three in Yerrabi. They are completely run by volunteers and have limited capacity to expand existing gardens or create new garden locations. Some gardens operated by COGS are aiming to make their gardens more accessible for people living with a disability and older citizens—another important and inclusive service to the community.

It is essential when planning for the future of Canberra that we allocate space and resources for community gardens. As the volunteers shared with me, finding a location for a garden is not always easy. They need sun, shade, water and space. It is harder to retrofit them than to plan for them right from the start.

I hope, moving forward, that I can explore the options for supporting these important cornerstones in the community. I would love to see more gardens in my electorate, and hope that we can see new gardens to accommodate the high demand and reduce the waiting lists. I invite anyone in the community who is interested in starting a community garden to reach out to my office so that I can support you and connect you with the right people.

Finally, I would like to thank the volunteers at COGS and at the Crace and Mitchell community gardens. Thank you for the time you have invested in our community, and thank you for making it a brighter, healthier, stronger and more inclusive community.

### **Youth—climate action**

**MS ORR** (Yerrabi) (4.49): I am here to present a speech about school action regarding the environment and sustainable practices, written by Katie Jakab, who is

currently in the Legislative Assembly doing work experience in my office. I set Katie the task of writing her own adjournment speech, as if she had my job for a day and could say whatever she wanted. This is what she had to say:

My name is Katie Jakab, and I am a year 11 student at UCSSC Lake Ginninderra College. I have many passions which have fuelled my interest in politics, particularly conservation of the environment and support for youth with mental health issues. Ensuring students thrive in a healthy school environment is of great importance to me, as is youth voice in the community. When I am older, I hope to continue advocating for these passions through politics. I am very grateful to be given the chance to observe the inner workings of the Legislative Assembly and to have the opportunity to convey my opinion on a topic of interest directly to the government. The condition of climate change and Australia's environment are two things that will greatly affect mine and my peers' future, which is why I hope to provide a youth perspective on the issue.

The condition of the ACT's environment has improved throughout the past years with the decrease of single use plastics in stores and the territory now running on 100 per cent renewable energy. While this is the case, there is still much more that Australia must do to decrease waste production. According to Australia's 2020 National Waste Report, Australia produced 74.1 million tonnes of waste from 2018-2019. The rate of recycling increased by only 2% within those years. As time goes on, the current generation of students will become the country's decision makers and will have to address the issues of waste production.

Schools play a large role in the lives of young people. They form the knowledge and skills of adolescents, preparing them for future careers and life decisions. Along with this, schools play a large role informing the perceptions, values, and beliefs of students regarding both local and global issues. I believe, Madam Speaker, that the role schools play in the lives of adolescents gives them an excellent opportunity to further educate students on how to protect the environment. While many schools have fantastic programs to foster sustainable practices, there is still much more that could be done. Many schools continue to lack an effective waste management system and school canteens continue to sell single use plastic cutlery. Along with this, there is often a lack of student understanding surrounding the importance of climate action and sustainable practices, a topic that could be better taught within the classroom.

Madam Speaker, I would now like to suggest some possible responses to address this issue.

A simple action could be to ban the use of plastic cutlery in school canteens. Plastic forks and straws could be replaced with wooden cutlery, paper straws, and paper cups. The expense of eco-friendly cutlery has so far been a disincentive for canteens looking to avoid single use plastics, which is why it may be necessary for the government to provide a greater budget to school canteens. An even more sustainable option would be to use reusable cutlery that could be brought back to canteens after use.

A further step schools could take to improve their sustainability would be to introduce an effective waste management system. In my past high school, UC High School Kaleen, the waste system lacked efficiency. Up until last year, the

only bins present in the school were general waste bins. During 2020, me and my peers worked with the school to introduce recycling bins to classrooms. While I am very proud of this development, it frustrates me that it took so long. Although the school now has both recycling and general waste bins, it does not yet have proper paper recycling, soft plastic, or organic waste bins, all of which are necessary to create sustainable school environments. It is my understanding that Kaleen High School is not the only school with a lack of sustainable development in this area. If the government was to provide their support and assist in the establishment of effective waste management systems to schools who lack one, it could further improve the ACT's environment.

A final and particularly important action that I wish to bring to light is the education schools conduct regarding the importance of climate action and sustainable practices. Throughout my education, the only time my curriculum addressed climate change was in my final unit of year 10 science. Any other times in which climate change was referenced occurred not due to the curriculum, but rather due to my teachers' interests in the topic. I do not believe that this amount of education is enough. With the Earth predicted to be more than 3 degrees warmer by the 22nd century, the current generation of students are expected to live through rising ocean levels, increased natural disaster levels, ocean acidification, and changing ecosystems. Me and my peers will have to watch the loss of the Great Barrier Reef, the extinction of numerous species, and the changing of our planet for the worse. It is more essential than ever for our students to be properly educated as to the importance of climate action. This could be integrated into the curriculum in many aspects, like in history, social sciences, and geography.

*(Extension of time granted.)*

I also believe that it should be taught at a younger age, even as young as primary school, to foster an understanding and appreciation of the environment throughout education. This is an extremely important topic in the current day, making it crucial for the education system to consider further including climate change in the curriculum.

In summary, Madam Speaker, there are really good quality measures in the ACT schools to foster eco-friendly and sustainable environments. However, there is more that can be done and I hope you will consider these issues in future discussions.

### **Multicultural affairs—Hindu community**

**MR CAIN** (Ginninderra) (4.55): The last few weeks have presented me with many opportunities to connect with the very active Hindu community across my electorate and beyond. Earlier this month I attended the Hindu temple ground-breaking ceremony in Moncrieff, along with several of my Canberra Liberals colleagues. I would like to thank Dr Krishna Nadimpalli OAM for the opportunity for me and other MLAs from all parties who attended, to address the gathering. It was a pleasure as well to be introduced to Mr Prakash Mehta, president of the Hindu Council of Australia, who arranged a tour of the Florey temple, which I will outline in this speech.

The Hindu community in Ginninderra and the wider Canberra district will no doubt benefit from this wonderful new centre. The centre construction is close to completion, and I look forward to attending its opening soon.

Last week I visited the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Florey, in company with Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA. We were hosted by several representatives of the Hindu community: Mr Prakash Mehta, national president, Hindu Council of Australia, who I mentioned earlier; Mr Kanti Jinna OAM, vice president, Hindu Council of Australia; priest Pundit Acharya Prakash Pandey; and Mr Basu Banka. I thank all of them for their company.

Last Monday I participated in a yoga session as part of the International Day of Yoga held at the Legislative Assembly. This was organised by Dr Nadimpalli on behalf of the Art of Living Foundation.

I have had great pleasure in getting to know the Hindu community across my electorate and in the rest of Canberra. I want to thank them for their many contributions to the Canberra community, and I look forward to continuing to work with them and for them.

### **Belconnen—community engagement**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (4.57): I want to say a few words about one of the most unexpected pleasures I have had in a really unexpected job—that is, just getting out and about in Belconnen. I have lived in Belconnen for most of my life, but I have had this great excuse to discover places I never knew about and to meet people I have never met before.

I have been running coffee catch-ups on Fridays, and I have now managed to get around to most of the suburbs. They have been fun. People take me at my word; they rock up and have a coffee. Sometimes they have a problem; sometimes they just want to have a coffee, which is really nice.

One of the memorable cafes that I went to was in Lawson. It was a little street cafe. They did not quite have the infrastructure yet, but that did not hold them back. They were set up and running, anyway. We have managed to get around to Hawker, Cook, Florey, Kippax, Charnwood, UC, Latham, Melba, CBD, Belco, Evatt, Lawson, Jamison, Fraser, Bruce, Holt, Aranda, and Spence. That has been a lot of fun.

I have managed to do a few pub catch-ups, which is also fun, at Lighthouse, Bolt and a few of the other great venues that we have in Belconnen. It is good to hear that we have had a bit more support for live music in Belconnen recently and for our entertainment venues.

I have been out building mountain bike trails on Bruce Ridge, which was fun, and I have done a lot of Landcare at a lot of places like Mount Painter, in Evatt, and with the Ginninderra Catchment Group in McKellar. That has been really good. It is a great, practical way to see what is going on with our land. Honestly, I am learning a lot. I am still very nervous to pull up any weeds because they look very similar to the native

grasses, and I am just not trustworthy. I am mostly digging holes. They are putting me on safe jobs like that; so that is good.

I went to a book club in Melba recently; that was a lot of fun. I also went to the Melba SMILE group, where they told us about the playground they were hoping to build.

I have met a lot of new people. Because I have been there for a while, I bump into people who I either know, which is lovely, or who know people that I know. Last night I was chatting to someone who knew my dad. He passed away a while ago, but it was lovely to share stories with someone who worked with him 30 years ago. It is lovely having those little intersections all the time.

There is a lot of stuff happening around Belconnen. I think it is the same story across Canberra. There is a massive effort by community groups and volunteers, and that is where a lot of this life comes from. Humpy Hall is one place that I would like to make a brief mention of. Humpy Hall is in Scullin, and it is one of the sites that hosts a lot of these community activities. They host church meetings, theatre rehearsals, yoga, exercise classes and dance sessions. A lot of those activities are run by volunteers and community groups; actually, Humpy Hall itself is run by a community group.

I would like to thank the South Belconnen Community Association, who ran that facility so well. They have run it for decades—for years—and it has recently been handed back to ACT Property. I want to thank them for the dedicated service that they provided.

Sometimes, of course, we also get to bring the suburbs into the Assembly. I think that is really valuable. I had a really good time at an event last week that I hosted in the reception room. It was the Diversity in Politics event. I was joined by eight of my female MLA colleagues and around 30 multicultural women leaders. We all shared tales about pathways into politics and the challenges of leadership for women in the community. It was a really nice event. I am looking forward to taking one of those events out to Belconnen soon.

### **LGBTQI+ events—LGBTQI+ fourth annual conference**

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (5.01): I rise to congratulate the good folk at the Equality Project who last week hosted the fourth annual LGBTQI+ conference, Better Together, at the Adelaide Convention Centre. I had the pleasure of going along to the conference and hearing a range of informative speakers who were able to outline for me the varying degrees of law reform happening right around the country that impact on sexuality and gender-diverse people, be it the ongoing campaign to decriminalise sex work; work happening in other legislatures to ensure that trans, gender-diverse and non-binary people are actively reflected in government documentation; or work that I know this government is focused on doing in this term on negating unnecessary surgery on intersex babies. It was a real thrill to meet so many activists and leaders in the space from right around the country.

The Equality Project are motivated by their core aim to create a space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer communities, organisations, advocates and

allies to work together, build bridges and speak in a common voice through national and regional conferences and training events.

While I was there, I took in a range of different presentations. The one that I was sure to take part in was hosted by the director of the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation, Mr Ben Bjarnesen, who spoke to the conference on a range of family and domestic violence issues pertinent particularly to sexuality and gender-diverse Australians.

Some stark figures became clear through that presentation. Although data is limited, available evidence indicates that over 60 per cent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people have experienced domestic or family violence. That is about three in five who have experienced it in past or present relationships. The chance that you or someone you know has been or is in an abusive relationship is staggeringly high.

This was particularly important for me to reflect on in my capacity as the ACT Greens spokesperson for the elimination of family and domestic violence and where that overlaps with my spokesperson responsibilities on LGBTQIA+ people.

I was really grateful to receive a letter last week from Minister Berry inviting me to contribute to the government's reform work in this space, inviting me to present to the workshops and working groups on an issue of interest to me. I will be continuing to work with the minister's office and the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation to ensure that the unique and specific instances of DV and family violence experienced by LGBTQI+ people inform that work.

It is quite shocking and surprising to think about all the different ways that domestic and family violence in same sex attracted relationships can uniquely affect those relationships in a way they do not inform heteronormative or cisgendered couples in particular.

It was stark to hear that the number one threat of violence used against intimate partners in same sex attracted relationships was the threat of outing the partner to family, friends or colleagues and the implications that that would have on people's interpersonal relationships, jobs or relationships with their community. That is an important contribution that I hope to make to the work.

What was really clear to me, though, was the overarching theme of the entire conference in identifying risks and opportunities for sexuality and gender-diverse Australians in our ongoing advocacy. It was clear that one issue that underpinned all of the conference delegates' contributions—that underpinned a level of anxiety felt by all participants right across the country—was the continued threats to the sexuality and gender-diverse community by this federal government, in particular by their continued prosecution of the religious discrimination bill.

This federal bill makes it harder for health sector employees and professional bodies to ensure that doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and psychologists do not refuse treatment to people on religious grounds. The bill removes discrimination protections



for sexuality and gender-diverse people, women, people with a disability and others when people make certain statements which are discriminatory based in religion. Religious organisations will be allowed to discriminate against others with different beliefs or no belief, even when providing publicly funded services.

It is on that basis that in the lead-up to the end of this financial year, as those among us who are philanthropic consider where they may make tax-deductible contributions, I encourage all members, and all those in the community who are as concerned about this bill as I, to make a donation to Equality Australia, who continue to lead on this important piece of advocacy. It goes to show that while our community took a deep sigh of relief when marriage equality was legislated, there will always be those in our community who seek to hold us back. Those of us in a leadership position will use our power as best we can to fight back.

### **Standing orders—suspension**

Motion by **Ms Orr** agreed to, with the concurrence of an absolute majority:

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the adjournment debate continuing for a further 15 minutes.

### **World Refugee Week**

**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) (5.06): I rise today, because it is World Refugee Week, to acknowledge and celebrate the continuing contributions made by refugees and asylum seekers in the ACT and to reaffirm, as a government, our commitment to supporting those in need. World Refugee Week is an important event held every year to celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.

The story of Daniel and his support worker Eagle was recently shared with me. Their story starts well before either arrived in Australia, with Daniel's and Eagle's fathers working together back in their home country. Having worked with the Canberra Multicultural Hub for over 12 years, Eagle is now working with Daniel and his extended family to help them settle in Australia, improve their proficiency in English, and find secure work. Daniel has worked in a local recycling plant for the last eight months and loves his work. He no longer has to worry about food or shelter or the challenges of life in a refugee camp—simple things that we can all too easily take for granted. There are many stories just like Daniel's throughout the ACT. These are the journeys of individuals and families who contribute so much to Canberra's rich cultural tapestry.

World Refugee Week is also a timely opportunity to remind the Assembly of the ACT's official status as a refugee welcome zone, proudly introduced by Minister Berry in 2015. This declaration is a commitment to welcoming refugees and asylum seekers into our community, upholding the human rights of these individuals,

demonstrating compassion for their experiences, and celebrating cultural and religious diversity in the ACT.

I thank the many organisations and individuals who work tirelessly to support this commitment to welcome refugees, especially the Multicultural Hub and MARSS Australia, though of course there are many more. Our shared experience of the COVID-19 global pandemic has only sought to remind us of our common humanity. This World Refugee Week I encourage all of us to continue supporting those in need and welcome all new Canberrans with open arms.

### **Murrumbidgee electorate—community events Multicultural affairs—events**

**MRS JONES** (Murrumbidgee) (5.09): On 27 May, it was my great honour to attend the Biggest Morning Tea, raising money for the Cancer Council at Car Mechanical Services in the suburb of Fisher. This great effort was run by great community contributors Charlie Sgroi and his wife Raffy, who managed to raise a substantial fund for a fabulous cause. More than 300 hosts in the ACT poured the coffee and laid out the cakes for the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea on that day and that week. Together, they raised more than \$150,000 to fund lifesaving cancer research, advocacy, prevention and support programs. Mrs Sgroi knows very well the importance of support as someone going through cancer. She was diagnosed with the blood cancer multiple myeloma in 2018. I thank my colleague Elizabeth Lee, who attended this special event.

On 5 June, on a lovely freezing winter's morning, I was very happy to attend the bulb planting for Floriade in the suburbs with Garran residents, including the joeys, cubs and scouts of Garran, as well as some avid local gardeners. This was a big community effort, collecting soil and bulbs and planting out beds, led by Robert Knight, the new chair of the community council. The Friendly Grocer supermarket and the Little Garran Cafe supplied chocolates and sweets to the troops. It was a great community effort.

I attended another planting on Sunday, 6 June, with the Weston Creek Community Council, with Bill, Michelle and Simone from the community council's committee. Many local people, including children and green thumbs, planted flowers for Floriade. They included my little Liliana, who I am sure did a great deal to help. We cannot wait to see the bulbs come up. They will be at the corner of Streeton Drive and Darwinia Terrace in Weston Creek. It was a very good place to plant them, and we cannot wait to see them come up in the spring.

On 15 June, it was my great honour to attend the Embassy of Morocco, along with my Assembly colleague Peter Cain. We met the Ambassador, His Excellency Karim Medrek. We discussed many things, including Canberra's Morocco-originating community. We also discussed Morocco's amazing work in the de-radicalisation of those tempted by nihilistic Islamist ideologies. I was honoured to meet with the Ambassador and Youssef, his assistant. I thank him for his time and for our discussions, as I am sure does Mr Cain.

On 8 June, it was my great honour to visit Martha Mavrommatis, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus. I learned a lot about the Cypriot community in Australia and the history of this special island. I learned that the flag, with the outline of the island on the flag, is the only flag in the world where the country represented is actually pictured on the flag. The history of Cyprus is one of the oldest recorded in the world, and its historical significance is disproportionate to its small size. Considerable resources of copper and timber are found on the island, combining to make it a highly desirable territorial acquisition, as history has told. Martha, the commissioner, is a lively and positive contributor to our city as dean of women ambassadors, and she attends Cypriot and Greek events all over our city and our nation. I thank her for her time and energy.

On 5 June, it was my honour to attend the Hindu temple ground-breaking ceremony in Moncrieff, along with my colleagues Elizabeth Lee and Peter Cain. Through a Crown lease, the ACT government transferred 1.5 acres of land to Canberra Hindu Mandir to build a Hindu temple and community facility. Before commencing construction, CHM hosted a ground-breaking ceremony on the site at Hoffmann Street, Moncrieff. The facility will consist of temples for several deities, along with a large community hall, meditation hall, Vedic religious and cultural education facility, and canteen. The facility is to serve devotees and celebrate cultural diversity. It will be used by many communities. I thank the Canberra Hindu Mandir team for all their hard work. I especially thank community leader Dr Krishna Nadimpalli for his years of tireless work to secure this land for our community's future spiritual needs.

On 5 June, it was my tremendous honour to attend the University of Canberra Nursing Society ball. The ball raised money for Beryl women's refuge, an organisation that assists women who are needing to relocate and find housing, having recently left domestic violence and similar situations. Beryl is, and has been for many years, a safe place for women and children from the ACT and region. (*Extension of time granted.*) It was great to spend the night with the UC Nursing Society students and lecturers. I almost purchased the chance to get a tattoo, but I was outbid by someone else; that will have to wait for another time. The students will be our nurses and our health carers of the future, and I am proud to stand alongside them as they study.

On 2 June, it was my honour to attend the 75th anniversary of the Italian republic at the Italian Ambassador's residence in Deakin. I want to thank Her Excellency Ms Francesca Tardioli for organising such a fabulous event, with wonderful speeches and entertainment. Italy and Australia enjoy a historically warm and cordial bilateral relationship, being like-minded democratic countries sharing the same values and due to the presence of a well-integrated Italian descendant community as well as new arrivals in Canberra and across Australia. The republic is 75 years old. What a delight it was to hear the speeches and see the Italian-brand motorcycles on display at the front. Thank you, Ms Tardioli, for all you do to support those of Italian origin here in Canberra. Buona notte: good night.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**The Assembly adjourned at 5.16 pm until Tuesday, 3 August at 10.00 am.**

## Answers to questions

### Municipal services—community gardens (Question No 227)

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) In relation to a response from the Suburban Land Agency to a constituent about a community garden at Throsby in which the agency stated that “The Suburban Land Agency has not purchased any hydrological or water flow studies to determine the suitability of the proposed location for a community garden”, could The Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (the Trust) apply for the license from Transport Canberra and City Services without the survey.
- (2) Who is responsible for making the site fit for use as a community garden, the Trust or the ACT Government.
- (3) Could the Trust apply for an ACT Government grant to assist with the costs, if the Trust is responsible for making the site fit for use as a community garden.
- (4) Besides the granting of the license to use Public Open Space, what other roles does the ACT Government have to play in the process of establishing the community garden.

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

- (1) Licensing and Compliance, a unit within Transport Canberra and City Services administers licensing arrangements associated with land use requests on public unleased land and could accept a licence application for consideration. For relevant guidance on establishing a community garden, information is available in the *2016 Guide to Community Gardens in the ACT* at [https://www.planning.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/898443/Guide\\_to\\_Community\\_Gardens\\_in\\_the\\_ACT\\_-\\_ACCESS.pdf](https://www.planning.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/898443/Guide_to_Community_Gardens_in_the_ACT_-_ACCESS.pdf)
  - (2) The proponent or community group submitting a licence application would be responsible for making the site fit for use as a community garden. However, the structure or governance will be determined when the future of the site is confirmed. Community Organic Growers Society Incorporated ([www.cogs.asn.au](http://www.cogs.asn.au)) has information available about governance and the operations of community gardens in other ACT locations.
  - (3) The Trust could apply for an ACT Government grant to be considered and assessed however the proponent or community group is responsible for making the site fit for use as a community garden.
  - (4) The role of the ACT Government in the process of establishing the community garden is outlined in the *2016 Guide to Community Gardens in the ACT*.
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**Housing—demonstration housing project  
(Question No 228)**

**Mr Cain** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many applications have been received to date for the demonstration housing project and can the Minister provide a list of all applicants.
- (2) How many applications have been approved to date for the demonstration housing project and can the Minister provide a list of all approved applicants.
- (3) Is there a cap on the number of applications that will be received or accepted for the demonstration housing project
- (4) Is there a cap on the number of applications that will be approved for the demonstration housing project.
- (5) What are the restrictions on the proposed locations for demonstration housing projects.
- (6) What zoning-related restrictions are there on proposed demonstration housing projects.
- (7) How many advertisements were published in print, or broadcast on radio or television, and how long did the campaign run for each, to raise public awareness of the demonstration housing project.
- (8) Was social media used to advertise the demonstration housing project; if so, can the Minister provide the number of advertisements published on social media, all of the platforms used, and how long the campaign ran for on each platform.
- (9) What consultation was conducted prior to the announcement of the demonstration housing project.
- (10) Can the Minister list the beginning and end dates, channels used and response rates for all public consultations undertaken prior to the announcement of the demonstration housing project.
- (11) What consultation has been conducted throughout the life of the demonstration housing project.
- (12) Can the Minister list the beginning and end dates, channels used and response rates for all public consultations undertaken throughout the life of the demonstration housing project.

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

- (1) The Demonstration Housing project is run in two streams, with a site and without a site. There is a multi-staged approach to Demonstration Housing. Information about the process can be found at <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/urban-renewal/demonstration-housing-project/the-process>.

There were 27 expressions of interest submitted by proponents for stage one, which opened in April 2018 and closed May 2018. List of proponents for stage one:

1. Allan Spira Architects
2. Briarwood/Ram Constructions
3. Build.RENT
4. Cardno/Hugh Gordon Architects/Classic Construction
5. CHC
6. Cohousing Canberra
7. Collins Caddaye Architects/ Capcorp Group
8. ECHO
9. Green Building Council of Australia
10. Gordon McAllister/Morgyn Phillips
11. Hugh Gordon Architects
12. Jam St Properties/Heyward Lance Architecture/ibuilt
13. Kingfisher Cohousing Canberra
14. Kochcubb
15. In Loco – Chifley
16. In Loco – Forrest
17. In Loco – O'Connor
18. Manor House
19. NineT
20. Peet
21. Property Council of Australia- ACT Branch
22. Riverview Projects (ACT)
23. Smart Urban Villages
24. SSM Projects
25. Stellulata
26. Winnunga Aboriginal Health and Community Services
27. Verdant Developments

(2)

Projects with a site:

1. ECHO
2. In Loco – O'Connor
3. In Loco – Forrest
4. Manor House
5. Stellulata
6. Verdant Developments

Projects without a site:

1. build.RENT
2. Co-Housing Canberra
3. K2
4. SSM Projects

(3) Applications to express interest in the project closed in May 2018. There are no plans to accept further submissions.

(4) Only submissions that were received and assessed as successful as part of the Stage 2 Request for Proposal or Stage 2 Request for Tender process will be eligible for approval.

- (5) The Expression of Interest contained no restrictions on locations for proposed Demonstration Housing projects.
- (6) The Expression of Interest contained no restrictions on zoning for proposed Demonstration Housing projects
- (7) 0.
- (8) This information is available in the Housing Choices Discussion Paper Community Engagement Report at <https://yoursay.act.gov.au/housing-choices>
- (9) This information is available in the Housing Choices Discussion Paper Community Engagement Report at <https://yoursay.act.gov.au/housing-choices>
- (10) This information is available in the Housing Choices Discussion Paper Community Engagement Report at <https://yoursay.act.gov.au/housing-choices>
- (11) This information is available at: <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/urban-renewal/demonstration-housing-project/faq>
- (12) Requirements for initial public consultation are undertaken by proponents.

The ACT Government does not undertake or report on this consultation on the proponent's behalf. It does, however, invite community comment on any draft variation to the Territory Plan that may be required to allow for a Demonstration Housing Project on a specific site. The draft variations listed below were published on the planning website.

Draft variation no	Comment period	No of submissions received
DV376	19 February 2021 - 16 April 2021	14
DV375	19 February 2021 - 16 April 2021	59
		1 form letter – 475 signatures

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### **Housing ACT—maintenance (Question No 229)**

**Mr Cain** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many Housing ACT properties were known to have rats or other vermin infestations for the (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14, (e) 2014-15, (f) 2015-16, (g) 2016-17, (h) 2017-18, (i) 2018-19, (j) 2019-20 and (k) 2020-21 (to date), financial years.
- (2) How many properties in the Housing ACT portfolio were treated (ie, fumigated, or any other activity with the aim of removing vermin) for the removal of rats or other vermin infestations for the (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14, (e) 2014-15, (f) 2015-16, (g) 2016-17, (h) 2017-18, (i) 2018-19, (j) 2019-20 and (k) 2020-21 (to date), financial years and can the Minister specify if there are occasions where multiple treatments were conducted at the same property

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

- (1) Housing ACT does not record or collect data to differentiate the reason behind a works order being raised for a pest treatment.
- (2) Housing ACT are able to answer this in terms of 'pests' rather than specifically rats or vermin, as this terminology is used in works orders and job coding.
  - a. 526 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2010-11.
  - b. 502 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2011-12.
  - c. 522 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2012-13.
  - d. 553 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2013-14.
  - e. 746 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2014-15.
  - f. 661 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2015-16.
  - g. 545 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2016-17.
  - h. 637 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2017-18.
  - i. 610 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2018-19.
  - j. 501 pest control activities were undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2019-20.
  - k. 539 pest control activities have been undertaken across the Housing ACT portfolio in 2020-21 year to date.

Because the data includes all works orders raised with the key words 'pest control', it is not accurate to conclude that multiple visits show repeat pest issues. Furthermore, some properties will have multiple visits as part of a planned pest control treatment in a year.

Pest control treatment is generally considered tenant responsible maintenance unless it is within the first 3 months of a new tenancy, or a significant infestation. Housing ACT work with tenants to ensure that the living conditions and environment of the properties are kept to a good standard. This further assists with preventing pest infestations.

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### **Environment—ACT Healthy Waterways project (Question No 232)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) What water flow and water quality data has been collected before, during and after the assets were constructed for the ACT Health Waterways project and can the Minister provide copies of such data (reference, former Minister Corbell's media release of 6 August 2014).



- (2) What modelling and reports were prepared on the performance, water sampling, and data collection program and can the Minister provide copies of the modelling and reports.
- (3) What reports were prepared for the project covering the design recommendations and assessment of performance, including catchment wide and downstream benefits and can the Minister provide copies of any these reports.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a copy of the business case provided to the Commonwealth Government on which the project was subsequently approved by them.
- (5) Can the Minister provide copies of the preliminary design reports and the software models used to assess performance (MUSIC or other) for each of the assets to be constructed.
- (6) Can the Minister provide copies of the design acceptance reports and the final performance models for each of the assets constructed.
- (7) Which of the assets has an Operations and Maintenance Plan and can the Minister provide copies of the Operations and Maintenance Plans for each of the assets constructed.
- (8) What other reports relevant to the decision-making process for which assets would be constructed were provided to the Commonwealth Government and can the Minister provide any other reports which are relevant to the decision-making process on which assets were built and why they were modified from the original business case.

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

The Government has been very transparent in the execution of the Healthy Waterways program developed on a very extensive community consultation program.

Answers are provided below. In addition, I will ask that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) provide a briefing to the Member for Brindabella if additional information is required.

- (1) Monitoring of the performance of the constructed assets has not yet commenced. The assets have just completed plant establishment (the last ones will be handed over in June 2021), after which they should be fully functional. EPSDD are in the process of installing the monitoring equipment and monitoring will commence early in the financial year 2021-22.
- (2) Under the Healthy Waterways programs, performance reports include Progress Reports with every one of the 23 milestones, and a Final Report and Evaluation Report. Both the latter two reports are in draft and will be finalised in August 2021. It is likely that both will be made public, however, the Commonwealth funders are yet to decide on this.
- (3) Many reports have been made available as part of our ongoing community engagement and online at <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/act-healthy-waterways/home>. EPSDD will continue to publish research reports as they become available.

- (4) EPSDD are seeking the Commonwealth Government's agreement to making this business case public.
  - (5) MUSIC models for the detailed design of assets can be provided. EPSDD do not have the earlier models, which reside with the consultants engaged to do the modelling.
  - (6) Yes, EPSDD will obtain the design acceptance reports from ACT Parks & Conservation Service (PCS) and TCCS and make available publicly once available.
  - (7) All of the assets have Operations and Management Plans, although one, a riparian restoration, has a final report expected for provision in late June 2021. These will be made available online.
  - (8) EPSDD will provide the key reports for the decision-making process for choosing sites and designs, outlined in the business case and again will be made available online.
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### **Roads—Callaway Crescent (Question No 233)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) In relation to the assessment of traffic data on Callaway Crescent that indicated it carries around 384 vehicles per day travelling at an average speed of 46km/h, can the Minister advise where on Callaway Crescent this data was collected.
- (2) Can the Minister advise (a) on what dates this data was collected and (b) what method was used to collect this data.

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

- (1) The traffic survey was located on the road adjacent to property number 38 Callaway Crescent, Gordon.
  - (2)
    - a) The survey was undertaken between 4 and 12 September 2018.
    - b) The survey was undertaken using an automatic traffic counter that uses pneumatic tubes (rubber strips across the road).
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### **Planning—Tuggeranong town centre master plan (Question No 234)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Has there been any report/evaluation of progress of the Tuggeranong Town Centre Master Plan; if so, can the Minister provide a copy of the report/evaluation.

- (2) Has there been any analysis of whether development and redevelopment of the Tuggeranong Town Centre is achieving the visions, outcomes and strategies for the Centre; if so, can the Minister provide a copy of this analysis.
- (3) Is development and redevelopment in the Tuggeranong Town Centre over the past eight years consistent with the master plan for the Tuggeranong Town Centre and can the Minister provide a copy of any relevant documentation to support the answer.
- (4) Is the precinct code achieving the intended on-the-ground outcomes for the Tuggeranong Town Centre and can the Minister provide copies of any relevant documentation to support the answer.
- (5) Is the master plan vision for Tuggeranong Town Centre still relevant and referred to in development applications or other work planned for the Tuggeranong Town Centre.

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

- (1) The Tuggeranong Town Centre Master Plan was implemented through Territory Plan Variation 318 on 3 October 2014.
- (2) Development and redevelopment must be consistent with the Territory Plan, which includes the amendments made through Territory Plan Variation 318 implementing the Tuggeranong Town Centre Master Plan.
- (3) Yes. Development and redevelopment in the Tuggeranong Town Centre over the past eight years is consistent with the Tuggeranong Town Centre Master Plan and Greenway Precinct Code. Over 230 development applications have been lodged in the past eight years in the Tuggeranong Town Centre (Attachment A).
- (4) Yes. Refer to response at question 3.
- (5) Yes. Refer to response at question 3.

*(A copy of the attachment is available at the Chamber Support Office).*

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### **Trees—planting (Question Nos 236-238)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for Heritage*):

- (1) What is the tree planting plan for townhouses 17 to 25 at The Bradfield development in Downer.
- (2) Are deciduous trees being planted; if not, why not.
- (3) Will Canary Island pines be planted near the apartments in stage two.
- (4) How has CHC Australia consulted with, and informed, residents about proposed tree plantings and responded to residents' concerns and preferences.

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

- (1) The existing Monterey Pine trees along Bradfield Street, Downer, are to be removed and replaced by the proponent as part of The Bradfield development; including those adjacent to Townhouses 17 to 25.

The existing Monterey Pine trees are registered on the ACT Heritage Register, and were originally planted in the early 1940s as a windbreak to protect the former Council for Science and Industry Research, Dickson Experiment Farm. As the trees and their windbreak formation are of heritage significance, the *Heritage Act 2004* (the Heritage Act) requires their conservation, and replacement Pine trees will be planted in a windbreak formation as part of the approved development.

- (2) Deciduous trees are not being planted along Bradfield Street, Downer, in accordance with Heritage Act requirements and a decision of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).

In relation to The Bradfield development, the choice of replacement tree species was carefully considered by the Council, with particular input from its landscape expert, and in the context of their legal requirement to maintain the heritage significance of registered places. As a result, the Council decided that conservation of the form and character of historic windbreak required replacement plantings to be Pine trees; and this formed part of their decision to approve the Statement of Heritage Effect (SHE) application for the development on 1 August 2017.

- (3) Canary Island Pines will be planted along Bradfield Street, Downer, in accordance with Heritage Act requirements and a decision of the Council.

As Monterey Pine trees are now a declared pest species in the ACT, the Council decided that Canary Island Pine trees are a suitable replacement species, due to its strong similarity in growth, form, and appearance to the Monterey Pine. This outcome formed part of their decision to approve the SHE application for the development on 1 August 2017.

- (4) I am advised that the adjacent development application (DA) was supported by a pre-DA community consultation summary stating various meetings in 2016 including community meetings and a meeting with the Community Council.

The subsequent DA was publicly notified for three weeks which included reference to the impacted trees. Representations received were considered by the planning and land authority prior to making a decision. A further amendment to the development approval, that had no effect on the heritage listed trees, was again publicly notified and representations received by the planning and land authority were considered prior to making a decision.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—drone activity (Question No 239)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Have there been any recorded incidents of drone activity at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC); if so, how many.

- (2) Is surveillance currently undertaken for drone detection at and around the AMC; if so, (a) who conducts this drone detection and (b) how is this detection undertaken?
- (3) Has the ACT Government or any representatives investigated opportunities to advance its drone detection at the AMC; if so, how.
- (4) Has the ACT Government or any representatives investigated how other jurisdictions are dealing with drones at their prisons; if so, what have these investigations found.
- (5) Has the ACT Government or any representatives sought advice from other jurisdictions on how they undertake drone detection; if so, with from which jurisdictions and what advice was provided.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Between November 2019 and 18 May 2021, there have been five confirmed drone sightings and three incidents of suspected drone activity.
- (2) No.
- (3) ACTCS continues to look into options to advance its drone detection capability at the AMC, through review of available technology, review of legislation requirements and stakeholder consultation, including with other jurisdictions.
- (4) ACTCS has and will continue to engage stakeholders, including other jurisdictions.
- (5) ACTCS has and will continue to engage with other jurisdictions on how they undertake drone detection.

### **Roads—Pialligo (Question No 242)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many consultations have been held with Pialligo residents and Pialligo businesses regarding pedestrian and traffic improvements and/or upgrades to Beltana Road and/or Kallaroo Road and for each consultation (a) how many residents participated in the consultation, (b) how many businesses participated in the consultation, (c) what was the cost of the consultation, (d) who undertook the consultation process, (e) on what date/s did the consultation process take place and (f) can the Minister provide a copy of any (i) briefing or terms of reference for the consultation and (ii) consultation report.
- (2) In relation to design works, to date, (a) how much has been spent, (b) what was the design work undertaken, (c) who undertook the design work and (d) can the Minister provide a copy of any design work completed.
- (3) Will further design work be undertaken; if so, (a) when will they be undertaken, (b) what is the budget set aside, (c) who will undertake these design works, (d) when will these works take place and (e) can the Minister provide a copy of any contract for the design works.

- (4) Has the ACT Government spent all of the funding allocated in the 2020 2021 budget; if not, (a) how much has been spent, (b) what was it spent on and can the Minister provide an itemised schedule of the spend and (c) why was the allocated funding not spent; if so, (a) what was it spent on and can the Minister provide an itemised schedule of the spend.
- (5) Has the Federal Government committed \$2.5million in the Federal Budget; if so, what is the total commitment by the ACT Government and in what financial years.

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

- (1) Consultation was undertaken with Pialligo residents and Pialligo businesses in the development of the Preliminary Sketch Plans for the upgrades to Beltana and Kallaroo Roads in 2019.

An additional round of consultation is currently being undertaken in the development of the detailed design.

a) and b)

i. The 2019 consultation included:

- Emails and phone calls;
- May 2019 – an initial meeting with the Pialligo Residents Association President;
- 11 June 2019 (20 attendees) – workshop held with residents and businesses to seek their input, understand issues/ constraints/ opportunities and identify options; and
- 16 July 2019 – follow up face to face session with residents and businesses to present options and seek feedback on their preferred option (20 attendees).

Approximately 50% of participants represented local business owners and approximately 50% of participants represented the residents.

ii. The 2021 consultation is yet to be finalised.

c) The 2019 consultation cost approximately \$15,000 ex GST.

The 2021 consultation is yet to be finalised and will be undertaken using existing resources (ACT Government officers).

d) The 2019 consultation was undertaken by a consultation specialist (Anthony Burton and Associates) working with the design consultant and ACT Government representatives.

The 2021 consultation is being undertaken by ACT Government officers.

e) See a) and b)

f) See Attachments 1 and 2.

(2)

a) The cost of design work (Preliminary Sketch Plans) and the consultation undertaken in 2019 is \$164,049 ex GST.

The detailed design commenced in 2021 and is yet to be finalised.

b) A Preliminary Sketch Plan was completed in 2019.

The detailed design commenced in 2021 and is yet to be finalised.

c) The Preliminary Sketch Plan was completed by Black Mountain Construction Assurance in collaboration with RD Gossip Pty Ltd.

The detailed design is being undertaken by Cardno.

d) The Preliminary Sketch Plan can be found on the City Services website.

The detailed design is yet to be finalised.

(3) Yes.

a) Detailed design is now being progressed and expected to be completed in 2021.

b) \$283,000 has been set aside to complete the detailed design.

c) The Detailed Design is being prepared by Cardno Pty Ltd.

d) Detailed design has been progressed and is expected to be completed in 2021.

e) The contract can be found on the Tenders ACT website.

(4) No.

a) \$25,520 has been spent to date.

b) These funds have been spent on project costs including Major Projects Canberra fees and TCCS Staff costs.

c) The funding has not yet been fully expended as the project is funded in the 20-21 financial year. Funding is expected to be fully spent upon completion of the detailed design.

d) A breakdown of the expenses to date is:

- TCCS Staff (5%) – (\$14,200)
- IDPG Fees (4%) – (\$11,320)

(5) Yes \$2.5m has been committed by the Federal Government as part of the 2021-22 Federal Budget. The Beltana Road Improvements Project has been listed as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Land Transport Infrastructure - Budget 2021-22 Schedule.

Matched funding from the ACT Government will be considered as part of the 2021-22 ACT Budget process.

*(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).*

### **Planning—Pialligo master plan (Question No 243)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

(1) Does the ACT Government have plans to build the proposed fire station on block 25 section 2 in Pialligo, included in the 2013 Pialligo Master Plan; if so, what is the expected (a) timeline and (b) cost; if not, (a) why not and (b) are there other plans for the block.

- (2) What costs have the ACT Government previously incurred in (a) design works and (b) consultations.

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

- (1) There are no current plans to build a fire station on block 25 section 2 in Pialligo. A review of the Station Upgrade and Relocation Program (SURP) in 2014, which considered projections of demand, population and urban growth to 2026, indicated that a station in the City would represent a more effective location than Pialligo to improve response times. This was re-affirmed as part of a SURP review in 2019.

The site is zoned Non-Urban Zone 1 (NUZ1): Broadacre, and the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate is the land custodian.

The planning and land authority has not been approached about any other plans for the block.

- (2) Nil, other than the considerations as part of the SURP reviews.

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### **Crime—cycling infringements (Question No 244)**

**Ms Clay** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for Corrections*):

How many traffic infringements for unsafe passing distance have been issued each year in the ACT since the introduction of minimum passing laws.

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

ACT Policing are committed to reducing road trauma on our roads. The safety of vulnerable road users, including cyclists, is of particular importance to both ACT Policing and the ACT Government.

In line with the ACT Road Safety Strategy and ACT Road Safety Calendar, ACT Policing undertakes focused operational activities, public messaging campaigns and media engagement to improve the safety of vulnerable road users.

Members of Traffic Operations actively enforce road transport and safety legislation, including legislation related to the minimum passing distances between motor vehicles and bicycles.

A key component of ACT Policing enforcement is an education campaign largely focused on road culture and awareness of vulnerable road users. Education plays an important role in promoting and encouraging safe and courteous behaviours on our roads and paths.

Protecting all vulnerable road users, including cyclists, is an ongoing priority for ACT Policing. ACT Policing have undertaken numerous initiatives to educate the Canberra public about the minimum passing distances and will continue to do so in the future.



Minimum passing laws came into permanent effect in the ACT in October 2018. Since that time, ACT Policing has issued the below number of traffic infringement notices and cautions related to ‘Overtake Bicycle Rider Too Closely’.

Type	2018	2019	2020	2021
Caution	4	5	8	0
Traffic Infringement Notice	2	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

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### Advertising—use on light rail (Question No 246)

Ms Clay asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) What light rail advertising and commercial signage is in place and what is planned.
- (2) How much revenue is advertising on light rail vehicles forecast to raise and what proportion of the total light rail operating budget does this represent.
- (3) Are there any contractual provisions around light rail vehicle advertising.

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

- (1) Advertising on light rail has been implemented in line with existing standards and guidelines governing advertising on the ACT’s bus network.

Static commercial advertising is available on the interior of light rail vehicles (LRVs) and at five of the 13 light rail stops along the Gungahlin Place to Alinga Street route. External format light rail vehicle ‘wraps’ were introduced in May 2021, with 11 of the 14 LRVs available for commercial advertising and the remainder reserved for government and community campaigns. No additional advertising or commercial signage is currently planned. Commercial advertisers seeking to place advertising on or within LRVs must comply with the same advertising guidelines as apply for advertising on Canberra’s bus network. These guidelines ban advertising which is not in line with community standards. This includes advertising which uses graphic language or sexualized images, promotes a range of products such as cigarettes and junk food, or otherwise contains offensive content. Political advertising is also not allowed on ACT bus or light rail vehicles, stops and interchanges.

- (2) Commercial advertising on light rail assets (onboard LRVs and at stops) generated over \$220,000 in revenue for the ACT Government in the 2019-2020 financial year. The current forecast is approximately \$100,000 in advertising revenue for the 2020-2021 financial year in light of the impacts of COVID.

The total cost of Transport Canberra operations at the 2020-21 Budget was \$260.3 million. Light rail advertising revenue is used to provide activities such as additional services for special events, customer improvements and safety campaigns.

- (3) Section 51 of the Capital Metro Project Agreement outlines the contractual requirements with Canberra Metro for any commercial opportunities (Ref: Contract - CLR-Stage 1 - 920/80154106).
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**Planning—Kippax master plan  
(Question No 247)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Will the Government have the open expression of interest (EOI) process for the Kippax Master Plan ready by the end of May.
- (2) At what stage is the development of the open EOI process for the Kippax Master Plan.
- (3) If the open EOI process for the Kippax Master Plan is already complete and available to the public, have there already been any expressions of interest; if so, what organisations have submitted an expression of interest.

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

- (1) The expression of interest (EOI) process commenced on 28 May 2021 and will close on 25 July 2021.
  - (2) Refer to answer (1)
  - (3) Refer to answer (1)
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**Transport Canberra—Ginninderry shuttle bus  
(Question No 248)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice No 172, did the Minister answer part (1) of the question in which he was asked what advice Transport Canberra had given to him regarding my proposals for rerouting the Ginninderry shuttle bus along Britten-Jones Drive; if not, can the Minister provide the advice he received from Transport Canberra regarding my three proposals to reroute the Ginninderry shuttle bus along Britten-Jones Drive.
- (2) In relation to the answer to part (2) of the question in which the Minister was asked to provide an update regarding any formal assessment of my three proposals to reroute the Ginninderry shuttle bus along Britten-Jones Drive and the Minister's response which spoke to a review of extending regular bus services to Britten-Jones Drive, has Transport Canberra formally assessed my proposals regarding the shuttle bus; if so, what were the outcomes and recommendations; if not, when will this formal assessment be complete.

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

- (1) Transport Canberra provided advice that Britten-Jones Drive had not been designed and constructed to accommodate bus movements, as it is classified as a local access road. It was deemed not suitable to operate regular bus services as the road is narrow and has some tight curves which would require buses to encroach into the oncoming lane in order to negotiate.
- (2) All three options identified in the letter dated 2 September 2020 required the use of Britten-Jones Drive in different route configurations. However, for the reasons outlined in the answer above, they were deemed unsuitable for implementation.

### **Transport Canberra—bus fleet (Question No 249)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

What classification of road are (a) Renault PR100.2 MK II, (b) Hino Poncho Bus HX9JLKE-FWU, (c) Renault PR100.3, (d) IRISBUS AGORALINE, (e) SCANIA L94UB CB60, (f) MAN A69 18.310 HOCLNL, (g) MAN A69 18.320, (h) HOUCL-R-NL, (i) SCANIA K360UA 6 X 2/2 CB80, (j) SCANIA K320UB CB80 and (k) SCANIA-K320UB Bustech VST, buses (i) permitted to travel on and (ii) not permitted to travel on.

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

Transport Canberra typically operates bus services on the higher order classified roads (e.g. collector and arterial) throughout the network, with the exception being some older suburbs designed to different carriageway standards.

The entire Transport Canberra bus fleet, with the exception of the SCANIA K320 CB60 Evo II (steer tag buses), are permitted to travel on Canberra's higher order classified roads (collector and arterial), subject to their geometry.

The SCANIA K320 CB60 Evo II (steer tag bus) can only operate on routes approved for a 14.5m controlled access bus, due to their unique vehicle swept path. Transport Canberra and City Services maintains a map of the approved routes for these types of buses.

The smaller wheelbase of the Hino Poncho Bus HX9JLKE-FWU allows for these buses to be used on some lower order classified roads (e.g. local access streets). However, to determine suitability of a proposed Hino Poncho bus route, vehicle swept path analysis and a review of road clearance heights (e.g. from overhanging branches), would be required to determine suitability.

### **Roads—classifications (Question No 252)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for Planning and Land Management*):

- (1) Can the Minister provide a road map with detailed road classifications (such as access streets, minor collector roads and major collector roads) from the estate development plan of (a) Strathnairn, (b) Lawson, (c) Whitlam and (d) Macnamara.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a complete list of road names with their classifications, if the maps referred to in part (1) cannot be obtained or do not exist.

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

1. The road hierarchy plans for Strathnairn, Lawson, Whitlam and Macnamara estates are attached to this response and contain detailed road classifications. Please note that Whitlam Stage 3 and Macnamara Stage 1 are active Development Applications and the planning and land authority is yet to make a decision on these estate stages and proposed developments.
2. All maps requested are attached.

*(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).*

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### **Roads—classifications (Question No 253)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) What is the road classification of Britten-Jones Drive and Bushby Place.
- (2) Is the road classification for every road in Canberra publicly available; if so, where can this information be found.

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

- (1) Britten-Jones Drive is a major collector road and Bushby Place is a local road.
- (2) The Active Travel Practitioner Tool provides indicative, but not authoritative, mapping of road classifications: <https://activeinfrastructure.net.au/>

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### **Roads—William Hovell Drive (Question No 255)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Has the Government done any projections on how much the William Hovell Drive duplication would cost; if so, what are all the differing projections and the reason for their differences.
- (2) How much is the ACT Government contributing to the duplication in addition to the \$26.5 million from the Federal Government.

- (3) Has the design stage for the duplication of William Hovell Drive commenced; if so, (a) when did it commence, (b) what progress has been made so far on the design and (c) when does the Government intend to have finished the design phase; if not, when will the design stage commence.
- (4) Once the design stage is complete, what is the next stage and what will that stage entail.
- (5) When will construction begin on the duplication.
- (6) If there is no set date, around what date does the ACT Government intend to begin construction.

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

- (1) The Preliminary Sketch Plan (PSP) design has the estimated total project cost at \$63.25 million. There has only been one cost estimate to date. There will be a final cost estimate delivered when the detail design is completed.
- (2) ACT Government match funding is being considered as part of the 2021-22 Budget process.
- (3) Yes.
  - a) The detail design stage commenced on 21 January 2020.
  - b) The detail design is 70% complete.
  - c) The detail design is expected to be complete later this year.
- (4) Following the detail design the next stage will be to call tenders for construction.
- (5) Construction is expected to commence in 2022.
- (6) See (5).

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### **National Disability Insurance Agency—service providers (Question No 256)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) What engagement does the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services have with the National Disability Insurance Agency to ensure effective implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the ACT.
- (2) What measures does the ACT Government take to advertise and promote the NDIS to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the ACT.

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

- (1) The ACT Government is not aware of the level of engagement between Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

- (2) The NDIA as the administrative agency responsible for the NDIS is responsible for the promotion of the NDIS to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT. Information about the NDIA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy is available on the NDIA website <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/strategies>
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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—chemical agent use  
(Question No 257)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many times has a riot-control gas (such as but not limited to capsicum spray) been deployed at the Alexander Maconochie Centre since the November 2020 riot.
- (2) On what dates was the gas deployed.

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

- (1) OC spray was used twice during the incident of 12 May 2021. I refer Mrs Kikkert to the briefing she received on this incident and to the answer to QON 258.
  - (2) See above.
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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—chemical agent use  
(Question No 258)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Does the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) currently stock (a) CS gas, (b) oleoresin capsicum spray and (c) other types of tear gasses and/or chemical sprays.
- (2) Has the AMC previously stocked any of these substances; if so, which ones and when were they in stock.
- (3) How many times were each of these substances used, how were they used (e.g. on detainees and/or remandees), for what reason (e.g. protection or offence) and when.
- (4) What are the brand names of each of the substances that were purchased.
- (5) How many staff are trained to use any of these substances.
- (6) Are there any plans to train more staff to use any of these substances; if so, how many staff and which substances.
- (7) What permissions must be given, and from whom must they be given, to use any of the abovementioned substances.
- (8) Does the ACT Government have any plans in the future to stock any of these substances; if so, which ones and what brand names will be purchased.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The AMC currently stocks Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray and CS gas.
- (2) Chemical agents have been stocked at the AMC since 2010. However, to determine which products were in stock and when would require a considerable administrative undertaking and therefore cannot be provided due to the deadline for response.
- (3) OC spray was used during the incident of 12 May 2021 and refer Mrs Kikkert to the briefing she received on this incident.
- (4) The brand names for the substances currently held are CTS MK-4 Inert Gel (CS gas) and CTS MK-4 Level 2 OC Gel (OC spray).
- (5) As at 21 May 2021, ACTCS has 87 Custodial Officers (COs) trained in the use of OC spray. All remaining COs are scheduled to be trained.
- (6) The current training plan will have all COs trained in the use of OC spray within 12 months.
- (7) In accordance with the *Corrections Management (Use of Force and Restraint) Policy 2020* the General Manager, or Duty Manager in their absence, must give approval for chemical agents to be deployed to an incident by trained staff.
- (8) The AMC will continue to stock chemical substances.

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee education and training programs  
(Question No 259)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many short courses are on offer to short stay detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What is the maximum amount of time a detainee can stay in the AMC and be classified as a short stay detainee.
- (3) Does such a classification exist.
- (4) How many of these short stay inmates enrolled in a short stay course between (a) 2017-2018, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2019-2020 and (d) 2020-2021 year to date.
- (5) How many completed the course they had enrolled in.
- (6) Of those who did not complete the course, how many did not complete the course due to being released from the AMC.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) is unable to provide this information as the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) does not have a short stay detainee 'classification'.

- (2) Not applicable.
  - (3) No.
  - (4) Not applicable.
  - (5) Not applicable.
  - (6) Not applicable.
- 

**ACT Corrective Services—sentence management officers  
(Question No 260)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many Sentence Management Officers (SMOs) are employed by ACT Corrective Services.
- (2) How many SMOs work with inmates at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (3) Is there a maximum number of inmates that an SMO can be assigned to; if so, what is that number.
- (4) Are SMOs who work with inmates at the AMC based primarily within the AMC.
- (5) Is there any workspace in the AMC dedicated for use by SMOs.
- (6) Is there a minimum of hours that an SMO must spend in person with an inmate they are assigned to.
- (7) What key indicators is an SMO subject to, to evaluate their performance.
- (8) What key indicators does an SMO use to evaluate the rehabilitation of an inmate they are assigned to.
- (9) Do SMOs have a job duty to ensure inmates have a secure place of residence upon release.
- (10) What are the minimum qualifications or certificates required to be a SMO.

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

- (1) ACTCS is funded for 10 Sentence Management Officers (SMOs) and all 10 positions are currently filled.
- (2) All SMOs work with detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (3) There is no maximum number of detainees a SMO can be assigned to. The needs of each detainee are highly variable. Therefore, one SMO may have a smaller or larger case load depending on the complexities of each detainee.



- (4) All SMOs are based at the AMC.
- (5) All SMOs have an allocated workstation at the AMC.
- (6) SMOs are required to have contact with female detainees once per fortnight, and for male detainees one contact per month.
- (7) The needs of each detainee are highly variable and hence the measures of performance for an SMO will vary depending on the complexities of each detainee. SMOs are required to have case plans for detainees finalised within a six -week period from the detainee being inducted into custody.
- (8) See response to question 7. SMOs monitor detainees against their individual case plans and goals achieved under those plans.
- (9) See response to question 7. Prior to release, SMOs will work with detainees to identify options for accommodation and facilitate contact and applications as required.
- (10) There are no minimum qualifications required to be a SMO. All potential candidates are vetted through a recruitment process and must demonstrate their competence against the selection criteria. Relevant tertiary qualifications are highly desirable.

### **Justice—bail conditions (Question No 261)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

Were any of the recommendations referenced on page 1 of the document “A Viable Solution? Bail Hostels in the ACT” by Asher Presneill actioned or investigated in any way.

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

Yes. The insights and recommendations within Ms Presneill’s report have been considered in the implementation of the Justice Housing Program.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—cultural programs (Question No 262)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

Concerning facilities and programs that are exclusive to indigenous inmates in the Alexander Maconochie Centre, (a) what programs are available and (b) what facilities are available.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- a) There are a number of programs available at the AMC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees. These include:
  - Indigenous Services Unit at the AMC

- Culture Inside Women’s Weaving and Art program – “Culture on the Move”
- Elders Music Expression Program
- Elders Healing Program
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Leadership Program
- Elders Family Engagement Program
- Elders Visitation Program
- TWES (Time to Work Employment Service)

b) There is a separate room within the Indigenous Services Unit that is used for art programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—security patrols  
(Question No 263)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Are nightly patrols around the perimeter fence currently part of standard procedure in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What paperwork is an employee required to fill in when beginning or ending a nightly patrol around the perimeter fence and what is the title of each of these.
- (3) Have nightly patrols around the perimeter fence ever not been part of standard procedure and routine; if so (a) when did they cease being a part of standard procedure or routine and why were they stopped, (b) what incidents involving the perimeter fence have happened or may have happened during the time when nightly patrols were ceased? Such incidents would include things being thrown over the fence, the fence being damaged and inmates being in contact with the fence.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) For safety and security reasons I am unable to answer this QON as the information is part of a restricted operating procedure.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee debt  
(Question No 264)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Does ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) collect data on how much debt an inmate has upon (a) entrance to the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) and (b) exit from the AMC; if so, (i) how many inmates leave the AMC with over \$1000 of debt, (ii) how many inmates leave the AMC with over \$100 of debt.
- (2) Does ACTCS, at any point of an inmate’s time in the justice system, assist inmates with debt management.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) ACTCS does not collect data specifically to record debt. ACTCS may record self-reported debt in a pre-sentence report ordered by the Court, or pre-release report if ordered by the Sentence Administration Board.
  - (2) Sentence Management Officers (SMOs) assist detainees with their debt management by supporting detainees to apply to the ACT Magistrates Court Fine Management Section to pay off any outstanding warrants or fines. If detainees indicate they have other debt in the community, the SMO will refer the detainee to Care Financial Services (CFS).
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### **ACT Corrective Services—release process (Question No 265)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Before an inmate is released (completing their sentence) from the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), do AMC staff conduct any kind of (a) job preparedness assessment, (b) housing needs assessment, (c) financial needs assessment, (d) transportation needs assessment, (e) debt assessment.
- (2) Before being released, are inmates required to have (a) any documentation or identification such as a proof-of-age card or Medicare card, (b) a secure place of residence.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Detainees may undergo a range of needs assessments including (a) job preparedness assessment, (b) housing needs assessment, (c) financial needs assessment, (d) transportation needs assessment, (e) debt assessment.

The Sentence Management Officer (SMO) works with a detainee to identify areas to be addressed in developing a Sentence Management Plan (SMP). This may occur at any time during the detainee's sentence.

- (2) Before being released:
    - a. Detainees are able to use their AMC ID as their primary form of identification on release, and to obtain a proof of age card.
    - b. Accommodation proposed for a parolee is assessed as to its suitability by Community Corrections, as appropriate.
- 

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—parental contact (Question No 266)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many inmates 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:** I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) As at 25 May 2021, there are 12 female detainees who are mothers.
- (2) There are various mediums of contact mothers can have with their children during their custody period. Mothers are able to contact their children via telephone, email, mail and through in person/contact visits and audio-visual link visits.
- (3) Yes.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee education and training programs  
(Question No 267)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Further to the Minister's answer to a question (Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, No. 112) during Estimates, are there any in-person education categories or courses that are taught co-educational, as in, these courses are taught to both males and females together at the same time in the same place; if so, what are those courses.
- (2) What is the difference between an accredited education certificate and a statement of attainment.
- (3) What is (a) category OP101, (b) category OP102, (c) category OP103, (d) category OP104 and (e) what are the differences between these categories.
- (4) Does the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) provide a specific course to attain a year 10 certificate and/or a year 12 certificate; if so, are females allowed to study this education course.
- (5) In relation to the AMC, Art education category, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so, what is the title of this unit outline.
- (6) In relation to the AMC, Library Studies education category, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so, what is the title of this unit outline.
- (7) In relation to the AMC, Literacy education category, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so, what is the title of this unit outline.

- (8) In relation to the AMC, Resume education category, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so, what is the title of this unit outline.
- (9) In relation to the AMC, Research category, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so, what is the title of this unit outline.
- (10) In relation to AHC21216 – Certificate II in Rural operations – AMC Landscape Cluster, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (11) In relation to AMC – Construction (Build It & Drain It), (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (12) In relation to CPCCWHS1001 – Prepare to work safely in the construction industry, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so, what is the title of this unit outline.
- (13) In relation to FSK20113 – Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (14) In relation to TLII1002 – Apply customer service skills, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (15) In relation to TLIP2024 – Conduct financial transactions, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (16) In relation to AMC, Food Safety, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.

- (17) In relation to AMC, Landscape, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (18) In relation to AMC, Cleaning, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (19) In relation to AMC, Coffee, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (20) In relation to AMC, Chemical Users, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (21) In relation to FBP20217 – Certificate II in Baking, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.
- (22) In relation to FSK20119 – Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways, (a) what organisation facilitates/provides this, (b) does this organisation have an employee that provides this service in person and on site, (c) are females allowed to study this education category, (d) is there a specific unit outline for this category; if so what is the title of this unit outline.

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

- (1) No.
- (2) A statement of attainment is issued for the completion of a unit within the accredited certification.
- (3) The OP (Output) categories are determined by the Report on Government Services and describe the level of education enrolled in, with OP101 being the lowest level and OP104 being highest.
- a. OP101 – Pre-certificate Level 1 Courses (FSK10113 Cert I Foundation skills plus non-accredited programs)
  - b. OP102 – Secondary Schools Sector Courses (FSK10213 Cert I Foundation skills)
  - c. OP103 – Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Vocational Education and Training Education Courses (FSK20113 Cert I Foundation skills plus Vocational Education and Training (VET) electives)
  - d. OP104 – Higher Education Sector Courses (Tertiary Preparation Program (TPP) plus undergraduate distance education)

- (4) The primary focus is providing employment-based skills and qualifications.
- (5) In relation to the AMC Art education category
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite art classes
  - c. Yes
  - d. There is no specific unit outline as it is not an accredited course.
- (6) In relation to the AMC Library Studies education category
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite library studies
  - c. Yes
  - d. There is no specific unit outline as this relates to detainees undertaking distance tertiary education to allow them to complete studies and research in the AMC Library.
- (7) In relation to the AMC Literacy education category
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite literacy education
  - c. Yes
  - d. The specific unit outline is
    - i. FSKRDG10 Read and respond to routine workplace information and
    - ii. FSKWTG09 Write routine workplace texts
- (8) In relation to the AMC Resume education category
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite resume education
  - c. Yes
  - d. The specific unit outline is
    - i. FSKLRG11 Use routine strategies for work related learning and
    - ii. BSBTEC201 Use business software applications
- (9) In relation to the AMC Research category
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite resume education
  - c. Yes
  - d. There is no specific unit outline as this relates to detainees undertaking distance tertiary education.
- (10) In relation to AHC21216 – Certificate II in Rural operations – AMC Landscape Cluster
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite Certificate II in Rural Operations
  - c. Yes
  - d. Yes: AHC21216 Certificate II in Rural Operations.

- (11) In relation to AMC – Construction (Build It & Drain It)
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
  - c. Yes.
  - d. No.
- (12) In relation to CPCCWHS1001 – Prepare to work safely in the construction industry
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
  - c. Yes
  - d. Yes: CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry (White card).
- (13) In relation to FSK20113 – Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
  - c. Yes
  - d. Yes: FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for work and vocational pathways.
- (14) In relation to TLII1002 – Apply customer service skills
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
  - c. Yes
  - d. Yes: TLII 1002 Apply Customer Service skills.
- (15) In relation to TLIP2024 – Conduct financial transactions
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
  - c. Yes
  - d. Yes: TLIP2021 Conduct Financial Transactions.
- (16) In relation to AMC Food Safety
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
  - c. Yes
  - d. Yes: SITXFSA Use Hygienic Practices for Food Safety.
- (17) In relation to AMC Landscape
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
  - b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
  - c. Yes
  - d. The specific unit outline consists of 6 separate units in the Landscaping Cluster.
- (18) In relation to AMC Cleaning
- a. Foresite Training and Licensing



- b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
- c. Yes
- d. The specific unit outlines are
  - i. CPPCLO3003 Cleaning using safe work practises and
  - ii. CPCCWMT3044A Identify wastes and hazards.
  - iii. A third unit is about to commence being BSBWH332X Apply Infection Prevention and Control procedures to own work activities, with a view to commence the Certificate II in Cleaning in the latter half of 2021.

## (19) In relation to AMC Coffee

- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
- b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite Barista training
- c. Yes
- d. The specific unit outlines are
  - i. SITXFSA001 Use hygienic practices for food safety and
  - ii. SITHFAB005 Prepare and serve espresso coffee.

## (20) In relation to AMC Chemical Users

- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
- b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
- c. Yes
- d. The specific unit outline is
  - i. AHCCHM304 Transport and store chemicals and
  - ii. AHCCHM307 Prepare and apply chemicals to control pests, weeds and disease (Chemcert card).

## (21) In relation to FBP20217 – Certificate II in Baking

- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
- b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
- c. Yes
- d. Yes: Certificate II in Bakery. The course is delivered in conjunction with the qualified AMC Baker who provides practical supervision in the AMC Bakery. Foresite Training and Licensing provide the theory and observation assessments.

## (22) In relation to FSK20119 – Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways

- a. Foresite Training and Licensing
- b. Foresite Training and Licensing provide onsite training
- c. Yes
- d. Yes: FSK20119 Certificate II in Foundation skills.

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—drug testing  
(Question No 268)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) What drugs can be detected using the methods taken by ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) in conducting drug testing within the first 72 hours of custody at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- (2) Can the testing methods used by ACTCS determine whether someone is lying if an inmate claims to have an opiate addiction and asks for methadone as a treatment; if so, how does ACTCS confirm an inmate genuinely has a drug abuse problem before allowing them access to methadone.
- (3) Are inmates drug tested just prior to release; if so, what drugs can be detected using ACTCS testing methods.
- (4) How many inmates as of 13 May 2021 have not undergone an induction drug test.
- (5) Can the Minister detail the procedures and materials used to conduct induction drug tests.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) An APAC six-panel urine test is used to test detainees entering custody in the AMC for Cocaine, Morphine, Methamphetamine, Cannabis, Amphetamine and Benzodiazepine.
- (2) Methadone is prescribed and managed by Justice Health Services.
- (3) Detainees are not routinely drug tested prior to release.
- (4) To determine how many detainees as of 13 May 2021 have not undergone an induction drug test would require a considerable administrative undertaking involving inspection of each induction record individually and therefore cannot be provided due to the deadline for response.
- (5) The materials and procedures used to conduct induction drug screening are as follows:
  - a. In accordance with the *Corrections Management (Induction) Operating Procedure 2019 (No 2)*, detainees undertake a drug screening test within 72 hours of admission.
  - b. The urine sample must be provided within two hours of the direction. The urine sample provided is then tested and any non-negative indication is recorded on the Custodial Information System.
  - c. The detainee must provide a sample for the test, any refusal or tampering with the sample will be treated as a positive result, and disciplinary action may be initiated. If any non-negative result is due to prescribed medications, the detainee must sign a consent form to have their medication chart released to ACTCS.
  - d. The materials required for this process are a urine sample cup and the APAC six-panel test.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—service providers  
(Question No 269)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many organisations have been contracted to provide activities, programs, workshops, classes and the like for the purpose of entertaining, educating or improving emotional, physical and mental wellbeing at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) within the last three years.
- (2) Of those organisations referred to in part (1), (a) what were the names of these organisations, (b) what was the title of the service they provided and (c) how much were each of these organisations paid.
- (3) How many consultants were contracted to provide assessments and reviews of the AMC for the purpose of determining needed programs, workshops, classes and the like in the last three years.
- (4) Of those consultants referred to in part (3), (a) what were the names of the organisations that provided the consultancy, (b) what are the titles of the subsequent documents containing the result of the reviews and assessments that were sent to the government and (c) how much were these consulting organisations paid for their services.
- (5) How many organisations have been contracted to provide activities, programs, workshops, classes and the like, specifically for females, for the purpose of entertaining, educating or improving emotional, physical and mental wellbeing at the AMC within the last three years.
- (6) Of those organisations referred to in part (5), (a) what were the names of these organisations, (b) what was the title of the service they provided and (c) how much were each of these organisations paid.
- (7) How many consultants were contracted to provide assessments and reviews of the AMC, for the purpose of determining needed programs, workshops, classes and the like, specifically for females, in the last three years.
- (8) Of those consultants referred to in part (7), (a) what were the names of the organisations that provided the consultancy, (b) what are the titles of the subsequent documents containing the result of the reviews and assessments that were sent to the government, (c) how much were these consulting organisations paid for their services.

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

- (1) Four (4)
- (2) Regarding the organisations referred to in Q1,
  - a) The four (4) organisations were:
    - i. Foresite Training Pty Ltd
    - ii. Corporate Health Management Pty Ltd
    - iii. Anglican Diocesan Services
    - iv. Shine For Kids Co-operative Limited
  - b) The title of the services provided were:
    - i. Vocational Education and Training at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) (delivered by Foresite Training Pty Ltd)

- ii. Provision of Sport Recreational Programs and Activities for the Alexander Maconochie Centre (delivered by Corporate Health Management Pty Ltd)
  - iii. Provision of Chaplaincy Coordination Services for the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) (delivered by Anglican Diocesan Services)
  - iv. Provision of Family Services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (delivered by Shine For Kids Co-operative Limited)
- c) These organisations were paid the following over the last three (3) years:
- i. \$2,274,661.63 (GST Inclusive) to Foresite Training Pty Ltd
  - ii. \$146,250.00 (GST Inclusive) to Corporate Health Management Pty Ltd
  - iii. \$247,849.71 (GST Inclusive) to Anglican Diocesan Services
  - iv. \$897,239.67 (GST Inclusive) to Shine For Kids Co-operative Limited
- (3) One (1)
- (4) Regarding the consultants referred to in Q3,
- a) Diosma Consultancy Pty Ltd
  - b) Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) Education Review
  - c) \$37,474.55 (GST Inclusive)
- (5) All organisations are expected to provide activities and/or services to detainees.
- (6) See above answers.
- (7) Nil.
- (8) Nil.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—public transport concessions  
(Question No 270)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

Do detainees who are released from the Alexander Maconochie Centre have access to public transport concessions of any kind; if so, (a) what is the process for accessing these concessions, (b) how long are such concessions provided, (c) how are released detainees informed of any transport concessions.

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

Yes. There are various opportunities for detainees to access public transport concessions on release from the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

- a. There are various pathways to accessing public transport concessions on release from the AMC. ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) staff advise detainees as to the most appropriate pathway to accessing public transport concessions, and where necessary assist in facilitating the process.
- b. Depending on circumstance, detainees may access free bus tickets for up to 12 months following release from custody. In addition, clients that identify as

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are able to access free bus tickets for the duration of their community-based order.

- c. ACTCS staff discuss these matters with detainees prior to their release from custody (see response 1a above).

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—reintegration centre (Question No 271)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Given the Minister's budget debate speech on Wednesday 21 April stated that \$5.6 million over two years starting from 2021 would be funded to address soil rectification issues for the reintegration centre project and the ACT budget states that \$28 million would be funded for the creation of the reintegration centre in 2021-22, how is construction of the reintegration centre supposed to commence in the next financial year if funding for soil rectification is supposed to be over two years?
- (2) In relation to the reintegration centre, (a) when it was funded in the budget, what was the intended timeframe for work to commence on its construction, (b) has that intended timeframe been pushed back; if so, when does the government expect to commence construction for the reintegration centre, (c) is the centre intended to be a separate building from any existing buildings, (d) is the centre intended to be an expansion of the TRC and be physically attached to the TRC.

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

- (1) and (2) The tender associated with the proposed Reintegration Centre has not been finalised and so it is not possible to provide a response to these questions on project design and construction timelines.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee employment (Question No 272)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) How many inmates are employed in the service industry within the Alexander Maconochie Centre, as of 13 May 2021.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a complete breakdown of how many inmates are employed in each individual job title, as of 13 May 2021.

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

- (1) As at 13 May 2021, there were 181 detainees employed in the service industry.
- (2) A complete breakdown of detainees employed in the service industry in each position is provided in the table below.

<b>SERVICE AREA</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NUMBER EMPLOYED</b>
<b>KITCHEN</b>		
	Food Deliveries	1
	Packers	4
	Cook	1
	Assistant Cook	1
	Store person	2
	Café Assistant	4
	Washer	2
	General Duties	13
<b>BAKERY</b>		
	Leading hand	5
	Bakery	12
<b>COTTAGE DELIVERY</b>		
	Food Deliveries	3
<b>VISITS</b>		
	Sweeper	2
	Barista	1
<b>AMC BULK STORES</b>		
	Stores Workers	4
<b>COTTAGE AREA CLEANERS</b>		
	Cottage Bins	4
	Area Cleaners	4
	Grounds	2
<b>AMC GROUNDS</b>		
	Leading hand	1
	2IC Grounds	1
	Grounds	1
<b>METAL FABRICATION</b>		
	Metal Fabricator	1
<b>RECYCLING</b>		
	Recycling workers	4
<b>FACILITIES MAINTENANCE</b>		
	General maintenance	2
	Painters	3

<b>LAUNDRY</b>		
	Laundry workers	5
<b>TEXTILES</b>		
	Leading hand	1
	Textile workers	1
<b>HAIRDRESSING</b>		
	Barbers	3
<b>DELEGATES</b>		
	Detainee delegates	9
<b>MENTORS</b>		
	Peer mentors	4
	Roving Peer mentors	1
	Therapeutic Community mentors	2
<b>ACCOMMODATION AREAS</b>		
	Leading hands	4
	2IC	4
	General sweepers	42
	Induction assistant	2
	Office cleaner	1
	Grounds WCC	2
	Bin's workers	2
<b>ADMISSIONS</b>		
	Admissions sweeper	2
	Vehicle cleaner	2
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		
	Activities sweeper	1
	Buy up sweeper	1
<b>PROGRAMS BUILDING</b>		
	Program's sweeper	1
<b>EDUCATION BUILDING</b>		
	Education sweeper	2
	Library assistant	1
<b>WOMEN'S ACCOMMODATION</b>		
	Women's area Sweepers	7
	Induction assistant	1

<b>BLOOD AND BODY SUBSTANCE</b>	
<b>SPILLS</b>	
	Cleaners 2
<b>TOTAL AS OF 13 MAY 2021</b>	181

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainees  
(Question No 273)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) What is the total capacity of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) when all beds are usable.
- (2) What is the current operating capacity of the AMC when taking into account beds that are unusable due to damage.
- (3) What is the total inmate population at the AMC, as of 13 May 2021.
- (4) How many inmates, as of 13 May 2021, at the AMC are women and how many of these women are (i) remandees, (ii) of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- (5) How many inmates, as of 13 May 2021, at the AMC are male and how many of these men are (i) remandees and (ii) of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- (6) How many inmates originally imprisoned in the AMC have been transferred to correctional facilities in NSW, as of 13 May 2021.

**Mr Gentleman:** I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The total capacity of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) when all beds are usable is 516.
  - (2) The current operating capacity of the AMC when taking into account beds that are unusable due to damage is 441.
  - (3) As at 13 May 2021, the total detainee population at the AMC was 365 detainees.
  - (4) As at 13 May 2021, the total number of women detainees at the AMC was 20, of which
    - i. 8 were on remand and
    - ii. 10 were from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
  - (5) As at 13 May 2021, the total number of male detainees at the AMC was 345, of which
    - i. 116 were on remand and
    - ii. 85 were from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
  - (6) As at 13 May 2021, 10 detainees that were originally imprisoned in the AMC were in a NSW correctional facility.
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**Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—legal services  
(Question No 274)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 14 May 2021  
(*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

Is the Bail Support Trial referenced in the 2016-2017 Justice and Community Safety Directorate annual report on page 40 the same as the Ngurrumbai Trial; if not, (i) what was the result of the development of the Bail Support Trial and (ii) did the trial ever commence.

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

Yes, the Bail Support Trial referenced in the 2016-2017 Justice and Community Safety Directorate annual report on page 40 is the Ngurrumbai Bail Support Program.

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**Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—disability assessments  
(Question No 276)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Families and Community Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) Are detainees at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre routinely assessed for disability (intellectual, physical, any other); if so, when does this occur and if not, why not.
- (2) Are young people on remand assessed as well, or just sentenced detainees.
- (3) How are the results of any disability assessment used to inform how a young person is cared for during and after detention.
- (4) Can the Minister confirm whether Bimberi is trialling a new disability assessment tool; if so, can the Minister attach details regarding this tool.

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

- (1) Upon induction into Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi), all young people are assessed by Justice Health nurses and Forensic Mental Health specialists to determine their medical and mental health needs. In circumstances where a young person is not able to be assessed as part of their induction, the medical and mental health assessment occurs within 24 hours of their induction.
- (2) Whether on remand or sentenced all young people are assessed on induction or within 24 hours of induction.
- (3) Justice Health, Forensic Mental Health and Winnunga Nimmityjah work with Bimberi to ensure the health and mental health needs of each individual young person are addressed and met.
- (4) Bimberi is in the process of finalising a procedure to implement a trial of the Tool for Identification of Reasonable Adjustments (TIRA). This tool was developed by the

Office for Disability and draws on elements of The Washington Group Questions - Short Set (question component) and the Mental State Examination (observational component).

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**Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—psychotropic medications use  
(Question No 277)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Families and Community Services, upon notice, on 14 May 2021:

- (1) In relation to the provision of psychotropic medications to detainees at Bimberi, (a) under what specific conditions are psychotropic medications administered to detainees, (b) who determines if such medications are administered (either as continuing treatment or as a new treatment) and (c) how is the use of such medications monitored.
- (2) Are psychotropic medications ever administered at Bimberi as a means of subduing detainees or controlling difficult behaviours; if so, (i) who makes this decision, and (ii) how is such usage monitored.

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

- (1) Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services of Canberra Health Services is responsible for the provision of health services within Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. When a young person enters Bimberi, a health assessment is conducted which may include the provision of prescription and non-prescription medication.
  - a) Psychotropic medications are prescribed to young people at Bimberi where there is an established history or current active symptoms of a diagnosable mental illness. Psychotropic medications are regulated under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and can only be prescribed for specific diagnoses approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Psychotropic medication is only administered to a young person detained at Bimberi on the advice of Canberra Health Services.
  - b) The decision to prescribe, or to continue to prescribe psychotropic medications, may be made by either a General Practitioner (GP) or Psychiatrist depending on the nature of the mental health concern. GPs are typically responsible for the primary health care of mild-moderate mental health conditions and psychiatrists are responsible for the care of moderate to severe mental illnesses, in line with community mental health care provision.
  - c) Medication management training for Bimberi staff is conducted prior to any medications being administered by staff. This compulsory training is attended by Bimberi Management, Unit Managers, and Team Leaders who are authorised to administer medications to young people following successful completion of this training. When administering medications to young people, Bimberi staff are required to follow specific practice guidelines. Canberra Health Services is responsible for the provision of all health services at Bimberi including the monitoring of medications.

- (2) As a Human Rights compliant facility, no medication is utilised for the purposes of subduing detainees or controlling difficult behaviours. Treatment outcomes of psychotropic medications, including adverse side effects, are monitored via regular reviews by a multi-disciplinary team of nursing and allied health clinicians in addition to regular medical reviews. Psychotropic medications are at no time prescribed as a means of subduing young people or controlling difficult behaviours; however, they may be prescribed for contributing issues such as mood dysregulation or anxiety where diagnostic criteria are met.
- i. Not applicable
  - ii. Not applicable

### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—drug and alcohol rehabilitation (Question No 278)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, upon notice, on 14 May 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for Health*):

- (1) Further to an article in the Canberra Times in March 2020 article which reported that a review was being undertaken into the development of a separate residential service supporting drug and alcohol rehabilitation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, (a) what organisation is conducting the review, (b) has this review been completed; if not, on what date does the government intend for the review to be complete.
- (2) In relation to the review mentioned in part one, if there is no specific completion date, around what date does the Government intend to have the completed the review; if not, (i) at what stage is the review at, (ii) is this review publicly available and where can it be found and (iii) what is the title of the review.
- (3) Given the ACT Health Directorate engaged Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services to develop a culturally appropriate model of care for the proposed facility and that this model of care would be finalised by July 2020, (a) has this model of care been finalised; if so, (i) when was it finalised, (ii) is the model of care publicly available and where can it be found.
- (4) If this model of care has not been finalised, when will it be finalised.
- (5) If the model of care has been completed, (a) has design begun on the proposed facility; if so, at what stage is the design, (b) on what date does the government intend to have finished the design,(c) if there is no specific date, around what date does the government intend to have completed the design.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government is committed to a culturally specific Alcohol and Drug residential rehabilitation facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The review referred to by the Member was a reference to the work undertaken by Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services (Winnunga) on the Model of Care (Refer to response to Question 3).
- (2) Refer to response to Question 1.

- (3) Winnunga has developed a Model of Care for the service. Potential publication of this document is subject to further discussion with Winnunga.
- (4) Refer to response to Question 3.
- (5) Design and construction of the facility is subject to Budget consideration.

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**Canberra Innovation Network—employment and business development  
(Question No 280)**

**Mr Cain** asked the Assistant Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

Does the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) have any explicit rules or policies in place that prevent its employees from investing personally in their clients; if so, is there a defined time period where former employees are not allowed to invest in CBRIN clients after ceasing employment with CBRIN

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

CBRIN allows its employees to make personal financial investments within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, but manages any potential conflicts of interests through the application of its conflict of interest policy and related processes. These outline the main principles of disclosure, potential conflict management considerations, and removing staff members from conflict of interest situations if necessary.

CBRIN’s conflict of interest policy and operation are a matter for oversight and monitoring by CBRIN’s Management.

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**Government—commercial leases  
(Question No 281)**

**Mr Cain** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

In relation to the transfer of an interest in a commercial lease, other than a commercial lease with a premium, for each financial year from 2014-2015 to 2020-21 (to date), can the Minister advise the (a) number of initial assessments, (b) total value of initial assessments, (c) number of assessments subject to objection, (d) number of rejected objections, (e) number of allowed or part allowed objections, (f) dollar value of rejected objections and (g) dollar value of allowed or part allowed objections.

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

The specific information sought is not readily ascertainable through ACT Revenue Office systems. Retrieval of this information would require assessments and objections to be individually reviewed and then the data manually collated. I consider this would be an unreasonable diversion of resources at this time.

I note that information on the number of objections decided by tax type and outcome over the majority of the period requested has been provided previously in response to Questions on Notice (Nos. 1118 of March 2018, 2330 of February 2019 and 3020 of May 2020 refer).

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### **Health—Gungahlin Community Health Centre (Question No 288)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) When was Gungahlin Community Health Centre (GCHC) opened.
- (2) When was the Mental Health Division established at GCHC.
- (3) How much government funding has GCHC received since its opening.
- (4) How much funding has the mental health section received at GCHC.
- (5) How is the Government promoting mental health services at GCHC.
- (6) How many patients/clients have been supported by the Mental Health Division of GCHC and in what way/how.
- (7) Does the Government support, through funding or grants, the (a) Family Connections Course and (b) WOKE project – DBT for emerging adults pilot program.
- (8) How many Capital Health Network (CHN) grants are given each year and how much are they worth individually and in total.
- (9) How much was the CHN grant for the WOKE project.
- (10) Did the Family Connections course get a grant or did it apply for a grant.
- (11) How does the Government promote programs that receive grants.
- (12) How long are the grants for and what happens to recipients once their grant expires and how are they supported.

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

- (1) The Gungahlin Community Health Centre (GCHC) opened on 3 September 2012.
- (2) Gungahlin Mental Health commenced with two mental health clinicians working out of GCHC in early 2013. At the time they were linked in with Belconnen Mental Health Team. A separate Gungahlin Mental Health team was established in May 2016 with a team leader and expansion of services.
- (3) GCHC has received \$5.7 million recurrent funding and \$21.57 million capital funding.
- (4) The Gungahlin Mental Health section has received \$0.80 million in recurrent funding since its establishment.

- (5) Most people access mental health services through their General Practitioner (GP) or primary care provider. People can contact or be referred to the specialist mental health service at GCHC provided by Canberra Health Services through the Access Mental Health Team.

When the mental health team at GCHC first commenced in 2016, the team would visit local GP centres to provide information on how to access mental health services at GCHC.

Since the Adult Community Model of Care was implemented, Access Mental Health is the central point of entry to access mental health services at all community health centres, including GCHC, and they are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- (6) Gungahlin Community Recovery services provided service to the following number of clients in 2021:

January	February	March	April	May
171	175	173	173	174

The Community Recovery services provide specialised mental health treatment and care through a clinical management framework with the following objectives in mind:

- Support care and recovery planning in collaboration with the person and others (e.g. family, carers, Nominated Persons, community agencies, GPs etc.);
- Provide a combination of pharmacological and psychosocial interventions for people with complex clinical needs, including prioritising their physical health needs;
- Assist people in their activities of daily living;
- Support people to meaningfully participate in the community, including accessing education and employment;
- Provide care coordination with the primary healthcare and community sectors, as well as assisting people to access supports through the NDIS where eligible;
- Assess for and actively assisting the person to manage comorbidities, including drug and alcohol issues and physical health problems;
- Assess and help manage risks (e.g., self-harm, suicide, violence or aggression, misadventure, reputational damage, financial loss etc.);
- Focus on the recognition of early warning signs of relapse, relapse prevention and crisis management planning;
- Support the person to be the driver of their own mental health care through mechanisms such as Advance Agreements, Advance Consent Directions, and the appointment of Nominated Persons, as specified in the *Mental Health Act 2015*, including supporting the person to access advocacy services as required; and
- Identify family, carer, and Nominated Person needs and assist with linking them in with appropriate and relevant community supports.

- (7) The ACT Health Directorate is not currently aware of any ACT Government funding being provided for the Family Connections Course and the WOKE project.
- (8) The Capital Health Network (CHN) is within the Commonwealth Government's jurisdiction, outside the remit of the ACT Health Directorate and as such the ACT Government does not have visibility of their grants processes.
- (9) Please refer to the answer for question 8.
- (10) Please refer to the answer for question 8.
- (11) The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program (ACTHPGP) funds the Healthy Canberra Grants (HCG), a major funding opportunity for community-based organisations to deliver projects designed to improve health outcomes for Canberrans, with a focus on health prevention.

The Minister for Health announces, via media release, the successful grant recipients for every Healthy Canberra Grants round, however, project promotion is the responsibility of the grant recipient. In addition, ACTHD ACTHPGP staff work with organisations to promote activities and events, and grant recipients are encouraged to advise the ACTHPGP of upcoming project events they are hosting.

ACTHD Media and Strategic Communications will periodically prepare a media release on a project/grant recipient or provide promotion opportunities through ACT Government social media channels as appropriate.

The promotion of programs receiving grants is generally the responsibility of the organisation delivering the program, who would use their channels and networks to reach the target audience.

- (12) ACTHPGP funding opportunities are time limited, for up to three years. During the application process, organisations are asked to demonstrate how, in the longer-term, the proposed program will become self-sustainable and non-reliant on grant funding. Successful applicants have no expectation that funding will be renewed beyond the grant period, or that receiving a grant in any way represents a commitment to recurrent funding by ACTHD.

If the evidence/outcomes support continuation of a program beyond the term of a grant, then consideration may be given to seeking further funding through the appropriate budget process.

### **Municipal services—newspapers (Question No 289)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How long have free newspapers been available in our libraries for people to read.
- (2) How much does the service cost and does the Minister have any information about how many people read the papers.

- (3) When were newspapers removed from our public libraries and why.
- (4) Can the Minister provide details on how many newspapers were provided each day at each library.
- (5) Is this the first time newspapers have been removed from public libraries.
- (6) Is the Government providing an alternative for people who read the paper in libraries; if so, what is it.
- (7) What has been the feedback from the community about the removal of free newspapers to read.
- (8) Why has the Government not returned newspapers to public libraries.
- (9) When will the Government be returning newspapers and will all the newspapers removed be returned.
- (10) Has the Government removed newspapers from other places, such as schools, directorates, museums, etc.
- (11) Does the Government supply free newspapers to schools; if so, can the Minister provide details.

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

- (1) Access to print newspapers has been a service provided by the public libraries for more than 25 years.
- (2) The cost for 2018-19 was approximately \$69,000 (ex GST). The cost for 2019-20 was approximately \$65,370 (ex GST). Note that newspapers were removed in April 2020 due to COVID-19 (invoicing data reflects this). A new contract is currently being sourced with an estimated value of \$72,000 (ex GST) per year. Libraries ACT does not record how many people read the papers. Newspapers are made freely available for library customers to read or browse. This access and use are not monitored.
- (3) Newspapers were halted when library branches closed to the public due to COVID-19 on 25 March 2020. Libraries ACT reopened to the public on 18 May 2020, but newspapers were not returned to the library floor due to a requirement to follow COVID-19 advice from ACT Health.
- (4)

Library branch	Number of newspapers	Newspaper titles (daily unless otherwise noted)
Belconnen	12	The Age The Australian The Canberra Times The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald Courier Mail Herald Sun The Daily Telegraph Chieu Dong



		Greek Herald El Telegraph Vesti
Civic	9	The Age The Canberra Times The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald Courier Mail Australian Chinese Daily Annahar Arabic (every Tues-Thurs) The Mercury The Land (once a week)
Dickson	9	The Age The Australian The Canberra Times Saturday 2 copies The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald Courier Mail The Daily Telegraph Australian Chinese Daily Viet Mual (every Saturday)
Erindale	5	The Age The Australian The Canberra Times Saturday 2 copies The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald
Gungahlin	6	The Australian The Canberra Times The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald Vesti Croatian Herald
Kingston	6	The Age The Canberra Times The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald The Australian Herald Sun
Kippax	6	The Australian The Canberra Times The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald The Australian Chinese Daily The Saturday Paper (weekly)
Tuggeranong	10	The Age The Australian The Canberra Times The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald Courier Mail The Daily Telegraph The Guardian (weekly) Viet Luan (weekly) El Espanol (weekly)

Woden	12	The Age The Australian The Canberra Times The Australian Financial Review The Sydney Morning Herald Courier Mail The Daily Telegraph The Mercury Die Woche (weekly) The Land (weekly) The Greek Herald The Koori Mail (weekly)
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- (5) TCCS have no record of newspapers being removed from libraries previously.
- (6) Yes, library customers can access online versions of the newspapers via ANZ News-stream database and Press Reader.
- (7) Anecdotally we have had a number of people each day inquiring in branches about when newspapers will be available once again.
- (8) Since receiving Health advice to re-instate print newspapers at library branches, Libraries ACT has begun the procurement process for supply and delivery of newspapers to all branches. The process is underway and will be completed shortly.
- (9) New contracts for supply and delivery of newspapers are targeted to start in the new financial year.
- (10) No.
- (11) The Education Directorate does not currently have a paid subscription to news outlets for the provision of hard copy newspapers at ACT public schools. Prior to 2017 limited news outlets, such as the Canberra Times, may have provided newspapers to schools in the ACT for use in their library. Individual ACT public schools may choose to digitally subscribe to a news outlet as part of their educational resources.

### **Melba shops—land (Question No 294)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

Who owns the land directly outside business premises at the Melba shops, for instance, the square with the trees between the carpark and shops.

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

The ACT Government (Transport Canberra and City Services) is the custodian of Block 32, Section 40 Melba.

**Land—block 83, Belconnen  
(Question No 295)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

What is being built on block 83, section 65 in Belconnen.

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

The lessee has development approval for the construction of a single storey building containing a restaurant and take-away food shop (KFC) and associated car parking, landscaping, paving and other site works.

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**Higgins shops—bollards  
(Question No 296)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to reinstall two bollards that were removed from Higgins shops some time ago and will they be installing any other bollards on the north-western entrance of the shops; if so, when will they be reinstalled.
- (2) Were there any bollards removed from the eastern side of the shops; if so, why were they removed and when were they removed.
- (3) Has the Government received any requests to have bollards installed at the Higgins shops; if so, when were these requests received.

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

- (1) Roads ACT has recently replaced the two missing bollards from the front of Higgins Shops. Roads ACT is not aware of any other existing bollards that require reinstallation.
  - (2) Roads ACT is not aware of any other existing bollards that were removed or require reinstallation.
  - (3) Roads ACT has not received any requests to install additional bollards at Higgins Shops, however given this query, has arranged for officers to undertake further investigations.
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**Questions without notice taken on notice****Schools—hazardous materials**

**Mr Steel** (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mr Cain and Ms Lawder on Tuesday, 11 May 2021*):

ACT Property Group obtains hazardous materials assessment reports on all controlled buildings every 5 years, including buildings that were previously school facilities, this includes identification and assessment of asbestos and lead paint.

ACT Property Group actions any areas of concern identified in the report as needing urgent or immediate remediation as part of its repairs and maintenance program once the reports are issued.

ACT Property Group undertakes regular inspections of its properties.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—chemical agent use**

**Mr Gentleman** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Kikkert on Thursday, 13 May 2021*):

I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (a) Please refer to my answer to QON 257.
- (b) On 12 May 2021, there were 28 custodial officers on shift that had received training in the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, and 48 custodial officers that had not.

### **Planning—Coombs**

**Mr Gentleman** (*in reply to a question by Ms Lee on Thursday, 3 June 2021*):

Block 3, Section 17 Coombs is due for release in the 2021-22 financial year.