



# Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**TENTH ASSEMBLY**

**5 AUGUST 2021**

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**Thursday, 5 August 2021**

**MADAM SPEAKER** (Ms Burch) (10.00): 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.

## **Visitors**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I would like to acknowledge that in the gallery we are joined by—and you are most welcome to be here—Ainslie Primary School years 5 and 6 students. Welcome, Ainslie primary.

## **Environment—Healthy Waterways project Ministerial statement**

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (10.02): I am pleased to inform the Assembly and the community of the work done under the ACT Healthy Waterways program, as I know this is an issue of great interest to all parties in the Assembly.

For years now, blue-green algal blooms have afflicted our urban lakes. Lake Tuggeranong is regularly closed in summer due to outbreaks of blue-green algae, and last summer was one of the worst for blue-green algae in Lake Burley Griffin in years. Our other urban ponds are not immune from this either. Blue-green algal blooms are a symptom of urban water pollution, which means that there are likely to be other less-apparent pollutants in our waterways as well.

Our urban lakes and ponds were designed to trap pollution bound for the Murrumbidgee River and downstream communities, and they are doing this job extremely well. However, today's community expectations are broader than just this purpose. The community also values our lakes and ponds for recreation, amenity and for the commercial values they provide. They can be equally great places to hold a picnic or a triathlon. Residents and businesses alike are attracted to lakeshore views—think of the Kingston foreshore. But these values are diminished every time there is an algal bloom.

The ACT government has just wrapped up a \$94 million co-investment with the Australian government to improve water quality in the region—the ACT Healthy Waterways project. Nineteen water quality assets—rain gardens, wetlands, ponds and channel restorations—were constructed. These were designed as green infrastructure. Over 460,000 water plant seedlings were planted in 17 of the water quality assets, and these grew to cover a combined treatment area of almost nine hectares. In addition the riparian zone of the Molonglo River upstream of Lake Burley Griffin was restored to arrest channel erosion. The area around these projects was landscaped and over 160,000 herbs, shrubs and trees were planted from a plant list of local native species.

Together these 20 investments are now reducing the yearly load of pollutants in our waterways by an estimated average of 1,900 tonnes. Around 20 per cent of the pollution that was destined for Lake Tuggeranong is now being intercepted by the seven water quality assets built there. Feedback from residents about the water quality assets is very positive, with many locals appreciating the amenity and opportunities for exercise that these afford. Birdwatchers have enjoyed visits to the assets and drawn attention to some rare migratory visitors to the wetlands.

The estimated benefits of these water quality assets are based on water quality models. Healthy Waterways monitored water quality across Canberra and the performance of several existing assets to improve the accuracy of the models. Research was conducted by the University of Canberra to understand the links between pollution in stormwater and Lake Tuggeranong sediments and the occurrence of algal blooms in the lake. What we learned from this work is that more water quality improvements are needed. Stormwater coming from Canberra suburbs is more polluted than is desirable.

Research by the University of Canberra suggests that it is possible to suppress an algal bloom in the lakes via the use of Phoslock, which is a clay product developed by the CSIRO which binds phosphorus in water with sediments and reduces unwanted algal growth. Unfortunately, it was also determined that four to five times the amount of phosphorus required to sustain a bloom was still entering the lake from its catchment and this would very quickly negate the benefits of any such suppressant. Until we can manage this, there is no point in spending resources locking up the phosphorus in the lake sediments, as the algae will be amply fed by phosphorus pollution entering from the catchment.

The work also shows that it will be a major challenge for water quality assets to filter out all of this pollution before it reaches our urban lakes, where it can cause problems like blue-green algal blooms. Water quality assets are an essential tool to improve water quality, but there are challenges with relying on these alone to solve the problem. To stop these algal blooms, we also need to reduce catchment pollution at its source.

Every lake and pond is different, but these findings are relevant outside the Tuggeranong catchment, which is the catchment most intensively studied. We know, for example, that Lake Burley Griffin is on the cusp of either good or poor water quality. Last summer it tipped towards poor water quality, after improvements made over the last decade. We know we need to do more to prevent pollution from entering

the lake in wet years like last summer. We need to reduce inputs of pollution from suburbs that drain into Lake Burley Griffin and be careful that any future developments in the catchment do not tip the lake towards more regular episodes of poor water quality and blue-green algal blooms.

What steps can we take to further improve water quality? The ACT government continues to invest in innovative ways to manage water quality problems. The ACT's first large-scale floating wetland has just been deployed in the Village Creek bay of Lake Tuggeranong. The aim of this wetland, together with modifications to the gross pollutant trap just upstream, is to discourage blue-green algal growth in the bay, where it might spread into the broader lake. This wetland is undergoing a two-year trial after which it will either be left in place or relocated to a stormwater pond. I had the privilege of inspecting this great industry-supported innovation when I launched the floating wetland in early March this year.

This autumn ACT NRM and Healthy Waterways joined forces to trial a new H2OK public education program in five suburbs across Canberra. The program focused on preventing autumn leaves from entering drains. Nutrients rapidly leach out of leaves on the ground, so leaves that accumulate in roadside drains contribute to the nutrient pollution in stormwater. The H2OK program encouraged householders to keep drains adjacent to their blocks clear of leaves. The results of this trial are now being evaluated by Griffith University.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate has begun planning for a new program of work—stage 2 of Healthy Waterways. In stage 1, the focus of infrastructure was on water quality assets that filter pollutants from stormwater. But, as we have just heard, water research and monitoring suggest that this approach alone is not going to solve the problem. Therefore, in stage 2 the Healthy Waterways team is exploring new ways to prevent stormwater pollution from occurring in the first place. Pollution is generated in urban areas because runoff is cut off from catchment soils and vegetation, which act to cleanse it before it makes its way into waterways. The team are investigating infrastructure to make use of green corridors and spaces within our catchments to cleanse stormwater. They are also looking into ways to store and slowly release stormwater so that it does not overload the water quality assets in the system. Plans are being drawn up in parts of the Tuggeranong catchment and in selected locations across Canberra, including in the Yerrabi Pond catchment.

It is anticipated that stage 2 of Healthy Waterways will rely on much more than just infrastructure to improve water quality. An extensive public education campaign is planned that will focus on what households can do to prevent leaves and grass from entering drains, building on lessons from the trial this past autumn.

EPSDD will also work with the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate to understand life cycle costs of assets and how to better manage green spaces, and continue its work with the Suburban Land Agency to reduce the amount of pollution escaping from new suburbs under development.



Plans for stage 2 research and water monitoring are focused on narrowing down the sources and quantum of pollution so that infrastructure can be sited where it is the most cost-effective. Water quality models will be upgraded to be more accurate and to take into account the measured performance of recently constructed water quality assets. This will allow for comprehensive catchment plans to be developed for urban lakes and ponds, as well as some rural catchments. The plans will detail various options—actions, assets and their locations—available to government to manage Canberra’s water pollution problems, and their associated costs and benefits. Therefore the government is working to build on the achievements of stage 1 of Healthy Waterways, both for the benefit of the environment and for the wellbeing of Canberra’s residents and businesses that make use of waterways.

As the recent and comprehensive Dasgupta review of the economics of biodiversity emphasises, environmental health is not an alternative to economic health but a contributor to it. The Dasgupta review is an independent, global review of the economics of biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, who is the Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Cambridge. The review was commissioned in 2019 by the British Treasury and has been supported by an advisory panel drawn from public policy, science, economics, finance and business interests.

Healthy catchments produce clean water, which benefits not only aquatic flora and fauna but all those who rely on our lakes and ponds, including businesses and the community. This information highlights the strong correlation that the Healthy Waterways initiative has with the wellbeing domains—namely, environment and climate, social connection, and living standards, respectively.

The cost-benefit analysis of the original Healthy Waterways initiative shows the program has present-value benefits of \$127 million and present-value costs of \$76 million. Sensitivity analyses indicate that the net present value ranges from \$24 million to \$126 million and the benefit-cost ratio ranges from 1.3 to 2.6. These results indicate that the program is economically viable, as the benefits of the program outweigh the costs.

I commend to the Assembly the achievements of the Healthy Waterways initiative and congratulate the small, dedicated team at EPSDD who delivered this work. I present the following paper:

Healthy waterways for better urban lakes and ponds—Ministerial statement,  
5 August 2021.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**MS CASTLEY (Yerrabi) (10.13):** I am pleased to respond to the minister’s statement, as it is important to ensure that our Canberra waterways are healthy, which we know is not currently the case in some areas. We can do better, and we must. I want to take

this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and effort of the team leading this important work at the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

The Canberra Liberals believe nature must be respected and protected, and that is why we support efforts to improve our waterways to achieve better lakes and ponds. This matters to Canberrans because we like to be outdoors, we enjoy being in nature and so much of our leisure time is spent on or near water.

It is pleasing to learn that the Healthy Waterways project—the construction of the 19 rain gardens, wetlands, ponds and channel restorations, plus work to arrest channel erosion along the Molonglo River—is reducing the yearly load of pollutants in our waterways by about 1,900 tonnes. But, as the research shows, we need to do more. The stormwater coming from our suburbs is too polluted, and the focus must be on reducing catchment pollution at its source. The Canberra Liberals support initiatives to manage our water quality problems, including a public education program in five suburbs to prevent autumn leaves from entering our drains.

Canberrans are passionate about improving their environment and want to do the right thing, but people need to know, in simple language, what the right thing is. The Canberra Liberals believe education is important in terms of helping Canberrans to understand why our waterways are not healthy and what we can all do to help to improve them.

That is why I was pleased to hear the minister state that an extensive public education campaign is planned for stage 2 of the Healthy Waterways project to focus on what households can do to prevent leaves and grass from entering drains. While stage 1 of the scheme focused on filtering pollutants from stormwater, the Canberra Liberals strongly support the shift in focus in stage 2 to preventing the stormwater pollution from happening in the first place.

On that note, I would like to ask the minister to organise a briefing for me with the Healthy Waterways team so that I can get a good understanding of the work that they have planned for stage 2. I am particularly keen to learn about plans to store and slowly release stormwater in parts of the Tuggeranong catchment and the Yerrabi Pond catchment.

The Canberra community highly values our lakes and ponds; hence the need for concerted action to take care of problems plaguing our enjoyment of them.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Building—combustible cladding**

### **Ministerial statement**

**MS VASSAROTTI** (Kurrajong-Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) (10.16): I am pleased to update the Assembly on the measures taken as part of this government's plan for supporting the testing,

assessment and rectification of potentially combustible cladding on privately owned buildings in the ACT. The government is committed to reducing the risk of potentially combustible cladding on residential apartment buildings in the ACT. The issue of potentially combustible cladding extends beyond the ACT into other states and across the world.

I wish first to provide the Assembly with some background as to how this issue has evolved. As a result of fires involving combustible cladding in Melbourne and, most notably, London, the National Construction Code was amended between the 2016 edition and the 2019 edition to provide absolute clarity that in type A or B construction—apartments over three storeys are type A—the external walls and common walls including the facade covering, the framing and the insulation must be non-combustible.

Previously, the NCC did not specifically mention these elements of the facade with regard to non-combustibility, which led to the general interpretation across Australia that the requirements for non-combustibility did not apply to the facade cladding. This change came into effect in the ACT in March 2018.

Buildings in the ACT are certified through a private certification scheme to comply with the National Construction Code at the time they are constructed. Newer editions of the NCC do not mandate retrospective modifications to buildings certified under earlier editions of the code.

The decision to rectify potentially combustible cladding on existing buildings is being driven by emerging information about safety concerns. The rectification work that may be required varies from building to building based on a range of risk factors, such as the height of the building and the location of any combustible cladding. It is for this reason that the government is assisting apartment owners with testing and assessing their buildings.

Each jurisdiction is tackling this issue in a way which is relevant to its own unique circumstances. The ACT has learnt from the approaches of other jurisdictions in developing a scheme to support the replacement of potentially combustible cladding in higher risk privately-owned residential buildings.

We recognise that this may be a relatively new issue for many apartment owners to deal with. I have listened to stakeholder advice provided by peak body organisations, including the Owners Corporation Network, Strata Communities Australia, the Master Builders Association, the Housing Industry Association, the Insurance Council of Australia, the Real Estate Institute of the ACT, the ACT Law Society and Legal Aid ACT. I thank those groups for their ongoing engagement with this issue.

The government's private buildings cladding scheme has been designed specifically for our circumstances here in the ACT. I recognise that owners corporations of apartment buildings face challenges in dealing with the issue of potentially combustible cladding. It requires cooperation and decisions to be made by affected owners. It can be a challenge to understand the technical aspects of building cladding materials and the risk they may pose to a building. It can be a challenge to source

appropriate professional advice and assistance to guide an owners corporation through the process of cladding testing, assessment and rectification. It can be a challenge to understand what remedial work may be appropriate to undertake. There can also be financial challenges associated with undertaking this work.

I am pleased to advise that the government has designed the private buildings cladding scheme to provide three avenues of assistance for eligible private building owners in the ACT: firstly, education and information on combustible cladding; secondly, practical assistance in sourcing suitable professional service providers in the ACT; and, thirdly, financial assistance by offering financial support for testing and assessment of the building cladding fire risk through a rebate scheme and, if necessary, undertaking rectification works through concessional loans. The government believes that this is an appropriate approach that supports the critical needs of private building owners while balancing the responsibilities of private building owners.

There are three key eligibility criteria of the private buildings cladding scheme. Firstly, the building must be located in the ACT. Secondly, the scheme is open to owners corporations of class 2 or mixed-use apartment buildings that are three storeys in rise or higher. Thirdly, the owners corporation must have a reasonable suspicion that the building has cladding that may be combustible. In addition, private residential buildings that otherwise may be in a tight cluster and therefore pose a higher risk of fire spread may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

I am pleased to announce that phase 1 of the scheme commenced on 21 July 2021 and covers testing and assessment of the building's cladding to determine whether it is combustible. In conjunction with other important information, such as the location and amount of cladding as well as the presence of fire safety systems such as sprinkler systems and fire doors, a risk assessment of the building is prepared for an owners corporation. The owners corporation can then understand the level of risk, if any, that is posed by the cladding on their building, the interim steps they can take to better manage fire safety in the building, and what rectification works, if any, are recommended to reduce the fire risk to a low level. It is important to note that not all cladding is combustible and not all combustible cladding poses an unacceptable level of risk. The government's private buildings cladding scheme enables a building-specific assessment.

The professional fire risk report can also be used by owners corporations to hold informed discussions with their insurers around important issues affecting many property owners; that is, insurance coverage and the cost of insurance. The government is pleased to be able to assist owners corporations by offering a 50 per cent rebate on the cost of undertaking the testing and assessment on each building, up to a maximum rebate of \$20,000 excluding GST.

To assist owners corporations in locating service providers who have qualifications, experience and insurances to undertake specialised cladding rectification assessment work in the ACT, Major Projects Canberra is maintaining a register of potential suppliers on its website. Owners corporations can find professionals such as fire engineers, architects, facade engineers and project managers on the register, but are also able to select their own providers outside those on the register, as long as they are qualified, experienced and insured for cladding rectification work in the ACT.

I am confident that many owners corporations will find this a timely incentive to undertake phase 1 of their cladding rectification process, so that they may understand the nature of any fire risk that their building may have and what may be required to address any unacceptable risk.

Phase 2 of the scheme covers actual rectification works being undertaken on buildings. The government is committed to offering concessional loans to owners corporations to assist financially with undertaking the required works. The details of the concessional loan arrangements will be finalised once testing and assessment results from phase 1 are known. I will make further announcements in this respect in due course.

Owners corporations can participate in the private buildings cladding scheme knowing that they can access the 50 per cent rebate up to a \$20,000 threshold to cover the testing and assessment of their building, and that a concessional loan will be available if cladding replacement is subsequently required.

I am pleased to be able to offer this support to make our community safer, and I strongly encourage eligible owners corporations to join the private buildings cladding scheme and begin the process of addressing potentially combustible cladding on their building. I present the following paper:

Private Buildings Cladding Scheme—Ministerial statement, 5 August 2021.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Road Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2021**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee—Minister for Skills, Minister for Transport and City Services and Special Minister of State) (10.26): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Road Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 into the Assembly today. Nearly all of us interact with the road network every day, whether as a driver, a cyclist or a pedestrian. While most of us take great care when doing so, we must recognise that roads can be dangerous places. One of the great tragedies of road safety is that the consequences of negligent or culpable driving are often felt by people who are not at fault. Road safety is a shared responsibility and it

is up to all of us to ensure that Canberrans can get safely home to their families at night.

That is why the ACT government is introducing legislation today that will increase the protections for all road users. We are establishing a new offence for negligent driving that injures another road user, as well as increasing the penalties for negligent and culpable driving in a range of other cases. We want everyone to be safe on Canberra's roads, and this bill will help to close a current gap in the protections that are available.

Unsafe behaviours on our road network threaten the lives and wellbeing of all members of our community. Unsafe driving can take many forms, including negligent, culpable, furious, reckless and dangerous driving. As transport options evolve and there is a wider range of users on our roads, it is vital that the territory's laws reflect community expectations while supporting effective enforcement and compliance activities.

The bill I am introducing today enhances the existing penalty framework by strengthening the hierarchy of offences for negligent driving so that these better address the spectrum of harm Canberrans can experience on our roads. This is consistent with the ACT Road Safety Strategy 2020-25 and the ACT Road Safety Action Plan 2020-23.

The bill achieves this by: introducing a new offence to address negligent driving that occasions actual bodily harm; increasing the infringement notice penalty for negligent driving that does not occasion death, grievous bodily harm or actual bodily harm; increasing the minimum automatic licence disqualification periods for culpable driving and negligent driving occasioning death and grievous bodily harm; and introducing two new strict liability offences to address unsafe use of other vehicles, including personal mobility devices such as e-scooters.

It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle on a road or road-related area in a negligent manner. Current penalties are based on negligent conduct occasioning death, grievous bodily harm or in any other case. Negligent driving that causes someone harm but not to the standard of grievous bodily harm is not adequately addressed. This can mean drivers can receive a relatively minor penalty for injuring another road user if that injury is not to the level of grievous bodily harm. We think this gap needs to be closed, and that is what this bill will achieve.

The bill establishes a new offence in the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999 of negligent driving that occasions actual bodily harm. The offence will have a maximum penalty of 50 penalty units, six months imprisonment or both. It creates a mid-tier offence for negligent driving that causes harm to other road users.

The nature of the harm that will be covered by the new offence is described by the common law—that is, harm that need not be permanent, but must be more than merely transient or trifling, as per *R v Donovan*. This may include major bruising, black eyes and lacerations. More serious harms, such as permanent or serious

disfigurement and severe head injuries, will continue to be covered by the existing negligent driving occasioning grievous bodily harm offence.

These are the types of harm most commonly experienced by vulnerable road users like cyclists and pedestrians because they do not have the protection of a vehicle. Vulnerable road users make up a significant share of those who are injured on Canberra's roads. Initial analysis of 2020 crash statistics indicates that two fatalities and 190 injuries involved vulnerable road users. This represents 29 per cent of fatalities and 31 per cent of injuries on our roads in 2020. Nearly 25 per cent of all casualties admitted to hospital following a road accident in 2020 were cyclists or pedestrians. We suspect there are many more injuries that happen across Canberra each year and do not get reported or result in drivers being penalised.

We want all road users to understand and take seriously their obligations to be safe on the road and behave in ways that minimise risk to others. That includes looking out for cyclists and pedestrians, observing appropriate passing distances, slowing down in pedestrian areas as well as always driving to the road and weather conditions.

The new offence proposed in this bill will ensure that there are serious consequences if road users cause harm to someone else because they did not take appropriate care. This will benefit vulnerable road users while also strengthening protections for any other Canberran injured on our roads.

The new offence of negligent driving occasioning actual bodily harm will complement the existing negligent and dangerous driving offences in the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999. The offence has been developed following consultation with a range of stakeholders who have indicated that we can make our roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians—along with all other road users—by introducing this new tier of harm into the negligent and dangerous driving framework.

The new offence will come with a maximum penalty of 50 penalty units representing a fine of \$8,000, six months imprisonment or both. These are serious penalties which reflect the serious harm that negligent driving can cause. The specific penalty applying in each case will be determined by the courts in light of the individual circumstances of each road incident that causes harm to another road user.

The new offence will not attract an automatic driver licence disqualification period. However, a court will have the option to apply its existing discretion to disqualify a person found guilty or convicted of an offence against the road transport legislation from holding or obtaining a drivers licence.

The new offence builds on the existing tiered offence structure for negligent driving, which makes enforcement options clear and reflects serious consequences that can arise from negligent driving. In doing so, it draws on the established case law on negligent driving and the fault element of negligence. However, the introduction of a negligent driving offence occasioning actual bodily harm changes the operation of the existing offence hierarchy and narrows the scope of the offence of negligent driving in any other case.

The infringement notice offence, negligent driving in any other case will only apply where the negligent driving does not occasion death, grievous bodily harm or actual bodily harm. The bill also increases the infringement notice offence for negligent driving in any other case from \$398 to \$598. This increase will encourage Canberrans to drive more safely whenever they are on the road, by appropriately penalising drivers who do not maintain the standard of care that is expected of them.

To ensure road transport penalties are commensurate with the road safety risk associated with the unsafe behaviour they are addressing, the bill also increases existing minimum automatic licence disqualification periods for a range of serious driving offences. The minimum automatic disqualification periods proposed to be increased are:

- culpable driving causing death and grievous bodily harm—this will increase for first offenders from six months to 12 months;
- negligent driving occasioning death—this will increase for first offenders from three months to nine months and from 12 months to 18 months for repeat offenders; and
- negligent driving occasioning grievous bodily harm—this will increase for first offenders from three months to six months.

The minimum automatic disqualification periods for a repeat offender for culpable driving occasioning death or grievous bodily harm will remain at 24 months, and the minimum automatic disqualification period for a repeat offender for negligent driving occasioning grievous bodily harm will also remain at 12 months. These additional amendments create a clear hierarchy of penalties that are proportionate to the consequences of negligent driving in different cases.

I would be remiss if I did not make mention of the work Jo Clay MLA has been undertaking in this place in recent months. As members will be aware, Ms Clay introduced a bill of her own during the June sittings that also seeks to increase protections for vulnerable road users from negligent driving. Ms Clay's bill seeks to introduce a significant infringement notice offence for negligent driving that harms a vulnerable road user. This would be in addition to and operate alongside of the existing negligent driving penalties framework if passed.

Ms Clay and I have had a number of very constructive discussions about our respective bills. We agree there is a gap which needs to be closed in the existing penalties framework of negligent driving occasioning harm that does not amount to grievous bodily harm. The bill I am introducing today would strengthen protections for all road users, not just pedestrians and cyclists.

This approach focuses on the problematic offending behaviour, not the class of persons that are harmed. We fundamentally believe all Canberrans should enjoy the same level of protections on our roads. My bill as drafted would likely apply most commonly in cases of negligent driving involving cyclists or pedestrians, but it would not exclusively apply to them.



This bill also goes further in limiting the application of penalties to court ordered penalties where there is actual bodily harm, recognising that an infringement notice may be inconsistent with the seriousness of this offence. This approach recognises that more serious offences with proof of fault elements should be dealt with by the courts, especially where there is a high degree of subjective judgment in determining whether the elements of the offence are made out or where the evidence of the commission of offence is not readily apparent without further inquiry.

While there are some key differences between these bills, I applaud the intent of Ms Clay's bill. We will continue to work together to see if there are ways that we can align the two to deliver the end outcome we all care about—better protecting Canberrans on our roads, including cyclists and pedestrians.

It is not just drivers who must be mindful of their impact on other users of our road network. Ensuring our roads and footpaths are safe requires everyone who uses them to take proper care. Within the ACT and throughout Australia, we are seeing an increase in the use of personal mobility devices, such as e-scooters, as people embrace active travel. Active travel has a number of great health, wellbeing and environmental impacts, but these devices can still cause harm if used irresponsibly.

Since the introduction of the shared e-scooter scheme last year these have proven to be very popular, and a growing number of people are choosing to use their own private e-scooters as well as the shared scheme. So it is important that we make clear in our law that users of these devices must do so responsibly for their own safety and the safety of others.

This bill would introduce a requirement for users of personal mobility devices such as e-scooters, e-skateboards and segway-like devices to remain in proper control at all times. This mirrors the existing provisions requiring a cyclist to have proper control of their bicycle and a driver to have proper control of their motor vehicle.

The use of personal mobility devices is already regulated in the ACT through requirements to wear helmets and maximum speeds. The requirement for personal mobility device users to maintain proper control recognises the risk unsafe behaviours using this transport mode can have on others. Serious injuries can result to the rider and other road users where they are not used responsibly.

The bill also gives police officers new powers to address the unsafe use of various transport modes such as personal mobility devices and bicycles by a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs. E-scooters and bikes should not be seen as an alternative for people who are intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. This behaviour presents a significant safety risk.

These new powers support an early intervention and education process in which a police officer can direct a person not to get on, or to get off, one of these devices. If they ignore that direction, then they could be subject to enforcement action. This will mirror similar powers granted to police officers under section 66C of the Road

Transport (Public Passenger Services) Regulation 2002, which concerns directions to get off or not to get on buses, light rail vehicles and light rail stops.

This bill closely aligns with the strategic objectives and commitments in the ACT road safety strategy 2020-25 and our road safety action plan 2020-23. It will continue to deliver on the ACT government's commitment to vision zero—achieving zero road fatalities and serious injuries.

The amendments proposed in this bill build on our existing regulatory frameworks to help steer our community towards a culture of safe and responsible driving. We want to see more people choosing active travel and alternatives to the car in the future, because this will be essential for cutting Canberra's transport emissions and reducing congestion as our city grows. But supporting Canberrans to make this choice means ensuring everyone feels safe on our roads no matter how they are moving around. This bill will help to achieve this by encouraging drivers to take more care or face strong penalties if they do not.

Members will note this is not the first piece of legislation I have introduced this year to improve road safety and it will not be the last. Canberra's road environment is constantly evolving, and our laws equally need to continue to adapt to ensure they provide the best coverage and protections possible.

I value the constructive conversations we have been able to have in this place between all parties about road safety to date. I know everyone here shares a strong commitment to reducing deaths and serious injuries on Canberra's roads. I look forward to continuing that spirit of collaboration as we move forward with the debate on this bill and future tranches of road safety legislation. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Visitors**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Before I call the next item of business I advise members we have a second group of students in the gallery from Ainslie Primary School. We gave your earlier group a warm welcome, and we give you boys and girls a warm welcome to the Assembly as well.

## **Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee Reporting date**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (10.42): I move:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of the resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended 30 March and 22 April 2021, that established the general purpose standing committees, the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services shall present its report on the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2) by 22 September 2021.

This is a very straight forward motion. We are seeking a one-month extension, which will give our committee time to consider the significant number of submissions we have received and will allow us to hold hearings, if we choose to do so.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Report 6**

**MS BURCH** (Brindabella) (10.43): I present the following report:

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee—Report 6—*Report on the Conduct of Mr Parton MLA*, dated 5 August 2021, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (10.44), by leave: I move:

That the report be adopted.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (10.44): As it is the wish of the Speaker and the admin and procedure committee that I apologise here in the chamber, that is what I am doing right now. I apologise for being found to have breached the standards and, as a consequence, the code of conduct. It is an unconditional apology from me.

I would note that the commissioner has indicated that there was no intent on my behalf in regard to those breaches, and I am certainly supportive of that opinion. The commissioner indicated that my breach was based on a lack of understanding of the broadcast guidelines.

I do see that the report tabled today notes that the Speaker has written to a number of other non-Liberal MLAs regarding breaches of the broadcasting guidelines and requested that offending social media posts be removed. I also note that those instances involving non-Liberal MLAs did not lead to any referral to the standards commissioner.

At various points during this process, the commissioner also alluded to the fact that there may well be grounds to refer some other MLAs on this issue. I say that at this stage we will not be referring those other MLAs, because we think that they have more important things to spend their time on, but we certainly reserve the right to refer them at a later date.

I also note that the commissioner effectively dismissed both of the grounds of Ms Orr's original complaint, and that his ruling is based around the specific broadcast guideline which states that the only purpose for MLAs to reproduce Assembly on Demand footage is as a fair and accurate representation of proceedings.

The commissioner has not asserted that my video is indeed inaccurate in any way as a representation of proceedings, but rather that there was an additional motive or intent to publish such video other than to provide a fair and accurate representation of proceedings.

So apologies from me. I genuinely welcome this report because I think it marks, potentially, a turning point as we have a review coming based on this report of our broadcasting guidelines. Although it is certainly not for me in any way to pre-empt any of the findings of that review, I live in the hope that, at the end of it, we, as MLAs, will be able to share with more Canberrans actual footage of what we do, because I think that would be beneficial.

I believe that a review of those broadcast guidelines is well overdue, noting that: (a) the foundations of the guidelines were constructed at a much earlier point in our fast-moving social media journey as a community; and (b) if the MLA who worked 33 years in mainstream media and ran a social media business is ruled to have misunderstood the guidelines, then I wish the best of luck to everyone else! Thank you.

## **Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee Report 2**

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (10.47): I present the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 2—*Inquiry into the 2020 ACT Election and the Electoral Act*, dated 28 July 2021, including a dissenting report (Ms Clay), together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

This is the second report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety for the Tenth Assembly. The Assembly referred the inquiry on 2 December 2020. The committee received 29 submissions and held two public hearings. Six questions were taken on notice.

The committee made a number of recommendations, which reflects the depth of engagement in the inquiry and the rich and detailed suggestions for improvement put forward by participants. The 52 recommendations addressed topics including early voting, electronic voting, campaigning rules, roadside signs, donations and reporting, voter participation, and lowering the voting age.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Electoral Commission in particular for their extraordinary efforts in conducting a free, fair and safe election in the dramatic and evolving circumstances of a pandemic. We also thank the people who took time to write submissions and appear at the hearings for their significant contribution to this

inquiry. The committee looks forward to monitoring the important area of electoral law and policy throughout the term of the Assembly.

I thank the members of the committee, Dr Paterson, and Ms Clay. When you have three members from three different parties looking into electoral matters that is a recipe for an acrimonious and difficult inquiry, but it was not. I really appreciated the efforts of Dr Paterson and Ms Clay. We certainly did not agree on everything, but by virtue of the fact there are 52 recommendations—there is a dissenting report from Ms Clay that she will speak to—the inquiry was conducted in good spirit, with the tripartisan view that we want to make sure we have got the best electoral laws in Australia.

I particularly thank the secretary, Brianna McGill. It was a very complex and difficult area—electoral law is an evolving space and there are lots of differing views. The advice and support provided by Brianna McGill was again of the highest possible quality. I thank her for the work she has done supporting the committee, and I commend the report to the Assembly.

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (10.50): I note my appreciation for the cooperative and constructive work of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety inquiry into the 2020 election. There are some really valuable recommendations in the report about how we should conduct elections. For instance, the committee recommended that we abolish roadside banners, explore options to reinstate the \$10,000 cap on political donations, and explore options to ban donations from foreign sources and gambling entities.

I have lodged a dissenting report because there are two areas that need further exploration where my committee colleagues disagreed. The first is about lowering the age of voting. The committee received three submissions in favour of lowering the voting age to 16 or 17 and three submissions against it. Those in favour of lowering the voting age noted that young people already prove themselves capable of making complex decisions with big consequences—like driving, working full time and paying tax.

One submission also referred to climate change. It noted that no-one under 40 years old has even lived in a year with global average temperatures below those of last century. This is a compelling argument given the political activism we see from school strike for climate and from the Youth Climate Justice Movement. It is particularly significant in the ACT because of the Assembly's 2019 declaration that we are in a climate emergency. That recognition of the climate emergency should inform all of the decisions made by this Assembly and by its committees.

Those opposed to lowering the voting age referred to operational challenges in enforcement, education and resourcing. They also noted legislative barriers and claimed it would not increase political participation. These are all valid implementation issues and they would need to be worked through, but they are not good reasons to avoid considering the fundamental question of whether young people be allowed to vote.

The right to vote is fundamentally tied to whether a person is capable of making significant and long-term decisions and, if so, whether they should be empowered to do so. It is time for government to consider that fundamental question for 16- and 17-year-olds in the ACT. That is why I dissented from that particular committee recommendation. I would like to see the government explore that question further.

The committee also made recommendations that public electoral funding given to political parties should be linked to actual expenditure. But the committee made no recommendation about public administrative funding. I find this inconsistent. Administrative funding is allocated per MLA per year. During the 2016-20 Assembly ACT Labor and the Canberra Liberals each received over \$1 million in administrative funding and the ACT Greens received around \$172,000. It is a significant amount of public money.

Many of the bookkeeping systems that need to be set up for one MLA can be efficiently expanded to cover multiple MLAs. Most businesses and government organisations understand economies of scale. A system which covers more people becomes cheaper to operate per person. On this basis, there is surely room to consider reducing administrative funding, either to an absolute cap, such as capping it to a maximum of five MLAs, or by linking it directly with administrative expenditure. I recommend that if the government is considering linking public funding with expenditure it should also cap administrative funding or link administrative funding with expenditure too.

Our inquiry gives opportunities for further thoughtful reform and so I have lodged a dissenting report. But I thank my colleagues for a useful and thoughtful investigation.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

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

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (10.54): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety relating to statutory appointments in accordance with continuing resolution 5A. During the reporting period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, the committee considered a total of 14 appointments and reappointments to the following bodies: Gambling and Racing Commission Board, Official Visitors for the Disability Service Act 1991, Racing Appeals Tribunal, Public Trustee and Guardian Investment Board, ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Official Visitors for the Mental Health Act 2015 and Professional Standards Council.

I now table the following schedule:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2021.

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

### **Statement by chair**

**MS CASTLEY** (Yerrabi) (10.55): Pursuant to standing order 246A I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality relating to statutory appointments in accordance with continuing resolution 5A.

Continuing Resolution 5A was agreed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 August 2012. The schedule is required to include the statutory appointments considered and for each appointment the date the request from the responsible minister for consultation was received and the date the committee's feedback was provided. For the reporting period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 the committee considered one statutory appointment.

I table the following schedule:

Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2021.

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

Debate resumed from 24 June 2021, on motion by **Mr Gentleman**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

**MR CAIN** (Ginninderra) (10.56): I am sure that for all members workplace health and safety is a very serious matter. Every worker should return home and unharmed at the end of the work day. The Canberra Liberals will support this bill, which will relocate the offence of industrial manslaughter from the Crimes Act to the Work Health and Safety Act and provide more nuanced enforcement options to the regulator.

The bill will also broaden the circumstances where industrial manslaughter charges may be brought. In practice, of course, it will need to be closely monitored to ensure the intent is being met. Obviously, we would expect to see improved workplace practices, given the strong deterrent of these measures.

I urge the government, however, to liaise closely with the Canberra Business Community to ensure an understanding of these changes and the efficient adoption of any amended regulatory burdens. This consultation is particularly important with respect to the small and medium sized employers in the territory. Such employers typically have fewer resources available to manage changes in governance. Of course, a small business advisory council as proposed by Ms Castley would be able to advise on the repercussions of this change in legislation, and it is disappointing this government continues to refuse to establish such a body.

It is pleasing to note that stakeholders have been listed in the explanatory statement of this bill, something I recommended to the Assembly on 20 April this year when I spoke during debate on the Courts and Other Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.

The Canberra Liberals will support this bill, and I strongly urge the government to ensure that the changes operate as intended, without having a disproportionate effect of Canberra's small employers.

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (10.59): Everyone deserves to come home safely from work and no-one deserves to pay with their life for the negligence, mistake or oversight of their workplace. That is why creating an industrial manslaughter offence is so important. This will prevent future accidents, injuries and deaths. This bill will save lives by holding people to account.

In 2018, Safe Work Australia received an independent expert report from Marie Boland on work health and safety regulation in Australia. The report recognised that workplace injuries and deaths ruin lives and shatter families. But we in this place and those who work in dangerous industries like construction and transport do not need a report to tell us what we already know. All too often, workers, subcontractors, work site visitors and bystanders are injured in workplace accidents and, tragically, this can and does result in their deaths. Sadly, our current legislation does not allow the conduct of everyone, including corporations and senior officers, to be considered in the event of a worker's death. It does not hold employers accountable for injuries and deaths to people who are not direct employees.

The 2018 report to Safe Work Australia called for an industrial manslaughter offence to be added to the national template law; however, frustratingly, the federal government has not been keen on this recommendation. But just because the federal government refuses to do the right thing does not mean the ACT cannot do the right thing. The ACT, as well as a few other jurisdictions, are determined to do the right thing. That is why we will create the offence of industrial manslaughter.

This bill is a demonstration of this government's commitment to promoting safe and ethical work practices. The ACT government continually expressed support for an industrial manslaughter offence that has wider application than the current ACT Crimes Act has. This will accommodate complex, modern work arrangements and provide a more effective deterrent to poor work safety standards that endanger lives.

We know that in workplaces today the use of subcontractors and other similar work arrangements are unfortunately becoming more and more common. This legislation will hold all parties accountable for the safety and practices on their worksites, and not just the safety of their direct employees.

The Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill before us today is reflective of and responsive to the ACT government's longstanding policy position and will expand the circumstances where industrial manslaughter charges may be laid. This feature of the bill is particularly important when considered in light of the national Safe Work Australia data about work related fatalities.



The most recent Safe Work Australia annual report on work-related traumatic injury fatalities shows a significant number of bystanders were killed because of work activities—for example, being hit by moving objects from worksites. The data also shows that some of the bystanders killed by the action of a business or undertaking were vulnerable people, including children. The existing offence of industrial manslaughter within the Crimes Act may not be applicable in those circumstances, because, put simply, it is limited to conduct by an employer that causes the death of their employee. Placing the offence within the Work Health and Safety Act allows it to be applied to the death of any person to whom the offending person or business owed a duty of care, such as a bystander or subcontractor.

This is what our community expects of a Labor government. They expect that all workers on a site not just those who are directly employed will be protected by our legislation. They expect justice to be served when dodgy bosses cut corners and cost their workers their lives. This change is in keeping with the expectations of the ACT community and will better empower the safety regulator to use the offence as a deterrent to all forms of poor safety practice. I am proud to speak in support of this bill, which will better protect our workers and our community from workplace injuries and deaths.

## Visitors

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I recognise in the gallery a number of union reps who support workers, particularly in relation to this bill.

## Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2021

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (11.03): I speak today in support of the Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill, which will introduce an offence of industrial manslaughter in the ACT's Work Health and Safety Act. Other speakers have today emphasised the importance of holding companies responsible for negligent or reckless acts that cause a person's death. This is the strong expectation of the Canberra community, and the bill is responsive to those expectations.

On reviewing the draft legislation, two key questions came to my mind. First was its application to the gig economy. This part of the economy is rapidly expanding and drawing in more and more vulnerable workers employed in precarious situations and with accompanying increased workplace health and safety risks. It gives me comfort that, where our PCBU has a duty of care under this act, it will apply. There still remain regulatory challenges in ensuring the gig economy is a safe and sustainable one, but this piece of legislation contributes towards achieving this goal.

The second consideration was whether this legislation would apply to psychosocial hazards. Workplace bullying and harassment has no place in the modern workplace, but unfortunately it happens and in rare but disturbing cases can become so severe so as to devastate lives and cause some to commit suicide. I, like many in community, expect employers to provide a safe and inclusive workplace. Where they have failed in a demonstrated duty of care, they should be accountable under law for that failing.

I have received some feedback from employee organisations with questions about the implementation of this legislation, and I therefore look to the government to work closely with those organisations during its implementation.

Another important contribution is that an industrial manslaughter offence will help deter dangerous workplace incidents and practices. Once embedded in the act, industrial manslaughter will become the fourth and most severe category of offence. This offence is outcomes based, reflecting the seriousness of work safety breaches that cause deaths in the workplace.

WorkSafe ACT, the regulator for work health and safety, is primarily focused on encouraging and assisting industry to prevent work injuries from occurring, and it is in this respect that the deterrent effect of an industrial manslaughter offence is so valuable. Contemporary regulators like WorkSafe ACT rely on layers of enforcement responses to ensure compliance—from voluntary compliance in the form of guidance; deterrence tools such as compliance notices, injunctions and infringement notice penalties; through to sanctions in the forms of prosecutions and sanctions on authorisations.

The sanctions for industrial manslaughter also act as an effective deterrent to focus efforts on safety compliance and compliance-oriented behaviour that mitigate the risk of prosecution and also of injury and death. Under our work health and safety laws, the strong penalties commensurate with the gravity of a workplace death provide a strong incentive to ensure a business or undertaking is meeting its WHS duties and obligations.

Poor workplace safety practices continue to be prevalent, with risks to the safety of workers and others at the worksite. Therefore, I am pleased to speak in support of this bill and the improvements it will make to the range of enforcement responses available to WorkSafe ACT.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH** (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health) (11.07): I had not intended to speak on this bill, but it is really important as a continuation of the work that the ACT Labor government has done. Reflecting on some of the words that Rosemary Follett has used to talk about the first ACT Labor government, I note that one of the proudest things she achieved in that government was the introduction of workplace health and safety laws for the ACT. The ACT government was also the first government to introduce an industrial manslaughter offence in 2004.

I want to acknowledge not only the union representatives who are in the chamber and the gallery today but also Kay Catanzariti, who has experienced first-hand the loss of a family member in a workplace industrial accident. Kay's incredible energy and tenacity in fighting for better workplace safety laws, particularly in industrial manslaughter, deserve to be recognised here in the chamber today.

I have had the opportunity of discussing these issues with Kay on a number of occasions, including seeing her annually, often as a minister at the International Workers Memorial Day commemorations that are hosted by the unions every year. It is an incredibly moving ceremony. I want to acknowledge that contribution, and acknowledge the continuation of an ACT Labor government's work to strengthen workplace safety laws.

Moving the industrial manslaughter offence from the Crimes Act into the Work Health and Safety Act is something that we should all be proud of. It comes from not only our own work here in the ACT but national work, including the Senate inquiry that ACT government officials and I gave evidence to, and work in other jurisdictions, who have learnt from us, and we continue to learn from them.

In introducing the bill, Minister Gentleman said that it was introduced in memory of those who never came home from work, who left empty chairs at dinner tables and a gaping hole in the hearts of their families, their colleagues and their mates. I join with Minister Gentleman in expressing those thoughts for all those families, friends and workmates who have lost loved ones in a workplace accident. I pay tribute to them. This bill is a tribute to them.

**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) (11.10): I, too, rise to pass on my condolences to the friends and families of people who have died at work, people who have suffered preventable deaths. There were 182 in Australia in 2020 and 183 in 2019. To date in 2021, 60 Australian workers have died in a workplace. They are all preventable deaths. This bill will go a long way to making sure that people can go to work safely and return home to their loved ones safely.

I, too, want to recognise Kay Catanzariti and her work. Ben Catanzariti's death here in the ACT was felt by the whole Canberra community. I acknowledge the hard work that Kay and her family put into this legislation, making sure that employers are held to account when somebody passes away on a worksite. This day will be remembered by all in the ACT community who felt deeply and despairingly when Ben passed away on that worksite many years ago now.

Other preventable deaths on an ACT worksite come to my mind. There was Wayne Vickery. Riharna Thomson died more recently in a racetrack accident. And there was the most recent death in Denman Prospect. All were avoidable and preventable deaths. That is what this legislation—brought forward by the ACT Labor government, with the support of the Greens political party—is about: to make sure that workers are safe at work and get to return home to their loved ones. This is more than just a law. This is about people's lives, about making sure that people in our community are safe and are able to return home to their families.

I want to acknowledge the unions, which have fought for decades to ensure that workers are safe at work. They have advocated and agitated on behalf of their union

members on worksites all across the ACT to have this kind of legislation brought into the ACT to make sure that future workplaces are safe; that workers are not killed; and that, if accidents do occur, employers are held accountable for that.

I commend the bill to the Assembly and I thank the Assembly for the chance to talk about this today.

**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) (11.13), in reply: I thank colleagues for their comments today and their passion for looking after workers across the ACT.

This bill is fundamental to the government's commitment to protecting workers. The ACT community rightly expects every worker to return home to their family safe and well at the end of every working day. Workplace safety is a right that must be protected at all costs. Work should be fulfilling, enriching, secure and safe. Every workplace death is preventable. Every workplace death is a tragedy.

I introduced this bill to the Assembly in memory of those who have never come home from work and for the devastated families, colleagues and communities that they have left behind. Today, we remember them.

We know that workplace deaths shatter families. With us today we have such a family. Kay, thank you for being here today. I am sorry that you are, but I thank you for sharing Ben's story with me and so many others.

Also here today are the colleagues, friends and representatives of working people. To my union colleagues in the chamber today, I say thank you. Thank you for your tireless advocacy. This legislation would not have come about without the strength of our movement. Together, we will continue to fight for working people in this city.

We need the strongest possible deterrents for dangerous workplace practices in order to prevent deaths and serious injuries. The changes in this bill leverage the strengths of the work health and safety legislative framework to allow this most serious of workplace safety failings to have a proportionate and serious consequence and to hold responsible parties accountable.

The bill replaces the current industrial manslaughter offence under the Crimes Act and provides a fourth category of offence for work safety noncompliance.

Under the bill, the new and improved industrial manslaughter offence expands the coverage of the offence provisions in two important respects. Firstly, it will apply to all persons conducting a business or undertaking. Secondly, it will allow action in respect of the death of any person. This contrasts with the current arrangements, which can apply only where there is an employment relationship between the negligent employer or officer and the person who has died.

Specifically, under the new arrangements, a charge of industrial manslaughter could be brought where work conduct that is reckless or negligent causes the death of a person. A charge could be made against a company or another entity whose business undertaking permitted the reckless or negligent conduct.

Workplace safety is everyone's responsibility. This offence reflects that shared responsibility while also making clear the relationship between workers and employers under the work health and safety framework.

The new offence also makes available statutory alternative offences should a prosecution for the offence of industrial manslaughter fail. This adds to the efficacy of prosecuting offences for noncompliance and is consistent with the existing category 1 and category 2 work health and safety offences, which rely on recklessness and intention in relation to breaching a health and safety duty. The maximum penalties that could apply are 20 years imprisonment for an individual or a \$16.5 million penalty for a company.

The maximum penalty under the new offence is higher than for the Crimes Act offence that it replaces. This highlights the expectation of the government and the community that a gross failure of duty to an employee that results in death is manslaughter. The law must properly reflect the severity of that offence. The bill provides for a larger scope of sentencing so that courts can ensure appropriate sentences for the most serious cases.

The proposed industrial manslaughter offence aims to prevent serious injury and death in the workplace, provides a more powerful deterrent for people not to comply with their health and safety obligations, and sends a strong message that putting lives at risk in the workplace will not be tolerated by the ACT government. The changes do not create additional duties. Rather, they introduce more severe penalties on already existing duties under the Work Health and Safety Act.

Unfortunately, too often ACT workplaces are not safe workplaces. I am sad to report that last financial year more than 1,000 people were so badly injured on Canberra worksites that they had to take a day or more off work because of their injuries.

Added to this, the Work Health and Safety Commissioner has reported a concerning disregard for safety standards. For example, in April this year the Work Health and Safety Commissioner described a series of inspections on 25 residential construction sites. Only one of the 25 sites inspected was found to be compliant with the relevant safety standards. This was despite WorkSafe having visited the area twice previously. Issues identified in that series of inspections alone included inadequate fall protection, unsafe scaffolding and an apprentice performing electrical work without supervision.

One need only look a bit closer to find examples of workers who have been killed from these exact types of safety failings. The most recent SafeWork Australia nationwide report on work-related traumatic fatality indicates that in 2019 there were 21 people killed at work because of falls from height. An additional eight died from coming into contact with electricity. This is unacceptable and it is devastating. We must do better. We must have the strongest possible safety regulations and deterrents.

This legislation has been a long time coming. In 2018 a Senate inquiry heard from the families of those killed at work. The inquiry made several recommendations based on the heart-rending testimony of these families, including the introduction of an industrial manslaughter offence under the federal model workplace safety laws.

In 2019, Marie Boland recommended that this offence be included in the work health and safety framework, in her review of the model laws. Despite this, there has been a clear unwillingness by successive federal Liberal governments to take action on the matter. A majority of states and territories have now established their own legislation, and I am very proud that today the ACT will be joining them.

The ACT government is committed to reducing the human cost of poor work safety. This is why we have been implementing a range of initiatives designed to make work in the ACT safer and more secure. The bill before us today is one important component of those initiatives.

We have also introduced a labour hire licensing scheme to verify that labour hire employers understand and comply with their workplace obligations and, in doing so, improve safety standards for some of our most vulnerable workers.

We have made changes to the way the ACT government procures contracts for labour, by introducing a certificate scheme that requires tenderers and contractors to demonstrate that they understand and will comply with their work safety obligations.

We have invested in additional work safety inspectorate staff, systems and infrastructure to ensure that WorkSafe is properly resourced and fully focused on assisting industry to improve safety standards.

We have legislated changes to the work health and safety council to improve tripartite consultation on work safety matters and to monitor and make more informed recommendations about how to work to improve work safety.

The parliamentary and governing agreement for this Legislative Assembly outlines other work safety initiatives that we will be pursuing in this term of government. These include legislating to reduce the risk of silicosis caused by exposure to respirable crystalline silica and making other legislative changes to ensure that the ACT's work safety laws are contemporary and respond to changing workplaces and work hazards.

I expect that these changes will particularly focus on making sure that our work safety laws have a strong focus on preventing risks and on psychosocial health and safety. This is our commitment to working people in the territory.

Everyone has a right to be safe at work. This government will always, at every opportunity, protect this right. The Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill is responsive to this commitment. It will establish an industrial manslaughter offence under our work health and safety laws.

It is an honour to bring this legislation forward to the Assembly. I have spent my life and my career in this Assembly fighting on behalf of working Canberrans and their families. I am very proud today to commend this 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.

## **Justice—age of criminal responsibility**

### **Ministerial statement**

Debate resumed from 24 June 2021, on motion by **Mr Rattenbury**:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**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) (11.24): I am pleased to speak today in support of the Attorney-General's statement on raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility and the government's overall commitment to improving the safety and wellbeing of the ACT community.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge their continuing culture and the contribution they make to life in this city and the region.

I also acknowledge other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be present or listening to the Assembly broadcast today. This is a particularly important acknowledgement given the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in interacting with the ACT justice system.

Raising the age of criminal responsibility can help us reduce the contact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people have with the justice system. In my role as minister for police, emergency services and corrections, the safety of the community is my priority. However, diverting children and young people away from the criminal justice system, especially from detention, by addressing the causes of harmful behaviours through targeted interventions and supporting the at-risk community is also a priority. Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility is a step in the right direction.

Working towards this reform provides an opportunity to confront the challenges facing children and young people at risk, reducing their chances of engaging in harmful behaviours and the impacts of harmful behaviours on the wider community. It also provides an opportunity to strengthen preventative programs to keep children and young people from engaging with the criminal justice system, which we know can result in lifelong patterns of reoffending.

The ACT government is working closely with government and non-government partners to ensure that this reform results in a positive, holistic outcome for community safety in the territory. This includes consultation with ACT Policing to ensure that police have the necessary powers of intervention to keep children, young people and the community safe at all times.

We want to see young people not only diverted away from the criminal justice system, but also provided with the right social and health supports to improve their overall wellbeing and break the cycle of crime.

A discussion paper has been released for public consultation and will be available for comment until 5 August. Amongst a number of issues, it considers what support services are needed for children and young people who are at risk of harming themselves, or others, including healthcare and emergency accommodation options; what additional powers police should have to deal with children under the revised minimum age of responsibility; and what measures might be needed to protect our community and prevent harm.

When removing criminal justice interventions as an avenue to address the harmful behaviour of children and young people, it is important that the new arrangements continue to keep the community safe, particularly where serious, violent or repetitive harmful behaviours are involved. Alternative mechanisms that allow for appropriate consequences are important for the safety of the community as well as the wellbeing of the child in question and the potential victims involved.

Restorative mechanisms will be important for the success of this initiative, as they support accountability. Restorative justice approaches provide opportunities for people to understand the impacts of their harmful behaviours, for victims to have their experience acknowledged, and for at-risk youth to be reconnected to the community in a positive way.

I am pleased that the government has engaged an independent review team, led by Emeritus Professor Morag McArthur, to conduct a needs and gaps analysis of the implementation requirements of raising the age.

I know that the community will want to ensure that there are appropriate services to address the needs of children and young people engaging in harmful behaviour under a raised minimum age. We must carefully consider what youth, mental health, drug and alcohol and education services and supports will meet the needs of children and young people under this reform. I am pleased to note that the trials of specialised family therapy programs are already underway.

As a government, we are already thinking about the ways that we can tailor wraparound services for children and young people involved in harmful activities, ensuring that they are timely and culturally appropriate.

While the number of those subject to youth justice supervision orders is small, the reality is that ACT Policing officers are working with a much larger group of children



and young people who engage in harmful behaviours. This is not an issue that policing alone can solve. ACT Policing works very closely with its partners in the social and health support sectors to provide a holistic response to criminal offending by young people, ensuring that often complex underlying issues are addressed. Increasing the minimum age will provide an opportunity to strengthen preventative programs to keep children and young people from engaging with the criminal justice system, which we know can result in lifelong patterns of reoffending.

In the 2019-20 budget, the ACT government provided ACT Policing with \$33.9 million to undertake its transition to a community-focused police force under the police services model.

Police are on the front foot when it comes to ensuring a proactive approach to crime prevention, disruption and response. This includes working closely with the community that they serve.

Initiatives such as the police, ambulance and clinical early response model, the PACER model, have shown that harnessing the expertise and capabilities of multiple agencies in response to complex issues is the best way for vulnerable members of the community to receive the support they need. The ACT government is alive to the success of PACER and has begun to consider whether a similar multidisciplinary model could be used to better meet the needs of children and young people.

Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility will require a collaborative and considered approach across government and non-government supporting services. Police will continue to play an incredibly important role in protecting the community from harm, alongside rehabilitation services to best improve the outcomes of children and young people using harmful behaviours.

I am pleased to support the Attorney-General's statement today. Together we will put the ACT on the path to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Given that the ACT is leading the way on this reform in Australia, it is important that this is implemented effectively. We will continue to work collaboratively with government colleagues across Australia and encourage them to follow our lead in raising the age.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I draw your attention to why we are debating this today. The Attorney made this statement in the last sitting week. After considered remarks by him, Minister Davidson and Minister Stephen-Smith, debate was adjourned to enable the opposition to have time to consider the statement and make a contribution in this place. This is an important matter for Canberrans. I will be disappointed if the Canberra Liberals do not put their position on the record today.

Supporting the needs of children and young people and ensuring the safety of the community are not mutually exclusive. Better addressing the needs of children and young people will lead to better outcomes for community safety as a whole. I look forward to continuing to support the government in raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the ACT.

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (11.33): I rise to support in the strongest possible terms the raising of the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14.

As a local member, I have engaged with many of my constituents over the past few months, since the Attorney-General released the ACT government's discussion paper on the issue. It is fair to say that there is a diversity of views across our community.

One particular view that I have been struck by is the view of victim-survivors, people who have been the victims of crime, and hesitations or reservations they might have around legal changes that may not protect victims. I sympathise with that.

I speak to this because I want to implore those of a more conservative disposition in our community who may have reservations around such a move to think in more detail about what justice can truly look like in a community that, as Minister Davidson so rightly points out on regular occasions, should display radical love.

Justice need not look like prison bars. Justice need not look like having your liberty stripped from you. Justice need not look like putting children into places that all evidence would suggest can further entrench learnt criminality. Justice can look like caring. Justice can look like love. Justice can look like investing in young people in our community who have made errors in judgement.

I would ask all Canberrans to reflect on instances in their youth when they may have made an error of judgement. I put it to all Canberrans that if they cannot come up with at least a few, they are probably lying to themselves. It is the nature of youth that you make mistakes. Those in the community who express love and kindness towards one another have a responsibility to use those opportunities for growth and learning, and to ensure that those young people can and should become fully engaged members of their community and their society as they get older.

I take this opportunity to encourage all Canberrans to read the discussion paper to consider the experts in the field who work with children and young people in the ACT every day, and who—en masse, it is worth noting—support this legislative reform.

I would like to quote Dr Justin Barker, the CEO of the Youth Coalition of the ACT. He says:

All of us want to live in safe and healthy communities. That means investing in housing, healthcare services and family supports that children and young people need to learn and grow, not ripping them out of our community and locking them away. Raising the age of criminal responsibility is one step in the right direction to building the type of therapeutic and, importantly, evidence-based service landscape that we need to keep kids and our community safe. They welcome this opportunity to share expertise with the ACT government about the type of services, programs and whole-of-government response needed to give every child the chance to thrive.

If you will indulge me for a bit longer, Mr Assistant Speaker, Dr Emma Campbell, the CEO of the ACT Council of Social Service, a peak representative body for many different groups in Canberra who support children and young people, said:

We need leadership on this crucial issue, which is causing immense harm to the health, wellbeing and future of children. If diverted from the youth justice system, the needs of children under 14 can be addressed by appropriate services in youth homelessness, child protection and mental health. Providing early and alternative supports to children and their families is likely to have better outcomes for the individual, their family and the wider community than engagement with the criminal justice system. ACTCOSS is proud to be based in the only jurisdiction in Australia that has recognised that children simply do not belong in prison. We applaud the work done by the ACT Government and Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury to progress this critical issue, and call on other jurisdictions to follow suit and take decisive, positive action.

I quote these two community leaders because the way the ACT Greens have historically developed policy in this space, and all spaces—and they will continue to do so—is always informed by evidence and the experts. I do not think Canberrans look to their politicians in all instances to be the authority on all things. Rather, we are entrusted with the responsibility of sourcing the right answers from those who know in the community and with implementing those policies and making them law. When so many leaders in our community who work with young people every day support this legislative reform, I encourage all Canberrans to heed their words.

I am particularly struck by some of the words of Dr Emma Campbell around national leadership. This is one example, in a long list of many examples, where the nation's most progressive government is leading this country to policy and legislative reform that is long overdue, that protects the most vulnerable.

I am incredibly proud to be a member of a government that is willing to have difficult conversations, nuanced conversations, with our community; that is willing to engage them thoroughly and consistently throughout the process; and that is unafraid to be the first to do something that needs to get done. This is the most progressive government in the country. This is also a government that has had strong Greens influence in the cabinet for more than a decade. I do not think those two things are unrelated.

People all around the country who have been advocating for this law reform for a long time can see the virtue of progressive political parties working together to achieve strong legislative reform. Australians all around the country who support raising the age of criminal responsibility can consider how the ACT government has conducted these deliberations. They can consider the make-up of the government in coming to this position, and, if it is an issue that is impactful to them, perhaps reflect on that the next time they are asked to cast a ballot.

As the youngest member of this place, and somebody who has outed myself on a few occasions in this place as being a bit of a mischief-maker in my youth, perhaps my support for such a motion might be a bit self-indulgent. But throughout the course of my young life I have seen many instances where young people have been engaged in criminal activity where it became obvious, if you scratched just a bit below the surface, that that criminality could best be taken care of in a therapeutic environment—in an environment that protects and respects the young person's liberty and starts from the basis that they are open to reform and open to changed behaviour.

The evidence is clear. The experts have told us what to do. I would be incredibly disappointed if, at some point in the future, such legislative reform was not unanimously supported by this whole Assembly.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (11.42), in reply: I thank members for their contribution to the debate, both on the previous date this was discussed and today. Coincidentally, today is the day that the consultation closes on the public discussion paper. I look forward to seeing the submissions when they are briefed up to me.

I should be very clear that that is not the end of the conversation. There is still a lot of work to be done in this space. As the discussion paper alludes to, and as I alluded to in my remarks to this chamber several weeks ago now, there is quite a lot of complex policy work to do in this space to ensure that we have a robust system that supports young people and helps them in a therapeutic way to address the challenging behaviours in their life and put their lives on a better trajectory.

Mr Davis very eloquently alluded to the human side of this discussion. Whilst it is a legal reform, it is a very important social reform as well in terms of giving our young people the best chance at having great lives in this city and making sure that we do not leave children behind and we do not simply place them in the custodial system—that, in fact, we seek to work much harder to give them the best possible future.

I am very grateful for the statement released today from a coalition of over 20 service delivery, human rights, legal and representative organisations in the ACT, underlining their support for this reform. The nature of those organisations ranges from the Youth Coalition and the Council on Social Service through to the Law Society as well as some of the organisations that would provide the kind of services we might expect, such as Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation and the Northside Community Service. The statement underlines the community's understanding of the importance of this issue. In particular, I refer to the remarks from Kim Davison from Gugan Gulwan, who notes the particular impact and potential impact for these reforms on young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community.

I look forward to the continuing discussion, both in this place and in the community, on this reform. As I said, we have a lot of work still to do, particularly to get our service responses right to enable this reform to take place. I look forward to updating the Assembly as we make further progress on this matter.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Economy—renewables industry**

### **Ministerial statement**

Debate resumed from 22 June 2021, on motion by **Mr Barr**:

That the Assembly take note of the paper:

ACT Government's work to create sustainable Canberra jobs—Update—  
Ministerial statement, 22 June 2021—

**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) (11.45): I am pleased to follow on from the Chief Minister regarding the ACT government's work to create sustainable Canberra jobs; Canberra jobs for Canberrans. As he noted, the ACT leads the nation on climate action, but what is also essential is that we are creating secure, sustainable jobs that come from this essential transition, that we are not leaving anybody behind but, equally, that we are using the opportunities that this enormous challenge presents us, to be able to drive growth and to create even more jobs.

In this vein, the government has been a strong supporter of emerging technologies in renewables and climate action, driving early-stage commercialisation in start-ups and in growth companies. The ACT government has used levers, like our own funding, to support sustainable businesses in the innovation ecosystem through the Innovation Connect, or ICON, early-stage commercialisation grant program and through programs and services delivered by the Canberra Innovation Network.

I thought that a good example to draw the Assembly's attention to is Goterra, which received \$30,000 of ICON funding in 2015-16. With this it developed its Black Soldier Fly larvae proof of technology. In doing this, it has created three revenue streams: waste management, pellets and meal and social supplements made from insects. It has now raised \$6.9 million in investment over two rounds to expand its business. We congratulate it on winning the 2021 Lift Off Award for Agtech Startup or Scaleup of the Year.

Goterra has partnered with local organisations Capital Brewing Co and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, as well as national companies such as Lendlease and Woolworths. It processes food waste into protein and soil enhancers, diverting food from landfill, reducing emissions and pursuing a circular economy.

Examples of sustainable start-ups that have received ICON grants include Reposit Power, which received \$50,000 in 2012-13 to deploy a commercial-scale prototype hardware and software solution that manages distributed electricity storage. It is now involved in the Ausgrid program, trialling the viability of energy storage and demand services to the grid.

The Joyful Fashionista, who is otherwise known as Serina Bird, someone whom I have known for a long time, received \$17,500 in April 2021 to develop a peer-to-peer shopping website for second-hand and sustainable clothing.

Specialise Electric Vehicle received \$23,300 in April 2021 to develop its high-performance modular vehicle electrification for the most challenging applications that demand zero emissions. In the same month, Rexergy received \$23,300 to develop a tool that helps small businesses to reduce their energy bills by making sure that they are always on their best energy plan.

As part of CBRIN's KILN Incubator program, several sustainable businesses are also currently receiving an incredible amount of support. Sway Aquaculture is a company

that sustainably cultivates and farms seafood for wholesale. It is currently raising capital investment and beginning their first harvest of 50,000 sea cucumbers in Singapore. Evaluate8 Sustainability is a software platform that allows organisations to monitor their total carbon footprint and provide explainability to minimise their carbon output. It has recently closed several new deals. CBRIN also partners with the Mill House Ventures to deliver the Social Enterprise Accelerator program that supports social innovators to explore viable and sustainable ways to create, measure and sustain impact to address systemic disadvantage.

In collaboration with the CIT, CBRIN delivered the ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> Hackathon in August 2020. The Hackathon's focus was accelerating Canberra's transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2045. The virtual event had 39 participants who formed teams to create solutions and compete for a prize pool of over \$10,000. CBRIN has commenced work with CIT on ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> and Sustainability Collaborative Innovation Lab, to be held later this year.

Canberra-based Mineral Carbonation International, MCi, is an organisation or a business that I have spoken about many times in this place which uses carbon engineering processes to transform captured carbon dioxide into solid materials that can be used to manufacture low-carbon building and construction products. In June 2021 MCi was successful in receiving a commonwealth grant of \$14.6 million to construct a world-first mineral carbonation mobile demonstration plant in Newcastle. Many people in this place would recognise its chief operating officer, Sophia Hamblin Wang, who regularly appears on ABC TV on *Q&A* and is a fantastic ambassador for sustainable jobs and sustainable growth industries.

The ACT's ambitious renewable electricity target has attracted over \$2 billion worth of investment in large-scale renewables and demonstrated the territory's national and international leadership as a renewable energy and climate action capital. The ACT government's award-winning reverse auctions also leveraged significant local investment outcomes worth \$500 million over 20 years. The Next Generation Energy Storage program and the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund were established as a result of these reverse auctions.

The \$25 million Next Generation Energy Storage program has supported the installation of over 1,700 energy storage systems or 7.6 megawatts of sustained peak output, to date. Fifteen local installers are now accredited to the program and delivering those services to Canberra homes and businesses. These installers will also all be accredited to the new Sustainable Household Scheme, which already has more than 35 accredited installers and growing.

Since its inauguration in 2016, the ACT Renewables Innovation Hub, supported by the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund, a collaborative co-working space in Canberra's renewables precinct, has hosted more than 60 businesses and 150 events, with more than 3,000 attendees. The \$12 million Renewable Energy Innovation Fund is providing \$2.2 million in flexible, early-stage funding through its direct grants program to help support a diversity of new and emerging technologies and ventures. Local start-ups have been successfully supported to date and there are future rounds to come.

Innovative projects that have been completed to date with this funding include Reposit receiving direct grants in round 1 in 2017, which helped them develop their most recent iteration of the Reposit Box. When Reposit started in 2013, they comprised just two staff and have since grown to a team of over 20 staff.

PV Labs received funding through the direct grants rounds 1 and 2. They have pioneered solar panel testing and quality assurance programs in Australia. They now consult for many utility-scale solar farms and are in the process of fitting out a purpose-built testing facility in Mitchell.

Solcast are a renewable energy software company who have been part of Canberra's Renewables Innovation Hub. They received \$287,000 under the round 1 funding, and with this grant funding they are developing a world-leading service for forecasting power output at large solar farms.

ITP Thermal received funding under round 2 to commercialise large-scale storage solutions for hydrogen. They recently established a new company called Ardent Underground and they have raised \$1 million in capital to begin a pilot project.

The ANU's Battery Storage and Grid Integration project is now recognised as a leading source of policy and technical advice on battery integration. This project began with \$4 million of ACT government funding but has now grown and it has attracted an additional \$7 million through its demonstrated expertise. It comprises over 30 staff and students.

Finally, the Renewable Energy Skills Centre of Excellence was established at CIT in late 2015 to lead the trades training and development of practical technical skills for work-ready graduates across a range of renewable industries across Australia and internationally.

There is a lot to talk about. We have many success stories here in the ACT, where we have used our funding in a targeted way to help leverage these businesses to ensure their growth, to take advantage of the opportunities that the challenge of climate change presents us. As a result these businesses have grown. We have been able to create more jobs, employing more Canberrans.

We are developing a very strong national and international reputation as a renewable energy innovation cluster. We do have world-leading capabilities, as I have demonstrated, in renewable energy asset management; wind and solar resource analysis and forecasting; innovative policy and project design; smart and data-driven energy storage integration; and clean fuels. There is always more work to be done but we come from a very good place.

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

**Sitting suspended from 11.57 am to 2 pm.**

## **Questions without notice**

### **Light rail—traffic planning**

**MS LEE:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, in relation to light rail stage 2A construction, you were recently quoted as saying:

That's going to mean a significant amount of congestion that our city probably hasn't seen before in its history.

You went on to say that commuters' options could include using public transport. Minister, under the massive levels of traffic congestion and disruption you have warned us about, how will public transport perform any better than a private motor vehicle?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. Our government is getting on with our city's largest ever infrastructure build, which is focused on providing better public transport for our city, building a more vibrant, sustainable and connected city in the future as our population grows. As we do that, we have been up-front with the community that this is going to have a significant disruptive effect while we construct the project.

That is why we have established the disruption task force, a task force that will be looking at how we can minimise the extent of that disruption to the community—not just those businesses and people who live, work and go for recreation around the western side of London Circuit but also people in the broader community. That is why the disruption task force is looking at better public transport options. It is looking at a range of different things, which I have said—I have been very clear—we will announce over the coming months.

In addition to that, they will be looking at behaviour change, encouraging shifts in the way that people work. People will have to rethink their routes and rethink their routines during the period. We will be clearly communicating with the community and business every step of the way as early as possible about the options that will be available so that people can reduce the impact on themselves and help to keep our city moving. Our government will be putting in place the infrastructure investments that we can in the short term on our road network to reduce the extent of disruption. That work is ongoing. The group has been meeting for some time as we undertake significant preparation and planning ahead of work starting later this year.

**MS LEE:** Minister, are you going to create additional bus lanes on Kings Avenue, Parkes Way and Morshead Drive to allow public transport to operate better on these routes?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. We are considering a range of different options to provide public transport as an option, as a way that people can help make their commute into the city and into the parliamentary triangle easier and help minimise the disruptive effect that the construction will have as we seek to build an infrastructure system with public transport which will benefit Canberrans for generations to come.



All options around public transport are being considered. I have already announced that we are looking at things like park and ride. We will look at bus priority, of course. We will also work with groups like Pedal Power on how we can encourage people to use active travel, if it is appropriate. We understand that for many people in our community, particularly families, some of these options may not be appropriate. But if we can encourage enough people to use these options, it will help to keep our whole city moving, as well as shortening the commute, making it easier to get into work and get to the places where people need to go, such as schools.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, is it your intention to ban private motor vehicles altogether from certain congested routes? If so, which routes?

**MR STEEL:** No. Our focus is on minimising the extent of disruption during this infrastructure build, as we seek to build light rail and get on with what we said we would do, creating over 6,000 jobs, connecting light rail from Civic to Woden. We are going to deliver a much better public transport system for the future. That is the best way to encourage people to use public transport.

As we do that, there will be some road closures that are required. We have been up-front with the community, and the maps are available on the light rail project website. The cloverleaves in the south-west will be closed to traffic. That is going to have a disruptive effect on traffic. That is why there will be other routes that people will need to consider to get into work if they need to use those exits. We will be making that very clear, often on a daily basis, to the community—about where we are up to in the construction program, which roads are closed, and which roads are open to use. That is going to change as the project continues.

The early works will begin very soon, on utilities removal. That will only have localised disruptive effects. As we move into quarter 2 of next year, with the raising of London Circuit and the demolition of the bridges in a staged fashion over London Circuit on Commonwealth Avenue, that is going to have a major disruptive effect. But it is also the effect of the work that the NCA are doing on the bridge augmentation on Commonwealth Avenue as they seek to extend the life of that bridge for another 50 years and also widen the pedestrian and cycling bridges to provide better active travel opportunities. We will be working hand in hand with the NCA.

These are not the only major infrastructure projects happening around Canberra. We are planning to make sure we can minimise disruption around all of them as well as the private developments that are occurring around our city.

### **Light rail—traffic planning**

**MRS JONES:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, Canberrans residing on the south side of the city have been advised to consider using the Monaro Highway as an alternate route once light rail traffic disruptions occur elsewhere. Around the same time, construction will start on the Monaro Highway upgrade, with major activity in 2022. To make matters worse, your traffic disruption modelling indicates light rail works will generate a 46 per cent increase in traffic loads on the Monaro Highway. Minister, why are you telling people

to use the already congested Monaro Highway at the same time as you will start disruptive works on the same road?

**MR STEEL:** We are getting on with building major infrastructure projects that are needed to meet the needs of our growing city, and we are getting on with works, of course, on light rail very soon but also getting on with the necessary infrastructure projects on major arterial routes like the Monaro Highway, like William Hovell Drive. We are also building a hospital in Woden. We are building a new interchange and bus depot in Woden, a new CIT campus. There is a huge amount of private development occurring right across the city, and it is going to be a disruptive period.

That is why we are doing the preparations planning necessary so that we can provide, closer to the time, advice to Canberrans about what routes they might want to take, to minimise the extent of that disruption. We have not provided that advice yet. We will be doing that close to the time. It will depend on where each of the infrastructure projects is up to in its program, and that may differ, often on a daily basis around which roads are closed and so forth.

We are getting on with that work, and it would be extraordinary if it was the position of the opposition Liberal Party that we should delay and not build these projects. We are getting on with the job—

**Mrs Jones:** On a point of order, the minister is both debating and still has not answered the question—which goes to relevance as well as debating—the question being: why is he telling them to use the Monaro Highway when it will be congested at the same time?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I think he has covered his response to that.

**Mrs Jones:** He certainly has not.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** There is no need for a chat back, Mrs Jones.

**MRS JONES:** A supplementary?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Indeed?

**MRS JONES:** Minister, will works on the Monaro Highway be taking place at the same time as the upgrades to stage 2A?

**MR STEEL:** Yes. We will be getting on with making sure that the Monaro Highway is safer, and we will reduce travel times on that important connection not only for Tuggeranong residents but for the whole of the region, including Jerrabomberra, south Tralee, Queanbeyan—our major freight route to the southern part of New South Wales. We are getting on with that work and we are going to get on with all the other infrastructure projects that we have committed to, because that is what our Labor and Greens government does.

We have committed to these in our infrastructure plan, which clearly outlines all the major infrastructure projects that we will be doing over the coming years, and we are getting on with the job. That is in stark contrast to what the Liberal Party has done, which is to put in jeopardy, every step of the way, major infrastructure projects like light rail.

**Mrs Jones:** On a point of order, the question had nothing to do with the Canberra Liberals, and the minister is debating.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** He is not.

**DR PATERSON:** A supplementary question. Minister, I was wondering how the disruption task force will work to inform commuters of all these roadworks?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Dr Paterson for her supplementary. We will be communicating through a range of different channels as the build commences about how people can best get into the city and what the progress is on the project. It will be through radio; it will be, for anyone that wants to sign up for updates, through the light rail website when it is established. We have, of course, established a community reference panel, which I met with the other day. It has representatives from a range of different stakeholders in the community. We have established an accessibility reference group in Transport Canberra and City Services, and we will be consulting them on the accessibility aspects of the project. And we will be providing information through stakeholders that often have quite a large membership so that they can disseminate information to their members that might be pertinent to them. So how they can get into the city on a bike during the construction period if they would like to, or how they can use public transport—the Public Transport Association will no doubt be very helpful there—and how we can work with business to make sure that they can accommodate more flexible arrangements so that their employees can get into work and not be held up in traffic.

We will be working with the entire Canberra community. That is why we have the disruption task force—to get on with that preparation and planning now, well ahead of this major infrastructure build commencing.

### **Light rail—traffic planning**

**MR HANSON:** My question is to the Chief Minister—no, I'll give it to the Minister for Transport and City Services. He deserves one!

Minister, you were recently quoted as saying light rail stage 2A would cause traffic congestion never before experienced in Canberra. Given that survivability in life-threatening situations is directly linked to emergency vehicle response times, Minister, what contingency plans have you made for emergency service vehicles attempting to access life-threatening situations during this period of traffic congestion?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. As I have stated to the Assembly today, we are undertaking a significant amount of preparation and planning as we

undertake preparations ahead of the light rail stage 2A project occurring, which will start with utility works in just a few months time, as we seek to build a very large infrastructure project which will keep people moving around our city and hopefully reduce congestion on our roads. That is the premise of this project.

We will work with agencies, including emergency services, to make sure that they have all the information that they need, that they are working with us too around the planning for the project. Once we have a delivery partner on board for the major elements of the construction build, we will work with the delivery partners to make sure that there are measures in place to ensure that people can appropriately move around, including emergency services vehicles, through areas where the construction is affecting the city. But we expect that the major impacts of this construction will occur during peak times: in the morning, in particular—in the am peak—and in the evening. They are the times that we are focusing on. We do not expect there to be as much traffic disruption in the other times.

But all of the work that the disruption task force is doing around infrastructure improvements that we can put in place on roads to ensure that we have good movement of traffic, around behaviour change to reduce the demand on our road network during the peak, plus spreading it out, and around public transport and active travel options will all help to keep our city moving during this major infrastructure build.

**MR HANSON:** I have a supplementary question. What traffic simulation modelling have you done specifically on emergency vehicle prioritisation during the light rail project? Will you table any modelling in the Assembly, if you have done some?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. We have already released some of the outcomes of the traffic modelling that we have undertaken on what the traffic would look like if we did not take any interventions at the moment. At the moment, we are looking at the interventions. Of course, a significant amount of traffic modelling is ongoing, which will look at those interventions and what impact they can have across the road traffic network in Canberra. So we will continue that work and we will continue to liaise with the other agencies going forward.

**Mr Parton:** I have a point of order on relevance. The question was asked specifically about emergency vehicle prioritisation—traffic simulation modelling referring to emergency vehicle prioritisation. I would ask that the minister be relevant to that question, if possible.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** He is relevant to modelling and he has made mention of the activity.

**MR STEEL:** I have answered the question, Madam Speaker.

**MR MILLIGAN:** Minister, what smart technologies has the government investigated to prevent emergency services vehicles being stuck in traffic congestion caused by the light rail project?

**MR STEEL:** I have already said that we would not rule out any options in terms of how we can help to manage the disruption during the build. We will work with emergency services around what their requirements are in terms of access around the road network. We will make sure that we reduce the amount of disruption overall in the city to make sure that we can keep all traffic moving throughout the city during what is going to be a very challenging time for the city but which will provide long-term benefits for our city and for Canberrans for generations to come.

### **Canberra Hospital—expansion**

**MR PETTERSSON:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, there are many changes underway at the Canberra Hospital campus. Can you please update the Assembly on the work that is being undertaken as part of the Canberra Hospital expansion?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the question. As members would be aware, the contract with Multiplex to deliver the new critical services building as part of the Canberra Hospital expansion was signed on 29 June. With today's announcement of the development application being approved, this important work continues for the future of our health system—another milestone day for this project that would not have been achieved if the Canberra Liberals had been elected last year. The main works on the project have commenced. Relocation—

**Mr Hanson:** Because we would have built it in 2016. It would already be there!

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** If you had been elected last year you would have already built it?

Relocation of inground utilities has been completed, and Multiplex are continuing their investigative works. Internal demolition to building 5 commenced in July, with complete demolition of buildings 5 and 24 scheduled to be finished by the end of 2021—quite different from the hole in the ground we would have gone into the pandemic with if the Canberra Liberals had had any say in the matter. We would have had a big hole in the middle of Canberra Hospital going into the pandemic if the Canberra Liberals had been in charge.

This comes on top of a range of early works that have already transformed the campus. The new building 8 was completed in July 2021 and provides upgraded facilities for the Canberra Sexual Health Centre and staff training. In addition, 12 apartments were refurbished in building 9 for short-term accommodation at the Canberra Hospital for interstate outpatients and carers. At the former CIT site in Woden, we have provided 750 car parking spaces for hospital staff and contractors, freeing up spaces on the campus. We will deliver 1,100 parking spaces in total.

Construction of the temporary prototype shed and the contractor compound also commenced in June, with the prototype shed scheduled for completion early next year.

That will allow staff and consumers to test out the functionality of proposed spaces for the new building to ensure that those designs are fit for purpose.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, what does the opening of building 8 at Canberra Hospital bring to the Canberra community and the staff who work there?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the supplementary. The opening of building 8 has been an important milestone in the modernisation of the Canberra Hospital campus through the expansion project, providing new facilities for the Canberra community and health services staff. The much loved Canberra Sexual Health Centre—maybe that is not the right term for it!—has been relocated to a modern purpose-built clinic on level 4. I know that Ms Cheyne is a big fan of the Canberra Sexual Health Centre.

The relocation of the Canberra Sexual Health Centre supports the work of providing sexual health services for priority populations, with a focus on prevention, screening, early diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmissible infections and HIV. The Sexual Health Centre continues to offer an important COVID-safe service with shorter in-clinic waiting times. Light and spacious, this new space in building 8 has been warmly welcomed by staff and consumers.

Canberra Health Services also has new purpose-built teaching and training facilities for all staff located on level 2 and level 3 of building 8. The new teaching spaces provide a modern environment to attend essential education. The education spaces include four flexible training rooms for large and small groups; computer access; a specific space for occupational violence and manual handling training; and a simulation space for clinical skills training, which I know that Mrs Jones will be pleased to hear.

The new surgical skills centre is a purpose-designed and built facility aimed at the skills training requirements of our Canberra Health Services health workers. The area encompasses private study space; tutorial rooms; and two clinical skills laboratories, one of which is equipped to handle wet specimens and tissue.

Building 8 also houses important research units to bring education and research together on the one floor, encouraging increased collaboration. The co-location of education and research means that we can measure training effectiveness and provide the community with the assurance that CHS staff are accessing the best evidence-based education possible.

**MS ORR:** Minister, how will planning for the Canberra Hospital ensure that an accessible and integrated approach is taken to futureproof the campus for the Canberra community?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary question. The ACT government is currently working with stakeholders and the community to develop the Canberra Hospital masterplan. The masterplan work provides a road map for the next 20 years of development of our largest hospital. The masterplan looks at how all

elements of the campus can fit together, including through the Canberra Hospital expansion, to improve experiences for everyone.

For phase 2 of the Canberra Hospital masterplan consultation is currently occurring after opening on 23 July 2021. Major themes heard in the first phase of consultation included access, accessibility and connectivity. Incorporating this feedback, we have developed a precinct-based approach to the campus, with two draft options on how the campus could potentially develop over the next 20 years, to get people's feedback on those specifics.

We encourage all Canberrans to visit the Canberra Hospital masterplan YourSay page or attend one of the pop-ups at their local shops. The team has also been out and about at all community council meetings. I was pleased to attend Woden Valley Community Council last night, see their presentation and hear the questions from the community. We want to hear what the community has to say about how we can improve the masterplan options as we work towards finalising it.

Through the masterplan, we have identified opportunities for improved access for vehicles and pedestrians, integration of active travel and public transport; upgraded wayfinding; and increased and improved open spaces, including green spaces across the Canberra Hospital campus.

Parking is a very important issue for the community. The masterplan options demonstrate increased parking supply can be provided more evenly across the campus. This includes providing parking under the new buildings as redevelopment occurs and allowing the community to directly access areas of the buildings in an efficient and safe manner.

The masterplan is about identifying potential redevelopment and ensuring that progress on the campus has the guidance and flexibility it needs to support the best model of care and service delivery. (*Time expired.*)

### **Government—Chief Minister**

**MR PARTON:** My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, yesterday in question time when the opposition asked you about correcting your false statements about thousands of warning notices being issued following speed limit changes in Civic, you said that doing so is not “the top issue”. You also confirmed that no-one from your office or directorate informed you that your statements were false. Chief Minister, since these revelations, have you instructed your office or directorate to audit your appearances on *Chief Minister's Talkback* for any other false or misleading statements?

**MR BARR:** Obviously, *Chief Minister's Talkback* will throw up the widest variety of issues. I think on last week's episode there was everything from our relations with China to speed limits on Northbourne Avenue; the usual municipal service issues to vaccination programs. It was a very wide-ranging forum, as it normally is. We make every endeavour to answer every possible question that we can on the spot. There are times when I just do not have the information in front of me or in my head, so I will

take things on notice. There are other times, clearly, when it is possible that human error can occur, and that was the case last week. I have apologised for that. From time to time we all make a mistake or two, Mr Parton, and you of all people—

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary.

**MR PARTON:** Chief Minister, have you received any other briefs or advice from your office or directorate about false or incorrect statements that you have previously made during media appearances?

**MR BARR:** In my entire career? I recall, yes, over more than 15 years, that there have been times I have misspoken, occasionally in this place and sometimes in media interviews. When you identify an error, Madam Speaker, the appropriate thing to do is to apologise and correct the record, which is what I have done on multiple occasions when something has been drawn to my attention.

**MRS KIKKERT:** A supplementary.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mrs Kikkert.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Chief Minister, why is it not a top issue for you when to many of the 18,000 who received a \$300 fine it is a big issue of affordability?

**MR BARR:** I thank Mrs Kikkert for the question. As I outlined in my response yesterday, we are in the midst of a global pandemic. There are hundreds of people in hospital just a couple of hundred kilometres up the road from us. The virus has spread outside of the Greater Sydney area. This is my number one priority at the moment—responding to the pandemic, addressing the vaccination rollout, ensuring that we deliver our budget at the end of this month, continuing the ACT government's engagement in the national cabinet process. We are continuing to focus—

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** The national cabinet process is, of course, broader than just the response to the initial and impending issues associated with the pandemic. We continue to respond to climate change, which is an urgent priority. We continue to respond to the need to build more houses in this city, which is another urgent priority. We continue to provide support to the tourism and hospitality sector. We continue our focus on emergency services, police and ambulance, and we continue to deliver healthcare services in the community. We focus on the rollout of new infrastructure across the city, including public transport projects. We are, of course, continuing—

*Mrs Jones interjecting—*

*Mr Hanson interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mrs Jones! Mr Hanson!



**MR BARR:** to deliver on our election commitments and, Madam Speaker, we remain focused on the number one priority that faces this community and this nation at this time—responding to the pandemic. *(Time expired.)*

**Kippax group centre—flood study**

**MS CLAY:** My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. The expansion of Kippax Fair has been of great interest to the Belconnen community. My recent visit with the Umbagog Landcare Group raised flood risk due to climate change as a particular concern. To what extent does the 2020 Kippax flood report take into consideration data based on the new climate change risk environment and the impacts of flooding we are likely to see over the next hundred years?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Clay for the question. I will go to the Kippax study first and advise that we undertook substantial consultation in developing both the Kippax group centre master plan and the associated Territory Plan variation. The flood study done in 2015 informed the processes for the master plan and the Territory Plan for Kippax as well. We did an updated flood study from 2020, providing additional information to government. So that study took into account the changes we have seen most recently, some, of course, which have been associated with climate change were taken into account as well.

That revised study considered a number of changed conditions, more recent survey and updated parameters and methods as contained in the recently revised national flood guideline, which is the Australian rainfall and runoff guideline 2019. The 2020 flood study found that the land is suitable for development.

**MS CLAY:** Minister, has a strategic environmental assessment been conducted in the last 10 years to look at flood risks and flood mitigation at Kippax, given our changing climate?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Clay for the supplementary. The flood study that we did is publicly available. All parties seeking to express interest in the site through that recent expression of interest can go and have a look at that, too, and of course members of the public can have a look at that. I am confident that they have taken into account, as I mentioned earlier, changes that are occurring. Indeed, we are looking at this situation in whole-of-government circumstances, too. I can say with ESA that they are looking at changing conditions and are moving to an all-hazards approach when it comes to emergency services responses across the ACT.

We have seen changes in weather. We have seen it personally as citizens across the ACT in the last couple of years. So we will certainly keep an eye on those predictions and ensure that they are well embedded into our future planning.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Minister, are strategic environmental assessments conducted for all major urban developments to help future proof us in the context of the changing climate?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** Yes, assessments are taken into account for the future of developments. Indeed, some of the work that we do around our bushfire operational plans and bushfire abatement zones are a key way of expressing that commitment. We need to make sure that our city is safe as we grow into the future. It was certainly one of the considerations we took into account when we looked at the strategic planning for the ACT and the announcement of our 70-30 change to the way we will develop Canberra into the future.

### **Environment—wood heaters**

**MR DAVIS:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment. Minister, throughout the colder months, many Canberrans have been lighting up their woodfired heaters to stay warm, but I have been contacted by several of my constituents who are concerned about the adverse health effects of wood smoke, particularly in Tuggeranong. What is the government doing to manage the nexus between the needs of Canberrans to heat our homes and protecting Canberrans from the adverse health effects of wood smoke?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** I thank Mr Davis for the question. Yes, it is the case that, with winter here, people are using a range of ways to heat their homes, including woodfired heaters. Members of this house might have noted that we released the 2020 air quality report recently. It did identify that, particularly in the winter months, while we have really good air quality, wood fire smoke does create some issues in terms of both environmental and health impacts.

The ACT does government take this issue really seriously. As part of the smoke and air quality strategy that we are developing in consultation with ACT Health and other parts of government, we are looking at whether or not we have all the measures in place. At the moment we certainly do monitoring. I am also pleased to let the house know that in April this year environment ministers came together and made a variation to the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure to ensure that we have strengthened air quality standards for ozone nitrate, dioxide and sulphur dioxide to ensure that what we are monitoring is of the highest standard.

We also provide a wood heater replacement program for people who are interested in replacing their woodfired heaters. We offer financial incentives for the removal and disposal of wood-burning heaters; particularly, there are additional incentives if they are putting in place more efficient electric systems. Some areas, because of topography, have particular risks. In particular, in places like Molonglo, there are some suburbs where people are unable to put wood heaters in. *(Time expired.)*

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, what specific government programs or subsidies exist for Canberrans who currently own and operate a woodfired heater who would like to transition to an electric heater?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** I thank the member for the question. There are two key things. In my previous answer I talked about the Actsmart woodfire heater replacement program. That provides a range of rebates if you are removing a woodfired heater;

there is an additional rebate if you are removing a heater and putting a reverse-cycle air system in. Depending on what you put in, you will get a different rebate.

Also the recently announced Sustainable Household Scheme, which will offer zero interest loans of between \$2,000 and \$15,000 to support eligible households to live more comfortably, will also provide mechanisms for people to replace their woodfire heaters.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, why is the demand for woodfire heaters steadily increasing, despite the measures that you have outlined?

**MS VASSAROTTI:** I thank the member for the question. We have had some reports that there is an increase in woodfired heaters. Certainly, there might be a number of things driving this. The really good news is, particularly in relation to new woodfired heaters, because of the very stringent regulations, there is a much reduced impact on the environment and health if people are putting in a new woodfired heater. We will continue to work through a range of education programs in terms of encouraging people to look at other forms of heating that are better for the environment and do not impact on health.

### **Light rail—traffic planning**

**MR MILLIGAN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. In relation to light rail stage 2A construction, you said:

That's going to mean a significant amount of congestion that our city probably hasn't seen before in its history.

In another statement you suggested that much of the traffic would be diverted from Commonwealth Avenue to Kings Avenue and Parkes Way. Minister, how can you tell the public to use these roads when they are already at a standstill, in peak times particularly?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. Commonwealth Avenue, we have been very clear, will probably see an 80 per cent reduction in its use, and that is because people will choose to use other roads to get more quickly into the city. Parkes Way will be a major one of those, as well as Kings Avenue. We are looking very closely at what improvements can be made to Parkes Way as part of the work of the disruption task force as well as other road improvements in the network to make sure we can reduce travel times and deal with the capacity issues.

We expect there to be more vehicles in peak times on those roads, and that is why we are looking at behaviour change as well, so spreading out the peak, spreading out the volume of traffic using those roads so that we are not seeing everyone using them at exactly the same time. As I have outlined very comprehensively to this place, that work is ongoing. We will make further announcements down the track. But in the longer term we are looking at Parkes Way very closely. Of course, with the federal government funding fifty-fifty, we are looking at what future improvements need to be made to Parkes Way generally as our city grows. It is a major east-west corridor in

our city and we want to make sure it has the capacity needed to service a city of 500,000-plus in the future.

**MR MILLIGAN:** Minister, what analysis led you to believe that Kings Avenue and Parkes Way have the capacity to carry their share of the 4,100 vehicles per hour that will be diverted from Commonwealth Avenue in peak times?

**MR STEEL:** The traffic modelling we have undertaken. The mesoscopic operational traffic model of the city and inner north that we have, looked very closely at the volume of traffic that is likely to be on those roads. Now we are looking at what interventions and measures we can put in place to help mitigate and minimise the disruptive effect on the traffic network. That is the work that is underway now. I will be announcing further measures about what that will mean for the traffic network over the coming months as we undertake the preparation and planning that is needed for this major infrastructure project, which the opposition have fought against now at two elections and have now tried to put it in jeopardy again over the last months.

**MRS JONES:** Minister Steel, will you table the mesoscopic study that you referred to in its entirety?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. I have tabled the results of that study, and I table it again. Here it is:

Light Rail to Woden—Construction traffic impacts—Question time brief, dated 26 July 2021.

**Mrs Jones:** A point of order, the minister was asked if he would table the study in its entirety. He has not actually answered the question.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members! I am giving Ms Orr the call for her question without notice.

### **Education—early childhood**

**MS ORR:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs. Having just celebrated Early Learning Matters Week, can the minister please outline the impact that early learning has on child development?

**MS BERRY:** I think I can speak for every parent who has children attending an early childhood centre in saying the impact it has on every child is outstanding and the early years of a child's life are just so exciting: every day learning something here, experiencing something new, imagining something new. Around 90 per cent of brain development occurs in those first five years of life.

Child development is driven by interactions with other people. High-quality early childhood education plays a critical role in supporting children to learn. For children experiencing vulnerabilities or disadvantage, this education plays an even more

significant role in turning the curve on inequality. High-quality early childhood education can have a substantial and sustained impact on a whole range of skills that are important for children's future, including improved social and emotional skills and a head start into developing literacy and numeracy skills. That is why it was so important to spread the word during Early Learning Matters Week, which was last week. I thank Baringa Early Learning Centre in my electorate of Ginninderra for inviting me to celebrate this important week with them.

**MS ORR:** Minister, what is the ACT government doing to support early childhood education and care

**MS BERRY:** Last year I launched the ACT government's early childhood strategy Set up for Success. Set up for Success was developed based on overwhelming international and national evidence on the importance of quality early childhood education, particularly for children experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage. The keystone initiative in set up for success is the government's commitment to provide every three-year-old in Canberra access to one day a week of free early learning by the end of this term of government. This will be a major step forward to our goal of providing 15 hours a week of free, quality early learning for three-year-olds. Already every four-year-old Canberran has access to 15 hours a week of early childhood education under the national partnership agreement, and the ACT government continues to fund 15 hours a week of early learning which will be targeted to the three-year-olds who need it most.

**DR PATERSON:** Minister, how is the government supporting early childhood educators?

**MS BERRY:** This is the most important part. We know that educators are absolutely key to the high-quality early learning provided in all childhood settings. This is recognised in the national quality framework which acknowledges the importance of staffing arrangements in the provision of high-quality early childhood education.

The ACT government's early childhood degree scholarship program provides people working in early childhood education and care with financial assistance to get their degree qualification. The program provides up to \$25,000 per scholarship plus funding to be provided to backfill the staff member's position. As part of the setup of this strategy, the ACT government has established 16 communities of practice between ACT public schools and early childhood education and care services. These communities of practice are an opportunity for early childhood educators to share their expertise with public school teachers and improve outcomes for young people. The ACT government is also providing training, through online modules and webinars, for early childhood educators to support children who have experienced trauma.

I look forward to continuing to implement the set up for success and I support every early childhood educator to give every Canberra child in those services the best start in life.

**Parking—Civic**

**MRS KIKKERT:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, TCCS recently announced the imminent closure of two major parking areas in Civic—one on the corner of London Circuit and Constitution Avenue, and another on Marcus Clarke Street. We are told that these will be lost for several years, further exacerbating the chaos you will soon impose on people who work in or need access to Civic. Minister, how many parking spaces will be lost to Canberrans who are dependent on these for their livelihoods?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. I will take the exact detail on notice but what I can say is that as we undertake this major infrastructure build, which is so important for the future of our city, there will be some disruption in relation to parking as we set up site compounds ahead of the construction starting—firstly with the utilities works, the early works, and then later with all of the other builds. There will be further site compounds needed in the future on various parts of the route down to Woden, as well.

The site compounds that you have particularly focused on are in Marcus Clarke Street and in the south-west corner of the carpark on London Circuit. The one in the south-west corner is only part of the broader surface carpark. Over recent years we have seen a significant number of carparks come on line in Civic. That has resulted—together with other circumstances like people working from home—in there being quite a large number of carparks in Civic at this present time. So we think that the current number of carparks that we have in Civic, both public and private, can manage the demand for parking appropriately while we undertake this major work. But of course we will be continuing to monitor the effects on parking. These two site compounds are critical for us being able to get on and build this important project.

**MRS KIKKERT:** I have a supplementary question. Minister, given that parking in Civic is already full, where are you expecting people to park after these closures, and will you table the whole mesoscopic study you referred to earlier?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her multiple questions. In relation to the parking issues, I reject the premise of the question. I have just said we expect that there is capacity for parking in Civic, regardless of what is taken in relation to the site compounds. So people can find other parking elsewhere. Maybe they will have to park in a slightly different location, for example. I have already just tabled the outcomes of the mesoscopic model that I mentioned.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, why will you not table the entire mesoscopic study referred to earlier in question time?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. Of course, we will continue to undertake various different modelling throughout the process the disruption taskforce is engaged in looking at how we can best minimise the disruption as we build this incredibly important infrastructure project for our city to better connect Canberra's south with the city centre and to deliver—

**Mrs Jones:** I have a point of order on relevance. The Minister was asked a very simple question—and he has not answered it at all yet—as to why he would not table. It was not about other work that would be undertaken or is currently being undertaken. What is the reason he will not table it?

**MR STEEL:** I have already tabled the outcome of that modelling.

**Mrs Jones:** On relevance and on the minister's response. It is absolutely disgraceful that he can treat the chamber like this. We have asked a very straightforward question, and he refuses even to entertain the question. That is not what the standing orders ask him to do.

**MR STEEL:** On the point of order, I am happy to continue answering the question, rather than just sitting down. This is a complex operational traffic model—

**MADAM SPEAKER:** To the points of order, I believe the minister is on track. If you are going to raise behaviour of members in this chamber, I would look to your colleagues very closely, Mrs Jones, to talk about what is acceptable and what is not.

**Mrs Jones:** Madam Speaker, on your feedback—and thank you very much for it!—nonetheless, commentary across the chamber is one thing, but I think it is a really serious matter if he will not answer the question in any way and refuses to actually make an explanation why.

**MR STEEL:** In closing, with 16 seconds to go, this is a complex operational traffic model, and it does change depending on what the inputs are and the assumptions around the model. I have tabled the modelling that we have undertaken based on the assumptions that we have provided, but there will be ongoing work.

### **Light rail—impact on business**

**MS CASTLEY:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. In relation to light rail stage 2A construction impacts, you recently said the disruption task force would, among other things, focus on minimising the impact of construction on business. What risk assessment did you undertake in relation to impact of four years of construction activity on businesses in affected areas of Civic, and will you table those assessments?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. We are continuing to work with business to understand what their needs are during the build. Of course, we will work with them as we get a better understanding of the construction program, once we have a delivery partner on board for the various parts of the project.

We of course started to engage early. That was one of the learnings from stage 1 of light rail project—to engage at a much earlier time to understand the extent of businesses and other organisations that go beyond business on the light rail stage 2A, who they were and to start engaging with them through a variety of different channels—regular updates provided by email, engagement face to face. We have had

several pop-up sessions including just in the past month with them. I have been meeting with the business representatives, including the Business Chamber as well as Women in Business. They are represented also on the stakeholder reference group for the project, which will feed into the project as we go through the construction period.

We undertook an assessment of light rail stage 1, which looked at the learnings for business, and what we heard from business is they want early and clear communication so they have certainty to plan for what is going to happen during the construction period.

It will be a disruptive process for businesses, particularly those that operate on the western side of London Circuit, but, of course, the flow-on effects with the traffic disruption could affect broader sets of business. So we are engaging more broadly with the community and the business community. We will have more to say on that as we progress with the project and the project disruption task force work.

We know this is a critical part of work and the partnerships that will need be to formed going through this process are going to be critical so that business has the information they need to be able to get through this challenging period. *(Time expired.)*

**MS CASTLEY:** Minister, why have you only engaged with the business community rather than engage in detail risk assessments early?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her. In fact, we are taking a range of different assessments in relation to this project and how we engage with business. We will be conducting survey work with business. We have been talking with them face to face about what they would like to see during the project. We will be taking that on board as we go through this project build. It is something that will benefit the businesses along the route, and that is very clear.

This is going to be a project that will provide better public transport access to the western side of London Circuit, where predominantly the businesses operate. It probably will not have as great an impact in some senses as the Gungahlin project, which is right in the middle of the business centre, but it will provide a significant benefit for business in the long term. We want to make sure that they can harness those benefits as part of this process.

**MR CAIN:** Minister, what compensation will you provide for businesses that are forced to close and for people losing their jobs as a consequence of several years of disruption?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for this question. It is pretty unusual to provide direct compensation for businesses while we are undertaking major public infrastructure work that is going to benefit the city and benefit businesses. We are getting on with the work we need to to engage with businesses. What we have heard from them is they want clear information early so they can make better decisions. That was a key learning from stage 1, and that is what we will be doing—engaging with them over the coming weeks and months.



**Light rail—traffic planning**

**MR CAIN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, you recently announced that during the construction of light rail stage 2A there will be considerable disruption to traffic flow around Civic due to works to raise London Circuit. Minister, when did your government first become aware of the extent of the traffic disruption that stage 2A would cause in Civic and its approaches?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. Of course, we are aware that a major infrastructure project is going to create disruption. We have just built light rail stage 1, a significant infrastructure project that had some quite significant disruptive effects that involved building in the middle of the Gungahlin CBD and involved track being laid across major intersections along Northbourne Avenue. But this is the first time; we knew this when we made the decision that it will be running—

**Mr Cain:** A point of order, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, Mr Steel. Your point of order?

**Mr Cain:** My question specifically was: when did the government first become aware of the extent of traffic disruption?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I think the minister is going to that detail, Mr Cain. There is no point of order.

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. I have been clear that we always knew that this was going to be a disruptive process, because you cannot build a major infrastructure project without having some sort of impact on the road traffic network, in the case of light rail—it runs on the road. This, of course, is part of the planning. The work that we are doing around looking at the traffic modelling has, of course, provided more specific numbers around that. It is ongoing, in terms of what it will look like once we put in place the interventions to minimise the extent of disruption.

The reason that we are raising London Circuit—and it is pretty obvious that this project would have a major effect—is because we want to raise London Circuit to the same level as Commonwealth Avenue, not only to provide an access point from London Circuit onto Commonwealth Avenue for the light rail, so that it can get down to Woden, but also to provide much better access from the city to the southern part of the CBD and to the lake for pedestrians and cyclists, so that there is not a six metre-high wall in the way that blocks access between key parts of the CBD. That is going to be a very disruptive part of the project, but it is a decision that we have made for the long-term benefit of the city so that we have a city that is walkable.

**MR CAIN:** Minister, given the monumental scale of disruption to traffic flow, why did you not mention this until after the election?

**MR STEEL:** It is very clear that these major infrastructure projects have impacts, but the community also knows that they have very long-term benefits for the future of the

city. We have now brought this to two elections—two elections where you opposed it. Now it seems that the Liberals want to oppose it again, based on an obvious premise that this is going to have a disruptive effect. But at every stage we will try and minimise and mitigate that disruption during the infrastructure build. We will work with the infrastructure delivery partners to make sure that the way that they design their program mitigates as much as possible the impact on our traffic network. We do not want to see people sitting in gridlock. That is why we are undertaking the measures that I have announced around infrastructure improvements, around behaviour change, better public transport and active travel options, so that we can give Canberrans choices and opportunities to get into work as fast as possible and keep the city moving, while we build this important infrastructure project that will benefit Canberrans for generations to come.

**MS CASTLEY:** Minister, why are you imposing years of massive disruptions, all for the sake of making commuter times from Woden almost 50 per cent slower?

**MR STEEL:** I reject the premise of the question. It is really disappointing to hear this from Ms Castley, because this is a project that is going to benefit Gungahlin residents. It is a Gungahlin to Deakin project. It is a Dickson to Deakin project. It is a Dickson to Woden project. Whichever way you cut it, this is an extension of the line from the north to the south. It is going to provide a mass transit line. Four times the number of people can fit on a light rail vehicle compared to a bus. This, for the first time, will open up public transport stops between Woden and the city that do not exist up until Albert Hall. There is no way to get on a bus between those points, or to get on at State Circle to access the parliamentary triangle and the employment hubs there, or to access the Deakin employment hub.

This will provide a mass transit system for our growing city, an integrated transit system, with our bus system serving the suburbs. This is the significant, future-focused investment that our government has taken to the last two elections, and it has been backed in by the community—bitterly fought elections, where you fought every step of the way against these projects, and they rejected your view of the world—

*Mrs Jones interjecting—*

**MR STEEL:** because you do not stand up for your own communities in Gungahlin, or in Woden, Mrs Jones. We are getting on with the job of providing better public transport, more environmentally-friendly transport and a more vibrant city. We are going to build light rail and create over 6,000 jobs, which you would not do if you were in government.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—COVID-19 vaccinations**

**MR BRADDOCK:** My question is for the Minister for Justice Health. Minister, with the recent lockdown of Goulburn prison, I would be interested in what the ACT government is doing to ensure that people in high-risk environments such as the Alexander Maconochie Centre are protected from COVID.

**MS DAVIDSON:** I thank Mr Braddock for the question. Justice Health Services has been working quite closely with the Canberra Health Services vaccination coordination team and also with ACT Corrective Services to facilitate a rollout of vaccinations at the AMC. It is very important that we make sure that people who are most at risk in our community have access to vaccines.

The vaccine rollout at the AMC commenced on 1 June this year as part of stage 1b of the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. As of 27 July, 55 per cent of people in the AMC were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and a slightly higher percentage had had their first dose.

Ongoing COVID-19 vaccination clinics are being conducted each fortnight to vaccinate new people who are coming into the AMC. When people are released, if that happens prior to receiving their second dose, they are being provided with information about where they can get their second dose of the vaccine so that we can ensure that their health needs are covered. People who are in the AMC are invited to have a vaccine. They can choose not to have it, but so far people in the AMC have been very appreciative of having the ability to be vaccinated.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Minister, can you provide an update on the vaccinations for First Nations people who are detained in the AMC?

**MS DAVIDSON:** People in the AMC who access their primary health services through Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service are also included in the vaccine rollout, and they are able to access their vaccination while they are at the AMC through Winnunga.

Having personally talked to the clinical staff at both Justice Health and Winnunga, the staff there have really appreciated being able to provide this level of care to people who are in the AMC. They are very appreciative of being able to get access to the vaccines and make sure that people at risk are protected. I want to thank Justice Health and Winnunga for doing all that they can to make sure that people are offered the opportunity to be vaccinated while they are there.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Davis.

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, when will the vaccine rollout in the AMC be completed?

**MS DAVIDSON:** The first round was completed on 9 June, which was only eight days after it started. The second round of vaccinations commenced on 29 June. Because people come and go from the AMC—people are released and new people come in—that is why it is important that Justice Health are able to run fortnightly clinics, so that new people coming in are able to receive their first vaccination, and also why it is so important that if people are released before they have time to have a second vaccination they are connected up with health services in the community.

One of the great things about Winnunga is that people who are in the AMC can continue to see Winnunga for their ongoing health care after they are released. That is

great for continuity of care and it is something quite special within Australia that we have that service available to people in Canberra's AMC.

### **Molonglo Valley—community facilities**

**DR PATERSON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, how is the ACT government providing community space for Molonglo Valley's growing population?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Dr Paterson for her question. I am pleased to outline how our government is continuing to invest in new community facilities across our city. Community facilities do provide essential social infrastructure for new suburbs and regions and ensure that these places grow to become strongly connected communities. This is precisely why we are focusing investment on Canberra's newest region, the Molonglo Valley.

As I outlined in response to the ministerial statement earlier this week, the Molonglo Valley has grown from around 27 residents in the 2011 census to 4,500 residents in the 2016 census and approximately 10,000 residents today. We will get a better number next year once the census is released.

Our government is making the essential investments now that are needed in anticipation of future population growth. Recently I was very pleased to announce that the government will provide 300 metres squared of space for the Coombs community activity centre for use by residents of the Molonglo Valley in Wright, Coombs and Denman Prospect as well as future Molonglo suburbs. Located on Woodberry Avenue, this space will be a hub for recreational, educational, artistic, social and cultural activities, and it will be one of the main community spaces in Molonglo while other facilities become established. We are pleased to have identified this opportunity to provide a temporary facility ahead of the construction of purpose-built facilities in the future.

**DR PATERSON:** Minister, what are the next steps to make this space available to the community?

**MR STEEL:** As I alluded to in my previous answer, the space will be adaptable to cater for a wide range of community activities and services. As the government became aware of the possibility of leasing this facility, we engaged with the Molonglo Community Forum—as it was then known, before it became a community council—to gauge how community groups would like to use the new centre, when they would like to use the centre, and the types of programs and activities they would like to use it for.

I thank the forum for running that expression of interest process, which received feedback from a large number and variety of groups. It is good news for those community groups, because the community activity centre will allow up to 100 people to meet in a flexible space. Over the coming months, the ACT government will undertake a fit-out of the space to make it ready for community use in early 2022. While this fit-out is occurring, the government will be seeking expressions of interest

for a community organisation to act as the venue manager and organise bookings for the new space. I look forward to keeping the Assembly updated as this important community facility progresses. It will be available over the next five years for the community to use.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, what other plans are there for community spaces in the Molonglo Valley?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Mr Pettersson for his supplementary. In addition to the two local public schools, which are available for community use, there are five community centres that have been built, are under construction or are being planned for Canberra's newest region.

In addition to the Coombs community activity centre, our government has just proposed that a new community centre be built and handed back as part of the Coombs and Wright village on Fred Daly Avenue. This will be a government-owned facility that can be made available to the community once construction is complete.

In Denman Prospect, the Denman village community centre is well under construction and will soon be complete—I understand sometime around March next year. This centre will provide a purpose-built space for community groups to be managed by Communities@Work and will include an early childhood education and care service.

As ACT Labor promised at the election, we will also build a new library and community centre at the future Molonglo commercial centre. We will undertake a community co-design process to get an understanding of what people would like to see as part of that facility.

Lastly, Stromlo College has played an important role as a local hub for the valley's first residents. It is currently undergoing some maintenance works so that it can accommodate even more community groups. That is the fifth community centre that I have listed.

So there are certainly going to be lots of spaces in the future for the residents of the Molonglo Valley as they seek to build a vibrant community in their new homes.

**Mr Barr:** Being the end of question time, I am happy to ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.

## **Light rail—traffic planning**

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (3.08), by leave: I move:

That, in accordance with standing order 213A, Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services) table the full Mesoscopic study by close of business today.

For those who are unaware of this standing order, 213A, it relates to a document that is referred to in the Assembly—and as it has been by Mr Steel, the mesoscopic transport study—and provides an ability for a process whereby a motion is moved.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I ask that that is circulated to members as well.

**MR HANSON:** If members refer to the standing orders, there is a process whereby, if the Assembly supports a motion that a document be tabled, that that be tabled. Should the Chief Minister believe that there is privilege attached to that document, it is cabinet-in-confidence and so on, he can make that case. There is a process that then unfolds where that can be contested and an independent legal hub appointed by the Clerk to make that assessment. So there is a process that follows.

The reason that I am asking for this document to be tabled is that this is a very important issue for our community. The government touts it as the most significant infrastructure project in the history of the ACT. It will be many billions of dollars to do this and, as the government has outlined already, there are going to be some significant disruptions caused by this project in terms of closed car parks and then a significantly constrained route.

**Mr Gentleman:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker, could I seek your guidance: if Mr Hanson's motion is in accordance with the standing orders, particularly listing the time for production, standing order 213A(f) provides 14 days to claim privilege.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Yes, but he has moved the motion. It depends on the Assembly's response to the motion, what actions then follow.

**MR HANSON:** Yes; that is correct, Madam Speaker. My understanding is that if my motion is supported, then Mr Steel could put that document forward. But if the Chief Minister believes that there is privilege attached, he would then make that case and then there is a process that unfolds.

The first decision is for the Assembly to either support the motion or not. If it does, then that process follows where the Chief Minister will say if it is privileged or not—it is up to him—and if a member were to dispute that, then at that point there is an arbiter appointed. The question is whether we should see the document first, I suppose is the point, and then we would look at whether there is privilege.

I have set the end of business today but I just want the documents. If you are saying, "We will give you the document if you give us a specific period," I would be very happy for that to be delayed. By the end of business today is less important to me.

The reason that we want it is that this is an issue of great significance, and you have told us that. We all understand that. This is not just short term; this is going to go on for many, many years.

When we asked for it in question time today, Mr Steel tabled what he said was the summary which, from what I could see, was a single piece of A4 paper, half of which was a picture. If we are talking about detailed transport studies, I think it is reasonable, if the opposition is going to be able to do its job and the people in the community who have great interest are able to look at this, that they can do so with all the information in front of them.

It is pretty straightforward. There should not be anything to hide; but should the Chief Minister think at some stage that there is privilege attached to this document, there is a process that I am following. I will not go further than that, other than I think it is in the interest of the government to be as open as it can in these matters.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism) (3.12): There are obviously a number of issues that have been raised that are problematic with the wording of Mr Hanson’s motion in terms of the claim of privilege and otherwise. So I would suggest, and I will move, that we adjourn to a later hour this day so that a correctly worded motion could be put before the Assembly, which the government will then consider.

It is quite likely that we will claim privilege on this matter but I will need to take some advice on that. In accordance with the standing order that was written for this very reason, there is a time frame.

A preferential approach for Mr Hanson would be to remove the “by close of business today” element and simply call for the tabling. That would then trigger the standing order in its entirety. It will not be tabled today. I will take advice and we would then most likely seek to claim that executive privilege, as has been the case before.

In order to ensure that this can be dealt with in a more appropriate manner that is not making it up on the run with handwritten motions, I move:

That the debate be adjourned until a later hour this day.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## Papers

**Mr Gentleman** presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to section 21—Auditor-General’s Report No 4/2021—ACT Government’s vehicle emissions reduction activities—Government response.

Coroners Act, pursuant to subsection 57(4)—Inquest into the death of Kaitlin O’Keefe McGill—Government response to Coronial recommendation, dated 5 August 2021, together with a statement, dated 5 August 2021.

Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories—Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2021 (2021 No 380—New South Wales), including an explanatory memorandum.

Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity—Standing Committee—Report 1—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2019-20 and Estimates 2020-21*—Update on Recommendation 2, dated August 2021.

Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme—Implementation—Report—  
1 January to 30 June 2021.

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 161(2)—Exercise of  
call-in powers—Statement by Minister—Development application  
No 202138534—Block 1 Section 58 Garran, dated 5 August 2021, including a  
Notice of Decision, dated 5 August 2021.

Territory-owned Corporations Act, pursuant to subsection 19(3)—Statement of  
Corporate Intent—Icon Water Limited—2020-21 to 2024-25 Business Strategy.

Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme—Review—Projects Assisting  
Victims' Experience and Recovery (PAVER) Review—Revised.

### **Auditor-General's report No 4/2021—government response**

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for  
Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for  
Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency  
Services) (3.14): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to section 21—Auditor-General's Report  
No 4/2021—ACT Government's vehicle emissions reduction activities—  
Government response.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs,  
Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions  
Reduction) (3.15): I am pleased to table the government's response to the Auditor-  
General's report on vehicle emissions reduction activities. I can confirm today that  
government has accepted all five recommendations in this audit report. I thank the  
Auditor-General for the in-depth review of the progress of these policies and I am  
grateful for the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations of this  
report.

This audit report has come at a critical point, where transport has overtaken electricity  
as the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the territory. The transport sector  
currently represents around 60 per cent of total ACT emissions. As we know, climate  
change is one of the greatest challenges that our community faces. That is why we are  
prioritising the shift to zero-emissions transport, including active travel and  
zero-emissions vehicles.

The audit report highlights government actions to address emissions reduction in the  
transport sector, including: the transition of government fleets to zero-emissions  
technologies, noting the complexity of this technology transition; the introduction of  
hydrogen vehicles into the ACT government fleet; the establishment of effective  
governance arrangements and collaboration between different functions of  
government to deliver zero-emissions transport actions; and the adoption of e-scooter  
and e-bike schemes in Canberra. The audit report notes the significant progress to date



and provides five recommendations to improve and accelerate the ACT's transition to a zero-emissions transport sector.

I take this opportunity to outline our achievements, detail the recommendations and highlight the work that government is undertaking to address them. When it comes to the achievements for the government fleet, since 2018 we have made great progress in transitioning our government passenger vehicle fleet to zero-emissions vehicles. We now have one of the largest passenger zero-emissions vehicle fleets in Australia, with 165 vehicles, which is 28 per cent of our total fleet of 597 vehicles. To power these cars we have 108 charging stations at government sites and we are also now looking at how to shift to zero-emissions heavy vehicles, including emergency vehicles and waste collection trucks.

When it comes to incentives, we have among the most generous incentives for zero-emissions vehicles in Australia. We have introduced two years free registration, as well as continuing the stamp duty exemption for zero-emissions vehicles. We will soon introduce zero-interest \$15,000 loans for zero-emissions vehicle purchases through phase 2 of the Sustainable Household Scheme. We now have over 1,200 battery-electric vehicles registered in the ACT, a 25 per cent increase since the free registration came into effect just a few months ago, on 24 May. It is great to see so many Canberrans embracing the electric vehicle future.

With regard to charging stations, we allocated \$2.7 million to install 50 public charging stations across Canberra. Work is underway to develop a public charging master plan to support a strategic rollout of charging infrastructure. This will inform the location of the 50 publicly accessible charging stations, as well as future locations for public charging stations.

The recommendations of the audit report provide useful strategic input to help us build on these successes to improve and continue to lead. The government has agreed to all the recommendations and work is underway to implement measures in response.

In regard to recommendation 1, firstly, the audit report recommends that program design and delivery be improved by reviewing the program logic for each action, defining the expectations of future uptake of zero-emissions vehicles, and ensuring good monitoring and evaluation of progress.

The government is currently reviewing the program logic and outcomes of our actions, to date. The results of this review will be integrated into my annual report under the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010, which I will provide to the Assembly at the end of this calendar year.

The second recommendation in the audit report highlights the importance of cross-agency collaboration and recommends strengthening processes around securing senior management authorisation, maintaining version control and sharing plans with relevant stakeholders. With the creation of the Office for Climate Action, we now have a high-level, agreed whole-of-government coordinating mechanism to support the effective implementation of a range of activities, including uptake of zero-emissions vehicles. These processes include cross-directorate working groups, as well

as ministerial processes to promote information sharing and the joint achievement of objectives.

The third recommendation of the audit report is to review government vehicle fleet usage patterns, key barriers to uptake and identify the lessons learned from the Dickson and Civic charging infrastructure projects. In response to the recommendation, the government is establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework for current and future zero-emissions vehicle measures. A review of the fleet transition will be included in this framework.

As I have outlined, government has achieved a rapid adoption of zero-emissions vehicles in its own fleet. The rollout of both vehicles and charging infrastructure is progressing, and we will continue to explore zero-emissions alternatives for a range of vehicle types.

Our experiences in this fleet transition, including challenges in installing supporting infrastructure, have provided important insights. Being a leader is not always easy but it is always instructive. We are sharing this knowledge with other governments and with businesses through our fleet advisory service so that others can learn from our experience for a smoother community-wide transmission.

With regard to recommendation 4, the report also sought further information on the ongoing progress of fleet transition. In response, work is underway to develop an online dashboard that will publish up-to-date information on the ACT government and ACT-wide fleet transition. The dashboard will be published on the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate website.

As part of our parliamentary and governing agreement, the government is already pursuing important new steps in zero-emissions vehicle uptake. These include the development of a public charging master plan and a 2030 zero-emissions vehicle sales target. The government will identify the next opportunities to target in our future policy based on an evaluation of the experiences to date and the analysis of the impact of these measures.

The final recommendation, No 5, recommends improving adherence to fleet policy across the directorates. Adherence across government is critical for ensuring that we continue to demonstrate leadership in our community through the rapid uptake of zero-emissions vehicle technology.

In response to this recommendation, we are developing an agreed authorisation process that will be applied across directorates. The new process will require director-general authorisation for leases of internal combustion engine passenger vehicles, where a zero-emissions vehicle model is available and is fit for purpose.

I am happy to confirm today that many vehicles from the government fleet first generation of zero-emissions vehicles have now moved into the second-hand market and have been purchased by members of our community. The leadership of government in adopting a zero-emissions vehicle fleet will play an important role in developing a second-hand market for all zero-emissions vehicles in the territory.

Lower-cost second-hand vehicles will open the opportunity to save on fuel bills to more members of our community. Government is further supporting the development of a second-hand zero-emissions vehicle market by extending the registration waiver scheme to these vehicles.

The transition to a zero-emissions transport system is a massive task. Uptake of zero-emissions vehicles will be a vital element to achieve our net zero-emissions target. In releasing its audit report, the ACT Audit Office stated:

ACT Government agencies have, for the most part, effectively implemented the zero emissions vehicle commitments ...

We have achieved a lot; but, of course, there is always room for improvement, and we welcome the audit office's recommendations on how we can continuously improve. We continue to demonstrate leadership to the rest of Australia and, indeed, the world. The learnings from our journey, even where we might have done better, mean that we are better prepared for the future.

I look forward to the next phase in our journey to decarbonise the transport sector and I am confident that the opportunities highlighted by the audit report will set us up for strong future vehicle-emissions reduction policy. I commend the government response to the ACT audit report on vehicle emissions reduction activities to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Development—block 1 section 58, Garran**

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.23): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 161(2)—Exercise of call-in powers—Statement by Minister—Development application No 202138534—Block 1 Section 58 Garran, including Notice of Decision.

On 23 June 2021, in my capacity as Minister for Planning and Land Management and using my powers under section 158 of the Planning and Development Act 2007, I directed the planning and land authority to refer development application No 202138534 to me.

The development application sought approval for the construction of a new nine-storey critical health services building; closure and reconfiguration of Hospital Road; reconfiguration of the existing emergency drop-off; construction of at-grade car parking; bridge and tunnel connections to the existing hospital building; erection of signage; basement, loading dock—"satellite port"—and plant room; driveways; new helipad facilities on roof; and landscaping and associated works at block 1 section 58, Garran.

On 5 August 2021, or today, I approved the application with conditions under section 162 of the Planning and Development Act 2007, using my ministerial call-in powers. In deciding the application, I gave careful consideration to the requirements of the Territory Plan, and advice of Transport Canberra and City Services; Icon Water; Evoenergy; the Environment Protection Authority; the Conservator of Flora and Fauna; the ACT Emergency Services Agency; and other entities and agencies, as required by the legislation and the planning and land authority.

I also gave consideration to the representations received by the planning and land authority during the public notification period for the development application that occurred between 5 May 2021 and 18 June 2021. I have imposed firm conditions on the approval of the development application that require, among other things, revision of the Hospital Road north; public and staff car parking; environmental assessment; lighting; wayfinding; and signage.

The Planning and Development Act 2007 provides for specific criteria in relation to the exercise of my call-in powers. I have used my call-in powers in this instance because I consider the proposal to provide a substantial public health benefit, particularly by delivering additional critical healthcare services and supporting the delivery of high quality clinical services to Canberra and the surrounding regions.

In particular, this development will deliver more operating rooms, treatment spaces, intensive care beds and significant expansion of the capacity of the Canberra Hospital. The extension will provide state-of-the-art facilities for medical practice, teaching, training and research and improve safety, health outcomes and operational efficiency. The provision of this development will enable an increased capacity across Canberra Hospital's adult intensive care, paediatric care, coronary care, and surgical and emergency services.

The new building has been carefully planned to ensure that health services can be delivered to contemporary world-class standards. The well-considered design of this development will improve wayfinding and arrival experiences and has allowed for the building to be adapted and expanded into the future. The architecture, landscape and interior design of the expansion aims to create an environment which nurtures and fosters a wellness culture and community.

The use of my ability to call in this development application will help ensure that the delivery of the Canberra Hospital expansion stays on schedule. Section 161(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2007 specifies that, if I decide an application, I must table a statement in the Legislative Assembly no later than three sitting days after the day of the decision.

Mr Assistant Speaker, as required by the act and for the benefit of members, I table a statement providing a description of the development; details of the land on which the development is proposed to take place; the name of the applicant; details of my decision for the application; reasons for the decision; and community consultation undertaken by the proponent. The statement also includes a copy of the notice of decision.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH** (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health) (3.28): I just want to speak briefly on the Canberra Hospital expansion, which of course is on track and on budget for delivery in 2024. The approval of the project today ensures that Canberrans will indeed get access to these new facilities and more capacity as soon as possible.

The Canberra Hospital expansion is the result of careful planning and extensive consultation with the Canberra community over many months. There have been ongoing design discussions with consumers and local residents. The third round of clinical user group consultations has already commenced. That builds on more than 250 separate user group workshops with clinicians that have already been completed.

Between December 2020 and March 2021, detailed designs on the new building were released as part of the pre-DA consultation process. Those were, in themselves, the culmination of more than 12 months of consultation with hospital staff, consumers, hospital users, families, carers and the general public, including the local community around Garran and the Garran Primary School.

This is truly a project for all Canberrans and, indeed, those in the surrounding region as well. Over the coming months, we will continue to consult with hospital staff, consumers and the local community on the further details of the design, which I look forward to sharing with the community and members of the Assembly.

The increased capacity and fit-for-purpose facilities that this project will deliver will genuinely transform critical health care for Canberrans and patients coming in from the surrounding regions. As I said earlier today, early works to prepare the site are underway. Many of those works across the campus have been completed, with the construction of new buildings and refurbishment of wards and spaces across the campus.

While the critical services building forms the centrepiece of the Canberra Hospital expansion and modernisation program, the work to modernise the facilities across the campus will continue. We will continue to consult consumers, clinicians and the broader community about that, as we are also doing through the Canberra Hospital master plan. This is another important milestone in the biggest investment in health infrastructure since self-government. I welcome Minister Gentleman's announcement and I look forward to continuing to get on with this project.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Bail Amendment Bill 2021**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (3.31): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Let me start today with a quote:

I would like to raise my concern as the shadow minister for police about the difficult job our police force have to do. They are the ones who have to enforce the law. They are the ones who have to go out there and do the hard graft to keep us safe. They feel enormous frustration—I know this from anecdotal conversations with our police—with this government and the revolving door of bail. They do the hard work, they arrest the criminals, they put them before the courts and they get flicked out again on bail—repeatedly—and then they find them again committing a crime.

Those words are ones that I uttered in this place nearly a decade ago during a debate on bail. That motion in 2012 from the opposition called on the government at the time, this Labor government, to report on the number of people who were remanded in custody and subsequently acquitted, granted bail and failed to comply with their bail conditions, and granted bail and committed further offences whilst on bail.

I also called on the government to show how it was going to protect the public from those who further reoffended whilst on bail. From that date until this, this government has not been able to answer those questions. They are perfectly reasonable questions and any government should know. For years we have been asking. Through motions in this place, estimates committee hearings and Assembly committee inquiries, we have been asking the government over and again to address this issue. Over and again we have been told that it cannot be done, that it is too difficult and that the system is not ready yet. It is not good enough that this government cannot tell us who has committed offences whilst on bail or the nature of those offences. An Assembly committee was established and looked at bail laws in the ACT. The committee recommended:

... that the ACT Government conduct a review of arrangements for bail in the ACT and introduce in the Legislative Assembly legislative amendments to the *Bail Act 1992* which, if passed, would introduce a focus on risk management, with reasonable and proportionate bail conditions.

Recommendation 43 of that inquiry called for a review into bail laws and the government did not agree to conduct that review. This was, to say the least, frustrating. As we said at the time, this is not a knee-jerk reaction in terms of one incident. This is not political point scoring. I hate to think that we will be back in this place in six months or six years time, whenever it may be, doing something following a tragic incident when some crime has been committed by someone on bail that could have been prevented. If that is the case, then we can well reflect on today and see what action we took as an Assembly to keep the people of the ACT safe. That is what I said years ago and here we are, years later, as predicted. We should reflect on the failure of this place to act on that day.

We should reflect on what has occurred and what may have been prevented, Mr Assistant Speaker. We should consider whether we have done everything that is possible to achieve what Bill Shorten once called the most important job of any government—the safety of our people. It is clear that this government has not, but today the Canberra Liberals will do something.

I present today the Bail Amendment Bill and its explanatory statement. Whilst this bill is not a complete review of the bail system that is needed and the reform that we have been calling for, it does do an important thing—it helps protect our frontline community service workers. It offers some protection to our first responders, especially our police, but also the ambos, the firies, corrections officers and emergency services workers. There is a protection that if a person is charged with assaulting one of our frontline workers, they will not automatically get bail.

The bill achieves this with one line. It adds the crime of assaulting frontline community service providers to the list of offences where there is no presumption for bail. It is a simple change, but with a serious consequence. Bail is not guaranteed if you commit that crime. It also sends a profound and important message to our essential workers: if someone attacks you, we have got your back.

I accept the fact that, as this bill extends the list of offences to which the presumption for bail does not apply, it does have human rights implications; and I have addressed those in the explanatory statement accompanying the bill. The amendment does not remove the ability to be granted bail completely, but it does remove the presumption that bail will be granted. It does not go so far as to place the offence in the category where there is a presumption against bail, as is the case for murder or very serious drugs charges in section 9C of the Bail Act.

Most importantly, this amendment recognises that, just as there are rights of liberty for the accused, there is a right for our frontline workers, our police, to be safe. That is why we are tabling this bill today. It is a right that we have staunchly argued over many years. It is a right that our police are now demanding to be protected, and it is a right recognised by this quote:

The most important job of every government is the safety of our people. I know that bail laws are different in every state. But what Australians in every state cannot understand is that, when offenders have done horrific things, when the red light should be flashing, they are out, they are on bail.

That was from Bill Shorten when he was leader of the federal Labor Party, in a speech that he gave as part of a condolence motion on the tragic events in Bourke Street in Melbourne some years ago.

The AFPA have recently asked a series of questions in a public statement: “Should bail procedures better protect first responders in the ACT? Should the commission of alleged violent crimes preclude bail being granted? Does the ACT government have more of an obligation to protect the employees it contracts from the AFP to police in Canberra? We think so and have already started calling on Australia’s elected

representatives to pick up their feet with regard to looking after police.” We agree with the AFPA and today we are acting.

I recognise Mr Troy Roberts, from the AFPA, who is here in the gallery today. I also recognise the work that the AFPA does, as an organisation, in representing its members and the advocacy that it provides on their behalf to governments and to oppositions. I commend it for that.

At this point, I would also like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of Jason Taylor. Jason’s story makes these points from lived experience. I would like to share some of his own words:

I am an ordinary person. I used to be an Australian Federal Police Officer. An ACT Policing Officer.

I graduated from the AFP College in 2007 and commenced with ACT Policing, where I have spent my entire 13-year career serving the Canberra community in several roles.

Whilst a difficult job at times, I loved what I did. I’ve been lucky to have had an amazing career as a police officer. I was a designated Detective, and I was a Sergeant.

My life changed on Friday 31 January 2020, when I was cowardly and viciously assaulted whilst on duty.

I have relived the incident, and that terrifying moment when I knew I wasn’t going to get up off the ground again, over and over again for 14 months.

It won’t leave me. It hurt then – physically – but it hurts now so much more psychologically.

Thankfully my colleagues acted swiftly and with courage. They did what they needed to do to get the offender off me and save my life.

Since 31 January 2020 my life has been horrendous at times.

I am no longer a Police Officer and I never will be again. I’ve been in mental health facilities. I’ve contemplated suicide.

I was assaulted for doing my job. A job I swore on oath to uphold.

This job involves dealing with the worst humanity has to offer without letting it harden us too much, so we can continue to care for and empathise with those who need us, who we are trying to help and protect.

We do not deserve to be treated as punching bags for members of the public who don’t like it when we do our jobs.

If you assault a Police Officer doing their job you deserve to go to prison. You SHOULD go to prison.



My life has changed as a result of this incident. I won't lay all the blame at the feet of the offender. 13+ years of operational policing and dealing with people's worst day, day in and day out, and the worst humanity will inflict upon each other takes its tolls.

What I will say is that I was denied any opportunity to deal with the issues created by a career in law enforcement on my terms due to the actions of one man. Instead, he burst the dam wall with so bringing my life crashing down around me. I deserved better than this ...

Jason, those are very brave words. I commend you for the publicity that you have brought to this issue on behalf of other members still serving. Jason then asks for a series of reforms, in the messages he sent to me, and, I believe, others which we are currently considering. He concludes:

You are a member of the ACT Legislative Assembly. You have been and will continue to be involved in the creation of laws that put people in Police and Emergency Service roles in harm's way.

You have an obligation to us when this harm becomes too much to deal with.

Please, do the right thing.

Jason, I can say that we might not be doing everything that you ask for today and nothing can undo what has happened to you, but I think that we can at least make some important progress with this legislation today.

I have had a chance to converse with the AFPA on these reforms and let them know our position. I know that they are advocating for this reform. In fact, they are the ones that came to me and, I believe, other members of this place, with these reforms. In response to the bill as it has been drafted, their response is that:

Your amendment is comprehensive and will provide our members with the safety we and the community expect.

Thank you for your diligence with this.

I would like to thank them again.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I thank police officers like Jason and his colleagues who are asked to run towards danger to keep the rest of us safe. I thank the AFPA for their support in drafting this amendment and I thank all of our frontline workers for the jobs that they do day in, day out in often very difficult circumstances.

I would like this government to help us, work with us, to address this gap in our bail system. Together we should be doing everything that we can to support and protect workers like Jason and others. Today I seek support for this simple change that I believe will have significant ramifications. If one simple change can save the life of even one frontline service provider, it is well worth doing. It will also send our frontline staff—our police, our ambos, our firies—a message that we will do

everything that we can to keep you safe, that we have got your back. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Disability services—National Disability Insurance Scheme**

**MS ORR** (Yerrabi) (3.44): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) there are over 8000 ACT residents who have a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan;
  - (b) when the NDIS was founded, at its core was the principle of person-centred support with choice and control given to people with disability to make decisions that affect their lives;
  - (c) there has been a notable shift by the Commonwealth Government in recent years from the core principles that the NDIS was founded on;
  - (d) the proposed independent assessments was the most recent example of the move away from person-centred support with choice and control given to people with disability, however other examples such as the attempt by the Commonwealth to change the rules of the NDIS on access to sex work services and other decisions have also been examples; and
  - (e) states and territories have maintained the original core principle by, where possible, pushing back on proposed Commonwealth changes;
- (2) supports the core principle of person-centred support that gives choice and control to people with disability;
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to respect the wish of the ACT Legislative Assembly and continue to champion an NDIS where person-centred support, that gives choice and control to people with disability, is a core principle; and
- (4) calls on the Commonwealth to honour the commitment made by disability ministers in July 2021 to co-design any changes to the NDIS with people with disability and their supporters.

My motion notes that there are over 8,000 ACT residents who have a National Disability Insurance Scheme plan. My motion notes also that the principles that the NDIS was founded on were to provide person-centred support, with choice and control given to those living with disability. It also notes that the recent shift in policy by the commonwealth, in particular regarding independent assessments, moves further away from these principles than the existing policies and administration constraints that the agency already have. Fundamentally, my motion notes that it is important that the territory and other states and territories push back on this and it calls on the minister and this place to do just that.

When the concept of the National Disability Insurance Scheme was introduced by a Productivity Commission report in 2011, many in the disability community were extremely optimistic about the future. Indeed, with the actual introduction of the

scheme in 2013, there were lots of reasons to be optimistic. The National Disability Insurance Scheme administered by the National Disability Insurance Agency was founded with the purpose of both harmonising the system of government disability support across jurisdictions under the umbrella of a national insurance scheme which would not leave those in need behind, and providing person-centred support with choice and control around support provided to those living with disability.

Prior to the introduction of the scheme in 2013, disability care was distributed across state-based schemes. This meant that each scheme in each state or territory was different. There were different levels of funding for care and different models of delivering care; and the associated difficulties dealing with different systems for those moving interstate or interacting with different state governments or for border residents like those in Queanbeyan or Albury-Wodonga, for example, or seeking care in Broken Hill from South Australia.

This system was described by the 2011 Productivity Commission report, which preceded the introduction of the scheme in 2013, as “underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient”. This decentralised model clearly presented issues for those seeking support and for the harmonisation of regulation and funding at a federal level. The funding issues which were presented by the old, decentralised model were to be centralised to provide more consistency and just generally more funding across the board.

This funding is provided by state, territory and federal governments. This money is then administered by the National Disability Insurance Agency, which forms part of the federal Department of Social Services, on an individual basis. When it comes to how this money is supposed to be administered on an individual basis, the model of the new NDIS was designed to provide more choice and control to those receiving support. This means choice of provider and control of the support received. This is supposed to be done through the development of treatment plans which are mutually agreed and developed between the person receiving support—or the participant, to use the language of the agency—and the NDIA staff responsible for each individual’s plan.

Part of this ability to provide more choice and control to those living with disability receiving support is through the funding model. Each participant’s needs are supposed to be assessed holistically by relevant health professionals, along with the participant. Then a pool of money is allocated to be used to receive the support needed by the participant. This model was lauded by a large part of the community, who were really hopeful that the autonomy and collaborative approach would result in greater outcomes. Unfortunately, this has not been the story for many participants. There is not just one practical reason for this, but the attitude of the federal government and subsequent policy decisions have fundamentally underlined all these shortcomings.

At the last meeting of ministers responsible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the commonwealth minister brought forward a proposal to introduce a system known as independent assessments. Under the model proposed, independent assessments were essentially designed to review those plans that were developed in a collaborative, person-centred way. These reviews were to be done in a way that was

not collaborative or in the spirit in which the NDIS was created. The independent assessment was to be conducted by an allied health professional who had never actually met the participant. The process was to involve working with a checklist to verify that the plans were appropriately funded over a period of up to three hours.

Mr Assistant Speaker, my office has had a front row seat to the devastating consequences of these sorts of cost-cutting measures by the federal government. Any money saved by undertaking this kind of cost-cutting policy has come at enormous cost to NDIS recipients' mental, physical and fiscal health. I cannot tell you how many times I have received calls from deeply distressed ACT residents who have just been informed that their plan no longer covers a critical service, this being after a short meeting with an often unqualified and inexperienced assessor they have never met or heard from before. Many times the meeting would be a quick phone conversation with a subcontracted employee in a different state who did not even have access to all the relevant information. These occurrences clearly did not happen under the independent assessment scheme, as it never got off the ground. However, policies of this ilk have already existed to a lesser extent within the NDIS for a long time.

The process of appealing decisions made by assessors becomes an even greater bureaucratic nightmare than navigating the scheme as it is, butchered by the federal Liberal government. People are often made to wait months for a notice of outcome—support without which people cannot survive. Participants in the NDIS should not have to routinely approach their state or territory government just to get a notice of receipt when they attempt to lodge an appeal.

The unfortunate state of affairs is that one of the most vulnerable demographics in the nation are routinely being traumatised by their experience with the NDIS as a direct result of the commonwealth's decision to penny-pinch resources for the Australian disability community. This penny-pinching attitude also has a significant impact on NDIA staff and those who are contracted, mostly via labour hire enterprises, to do NDIA work administering NDIS plans.

The understaffing at the NDIA is at a critical level. The agency's staffing cap sits well below the actual need of the agency and this is not conducive to the complex work that the agency does. Administering this kind of scheme should not be taken lightly and is undercut by the federal government's wish to claim that they have reduced the number of public servants in the APS. This is exceedingly evident by the cohorts of labour hire employees who do NDIA work. They have often been paid below their directly employed counterparts and have little to no job security or anything like sick or annual leave.

Due to both the insecure work and experience of overwork due to staff shortages, turnover of staff is very high. This is bad for the workers and subsequently bad for participants. There are too many inexperienced staff and staff often turn over too quickly to be properly trained. This does not lead to a well-functioning administration. This is to the very large detriment of the principles outlined in my motion and makes it even more difficult for the agency to operate with those principles front of mind. What's more, the manner by which these employees are engaged to do this work

provides a nice profit margin for some people, mostly labour hire companies, at the expense of the employees and the participants.

Indeed, before the plan for full-blown independent assessments was opposed at the last ministers' meeting, it was reported that the federal government had already struck deals worth around \$300 million before either the legislation had been introduced or the state and territory ministers had agreed. This manner of getting work completed is an administrative choice made by the federal government and the NDIA. The federal government could, in fact, save money by directly employing their workers. Outsourcing work will never lead to the institutional knowledge needed to administer the scheme properly with a highly skilled and deeply experienced workforce.

The NDIS was founded to be a mechanism to provide a person-centred support model which gave choice and control to those in need of support. There was and remains so much potential for this to genuinely occur. What needs to happen is for the commonwealth to stick to this principle and stop trying to short-change the people of the ACT and Australia when it comes to the support they are entitled to when they need it.

The motion in my name calls on the ACT government and the minister responsible to continue to champion an NDIS where person-centred support that gives choice and control to people with disability is a core principle. It is currently up to progressive state and territory governments and disability ministers to push back on regressive changes moved by the federal government and the federal minister. This is what Minister Davidson did at the July 2021 meeting.

The final call to action in my motion is that this Assembly calls on the commonwealth to honour the commitment given at that July 2021 meeting to co-design any changes to the NDIS with people with disability and their supporters. This is a core feature of what the NDIS was meant to do. For the benefit of the 8,000 ACT NDIS support recipients, I commend this motion and the message that it sends to both Minister Davidson and the minister for disability in the commonwealth to support people being able to have choice and control over their lives.

**MS DAVIDSON** (Murrumbidgee—Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health) (3.55): I thank Ms Orr for raising this important matter for discussion today. The ACT's National Disability Insurance Scheme journey commenced as the first jurisdiction to sign up for the NDIS in 2013. It was also the first jurisdiction to transition all eligible participants to the scheme in 2016-17. The ACT government was and is proud to lead the nation in delivering this important reform.

The NDIS has since continued to grow and gather momentum, and has transcended political boundaries. The vision of the NDIS was to deliver a person-centred, rights-based approach to disability supports that puts funding for disability services in the hands of people with disability rather than service providers, placing them at the centre of the decision-making process and granting greater choice and control over the services they receive.

At its centre, the scheme was meant to uphold the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities from 2006. As with the introduction of any national reform, there have been significant achievements and milestones, and significant challenges along the way. However, the ACT has a proud tradition of raising, escalating and advocating for improvements and the creation of partnerships in coming to a solution that ensures that the scheme delivers on its promise. I thank the ACT's strong community of disability activists, who have been a key part of this journey.

Here in the ACT we know how important it is that we continue to be motivated to ensure that we collectively shape pathways and supports for Canberrans to fully participate in all aspects of life. Since the decision by the former minister with responsibility for the NDIS, the Hon Stuart Robert MP, in 2020 to introduce the previous proposal of mandatory independent assessments, we have heard firsthand the significant and collective concerns of people with disability and the sector. The approach put forward by the NDIA, I believe, was one of the most profound changes and threats to the NDIS since the scheme was introduced.

The commonwealth's handling of their proposal to introduce mandatory independent assessments has resulted in an erosion of trust, and fear and significant concerns from people with disability and the sector due to their lack of transparency, consultation and meaningful opportunities for co-design. This was also noted by the NDIS Independent Advisory Council, which noted in their report that was presented to disability ministers that people with disability had lost trust in the NDIA. Trust is one of the most valuable things we have in this world and, once it is lost, it costs a lot to rebuild. A true co-design process may go some way to rebuilding the trust and confidence of people with disability.

The joint standing committee's inquiry into independent assessments under the NDIS presented a vital opportunity for everyone to raise collective concerns regarding the commonwealth's previous proposed model of mandatory independent assessments. The impact of the evidence presented to the joint standing committee cannot be underestimated. Several ACT individuals and organisations also contributed to this process, including National Disability Services, Advocacy for Inclusion, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, ADACAS, Carers ACT, and Mr Dougie Herd on behalf of the Disability Reference Group. On 20 May 2021, along with the former chair of the Disability Reference Group, I provided evidence at the hearing for the inquiry. I would particularly like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution and compelling evidence of Mr Dougie Herd, who demonstrated real leadership in that room.

On 9 July 2021 a disability reform ministers meeting was held, which allowed members to have a focused discussion on scheme sustainability, NDIS legislative reform and independent assessments. Although the deliberations of the meeting are confidential, I, along with many people in the disability community, was ecstatic when the commonwealth announced in the disability reform ministers communique from that meeting that ministers agreed that independent assessments would not proceed. Ministers agreed to work in partnership with those with lived experience of disability through the Independent Advisory Council and disability representatives on

the co-design of a new person-centred model that delivers consistency and equity in access, and planning outcomes that are consistent with the legislative requirements for assessments, as set out under the NDIS Act.

The scrapping of independent assessments was a massive win for people with disability and shows the power of their activism. I was proud to advocate for their asks at the disability reform ministers meeting and I am pleased that a more person-centred approach will now be taken. I was pleased that the disability ministers recognised that any changes to the scheme needed to be co-designed. However, this needs to be genuine community co-design and not the rushed, tokenistic consultation we have seen to date.

There are three keys to successful, genuine co-design. The first is trust. All those involved must be able to come to the process in good faith, ready to work with an open mind and heart. Anything worth having never comes easily; it takes courage. When it comes to the redesign of the NDIS, it will be imperative that people with disability can explore both the problems and solutions collaboratively. We have, until recently, seen little transparency from the commonwealth. This lack of transparency has contributed to the significant erosion of trust.

The second key to true co-design is that there must be agreement on the problem to be solved before participants can begin working through the possible solutions. Given the commonwealth's lack of transparency and failure to fully share the financial details of the NDIS with their state and territory partners so far, it has not been possible for the ACT to agree with the commonwealth on the problem to be solved.

I am hopeful that the commonwealth will be more willing to share with us a level of financial detail that enables us to better understand the cost drivers in the scheme so far, as well as the underlying actuarial assumptions for cost projections into the future.

Finally, true co-design requires that people are involved as active participants, with meaningful input throughout the process. All participants in co-design are seen as experts and their input, their time, their knowledge and their other contributions are valued and have equal standing. True co-design requires radical compassion to respond at an emotional level to the experience of others in a completely inclusive way.

I remain committed to working in partnership with my ministerial counterparts through the disability reform ministers meeting, to ensure that people with disability are acknowledged, listened to and learned from, and ensuring that the commonwealth keeps to its commitment to co-design.

The outcomes from 9 July 2021 and the Independent Advisory Council paper should signal a commencement rather than a conclusion of the future work required. I look forward to a productive and collaborative discussion at the upcoming disability reform ministers meeting, scheduled for 13 August 2021, and working with the sector during the commonwealth's future consultations.

Additionally, as a joint shareholder in the scheme, I have raised the ACT's significant concerns that any legislative changes to the NDIS Act and to NDIS rules may reduce the role of state and territory governments in defining and clarifying what constitutes reasonable and necessary supports under the category A rules, particularly in regard to the commonwealth's proposed changes in 2019 for the preclusion of sex therapy, sex work or services aimed at sexual release, which they propose to be authorised through category D rules. Any changes to the services and supports covered by the NDIS, such as these, should be pursuant to a category A rule change and require agreement from all state and territory governments.

In conclusion, I wish to reassure the ACT community that we are listening to, learning from and being informed by the voices of people with disability, their families, carers, supporters and broader disability sector, and we will continue to do so.

**MR MILLIGAN** (Yerrabi) (4.02): Once again this Labor-Greens government is trying to punch above its own weight and grandstand about issues, rather than focusing on achieving good outcomes. The Assembly should be aware that the latest disability reform ministers meeting was held on 9 July 2021. The disability reform ministers meeting is a body chaired and driven by the commonwealth government, so it is totally unnecessary for this motion to call on the commonwealth government to honour a commitment made at their own meeting.

I also remind Ms Orr that, at this meeting, ministers welcomed the NDIS Independent Advisory Council's advice to the NDIS board on strengthening the NDIS reforms to access and planning, and noted the council's recommendations. In fact, at this meeting, all ministers, including commonwealth ministers, agreed that the independent assessments would not proceed.

Ministers also agreed to work in partnership with those with lived experience of disability, through the Independent Advisory Council and disability representatives. This means that there will be a focus on the co-design of a new, person-centred model that delivers consistency and equity in access and planning outcomes.

This is consistent with the legislative requirements for assessments set out under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013. It also meets the original intent of the scheme. Please note that this all happened under the leadership of a Liberal-National coalition federal government. At the next meeting in August, I am sure that there will be further developments on this front. It must be noted that ministers and governments of all persuasions have already put their commitment on the record.

Again, this motion is simply pointless. It feels like we are all wasting valuable time and focus, when there are so many other issues that we could be discussing that relate to people with disability in the ACT. First, it calls on the ACT government merely to continue doing something that they are already doing. Second, it calls on the commonwealth government to do something that the disability reform ministers meeting has already agreed to do, in July.



There are over 8,500 people under the NDIS scheme here in the ACT, and 449,998 people nationally. Supporting people with disability to have the care and support they need is vital, but so is finding ways to make this scheme more sustainable—not only financially sustainable but also seeking positive outcomes across areas such as housing, education and employment.

Whilst I am grateful that Ms Orr's motion provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the NDIS, I do not see the value in grandstanding on issues which have already been agreed to and are being driven at the commonwealth level. I suggest that the ACT government should focus their energy on getting better outcomes at the local level. This includes more ACT funding for advocacy groups and for the many mainstream and community services that support people with disability. Recipients of NDIS programs need specialist help to navigate the range of services available. They need assistance from advocacy groups to ensure that the crossover from program funding to program delivery is efficient and accurately reflects their needs.

Perhaps Ms Orr should try to influence her own government to improve outcomes in the health system so that all Canberrans are supported to reach their full potential. There might be over 8,500 people covered by the NDIS in the ACT, but this does not mean that there are not many other people who do not qualify for the scheme but still require support. There are people that need health appointments with specialists in Canberra; reasonable adjustment so that they can participate in education or employment; better housing choices; early interventions; and community programs. There are so many areas where this government should focus on its performance and stop virtue signalling just for the sake of making noise.

In an earlier speech, I indicated that there are disability organisations in the ACT who have not received any funding increases for the last decade. These groups have had to cut down on their staffing, despite increasing demand for support services for our local community.

The ACT government are playing the blame game again and targeting the federal government to divert attention from their own shortcomings. Whilst all levels of government have a role, there is significant responsibility at the territory level to deliver services to our community, and I really do not think that this government is living up to that responsibility.

In conclusion, I request that the ACT government concentrate on areas of disability support at a local level, to make sure that the commonwealth-funded NDIS program is more successful for ACT residents.

**MS ORR** (Yerrabi) (4.08), in reply: I would like to thank Minister Davidson for her very good, constructive comments in the debate, and particularly in noting that the ACT government and all state and territory governments are in partnership with the federal government on the NDIS. As a partner of the NDIS, it has a large role to play, not only in contributing funds but also in representing the wishes of the people within ACT constituencies to make sure that the NDIS actually reflects the services and the needs of the people it represents.

I was quite taken aback by Mr Milligan's comments. I do not believe that it is grandstanding to stand up and say, "Let's keep what has been one of the biggest social reforms of our generation true to its core principles and look after the people who need the care that is provided by the NDIS."

If you want to call that grandstanding, Mr Milligan, go for your life. I do not think that it sits right to say that at all. It is never grandstanding in this place to assert our values and say that we support looking after those in our community who need support. We know that, during the last few months in particular, there was a significant drive by the federal minister to bring in those independent assessments. While ministers may have said no at the meeting, it was clearly a case of the federal minister having to back down, because of what has been one of the largest campaigns we have seen from the disability community, who got out there and advocated for themselves to make sure that this was not brought in, because of their fear about the impact that this would have on their lives.

Again, it is not grandstanding to support that and to provide reassurance that, at an ACT level, as a partner within the NDIS, we remain committed to those core principles and will not walk away from them, no matter how much pressure is applied in the future.

I also go to the point of co-designing. Minister Davidson made the very good point in her speech that, once trust is broken, it takes a long time to be rebuilt. Because of what we have seen through smaller decisions within the NDIS, building up to the independent assessments, it is fair to say that there is significant distrust in the approach and the way that the scheme will be handled on behalf of the federal government.

We need to start rebuilding that trust and showing at our level, within the ACT, that we are committed to that—that we want co-design, that we want to make sure that this is a person-centred scheme that puts decisions and control with those who are participants in it. Again, there is nothing grandstanding about that.

Mr Milligan, I encourage you to read the debates that have happened here today. I hope you can walk away from that nice bit of reading with a slightly more enlightened view than you brought to the debate today.

I would like to thank Minister Davidson for her comments and for the advocacy she has done up to this point. I believe she will continue to do that. I am very happy, as a local member, to have moved this motion today, calling on this place to support Minister Davidson in her work in staying true to the core principles of the NDIS, and make sure that everyone in Canberra who is a participant in the NDIS and a supporter of those people knows that the ACT will be staying true to that core, founding principle.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Alexander Maconochie Centre—staff health and safety**

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (4.12): I move:

(1) notes that:

- (a) recent events reaffirm that correctional officers (COs) work in dangerous and sometimes life-threatening environments;
- (b) over the past 12 months, there have been three serious fires at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), one escape, and other dangerous encounters between detainees and COs;
- (c) in a 2007 Australian study, COs reported higher rates of formal psychological stress claims than any other occupational group;
- (d) post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in COs is linked to threats of violence and actual injuries;
- (e) COs at the AMC are at times not armed with defensive equipment;
- (f) depression and anxiety are linked to low levels of perceived support, and AMC staff have reported no confidence about some aspects of ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) senior management while also welcoming the new commissioner;
- (g) other international studies show high prevalence of mental disorders and PTSD among COs;
- (h) a 2019 staff survey at the AMC showed that:
  - (i) 82.5 percent wanted more stress management training;
  - (ii) 77.7 percent wanted training in how to deal with PTSD or trauma;
  - (iii) 62.1 percent wanted confidential links to counsellors or therapists; and
  - (iv) 52.4 percent wanted online or digital resources related to health and wellbeing;
- (i) detainees have access to on-site counselling, but COs do not;
- (j) research shows that early intervention following a traumatic event greatly reduces levels of post-traumatic stress reaction; and
- (k) the existing peer support officers do quality work to support corrections staff; and

(2) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) enhance wellbeing and mental health support for ACTCS staff, including COs, and explore options such as an on-site PTSD and trauma specialising counsellor;
- (b) as part of the Government's response to the inspector's report, review the policy which governs whether COs are unarmed during escorts;
- (c) report back to the Assembly on the progress of the initiatives as part of the Government's response to the inspector's review of the 9 July 2021 incident; and

- (d) ensure that support services for staff are easily accessible and that staff are actively made aware of these supports.

I am pleased to bring this motion before the Assembly today. I do so at the urging of some who have worked their entire careers on the frontline of corrections. These people are dedicated, brave and incredibly local to their colleagues. They do what they do for the people of Canberra, they do it for our city's most troubled and they do it for a government that frequently does not act like it respects the work they do. I speak, of course, of our often unsung corrections officers and the staff at the AMC.

A typical shift by a corrections officer, or CO, is 12 hours. For many Canberrans this would be an exceptionally long day. For most of us, our days do not look anything like theirs. Corrections officers must be alert and observant the entire time they are on shift. Every interaction with detainees, either unspoken or spoken, could be significant and must be remembered. Officers face potential threats from violent detainees and frequently find themselves threatened and in physical danger.

All this can result in constant and substantial mental and emotional strain. The constant tension of the work environment is punctuated by actual incidences of verbal and physical assault that can lead to long-term mental health issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, long-term anxiety, depression and risk of suicide.

Corrections officers work in a very demanding, high-stress environment. They face situations that the majority of us could not. We salute and we respect them. This motion is designed to address the mental health risks associated with the realities of working in a correctional facility.

The essential but often overlooked work of corrections officers is reflected in the scant attention they have received in academic research. There have been comparatively few studies on the mental health of corrections officers, but the ones that do exist conducted in several nations all point toward a high level of formal mental illness among their ranks.

I will share some worrying statistics from these studies. In a 2007 Australian study, corrections officers reported higher rates of formal psychological stress claims than any other occupational group, including emergency services. International studies conducted between 2007 and 2019 confirmed the findings of this Australian research. Regardless of where they live, corrections officers experience higher than usual psychological distress. In one study, 55 per cent screened positive for mental disorder. To put this into perspective, the ABS recently reported that 25 per cent of Australians had a mental or behavioural condition.

Even more worrying are statistics of corrections officer suicide rates. In one overseas corrections organisation, the suicide rate was 105 in 100,000—seven times higher than the national suicide rate of that country. This data corresponds with findings in Australia that also show that corrections officers are at increased risk of suicide.

Bringing the focus back to Canberra, the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services conducted a survey of AMC staff in 2019. This survey asked several questions about

employee wellbeing. Responses provide further evidence that this motion is needed: 82 per cent of correspondents stated that they would like increased access to staff stress management training; 77 per cent said they would like increased access to training for how to deal with PTSD or trauma; 62 per cent wished for confidential links to counsellors or therapists; 52 per cent wanted better online or digital resources related to health and wellbeing; and 31 per cent of respondents reported that they had accessed the employee assistance program, or EAP. This is a good program for corrections officers. However, the EAP is not as well placed as they would like.

Corrections officers at the AMC have expressed to me their desire to have onsite counselling that can be accessed shortly after a distressing incident, such as a shiv being drawn on them or receiving a death threat. These examples highlight the unique sort of danger present in this working environment. Research conducted in 2012 suggested that early intervention and counselling can significantly reduce the development of PTSD and depression symptoms. Individuals in the study who experienced physical trauma were given counselling within hours of the incident and showed significantly lower post-traumatic stress reactions than individuals who did not receive counselling.

Interestingly, these studies on the mental health of corrections officers distinguish between the causes of PTSD and depression. PTSD is most strongly associated with physical danger on the job. Depression and anxiety are most strongly associated with low levels of perceived support from the organisation and with low job satisfaction.

In the past nine months, there have been numerous examples of the serious physical danger faced by corrections officers in Canberra. The mental distress that this causes can be further exacerbated when corrections officers feel that they should be armed but not allowed to be.

A former corrections officer recently shared with me the fear he would experience while going about his daily routines. This officer was afraid to enter the cell of a dangerous detainee who has a history of possessing weapons while in prison. The former officer's fear was amplified by the fact that he has not had adequate training and he is not allowed to be armed or even to wear body armour. This experience must have been terrifying and the pressure it puts on this person's mental health is immense.

The motion further calls for a review on the policy that governs how staff in the court transfer unit are armed during escorts. Video of the recent incident where a detainee escaped custody shows how few options corrections officers have to restrain detainees and prevent escape. It should be emphasised that this dangerous escape occurred during broad daylight in a busy part of Canberra. It was near embassies, a playground and a school.

Arming these corrections officers on escort duty is not purely for their safety, but for the safety of Canberra community, for they take their job seriously and know the safety of Canberrans is on their shoulders as they try to keep a prisoner in their custody. And when a prisoner escapes I cannot imagine their mental wellbeing when this happens.

The report of a recent vote of no confidence against a member of senior management staff shows that corrections officers feel they are not supported at work. Again, such feelings are strongly associated in the academic literature with feelings of anxiety and depression. Given that corrections officers are calling for onsite counselling and that a high percentage of staff at the AMC report a need for more personal mental health training, it would be of great benefit to all these essential public servants to employ and embed a psychologist within the AMC.

As well as providing counselling after distressing incidents, a mental health professional would also be able to provide training on positive mental health exercises for managing PTSD and depression. The introduction of onsite counselling services for AMC staff would not be a difficult task, and the outcome could be massive, including a decrease in general stress levels among staff and an increase in mental health resilience. This would have long-term benefits for the working environment of the prison and for individual staff members in all aspects of their lives.

In summary, we have evidence that indicates that mental health issues are much higher amongst corrections officers than any other occupational groups. We know that the risk of physical and verbal abuse is more prevalent in a prison environment than most other workplaces. Our corrections officers at the AMC face physical danger on a daily basis which can contribute to PTSD and many feel unsupported by senior management which can contribute to anxiety and depression.

We know through a survey that a high percentage of AMC staff desire personal mental health training. I truly believe that there is a need to take better care of our staff at the AMC. It is hard for us here in this chamber to really know what they go through on a daily basis, so it is imperative that we listen to them when they tell us what they need. They need onsite mental health professionals who can counsel them and provide the training that these essential workers have been calling for for a while. I commend this motion to the Assembly.

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (4.23): Supporting our correction officers has been priority of mine since taking over the corrections portfolio. The role of a corrections officer is often extremely challenging and stressful. As a result, it is a role that requires a higher level of support. Much like first responders, corrections officers face mentally and physically challenging conditions on a daily basis, and much like emergency services agencies, ACT Corrective Services cannot completely remove the risk of exposure to traumatic events. What can be changed and improved, however, is the supports in place for staff, the workplace practices and the culture.

It is essential that staff are able to easily access mental health support at all times and that they are able to look after themselves both physically and mentally following a challenging day on the job. As a government, we are committed to doing everything possible to provide these supports. It is for these reasons the government supports this motion, and I appreciate Mrs Kikkert's efforts in working with my office in relation to

the motion and being able to achieve a consensus—a consensus that will ensure we can continue supporting the health and wellbeing of corrections officers and staff right across ACT Corrective Services.

I am pleased the scope of Mrs Kikkert's motion is broad and allows for the exploration of options such as onsite counselling and specialised PTSD counselling. Recent events have highlighted the need to talk to corrections officers about what extra supports they need and to explore which options will be the best to help them access services conveniently and quickly when they need to.

Wellbeing and mental health support should be enhanced both for correctional officers and all other ACT Corrective Services staff. As I have mentioned, this has been a key focus for me since taking on the corrections portfolio. While there is still work to be done to improve services, I assure the Assembly that ACTCS already has a variety of initiatives in place in development. These include the ACTCS peer support program, which has made approximately 27 trained peer support officers available across ACTCS. These officers provide support to their colleagues in coping with employment-related or personal difficulties or during times of potentially high emotional impact, such as after incidents. The implementation of this program also continues to be supportive and positive and it is helpful towards a work culture that fosters inclusiveness.

The Stand TALR program encourages staff to overcome stigma and barriers they may face when coming forward and seeking support for their mental wellbeing. The Road to Mental Readiness—Managers training is another example. It was recently delivered to ACTCS senior management to promote mental health, reduce the stigma of mental illness in workplace settings, and better equip managers to support staff who may be experiencing mental health problems. The first program of the Road to Mental Readiness—First Responders is being delivered and it aims to improve long-term mental health outcomes and encourage early access to care. There is also access to the employee assistance program we heard Mrs Kikkert mention earlier, which offers a choice of counselling and support services to all staff.

As members are aware, I have appointed Ms Christine Nixon as the independent chair of the blueprint for change oversight committee. An urgent focus of the committee has included training to ensure staff are adequately equipped for all of their duties. In addition, ACTCS welcomed 22 recruits earlier this year, which is alleviating staffing pressures. ACTCS is currently advertising for correctional officers to commence its training course in October. A further 10 Court Transport Unit recruits recently started their 12-week training course and are scheduled to graduate in October.

Finally, ACTCS are exploring a number of avenues to provide additional support for corrections officers, including engaging with a professional service provider for ongoing programs for staff. I understand that meaningful conversations are taking place on these issues, and I thank our new commissioner, Ray Johnson, for this good work.

The health and safety of every ACTCS employee is one of the most important things that I have been striving for. I acknowledge there is more work to do to ensure

ACTCS staff are well supported. I am sure the Assembly would agree that the range of initiatives I have outlined to enhance the wellbeing and mental health support for ACT corrections staff as well as initiatives currently being explored and developed put the ACTCS in a great position for continued change and refinement of their approach to enhance mental health support for staff.

Managing correctional centres in any jurisdiction in Australia is challenging, and the AMC is no different. As mentioned before, it is unfortunately not possible to remove all risks associated with a correctional environments and detainee escorts. However, ACTCS has a range of prevention and response strategies in place including: de-escalation training, which is part of the custodial recruit training to give staff tools to deflect anger and deal with behaviour in a manner that keeps aggression at bay; use of force training, which is a mandatory component of CO training and equips officers with a range of techniques to employ as required while taking into account the ACT's human rights principles; and policies and procedures which detail various measures to minimise risks associated with escorts.

I reiterate my utmost respect and admiration for the way corrections officers have dealt with many challenging incidents over recent times and continue to do so in their roles every day. As a former PSO, I understand how challenging a role can be when you face potentially dangerous and unexpected situations each day. Our staff are dedicated and experienced, and I am very proud of them.

The incident during the hospital escort on 9 July this year was concerning and terrifying for officers involved. I commend the bravery of the corrections officers involved in the incident on the day. In response to this incident, the Inspector of Correctional Services is conducting a critical incident review. ACTCS is committed to working with the inspector to review the arrangements for detainee escorts to provide safety for correctional officers and support for their mental wellbeing. This work will form the government response to the inspector's report and this will include consideration of any additional measures or means necessary to increase the safety during detainee escorts as well as an appropriate risk assessment for each of the options identified.

I am confident that the implementation of further supports will contribute to the continuous improvement of the safety and wellbeing of all ACTCS staff. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (4.30): I also thank Mrs Kikkert for bringing this motion about the importance of the safety and wellbeing of Canberra's correctional officers to the Assembly's attention. As already noted, correctional officers experience serious and multiple adverse effects on their wellbeing due to their work in complex and difficult environments. On behalf of the Greens, I extend my gratitude to correctional officers for doing this difficult job and doing it well, and I thank them for their work.

Correctional officers play an essential role in the safe custody and rehabilitation of some of Canberra's most vulnerable populations. Having easy access to professional counselling, debriefing and ongoing comprehensive mental health support is absolutely essential for our correctional officers, and I applaud and support all



necessary steps to fill the gaps in this area. I am, however, concerned that the motion proposes counselling and further arming of correctional officers as bandaid solutions—whereas we need to take an evidence-based approach to a better safety culture within our corrections system.

Starting with counselling, research suggests that psychological interventions like counselling and wellbeing programs have a negligible effect on correctional officer stress. This does not mean that counselling is not important—it is important—but that organisational safety culture is so much more important to overall outcomes for the mental health of correctional officers. This means taking a holistic look at the workplace environment and not just merely parking the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.

In this case, the safety and wellbeing of correctional officers is inseparable from the safety and wellbeing of detainees. It is interesting to me that Mrs Kikkert implies that detainees have adequate onsite counselling when a recent review states:

There is only one psychologist position at the AMC to provide general (as opposed to forensic) psychological services to some 500 detainees. This staffing level is grossly inadequate and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Detainees also need onsite counselling by virtue of the fact that they are detained there; they cannot nip out and go to their counsellor's office. It may be more appropriate, effective and efficient for staff to access offsite counselling, notably for privacy reasons. We must ensure that we are supporting workers in this extremely challenging environment, but what an opportunity is lost to call on the government to review the mental health services for those who live and work at the AMC.

Further, we have lost the opportunity to really get to the crux of why correctional officers are reporting increased psychological stress. We need to follow the evidence. A meta-review published just last year made it clear, once again, that the organisational structure and climate had the most consistent relationship with correctional officer job stress and burnout. Our correctional officers need and deserve a strong safety culture. This means going so much further than just counselling, which is an ambulance-at-the-bottom-of-the-cliff approach, as I mentioned earlier.

Weapons, or the lack of weapons, seem to be another theme of Mrs Kikkert's motion. The implication seems to be that the lack of weapons, particularly in escort scenarios, may be related to correctional officer wellbeing and safety. It may surprise members of this chamber that in three recent wide-ranging reviews of what increases safety in prisons arming officers does not appear once. Mrs Kikkert recently stated:

Indigenous Canberrans worry not just about how many of their community members are locked up but about what happens to them once they are inside.

But as I mentioned above, a prison is no ordinary place: it is a place where detainees are placed in an unnatural state of dependence and therefore vulnerability.

It is curious that more weapons should be the answer when, in the 2019 review of the Alexander Maconochie Centre, none of the 73 recommendations called for a review of the arms policy. I look forward to reading the inspector's report in relation to this, when it is released, in due course. Of course, correctional officers should have the capability to respond to violent situations appropriately, while ensuring the safety of themselves and their detainees. This should be non-controversial and have the support of all parties here, but it seems that consensus eludes us. We should also acknowledge the close relationship between detainee safety and the safety of the jail staff.

Here we have a chance to live up to the initial promise of a human rights-compliant prison. What would be an effective and meaningful intervention to improve the lives of both correctional officers and detainees? Community stakeholders unanimously agree that the problems in the prison are most strongly related to boredom, lack of meaningful rehabilitation, training, employment and engagement activities, combined with extended periods of lockdown. We now have a once in a -generation opportunity to turn around the foundational issues of AMC through the planned reintegration centre.

Not adequately funding the vision of the prison in the first place has led to many of the systemic shortfalls that we have seen, as I mentioned earlier. The history of the AMC is that it was built too small. It was built with no industries. We have been playing catch-up ever since in trying to overcome some of those issues that relate to the original design and the intentions of the facility.

With the reintegration centre and the suite of justice reinvestment packages committed to in the PAGA, we have the opportunity to turn AMC around. The vision of justice reinvestment is one where detainees and correctional officers alike are safe, well-respected and connected to their communities. The new reintegration centre will deliver up to 80 beds and increase the range of rehabilitation programs available to detainees. Delivered in partnership with non-government and government organisations, enhanced programs will include trauma and relationship counselling; alcohol, tobacco and other drug rehabilitation; and other training, including job skills, to support detainees to stay out of the justice system.

Overall, the justice reinvestment package will deliver the Greens focus on bringing together strengths-based supports and inclusive pathways that lead to better life outcomes for people cycling in and out of prison. This is a smarter, more cost-effective approach to our justice system; it helps keep families together, reduces crime and builds a safer and more secure Canberra for all of us.

Happily, creating a rehabilitation focus in the prison, both structurally and organisationally, will almost definitely lead back to the outcomes that are sought by this very motion—that is, better mental health and wellbeing for correctional officers. Research shows that officers who possess a human service or rehabilitation orientation experienced considerably less job stress than those who did not endorse such a position. In this way, everybody can win.

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (4.39), in reply: I am heartened that this motion will be passed. While the prison has always been a workplace of higher stress than others, recent events have increased this level and made the need for increased mental health supports essential. During an information session for the recruitment of additional officers, the session conveners described for candidates the characteristics that ACT Corrective Services were looking for. They said they need hard workers with integrity and emphasised the importance of having a thick skin.

Having a thick skin does not necessarily mean that threatening words and physical altercations do not affect a person and just bounce right off, as the phrase may have one envision. It means that when these negative experiences happen, a person is able to react appropriately, process them in a healthy way and grow stronger and more resilient because of them. The session conveners further said that officers need to be people whom the detainees can look up to and see themselves in. If our officers are mentally healthy and positive, this is something that is incredibly important for the detainees to see.

As I referenced in my opening remarks, there is strong demand for personal mental health training among AMC staff. In past months the minister has begun recruiting additional corrections officers. These new and existing officers would be well served by having access to preventative mental health training to ensure they have positive mental health exercises to depend on when they are faced with distressing situations.

The motion also addresses the need to review the policy that governs escort procedures when transporting detainees to places outside the prison. As we saw from video footage of the escape of a detainee in early July, corrections officers have little in the way of protective equipment. A detailed look at the policy is needed. The incident has been referred to the Inspector of Correctional Services, and I eagerly await his expert recommendations.

More broadly, work as a corrections officer can be dangerous. As I have said earlier, a former corrections officer recently shared with me his experience at the AMC. He was afraid of entering a cell that may have contained dangerous weapons when he himself had no self-protective equipment, such as a stab-proof vest. His fear is warranted. An analysis of contraband found at the prison last year showed that many weapons and weapon-like instruments were confiscated. Thirty-one weapons, 21 razor blades and 32 syringes were found. These are just the ones that were found. We know that, despite the best efforts of our corrections officers, detainees can covertly create weapons, arm themselves and use them, as we saw in November last year when a detainee was stabbed with a shiv. It is a dangerous place, and I hope that the Greens are actually taking it seriously.

I feel optimistic that the exploration of innovative wellbeing and mental health supports at the prison, such as an on-site counsellor specialising in PTSD and trauma, will have long-lasting beneficial effects for the staff at the AMC. Over the long term, the ACT will reap the rewards that cascade from a more positive, confident and enthusiastic workforce.

I extend my thanks to the government for taking seriously the concerns from the AMC staff that I have presented and for supporting my motion. The Greens talk about the human rights of the detainees. That is fine and I support that. But let's also remember the human rights of the corrections officers who are dealing with dangerous situations on a daily basis. We do not know what they go through, so it is important for us to listen to them.

I took a tour of AMC twice this year and we walked past the psychological unit where detainees receive counselling. There were three rooms and two or three psychologists. I am not sure what Mr Braddock meant when he talked about having one psychologist per 500 when there are about 321 detainees at AMC. Let us remember the human rights of the corrections officers as well as those of the detainees.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Light rail—traffic planning**

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (4.44): I move:

Omit all words after “study”.

With this amendment, the government will be agreeing to the motion.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (4.45): The Greens will be supporting Mr Hanson's motion today and also Mr Gentleman's amendment. Standing order 213A was put in place for exactly these circumstances, where there is a contest about whether a document should be revealed or supplied and there may be a claim of privilege and the like. It takes it out of the political arena and puts it into a more objective arena. It has only been used, I think, about four or five times since it was brought into place in around 2010. On each occasion, I think, it has provided an opportunity to resolve a dispute about a document. I think Mr Gentleman's amendment just speaks to the practicality. I understand there is support for that amendment across the chamber as well.

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (4.45): I am most pleased that we are going to arrive at this position; but I cannot really believe that we had to go down this path to get to this point when the minister could well have taken the question seriously in the chamber. The minister took the question to mean simply the outcomes of that study when, very clearly, we were calling for a much more substantive document. I think that at its core this little debate is about transparency, but it is also about democracy. The minister does not own that data; the people of the ACT own it.

The minister often comes in here and says, “We're getting on with the job of building this and the Liberals are not building anything.” I would remind the minister that he is in government and we are in opposition. From opposition, we cannot build anything.

From opposition, I do not have access to the staff that the minister has in his office. I do not have access to the directorate. I cannot throw around \$1 million on a consultancy. I cannot get a study of the nature that we are talking about in this chamber.

It is very clear, based on the way that this has played out, that the minister would much rather that we do not have that information or, indeed, that the Canberra public do not have that information. I just think that, at its core, this is about transparency and democracy. I am most pleased that we found a sensible outcome, but I still cannot quite believe that this is the path that we had to go down to get it.

Amendment agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

## Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

## Yerrabi electorate—community engagement

**MS ORR** (Yerrabi) (4.48): I rise to provide another Yerrabi yap to the Assembly. Since our last sitting the ACT has banned single-use plastics, on 1 July—great work by everyone here in the Assembly and out in the community. This is something that I am extremely passionate about and I am proud of the collective work by the chamber and the community to make it happen.

It was perfectly timed too, with the month of July being Plastic Free July. To celebrate our ban on single-use plastics in Plastic Free July, I posted daily on my Facebook page the many ways that Canberrans can minimise their individual reliance on unnecessary plastics. This included things like picking unwrapped fresh produce rather than the plastic wrapped alternative; promoting the soft plastic recycling programs; reminding Canberrans of the plastic recycling numbers on packets that are able to be recycled here in Canberra; and so many more. I encourage everyone to have a look at those suggestions and implement one of the suggestions into your lives.

It is important to remember that recycling is not always the answer and currently less than 10 per cent of plastic in Australia is recycled. We need to reduce our use and reliance on plastics instead. I encourage everyone to consider how they can reduce their plastic consumption.

Despite the chilly and wet days that plagued the month of July, I remained busy with my electoral work in Yerrabi. I met with a number of community groups, held a street stall, and helped get my steps up with some letterboxing around Yerrabi. I am looking forward to the coming months when some of these activities do not require the use of my thickest and warmest clothes. Even though the sun goes down early and the days and nights are chilly, the weather will never deter me from engaging with my

wonderful constituents. It is always a joy to chat with people and engage with them on the work that I and the rest of the ACT government are doing for the people of Yerrabi.

On 22 July I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the Eastlake Football Club Pride Game match. This took place at the rainbow roundabout in Braddon. It involved a jumper, which I got to unveil, specifically for the game. Despite the actual game being postponed because of the weather, it was an absolute honour to see the Eastlake Demons and the Ainslie Football Club come together to celebrate and support LGBTIQ players. An initiative like this benefits both LGBTIQ players and the broader community, as it harnesses the power of sport to help ensure that every Canberran feels welcome and a sense of belonging. I do take the opportunity to point out to Eastlake and Ainslie that they are not in my electorate and, while I did very much appreciate what they were doing and supported it, I still am the No 1 ticket holder of the Gungahlin Jets.

I was very pleased to join the Jets for their High Flyers Ball on 31 July. The High Flyers Ball happens every year, where the club gets together and celebrates the season. The highlight of the night this year, though, was something that has never happened in Jets history, and that was a proposal between two Gungahlin Jets players. I give a big congratulations to Josh and Shay on their engagement. The engagement only added to the enjoyment of the night, with the great food, drinks and wonderful company.

Shay was particularly surprised and the whole club managed to keep it a secret from her even though all the women's football teams were invited up the front to have a photo with Shay, who is usually in the back because she is taller, called to the front to make sure that Josh had a place to propose. It was a wonderful moment for the club, and we look forward to wishing them all the best in the future.

Lastly, I give a shout-out to Katie, who during our last sitting week was in my office doing work experience. Throughout the whole week Katie was diligent, kind and determined to learn about the whip duties that arose during the sitting week. She concluded her work with exceptional quality and showed genuine interest in how the Assembly works.

Katie, I hope you had a wonderful time and learned heaps. It was an honour to have such a hardworking and passionate young woman work alongside us here in the Assembly. My advice to any young woman who is contemplating pursuing a career in this industry: go for it.

### **Taxation—rates**

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (4.52): I rise frustrated. In the midst of a global pandemic where the Australian federal government should be focused solely on rolling out the vaccine and protecting Australians from a deadly virus, they are instead more focused on tax cuts for the wealthy and a complete abdication of the progressive tax system that Australians have built—on the principle that a fair contribution from each person according to their income will enable us to build a more equitable and just society. It is disappointing that the two old parties think that tax cuts for the rich serve any

public benefit. Tax cuts ultimately mean a cut to services, a cut to our schools, a cut to our hospitals and a cut to our public service. It is something that we cannot afford.

In 2019 the federal government introduced a three-stage tax bill to the federal parliament. The third stage of those tax cuts, known as stage 3, will see someone who earns \$45,000 per year pay the same 30 per cent tax rate as those earning \$200,000. The stage 3 tax cut is, to quote the shadow treasurer, Jim Chalmers, “the least affordable, it is the least responsible, it is the least fair and it is the least likely to get a good return in the economy because high-income earners are less likely to spend money in the economy”.

So you can imagine my surprise when the federal Australian Labor Party decided to back in the Morrison government stage 3 tax cuts. The regressive position on this issue by the ALP was confirmed for the Australian community last week when the shadow cabinet decided to drop their commitments to a fair and progressive tax system. Canberrans do not fall for this political posturing. We saw that in last year’s election when the Canberra Liberals astonishingly promised to lower taxes while at the same time increasing services. We know how that fallacy ended.

According to the Australia Institute, stage 3 will overwhelmingly benefit high-income earners like you, Madam Speaker, and I, with almost one-third of the benefit going to the top 10 per cent of taxpayers and over half the benefit flowing to the top 20 per cent. These tax cuts are for people who need them the least. These tax cuts will inevitably rip revenue from the budget that should be going to schools and hospitals, to essential services in our community; not to the pockets of high-income earners. Both of the two old parties have now clearly shown that, when it comes to power, it is politics over people.

Here at the ACT level, these decisions have a very real impact. While Canberra is often held up by the rest of Australia as a shining example of social and economic leadership, we are also a wealthy city that risks leaving people behind. Many of us might not stop to think about the difficulties someone on a low income faces in an affluent city like ours. Some might even think that the wealthy lift the rest of our population up—that trickle-down furphy. But the fact is: the opposite is true. Being poor in a rich town means that the cost of living is astronomical for someone on, say, the NewStart allowance of \$545 per fortnight. Canberra continues to record the highest median incomes, along with the highest cost of medical care and the most expensive rents in the country.

At a local level, the ACT Labor Party has benefited from a power-sharing agreement with the Greens for the last 12 years and has been held up as the most socially progressive government in the country. I do not believe that these two things are a coincidence. Having Greens at the table has resulted in our having the most progressive government in the country. My Greens counterparts and I took a comprehensive policy platform to the last election which will improve the lives of all Canberrans, particularly our most vulnerable.

The lost revenue from these unnecessary federal tax cuts means that there will be fewer funds available for badly needed services. It will increase inequality here in

Canberra. Our low-income earners will suffer the greatest. With a high revenue base arising from a fairer taxation policy federally, we could put dental care into Medicare; finally fund high-speed rail along our eastern seaboard; build even more social housing and more community sports facilities; and fully resource public schools. It is a shame that those representing Canberra at a federal level from both of the two old parties have decided that cash in the pockets of high-income earners is more important than the public that they seek to represent.

Madam Speaker, in closing, you make more than \$200,000 a year. I make more than \$200,000 a year. We do not need a tax cut.

### **Environment—Holt micro-forest**

**MR CAIN** (Ginninderra) (4.56): It is a fortunate and regular occurrence that I connect with invaluable community initiatives, and I would like to speak of one of those this afternoon. Recently, I visited the site for the proposed Holt micro-forest, near Holt shops, which the community group kicked off in March this year. This is an innovative use of neglected community green space, with plans to plant over 1,500 native trees, shrubs, grasses and ground covers in the vicinity of Holt shops. This initiative will provide significant ecological and biological value, and it will invigorate the local community.

The generosity behind the micro-forest is also encouraging—financial support, donations, helpful green thumbs, academics and community advocates. It is a testament to how much the community backs this initiative. I found it particularly enjoyable to hear about how much energy and positivity these community volunteers have when speaking about their vision for the micro-forest.

The intentions for this space are ambitious. In particular, the volunteers are excited about the environmental aspect. A huge variety of flora will be planted, and there will be significant consideration of soil health, water harvesting and general environmental betterment in the surrounding neighbourhood. Others are excited about the opportunity for children to play and learn in nature. There will also be a permanent orienteering course.

The project will integrate a First Nations perspective. Knowledge and traditions regarding land management, planting and the properties of vegetation are being incorporated into the design of the Holt micro-forest. It is fantastic to see this innovative environmental community space that will also be educational.

Ginninderra locals want to be able to make the most of their green spaces. They want to invigorate local space. They want to help to enhance community physical and mental wellbeing. I am grateful to represent a community that is so dedicated to consistently improving their local environment.

I would like especially to acknowledge the efforts of Ms Jennifer Bardsley, the convenor of the Holt micro-forest initiative. She and others like her show that grassroots effort can contribute to our community and send valuable messages to government. I am looking forward to seeing this wonderful initiative become a reality.



**Canberra—community events**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (4.59): One of the things I like most about this job is the opportunity it gives me to meet so many different people and to learn about so many different things that are going on in Canberra that I did not realise were happening. I have lived here my whole life, but there is such a rich layer of life going on here.

I enjoyed quite a few things this last month, in between our sittings. I was visited by Paul Summerfield, who is one of our great artists. Paul has done a really fantastic wrap on my car that is a glorious vision of a steampunk future for Canberra. He visited me in the Assembly and had a look at how politics worked, so that was interesting for both of us.

I also enjoyed an article written by Gary Humphries, in which Gary accidentally confirmed the myth of the meritocracy. My Greens colleague Emma and I had a good time busting down some of those myths.

I saw Girls Rock! at Karma Kitchen. I was pretty impressed, frankly, with the level of talent to be seen in some of these really young women, 15- and 16-year-olds, who are performing so eloquently and so well.

I like to get out and about in nature a lot. Most of you have probably heard me talk about my various adventures in Landcare. I have had a lot of good walks and good chats to people in the Umbagog Landcare Group about the Ginninderra Creek in Holt, which is really in need of some improved waterways.

I learned a lot more about Lawson grasslands from the Lawson Landcare group. I had a really interesting walk through the suburbs, in which I learned a lot about some of the microhabitats that are scattered all around us. I visited Bluetts Block with Friends of Bluetts Block and the Canberra Ornithologists Group, and I visited the Emu Creek Landcare group in Belconnen. That is another really great site that could do with a little bit more love.

I was pleased to see the yarn bombing at the Singapore High Commission. It is great when you get a chance to combine art and nature all in one. It is really fun. I was also pleased to support the Holt micro-forest crowdfunding. It was great to hear my colleague talk about that. It is another of these really great locally based, locally promoted micro-forests. I think it is the way forward for Canberra. We will be doing a bit more work on that in my office soon.

I was happy to show a few people around at the EV Experience Day at Questacon, to let them see how EVs work, and that they do not kill the weekend, after all! I have been talking a lot to cyclists about road safety. Given the legislation that the transport minister and I have introduced, a huge number of people have come forward and had a chat to me about the accidents and near misses they have had. I hope that we will soon get some action on that.

I have also been talking to some academics at UC and ANU about how we can build some better connections between government and our environmental science programs and academics. There is a lot of scope there. It is fun to have a chat to some of these experts about their fields. I was pleased to catch up with the Clean Energy Council about our circular economy and how we can improve our recycling here.

I also chat a lot to the community. I tend to do a coffee club every Friday, and I do weekend stalls. That is really good; you chat to people from different walks of life and they come up and tell you exactly what is on their mind. It ensures that you keep in touch with what is happening in people's lives from day to day.

In addition to the individuals, I have met quite a lot of community groups, such as the Belconnen Community Council. The Australian College of Midwives had a lot of very sensible, practical suggestions that I would love to help them take forward. I went to a fantastic winter ball with the East African Association. I would like to thank Bosi and all of the women who made us so welcome at that event.

I met the scouts, which was a lot of fun. I like the Scouts; they have an amazingly rich membership base. They have a big presence in Belconnen in particular, and they do a lot of really interesting programs. They also sent me the link for a photograph of Shane Rattenbury at the age of 10 in a Scout uniform. I really scored in that meeting! That was quite fun all round.

It has been good fun. I want to remind everybody in Canberra that you should come up to an MLA whenever you see them. We are here to listen to your concerns. The more you tell us about what is going on, the better we will be able to do our work in the Assembly.

### **ACT Australian Islamic Medical Association**

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (5.04): I wish to draw attention to the excellent work of the Australian Islamic Medical Association. This is a national organisation founded a few years ago, which really took off in 2020, with Canberra as its founding office. It is formed with diverse community members from a wide range of health professionals. It has held events across Canberra, including at the Gungahlin mosque, which is in my electorate.

I have had the chance to meet and talk with Lubna Siddiq about the group, and I have been struck by how the group exemplifies the strong community spirit and how it wants to contribute through liaising and communicating with the Australian community in a culturally sensitive way.

The community are a strong pillar showing how Australia should be. They are to be applauded. Their work includes a blood donation drive, which they did in partnership with the Red Cross. They ran this through the mosque, with the support of religious leaders there, and were able to attract 500 new blood donors, an effort for which they were quite rightly awarded the trophy of the year from the Red Cross. In addition, they run training in CPR, basic first-aid courses and the use of defibrillators. They

have held mental health webinars, particularly in light of COVID. They have question and answer sessions with psychologists providing wellbeing tips. They have held a vaccine health forum. There were lots of questions very similar to those in the broader community, but the forum was delivered in a culturally sensitive way.

Through this engagement, they are able to get a lot of positive engagement with their community. Their challenges are similar to those of the ACT government in helping people in their community to obtain trusted health information in a culturally sensitive way. I, for one, am grateful for their service to the community.

### **Canberra—community events**

**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) (5.05): I want to take the opportunity this afternoon to touch on a few different things in and out of my portfolios. My colleagues have touched on some of them today as well, but they are no less important for that.

First, a very huge congratulations to Lisa Fuller, winner of the ACT 2020 Book of the Year. Lisa is a Murri woman, originally from Queensland, who has lived in Canberra for many years. *Ghost Bird* is her first novel. The judging panel described *Ghost Bird* as “a complex and ambitious novel that uses young adult supernatural fiction to drive a harrowing analysis into colonial trauma”. We wish Lisa all the best with her future writing. She had won many awards and been published many times before she became a first-time novelist. This is not *Ghost Bird*’s first award, but it was incredibly well deserved. They were the thoughts of the entire judging panel. I also congratulate the two highly commended authors and the other two who were short-listed.

As members may have noticed, I am speaking about the 2020 Book of the Year. The process was necessarily delayed due to COVID. Nominations for the 2021 Book of the Year have just closed, and I very much look forward to hearing from the judging panel in the coming months.

In July, we celebrated the ACT Multicultural Awards. Madam Speaker, as you well know, our diversity is our strength. I was pleased that the awards were highly competitive, with nominations received from right across the community. Warm congratulations to the winner of the individual champion award, Dr Marrwah Ahmadzai; to the winner of the community organisation champion award, known to many of us, Initiatives for Women in Need, IWIn; and to the winner of the outstanding excellence award for diversity and inclusion, Sandipan Mitra, again known to many of us. Jacqui Malins, of Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry, took out the award for art, media or culture.

As many of us know, multilingual poetry has been a feature of the National Multicultural Festival. I am looking forward to even more nominations being received next year, and I warmly congratulate the winners, who are not only role models but integral to encouraging inclusion and ensuring that we remain the welcoming community that we have such a strong reputation for.

Throughout the electorate, I have been pleased to support the efforts of the Holt micro-forest team, which recently successfully raised tens of thousands of dollars for its project. I look forward to a tour of the site later this month.

On Sunday, I dropped into the Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts, who were able to bring all their Scout groups together to celebrate World Scout Day for the first time since the pandemic began. While the Sea Scouts have been very active throughout the last 18 months, they have not been able to bring everyone together until now. It was wonderful to come together with 150 other people around a bonfire on Sunday night—where chicken, beef, pork, potatoes and pumpkins were cooked beautifully—to share the meal and to catch up with two Joey mobs, two Cub packs, two Scout groups, a Venturer unit, an amazing leader team and a group support committee.

I want to go to an issue that, while it is not in the electorate, is an issue personally close to my heart. I was very pleased to be able to visit Leo's Place two weeks ago. Leo's Place is an initiative of Palliative Care ACT and it directly responds to a recommendation that was made in the 2019 end of life choices select committee report from this Assembly, which I was proud to be part of during the last term.

We hear repeatedly that people with a life-limiting illness wish to remain at home for as long as possible, but the proportion of those who want to but actually do is much lower. Recently opened, Leo's Place aims to change that by offering overnight respite and day respite—providing support and care for people with a life-limiting illness, allowing carers to have a short break. It also provides carer support and access to advice, information and self-care activities.

This proof-of-concept respite hub has been partially funded by the ACT government as part of the February budget. I commend Minister Stephen-Smith for her leadership in this. I thank all those at Leo's Place and Palliative Care for the opportunity to visit and to understand more about this important facility.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**The Assembly adjourned at 5.11 pm until Tuesday, 31 August at 10 am.**

## Answers to questions

### Suburban Land Agency—sales (Question No 279)

**Mr Cain** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 4 June 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development*):

- (1) Does the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) sell land through agent/s; if so, (a) on what basis was the decision made to use an agent/s, (b) how much did the SLA pay agents in fees or other costs, for the financial years 2016-17 to 2020-21, (c) does the SLA have service level agreements in place with all agent/s, (d) what is the duration of any contracts between the SLA and agent/s to sell blocks and (e) has the SLA or the Minister received any complaints about the practices of any of the agents they use to sell land; if so, how many and when were the complaints made.
- (2) What was/is the average time (in days) between each of the stages of land sales of (a) being put on the market, (b) holding deposit, (c) exchange and (d) settlement, for the financial years 2016-17 to 2020-21.
- (3) What is the longest time (in days) it has taken for a block to reach each of the stages of land sales of (a) being put on the market, (b) holding deposit, (c) exchange and (d) settlement.
- (4) What was/is the average cost per block to develop land, for the financial years 2016-17 to 2020-21.

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

- (1) (a) The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) uses agents to sell land. In 2017 the SLA went out to market to establish a panel of suitably qualified Commercial and Residential Sales Agents service providers. There were 15 respondents to the tender of which seven were assessed as suitable for inclusion in the panel. These seven firms service six categories of transaction that are categorised by type, size and value, with four or five firms servicing each category. The six categories are as follows:

Category A: Single Residential Sites up to 100 dwellings

Category B: Single Residential Sites over 100 dwellings

Category C: Multi Unit and Mixed Use Sites up to 200 dwellings and or valued up to \$10,000,000 incl GST

Category D: Multi Unit and Mixed Use Sites 201+ dwellings and or valued over \$10,000,000 incl GST

Category E: Commercial/Industrial/Community Sites

Category F: Leasing and Acquisitions

When the SLA needs additional sales services, a statement of requirements for the work and assessment criteria are developed. Responses to the statement of requirements are then invited from the panel members of the relevant category of sales. The responses are then assessed against the criteria in order identify a preferred supplier.

(1) (b)

<b>Sales Commission (GST Exclusive)</b>	<b>\$</b>
2017-18	1,288,648
2018-19	1,379,219
2019-20	1,342,307
YTD 2020-21 to 31 May 2021	2,510,651

(1) (c) Yes.

(1) (d) Contract terms for sales activities vary depending on the volume of blocks(s) to be sold, market demand, complexity of the offering and type of product being sold.

(1) (e) Complaints are rare. The Territory maintains a panel of Commercial and Residential Agents (the Panel) which is utilised to provide professional services to the SLA consistent with Procurement guidelines and legislative and Agency requirements. The Panel is used to ensure that appropriately qualified and experienced property professionals facilitate land sales on behalf of the Territory. Requests for proposals are sought from appropriately qualified firms on the Panel through a competitive process. Panellists also need to ensure that each salesperson has obtained competency under the Property Services Training Package (CPP07).

(2) As advised in my response to Question 2995 on 4 June 2020, I do not approve the considerable diversion of public sector resources to respond to this question.

(3) As advised in my response to Question 2995 on 4 June 2020, I do not approve the considerable diversion of public sector resources to respond to this question.

(4) As advised in my response to Question 2995 on 4 June 2020, I do not approve the considerable diversion of public sector resources to respond to this question.

### **Employment—labour hire companies (Question No 282)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many labour hire companies are there in the ACT and how many people do they employ.
- (2) What type of companies are they and what categories/industries do they represent.
- (3) What was the reason for introducing the Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2020.
- (4) What consultation occurred before the legislation was introduced and what was the feedback.
- (5) What specific consultation did the Minister do with labour hire companies and what was their feedback.

- (6) How will the new scheme work.
- (7) How is the scheme similar to legislation in Victoria.
- (8) What will labour hire companies be required to do.
- (9) How much will licences cost.
- (10) How much will it cost to renew a licence each 12 months.
- (11) Why are licences only valid for 12 months.
- (12) How will the scheme be monitored and regulated.
- (13) How will the Minister ensure compliance with the scheme.
- (14) How many dedicated WorkSafe ACT staff will be involved with establishing and operating the scheme.
- (15) How much money has been allocated for the Government to operate the scheme.
- (16) What are the penalties/sanctions for non-compliance.
- (17) What communication has there been with labour hire companies about the new scheme.

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

In answer to questions 1 and 2:

The *Labour Hire Licensing Act 2020* (the Act) commenced on 27 May 2021 with a transition period applying to 27 November 2021. All labour hire providers operating in the ACT will be required to obtain a licence by 27 November 2021.

As such, data about the number of labour hire providers operating in the ACT is not currently available.

All labour hire providers who hold a licence under the Act will be included on the public register available on the WorkSafe ACT website. The information that will be publicly available on the labour hire licence register includes the industry that providers operate in.

In answer to question 3, the purpose of the new scheme is set out in the Act and specifically states the purpose of the Act is to:

- a) protect workers from exploitation by providers of labour hire services;
- b) promote responsible practices in the ACT labour hire sector;
- c) ensure labour hire providers meet their workplace obligations to their workers, including obligations relating to work health and safety laws and anti-discrimination laws; and
- d) create a framework that is effective in preventing and responding to non-compliance with workplace standards in the labour hire industry.

In response to questions 4, 5 and 17:

Consultation was undertaken with stakeholders in the development of the new labour hire licensing scheme.

The first round of consultation was undertaken in July/August 2019 as part of the development process for the Act.

A second round of consultation was undertaken in September 2020 to inform the design of the supporting implementation instruments, included specific questions about exemptions, other workplace laws or standards, and other information to be included on the public register.

On implementation of the supporting instruments, the Minister wrote to stakeholders consulted in the earlier consultations, providing a fact sheet about the new scheme.

WorkSafe ACT, responsible for administering the new scheme, has made information about the new scheme publicly available on its website. This includes a range of resources, interactive guidance material and questionnaires, information to support providers make the required licence application, user case studies, introductory videos and industry specific fact sheets. In addition, WorkSafe ACT is hosting a range of industry-focused Q&A sessions throughout June 2021.

In answer to questions 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 16:

Information about the new labour hire licensing scheme is publicly available on the WorkSafe ACT website, the ACT Legislation Register website and in the *Labour Hire Licensing Act 2020* and supporting legislative instruments.

In response to question 7:

Information about the Victorian labour hire licensing scheme is publicly available on the Labour Hire Licensing Authority, Victoria website.

Both the ACT labour hire licensing scheme and Victorian scheme are similar in requiring a licence to provide labour hire services, requiring providers to meet a fit and proper person test (or what is known as a suitable person test in the ACT), are similarly broad with exemptions applied to certain classes of worker and applying penalties for non-licenses.

In response to questions 12 and 13:

The new Labour Hire Licensing Scheme will be administered by WorkSafe ACT, with the Labour Hire Licensing Commissioner being the Work Health and Safety Commissioner under the Act.

In response to questions 14 and 15:

The ACT Budget for 2020-21, Budget Statements B, which is publicly available sets out the expenditure for the new Labour Hire Licensing Scheme.



**Schools—cleaning  
(Question No 283)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) When did the ACT Government's Education Directorate change its system for cleaning schools and move it 'in-house'.
- (2) Why did the Government move to an 'in-house' system and how does it work.
- (3) How many school cleaners does the Government employ.
- (4) How did the previous system work with contract cleaners for schools.
- (5) What is the salary for the Government's school cleaners.
- (6) What was the total cost of cleaning government schools in (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018, (d) 2019 and (e) 2020.
- (7) What was the annual cost, each year since 2016, for cleaning (a) Calwell Primary School, (b) Stromlo High School, (c) Telopea Park School, (d) Canberra High School and (e) Gungahlin College.
- (8) What was the cost of cleaning each of the schools referred to in part (7) in 2020, since school cleaning was moved in-house.
- (9) How much of the cost of cleaning these schools in 2020 was due to COVID and extra COVID cleaning requirements.
- (10) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the cost of cleaning each school in 2020 with 'standard cleaning' as well as 'extra COVID cleaning'.
- (11) Which company/companies supply cleaning products to clean ACT schools and where are the cleaning products manufactured.
- (12) Which company/companies supply toilet paper to ACT schools and where is the toilet paper manufactured.
- (13) What are the requirements on companies which tender to supply cleaning products.
- (14) Is the toilet paper used in ACT schools, 100 per cent recycled toilet paper.
- (15) How much was spent on (a) cleaning products and (b) toilet paper for schools each year since 2016.

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

- (1) 1 February 2020.
- (2) Insourcing school cleaning aligned with Government commitments to:
  - address insecure work

- promote job security for employees
- minimise the use of sub-contractors
- increase the use of direct employment of workers across the ACTPS
- review outsourced services and return these to direct ACT Government provision where a beneficial outcome to the community can be demonstrated.

In addition, it removed risks to the Territory including:

- being made liable for contractor failure to pay employee entitlements
- lack of compliance from contractors with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

While not a consideration at the time of the decision, the insourced model has provided significant benefits to the Government in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It enabled immediate adjustments for COVID-19 cleaning requirements in schools rather than a process that would have required renegotiation of contracts with service providers.

Since 1 February 2020, ACT government school cleaning has been managed by the School Cleaning Service. Each school is assigned an amount of cleaning hours (per night). The number of cleaning hours are based on type of school, size of school, number of students and is consistent with the approach to cleaning hours under the contractor model. In each school, a standard range of cleaning tasks are performed by the cleaners each evening and each week. Where schools are used by hirers or community groups, cleaning arrangements are changed and/or hours of cleaning added to ensure that the school is cleaned and ready for school use.

(3) The School Cleaning Service currently employs 431 school cleaners.

In addition, there are 14 individuals employed in Supervisor (12) and Network Coordinator (2) roles.

(4) Until February 2020 school cleaning was undertaken by contracted cleaning companies. Contractual arrangements outlined the services to be provided and contractors were responsible for the delivery of services and employment of cleaners. Contractors were awarded clusters of schools under contract and contracts were managed by the Education Directorate.

(5) School cleaners are employed under the *ACT Public Sector Infrastructure Services Enterprise Agreement 2018-2021* which outlines the pay structure. The Enterprise Agreement is available at:  
[https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1280468/infrastructure-services-enterprise-agreement-2018-2021.pdf](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1280468/infrastructure-services-enterprise-agreement-2018-2021.pdf).

(6) Expenditure figures reflected in the following table from 2016, 2017 and 2018 calendar years and are derived directly from contractor payments made by schools. During transition to the insourced model, financial expenditure is reflected at a Directorate level. Expenditure figures for 2019 and 2020 calendar years are sourced from the Education Directorates' financial management system.

Calendar Year	Total Expenditure (\$'000) excluding GST
2016*	10,890
2017*	10,689

Calendar Year	Total Expenditure (\$'000) excluding GST
2018*	11,608
2019*	12,158
2020#^	19,232

\* expenditure under the contractor model for school cleaning

# expenditure includes contractors (\$660K for January 2020 only) and insourced model (January to December 2020) for Directorate school cleaning

^ includes COVID -19 cleaning expenditure of \$5.72m

- (7) The expenditure figures reflected in the table below from 2016, 2017 and 2018 calendar years are derived directly from contractor payments made by schools. During transition to the insourced model, financial expenditure is reflected at a directorate level. Expenditure figures for 2019 and 2020 calendar years are sourced from the Education Directorates' financial management. Expenditure figures for 2019 and 2020 calendar years have been derived by apportioning total costs using actual cleaning hours allocated to schools.

	Expenditure (\$'000) excluding GST				
Calendar Year	Calwell PS	Stromlo HS	Telopea Park School	Canberra HS	Gungahlin College
2016*	76	177	236	189	268
2017*	71	226	213	190	240
2018*	78	192	263	193	234
2019*	84	241	265	190	261
2020#^	135	320	374	307	333

\* expenditure under the contractor model for school cleaning

# expenditure includes contractor (January 2020) and insourced model (February to December 2020) for school cleaning

^ includes COVID -19 cleaning expenditure

- (8) The expenditure figures for 2020 reflected in the table below have been derived by apportioning total costs using actual cleaning hours allocated to schools and includes COVID-19 cleaning expenditure.

	Insourced Cleaning Expenditure (\$'000) excluding GST				
Calendar Year	Calwell PS	Stromlo HS	Telopea Park HS	Canberra HS	Gungahlin College
2020#^	130	308	360	296	321

# expenditure includes insourced model (February to December 2020) for school cleaning only.

^ includes COVID -19 cleaning expenditure

- (9) The expenditure figures for 2020 provided in the table below have been derived by apportioning total costs using actual cleaning hours allocated to schools.

	COVID Cleaning Expenditure (\$'000) excluding GST				
Calendar Year	Calwell PS	Stromlo HS	Telopea Park HS	Canberra HS	Gungahlin College
2020#	40	79	80	79	80

# expenditure includes insourced model only

- (10) Please refer to Attachment A.

- (11) The School Cleaning Service sources its cleaning chemicals from three Canberra based cleaning supplies companies - Chemworks, One Stop Shop and Rapidclean DRB. All of the chemicals used are manufactured in Australia or in the USA.

All chemicals used for cleaning in ACT Government Schools go through an approval process before being used. This includes assessment by an environmental scientist to ensure that the chemicals are fit-for-purpose and safe for ongoing use in the school environment.

- (12) Generally, individual schools source toilet paper supplies. The Directorate does not currently have information on who these suppliers are or where the toilet paper is manufactured.
- (13) This is outlined in the *Government Procurement Act 2001* and Government Procurement (Charter of Procurement Values) Direction 2020.
- (14) Individual schools source toilet paper supplies directly. The Directorate does not have data on if recycled paper is used.
- (15) School Cleaning Service commenced on 1 February 2020. Prior to this date cleaning was provided by contractors and data on their expenditure is not known.

In the 2020 calendar year the School Cleaning Service spent \$147,130 on cleaning chemicals of which \$77,425 was COVID specific expenditure.

At the start of COVID-19, the Directorate purchased in bulk \$71,500 worth of toilet paper for distribution across all schools as needed. Generally, individual schools source toilet paper supplies directly. The Directorate does not have data on the overall total or by school expenditure on toilet paper.

#### Attachment A

*Note: Expenditure figures for 2020 calendar year have been derived by apportioning total costs using actual cleaning hours allocated to schools.*

	2020 Cleaning expenditure		
	Standard (\$'000)	COVID Specific (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
<b>School Name</b>			
<b><i>Colleges</i></b>			
Canberra College	323	80	403
Dickson College	266	40	306
Erindale College	177	60	237
Gungahlin College	253	80	333
Hawker College	152	40	192
Lake Ginninderra College	202	80	282
Narrabundah College	253	80	333
Lake Tuggeranong College	253	80	333
<b>Total Colleges</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>2,419</b>
<b><i>High Schools</i></b>			
Belconnen High	202	79	281
Campbell High	183	77	261
Canberra High	234	79	313
Calwell High	179	57	237
Alfred Deakin High	266	59	325
Kaleen High	127	39	166

Lanyon High	196	79	275
Lyneham High	272	118	390
Melrose High	253	79	332
Mt Stromlo High	247	79	326
<b>Total High Schools</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>2,905</b>
<b>Primary Schools</b>			
Ainslie Primary	127	80	206
Aranda Primary	114	80	194
Arawang Primary	127	80	206
Bonner Primary	240	100	340
Bonython Primary	89	40	129
Calwell Primary	95	40	135
Campbell Primary	114	40	154
Chapman Primary	127	80	206
Charles Conder Primary	139	40	179
Charles Weston School	221	60	281
Charnwood-Dunlop Primary	127	80	206
Curtin Primary	127	80	206
Duffy Primary	89	40	129
Evatt Primary	101	40	141
Fadden Primary	95	60	155
Farrer Primary	95	60	155
Florey Primary	108	80	187
Forrest Primary	152	80	232
Fraser Primary	89	80	168
Garran Primary	127	80	206
Gilmore Primary	89	40	129
Giralang Primary	82	60	142
Gordon Primary	127	40	166
Gowrie Primary	95	40	135
Hawker Primary	82	40	122
Hughes Primary	114	60	174
Kaleen Primary	127	40	166
Latham Primary	95	60	155
Lyneham Primary	139	80	219
Macgregor Primary	114	80	194
Macquarie Primary	101	40	141
Majura Primary	146	100	245
Margaret Hendry School	202	40	242
Maribyrnong Primary	108	60	167
Mawson Primary	104	40	144
Miles Franklin Primary	108	80	187
Monash Primary	133	40	173
Mt Rogers Community School	127	80	206
Ngunnawal Primary	171	80	251
North Ainslie Primary	137	80	217
Palmerston Primary	133	80	213
Red Hill Primary	183	120	303
Richardson Primary	76	40	116
Taylor Primary	95	40	135
Theodore Primary	101	40	141

Torrens Primary	127	80	206
Turner Primary	146	60	205
Wanniassa Hills Primary	101	40	141
Weetangera Primary	114	40	154
Yarralumla Primary	101	60	161
<b>Total Primary Schools</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>3,096</b>	<b>9,171</b>
<b>Early Childhood Schools</b>			
Co-operative ECS	38	20	58
Franklin ECS	114	80	194
Isabella Plains ECS	63	40	103
Lyons ECS	54	40	94
Narrabundah ECS	32	40	72
Southern Cross ECS	70	40	110
<b>Total Early Childhood Schools</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>Specialist Schools</b>			
Black Mountain School	101	40	141
Cranleigh School	76	40	116
Malkara School	76	80	156
The Woden School	76	40	116
<b>Total Specialist Schools</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>529</b>
<b>Combined Schools</b>			
Amaroo School	380	120	499
Caroline Chisholm School	282	100	381
Gold Creek School	367	140	507
Harrison School	392	120	512
Namadgi School	316	60	376
Kingsford Smith School	240	80	320
Melba Copland Secondary School	177	100	277
Telopea Park School	294	80	374
Wanniassa School	250	80	330
<b>Total Combined Schools</b>	<b>2,699</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>3,578</b>
<b>Total All Schools</b>	<b>13,513</b>	<b>5,719</b>	<b>19,232</b>

## Energy—gas consumption (Question No 285)

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of ACT residential total gas consumption, in as much detail as possible without breaching commercial in confidence requirements, including any trend data such as declining or increasing usage for (a) percentage for space heating, (b) percentage for water heating, (c) percentage for cooking and (d) trends.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of ACT Government total gas consumption, in as much detail as possible without breaching commercial in confidence requirements, including any trend data such as declining or increasing usage for (a) percentage for space heating, (b) percentage for water heating, (c) percentage for cooking and (d) trends.

- (3) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of ACT institutions (universities, cultural and sports facilities) total gas consumption, in as much detail as possible without breaching commercial in confidence requirements, including any trend data such as declining or increasing usage for (a) percentage for space heating, (b) percentage for water heating, (c) percentage for cooking and (d) trends.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of ACT commercial total gas consumption, in as much detail as possible without breaching commercial in confidence requirements, including any trend data such as declining or increasing usage for (a) percentage for space heating, (b) percentage for water heating, (c) percentage for cooking and (d) trends.

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

Total ACT residential consumption and commercial consumption

The ACT Government collects total annual natural gas consumption figures for the ACT. This data does not further differentiate between residential and commercial consumption.

Gas consumption for the purposes of hot water, space heating and cooking is not separately metered and therefore no consumption figures for specific appliances are available.

The Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) estimates that approximately 62% of ACT natural gas for 2018-19 was supplied to residential homes and a further 19% to small-to-medium businesses. The remainder of natural gas supplied in the ACT was consumed by 39 large organisations.

EPSDD advice estimates that in 2018-19, 77% of gas use in households was for space heating, 21% for water heating, and the balance was cooking.

In terms of the total Territory consumption and per capita consumption, natural gas consumption has gradually declined over the past three years. The overall decline since 2016-17 has been 6.4% in total and 9.9% per capita.

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Total consumption (TJ)	7,343	6,837	7,297	6,945	7,515	7,226	7,137	7,032
Consumption per capita (GJ)	19.33	17.70	18.62	17.41	18.44	17.38	16.86	16.61

Source: ACT Greenhouse gas inventory for 2019-20, EPSDD

It is important to note that gas consumption is highly seasonal and affected by weather.

The following chart shows that gas consumption peaks during Winter, when Canberra has a maximum natural gas demand primarily driven by space heating demand.

*(Graph available at the Chamber Support Office).*

ACT Government consumption

From 2016-2020 total natural gas consumption at ACT Government sites decreased by 1%, however, over these four years the total gas consumption varied by ~12%.

As described above, the ACT Government does not separately meter nor collect data for its own operations that is configured at a level of detail that discriminates between the different uses of gas, i.e. the proportions of gas consumption devoted to (a) space heating, (b) water heating, and (c) cooking.

*(Graph available at the Chamber Support Office).*

#### ACT Institutions

The ACT Government does not collect data at a level of detail that differentiates uses of gas, i.e. the proportions of gas consumption devoted to (a) space heating, (b) water heating, and (c) cooking in institutions such as universities, cultural, or sports facilities. Moreover, the ACT does not collect gas consumption data from all the institutions that fall into the categories of universities, cultural or sports facilities, and the ACT Government has no mandate to collect this information.

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### **Education—ACT Recovery College (Question No 286)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) When was the ACT Recovery College opened and why was it established.
- (2) What services and support did the college provide.
- (3) How many patients/clients has it helped and how.
- (4) How many staff work at the college and what are their qualifications and roles.
- (5) Is the college closing; if so, when and why.
- (6) What will happen to the staff of the college.
- (7) Who made the decision to close the college.
- (8) What consultation occurred before the decision to close the college.
- (9) How much government funding has been given to the college in (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018, (d) 2019, (e) 2020 and (f) 2021.
- (10) If the college closes, what are the alternatives for Canberrans and where can they go.

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

- (1) The Recovery College Pilot (Pilot) commenced operation in January 2019. The program aimed to provide an adult learning centre at which all courses focus on an individual's management of mental illness and promote self-directed individual recovery. The pilot was based on a model in the United Kingdom that the former Minister for Mental Health, Minister Rattenbury had visited during a visit to the United Kingdom. The early indications from the United Kingdom program showed that participants had improved self-management of mental health conditions and early policy analysis indicated the model may benefit the ACT community.



- (2) See the response to Question 1 above.
- (3) Between December 2019 and December 2020, approximately 234 students participated in courses offered through the Pilot. Due to the schedule of service reporting, the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) does not have final total participation numbers for the entire Pilot at this time. Participant feedback states that courses have contributed to reduced social isolation, reduced stigma and increased social and economic participation.
- (4) The Pilot employed three staff. The staff members qualifications and job roles are matters for their employer, the Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC).
- (5) The Pilot ends on 30 June 2021. During discussions with the MHCC, the MHCC Board advised ACTHD it could not continue to support the Pilot beyond 30 June 2021, including in any transitional capacity.
- (6) Staff are employed by MHCC. This is a matter for the organisation.
- (7) As a pilot, the Recovery College program was always due to conclude on 30 June 2021. MHCC's advice that it cannot continue to provide this service (including in any transitional capacity) means it is necessary that the program cease while the evaluation of the service is finalised, and until further decisions can be made.
- (8) ACTHD consulted with MHCC regarding the conclusion of the pilot program.
- (9) Total funding of \$1,078,000 was provided to the Pilot. Funding is provided on a financial year basis.
  - A. 2016/2017 - Nil.
  - B. 2017/2018 - Nil.
  - C. 2018/2019 - \$396,000 provided to MHCC as service funding.
  - D. 2019/2020 - \$396,000 provided to MHCC as service funding; \$50,000 provided to fund the external evaluation conducted by la Trobe University; and \$47,000 provided to Canberra Health Services for costs associated with participation in the Recovery College.
  - E. 2020/2021 \$189,000 provided to MHCC as service funding for the period 01 January 2021 until 30 June 2021.
- (10) Whilst the Recovery College is a unique program in its focus on mental health recovery, there are a range of more traditional education providers in the ACT. Some of these providers such as CIT, Community Colleges and the University of the Third Age offer courses that have some similar content.

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### **Crime—catalytic converter thefts (Question No 287)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Business and Better Regulation, upon notice, on 4 June 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services*):

- (1) Can the Minister provide, for each year since 2016, the number of reported thefts of catalytic converters.

- (2) Does the Minister consider that the actual figure is higher; if so, how much higher and can the Minister explain why these thefts are not reported.
- (3) What is the Government doing to reduce theft of catalytic convertors.
- (4) What success or progress has the Government made to reduce thefts.
- (5) How much funding does the Government provide for programs that aim to reduce theft of catalytic convertors.
- (6) Does the Government regulate sales of catalytic convertors to scrap metal merchants; if so, how and can the Minister detail those regulations and when they were introduced.
- (7) Does the Government intend to change the regulations or introduce new measures about catalytic convertors.
- (8) Has the Government done any consultation with the sector about thefts of catalytic convertors and what can be done about the matter.

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

- 1) Number of catalytic converters reported stolen to ACT Policing:

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Jan to May 2021
0	0	0	0	2	95

Data as at 1 June 2021

ACT Policing has identified catalytic converter thefts as a crime type that has increased significantly in the ACT since the beginning of 2021. Catalytic converters contain precious metals like platinum, palladium and rhodium, and the prices of these metals have gone up considerably in recent years.

- 2) On advice sought from the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC), the theft of catalytic converters appear to be under reported nationally. ACT Policing are working to increase community awareness and encourage reporting. Increased awareness of the issue may be contributing to the increase in reporting in 2021.
- 3) Catalytic converter thefts are being treated as a priority target by ACT Policing. In addition to increased operational targeting activities, police are also prioritising increasing community awareness. For example, on 24 May 2021 the Officer-in-Charge of Tuggeranong Police Station addressed the ACT community on the theft of catalytic converters via radio interviews. ACT Policing continue to strongly encourage the ACT community to report suspicious behaviours involving anyone who is seen underneath a vehicle to police on 131 444.
- 4) ACT Policing has seen increasing reports of catalytic converter theft overseas, and now in the ACT. ACT Policing is aware of cases in Canberra and continues to investigate. To date, three arrests have been made.

The current penalty for a theft offence is a maximum penalty: 1000 penalty units, imprisonment for 10 years or both. The person receiving the goods also holds a maximum penalty: 1000 penalty units, imprisonment for 10 years or both.

- 5) The ACT Government does not provide funding for programs specific to reducing the theft of catalytic converters. However, ACT Policing does make referrals to the Restorative Justice Unit as an option for offenders for 'less serious offences', an option that is able to provide an offence specific justice response, as well as the opportunity for those impacted by the offence to be involved in the justice process.

The ACT Government has invested in the Outsmart the Offender campaign. This is a crime prevention campaign that includes practical tips for the community to help raise awareness about property crime prevention. While not specifically aimed at reducing the theft of catalytic converters, car theft is one of the focusses of the campaign.

- 6) The ACT Government does not currently specifically regulate sales of catalytic converters to scrap metal merchants. However, a person receiving stolen goods holds a maximum penalty: 1000 penalty units, imprisonment for 10 years or both. A corporation receiving stolen goods holds a maximum penalty: 1000 penalty units. In accordance with section 133 of the *Legislation Act 2001* the value of a penalty unit for an individual is \$160 and for a corporation is \$810.
- 7) There is currently no intention to introduce regulations specific to catalytic converters, as this is an emerging issue in the ACT and nationally. However, the ACT Government may consider measures that could assist in reducing catalytic converter thefts if this continues to be an issue.

The ACT Government contributes annual funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC), which is currently working closely with states and territories to reduce profit motivated theft related to motor vehicles. Some of the countermeasures in the NMVTRC strategic plan broadly related to catalytic converters include:

- protect legitimate trading by encouraging the development of industry-led commercial agreements between insurers, repairers and recyclers, and consumer education;
- reform scrap metal (second-hand dealing) laws in select jurisdictions;
- facilitate progression towards a secure and environmentally sound vehicle decommissioning system for end-of-life vehicles;
- conduct in-depth intelligence assessments of the export of stolen vehicles and parts;
- continue to manage written-off vehicle reform and optimise consumer awareness of stolen and written off vehicle information;
- improve vehicle identification (through the management of high-risk mine vehicles and maintaining dialogue with Commonwealth in respect of mandatory vehicle identification standards); and
- facilitate intelligence gathering and information sharing between police services.

- 8) The ACT Government has not consulted the relevant industry sectors in relation to this matter at this stage.

**Housing ACT—housing managers  
(Question No 291)**

**Mr Parton** asked the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many housing manager's positions does Housing ACT (HACT) have.
- (2) What was the budgeted full-time equivalent (FTE) for housing manager's in (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20 and (c) 2020-21.
- (3) What was the actual FTE for (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20 and (c) 2020-21 as at 31 March 2021.
- (4) What is the FTE outcome expected for 2020-21.
- (5) How many FTE housing managers are currently on paid leave.
- (6) What is the current turnover rate of FTE housing managers.
- (7) How many FTE housing managers work over 38 hours per week.
- (8) What is the average overtime paid per manager.
- (9) What are HACT's housing managers responsibilities.
- (10) What is their job description.
- (11) Is there a minimum education prerequisite for a housing manager.
- (12) Are there are specific formal qualifications or certificate a housing manager must have.
- (13) What training is provided to establish a housing manager's skills and how often is this provided.
- (14) What was the average size of a typical housing manager's portfolio in (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20 and (c) 2020-21 to date.
- (15) What is the maximum size of a housing manager's portfolio.
- (16) How frequently would a housing manager's portfolio change by 20 percent or more.
- (17) Under what circumstances does a housing manager have a portfolio change.
- (18) How many days of absence did housing managers take in (a) 2018-2019, (b) 2019-2020 and (c) 2020-2021 year to date.
- (19) In relation to the absence figures referred to in part (18), how many HACT housing managers claimed the EAP for work stress related issues in (a) 2018-2019, (b) 2019-2020 and (c) 2020-2021 year to date.

- (20) In relating to the absence figures referred to in part (18), how many complaints about work related stress or overworking did HACT human resources receive from HACT housing manager's in (a) 2018-2019, (b) 2019-2020 and (c) 2020-2021 year to date.
- (21) What is the current average value in arrears of a housing manager's portfolio.
- (22) What is the current highest value in arrears among all housing managers.
- (23) What was the value in arrears among all housing managers at the end of (a) 2018, (b) 2019 and (c) 2020.

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

- (1) 2020-21 actual positions at 31 March 2021 is 45.01 FTE  
2020-21 budgeted positions is 46.01 FTE  
  
Tenant Experience has two directors, four assistant directors, eight team leaders, eight housing practitioners and eight tenant support community connections officers who provide support to housing managers.
- (2)
  - a) 2018-19 budgeted positions is 43.0 FTE
  - b) 2019-20 budgeted positions is 49 FTE
  - c) 2020-21 budgeted positions is 46.01 FTE
- (3)
  - a) 2018-19 actual positions is 42.05 FTE
  - b) 2019-20 actual positions is 42.71 FTE
  - c) 2020-21 actual positions at 31 March 2021 is 45.01 FTE
- (4) FTE levels as at 10 June 2021 is 48.
- (5) As at 18 June 2021, three housing managers were on leave (personal or annual).
- (6) For the 2020-21 financial year, as at 15 June 2021, turnover has been two.
- (7) The standard work week is 36.75 hours per week. Work over this time is accrued as flex time and recorded through attendance sheets each fortnight. To provide this information would require a substantial diversion of resources.
- (8) One overtime session was completed during the 2020-21 financial year to 10 June 2021. It was not a requirement and not all housing managers took part. For those who attended the session, the average cost of the overtime per manager was \$250.00.
- (9) At 31 May 2021, housing managers are responsible for the tenancy management of over 10450 public housing tenancies with homes to over 21,000 people. The tenancy management includes direct liaison with tenants around rental payments, managing debt, carrying out client service visits, maintaining the property and responding to complaints. Responsibilities also include engaging tenants with the appropriate services or government agencies to support sustainable tenancies.

- (10) The Administrative Services Officer level 5 housing manager is responsible for engaging with clients to ensure effective service at all stages of a client's tenancy. Responsibilities include all facets of tenancy management for example liaison with clients in relation to a breakdown of a tenancy, management of rental payments, supporting tenants around property condition and responding to complaints. Housing managers may also represent Housing ACT at selected forums and provide support to other business units as required.
- (11) There is no minimum education prerequisite for a housing manager. A current driver's licence, experience in using a range of IT business and office applications and a current registration issued under the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011* is required prior to commencement.
- (12) Although there are no specific formal qualifications, Housing ACT seeks to recruit individuals that have a thorough understanding of clients with high and complex needs, along with experience in working with vulnerable clients. Well-developed communication skills, cultural awareness, an understanding of the complexities of housing and respect for all people are important attributes for this position.
- (13) When a housing manager commences with Housing ACT, induction into the ACT Government is undertaken. Additionally, housing managers are required to complete the Community Services Induction training which includes modules covering:
  - a) ACTPS Induction program
  - b) Capabiliti Training and Information Session
  - c) Client Service Visits
  - d) Core Cultural Learning (consist of 10 parts)
  - e) CPSU Information Session
  - f) CSD Induction
  - g) CSD Records Management DLM Classifications
  - h) Customer Service
  - i) De Escalating Workplace Conflict and Aggression
  - j) Domestic and Family Violence Foundation Training (consists of 4 parts)
  - k) Domestic Violence and Mandatory Reporting
  - l) Duress Alarm
  - m) Emergency Procedures
  - n) Gateway Services - Overview
  - o) Homenet & IT systems
  - p) Human Resources in CSD
  - q) Introduction to Customer Service - Tenancy
  - r) Introduction to Debt Management
  - s) Manage & Maintain Tenancy Agreements & Services
  - t) Managing Work Health and Safety Risk (WHS Part 2)- e-Learn
  - u) Occupational Therapy

- v) Onelink - Overview
- w) Property Standards
- x) Protective Security Policy Framework Awareness
- y) Public Housing Renewal Program - Overview
- z) Rebates
- aa) Respect Equity Diversity RED Framework
- bb) SERBIR Meet & Greet Session - HACT Staff
- cc) Tenancy - Overview
- dd) Time Management and Portfolio Establishment
- ee) Tribunal Advocacy Services - Overview
- ff) Welcome and Introduction - Housing
- gg) Work Health and Safety in CSD
- hh) Workplace Policies and Enterprise Agreement
- ii) Writing for Government
- jj) Domestic and Family Violence Manager Training
- kk) Respect, Equity and Diversity training for Supervisors and Managers
- ll) Work Health and Safety for Supervisors and Managers

Once completed, housing managers then undertake the Client Services Branch (CSB) two day face-to-face induction and mentoring program.

Housing managers are also enrolled in the CSB Capabiliti Learning Pathway consisting of e Learn modules. Training pathways are continuously reviewed and updated. This pathway currently includes the following modules:

- mm) Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- nn) Classification and DLMs
- oo) Complaints Handling and Management Policy
- pp) CSD Records Management DLM Classifications
- qq) De Escalating Workplace Conflict and Aggression
- rr) Debt Management Policy
- ss) HPE Content Manager (TRIM) e-Learning
- tt) Keeping Children and Young People Safe
- uu) Managing Work Health and Safety Risk (WHS Part 2)- e-Learn
- vv) Performance and Development in the ACT Public Service
- ww) Protective Security Policy Framework Awareness
- xx) Reportable Conduct (e-Learning)
- yy) Restrictive Practice
- zz) Standard Mental Health First Aid
- aaa) Work Health and Safety in CSD

Additional training provided includes a half day workshop on operational awareness and a two-day occupational violence de-escalation workshop.

Housing managers receive fortnightly supervision from their team leaders and receive daily direction and planning regarding the management of their portfolios and delegation support. The assistant directors coordinate the operational needs and strategy support which governs the day-to-day operations, as well as offering direction, advice and delegation support. Tenant support community connections officers provide support to housing managers for vulnerable tenants whose tenancies are at risk. Examples of this support includes debt management, hoarding and squalor, and domestic violence concerns.

On any given day, the housing manager can rely on the team leader as their main point of direction and advice. At the start of each week, debt reports are run, client service visits are scheduled, and housing managers work closely with their team leaders to ensure priorities are met. In complex situations, the assistant director and/or the director will also provide strategic and operational direction.

- (14) The average size of the portfolios in 2020-21 to 10 June 2021 is 211. Providing the earlier years would require a substantial diversion of resources.
- (15) The maximum size of a housing manager's portfolio is 245.
- (16) A housing manager's portfolio infrequently changes by 20 percent or more. A portfolio increase would only occur when new construction of public housing is delivered. Portfolios are reviewed regularly to ensure they are equitable for all staff.
- (17) A housing manager's portfolio may change for operational needs such as a realignment of portfolios to better meet the needs of tenants and staff.
- (18)
  - a) 2018-2019: 567.77 hours were taken as personal leave
  - b) 2019-2020: 570.73 hours were taken as personal leave
  - c) 2020-2021: 317.08 hours were taken as personal leave
- (19) CSD is currently unable to provide a breakdown of this data. Due to the number of housing managers, providing such information may allow staff to be identified. Staff privacy and confidentiality is a key component of supporting staff to engage with Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services.
- (20) CSD's People Management Branch did not record, during the periods, any complaints from housing managers containing specifics in relation to work related stress or overworking.
- (21) The current average value of rental arrears in a housing manager's portfolio is \$63,781.  
  
The current average value of sundry arrears in a housing manager's portfolio is \$79,645.
- (22) The current highest value of rental arrears in a housing manager's portfolio is \$175,911.



The current highest value of sundry arrears in a housing manager's portfolio is \$197,061.34.

- (23) The total rental and sundry arrears receivable from current and former tenants of Housing ACT are outlined in the receivables note of the Housing ACT Financial Statements.

The numbers disclosed in the Housing ACT Financial Statements are inclusive of amounts owing from both current tenants and former tenants of Housing ACT and amounts owing from Community Housing Providers. The rental and sundry arrears for current tenants are managed by housing managers. Rental and sundry arrears owing from former tenants of Housing ACT and from Community Housing Providers are managed by separate area of Housing ACT.

The total rental and sundry arrears receivable by financial year are:

- a) At 30 June 2018, rental totalled \$4.132 million and sundry totalled \$10.868 million.
- b) At 30 June 2019, rental totalled \$6.670 million and sundry totalled \$11.196 million.
- c) At 30 June 2020, rental totalled \$5.478 million and sundry totalled \$8.702 million.

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### **Housing ACT—properties and tenant occupancy (Question No 292)**

**Mr Parton** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many properties does Housing ACT current have in the category of (a) one bedroom, (b) two bedroom, (c) three bedroom, (d) four bedroom, (e) five bedroom and (f) six bedroom.
- (2) How many Housing ACT properties in each category referred to in part (1) are currently (a) transit properties, (b) permanent properties, (c) occupied, (d) vacant but available for permanent allocation, (e) vacant but available for transit allocation, (f) vacant due to maintenance requirements, (g) vacant awaiting demolition or sale and (h) vacant for some other reason.
- (3) How many Housing ACT properties with (a) two bedrooms are currently being inhabited by only one person, (b) three bedrooms are currently being inhabited by less than three people, (c) four bedrooms are currently being inhabited by less than four people and (d) five bedrooms are currently being inhabited by less than five people.
- (4) How many Housing ACT properties with (a) one bedroom are currently being occupied by more than three people, (b) two bedrooms are currently being occupied by more than four people, (c) three bedrooms are currently being occupied by more than six people, (d) four bedrooms are currently being occupied by more than eight people and (e) five bedrooms are currently being occupied by more than eight people.

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

Answers are provided in the tables below.

Number of Housing ACT properties as at 22 June 2021	Number of bedrooms in property					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
(1) Housing ACT properties	1961	3935	4513	915	209	46
(2) (a) Transit tenancies	2	8	5	1	0	0
(2) (b) Occupied excluding transit tenancies	1861	3824	4328	886	207	46
(2) (c) Occupied including transit tenancies	1863	3832	4333	887	207	46
(2) (d) Vacant but available	24	27	6	2	1	0
(2) (f) Vacant due to maintenance	73	65	93	14	1	0
(2) (g) Vacant awaiting demolition or sale	1	11	81	12	0	0
(2) (h) Vacant for other reason	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:

- (2) (b) For ‘permanent properties’ this line provides the number of properties occupied with tenancies other than transit tenancies.
- (2) (e) Housing ACT does not identify vacant properties to be used for transit tenancies prior to allocation. Properties are allocated for transit tenancies from the same group of vacant available properties as all other tenancies.

Occupied Housing ACT public housing properties as at 22 June 2021	Number of bedrooms in property				
	1	2	3	4	5
(3) Fewer occupants than bedrooms	n/a	(a) 2310	(b) 2459	(c) 413	(d) 79
(4) More occupants than bedrooms + 1	(a) 5	(b) 21	(c) 32	(d) 11	(e) 11

Notes:

- (3) While there would be some overlap in the properties that have fewer occupants than bedrooms and the properties that are underutilised, the calculation of underutilisation is based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard and a number of bedrooms that is two or more in excess of those required. Reasons that households can require additional bedrooms include parental visitation (for non-custodial parents), carer use or medical equipment.
- (4) Similar to part (3) overcrowding is calculated based on the household’s bedroom requirement relative to the property.

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## **ACT Public Service—remuneration (Question No 293)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many ACT Government employees are earning at least \$327,000 a year.
- (2) Is this figure inclusive of loading and allowances; if not, what additional loading and allowances do these employees receive on top of the baseline \$327,000.
- (3) What are the names of these positions.
- (4) Which of these positions are with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

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

- (1) There are 61 ACT Public Service employees earning at least \$327,000 per annum\*. This consists of:

- 12 Band 4 executives - Band 4 executives attract a remuneration package ranging from \$399,966 to \$478,068 depending on the executive classification level and superannuation arrangements. This includes a cash component between \$328,348 and \$381,524.
- 22 Band 3 executives - Band 3 executives attract a remuneration package ranging from \$348,548 to \$402,671 depending on the executive classification level and superannuation arrangements. This includes a cash component between \$282,476 and \$316,958.
- 27 Band 2 executives - attract a remuneration package ranging from \$327,547 to \$340,747 depending on their superannuation arrangements. This includes a cash component of \$264,006.

Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2 of 2020 provides for the base salary of the Head of Service, Director-General and Executives.

\*This does not include officers employed under ACT Public Sector Enterprise Agreements, statutory and non-statutory office holders, Judges, Magistrates or ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal members.

- (2) Where entitled, the above includes allowances such as payment instead of vehicle, payment instead of car parking and Fringe Benefits Tax allowance. Some executives choose to have an executive vehicle or car parking spot instead of the payment.

- (3) The names of these positions are:

- Band 4 executives: Head of Service, Directors-General (or equivalent including Chief Executive Officer Canberra Health Services and Chief Projects Officer), Under Treasurer, and Co-ordinator General, Whole of Government COVID-19 (Non-health) Response.
- Band 3 executives: Deputy Directors-General, Deputy Under Treasurer, Deputy Chief Solicitor, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer Canberra Health Services, Chief Digital Officer, Coordinators-General.
- Band 2 executives: Executive Group Managers (or equivalents), Commissioner ACT Corrective Services, Commissioner, Emergency Services Agency, Chief Operating Officers, Chief Finance Officers and Deputy Director of Public Prosecution at the Executive Level 2.4.

- (4) The following positions are within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate:

- Director-General Justice and Community Safety;
- Deputy Director-General Community Safety;
- Deputy Director-General Justice;
- Deputy Chief Solicitor;
- Commissioner ACT Corrective Services;
- Commissioner Emergency Services Agency;
- Executive Group Manager Security & Emergency Management; and
- Deputy Director of Public Prosecution.

**Higgins shops—bollards  
(Question No 296—amended answer)**

**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 replaced the two missing bollards from the front of Higgins Shops on 1 July 2021. 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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**Housing—Justice Housing Program  
(Question No 297)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many properties used in the Justice Housing Program (JHP) are dedicated to individuals in need of a secure address to achieve bail.
- (2) Are these properties specifically not used as accommodation options for women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved with the criminal justice program.
- (3) Is the JHP the same as the Bail Support Trial referenced in the 2016-2017 Justice and Community Safety Directorate annual report.

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

1. There are ten JHP properties. A minimum of six beds across seven men's properties are dedicated to men in need of a secure address to be released to bail, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. The remaining beds across the seven men's properties are available to eligible clients subject to both bail and post sentence orders.

2. The above beds are male only properties. There are two women's properties (six beds) and one transgender property (three beds), including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and transgender people. These beds are available to eligible clients subject to both bail and post sentence orders.
3. No. The Bail Support Trial referenced in the 2016-2017 Justice and Community Safety Annual Report refers to the Ngurrumbai Bail Support Program, not the Justice Housing Program. The Ngurrumbai Bail Support Program provides support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people applying for or granted bail, through the development of a bail plan with goals to support a person's immediate needs and compliance with their bail conditions.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainees  
(Question No 298)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Are there, at present, approximately 18 women detainees in the Alexander Maconochie Centre staying in the Special Care Centre (SCC) with 57 beds leaving 39 free beds and are there approximately 38 men staying in the Women's Community Centre (WCC) which were originally designed for 25 women; if so, now that there is overcrowding in the WCC and underutilisation of the SCC will the women inmates be moved back to the WCC; if so, when will this begin; if not, why not.
- (2) Does the Government consider the women being in the SCC a medium-term or long-term solution?
- (3) Has the Women Offenders Framework been completed; if so, when was it completed and when was it published; if not, at what stage of the process is the framework and what is the Government's goal to have it completed by.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—sentence management officers  
(Question No 299)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

When an inmate is inducted into the Alexander Maconochie Centre are they allocated a Sentence Management Officer (SMO); if so, what criteria determine which SMO is assigned to the inmate.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee employment and education programs  
(Question No 300)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Are there any programs, education courses or employment positions that inmates are precluded from attending/enrolling if they have a specific security classification; if so, what security classification would prevent them from accessing any of these programs, education courses or employment positions.
- (2) Are there any programs, education courses or employment positions that inmates are precluded from attending/enrolling in if they have a specific sentence length; if so, what sentence length would prevent them from accessing any of these programs, education courses or employment positions.
- (3) Are inmates with life sentences precluded from attending programs, education courses or employment positions; if so, what programs, education courses or employment positions can they not attend/enrol in.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—bakery  
(Question No 301)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many (a) inmates (b) women and (c) men are employed at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) bakery.
- (2) Are men allowed to work at the AMC bakery.
- (3) How much are (a) female and (b) male inmates paid at the bakery.
- (4) Is there a standard shift duration
- (5) Are inmates of any security classification allowed to work at the AMC bakery; if not, which security classifications preclude someone from working at the AMC bakery.
- (6) What other factors preclude someone from working at the AMC bakery.
- (7) How many non-inmates are employed primarily to work, teach and assist inmates at the bakery.
- (8) What baking related qualifications can employees of the bakery work toward achieving.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**ACT Corrective Services—commissioner  
(Question No 302)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Does the ACT Government have a singular candidate in mind for the position of ACT Corrections Commissioner; if so, who is that person and when will they commence their role; if not, does the Government have a shortlist of candidates; if so, who are these candidates.
- (2) When does the Government plan to have this role filled.

- (3) Does/will the prison oversight committee have any input on the selection of the new ACT Corrections Commissioner.
- (4) Will the Minister be giving any input into the selection of the new ACT Corrections Commissioner.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—disciplinary action (Question No 303)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) What disciplinary measures were taken against the inmates involved in the May 2021 riot by Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) staff.
- (2) What actions were taken against the inmates involved in the May 2021 riot by ACT Policing.
- (3) What disciplinary measures were taken against the inmates who were identified as the “ring leaders” in the May 2021 riot by AMC staff.
- (4) What actions were taken against the inmates who were identified as the “ring leaders” in the May 2021 riot by ACT Policing.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee education and training programs  
(Question No 304)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) What programs are currently being offered at the Alexander Maconochie Centre for detainees, as of 1 June 2021.
- (2) Which of these programs are classified as criminogenic.
- (3) Which of these programs are not available to remandees.
- (4) If any programs are not available to remandees, why are they not available.
- (5) Which of these programs are specifically for detainees that identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
- (6) Can these programs be attended by detainees who are not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**ACT Corrective Services—review  
(Question No 305)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Further to the answer to question taken on notice No 27 during Estimates hearings in February regarding the ACT Corrective Services policy review project in which the Minister advised that a number of policies were in the final stages of consultation, at what stage is the (a) Admissions Policy review, (b) Detainee Property Policy development, (c) Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy review, (d) Detainee Discipline review, (e) Visits Policy review, (f) Authorised Absences Policy development, (g) Temporary Leave Policy development, (h) Searching Policy review and (i) Refusal of Food and Fluids Policy development, at.

- (2) Are those policies listed in part (1) on track to be fully finalised and notified by 30 June 2021.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—parole process  
(Question No 306)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many inmates at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, between 1 January 2017 and 3 June 2021 have stayed in prison longer than their earliest release date.
- (2) How many of these inmates remained in prison due to having their parole denied.
- (3) How many of these inmates were denied parole for not having acceptable accommodation upon release.
- (4) How many of these inmates declined to apply for parole.
- (5) How many inmates between 1 January 2017 and 03 June 2021 have stayed in prison longer than the end of their sentence.
- (6) How many inmates applied for parole between 1 January 2017 and 3 June 2021.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—hunger strikes  
(Question No 307)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How much did it cost the ACT Government to remand an activist aligned with Extinction Rebellion who was arrested in May 2021 given they refused to sign their bail agreement and was incarcerated in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) where they commenced a hunger strike.
- (2) What policies or procedures dictate what should happen in the event of an inmate engaging in a hunger strike.
- (3) When were these policies notified.
- (4) How long did this individual's hunger strike last for.
- (5) For how many days straight did this individual refuse to consume food.
- (6) Did this individual at any point refuse to consume water; if so, for how long did this individual not consume water.
- (7) Is this individual still incarcerated in the AMC; if not, when were they released.
- (8) Has this individual had another court appearance since refusing bail; if so, what was the result of this court appearance.
- (9) Has this individual been sentenced; if so, what was the sentence.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—housing assistance  
(Question No 308)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Does the Ombudsman's Parole Processes at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) report state that pre-COVID, Housing ACT Staff and OneLink staff would visit the AMC monthly to assist detainees with housing after their release; if so, has this practice resumed again.

- (2) If the practice referred to in part (1) has resumed, on what date did staff from either Housing ACT or OneLink recommence their visits.
- (3) Is the practice of Housing ACT employees visiting the prison to assist with housing a matter of formal policy; if so, what is the name of the document that details this practice; if not, are there any plans to formalise this practice in writing as a policy or procedural document.
- (4) How many inmates were allocated a permanent home before/at release thanks to the efforts of either Housing ACT or OneLink.
- (5) What other organisations assist inmates with obtaining housing before/at release.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—capacity (Question No 309)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

How many beds are available at the Alexander Maconochie Centre for inmates of high or moderate security classification, at the time of the answer to this question was written.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—fires  
(Question No 310)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many fires were started by inmates at the Alexander Maconochie Centre between 1 November 2020 and 03 June 2021.
- (2) On what dates were these fires started.
- (3) How were these fires started.
- (4) What specific damages were caused by each fire and what were the costs incurred as a result of the fire.
- (5) Was anyone injured as a result of any of these fires.
- (6) What penalties or punishments were issued to inmates who started the fires.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—staff training review  
(Question No 311)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Is the review into educations offerings at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) referenced in the Ombudsman's report titled Parole processes at the Alexander Maconochie Centre complete; if so, is this review publicly available; if not, can the Minister attach the findings of this review in the answer to this question on notice.
- (2) If the review is completed, what actions regarding education in the AMC have been taken on account of this review.
- (3) If the review is not complete, why not and when does the ACT Government now intend to have this review completed.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—admission costs (Question No 312)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) What is the estimated cost to admit someone into the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- (2) Does this cost differ from remand to sentenced detainee; if so, what is the estimated cost to admit a remandee compared to a sentenced detainee.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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### **ACT Corrective Services—parole process (Question No 313)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Did the ACT Ombudsman's report into parole processes at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, state that the new draft parole policy was supposed to be finalised by 31 December 2020 and published on the Open Access Information government website; if so, has this policy been published and when was the policy published.
- (2) Where was the policy published and has it been notified.
- (3) If the policy has not been published, at what stage of development is this policy.

- (4) When will this policy be published.
- (5) Will this policy be publicly accessible and where will it be published.
- (6) What consultation has occurred or is planned to occur in relation to this policy.
- (7) Given that the report referred to in part (1) referenced a Sentence Management Policy which was still in draft in October 2019, has this policy been published; if so, when was the policy published.
- (8) Where is this policy published and has it been notified.
- (9) If the policy has not been published, at what stage of development is this policy.
- (10) When will this policy be published.
- (11) Will this policy be publicly accessible and where will it be published.
- (12) What consultation has occurred or is planned to occur in relation to this policy.
- (13) Given that the report referred to in part (1) referenced a draft Transition to Community Supervision (Sentenced Offenders) policy, has this policy been published; if so, when was the policy published.
- (14) Where is this policy published and has it been notified.
- (15) If the policy has not been published, at what stage of development is this policy.
- (16) When will this policy be published.
- (17) Will this policy be publicly accessible and where will it be published.
- (18) What consultation has occurred or is planned to occur in relation to this policy.
- (19) Given the report referred to in part (1) advised that ACT Corrective Services was developing a revised Home Visit Assessment Policy, has this policy been published; if so, when was the policy published.
- (20) Where was the policy published and has it been notified.
- (21) If the policy has not been published, at what stage of development is this policy.
- (22) When will this policy be published.
- (23) Will this policy be publicly accessible and where will it be published.
- (24) What consultation has occurred or is planned to occur in relation to this policy.
- (25) Given that the report referred to in part (1) referenced the implementation of Open Access Policy 2020, has this policy been fully implemented; if so, when was the policy first published.
- (26) Where was the policy published and has it been notified.

(27) If the policy has not been published, at what stage of implementation is this policy.

(28) When will this policy be fully implemented.

(29) Will this policy be publicly accessible and where is it published.

(30) What consultation has occurred or is planned to occur in relation to this policy.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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### **ACT Corrective Services—staff training (Question No 314)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

(1) In relation to the Mad, Bad, Sad, Tears, Abuse and Threats: Dealing with Six Unwelcome Behaviours Within Government program for ACT detention and prison staff, did the oversight committee recommend that the ACT Government introduce this workshop for detention and prison staff.

(2) When did the Government first commit to providing this training.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—property damage and repairs  
(Question No 315)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Have the repair and damage assessments on AU North at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, post the November 2020 riot been completed.
- (2) Are there any more assessments that must be completed on AU North before repairs commence.
- (3) Have repairs commenced for AU North; if so, when did repairs commence and when are they scheduled to be complete; if not, what steps still need to be taken for the repairs to start and when are repairs scheduled to commence.
- (4) What different kinds of assessments were conducted/are being conducted/have been conducted on AU North post the November 2020 riot.
- (5) Were there any recommendations from any of these assessments that AU North be knocked down rather than repaired; if so, will the Government be following through with this recommendation.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander and Maconochie Centre—accommodation  
(Question No 316)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) What are the names of each distinct area of the Alexander Maconochie Centre that contain living spaces for inmates such as AU North and RU1.
- (2) What is the design inmate capacity for each of these areas.
- (3) What is the current operating capacity for each of these areas.
- (4) How many inmates, as of 3 June 2021, are being housed in each of these areas.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainee programs (Question No 317)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a complete list of programs currently available to women at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) Which of these programs are available to women only.
- (3) Can the Minister detail, for each program, whether the program is run by volunteers or professionals.
- (4) Which of these programs have been peer-reviewed.
- (5) Have feedback surveys been conducted at the conclusion of each program; if so, what has been the general feedback provided by the remandees and detainees who have completed the program.
- (6) For each program in the past year, how many women have completed the program and how many women are still currently still undertaking a program.
- (7) How many women are currently remanded or detained at the AMC as at the date this question on notice was published.
- (8) Are there any programs that used to be offered to women at the AMC but are no longer offered; if so, can the Minister provide details on the programs and the period of time when they were offered.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—visitors  
(Question No 318)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

Does the ACT Government provide any support for first-time visitors to the Alexander Maconochie Centre; if so, what supports are available; if not, will the Minister consider making supports available so that first-time visitors have the option of being briefed and guided on what they can expect during a visit.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—alcohol use  
(Question No 319)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Given that in May 2021 a riot occurred at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and that it has been reported that alcohol and drunk inmates were involved, has the Government determined how these inmates brewed the alcohol that was consumed prior/during the riot.
- (2) How many instances of alcohol brewing have been discovered by ACT Corrective Services in the last two financial years.
- (3) What methods did the inmates use to brew this alcohol.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions

on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—sentence management officers  
(Question No 320)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many Sentence Management Officers (SMOs) are employed by ACT Corrective Services.
- (2) What is the full-time equivalent.
- (3) How many SMOs are (a) full-time and (b) part-time.
- (4) How many SMOs work with inmates at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (5) Is there a maximum number of inmates that an SMO can be assigned to; if so, what is that number.
- (6) Are SMOs who work with inmates at the AMC based primarily within the AMC.
- (7) Is there any workspace in the AMC dedicated for use by SMOs.
- (8) Is there a minimum of hours that an SMO must spend in person with an inmate they are assigned to.
- (9) What key indicators is an SMO subject to, to evaluate their performance.
- (10) What key indicators does an SMO use to evaluate the rehabilitation of an inmate they are assigned to.
- (11) Do SMOs have a job duty to ensure inmates have a secure place of residence upon release.
- (12) What are the minimum qualifications or certificates required to be a SMO.

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

I have been advised by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate that the collection of relevant information to assemble responses would require a considerable diversion of resources. Further, I note that in some cases relevant advice has been provided through responses to previous questions from Members (for example, QON 100 from Questions on Notice Paper No 2 provides information regarding the cost of housing a detainee at the AMC), or may be available online (for example, information and advice to those visiting the AMC is available on the ACT Corrective Services website).

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

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### **Children and young people—mental health services (Question No 321)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Families and Community Services, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) Do Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) have any mental health professionals on staff, such as counsellors, psychologists, psychiatrists, etc; if so, how many of each are on staff and to whom do these professionals provide services, for example, children and young people, carers, and/or staff.
- (2) Who (else) provides professional mental health services to children and young people in the care of the director-general, for example, practitioners employed by the ACT Government, private practitioners, ACT-based practitioners, interstate practitioners.
- (3) What processes are used to determine if a child or young person in the care of the director-general requires professional mental health services.
- (4) How do CYPS measure the provision of mental health services to children and young people.
- (5) How many instances of service provision occurred in each of the past five financial years.
- (6) How many children and young people received mental health services in each of the past five financial years.
- (7) What was the total cost of providing professional mental health services to children and young people in the care of the director-general for each of the past five financial years.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

1. Melaleuca Place currently has one Clinical Psychologist and one Provisional Psychologist. They provide clinical services to children under 12 and their support networks (e.g., carers, school, case managers), though the child is the client and the recipient of direct therapeutic intervention.

Frontline Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) workers are employed and classified as Child and Youth Protection Professionals (CYPP). Relevant tertiary qualifications for employment in CYPP classifications are Social Work, Psychology, Social Welfare, Social Science or a related discipline. Therefore, CYPS staff may have relevant tertiary qualifications in mental health professions, however, they are not employed to specifically provide these services to young people.

2. Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) works to manage the behaviours of children and young people who pose a risk to themselves and others through close

collaboration with mental health services and other therapeutic treatment providers. Some of the agencies CYPS staff often utilise are:

- OneLink
- Police Community Youth Club (PCYC)
- Menslink
- Gugan Gulwan
- YWCA Canberra
- Capital Region Community Services
- Barnardos Intensive Intervention Service
- A Gender Agenda
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services
- The Junction Youth Health Service
- Ted Noffs Canberra
- Bunjillwarra (VIC)
- ACT Health through Counselling and Treatment Services
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Specialist Youth Mental Health Outreach (SYMHO) who form part of CAMHS
- Headspace
- Relationships Australia
- The Adolescent Mobile Outreach Service (AMOS)
- Next Step Catholic Care.

3. CYPS supports an individualised therapeutic response for each child or young person in out of home care. This involves a care team that works closely with the child and their family and/or carers, to ensure that appropriate supports are in place.

The Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF), as part of the ACT Together consortia, provides therapeutic specialist support and advice specific to children and young people through the care team and professional meetings to collectively meet the child or young person's needs.

As part of this process, a therapeutic assessor will undertake an evaluation of all information on the child or young person including health screening, observation and analyse the information gathered. The therapeutic assessor presents the information and their assessment to the child or young person's therapeutic care team.

4. CYPS, in collaboration with the care team, will measure the individual child or young person's progress and stability as a result of their engagement with mental health and other services they may be involved with. This is reviewed through various assessments undertaken and through collaborative and consultative efforts of the care team.
5. After careful consideration of the question, and advice provided by my Directorate, I have determined that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would be a major task, requiring a considerable diversion of resources. In this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from the provision of direct services, for the purposes of answering the Member's question.
6. As above.
7. As above.

**Domestic and family violence—government employee training  
(Question No 322)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) What organisation was originally contracted to create the ACT Government domestic violence training for ACT government employees.
- (2) How much was this organisation paid.
- (3) At any point was another organisation contracted to edit parts of the training; if so, what was changed.
- (4) How much was this organisation paid.
- (5) At any point, did the ACT Government edit parts of the training; if so, what was changed.
- (6) When was the creation of the training first completed by the original contractor.
- (7) When was the first training with ACT government employees held.

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

1. The Office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety (OCGFS) took the lead on developing content for the Foundation and Managers training programs, seeking technical support and expertise as needed, including:
  - a) Robyn Miller who was contracted to build the Foundation e-Learn; and
  - b) Diana Labiris was contracted to support content development and create a suite of materials for the face-to-face Managers' training.
  - c) The Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) was engaged to design training content for Tier 1 and Tier 2.
2. Robyn Miller - \$75,000 (GST exclusive).  
Diana Labiris - \$27,300 (GST exclusive).  
DVCS - \$88,909 (GST exclusive).

3. Yes.

The ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training program (training program) content has been amended at various times in response to feedback from both training facilitators and participants, supporting continuous improvement through a try, test, learn approach.

The most significant refinement process occurred in 2019 following the initial testing phase.

Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc was engaged to re-design support material for the face-to-face Managers training.

4. Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc received \$20,000 (GST exclusive) to re-design the support materials.

5. Yes.

Changes to the training has been made at various times and will continue to be as needed to support the training to be more effective in developing the skills and knowledge of the ACT Public Service. The training packages are living products that will be refreshed at different times to reflect new research and evidence and consider emerging community priorities.

OCGFS responded to issues raised by staff and directorates by making the following changes after the training content was initially developed:

a) The *Foundation Training E-learn* was updated with:

- additional content to acknowledge that the content may be difficult or confronting for some staff.

b) The *Foundation Managers' Training* was updated to:

- more strongly incorporate adult learning principles;
- account for the changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Policy; and
- adapt the language to align with the revised Internal Communications Strategy.

6. The Foundation and Managers training content was completed by the OCGFS with the support of the initial contractors in the first half of 2019.

The Tier 1 and 2 content was developed and trialled in 2019, ready for implementation from 2020.

7. June 2019.

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### **Domestic and family violence—government employee training (Question No 323)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many domestic violence response training workshops for ACT government employees have taken place.
- (2) How many of these workshops were for (a) tier one and (b) tier two training.
- (3) Which organisations hosted these workshops and how many workshops did each organisation host.
- (4) How much were each of these organisations paid for the training.

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



The ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Strategy is supported by two training packages, these are:

- the ACT Package for all ACT Government Directorates (except Canberra Health Services (CHS); and
- CHS Package for CHS staff. This training has a greater health worker focus and is based on the existing Victorian Government strategy known as Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence.

1. Between 2019 and 31 May 2021, 44 face-to-face training sessions have taken place in the ACT Package across Foundation, Managers, Tier 1 and Tier 2 training; and 98 face-to-face training sessions have taken place in the CHS Package across Managers, Tier 1 and Tier 2 training (including 4 pilot sessions). This does not represent the full extent of training delivered as some training is predominately delivered through e-Learning modules.

2. As of 31 May 2021:

- a) three ACT Package Tier 1 sessions have been held (two test sessions in 2019-20 and one session since it was made available for all ACT Public Servants who are required to complete these tiers of training from April 2021); and 46 CHS Package Tier 1 sessions have been held (including 4 pilot sessions).
- b) one ACT Package Tier 2 session has been held (one test session in 2019-20, with additional Tier 2 sessions having now commenced in June 2021 since it was made available for all ACT Public Servants who are required to complete these tiers of training from April 2021); and 4 CHS Package Tier 2 sessions have been held.

3. Of the 44 ACT Package training sessions held:

- Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc (DVCS) facilitated 8 (including three test sessions for Tier 1 and 2);
- Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc (WLC) facilitated 28; and
- YWCA Canberra (YWCA) facilitated 8.

Canberra Health Services host the CHS Package face-to-face training sessions in house.

4. Prior to 2021, organisations were paid per ACT Package session on invoice, to the total of:

- DVCS - \$4,500 (GST exclusive);
- WLC - \$24,300 (GST exclusive); and
- YWCA - \$7,200 (GST exclusive).

The three test sessions for Tier 1 and 2 were included in the DVCS contract price to develop the Tier 1 and 2 content.

In early 2021, the Community Services Directorate moved to contractual arrangements that supported upfront payments on contract execution, in response to feedback from the training partners that the 'pay on invoice' arrangement was not supporting them to engage and retain suitably skilled facilitators.

The contracts under this new arrangement support the delivery of training sessions up to 30 September 2021.

The contracts amounts are detailed below:

Organisation	Training Product	Contracted Amount (GST exclusive)
Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc	Face-to-Face Foundation Tier 2	\$200,250
YWCA Canberra	Foundation Managers	\$4,500
Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc	Foundation Managers Tier 1	\$62,000

The CHS Package sessions are not provided by paid organisations.

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### **Domestic and family violence—government employee training (Question No 324)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many ACT government employees received either tier one or tier two domestic violence response training in (a) 2016-2017, (b) 2017-2018, (c) 2018-2019, (d) 2019-2020 and (e) 2020-2021 year to date.
- (2) What percentage did this number represent out of all ACT government employees, in each of the years listed in part (1).
- (3) How many ACT government employees in total have receiving either tier one or tier two training since the initiative began.
- (4) What percentage does this number represent out of all ACT government employees.

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

The ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Strategy is supported by two training packages, these are:

- the ACT Package - for all ACT Government Directorates (except Canberra Health Services); and
- the Canberra Health Services (CHS) Package - for CHS staff. This training has a greater health worker focus and is based on the existing Victorian Government strategy known as Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence.

Not all ACT Public Servants are required to complete Tier 1 and 2 training under these two training packages.

The data reflected below does not represent the full extent of training delivered as some of the full training program is predominately delivered through e-Learning modules i.e. Foundation and Managers.

1. The below responses refer to the ACT Package and are accurate as of 31 May 2021:

Year	Tier 1 (Face-to-Face)	Tier 2 (Face-to-Face)	Tier 1 and 2 Percentage
2016-17	Nil, Training Strategy was endorsed in 2019. The initial 2016-17 funding was rolled over into 2018-19.		Not applicable
2017-18	Nil, as above		Not applicable
2018-19	Nil, Tier 1 and 2 content being developed.		Not applicable
2019-20	40 participants were engaged in trialling and testing of Tier 1.	19 participants were engaged in trialling and testing Tier 2.	0.28%
	Tier 1 and 2 training was due to be implemented in 2020. Implementation was paused due to COVID-19 and the inability to conduct face-to-face training safely.		
2020-21	Face-to-Face training recommenced in April 2021. Figures below represent participant numbers since the training recommenced.		
	11 participants <i>(12 have completed the training in 2020-21, however 1 staff member had already completed the training in 2019-20 and was reflected in the 2019-20 participant numbers above)</i>	0	0.05%

The below responses refer to the CHS Package and are accurate as of 31 May 2021:

Year	Tier 1 (Face-to-Face)	Tier 2 (Face-to-Face)	Tier 1 and 2 Percentage
2016-17	Nil, Training Strategy was endorsed in 2019. The initial 2016-17 funding was rolled over into 2018-19.		Not applicable
2017-18	Nil, as above		Not applicable
2018-19	Strengthening Hospital Response to Family Violence Pilot undertaken in 2019.  36 CHS participants completed Tier 1 pilot training over 4 sessions.	0 participants	0.01%
2019-20	0 participants were engaged in trialling and testing of Tier 1 ACT Package.	3 CHS participants were engaged in trialling and testing Tier 2 with other ACT Public Service employees noted under the ACT Package.	0.01%
	Tier 1 and 2 training was due to be implemented in 2020. Implementation was paused due to COVID-19 and the inability to conduct face-to-face training safely.  Tier 1 and 2 Face-to-Face training commenced in October 2020.		

2020-21	Tier 1 and 2 Face-to-Face training commenced in October 2020. Figures below represent participant numbers since the training recommenced.		
	318 participants	46 participants	1.73%

2. Percentages are included in the tables above.

Recognising that not all ACT government employees are required to complete Tier 1 and 2 training, a percentage of completion across all ACT Government employees is not a reliable indicator of implementation. For instance, some individual directorates do not have any staff required to complete Tier 1 or 2, hence there is not an expectation to reach 100 percent completion across ACT government for Tier 1 or 2.

The 12 ACT government employees who completed ACT Package Tier 1 represents 92 percent of the staff within that individual Directorate who are required to complete that level of training during 2020-21.

3. ACT Package: 59 attendees at Tier 1 and 2 testing in 2019-20, plus 11 Tier 1 completions in 2020-21, results in a total of 70 ACT government employees.

CHS Package: The four pilot sessions in 2018-19 engaged 36 participants, this number combined with the 3 attendees at Tier 2 testing in 2019-20, and the 364 Tier 1 and 2 completions in 2020-21, results in a total of 403 ACT government employees.

4. ACT Package: This number represents approximately 0.33 percent.

CHS Package: This number represents approximately 1.92 percent.

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### **Domestic and family violence—Family Safety Hub (Question No 325)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many private consultants did the Family Safety Hub contract in (a) 2016-2017, (b) 2017-2018, (c) 2018-2019, (d) 2019-2020 and (e) 2020-2021 year to date.
- (2) For what purposes were the consultants, listed in part (1), hired.
- (3) How much were each of the consultants, listed in part (1), paid.

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

- (1) (a) 1
- (b) 3
- (c) 6
- (d) 2
- (e) 0

(2) See table below.

(3) See table below.

Financial years	Company	Project deliverables	Contract price (excluding GST)
Across 2016-2017 and 2017-2018	ThinkPlace	Family Safety Hub development	\$173,778.10
2017-2018	Danny O'Neill	Family Safety Hub development	\$3,600.00
2017-2018	Reason Group	Initial planning for the Family Safety Hub	\$22,000.00
Across 2017-2018 and 2018-2019	Reason Group	Design of the Family Safety Hub architecture	\$180,454.54
Across 2017-2018 and 2018-2019	Reason Group	Projects and research service	\$90,890.00
Across 2017-2018 and 2018-2019	ThinkPlace	Reponses for pregnant women and new parents at risk of domestic and family violence	\$77,417.27
2018-2019	Reason Group	Family Safety Hub evaluation framework	\$158,181.82
2018-2019	Health Justice Australia	Reponses for pregnant women and new parents at risk of domestic and family violence	\$20,930.10
2018-2019	ThinkPlace	Reponses for pregnant women and new parents at risk of domestic and family violence	\$22,690.91
2018-2019	Mentally Friendly (now Future Friendly)	Prevention of housing and financial crisis	\$25,809.09
2018-2019	Mentally Friendly (now Future Friendly)	Prevention of housing and financial crisis	\$73,253.91
2018-2019	Misha Kaur	Research and other support for the Family Safety Hub	\$26,131.15
Across 2018-2019 And 2019-2020	Cinden Lester	Communications support for the Family Safety Hub	\$17,920.00
2019-2020	Mentally Friendly (now Future Friendly)	Prevention of housing and financial crisis	\$51,040.29

### **Domestic and family violence—government employee training (Question No 326)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many ACT government staff in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) have received training in responding to family violence.
- (2) How many received the (a) tier one and (b) tier two training.
- (3) What percentage of CMTEDD staff have received either tier one or two training.
- (4) Which organisation is taking charge of providing the training and workshops to CMTEDD.
- (5) How many ACT government staff in the Community Services Directorate (CSD) have received training in responding to family violence.
- (6) How many received the (a) tier one and (b) tier two training.

- (7) What percentage of CSD staff have received either tier one or two training.
- (8) Which organisation is taking charge of providing the training and workshops to CSD.
- (9) How many ACT government staff in the Education Directorate have received training in responding to family violence.
- (10) How many received the (a) tier one and (b) tier two training.
- (11) What percentage of Education Directorate staff have received either tier one or two training.
- (12) Which organisation is taking charge of providing the training and workshops to the Education Directorate.
- (13) How many ACT government staff in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) have received training in responding to family violence.
- (14) How many received the (a) tier one and (b) tier two training.
- (15) What percentage of EPSDD staff have received either tier one or two training.
- (16) Which organisation is taking charge of providing the training and workshops to EPSDD.
- (17) How many ACT government staff in the Health Directorate have received training in responding to family violence.
- (18) How many received the (a) tier one and (b) tier two training.
- (19) What percentage of Health Directorate staff have received either tier one or two training.
- (20) Which organisation is taking charge of providing the training and workshops to the Health Directorate.
- (21) How many ACT government staff in the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCSD) have received training in responding to family violence.
- (22) How many received the (a) tier one and (b) tier two training.
- (23) What percentage of TCCSD staff have received either tier one or two training.
- (24) Which organisation is taking charge of providing the training and workshops to TCCSD.
- (25) Has there been any reluctance on the part of senior directorate management to roll out this training.

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

I am advised by the relevant Directorates that the number of attendees at domestic and family violence training is:

1. As of 31 May 2021, a total of 812 ACT government employees have engaged with the Foundation training available under the ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Program (training program) through CMTEDD.

A total of 356 CMTEDD employees have completed the Managers training.

2. Not applicable. There are no staff within CMTEDD that are required to complete Tier 1 or 2 training. However, four CMTEDD employees did support the development of the training packages by participating in the Tier 1 testing sessions.

3. Not applicable.

4. Directorates liaise directly with the training partners delivering the face-to-face training programs and are able to determine which partner is best able to meet their needs for the individual training sessions. To date, CMTEDD has engaged the Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc to deliver their face-to-face training programs.

5. As of 31 May 2021, a total of 338 ACT government employees have engaged with the Foundation training available under the ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Program (training program) through CSD.

A total of 82 CSD employees have completed the Managers training.

6. As of 31 May 2021:
  - a) 14 have completed Tier 1; and
  - b) 7 have completed Tier 2.

7. As of 31 May 2021, 0.1 percent have completed Tier 1 or 2.  
Tier 1 and 2 training sessions have recommenced in CSD from June 2021.

8. Directorates liaise directly with the training partners delivering the face-to-face training programs and are able to determine which partner is best able to meet their needs for the individual training sessions. To date, CSD has engaged the Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc to deliver their Tier 1 training program, and Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc to deliver Tier 2 training.

9. As of 31 May 2021, a total of 33 ACT government employees have engaged with the Foundation training available under the ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Program (training program) through the Education Directorate (EDU).

A total of 49 EDU employees have completed the Managers training.

10. As of 31 May 2021:
  - a) 4 have completed Tier 1; and
  - b) 6 have completed Tier 2.

11. As of 31 May 2021, 0.05 percent have completed Tier 1 or 2 training.

12. Directorates liaise directly with the training partners delivering the face-to-face training programs and are able to determine which partner is best able to meet their needs for the individual training sessions.

The EDU is currently working in partnership with both the Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc and Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc to develop a training schedule for Tier 1 and 2 that will meet the needs of staff working in the school environment.

13. As of 31 May 2021, a total of 178 ACT government employees have engaged with the Foundation training available under the ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Program (training program) through EPSDD.

A total of 140 EPSDD employees have completed the Managers training.

14. As of 31 May 2021:
- a) 3 have completed Tier 1
  - b) Not applicable.

15. As of 31 May 2021, 0.01 percent have completed Tier 1.

Tier 1 and 2 training was due to be implemented in 2020. Implementation was paused due to COVID-19 and the inability to conduct face-to-face training safely. Face-to-Face training recommenced in April 2021. Directorates are working with the training partners to develop a training schedule for the implementation of Tiers 1 and 2 training.

16. Directorates liaise directly with the training partners delivering the face-to-face training programs and are able to determine which partner is best able to meet their needs for the individual training sessions. To date, EPSDD has predominately engaged the YWCA Canberra to deliver face-to-face Managers training.

17. As of 31 May 2021, a total of 174 ACT government employees have engaged with the Foundation training available under the ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Program (training program) through the Health Directorate (HD).

A total of 58 HD employees have completed the Managers training.

18. As of 31 May 2021:
- a) 14 participants have completed the Tier 1 training:
    - i. 12 participants have completed the Tier 1 training since it recommenced in 2021; and
    - ii. 3 participants completed the Tier 1 training in 2019 when it was being tested. 1 of these participants completed the training in both 2019 and 2021 and has only been counted once in the overall total of 14.
  - b) 1 participant has completed Tier 2.

19. As of 31 May 2021, 0.07 percent have completed Tier 1 or 2.

20. Directorates liaise directly with the training partners delivering the face-to-face training programs and are able to determine which partner is best able to meet their needs for the individual training sessions. To date, HD has engaged the Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc to deliver their face-to-face training programs.

21. As of 31 May 2021, a total of 254 ACT government employees have engaged with the Foundation training (either by face-to-face or eLearning modules) available under the ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Program (training program) through TCCSD.



A total of 31 TCCSD employees have completed the Managers training.

22. As of 31 May 2021:

- a) 4 have completed Tier 1
- b) Not applicable

23. As of 31 May 2021, 0.02 percent have completed Tier 1.

Tier 1 and 2 training was due to be implemented in 2020. Implementation was paused due to COVID-19 and the inability to conduct face-to-face training safely. Face-to-face training recommenced in April 2021. Directorates are working with the training partners to develop a training schedule for the implementation of Tiers 1 and 2 training.

24. Directorates liaise directly with the training partners delivering the face-to-face training programs and are able to determine which partner is best able to meet their needs for the individual training sessions. To date, TCCSD has engaged Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc to deliver the face-to-face Foundation training and the Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc to deliver face-to-face Managers training.

25. No. The implementation of the training program was impacted by COVID-19, as have many face-to-face training programs. Directorates are working together to promote the training program and support team members to engage with the training. As face-to-face training has recommenced, completion numbers will continue to increase.

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### **Domestic and family violence—government employee training providers (Question No 327)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

- (1) How many different organisations have been contracted to provide training to ACT government employees in domestic violence response.
- (2) What are the names of these organisations.
- (3) How much is each organisation being paid for their services.

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

1. Three community partners have been contracted to deliver the face-to-face and webinar training sessions for ACT government employees under the ACT Government Domestic and Family Violence Training Program in 2020-21.
2. These organisations are:
  - Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc;
  - YWCA Canberra; and
  - Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc
3. Contracts were executed with the three community partners in 2020-21. The contract amounts are:

Organisation	Training Product	Contracted Amount (GST exclusive)
Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc	Face-to-Face Foundation Tier 2	\$200,250
YWCA Canberra	Foundation Managers	\$4,500
Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region Inc	Foundation Managers Tier 1	\$62,000

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### **Roads—traffic management (Question No 328)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 June 2021:

Does the Government have any plans to build a roundabout at the intersection of Verbrugghen and Copland Drive; if so, when does the Government intend to start the process of building/designing this roundabout.

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

The roundabout is currently under construction and is expected to be completed during 2021.

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### **Roads—roadworks noise (Question No 329)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) How many roadworks are underway in the electorate of Yerrabi and can the Minister provide details and locations.
- (2) How many roadworks are taking place at night time and can the Minister give details, such as what time the work occurs and where these roadworks are happening.
- (3) Why do some road work happen at night and how is it decided when the work is done.
- (4) How much noise does night time roadworks produce.
- (5) How much noise do trucks coming to and from the roadwork sites make.
- (6) What are the laws/regulations about roadwork noise, during the day and at night.
- (7) What are the laws/regulations for trucks using roads close to houses.
- (8) Are trucks prevented from using some roads and can the Minister provide details.
- (9) What are the penalties and how many truck drivers have been penalised.

- (10) How many resident complaints have been made about night-time roadworks each year since 2015 and what action has been taken with each incident.
- (11) How many complaints have there been since the start of 2021 about trucks leaving roadwork sites in Mitchell and passing residential suburbs during the night.
- (12) How many complaints have been made about trucks passing residential areas at night since the start of 2021.

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

- (1) The answer to Questions 1 and 2 varies continuously, as roadworks are completed and new roadworks are planned, ranging from reactive pothole repairs to planned pavement rehabilitation.

Requests for roadworks are continually received and undertaken in accordance with reactive and planned programs. The type and locations of works vary regularly.

- (2) Refer to [www.cityservices.act.gov.au](http://www.cityservices.act.gov.au) for approved roadworks and road closures.

- (3) The EPA Noise Environment Protection Policy states that the construction and maintenance of roads is central to the economic and social well-being of the community. The Regulation restricts the times at which roadworks can take place to limit noise nuisance while not unduly affecting traffic.

No time restrictions are placed on the construction and maintenance of major roads to enable work to take place during periods of low traffic flows. For roads other than major roads, the noise made during construction or maintenance may only exceed the noise standard between 7am and 8pm on Monday to Saturday and 8am and 8pm on Sunday and public holidays.

Officers will consider information such as the hierarchy of the road, traffic records, type and duration of the works to determine whether night-time works are appropriate.

- (4) A specific noise level cannot be provided, as noise levels will vary depending upon the type of activities being undertaken and plant/machinery being used. For example, road surface patching and linemarking would generate low level noise, whilst full pavement rehabilitation work would generate higher noise levels.
- (5) As noted above, a specific noise level cannot be provided as the noise generated depends on the type of vehicles and plant being used and the site conditions.
- (6) Noise standards under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* have been set to protect the acoustic environmental value, appropriate for the range of land zones designated under the Territory Plan. Noise standards are the maximum level of noise which may be emitted by an activity, as measured at the compliance point. They are set in Table 2.2 of Schedule 2 of the Regulation.

The EPA Noise Environment Protection Policy provides advice on what is, and what isn't acceptable for differing circumstances. For instance, and as mentioned in (3) above, for road maintenance operations no time restrictions are placed on the construction and maintenance of major roads to enable work to take place during

periods of low traffic flows. For roads other than major roads, the noise made during construction or maintenance may only exceed the noise standard between 7am and 8pm on Monday to Saturday and 8am and 8pm on Sunday and public holidays.

However, the maintenance of a utility service such as a burst water pipe is considered essential to the well-being of the community. No time restrictions are placed on the maintenance of a utility service to enable work to take place as required which would include any associated roadworks.

- (7) Trucks need to be properly registered and road worthy and obeying the road rules, then they can operate on all road networks including roads close to houses.
- (8) General Access Vehicles (not exceeding 42.50 tonne mass, 19.00m length, 2.50m wide and 4.30m height) are able to access all roads unless otherwise signposted with a truck prohibited sign, or a mass limited sign on a bridge. Restricted Access Vehicles exceeding above mass and dimension limits are approved to operate on specific approved routes: <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/notices-and-permit-based-schemes/national-notices>
- (9) Enforcement and compliance for heavy vehicles is carried out by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator compliance team. TCCS does not have details of infringements being issued.
- (10) Categorisation of complaints to this level of specificity is not possible. Access Canberra was unable to identify any complaints relating to night-time road works.
- (11) Access Canberra was unable to identify any complaints relating to night-time heavy vehicle noise from Mitchell roadworks sites since the beginning of 2021.
- (12) Categorisation of complaints to this level of specificity is not possible. Access Canberra were unable to identify any complaints relating to trucks passing residential areas at night since the beginning of 2021.

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### **Waste—green waste services (Question No 330)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) Is the Government planning to introduce a household Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service in the ACT; if so, can the Minister provide details of what options the Government is considering.
- (2) What work is being done about introducing a scheme and what is the timeline.
- (3) Can the Minister provide details on what consultation has been done or is planned and with whom.
- (4) Can the Minister provide details on whether consultants have been engaged and the costs of those consultants.

- (5) Can the Minister provide details on whether a trial is being investigated and how (a) that would work and (b) many households would be involved.
- (6) Can the Minister provide details on whether the Government is investigating other FOGO schemes (in other states or local councils for example) and how they operate.
- (7) What would be the benefits of a FOGO collection service.
- (8) What information does the Government have about whether Canberrans want and support a FOGO collection scheme.

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

- (1) Appendix 3 of the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly states that a household food organics waste collection service will be provided by 2023, with a trial to take place in Belconnen in 2021. Further details will be announced by the Government.
- (2) Feasibility and planning work is being undertaken to roll out the PAGA commitment.
- (3) The Government consulted with the public on the Waste Feasibility Study. The Government is in constant contact with other state, territory and commonwealth governments, and industry, about improving waste collection services. Details will be announced by the Government on implementing Government initiatives.
- (4) The Territory has entered into a contract with ARUP Australia Pty Ltd to undertake strategic waste infrastructure planning. This contract includes consideration of FOGO infrastructure and service delivery as part of the ACT's future waste services mix, in line with public ACT Government commitments. The public text version of this agreement can be viewed on the Tenders ACT Contract Register at <https://tenders.act.gov.au/contract/view?id=188260>
- (5) The PAGA outlines that a trial will take place in Belconnen in 2021. Further details will be announced by the Government.
- (6) The Government has consulted across several jurisdictions and agencies for advice and lessons learned. These include Albury City, Bega, Brisbane City, City of Sydney, Fraser Coast Regional, Penrith City, Randwick City and the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

The Government is participating with inter-government networks including the NSW EPA, and Department of Agriculture, Waste and Environment. The Government is communicating with other jurisdictions that are currently investigating the use of FOGO schemes and how they operate, or those other jurisdictions that already have fully operating FOGO facilities. The ACT Government approach will also be informed by the Food and Garden Organics Best Practice Collection Manual.

- (7) A household FOGO collection service is estimated to divert up to 40,000 tonnes per year of organics waste from landfill, reducing methane and other greenhouse gas emissions by around 73,000 tonnes of Co2-e. FOGO also generates economic benefits through production and sale of beneficial reuse products and will extend the life of the Mugga Lane landfill.

- (8) Introducing a FOGO collection service was an ACT Labor Election Commitment taken to the people at the 2020 ACT Election. Information on the aim and benefits of FOGO is included in the ACT Waste Feasibility Study, National Waste Policy Action Plan and the National Food Waste Strategy.

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**Municipal services—community gardens**  
**(Question No 331)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021 (*redirected to the minister for Housing and Suburban Development*):

- (1) Prior to the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) conducting consultation, including Throsby Mingle, on the community gardens proposal, how many request from the Throsby Community were received by the SLA for the establishment of a community garden.
- (2) What was the full extent of the consultation undertaken by the SLA in relation to the proposed community gardens.
- (3) Has the SLA considered alternate locations for the community gardens.
- (4) Has any additional consultation taken place to address concerns from the community.
- (5) What surveys have been undertaken to assess the impacts of storm water flooding of the chosen site and the impact of safety on the individuals that may use the site, given that several Throsby residents have advised that the current proposed location of the community gardens is subject to flooding, is in the pathway of a natural river flow and has had significant amounts of water and flooding over the past 18 months.
- (6) Has the SLA contacted any other agencies about whether any changes to the current waterflow will contravene existing rules that prevent the blocking and interference on the natural flow of water in the ACT.
- (7) Has the SLA thoroughly assessed the potential for adverse effects from flooding of a developed community gardens site as proposed.
- (8) What specific parking has been included for the proposed community garden.
- (9) Will a reassessment of the traffic and parking report for the Learning Centre be done if the proposed community gardens site goes ahead.
- (10) What safety measures will be considered for children and others in a busy suburban area.

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

- (1) No applications for a community garden in Throsby have been received by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS). The proposal was developed in response to requests from the broader Gungahlin community and the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) Mingle team's experience in Throsby and other Gungahlin suburbs. The SLA does not have data on requests aggregated by suburb.

- (2) A survey on YourSay website took place in June and July 2020 and a community workshop on 13 February 2021.  
<https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/throsby-community-garden>
- (3) The SLA has not identified any alternate locations in Throsby. The Throsby community garden proposal was progressed as a possible partnership with the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust.
- (4) As the community has opposed the proposed location, the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust is not prioritising development of this site. The SLA does not intend to undertake further consultation around a proposed community garden adjacent to the Learning Centre in Throsby. Source: <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/throsby-community-garden>
- (5) Hydrological studies were completed to support water sensitive urban design outcomes for the Throsby Estate Development Application. Preliminary due diligence to support community engagement activities identified the location may be feasible with some localised mitigation measures. Had the project progressed, detailed design would have considered cost, constructability and operational issues in assessing viability.
- (6) TCCS advised that it would consider any risk associated with waterflow on the site in any licencing application.
- (7) No. This was recommended in the consultation as the next step if the project was to progress.
- (8) Parking was to be accommodated in the Learning Centre facility.
- (9) At this stage the project is not progressing.
- (10) At this stage the project is not progressing. However, in making a decision in relation to a public land use licence Community Garden application, TCCS requires the following:
  - Site management plan;
  - Risk management plan, identifying public safety requirements for the area;
  - Traffic management plan;
  - Sediment/pollution control plan;
  - Public liability insurance, and evidence to prove the organisers are a registered association; and
  - Proof of Community consultation, which may include a letter box drop to surrounding properties, on site signage advertising the intended use of the site, and proof of consultation with the local community association/s.

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### **Animals—ACT Cat Plan 2021-2031 (Question No 332)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment*):

- (1) What consultation has the ACT Government had with Canberra Street Cat Alliance (CSCA) regarding the ACT Cat Plan 2021-31.

(2) Will the CSCA be able continue their operations of trapping, desexing and releasing homeless cats under the ACT Cat Plan 2021-31.

(3) How many cats does the ACT estimate it will contain with the ACT Cat Plan 2021-31.

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

(1) The Canberra Street Cat Alliance (CSCA) provided a response to the draft cat plan via YourSay. Domestic Animal Services maintains an informal relationship at an operational level with CSCA and will continue to work with them throughout the implementation of the ACT Cat Plan 2021-31.

There is strong public commitment in the plan to work with groups including the CSCA over the five years of implementation. Action 8 of the implementation plan states "Work with animal care and rescue organisations to manage semi-owned and unowned cats in public places, through trap, de-sex and adopt activities"

(2) Cats can be trapped and desexed but not released, releasing cats would be inconsistent with the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* and inconsistent with the policy intention of the strategy.

(3) The intention is to contain all owned cats. The numbers are not known at this point in time until the licencing regime is established.

### **Environment—Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (Question No 333)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021 (*redirection to the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction*):

(1) What research informed the government's policies on which appliances would qualify for assistance, rebates, and subsidies in households under the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS).

(2) What consultation did the government do with trades that offer energy saving services but are not offered on the EEIS.

(3) What consultation did the government do with households about energy saving services they would like to be covered by assistance, rebates or subsidies from the EEIS.

(4) How much funding has the EEIS received since 2016.

(5) Why does the scheme not cover other energy efficient solutions such as double-glazed glass.

(6) Does the government plan to include double-glazed glass in the EEIS.

(7) Can households receive rebates or subsidies on double-glazed windows through a different government scheme; if so, how; if not, why not.



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

- (1) The EEIS requires electricity retailers to make energy savings in households and small-to-medium businesses. The scheme aims to encourage the efficient use of energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use, reduce energy costs and assist priority households to reduce energy use and associated costs. Electricity retailers achieve this by either undertaking eligible activities that deliver energy efficient appliance upgrades, or by making a financial contribution to the scheme.

Research and consultation with industry, relevant local and interstate government agencies, electricity retailers, consumer advocacy groups and community not-for-profit organisations have gone into the development of EEIS approved activities, and the types and minimum energy performance standards of associated products.

Electricity retailers may select approved products (or appliances) from the EEIS Register of Products. This Register draws on product registers developed and maintained under the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program, NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS), and the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012 (Cth)* (GEMS) to ensure they comply with required minimum performance standards and testing criteria. If a product is suspended by GEMS, the VEU or ESS schemes then that product is no longer eligible to be used in the EEIS. This 'harmonisation' approach is considered a best practice approach to ensuring the best product selection options for electricity retailers obligated under the scheme.

Electricity retailers do not receive ACT Government funding to deliver EEIS energy savings products or activities. The scheme sets the obligation on the retailers to make energy savings, via targets based on a percentage of their electricity sales. The scheme legislates what energy saving activities retailers may undertake and the conditions under which they must conduct activities and report to the Government. The terms and conditions of the product offers made to consumers are not prescribed by the scheme. Rebates and discounts that are offered to consumers are entirely a business decision of the electricity retailer.

- (2) Industry has been consulted during phases of activity development or review throughout the life of the scheme. A review of the EEIS scheme was conducted in 2018, during which industry, trades and advocacy groups were consulted on scheme design and efficacy. Subsequent to the review, in 2019, a range of further consultations were conducted specifically on proposals for a 10-year extension, which also sought views on whether and how to expand the energy savings activities delivered under the EEIS and key priorities for new eligible activities. These consultations were delivered through a stakeholder forum, online surveys, and public submissions. Reports on the results of consultations on a range of matters pertaining to the operation of the scheme including activity development, are available online at: <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/smarter-use-of-energy/energy-efficiency-improvement-scheme/publications>.
- (3) Consultation with scheme participants formed part of the 2018 review. This included direct consultation through interviews, focus groups and workshops with stakeholders to discuss the operation of the EEIS, including available activities. The review also considered post-implementation surveys administered to both households and businesses during the period 2013-2018. Annual customer satisfaction surveys continue to be delivered as part of the compliance and auditing functions of the EEIS.

The ACT Government has jointly funded a grant with Energy Consumers Australia since 2016 to establish a part-time energy consumer advocacy position in the ACT which is delivered by the ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS). This position works with the ACT Energy Policy Consortium to advocate for ACT energy consumers including households, non-government organisations and small businesses. Members of the Consortium have included: ACTCOSS, Care Financial Counselling Service (CFCs), Conservation Council ACT Region, SEE-Change, and the Canberra Business Chamber. Meetings are held bi-monthly with representatives of the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. This forum provides an ongoing opportunity to seek input energy saving services relevant to households and small business.

- (4) The EEIS does not receive Government funding from tax revenue. The scheme is self-funding. Electricity retailers are classified into two groups based on volume of electricity sales and customer numbers, each with a different set of obligations for participating in the scheme. Smaller 'Tier 2' retailers can either undertake eligible energy savings activities or discharge their obligations through an Energy Savings Contribution (ESC) fee equal to the estimated cost of participation of a Tier 1 retailer. To date, all smaller retailers have chosen to make an ESC, rather than deliver eligible activities.

The total revenue from energy savings contributions by compliance year (calendar year) under the scheme since 2016 is directly below.

- 2016: \$2.762 million
- 2017: \$2.163 million
- 2018: \$2.241 million
- 2019: \$2.57 million
- 2020: \$2.608 million

The *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012* (the Act) requires that all revenue raised as a result of the EEIS be used for purposes that are consistent with the Objects of the Act<sup>1</sup>, including administration of the scheme and ACT Government delivered energy efficiency programs/initiatives.

- (5) There is a distinction between the total list of energy efficiency solutions (activities) that are eligible for delivery under the scheme and listed activities the electricity retailers will choose to offer to consumers. There are 25 eligible activities that are outlined in the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Eligible Activities) Determination 2020 (No 2)* (the Determination). An electricity retailer can choose the range of eligible activities they wish to undertake from the Determination, to meet their energy savings obligations in any compliance year. This means that only a portion of eligible activities might be delivered in any year.

Double-glazing and secondary-glazing are eligible energy efficiency upgrade activities under the scheme, through the below approved activities:

- "Install a thermally efficient window", which captures the installation of high thermal performance glazing or glazed products in a window opening or openings in an external wall of a conditioned zone to replace existing single glazed window/s that does not meet the minimum thermal performance requirements in section 1.4.3, so that the glazing fills the entire window opening or openings.

- “Retrofit thermally efficient glazing”, which captures the installation of a product that improves the thermal efficiency of a window to one or more single glazed windows in an external wall of a conditioned zone where the existing glazing does not meet the minimum thermal performance requirements prescribed in section 1.5.3 of the determination, so that the glazing product covers all panes of the window unit or units.

Under the Act, retailers are limited in the cost of the scheme that can be passed through to consumers in their energy bills. This incentivises activities that will produce the highest energy savings for the lowest cost. Retailers re-evaluate their activities to ensure they can meet the energy savings target based upon consumer demand, energy savings and cost to implement.

To date, despite being an approved eligible activity, double glazing has not been delivered by any electricity retailer under the scheme.

- (6) Double-glazing is an eligible activity under the EEIS. It is up to electricity retailers to determine which activities they deliver to meet their obligations under the EEIS.
- (7) Double-glazing is not currently available through any other energy efficiency programs offered by the ACT Government.

The ACT has similar eligible activities as the VEU, which currently has two providers offering double glazing across the entire State, whereas other activities (such as heating, hot water, lighting) has several providers in each region. This is reflective that other energy efficiency improvements, such as draught proofing, insulation, or installing an efficient heating and cooling system or hot water heat pump, generally have a better return on investment in reduced energy costs than double-glazing.

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<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/smarter-use-of-energy/energy-efficiency-improvement-scheme/faqs>

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## **Budget—gender equity (Question No 334)**

**Ms Clay** asked the Minister for Women, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) Given that the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement requires that Government apply a gendered lens to policy and program development through gender responsive budgeting and that the ACT Women’s Budget Statement for 2020-21 is at the end of the Budget, when will we see an embedded gender lens applied to each line item of the Budget.
- (2) Does the Office of Women have enough resources to work with all directorates to ensure that the whole ACT Budget has a gender lens.
- (3) Do the directorates have enough support to progress gender lens budgeting in addition to business as usual.
- (4) What methodology is the ACT government using to apply the gender lens to the Budget.

- (5) Is the Economy and Gender and Economic Equality Committee putting a gender lens on policy, programs and the Budget, given that they examine the Budget after it's published.

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

- (1) Applying gendered lens to policy and program development through gender responsive budgeting is part of the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement as a policy priority, subject to budget considerations. This commitment will be considered as part of the 2021-22 and future budget processes.

The Women's Budget Statement was an action arising from the *First Action Plan 2016-2019* of ACT Women's Plan 2016-2020. Women's Budget Statements have been released for the previous two budgets.

Under the *Second Action Plan 2020-2022* (SAP) of the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026*, Community Services Directorate (CSD) is leading work on gender responsive budgeting, supported by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD), especially in relation to ACT Government Cabinet and Budget processes. The SAP Action commits to developing materials for all ACT Government Directorates on gender analysis and gender responsive budgeting processes.

- (2) As part of the SAP Action, CSD is working to ensure gender is considered as part of the decision making process and are working to provide additional supports to Directorates to include gender as a consideration in policy and program development across the ACT Government.

Progress against this action is reported each year as part of SAP reporting. CSD is consulting on this project with CMTEDD to ensure this process aligns with work on the Wellbeing Framework and the budget process through Treasury.

- (3) Under the First Action Plan, CSD developed a Gender Impact Assessment tool which remains available for all ACT Government Directorates to assist in applying a gender lens to new and existing programs and policies. The materials which will be developed as part of the SAP will also assist Directorates.
- (4) Work to determine the methodology ACT Government will use to apply a gender lens to the budget is ongoing.
- (5) The Economy and Gender and Economic Equality (EGEE) Committee has responsibility for examining the annual budget as it relates to the areas of responsibility assigned to it as per the Assembly Resolution establishing general purpose standing committees. The EGEE Committee does not examine the Budget in entirety only those appropriation units relevant to the areas of responsibility as assigned.

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## **Health—midwifery services (Question No 335)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) What is the current total number of FTE midwives available for pre and postnatal care at Calvary Hospital and The Canberra Hospital.
- (2) How many women are on a waiting list to see a midwife.
- (3) For the last three financial years (a) how many pre and postnatal appointments were made with midwives each year, (b) how many births took place at Calvary and TCH each year, and (c) how many births took place at Calvary and TCH with no midwife present each year.
- (4) What are the alternative services available for expectant mothers who are unable to access midwife care and how often were each accessed this last financial year?

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The total number of FTE midwives at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce is 35.85 This figure excludes casual staff.

The total number of FTE midwives at Canberra Health Services is 169.23. This figure excludes casual staff.

- (2) There are 125 women waiting to see a midwife at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, this includes women that have an appointment scheduled and women who are waiting for an appointment to be scheduled. While CHS records show that there were 533 women on the Continuity of Midwifery Care waiting list from 1 Jan 2021 - 30 June 2021, 503 of these women were already receiving care within the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children through a different model of care, with only 30 women awaiting the first visit with a care provider, due to being in early gestation.

Maternity Services at CHS provides a number of pregnancy care options, including General Practitioner Shared Care, Continuity of Midwifery Care, Maternity team Care, Fetal Medicine Unit Care and Specialist Team Care. Midwives support women during their pregnancy, labour, birth and postnatal care, working collaboratively with medical and allied health staff as required.

- (3) (a) Pre- and postnatal appointments with midwives

<b>Calvary Public Hospital Bruce</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>Total Appointments</b>	18,635	19,972	20,285

Total includes pre- and postnatal booked appointments and occasions of service with Midwives

<b>Canberra Health Services</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>Total Appointments</b>	34,509	40,960	44,513

Total includes pre- and postnatal booked appointments and occasions of service with Midwives

(b)

<b>Calvary Public Hospital Bruce</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21 (to Quarter 3)</b>
Total births	1,619	1,639	1,349
<b>Canberra Health Services</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21 (to Quarter 3)</b>
Total births	3,568	3,589	2,542

- (c) While specific data for this question is not collected all births at CHS and CPHB involve midwifery support. It is possible that women could birth unexpectedly outside the Maternity Department before the midwife is in attendance. It is important to note that midwives will endeavour to attend as soon as possible.
- (4) Both Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and Centenary Hospital for Women and Children offer Midwifery Led Continuity of Care. Around 30% of women are in this model in the ACT public system. The remainder of women are cared for through the maternity system where they see a different care provider (including midwives) during their antenatal, labour/birth and postnatal care. Other options of care include:
- GP Shared Care – pregnancy care is shared between the hospital and a GP. Through this model, most appointments will be with the GP, with some appointments with a midwife at the hospital.
  - The Fetal Medicine Unit – care is provided for women with complex or high-risk pregnancies who require specialised care either for themselves or their baby. Care is provided by specialised doctors, sonographers and a designated midwife.
  - Specialist Team Care – care is provided by a team of midwives, medical staff and allied health professionals in a hospital. For example, this may include Diabetes Clinic, Twins Clinic, Young Mums, Pregnancy Enhancement Program (PEP) for Vulnerable Women and the Bump Clinic (High BMI).
  - Private maternity services – people can choose to see a private obstetrician for their pregnancy care. Private midwifery services are also available across the ACT, noting that the Private Indemnity Insurance (PII) ends in December this year with no suitable PII product yet identified by the Commonwealth. Midwives or doctors may consult obstetricians in the event of complications.
  - Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community services – Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, or those who are pregnant with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child, can choose to receive care through this service, or Canberra's public or private maternity system.

All women who access CHS and CPHB maternity services will have access to midwifery input. Women who access private care with an Obstetrician would not necessarily involve midwifery support.

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### **Youth—education alternatives for at-risk youth (Question No 336)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

Further to the statement made by ACT Policing's Youth Liaison Officer published in the Canberra Times on 29 December 2017 about efforts to provide an alternative for many high-risk youth who are not attending school, (a) what specific alternatives to mainstream schooling does the Youth Liaison Officer try to get disengaged young people into, and (b) what is the current ACT Government funding for each of these alternatives.

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

ACT Policing encourages disengaged young people to consider the following alternatives to help prevent them from entering the justice system:

- ACT Policing works closely with its partner agency Canberra's Police Community Youth Club (PCYC) to promote programs aimed at creating healthier and safer pathways for young people. Two of these programs include **Level-Up** and **Project 180**.

**Level-Up** is aimed at kids aged 8-17 years and offers a one day per week program for 20 weeks. The program utilises high adrenaline, positive, safe risk taking activities as a platform for engaging disengaged and vulnerable young people in a positive mentoring environment. Young people involved have generally had some contact with the justice system, and may have a history of behavioural concerns at home and at school. Participants are involved for one day per week during school term, with weekly sessions on topics such as domestic violence, complemented by activities such as downhill mountain-biking, motor-biking, welding, bush walking and ball sports. The building of positive long-term relationships is a key factor in the success of the program.

**Project 180** offers a four day per week for twenty-week program. Project 180 is a diversion program established for high-needs young people in the ACT aged 12.5-16 years. Project 180 combines the following mix: full time (8.30 am - 3.00 pm) engagement based on a mix of skills-based recreational activities, educational programming and/or vocational pathways; intensive case coordination facilitated through regular meetings between Canberra PCYC, ACT Policing, CYPS; links into weekend activities such as team sports and interest groups.

- Apprenticeships or traineeships may also be an option for young people, as an option to continue their learning in an area they are passionate about. The combination of learning with practical and paid work experience can be a motivational factor for a young person who is struggling to remain in school.
- Muliyan School is located at Canberra College in Woden and run by ACT Education, as an alternative to mainstream schooling. Only Network Student Engagement Teams (NSET) can refer young people into the program. ACT Policing liaise with NSET to organise this option in appropriate circumstances. Additionally, Galilee School is a registered, independent secondary school for disengaged and vulnerable young people in years 7-10.
- Another alternative for young people who have become disengaged with mainstream education is Ginninderry's SPARK Training and Employment Initiative in partnership with Canberra Institute of Technology. The SPARK

program delivers training programs focused on giving individual's accredited training and introducing participants to career options and the range of associated vocational pathways.

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### **Children and young people—care and protection (Question No 337)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 25 June 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for Families and Community Services*):

In relation to the provision under section 425 of the Children and Young People Act that allows for someone other than the director-general to apply to the Childrens Court for a care and protection order for a child or young person, how many times and in what circumstances has application to the court been made under this section of the Act.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

The Community Services Directorate understands this has occurred on one occasion. In July 2000, the Public Advocate applied for a care and protection order for a child and/or young person. The secrecy provisions of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* deem any further information about this matter cannot be shared.

The Community Services Directorate is not aware of any other occasions where this has occurred.

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### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—incarceration rates (Question No 338)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) Can the Attorney-General provide a comprehensive list of existing recommendations regarding the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the ACT justice system that are currently 'before the government' and provide details on (a) which of these are in progress of implementation, (b) what is the expected date of implementation, (c) which of these have not been implemented yet, and (d) what is the expected date of implementation.
- (2) Concerning the 1991 report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the August 2019 'Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody', can the Attorney-General provide a current update on the status of implementation of these recommendations in the ACT.

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

- (1) There has been a range of reviews and inquiries that have made recommendations regarding the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice system. Those reviews and inquiries include, but are not limited to:



- *So Much Sadness in Our Lives – Independent inquiry into the treatment in custody of Steven Freeman - Moss Review* / by Independent Reviewer, Mr Phillip Moss AM dated 7 November 2016 – see Government response February 2018 at:  
[https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/1185002/Moss-Review-Annual-report.pdf](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1185002/Moss-Review-Annual-report.pdf)
- *Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody (RCADIC) 1991* / by James Muirhead (Chair)
- *Pathways to Justice - Inquiry into the Incarceration Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* (tabled 28 March 2018) / ALRC Report

The ACT Government is actively engaging with the community with a view to identifying outstanding recommendations and other initiatives that could help reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the ACT justice system.

- (2) The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody 1991 made 339 recommendations in relation to 99 Aboriginal deaths in the custody of prison, police or juvenile detention centres. Those deaths occurred between 1 January 1980 and 31 May 1989.

A federal government review by Deloitte Access Economic in 2018 is the most recent formal review of the implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission. That review found that, across Australia, 64% of recommendations had been fully implemented in all relevant jurisdictions, 14% had been mostly implemented, 16% had been partly implemented and 6% had not been implemented at all.

Actions taken by the ACT Government that address recommendations made by the Royal Commission include:

- establishing the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body in 2008, the only forum of its kind in Australia
- signing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement in 2015
- signing the National Partnership Agreement on July 1, 2019
- signing the National Agreement on Closing the Gap in July 2020
- signing the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028 including a Justice Action Plan
- implementing the Galambany Court as part of the ACT Magistrates Court jurisdiction since 2004
- instating the Warrumbul Court in the Children's Court in 2018
- entering into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership, which seeks to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the ACT justice system, as both victims and offender
- establishing an Inspector of ACT Corrective Services in 2018.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—single-use plastics (Question No 339)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) Does the ACT Government have any plans to ban single-use plastics at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) in the ACT i.e. plastic cutlery, cups and straws; if not, why not.

- (2) Will the ACT Government implement the usage of wooden cutlery at the AMC; if so, when.

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

- 1) Single use plastics are no longer ordered for use at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- 2) Wooden cutlery was implemented at the AMC in June 2021.

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**Municipal services—Charnwood shops  
(Question No 340)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) In relation to uneven pavement outside Woolworths at the Charnwood Group Centre, caused by the root system of the trees planted in this area that has been a longstanding issue despite ongoing repairs to this area since 2014, will the ACT Government replace the trees with other plants that do not damage the pavement to improve pedestrian safety and to negate ongoing repairs costs; if not, what measures will the ACT Government take to ensure that the paving at this popular location is even and contains no trip hazards for all pedestrians.
- (2) Can the ACT Government provide a complete list of pavement repairs at this location for each year since 2014, detailing the date, nature of repair and total cost.

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

- (1) The ACT Government will continue to undertake remedial works to mitigate immediate trip hazards such as relaying of pavers, grinding, and application of cold mix as well as installation of flexible tree surround materials where appropriate. The ACT Government will be consulting with the community on options to address the pavement damage in the long term before any longer term remedial actions are taken.
- (2) Since 2014, a total of 39 Work Orders for repairs have been raised for rectification of segmental paving at Charnwood shops at a cost of \$51,681 excluding GST. Refer to the attached spreadsheet for a summary of works completed. To provide a detailed list of works undertaken since 2014 is resource intensive for the Directorate and would result in the diversion of resources from their daily duties.

In addition, in 2020, eleven tree surrounds adjacent to Woolworths were replaced with a new flexible, porous product at a cost of \$19,425 excluding GST and four poor condition trees were removed and replaced with four *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Todd' trees by City Services tree maintenance teams. The total cost of the replacement trees was approximately \$400.

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

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**ACT Corrective Services—staffing recruitment  
(Question No 341)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

In relation to the staffing recruitment for Corrective Services (ACTCS) in the ACT, (a) to the date this Question on Notice was published, how many ACTCS staff were sponsored from overseas, (b) for each of these staff, can the Minister provide their job role, work classification and qualifications, (c) have there been instances where the Directorate has chosen to hire and sponsor an overseas candidate over a local or interstate candidate; if so, how many times has this occurred for each year the past 3 years, and (d) what are the standard policy and procedures relating to recruiting ACTCS staff locally, interstate and overseas.

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

- (a) One employee visa was sponsored by the employer.
- (b) As there is only one individual this information has not been provided for privacy reasons.
- (c) There have been no instances where the Directorate has chosen to hire and sponsor an overseas candidate over a suitable local or interstate candidate.
- (d) ACTCS positions are advertised through a range of platforms including print media and online platforms. Anyone can apply for a position. To be eligible for temporary employment within the ACT Public Service a candidate must be in Australia on a visa with work rights or be an Australian citizen or permanent resident. To be eligible for permanent employment within the ACT Public Service a candidate must be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident. A New Zealand citizen who resides in Australia and holds a Special Category temporary residence visa under the *Commonwealth Migration Act 1985* is treated as a permanent resident of Australia for the purpose of employment by the ACT Public Service.

If the only suitable candidate is an overseas candidate at the time of advertising, it is open to the employer to sponsor an individual's visa. For this sponsorship to be approved by the relevant Commonwealth Agency, an employer must provide detailed information as to why the position could not be filled from the local or interstate market.

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**Domestic and family violence—services  
(Question No 342)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) Can the Minister (a) provide a list of services that provide long term supports to people in the ACT who have been victims or are otherwise impacted by domestic or family violence, and (b) elaborate on which of these services provide support for children and/or young people.

- (2) What measures will the ACT Government take to invest in and improve long term supports for those impacted by domestic or family violence.

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

- 1) The ACT Government funds a range of dedicated services that include medium to longer term supports for people in the ACT who are victim-survivors or are otherwise impacted by domestic and family violence.

Different sectors, including the specialist homelessness sector and the child, youth and family services sector provide a range of more mainstream supports to vulnerable individuals and families who may also be experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence in addition to their other presenting concerns. These supports include holistic case management, accommodation, counselling, outreach support, and referrals to specialist services as necessary, such as dedicated domestic and family violence services.

- a) Dedicated domestic and family violence services are listed below. Many of these services work to offer a holistic service response, which sees them providing support for children and young people in the context of their family.

Specialist Homelessness Services (Domestic Violence dedicated)	
The following Specialist Homelessness Services provide dedicated responses to women and their children who are victim-survivors or are otherwise impacted by domestic and family violence. This includes crisis responses, as well as medium to longer term accommodation and/or support services.	
<b><u>Toora Domestic Violence and Homelessness Service</u></b>	Women (with or without accompanying children) who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
<b><u>Beryl Women Inc</u></b>	Women with accompanying children who are in need of immediate safety escaping domestic and family violence.
<b><u>Doris Women's Refuge</u></b>	Women with accompanying children who are in need of immediate safety escaping domestic and family violence.
Community Development Program – Related Domestic Violence Services	
A range of non-accommodation services funded through the Community Development Program also support people experiencing or impacted by domestic and family violence through a range of programs including counselling and therapeutic programs, case management support, living skills training, outreach support, court advocacy.	
<b><u>DVCS – Room4Change</u></b>	A therapeutic men's behaviour change program for men using domestic violence that enables women and children the choice to remain in the family home and improve the safety and wellbeing of all.

<p><b><u>DVCS – Domestic Violence Crisis Service</u></b> Provides face to face direct crisis support, telephone counselling and support, motel accommodation and community education sessions.</p>
<p><b><u>DVCS – Court Advocacy Program</u></b> Support for people subjected to domestic and family violence to apply for Family Violence Orders, access legal advice and provide evidence in court. The service liaises with key organisations on behalf of the clients, including ACT Policing, the courts, Corrections and Child Protection Services to secure good outcomes.</p>
<p><b><u>DVCS – Young People’s Outreach Program</u></b> Supports the recovery and wellbeing of children and young people who have been exposed to domestic and family violence, either as witnesses or direct victims. The focus is on building positive trusting and safe relationships with children, their families, and schools to build their confidence and self-esteem.</p>
<p><b><u>Canberra Rape Crisis Service</u></b> Provides sexual assault crisis intervention, counselling and education services for individuals who have experienced, been affected by, or at risk of sexual violence. Services include the Nguru Program to provide support, education and counselling for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Service Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Assault (SAMSA), and Safer Families Counselling.</p>
<p><b><u>EveryMan – Working with the Man</u></b> A specialist behavioural change program for men who have been violent to women, offering a range of resources including counselling, group work and support for partners and children.</p>

Examples of other supporting services who are not dedicated domestic and family services but, in the context of their service delivery, do support victims who are experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence are:

<p><b>Specialist Homelessness Services (Domestic Violence inclusive)</b></p> <p>The following services provide immediate crisis responses as well as medium to longer term accommodation and/or support services to people in the ACT experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Domestic and family violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness for women and their children. Assistance to obtain safe, affordable, long term accommodation is provided from the start of the support period as part of client centred case management support. The length of support is based on an ongoing assessment of client need and is provided for as long as is needed. This may include the provision of follow up support, once the client has been suitably accommodated long-term, to ensure they can sustain permanent housing. All homelessness funded services, including youth and family programs indirectly provide domestic and family violence support as part of their holistic case management practice.</p>
<p><b><u>Toora Women and Children’s Program</u></b> Women with accompanying children who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p><b><u>Toora Coming Home Program</u></b> Women (with or without accompanying children) exiting corrections who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness and recidivism.</p>

<b><u>Karinya House for Mothers and Babies</u></b>
Women in their final stages of pregnancy who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
<b><u>YWCA-Housing Support Unit</u></b>
Women (with or without children) who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
<b><u>Northside Community Service-Women's Program</u></b>
Women who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
<b><u>YWCA – Next Door Older Women's Program</u></b>
Older women who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The service provides specialist case management and coordination, tenancy advice and support, and access to affordable safe and secure housing.
<b><u>CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn – Mackillop House</u></b>
Women with or without accompanying children who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
<b>Child, Youth and Family Services Program</b>
The Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP) is designed to support vulnerable children and young people (aged 0 to 25 years) and their families by focusing on early intervention and holistic, wrap-around services. While services are mainstream, the integrated and collaborative model means a number of services assist families experiencing domestic and family violence. The following component streams are likely to provide direct and indirect support to children and young people impacted by domestic and family violence.
<b><u>Case Management Services</u></b> – services provided within a case management framework for children, young people and families who are vulnerable and in need.
Providers:
• Barnardos Australia
• Capital Region Community Services Limited
• Canberra PCYC
• CatholicCare
• Woden Community Service
<b><u>Group Programs</u></b> – group based services that work to achieve positive change (e.g. behaviour, knowledge, skills) for children, young people and families who are vulnerable and in need.
Providers:
• Capital Region Community Services Limited
• Canberra PCYC
• Relationships Australia
• MARSS Australia
• St Vincent de Paul
• Tuggeranong Community Arts
<b><u>Integrated Service Model</u></b> - Series of intentional interventions that work together in an integrated way to promote safety and wellbeing of children, youth and families including:
• Case Management
• Group Programs
• Youth Engagement
• Therapeutic Services
• Training and support to workers (Cultural competence)

Providers:
• Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
• Companion House
• UnitingCare Kippax
• The Smith Family
<b>Therapeutic Services</b> - support vulnerable and in need children, young people and their families. A primary outcome from professional therapeutic services is addressing significant issues that impact on individuals and family relationships, including domestic and family violence.
Providers:
• Relationships Australia
• YWCA Canberra
<b>Other services</b>
Safe and Connected Youth works with young people under the age of 16 and their families to provide a therapeutic program to reduce family conflict and reduce the risk of youth homelessness.

- b) As noted in the above table, services respond to the needs of individuals and families as they present. This includes support to children and young people through a direct service response or by referring to more appropriate services.
- 2) The ACT Government is continuing to identify and improve appropriate supports for those in the community impacted by domestic and family violence, including long-term responses. Some recent examples include:
- The ACT Government has announced \$10.7 million over four years as part of the 2021-22 budget, to improve responses to family safety. This includes investment for a range of pilot initiatives to test and provide an effective, decisive, and evidence-based approach to addressing domestic and family violence in a way that works for families such as;
    - the Family Violence Safety Action Pilot (FVSAP) provides intensive case management for victim-survivors where there is a high risk of serious harm. The FVSAP identifies, assesses, and supports families across the ACT, without the need for a judicial or police response. The service has a focus on perpetrator accountability and supporting victim-survivors in high-risk situations. It takes referrals from multiple agencies and organisations and triggers a collaborative, integrated, and comprehensive response for the whole family, including the perpetrator. Families receive intensive case management and case coordination and receive support as long as is needed to appropriately reduce the risk to the family;
    - the Safer Families Collaboration Pilot, where Domestic Violence Crisis Services Liaison Officers (DVCS) work alongside Child and Youth Protection (CYPS) staff to provide case consultation and support CYPS staff on case management activities where domestic and family violence is a key risk. Such case management is critical in providing long-term support to people impacted by domestic and family violence, particularly children and young people.

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—gaming consoles and games  
(Question No 343)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) How many Xboxes and other video gaming consoles were delivered to the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) for the purpose of detainee entertainment in the year of (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018, (d) 2019, (e) 2020, (f) 2021 year to date.
- (2) What (a) other brands and models of video game consoles were delivered, and (b) what kind of Xboxes were delivered.
- (3) What was the total cost of these gaming consoles for each year they were purchased.
- (4) How many Xboxes and other video gaming console controllers were delivered to the AMC for the purpose of detainee entertainment in the year of (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018, (d) 2019, (e) 2020, (f) 2021 year to date.
- (5) How many video games were delivered to the AMC for the purpose of detainee entertainment in the year of (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018, (d) 2019, (e) 2020, (f) 2021 year to date.
- (6) What are the titles of these video games.
- (7) What was the total cost of these video games for each year they were purchased.
- (8) What is the process for detainees in (a) requesting more video games, (b) obtaining and installing more video games.
- (9) Were any of these gaming consoles connected to the internet; if so, were these consoles directly connected through a cable or connected through Wi-Fi.
- (10) What restrictions have been placed on these gaming consoles, and were these restrictions implemented by ACTCS or by the manufacturer.
- (11) Are inmates able to access streaming services through these gaming consoles.
- (12) Where were these consoles set up within the AMC.
- (13) Are there any restrictions on which detainees are allowed to use the video game consoles.
- (14) Were these gaming consoles purchased brand new straight from the manufacturer; (a) if so, did ACTCS request any modifications to the manufacture of these gaming consoles to make them more suitable for a prison environment, (b) If not, where were these gaming consoles purchased.
- (15) Why is the ACT government paying for these gaming consoles, controllers and games when the NSW government makes their detainees pay for these gaming supplies themselves.



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

1. (a) 2016 - Nil  
(b) 2017 - Nil  
(c) 2018 - Nil  
(d) 2019 - Nil  
(e) 2020 - Nil  
(f) 2021 - 30
2. (a) None  
(b) Xbox 360 and Xbox 360 slim
3. 2021: Consoles as of 25 June 2021 = \$5328.00, Controllers as of 25 June 2021 = \$3600.00
4. (a) 2016 - Nil  
(b) 2017 - Nil  
(c) 2018 - Nil  
(d) 2019 - Nil  
(e) 2020 - Nil  
(f) 2021 - 60
5. (a) 2016 - Nil  
(b) 2017 - Nil  
(c) 2018 - Nil  
(d) 2019 - Nil  
(e) 2020 - Nil  
(f) 2021 - 62
6. Video games available are not rated above Mature Accompanied (MA) 15, and the list of titles is provided by Corporate Health Management, the activities contractor, for ACTCS' pre-approval. This list is then reviewed to ensure content does not have excessive violence, drug use, sex scenes, or other content that is deemed inappropriate for use within the AMC, such as violence against women. The list is signed off by the Senior Director Operations or their delegate. All titles are then reassessed when they arrive at the AMC to ensure information stated in the description is accurate.
7. 2021 - Games as of 25 June 2021 = \$989.00
8. (a) As part of the proposed gaming program, detainees will be able to recommend games, and these would be considered by ACTCS to ensure content is appropriate.  
(b) As part of the proposed gaming program, detainees would not be obtaining or installing video games. Please see the answer to Question 15 for more information.
9. The gaming consoles are unable to connect to the internet as they do not have WIFI capability or a cable to connect to a network port. The network ports that are available for the PrisonPCs have blocked pathways that do not allow access by the gaming consoles.
10. The Xbox 360 consoles that have been purchased by ACTCS do not have WIFI capability. These devices were released in 2005 and discontinued in 2016 and are all refurbished units. The Xbox 360 *slim* devices are shipped from the factory with inbuilt WIFI capability, but the supplier has removed the WIFI adapter.

11. No, streaming services cannot be accessed through the consoles.
  12. As the gaming program is yet to be finalised, the consoles are not currently in use within the AMC. If the program is approved, the consoles will form part of the program equipment and will only be available to participating detainees.
  13. Please see answer to question 15.
  14. (a) The Xbox 360 consoles purchased by ACTCS are refurbished, rather than new units. These devices were released in 2005 and discontinued from 2016. All Xbox *slim* consoles purchased by ACTCS are new. To make them suitable for the prison environment the supplier has removed the WIFI adapter.  
  
(b) The supplier is The GamesMen, Penhurst NSW
  15. The concept behind the proposed gaming program is to meet the long-standing request from detainees to have access to gaming, while also developing a prosocial activity and an opportunity for prosocial interaction. ACTCS has purchased these consoles and games with a vision to include them as part of the Fit and Well Program. The intention will be to run the gaming program over weekends when boredom is often an issue to mirror community lifestyle and offer detainees some reprieve from day-to-day stressors. It would be restricted to those in lower security accommodation and may form part of the forth coming *Incentives and Earned Privilege Policy* and it would not be offered during normal work, program or educational hours.
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### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—treaty process (Question No 344)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) In relation to the minister's statement during hearings in March that \$144,000 had been committed in 2021–22 to 'to appoint a facilitator to start a conversation' regarding a treaty process, has a facilitator been appointed yet; if so, who is it; if not, when is the expected date for this appointment to be finalised.
- (2) When will this facilitator begin performing her or his formal duties?
- (3) Can the Minister provide all relevant selection criteria, job descriptions, etc. in relation to this appointment.
- (4) Can the Minister outline the specific steps this facilitator will undertake during 2021-22 as currently planned, including intended outcomes.
- (5) Can the Minister outline the entire treaty process as currently envisaged by the ACT Government.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government is guided by the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC) on the approach to progressing conversations with traditional custodians and the broader

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community about the opportunities and implications of a Treaty process in the ACT. I wrote to the UNEC Co-Chairs in February 2021 following the 2020-21 Budget, seeking their advice on a process to identify an appropriate facilitator.

A facilitator has not yet been engaged to undertake community conversations. It is anticipated further discussions will occur with UNEC Co-Chairs in 2021 to finalise a process to identify the areas of importance for consideration in the selection of a facilitator followed by identification of an appropriate facilitator. Views from the new ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body will also be sought.

- (2) A co-design process is required before the independent facilitator will commence.
- (3) The output of the co-design process will be agreed documentation such as position descriptions, selection criteria and/or a statement of requirements.
- (4) In broad terms, the independent facilitator will develop and action an appropriate community engagement approach to host community conversations about the opportunities and implications of a Treaty process in the ACT.
- (5) It is not for the Government to outline the entire treaty process without the involvement of traditional custodians or community. In line with the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028* and its commitment to self-determination, preliminary discussions amongst traditional custodians and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community should be independent of government and led by the community.

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### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—‘We don’t shoot our wounded...’ report (Question No 345)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Families and Community Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence*):

In relation to the ‘We Don’t Shoot Our Wounded’ report, can the Minister provide a detailed update on the implementation of the twelve recommendations in this report.

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

The ACT Government is committed to working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to improve government responses and community-led responses to recommendations within the We Don’t Shoot Our Wounded report.

Our commitment is reflected in the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028* and reaffirmed in my joint Ministerial Statement with the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, tabled in the Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Since the tabling of the Statement, the Government has focused on deepening partnerships with community and their representative bodies. The ACT Government committed

\$354,000 over four years from 2019-20 to work with representatives from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and the Domestic Violence Prevention Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group (the Reference Group), to develop specific action plans in response to the recommendations of We Don't Shoot Our Wounded.

The Community Services Directorate (CSD) is providing support to the Reference Group during each phase of this work, with the current focus being on responding to the community consultations that commenced in 2020.

The purpose of the consultations was to test the currency of the recommendations in the reports and to determine next steps to action these recommendations. This sought to ensure the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of family violence continued to be heard.

The ACT Government has now received the priority recommendations from the Reference Group ahead of the full consultation report expected to be received in late-2021. The final report will further inform the development of community-led responses that address domestic and family violence in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

CSD is also collating data on domestic and family violence service-use by the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population to help inform the next phase of this work.

The ACT Government is focused on delivering targeted and coordinated support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people affected by domestic and family violence. The *Our Booris, Our Way* review is part of this work.

The Family Safety Hub in partnership with the ACT Commissioner for Young People also conducted consultations with children and young people who have experienced, or are currently experiencing, domestic and family violence to inform future responses to support young people. Responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people will be developed in consultation with the community and align with the recommendations of the Reference Group.

Further, under the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028*, the ACT Government committed to design a process to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and boys to develop solutions to support a trauma-informed, culturally appropriate primary prevention focus on domestic and family violence. This action will be informed by the consultation undertaken by the Reference Group in 2020.

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### **Children and young people—care and protection reforms (Question No 346)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Families and Community Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) What specific reforms have been introduced into the territory's care and protection services because of what was learnt on the Minister's December 2018 United Kingdom and Ireland study tour.

- (2) What specific reforms are in process of being implemented in the territory's care and protection system because of what was learnt on the study tour mentioned in part 1.
- (3) What specific reforms are planned for the territory's care and protection system because of what was learnt on this study tour.
- (4) What specific reforms have been introduced into the territory's youth justice system because of what was learnt on this study tour.
- (5) What specific reforms are in process of being implemented in the territory's youth justice system because of what was learnt on this study tour.
- (6) What specific reforms are planned for the territory's youth justice system because of what was learnt on this study tour.
- (7) Considering that the Minister in her report noted that Family Group Conferencing (FGC) is 'now embedded across the system' in Leeds, UK, contributing to a 15 per cent reduction in 'looked after children', what is the ACT Government's plan for embedding FGC across its child protection system.
- (8) What are the indicator-based outcomes that are higher for children and young people in foster and residential care in Scotland in comparison to children at home.
- (9) Are there any indicator-based outcomes that are higher for children and young people in care and protection in the ACT in comparison to children at home.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The December 2018 United Kingdom and Ireland study tour focused on understanding innovative service models, pooled and other funding arrangements, and place-based approaches across the UK, to strengthen the contemporary application of these methodologies across the ACT service system. There was a strong focus on visiting areas where community-led and codesigned approaches were working toward agreed community outcomes, with a focus on supporting children, and their families, in the early years or first 1000 days.

The study tour and insights from the visits and meetings have informed a range of reforms across the human service system, of which care and protection and youth justice are key parts. This includes the next iteration of *A Step Up for Our Kids* out-of-home care strategy and the development of *Best Start for Canberra's Children: the first 1000 days strategy*; the ACT Government's approach to working in partnership with the community to shift toward commissioning and early support within the community sector; and emerging practice in working with people with lived experience in the design, delivery and evaluation of services.

In addition, the ACT Government has seen an increased use of codesign and partnerships with the community, including the commencement of the Safe and Connected Youth (SACY) pilot program in October 2019. SACY delivers an outreach program to support children and young people aged 8-15 years who are at risk of, or currently experiencing, homelessness due to family conflict. The pilot program was initiated in partnership between the ACT Government, the Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Rotary Club of Canberra.

SACY provides therapeutic case management support, family mediation and limited short-term respite care to support de-escalation of family conflict and effective mediation. A recently published evaluation by the Youth Coalition of the ACT shows that many of the young people involved in the pilot program were able to return home safely. In these cases, SACY successfully increased understanding of family dynamics and improved communication in the home. In the cases where a young person was not able to return home, young people were diverted away from homelessness through the strategic use of respite accommodation or making alternative arrangements for the young person.

The Government is committed to progressing reform and recognises that legislative change is a key priority. The Government notes that a comprehensive review of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* (CYP Act) will be important to address the discreet elements of legislative reform required and progress the Government's legislative reform agenda. These changes will be informed by lessons learned from the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as from other Australian jurisdictions and our own experiences in the ACT.

(2) See (1)

(3) See (1)

(4) See (1)

(5) See (1)

(6) See (1)

(7) This question has previously been answered, see CSD QON No. 78 from the *Inquiry into referred 2019-20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21*.

In 2018, Family Group Conferencing commenced in the ACT specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, and since that time has continued to deliver the program to families that consent to participate. Any decision to extend this service to all families is subject to future Government funding decisions and resourcing.

The Government notes that Family Group Conferencing is one of several service models to enable families to contribute to solutions that support the safety and wellbeing of their children. Other models may also be an appropriate option for families.

The Government will continue to make child protection decisions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the ACT. This will, at times, require an immediate response where a child or young person is at risk of abuse and neglect.

The ACT Government continues to support families to engage with restorative practices and intensive supports to reduce the likelihood of statutory intervention. As part of a maturity pathway approach, Family Group Conferencing has provided important lessons on family- and community-led decisions to respond to the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care.

In this context, the past five years of *A Step Up for Our Kids* has cultivated a strong evidence-base through the measurement of long-term outcomes. Service design and/or further expansion of services in the next iteration of *A Step Up for Our Kids* will be underpinned by lessons learnt here and around the world. Similarly, any amendments to the *Children and Young People Act 2008* will also be informed by past learnings.

- (8) The Scottish Government publishes results for a range of activity-based indicators, however, has not published any recent data on outcome-based indicators that compare these cohorts.
- (9) There are some data reports which compare the outcomes of children and young people who have experienced out-of-home care to those who have not, such as the recent AIHW report *Income support receipt for young people transitioning from out-of-home care*, to which the ACT contributed data. Often the outcomes of those children who have experienced care are lower than those who have not, however it is difficult to define the causational reasons for this difference, due to the complexities of people's lives and the impacts of trauma on children and young people.

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### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—native title meeting (Question No 347)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

Concerning the Native Title Meeting held at the Yass Soldiers Club on 29 May 2021 to discuss a proposed anthropological research project in relation to the ACT and surrounding parts of New South Wales, (a) did any representatives from the ACT Government attend this meeting; if so, who and in what capacity/-ies, and (b) did any members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body attend this meeting in an official capacity; if so, what has been their input to the ACT Government on this matter.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

The Native Title Meeting was a meeting called by NTSCORP Limited. NTSCORP Limited is the Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. The meeting was for all Aboriginal people with a traditional affiliation with the Canberra region, and was open only to community members who met this requirement.

ACT Government officials and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body did not attend the meeting.

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### **Arts—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts programs (Question No 348)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Arts, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) How many people currently serve as members of the Arts Network, and who are they.

- (2) Which of these members of the Arts Network are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.
- (3) As the Arts Network was intended to ‘collaborate with artsACT in new program development and co-design for targeted and specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts programs in 2018’, can the Minister provide a summary of these targeted and specific programs from 2018 to the present.
- (4) What specific new initiatives have been designed to align with the seven Program Principals developed by the Arts Network, as noted on the ACT Government’s website, and what is the status of each initiative.
- (5) Can the Minister provide an update on each commitment from artsACT in (a) diversifying programming, boards and staff, (b) reviewing artsACT funding processes with a focus on accessibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, (c) investigating options for an identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander officer within artsACT, (d) exploring and supporting the infrastructure needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts communities, (e) providing support to community-driven projects, (f) supporting and promoting traditional custodians’ art and culture through support for new activities, and (g) showcasing local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in the ACT by providing opportunities through events and other activities.
- (6) As artsACT reports annually on the implementation and progress of the action plan, can the Minister either provide these annual reports or provide an update on each commitment listed in the Outcomes and Actions Table.
- (7) In relation to the allocation of \$100,000 per year for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, (a) has this allocation continued past 2016–17; if not, why not, and (b) can the Minister provide a break-down by year of how this allocation has been used.
- (8) How many pieces of public art were a) commissioned, b) acquired, and c) installed by the ACT Government in each of the past ten financial years.
- (9) How many of the pieces mentioned in part 8 were a) created by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists and/or b) are related to Indigenous cultures or sites?
- (10) For each of the past ten financial years, what has been the ACT Government’s annual budget for the commissioning and/or acquisition of new public art pieces.
- (11) How much from the budget referred in part 10 was earmarked for pieces a) created by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists or b) related to Indigenous cultures or sites?
- (12) Besides one ACT Fire & Rescue vehicle, one ACT Rural Fire Service vehicle and one ACT State Emergency Service vehicle, which other government assets bear Aboriginal artwork.
- (13) What government policy/ies govern the application of Aboriginal artwork to government assets.
- (14) Has the ACT Government ever engaged in talks with Ngunnawal people or any other Aboriginal communities about the desirability of more government assets bearing Aboriginal artwork, and if so, can the minister please summarise those discussions.



- (15) Concerning the emphasis in the ACT Government's Land Release Sites Belconnen Town Centre Place Design Brief on making sure that 'public art and interpretation [are] symbolic of the local Indigenous culture' (p. 18), that 'the Ngunnawal peoples' continuous habitation [is] celebrated through art and events' (p. 33) and that 'the creative expression of Belconnen [is] reflected in the stories of Ngunnawal culture and heritage' (p. 33), (a) how will the ACT Government make sure that these aspirations are realised on these three land release sites and (b) does the ACT Government have plans to introduce a similar emphasis on telling Indigenous stories through public art in other areas of Canberra; if so, where, and how will this be accomplished.

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

- (1) This information is available publicly on artsACT's website ([www.arts.act.gov.au](http://www.arts.act.gov.au)).
- (2) All five members are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.
- (3) The Arts Network has been involved in discussions and planning about a number of specific projects for First Nations peoples since 2018. These include the:
  - Canberra Wellington Indigenous Art Exchange;
  - proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts space at the Kingston Foreshore;
  - new ACT Government Building Ngunnawal Artworks;
  - ACT Government Protocol for the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artworks.
- (4) The Program Principles informed the 2020 co-design and development of a pilot program designed to support Ngunnawal Elders to progress their own cultural projects. In particular, this responds to the principle

*Ngunnawal Country: Programs reflect what is unique about place and site and those living on it, both traditional custodians and their unique role and those living off country.*

The pilot was delayed due to COVID-19 in the first instance and then due to limited resourcing within artsACT, following the vacation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Officer Position (retitled Assistant Director – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement). The Network reviewed this position in early 2021 and recruitment is currently in process. It is anticipated that once the Assistant Director position is filled that program design with the Network will recommence.

- (5) a) ACT arts organisations continuously diversify their programming boards and staff to provide effective, ongoing sector development, career pathways for artists and arts workers, and to support a diversity of activity and access opportunities for the ACT community. Recent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander board appointments include Jenni Kemarre Martiniello to the Craft ACT Board and James Tylor to the board of Tuggeranong Community Arts Association.

artsACT has recently contracted a range of local organisations to deliver projects as part of the Creative Recovery and Resilience program. Each contract included Key Performance Indicators designed to ensure diversity of artists and arts workers involved in the projects.

b) artsACT engaged with the Arts Network to develop a culturally appropriate application process for the Creative-in-Residence project. This project is part of the Creative Recovery and Resilience Program. One of the three residences to be offered will be identified for an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artist. The application process will be evaluated, and the learnings will ensure that future applications for artsACT funding programs are accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

c) The position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Officer (now Assistant Director – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement) was created and filled in January 2019. The role was vacated in September 2020. The position has been reviewed in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network, and a recruitment process is currently underway.

d) New infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts communities is being developed through the Kingston Arts Precinct. The precinct includes a new purpose-built facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural activities including a gallery, multipurpose space for exhibitions and performances, workshop space, studio and drop-in space.

e) Preliminary project planning is underway and will include support for community-driven projects and showcasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts activities. This will be guided by the Arts Network's Program Principles.

f) Key examples of the ACT Government's support and promotion of Traditional Custodians' art and culture has been demonstrated through its commissioning of a major public artwork from Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians for the new Government Buildings at Civic and Dickson. Additional planning has commenced between the Ngunnawal communities and the Public Art Provider, who will work to develop capacity, and Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians to scale up work for the public domain.

A pilot program for new areas of activity with Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians was co-designed in 2020 with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network and is detailed in question 4. This program was delayed due to COVID-19 in the first instance and then due to limited resourcing within artsACT, following the vacation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Officer Position (retitled Assistant Director – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement).

g) Preliminary project planning is underway and will include support for community-driven projects and showcasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts activities. This will be guided by the Arts Network's Program Principles. In addition, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts will be showcased at exhibitions such as *Heart Strong* in July-August 2021 and *NAIDOC in the North* in October 2021 at the artsACT-funded Belconnen Arts Centre.

- (6) The latest progress report on Outcomes and Actions Table for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Action Plan is at [Attachment A](#).

(7) a) Yes, the allocation of \$100,000 per year continued past 2016–17.

b) \$59,000 has been committed to the development of the ACT Government Protocol for the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artwork. Upon recruitment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Officer, the programs will be progressed, and the remaining funds will be expended.

**(8-14) Whole of Government**

Information sought from the whole of government is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require a considerable diversion of resources.

artsACT has this information readily available for questions (8) – (11) and has provided the below responses.

**artsACT responses for questions 8-11**

(8) The table below shows the number of artworks managed by artsACT that were commissioned or acquired by the ACT Government:

Year	a) commissioned	b) acquired*	c) installed
2021	Nil	Nil	Nil
2020	Nil	Nil	Nil
2019	2	1	ACT Government
2018	1	Nil	ACT Government
2017	1	Nil	ACT Government
2016	Nil	Nil	Nil
2015	Nil	Nil	Nil
2014	1	1	ACT Government
2013	Nil	1	ACT Government
2012	8	2	ACT Government
2011	12	4	ACT Government
2010	11	3	ACT Government

\*Acquired works include gifts

(9) a) None of the pieces referred to above were created by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists.

b) One artwork takes its name from the local Ngunnawal language, *Ginninginderry Light 2013* by artist Geoff Farquhar-Still.

(10) The below table refers to artsACT budgets only:

Year	Budget
2021	Nil
2020	Nil
2019	Nil
2018	Nil
2017	Nil
2016	Nil

2015	Nil
2014	Nil
2013	Nil
2012	Nil
2011	\$1.2 million (2010-2011 Budget)
2010	\$1.2 million (2009-10 Budget)

(11) a) Nil

b) Nil

(15) On 17 June 2021, the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) released Belconnen Lakeshore by way of Request for Proposal (RFP). Belconnen Lakeshore is made up of four sites at the northern end of the Belconnen Town Centre. The sites include the Circus Sites Precinct (Blocks 38 and 39/Section 52 and Block 2 Section 151) and the Former Belconnen Water Police site adjacent Emu Inlet (Block 29, Section 149).

a) The Place Design Brief is the outcome of an independently facilitated place-led community engagement process undertaken between December 2020 and April 2021 by the SLA with the Belconnen community.

As part of the consultation process, the SLA engaged MurriMatters to engage specifically with Ngunnawal stakeholders including Representative Aboriginal Organisations and members of the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee. A Statement of Cultural Significance and input into the Place Design Brief were outcomes of the cultural engagement and highlighted the special relationship and connection to country that the Ngunnawal people have with the area.

Design proposals expected as part of the RFP submissions by developers and their design teams will be evaluated on their response to the Place Design Brief.

The evaluation criteria for the assessment of RFP submissions places a significant 50 percent weighting on the design response, in addition to the financial offer for the land weighted at 30 percent. Proponents' response to the community brief will reveal the extent of proposed public art.

Tenderers will also be required to demonstrate how they will undertake place-led community and stakeholder engagement as part of the design and development of the land. The Suburban Land Agency will expect Ngunnawal representatives to be included as stakeholders as part of any agreed engagement plan.

b) The SLA recognises the special relationship and connection to country that the Ngunnawal people have with the Canberra area and is committed to working closely with Traditional Owners to tell their stories wherever and however possible, including through public art on new urban and greenfield developments.

Attachment A ACT Aboriginal Action Plan – Progress Report on Outcomes and Actions Table

a)	Keep listening, continue direct relationship building activities with ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts communities.	artsACT liaises regularly with members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts communities.
b)	Establish an ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network, to support self-determination and leadership within the sector and provide direct advice and input to the ArtsACT about arts activities	Completed, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network was established in 2018 and meets up to four times annually.
c)	Provide support to community driven projects, strengths and assets.	Ongoing. artsACT continues to provide support for community driven projects through its Arts Activities funding. There was <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One successful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicant in the 2021 Up to \$5k category, and</li> <li>three in the 2020 rounds for funding between \$5k-\$50k</li> </ul>
d)	Understand the unique role of the traditional custodians as integral to the identity of the ACT and support and promote their arts and culture through support to new activities.	The ACT Government has commissioned a major public artwork from Ngannawal Traditional Custodians for the new Government Buildings at Civic and Dickson. Planning between the Ngannawal Communities and the Public Art Provider who will work to develop capacity and Ngannawal Traditional Custodians in scaling up work for the public domain has commenced.
e)	Create culturally appropriate and focused business development programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	ACT Government funds Yerra to deliver an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Support Program. Arts Business Development Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists has been included in the upcoming ACT Creative Industries Research Project delivered by the University of Canberra
f)	Develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Communications Plan, which will include the promotion of local ACT arts and culture activities through artsACT and VisitCanberra communication channels.	A Draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communications Plan has been completed and will be provided to the Network for their feedback.
g)	Review artsACT arts funding processes with a focus on accessibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists	artsACT is working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network to develop a culturally appropriate funding application process. This process will be evaluated to provide insights relevant to improving access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists for other artsACT funding programs.
h)	Co-ordinate centralised communications and program information through the ACT Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Online Portal.	Arts Activities funding is linked through the Strong Families Online Portal.
i)	Create partnership opportunities across ACT Government agencies and events, tertiary education institutions and national cultural organisations.	Planning for programming to enhance partnership opportunities will be continued by the Assistant Director – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement.
j)	Provide ongoing Secretariat support to an ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network.	Completed. artsACT continues to provide ongoing secretariat support for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network.
k)	Develop and support programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, including mentorships, cultural reconnection activities and activities focused on young people.	Completed, ongoing. artsACT delivered a pilot Canberra Wellington Indigenous Arts Exchange Program in 2019. This program is currently in hiatus due to COVID-19  A new identified opportunity for an ACT Government Artist in residence will be delivered in 2021 through the Creative Resilience and Recovery Program and will include opportunities for mentorship.

l)	Broker relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and ACT Government funded arts organisations.	artsACT has facilitated workshops between the Kingston Arts Precinct Funded visual Organisations and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network.
m)	Showcase local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in the ACT by providing opportunities through events and other activities	Planning for programming to showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in the ACT will be continued by the Assistant Director – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement.
n)	Enhance the level of cultural awareness in the ACT arts sector, by working with ACT Government funded arts organisations to ensure an appropriate level of training, communication, programming and inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and artists	Initial discussions about providing capacity building in the area of cultural awareness for ACT Government funded arts organisations has begun with arts organisations.
o)	Review and evaluate work of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network	Completed. The Terms of Reference were reviewed by members in 2020.
p)	Explore and support the infrastructure needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts communities.	New infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts communities is being explored through the Kingston Arts Precinct which includes a new purpose-built facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural activities including a gallery, multipurpose space for exhibitions and performances, workshop space, studio and drop-in space.
q)	Continue to identify artistic development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	Artistic Development opportunities will continue to be progressed through co-design
r)	Review and evaluate artistic development programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	A review of the Canberra Wellington Exchange Program was conducted in 2020.
s)	Continue to identify business development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	Refer to response for (e)
t)	Continue to identify opportunities for the promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	artsACT regularly uses its own communications channels to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists promoting works by individual artists, events and the activities of arts funded organisations.
u)	Review and evaluate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Communications Plan.	Refer to response for (f)
v)	Investigate options for an identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander officer within ArtsACT.	Completed. The position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Officer (now Assistant Director – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement) was created and filled in January 2019. The role was vacated in September 2020 and following a review of the position with input from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network a recruitment process is currently underway.

### Light rail—safety poster artwork (Question No 349)

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) After two pieces of student artwork from Gungahlin College both received first prize in the Light Rail Safety poster competition, why was only one of the winning pieces adapted to appear on the sides of a light rail vehicle.

- (2) Other than being displayed, what public uses have been made of the other joint-winning artwork and the runners-up.
- (3) Who was responsible for deciding how each of these pieces of art would be used publicly.
- (4) Can the Minister provide the original contest information that was provided to Gungahlin College students.

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

- (1) One design was more suitable to be successfully adapted into a LRV Safety Wrap due to the dimensions of the artwork.
- (2) The other joint winning artwork from the 2019 Rail Safety Week Poster Competition was used as follows:
  - a. A2 poster displayed in Gungahlin Marketplace.
  - b. Included in Canberra Metro Operations (CMET) Light Rail Calendar in 2019.
  - c. On a coaster provided to local hospitality establishments pre-Christmas 2019.
  - d. As an anti-graffiti 'art wrap' to one of the Roadside Control boxes.
  - e. It is displayed framed in CMET depot.
  - f. Included in a Gungahlin Village Rail Safety Mural (Collage of a number of entries).
  - g. Used in various articles on social media and CMET website.
  - h. The runners up have also been used in similar ways to the joint winner, with the purpose of promoting the message of rail safety around the light rail.
- (3) CMET received approval from the Education Directorate, Gungahlin College and the students involved in the competition, to adapt their artwork submissions into other designs after the competition.
- (4) Please find attached information provided to Gungahlin College in relation to the competition.

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

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### **Children and young people—ACT Policing (Question No 350)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) How many reports of runaway children or young people has ACT Policing received during each of the past five financial years.
- (2) If police find a missing child or young person, what steps do they generally take to return the child or young person to their parents.

- (3) At what age is a young person in the ACT not legally required to return home if they do not want to.
- (4) What is the police response if they find (a) a runaway who is not legally required to return home (b) find a runaway who is legally required to return home.
- (5) In what specific circumstances may police not return a runaway who is legally required to return home.
- (6) If parents know the whereabouts of a runaway child or young person and contact the police, what steps do the police generally take to return the child or young person to their parents.
- (7) What steps do police take to help families access mediation and/or counselling services in order to help resolve the factors that may contribute to a child or young person running away from home.
- (8) How many youth liaison officers exist within ACT Policing, and what role do they plan in these kinds of situations.
- (9) Does the ACT Government-funded Safe and Connected Youth Program provide any support to runaway children or young people who do not wish to return home when located by police; if so, in what ways.

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

The following table provides the number of instances where ACT Policing has been involved in locating a young person (under the age of 18) in the past five financial years. There may have been multiple incidents for certain missing persons.

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
505*	265	247	325	305

*\*The term 'runaway' was removed from legislation in July 2017 with police only responding to reports of 'missing persons' as there needs to be a requirement of concern for the young person's welfare.*

When a person is reported to police as missing either from home or a care facility, police will dispatch search resources only if there is an element of concern for the missing person (e.g. age or medical reasons).

Police will then work to find the missing person and check their welfare.

ACT Policing officers are well-trained and will make every effort to return a young person to their home or care facility. This includes an empathetic and understanding approach to the situation, and offering transportation or referral to other support services that may assist the young person in feeling more supported in their home environment.

If after speaking with police, the person remains adamant that they do not wish to return to their residence, police will make an assessment of the environment in which they have found the missing person.

If the environment is deemed unsafe by police (for example, due to other people present or the presence of illicit substances), police are then allowed to remove the person to a safe location, and attempt to organise an alternative arrangement if the person does not wish to return home.



If a person has had their welfare checked and police cannot see any reason why their personal safety would be at risk, police will report the sighting and mark the missing person as located on ACT Policing's database. ACT Policing will then notify the reporting guardian or parent and offer further support services if relevant. Under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, ACT Policing only has the power to return a young person to their guardian/s if police believe they are in an unsafe environment.

The initial contact between a young person who has run away and ACT Policing is generally via its general duty officers.

The first step for ACT Policing general duty patrols is to submit a Supportlink request detailing the background of the situation and the type of support they require, or consent to.

A referral is then submitted and Supportlink allocates it to the appropriate agency. This agency then attempts to make contact with the family and/or child. The family must consent to such a referral being made and there is no obligation for the family to accept the support offered.

Should police deem that the situation falls under mandatory reporting guidelines, a report is submitted to Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) as regulated by the *Children and Young People Act 2008*. Mandatory reporting laws aim to identify children and young people who are being abused or neglected.

ACT Policing employs four Youth Liaison Officers who work within the Community Engagement Team.

If a child or young person repeatedly runs away from home, or continually comes to police attention, general duty police patrols may decide to alert ACT Policing's Community Engagement Team of the situation.

Once notified, ACT Policing's Youth Liaison Officers will collaborate with partner agencies (CYPS, Education etc.) to provide a holistic overview of and context for these behaviours and attempt to identify potential gaps in supports available.

The next step is for a decision to be made between the involved agencies as to who is most appropriately placed to speak with the child/family about additional, or alternate supports available.

Eligibility for the Safe and Connected Youth pilot is based on the age, geographical location and child/young person and their family willingness to engage with the program. In the future it is proposed the respite facility will be able to provide short term respite accommodation, in conjunction with therapeutic case management, to work with both children and young people and their families to resolve issues which contribute to children and young people being at risk of homelessness and having no safe place to live.

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### **Crime—drug driving (Question No 351)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) How many people were charged for drug driving in the financial years of (a) 2017-2018, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2019-2020, (d) 2020-2021 year to date.
- (2) How many of these charges mentioned in part 1 were for (a) marijuana, and (b) ice.
- (3) How many people were convicted of a drug driving offence in the financial in (a) 2017-2018, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2019-2020, (d) 2020-2021 year to date.
- (4) How many of these convictions mentioned in part 3 were for (a) marijuana, and (b) ice.
- (5) How many of these people mentioned above were referred to the drug and alcohol court.

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

- (1) The below data is based on the date of apprehension, for a charge of drug driving:

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Apprehensions	811	1048	894	807

Source: PROMIS as at 7 July 2021

- (2) ACT Policing is unable to provide the number of charges for marijuana or methamphetamine as it would require the diversion of police resources to manually interrogate all drug driving charges recorded on ACT Policing databases. This would be an arduous process, unable to be completed within the required timeframes.
- (3) The below notes a conviction of at least one charge for drug driving, based on the date of the court result. It should be noted that apprehensions and convictions regularly occur within separate financial years.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Convictions	594	896	750	820

Source: PROMIS as at 7 July 2021

ACT Policing has defined a conviction or successful court outcome as any of the following court results: community service order, convicted with recognizance, convicted with recognizance and fine, fined, imprisonment, imprisonment with hard labour, imprisonment with recognizance, intensive correction order, penalty (in default, detention), proved – dismissed, proved – no penalty imposed, proved without proceeding to conviction, sentenced to rising of court, suspended sentence with recognizance, suspended sentence with recognizance and fine.

- (4) ACT Policing is unable to provide the number of convictions for marijuana and methamphetamine as it would require the diversion of police resources to manually interrogate all drug driving convictions recorded on ACT Policing databases. This would be an arduous process, unable to be completed within the required timeframes.
- (5) The number of people referred to the Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List since December 2019, where one of the offences included a drug driving offence is 9.

### Homelessness—data (Question No 355)

**Mr Parton** asked the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

Over the last 10 years, can the Minister provide bi-annual figures of (a) homeless Canberrans, and (b) Canberra's rough sleepers.

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

The Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census of Population and Housing is the only data collection with counts of people in all homelessness categories.

The Census data for 2011 and 2016 for the ACT is provided as follows:

Homeless operational groups	2011	2016
Persons living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	28	54
<b>Total homeless persons</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>1,596</b>

### Crime—illegal dumping (Question No 356)

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) How many fines has the government successfully levied for illegal dumping in the Yerrabi region from June 2020 to June 2021.
- (2) How are community recycling sites monitored.
- (3) How often are staff sent to check rubbish levels.
- (4) What is the Government doing to provide education around illegal dumping.
- (5) Can the Minister provide statistics on the level of illegal dumping following the removal of Yerrabi charity bins.

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

- (1) From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, TCCS Licensing and Compliance Unit have issued 13 Warning Notices and 11 Infringement Notices for littering and Illegal dumping incidents in the Yerrabi electorate.
- (2) Physical inspections are undertaken at the Recycling Drop Off Centre sites in Tuggeranong, Phillip, Mugga Lane, Mitchell, Belconnen and Gungahlin on a weekly basis. These sites are also monitored through CCTV footage. Any illegal dumping issues identified are reported to the TCCS Licensing and Compliance team. Any illegal dumping is then cleared.

TCCS Licensing and Compliance also proactively targets identified illegal dumping sites using surveillance cameras to capture offenders. Between 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, two surveillance camera operations were conducted in Yerrabi, one operation targeting an area for almost a month.

- (3) Daily inspections and litter removal is undertaken in high use areas such as the Gungahlin Town Centre.
- (4) The ACT Government has a proactive approach to educating the community around illegal dumping. Warning signage is installed in areas where video surveillance or compliance activities may be being targeted.

These signs advise people of the compliance activity being undertaken and targeted, as well as the associated penalties if caught littering or illegal dumping. Signs are also installed at parks and in areas where people visit to remind them to not litter or illegally dump material.

In 2019, following the introduction of new laws relating to illegal dumping and littering, a digital advertising campaign was delivered on social media and across YouTube channels. Two videos were used highlighting on the spot fines with examples of illegally dumping a fridge and also dumping an abandoned vehicle.

The ACT Government has also produced videos for social media channels. For example, in January 2021, footage captured on TCCS surveillance cameras was used to help highlight examples of people illegally dumping.

The City Services website has information and advice relating to illegal dumping. Over the last financial year (1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021) there has been 947 page views.

- (5) Whilst no statistics are available, TCCS has observed a significant reduction in illegal dumping within the Gungahlin Town Centre since the removal of the charity bins in April 2020. Similarly, TCCS has observed no increase in illegal dumping activity in the surrounding outer Gungahlin suburbs.

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### **Planning—Gungahlin town centre (Question No 357)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) What solutions can be provided for businesses and residents in shared premises along Anthony Rolfe Avenue and Gungahlin Place North.
- (2) What longer term parking solutions are planned for the Gungahlin town centre as temporary open space areas are sold off for development.
- (3) What provisions are being made in the planning process for Gungahlin town centre to address the increasing need for long-term parking following the significant expansion of mixed-use developments and the potential for additional large-scale employment in the area.

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

- (1) The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is currently progressing the Gungahlin Town Centre Planning Refresh which aims to appropriately manage the town centre's growth through a period of rapid expansion. Draft Variation 364 to Gungahlin Town Centre implements the refresh and is currently with the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.
- (2) All new developments are required to meet the provisions of the Parking and Vehicle Access General Code (PaVAGC). The PaVAGC specifies the amount of car parking spaces a development will need to provide. In addition, the Gungahlin Precinct Code requires four sites (block 4 section 226, block 1 section 228, block 3 section 229 and block 1 section 232) in Gungahlin which are currently surface car parks to either remain surface car parks or be replaced when they are developed. This replacement parking will be in addition to the new parking demands of the development.
- (3) The PaVAGC specifies the number of car parks a development must have based on the type of development, zone and location. This PaVAGC ensures that there is adequate supply of car parks based on the use of development within an area. Furthermore, where there is strong demand in an area for parking this is usually the catalyst for a standalone private car park development or a developer to provide more than the minimum required car parks within their new development.

During assessment of development applications by EPSDD, consideration is given to the impact on existing public parking, such as on-street parking. The ACT Government continues to encourage other modes of transport where possible, including walking, cycling and catching public transport, which help to alleviate parking demand.

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### **Crime—graffiti (Question No 358)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) How many complaints have been made about unapproved graffiti in Yerrabi suburbs this year, and (b) have any hot spots been identified.
- (2) What efforts has the government made to attempt to limit this illegal activity.
- (3) What is the average time for removal of the defacement of both public and private property in the ACT.

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

- (1) (a) No complaints of unapproved graffiti in Yerrabi suburbs have been received this year.
- (b) No.

- (2) Graffiti removal contractors monitor and remove unauthorised graffiti from assets throughout the ACT. There are also 30 legal graffiti practice sites around the ACT that are used as a diversionary graffiti management approach. These legal walls provide authorised options for graffiti and street art. The ACT Government also commissions murals around the ACT to provide opportunities for artists and to deter unauthorised graffiti. Last year in Yerrabi, a local Aboriginal artist and elder was commissioned to paint a mural at Yerrabi Pond. This mural has been effective in helping reduce unauthorised graffiti in that area.
  - (3) Graffiti is removed from assets within five business days (or 24 business hours if offensive). Graffiti on private assets are the responsibility of the asset owner to manage. The TCCS graffiti management program works with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to coordinate volunteers from their offenders' program to remove graffiti from private fences.
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### **Planning—Giralang shops (Question No 359)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) In relation to the development of the Giralang shops, what factors were instrumental in the planning size limit being increased from 1000m<sup>2</sup> to 1500m<sup>2</sup>.
- (2) Will the additional allowance of 500m<sup>2</sup> result in a different mix of shops and multi-purpose buildings, including residential apartments.
- (3) What actions are proposed by the Government to ensure that the development is completed as soon as possible.

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

- (1) This information is available at <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2021-268/>
  - (2) The mix of shops and buildings is a decision for the developer. Changes to approved plans may require an amendment to the development approval or a new development application depending on the nature of the change.
  - (3) The Government has provided all relevant approvals. Specific decisions about construction timing are a matter for the developer.
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### **Compulsory third party insurance—claims (Question No 360)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Special Minister of State, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) In relation to applications for income replacement benefits (under the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019) as reported by the insurers to the MAI Commission each month over the period 1 February 2020 – to date; how many applications for income replacement benefits have been lodged with CTP insurers.

- (2) Out of the lodged applications referred in part 1, how many that (a) were approved, (b) were rejected, (c) are yet to be determined and/or remain in process, (d) once commenced, have been suspended, (e) once commenced, have been stopped, (f) once commenced, have been reduced by the relevant insurer.
- (3) How many of the applications for income replacement benefits (under the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019) that were rejected by the relevant insurer were referred to internal review.
- (4) How many of the original decisions on applications for income replacement benefits referred for internal review were (a) affirmed, (b) amended, (c) set aside, and (d) remain in progress or under consideration, by the insurer.
- (5) How many of the decisions in relation to income replacement benefits (under the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019) affirmed on internal review by the relevant insurer have been referred to external review by the ACAT.
- (6) In relation to applications for treatment and care benefits (under the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019) as reported by the insurers to the MAI Commission each month over the period 1 February 2020 – to date, how many applications for treatment and care benefits that have been lodged with CTP insurers and out of this how many applications (a) were approved, (b) were rejected by the relevant insurer, (c) are yet to be determined and/or remain in process, and (d) once commenced, have been suspended, by the relevant insurer.
- (7) How many of the applications for treatment and care benefits that were rejected by the relevant insurer were referred for internal review.
- (8) How many of the original decisions on applications for treatment and care benefits subject to internal review were (a) affirmed, (b) amended, (c) set aside, and (d) remain in progress or under consideration by the insurer.
- (9) How many of the decisions in relation to treatment and care benefits affirmed on internal review by the insurer have been referred to external review by the ACAT.
- (10) How many inquiries were received by the entity approved to provide the defined benefits information service under the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019 each month over the period 1 February 2020 – 13 May 2021.
- (11) What is the total value of the benefits paid to applicants (under the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019) by the insurers each month over the period 1 February 2020 – 13 May 2021 for each of (a) income replacement benefits and (b) treatment and care benefits.
- (12) In terms of the matters referred to external review (under the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019) before ACAT over the period 1 February 2020 – to date, in how many of the matters in relation to (a) treatment and care benefits and (b) income replacement benefits has (i) the applicant and/or (ii) the respondent been legally represented.

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

The MAI Commission publishes information through a quarterly scheme statistics report published at [www.act.gov.au/maic](http://www.act.gov.au/maic), under Scheme Knowledge Centre. The most recent

report is January to March 2021. These reports provide information relevant to many of the Member's questions.

1. A single application for defined benefits is made by an injured person for defined benefits, rather than separate applications for different types of defined benefits.

Income replacement benefits are payable when a person injured in a motor vehicle accident is unable to work for a period of time due to their injury. Some may experience only a few days off work and so do not seek the benefit. As such, not all defined benefit applications include a component for income replacement benefits.

The table overleaf shows the number of complete applications (where all information is available for an insurer to determine liability) for defined benefits for the month received by an MAI insurer and those applications that had income replacement payments.

Month	Complete applications	Complete applications with income replacement
Feb 20	9	6
Mar 20	23	13
Apr 20	19	10
May 20	26	10
Jun 20	14	4
Jul 20	30	14
Aug 20	39	17
Sept 20	35	16
Oct 20	43	16
Nov 20	47	15
Dec 20	37	16
Jan 21	23	8
Feb 21	41	14
Mar 21	36	11
Apr 21	33	7
May 21	43	3
		(June data pending)
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>180</b>

2. It is not possible to provide the information requested in questions 2(b), (c), (d) (e) and (f) as applications are not assessed exclusively on the basis of the income replacement benefit.
3. There have been seven internal reviews of income replacement decisions sought by applicants. It is not possible to provide information on rejections as applications are not assessed exclusively on income replacement benefits as noted above.
4. At internal review for a defined benefits application, where income replacement benefit was identified as the reason for review, six were affirmed and one was set aside and substituted.
5. No decisions relating to the income replacement benefit have been taken to external review by the ACAT.



6. All applications include treatment and care, with the number of applications per month outlined above. Of the 498 applications:
- 437 have been accepted by an MAI insurer and benefits paid.
  - 22 have been rejected.
  - 39 remain to be determined.
  - Data on whether treatment and care has been suspended is not readily available. The information would have to be requested from insurers and requires manual review and collation. Producing this data would be an unreasonable diversion of the resources of the MAI Commission.
7. Where a treatment and care decision was identified as the reason for review, there have been 16 decisions taken on internal review.
8. Of the 16 internal reviews involving a review of a treatment and care decision: (a) 11 were affirmed; (b) one was amended; (c) two set aside and substituted; and (d) one remains in progress.
9. Of the 11 affirmed internal review decisions that related to specific treatment and care decisions, five were taken to external review by the ACAT.
10. The Defined Benefits Information Service is an information and limited advice service provided by CARE Inc on a pilot basis. The number of services is reported per quarter:

Feb-Mar 20	Apr-Jun 20	Jul-Sept 20	Oct-Dec 20	Jan-Mar 21
20	14	32	25	34

11. The total value of benefits for treatment and care and income replacement paid to applicants for each month to the end of May 2021 is:

Month	Treatment and Care	Income Replacement
February 20	\$1,032.08	\$0.00
March 20	\$16,298.31	\$27,928.48
April 20	\$37,402.45	\$26,984.29
May 20	\$128,701.20	\$122,383.36
June 20	\$151,274.19	\$68,716.14
July 20	\$153,482.93	\$89,832.70
August 20	\$145,317.02	\$123,835.87
September 20	\$224,196.12	\$175,103.21
October 20	\$534,243.19	\$135,988.26
November 20	\$296,875.82	\$151,426.68
December 20	\$220,079.10	\$209,532.90
January 21	\$260,449.95	\$163,814.82
February 21	\$474,812.22	\$146,241.32
March 21	\$364,855.24	\$221,665.99
April 21	\$344,369.68	\$166,801.43
May 21	\$249,272.08	\$184,031.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,602,661.58</b>	<b>\$2,014,287.30</b>

12. Seventeen matters have been listed by the ACAT for external review relating to the Motor Accident Injuries Scheme; nine relating to treatment and care and none relating

to income replacement benefits. Of the three matters in 2020, two applicants were initially legally represented. Of the matters listed to date by the ACAT in 2021, all applicants have legal representation. The MAI Commission understands MAI insurers are legally represented before the ACAT.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—security (Question No 361)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 25 June 2021:

- (1) Does the ACT Government have any plans to install barbed wire fencing around the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC); if not, why not.
- (2) For each year the past 5 years, how many detainees and/or remandees have successfully escaped from the AMC.

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

- (1) The Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) secure perimeter fence construction is consistent with Australian standards, however razor wire coils have been substituted with advanced electronic detection systems. This is consistent with the philosophy and spirit of the 'Healthy Prison' concept and *Human Rights Act 2004*.
  - (2) In September 2016, two detainees escaped from the AMC. There have been no other incidents of escapes from the AMC however, on 9 July 2021 a detainee did escape from ACT Corrections custody during a medical escort.
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## **Questions without notice taken on notice**

### **Health—occupational therapy**

**Ms Stephen-Smith** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Castley on Wednesday, 2 June 2021*):

Canberra Health Services (CHS) provides a consistent number of practice placements for University of Canberra (UC) occupational therapy students. The placements occur across several divisions at CHS, including Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Care; Allied Health; and Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services. Our practice placements are almost exclusively offered to UC with only one to two placements per year offered to Charles Sturt University (CSU) and the Australian Catholic University. The length of a practice placement varies but is usually an eight week block for each student.

2021 (approximate data for the year to date)

- 22 clinical practice placements provided = 176 weeks of placement experience
- 2 project placements provided = 18 weeks of placement experience

## 2020

- 36 practice placements provided = 7995hrs of placement experience (approximately 213 weeks of placement). Two of these were project placements.
- Please Note: 9 x 8 week planned placements (81 weeks of placement experience) were cancelled due to the CHS directive to cancel all student placements due to COVID -19 concerns.

## 2019

- 38 clinical practice placements provided = 8923hrs of placement experience (approximately 238 weeks of placement)

In addition to 'regular clinical' practice placements we have implemented several strategies to increase our placement capacity for CHS. This includes 'project placements' whereby a senior occupational therapist who may not have a clinical caseload (manager/clinical educator) supervises students to complete a project linked to clinical practice. Furthermore, in March 2021 CHS implemented a student lead Occupational Engagement Program (OEP) on the Majura Ward at the University of Canberra Hospital. Students on the OEP placement assess the occupational needs of patients with cognitive impairment and provide support for these patients to engage in meaningful occupations/activities while on the wards. The OEP will increase our capacity to offer an additional 10 x 8-week placements per year.

CHS has one full time occupational therapy clinical educator position to coordinate and support student placements as well as support the professional development, education, and training of approximately 120 qualified occupational therapists. CHS is open to exploring opportunities and ways to increase placement numbers, should this be required.

The CHS Allied Health Clinical Education Unit and UC Occupational Therapy department have an excellent working relationship and strive to support high quality student placements and graduates for the local workforce.

Additionally, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) provides clinical placements for Occupational Therapy students from UC and CSU.

Most clinical placements at CPHB are 7-9 weeks in duration, with some shorter two week placements each year. The duration of placement is dependent on the university requirements and year level of the student.

The number of Occupational Therapy placements at CPHB that have been provided are as follows:

## 2021 (to date so far)

- 5 clinical placements\* (3 UC students; 2 CSU students); 1098hrs, equivalent to 31 weeks of full-time placement

*\*one clinical placement currently in progress*

2020

- 13 clinical placements (7 UC students; 6 CSU students); 2772 hrs, equivalent to 69 weeks of full time placement

2019

- 10 clinical placements (6 UC students; 4 CSU students); 2111hrs, equivalent to 61 weeks of full time placement.

The Education Directorate has a memorandum of understanding with the University of Canberra for clinical placements in public schools for all allied health specialities, giving students the opportunity for practical experience in a school setting.

### **ACT Corrective Services—parole process**

**Mr Gentleman** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mrs Kikkert on Wednesday, 2 June 2021*):

The detainee was not commissioned by the ACT Corrective Services and produced the document of their own accord. It is also noted that the Ombudsman observed:

*We consider it positive ACTCS has a publically (sic) available, overarching framework document in place, which recognises the importance of a rehabilitative approach to corrective services, references the legislative framework and makes a commitment to best practice.*

### **Health—COVID-19 vaccination rollout**

**Ms Stephen-Smith** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Wednesday, 2 June 2021*):

At an ACT Government clinic vaccination appointment, individuals are asked if they would like to participate in AusVaxSafety, an active vaccine safety surveillance program, led by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance. ACT Health and some GPs participate in this program that monitors safety of vaccines across Australia. Participation in this survey is optional. As at 20 June 2021, the AusVaxSafety website states that 43,039 (35.6%) participants have responded to this voluntary survey in the ACT (this includes people vaccinated at ACT Government clinics and GPs).

If participants enrol, they will then receive a follow up survey via mail or text message at set timeframes after their vaccine. This survey asks the participant about their health after their vaccination focusing on the reporting of signs or symptoms of adverse reactions. The ACT Health Protection Service Immunisation Unit can review any reports of adverse events following immunisation for vaccines administered in the ACT and arrange follow up if required. This information informs national vaccine safety monitoring and complements the ACT's reporting system.

As with any ACT Health service, Canberrans are able to provide consumer feedback on the program. Canberra Health Services receives feedback about the ACT Government COVID-19 vaccination program which is then forwarded on to the relevant team to action and respond as required.

### **Government—land sales**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Davis on Thursday, 3 June 2021*):

In the 2020-21 financial year – as at 8 June 2021 – the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) had released blocks of land to the market for the first time in the following breakdown:

- 935 single detached dwelling sites, of which none were sold by auction – 0%
- 125 single title terrace sites (sold in packaged lots to builders/developers), of which 125 were sold by auction – 100%
- Five multi-unit/mixed-use sites, of which four were sold by auction – 80%
- Two industrial blocks, of which two were sold by auction – 100%
- One community site, of which one was sold by auction – 100%

In total, the SLA has sold 1,068 blocks of land, of which 132 were sold by auction – 12%.

In the remainder of the 2020-21 financial year the SLA will also be releasing the following blocks of land by tender:

- Belconnen Section 151 Block 2, Section 52 Block 39, Section 52 Block 38, and Section 149 Block 29 (also known as the Circus Site & Water Police sites).
- Coombs Section 36 Block 2.
- Coombs Section 21 Block 1.
- Wright Section 39 Block 1.
- Wright Section 63 Block 10.
- Moncrieff Section 22 Blocks 1 & 2.
- Taylor Section 60 Block 1.

### **Education—Margaret Hendry School**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Jones on Wednesday, 23 June 2021*):

1. Instructional Mentors have been working with the Margaret Hendry School leadership team since term 4, 2020. Instructional mentors provide both system wide professional learning sessions available to all schools, as well as individual onsite support. Time onsite at Margaret Hendry varies on a weekly basis depending upon the time of the school year and school timetable, with an average of 1-2 days per week since term 4, 2020.

**Housing ACT—maintenance**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Kikkert on Wednesday, 23 June 2021*):

I receive regular updates on the Total Facilities Management contract. Since commencement of the contract with Programmed Facilities Management on 1 November 2018, I have received seven updates.

**Housing ACT—complaints**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a question by Mrs Kikkert on Wednesday, 23 June 2021*):

I have been invited and accepted invitations to attend four different Housing ACT complexes and invited and welcomed inside four Housing ACT tenant's properties since this term of government commenced.

**Housing—homelessness**

**Ms Vassarotti** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Wednesday, 23 June 2021*):

The February 2021 update referred to relates to Priority Applications for public housing on the Housing ACT waitlist for January 2021.

This data does not correlate to the number of rough sleepers in Canberra at any one time.

The 99 persons referred to when answering the initial question was the number of persons being supported by Street to Home, a program of St Vincent de Paul. Street to Home workers actively seek those sleeping rough and engage with them to build relationships based on understanding and respect.

As stated during question time on 23 June 2021, as of 31 May 2021, Street to Home reported the program was supporting a total of 99 people. Of these:

- 12 clients are both accommodated and receiving case management (no longer sleeping rough);
- 23 clients are receiving case management (may or may not have accommodation); and
- 64 clients are receiving outreach support (accommodation status is not confirmed to date). Of these, 51 are from Canberra, six from NSW, one from Victoria, two from Queensland, two from South Australia, one from New Zealand, and one unknown.

As of 31 May 2021, there were 187 Priority applications for public housing on the Housing ACT waitlist.

**Housing ACT—maintenance**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Wednesday, 23 June 2021*):

Both Housing ACT and Programmed Facilities Management (Programmed), are committed to continuous improvement and to make sure that the Total Facilities Management contract is achieving the spirit of its intent – to preserve and maintain Housing ACT dwellings, maintain a tenant focus and a responsiveness to tenant needs in the delivery of services.

Development of the new contract involved extensive consultation with tenants, community housing providers, unions, ACT Government subject matter experts, sub-contractors, industry, and relevant commercial consultants. Consideration was given to the 2016 Auditor General's performance audit and the 18 recommendations for improvement.

The current contract incorporates an integrated performance management system that encourages Programmed to achieve the highest levels of service delivery, tenant engagement and satisfaction and organisational performance.

There are 50 key performance indicators that Programmed are measured against. Housing ACT expects an excellent service and incentive payments will not be made if there are any areas of underperformance anywhere in the contract.

Programmed measure tenant satisfaction as part of their performance reporting. In May this year, Programmed reported a satisfaction rate of Housing ACT tenants with subcontractors at 84%.

Again, in May this year, Programmed contacted Housing ACT tenants who had spoken with the call centre staff and asked for feedback. This resulted in a satisfaction level of 98%.

Programmed also contact tenants who have submitted complaints to see how they felt the complaints process was undertaken. 91% of Housing ACT tenants who lodged a complaint were satisfied with the process.

Improvements in day-to-day lives of Housing ACT tenants;

- Housing ACT's Total Facilities Manager (TFM), Programmed Facilities Management (Programmed), identified consistently high call volumes to the call centre during the morning where the service level was not able to be achieved and consistently low call volumes during the later afternoon hours. Programmed undertook a trial in the change of hours of operation in the Canberra Call Centre to allow the high volume of calls to be handled locally. This trial resulted in better customer service outcomes for Housing ACT tenants including fewer abandoned calls and the ability to resolve the issue on the first phone call. These arrangements have now been made permanent.

- Programmed have delivered more disabled modifications in 2019-2020 than any other previous year. This directly improves the day to day lives of Housing ACT tenants by allowing increased use of their homes.
- A key component of this TFM contract is social inclusion. Programmed are tasked with employing 260 people from identified cohorts under the contract. Programmed have consistently exceeded this target and are currently 22% above target. Again, this directly improves the lives of Canberrans by providing employment opportunities to a diverse range of cohorts in the community, including Housing ACT tenants, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, people with a disability and young people.
- Through social inclusion, Programmed have introduced Community Trade Workshops which provide Housing ACT tenants with training on some common household handy person skills, such as patching and painting small holes in walls and patching flyscreens. A component of these workshops is also dedicated to fire safety and the prevention and management of pests in homes.

The recent Auditor General's report into the implementation of the contract had only one recommendation in total, relating to reviewing the role of the senior contract manager position, specifically with regards to competing responsibilities and accountabilities that occur when managing a contract of this size and complexity. The Government response will be tabled in the Assembly.

### **Housing ACT—maintenance**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Parton on Wednesday, 23 June 2021*):

Housing ACT is responsible for general pest control in the first 90 days of a tenancy only. This includes spiders, cockroaches, small rodents, ants, and fleas. After 90 days, the tenant is responsible for all general pest control.

However, Housing ACT is responsible for the removal and/or trapping of large vermin, for example possums or rats, where they are found to have gained entry to or through the roof or sub-floor. Housing ACT is also responsible for the removal of birds, bees, and wasps where they are found in the roof or wall cavities of a property.

Where removal is carried out, Housing ACT's Total Facilities Manager (TFM), will ensure preventative work is carried out to ensure re-entry is not possible.

Infestations that occur in a complex would normally be a Housing ACT responsibility. Where a suspected infestation occurs, a pest controller will be engaged by the TFM to inspect and provide a report.



The tenant may be held responsible for the cost of pest control depending on the circumstances. Discretion can be exercised by management where special circumstances are demonstrated, for example public health risks.

Some individuals require further assistance to sustain their tenancies. As a Model Social Landlord, Housing Managers refer tenants who require extra help to a range of community support providers.

Housing ACT funds the Supportive Tenancy Service (STS) which assists people across Canberra to maintain a safe and stable home. The service is available to all households, including public and private tenants and homeowners. Funding for the STS during 2020-21 was approximately \$860,000.

In situations where pest control has been undertaken by the TFM, tenants are expected to contact the TFM if there are any follow up concerns, including if the pests return. Further treatments can be undertaken as required.

### **Education—teachers**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Clay on Wednesday, 23 June 2021*):

The Education Directorate has employment arrangements in place that allows teachers who have left the profession to recommence at any time as a casual or temporary employee with the opportunity for re-appointment as a permanent teacher through either ongoing recruitment campaigns or an in-school ratings assessment.

### **Sport—swimming pools**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Hanson on Thursday, 24 June 2021*):

Thank you for your questions relating to the Stromlo Leisure Centre.

There is no known water pumping issue for the 50-metre pool at the Stromlo Leisure Centre. The new \$36.49 million Stromlo Leisure Centre has been an important addition to the ACT Government's existing public pools, enabling even more people to get active and learn critical water safety skills.

There are no plans to close the Stromlo Leisure Centre 50-metre pool.

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

**Mr Steel** (*in reply to a question by Mr Cain on Thursday, 24 June 2021*):

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) officers have visited the site six times since our last discussion and have also spoken with the local supermarket manager regarding their deliveries.

I am informed that the local supermarket has been working with their suppliers to try and manage their deliveries, including the timing of the deliveries to avoid peak hours. However, the frequency and type of vehicles used are somewhat dependent upon the stock requirements at the store.

TCCS officers have reviewed several ideas, including creating a one-way system to utilise one lane for deliveries and retain a trafficable lane for the community. However, the road environment particularly through the car park is too restricted to allow this to happen within current standards.

TCCS has appointed a traffic consultant to investigate the matter further, which will include the provision of a delivery layby on the side of the road and also consider the proximity of the children's crossing in relation to the deliveries. It is expected that this work will be completed within the next three months. In the meantime, TCCS will continue to monitor the situation and continue to work with the store manager.

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

**Mr Steel** (*in reply to a question by Ms Lawder on Thursday, 24 June 2021*):

In August 2020 the Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority migrated its ICT network to the wider ACT Government hosting platform. This included the transfer of the cemeteries management software and database to ACT Government servers.

The grave search function that was featured on the cemeteries externally hosted website, sourced its information from this management database. The transfer of the database to the ACT Government servers created a security protocol issue with the externally hosted website, resulting in the search functions failure.

Following work to migrate webhosting to the ACT network, a transitional website to provide access to the grave search data along with other functional information is now live and can be accessed at <https://canberramemorialparks.com.au/>

Members of the public can call 02 6207 0000 to get details on grave site locations.

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

**Mr Steel** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Jones on Thursday, 24 June 2021*):

In August 2020 the Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority migrated its ICT network to the wider ACT Government hosting platform. This included the transfer of the cemeteries management software and database to ACT Government servers.

The grave search function that was featured on the cemeteries externally hosted website, sourced its information from this management database. The transfer of the database to the ACT Government servers created a security protocol issue with the externally hosted website, resulting in the search functions failure. Several attempts to mitigate this issue were made in 2020 and again in March, April, and May of this year with no resolution.

The Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority has now commissioned a second body of work to migrate webhosting to the ACT network. This involves building a transitional website to provide access to the grave search data along with other functional information. This transitional website went live Tuesday, 13 July. Full migration to the ACT Government hosted website will occur in September.

Members of the public can call 02 6207 0000 to get details on grave site locations.