



Debates

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9 JUNE 2022

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Thursday, 9 June 2022

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.

Leave of absence

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

That leave of absence be granted to Mr Steel for today's sitting due to personal reasons.

Petition

Ministerial response

The following response to a petition has been lodged:

Community language schools—rapid antigen tests—petition 3-22

By **Ms Stephen-Smith**, Minister for Health, undated, in response to a petition lodged by Mr Braddock on 22 March 2022, concerning free rapid antigen tests for community language schools.

The response read as follows:

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 22 March 2022 to Minister Berry regarding Petition No3-22 – Free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for Community Language Schools which was lodged by Andrew Braddock MLA. I am responding on behalf of the ACT Government as this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

To date, the ACT Government has provided RATs to cohorts who need them most. This has included symptomatic individuals and household contacts, essential ACT Public Service workers, students and staff in schools and early childhood education and care services, disability and community aged care workers, and a number of community and non-government sector organisations. RATs have also been provided for the community through our COVID-19 testing clinics.

In addition, National Cabinet considered the availability of RATs at its meeting on 5 January 2022 and established the Rapid Antigen Testing Concessional Access Program. Under this program, eligible Commonwealth concession card holders can access up to 20 RATs over six months, with a maximum of five RATs per month. Canberrans are eligible to access RATs under this program if they hold one of the following cards:

- Pensioner Concession card;
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Care card;
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold, white or orange card; or
- Health Care card (including Low Income Health Care card).

As noted in the petition, the ACT Government provided two RATs per week to all students and staff across all public and private schools for the first eight weeks of Term 1, 2022. Following this initial eight-week period, RATs have continued to be available for school students and staff and early childhood education and care staff on an as-needed basis, or in response to increased cases reported in a school, noting that COVID-19 vaccination coverage for people aged 5 years and over is now high.

The ACT Government has not previously provided free RATs to private businesses in the ACT as there are a range of procurement opportunities available to them. The Government has prioritised the provision of free RATs for use amongst asymptomatic individuals who could present a significant risk to vulnerable individuals should they test positive for COVID-19.

The use of RATs as a screening tool is considered an important COVID Safe measure for some high-risk settings, such as residential aged care facilities. It is not considered as a proportionate or necessary measure for Community Language Schools as transmission among students and staff is not considered to be a high risk.

Free polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing continues to be provided across the ACT for symptomatic individuals, household contacts and those who have experienced a high or moderate risk exposure. The provision of PCR testing remains an important component of the ACT's COVID-19 response as it enables individuals to get tested should they be at risk of contracting the disease. Household contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case are also currently able to access free RATs at the Garran and Mitchell COVID-19 testing centres if they cannot obtain them from their workplace or if they would experience financial hardship.

In considering the current epidemiological situation in the ACT and the current availability of RATs and PCR testing across the Territory, the ACT Government does not intend to provide free RATs to Community Language Schools at this time. I would encourage providers of these services to maintain other strong COVID Safe measures to minimise the risk of transmission amongst students and staff as we continue to respond to COVID-19 across our community.

On behalf of the ACT Government, I extend my thanks to the petitioners for bringing this matter to the Assembly's attention and hope this information sufficiently addresses their concerns.

Motion to take note of petition response

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

That the response so lodged be noted.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**Schools—infrastructure projects
Ministerial statement**

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) (10.02): I am happy to address the Legislative Assembly today on the infrastructure projects that the ACT government continues to deliver to upgrade and expand ACT public schools while also building new schools right across the territory.

It is no secret that I am passionate about our city's public education system. ACT public schools deliver high-quality teaching and learning to over 51,000 students across Canberra. We want every child in the ACT to have access to a great public education and the life benefits that flow from it. Key to this is creating great learning environments for our students and great workplaces for teachers and school staff.

Our government has made significant investments in our public education infrastructure and is committed to investing in building great schools which are some of the most exceptional, state-of-the-art ACT government facilities in Canberra. We are working hard to ensure that every young person has access to great, accessible, safe, inclusive and sustainable facilities and school infrastructure that supports high-quality education in our rapidly growing city.

This financial year the ACT government committed a total of \$178.5 million in funding towards our schools' capital works program. Investing in Canberra's public education system means that there is a place for every student in their local public school and that every child has the best start to life. I am excited to share with you today a number of major projects currently underway that will modernise and better meet the learning needs of our school communities.

The start of the 2022 school year saw our 90th public school, Throsby School, open its doors. It was a pleasure to see our families arriving at their new school on day one and witness the students beginning a new chapter of their learning. The ACT government's total investment of \$43.9 million in this state-of-the-art learning facility saw high-quality learning environments built to accommodate preschool to year 6 classes, incorporating both indoor and outdoor learning areas, as well as integrated and inclusive spaces to support all students. In keeping with the government's commitment on emissions reduction, the school is carbon neutral and has an incredible 220,000-litre underground water tank capturing and re-using water.

Throsby School has also opened its doors to the local community, hiring out its brand-new facilities, including the large multipurpose gym. Annamaria Zuffo, foundation principal at Throsby School, is delighted with the school's first-class facilities and amazing quality of build that will provide her students and staff with endless opportunities.

I am also pleased to share with you that Evelyn Scott School is the first in the ACT to be named after one of Canberra's important Indigenous women. I am honoured to be officially opening this school at a formal naming ceremony later this month, in the presence of Evelyn Scott's daughters and granddaughter. Jackie Vaughan, the foundation principal at Evelyn Scott School, has said:

The contemporary buildings represent a paradigm shift where students are at the centre of their learning ... Teachers have said the buildings facilitate our contemporary approach to education.

As Canberra's second zero emissions school, Evelyn Scott was designed with a focus on sustainability. This beautiful learning facility is in its second year of operation, with construction of the high school campus now complete and with enrolments open for students to start their senior learning in the 2023 school year.

We now have three new public schools currently in the construction phase. The government's investment of \$85.9 million for the delivery of the new high school in Kenny, as well as \$118 million for the new high school in Taylor and the expansion of Margaret Hendry School, will respond to the rapid population growth in the Gungahlin region. The new schools will cater for 800 students, each from years 7 to 10, and will provide state-of-the-art facilities to cater for them and to be enjoyed by community members. These schools are expected to open in 2024, in response to one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Margaret Hendry School's expansion will increase their school's capacity to accommodate an additional 600 preschool to year 6 students by 2023.

As the ACT government continues to invest in ACT public school infrastructure, I recently announced a new \$156.7 million package of funding for a new school in Strathnairn and the modernisation of Garran Primary School and Narrabundah College. Ginninderry's first preschool to year 6 school and early childhood education centre is expected to open in 2025 in Strathnairn. This school will ensure that families moving to the region will have access to a high-quality local public school close to where they live. I am looking forward to seeing the designs that are underway for this \$62.4 million school in west Belconnen. This school is being designed to respond to the strong connections with the nearby nature reserve and the cultural significance of the region. It will also complement the environmentally sustainable design that is seen through the Ginninderry development.

Another exciting project is the redevelopment of Garran Primary School. The Woden region continues to see high enrolment growth, and the government is investing \$62.4 million to meet the school's current and future needs. Once complete, Garran's modernisation will increase student capacity to 800 kindergarten to year 6 students,

with additional preschool places. Garran primary will have all new learning areas, specialist learning environments, administration facilities, external learning and play spaces, as well as a new gymnasium, hard courts and green spaces that will be available for use to the wider Woden community. I know that school being close to the busy hospital traffic is a challenge for the Garran community, so improving access and providing additional car parking is a priority.

Whilst working beautifully in its learning village, Narrabundah College has welcomed the government's commitment of \$31.9 million for the continuation of this school's modernisation project. Narrabundah College's new principal, Michelle Morthorpe, says:

The exciting part of the College's modernisation is that it will provide expanded flexible learning opportunities that will cater for a diverse range of students into the future.

The ACT government continues to expand and upgrade the public schools we know and love. We are committed to ensuring that every child can find a place in their local public school and receive a high-quality education that sets them up with the skills for a good life. I am happy to see that our 2019 election commitment of \$29.4 million to expand Franklin School is now complete. The expansion of the school now creates an additional 400 places for students in preschool to year 6. I am looking forward to my visit to the school this month and to speaking with the principal, Kate Flynn, who says:

One of the major benefits for our community is that children can now complete their entire primary school journey in the one setting.

I am excited to see how the new design retains the great features of the early childhood school model and aligns with the physical elements of the existing school.

The ACT government continues to invest in expansion and upgrades to our public schools, including Amaroo School and Campbell Primary School, with Gold Creek School's new development to be completed in the coming months.

The Education Directorate has undertaken enrolment forecasting, in collaboration with the ANU School of Demography. This enrolment forecasting considers demographic trends in the region. Population growth has shown enrolment growth in the inner north region, in particular on the eastern side of Northbourne Avenue. This is expected to continue to increase, and investment in additional permanent primary school capacity is required.

As a result, the Education Directorate will work with local communities at both North Ainslie Primary School and Majura Primary School to undertake master planning and detailed design works for a permanent expansion of both of these schools. The Education Directorate has met with both schools to understand existing infrastructure capacity, space and site constraints to inform the scope of works. Once engaged, the consultants will undertake feasibility studies and develop detailed construction plans and staging plans for the permanent expansion of both these schools. Planning and ongoing work will continue to be informed by regular engagement with Majura, North

Ainslie and associated school communities. As with all government infrastructure projects, the timing to deliver permanent expansions is subject to future decisions by the government and the ACT budget process.

Along with these major projects, we are installing transportable, high-quality, purpose-built learning spaces across a number of schools to support the increasing enrolments in our public school system. These additional classrooms are open, spacious, comfortable and exciting learning environments. They are modern, fully insulated, equipped with heating and cooling and designed to meet current energy targets, with all the same comforts and infrastructure as a permanent learning space.

Madam Speaker, as you can probably tell, I am excited to share with you all of the details of our commitment to deliver new schools, modernisations, expansions and upgrades across the ACT region. All of these new, expanded, sustainable public schools will operate with net zero carbon emissions, which will help us to move towards the ACT government's new zero emissions target by 2045. I am proud of the amazing schools we have built and the infrastructure investments that help cater to the ACT's growing population. I am also proud of our continued commitment to ensuring that there is a place for every child in one of our great local public schools.

I present the following paper:

Investment in new schools and school modernisations—Ministerial statement,
9 June 2022.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Domestic and family violence report—government response Ministerial statement

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) (10.13): “The hardest part ended up not being the rape but how the system responded.” These are the powerful words of one of the victim-survivors who participated in the consultations held as part of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program last year.

On 28 April 2021 responsible ministers, all political parties, the directors-general of all ACT public service directorates, the Chief of Police and representatives from the non-government sector came together to make a clear statement to take action to prevent and respond to sexual violence in the ACT. I am proud to have stood alongside members of each political party represented in the Assembly to commit to this work and make progress with a united front.

At the same time, the ACT government announced the establishment of a steering committee to focus on the prevention of and response to sexual violence in the ACT, as well as related law reform. The steering committee was tasked with setting key priorities for future work by the government to drive this reform in the ACT. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultation committee; three working groups focused on prevention, response and law reform; and a workplace reference group were also established to make recommendations to the steering committee.

The steering committee completed its report to government in December 2021. Today I am pleased to be tabling this report, titled *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal*, along with the ACT government response to the report. The report made 24 recommendations to government to improve how we prevent and respond to sexual violence in our community. These recommendations cover a broad range of themes, including a long-term prevention strategy, an ongoing consultation program with victim-survivors, and improvements to the integration, collaboration and case management coordination between specialist response services. There are also recommendations related to enhanced workplace safety, addressing the cultural competency of specialist workers, and improvements to training and education, as well as recommendations related to law reform.

I am pleased to advise that, of these 24 recommendations, the ACT government has agreed to 13, has agreed in principle to nine and noted one. The remaining recommendation, being recommendation 23, relates to law reform. It consists of a further 18 sub-recommendations. The ACT government has agreed to the majority of these. The report is clear that the recommendations will need to be implemented across multiple sectors, over an extended period of time, as part of a phased-in reform program.

The first step in this phased reform program will be to identify where the immediate priorities lie and to ensure that a coordinated response across government takes place. To support this outcome being achieved, the ACT government will appoint a Coordinator-General for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, in accordance with recommendation 24 of the report. The functions of the coordinator-general will be to provide strategic leadership, whole-of-government collaboration and the coordination of the ACT government's response to the reforms. As this work progresses, this role will not only work across government but also consult broadly with stakeholders to inform priorities during the phased implementation. The advice of the coordinator-general will inform an annual ministerial statement, to be delivered in the Assembly, that will reflect our progress and achievements and hold us to account for our actions over time.

I am pleased to note that the private member's bill presented by Dr Paterson MLA to reform the laws in relation to consent recently passed in the Assembly, on 5 May 2022. The bill delivers on recommendation 22 of the report by introducing an affirmative and communicative model of consent in the ACT. I additionally commend the private member's bill presented by Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA last year on stealthing. I strongly welcome these improvements to our law, and other legislative reforms that will be achieved as a result of the government's response to the report.

I also want to acknowledge the work done by the Attorney-General on the progression of the Family Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 10 February 2022. The bill seeks to amend the name of the offence in section 56 of the Crimes Act from “sexual relationship with a child or young person under special care” to “persistent sexual abuse of a child or young person under special care”. This was one of the sub-recommendations made within recommendation 23 of the report. The change in the wording of the offence seeks to reflect the true nature and severity of the crime more accurately.

In addition to this action, in March this year the government announced its work to respond to recommendation 15 and commence work to review sexual assault matters that were reported to police and not progressed to charge. This work has recently commenced and is another step towards better understanding and improving the system responses for victim-survivors.

Many of the matters agreed to in the government response will carry a financial impact for the territory. Announcements in relation to the funding of new initiatives in response to the report will be made in due course. The ACT government recognises that systemic change takes time and that many of the recommendations will need to be implemented in stages. Further work and reforms will be considered in the upcoming 2022-23 territory budget and in future budget processes. I would like to thank the steering committee and the many members of the working groups, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultation committee and the workplace reference group for their hard work to deliver this report.

The report and the government response may be difficult to read for some of us. Woven throughout the report are victim-survivors’ firsthand experiences of the system’s inadequacies. Change is not easy; but, in this instance, it is critical and it is necessary. Despite our best intentions, we must look at the findings of this work and critically reflect on our current practices and how they might contribute to the re-traumatisation of victim-survivors.

It is only with true commitment to understanding the impact of sexual violence on an individual, and how the current system is failing these people, that we can address this problem and truly create lasting change. The government response is only the first step in creating long-lasting reforms to improve how we, as a community, prevent and respond to sexual violence. This work will require intensive focus, energy and resources, but I know we can all agree that it is worth the investment. I am hoping that we will continue to work together across party lines to address this issue in a holistic way that looks at all aspects of the system.

I would like to finish by acknowledging the victim-survivors of sexual violence who bravely shared their experiences of seeking assistance and justice, following sexual violence. Their insights are a powerful reflection of just how difficult it is for victim-survivors to navigate a complex and fragmented system and find a pathway to safety and recovery that meets their needs. These individuals have been critical to shaping this reform process. The importance of engagement with victim-survivors is summed up perfectly by the words of Australian of the Year Grace Tame, who said:

It starts with conversation ... Communication breeds understanding, and understanding is the foundation of progress. Lived experience informs structural and social change. When we share, we heal.

I present the following paper:

Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal—

Report presented to the ACT Government by the sexual assault prevention and response steering committee, dated December 2021.

Government response.

Ministerial statement, 9 June 2022.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (10.22): I am pleased to rise today to speak to the government response to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee's final report, entitled *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal*.

The report represents an extremely valuable program of work, shining a light on the suffering that many of us would have known, in some way, was there. But now we know much more specifically, and how we should go about confronting it. Our community has been having a really important conversation and reckoning around the issues of sexual violence. As a government, and as members of this place, we need to be able to respond to that.

That is why, from the very beginning of this term, it has been an item in the parliamentary and governing agreement to revisit the past recommendations of the Sexual Assault Response Program and to implement a positive definition of consent. Every person deserves sexual safety and to live without fear of their autonomy being violated. Unfortunately, we are not there yet, but work will support the government's commitment. It is right there in the name of the report: we must start by listening to lived experience and then commit, in our actions, to do what we can to prevent sexual violence in our community, to believe victim-survivors and to help to heal.

In my role as Attorney-General there is, rightly, a significant focus on law reform and the way that our legal system responds to incidents of sexual violence. However, from listening to advocates and victim-survivors, it is clear that the court system is not what justice looks like for everyone. When matters do come to court, victim-survivors do not always do so for the same reason. Sometimes it is to get justice for themselves, sometimes for others as well and sometimes to prevent a perpetrator from hurting anyone else. These and any other reasons are valid, and we need to respect them.

There are many law reform recommendations contained within the report, predominantly under recommendation 23 and its various sub-recommendations. Many

of these we are already acting on, and I anticipate having legislation ready this year. Some key points I wish to highlight as areas where the government has agreed and will move swiftly are ensuring that evidence of previous family violence is admissible in sexual assault cases, which is flagged in recommendation 23(E); introducing a presumption that the courtroom is closed when a victim is giving evidence about sexual assault, arising from recommendation 23(H); and providing that self-induced intoxication cannot be considered in determining whether the accused had knowledge or recklessness about consent, from recommendation 23(L).

These are only some of the very important recommendations that will allow us to transform the court process to be more empowering and validating. It boils down to the core of what we need to tell victim-survivors in our words and in our actions: we believe you. I also wish to refer members and the public to the government's response on some of the more complex legal issues raised by the recommendations, particularly in relation to issues such as presumptions in favour of imprisonment. The government has responded to these recommendations by noting them for further consideration.

Presumptions in favour of custodial sentences clearly sit in some tension with other areas of government policy and require a comprehensive analysis of the reasoning and expected outcomes. I wish to flag that these are further difficult conversations we will need to have with victim-survivors and the wider community on how we respond to these abhorrent crimes and how we think through the recommendations that have been identified in the report.

But the core of what we, as a community, are working towards is prevention before something goes wrong. That requires strong, community-based programs to build understanding of the importance of consent and the right that each of us has to bodily autonomy. I think the remarks made by Minister Berry this morning highlighted the other issues, beyond the legal reform, that are a very important part of how the government responds in this report.

Law reform is an important part of the picture, as we know here, having recently voted in favour of a communicative and affirmative model of consent, but it is not the whole picture. The whole picture means that we must do everything we can to prevent. We can only do that through deep conversations with the community and, in having those deep conversations, changing culture, expectations and understanding. That is why I am so pleased this work is happening, and I am very pleased about the various budget initiatives canvassed by Minister Berry.

I wish to close by thanking everyone who contributed to this report. Whether your experience is personal, professional or another, I thank you for contributing to this work to improve the safety of our community. The report is difficult to read, as has been noted at various times, in how much trauma it represents. But, clearly, it is even harder to have lived that trauma and to re-live it so that others may understand. To all contributors: you have given us in the government and the broader community something very personal, and we know how important it is to get this right. We will do everything we can, as the government, as members of this Assembly, to keep faith with your trust.

MS DAVIDSON (Murrumbidgee—Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (10.28): I would like to say a few words in support of the significant amount of work that is being done to improve services and supports for people who have experienced sexual assault and violence. I also want to thank everyone who has contributed to this work to date. It has taken quite a period of time to reach this point. I think that reflects the complexity of the work that needs to be done and the significance of the contributions that have been made from community sector organisations and from government agencies that have been involved.

I note that there are a couple of recommendations in particular that are going to be helpful for people. There is recommendation 17, around how we can better provide support and services to people in the LGBTIQ+ community, the disability community and culturally and linguistically diverse people in our community. I am very pleased to see that the ACT government will be supporting work to provide for more positive and inclusive engagement over time that will help to build trust, as well as to improve the services, knowledge and understanding of how they can better support people from those diverse communities.

I also note recommendation 8, around the needs of people who have experienced child sexual abuse, and improving training to the sector, to professionals, on dealing with people who have experienced child sexual abuse. That includes health services, child protection workers, educators and workers in domestic and family violence settings. I think these changes will greatly improve the experiences of people in being able to access the right services and support when they need it.

I note that the Women's Health Matters survey from 2021, which contributed to this project, found that 33 per cent of women said that it took them longer than 12 months before they felt ready to reach out for support and that a significant number of people never felt ready to reach out for support for their mental health and wellbeing after having experienced sexual assault. To people out there who may have experienced this and may be wondering if there is anything that can help them: there are services in the ACT that can help you. Some of those services include the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, noting that a significant number of sexual assaults occur within a relationship that involves domestic and family violence; the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre; the ACT Women's Health Service; and also the Victims of Crime Commission.

The feedback that we have heard about these services has been overwhelmingly positive, in that they really understand people's needs and want to help them. To quote, for example, someone talking about the ACT Women's Health Service: "It is really good that they take into account that violence and abuse impacts on your whole life." The feedback about the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre was that the location was accessible for a person with disability and that CRCC was supportive and welcoming from the person's first phone call. "Amazing support and I had regular counselling for months," was what this woman said. We know that those services have been under enormous pressure and I thank them for the ongoing work that they do. I will be very pleased to be able to see them supported into the future.

MR DAVIS (Brindabella) (10.32): I would like to start by thanking those who have spoken so far and those who, no doubt, will speak after me. Reform of this nature and of this level of impact insists on tripartisan support and collaborative work across this Assembly, and I am really encouraged that that has happened on this body of work and in this instance.

At the 2020 election the ACT Greens committed to an ACT-wide response to the family and domestic violence crisis and the elimination of violence against women and children. At this time we said that this response must be evidence based and well resourced to address primary prevention action and responsive to overlapping vulnerabilities.

The *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* report starts to address some of these commitments that the ACT Greens—and, I acknowledge, ACT Labor—went to the election with. I am pleased to see the government accepting many of the recommendations of the report. I was honoured to be invited to participate in the work that the task force undertook, including meeting with the chairs and sponsoring the participation of the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation.

One thing that I am particularly pleased to see is the social approach to policy regarding preventing domestic violence. Often we see government approaches to domestic violence policy that spruik strengthening responsive actions as opposed to systemic reform. Whilst the responsive capability of domestic violence agencies is an essential part of the government's approach, preventive social policy will have the most significant impact on gendered violence.

As the report notes, this includes whole-of-life relationships and sexuality education. This starts with, but is not limited to, building programs within our schools and tertiary institutions that engage with this messy, loving, exciting and complex reality of human sexuality in all of its forms. This includes talking about consent and pleasure, as well as violence and risk. We need to learn and practice how to talk about sex, not shy away from it and sweep it under the carpet.

The work of Churchill Scholar and chair of the prevention arm of the task force Katrina Marson is particularly powerful in this area. Her fellowship report, *Ignorance is not innocence*, explains in detail the immense value of relationship and sexuality education, and the empowerment of educating young people about their bodies, relationships and identities.

I am pleased to see more affirmative recognition of the reality of child sexual abuse in the recommendation to amend the Crimes Act 1990. It has long been recognised that the language of legislation impoverishes sexual abuse victims from being able to effectively convey the harm that has been done to them. The vocabulary we use regarding sexual assault tends to be clinical and inadequate on many levels. This inadequate response extends to the treatment of sexual and domestic violence as something too taboo to be discussed in public forums.

I appreciate the government's acknowledgement of the report's finding that reform must be implemented across many sectors. In acknowledging this, we must also acknowledge the role that all members of the public have in ensuring that they remain aware of their responsibility to protect one another from attitudes and thinking patterns that lead to the naturalisation of abusive behaviour.

As a queer man, and someone who has experienced sexual assault, I have a complex and close relationship with the issue of gendered violence. Sexual violence in the queer community is rarely spoken about, but it is prevalent and it is most definitely influenced by gender. People who are gay, bi or lesbian experience intimate partner violence at similar rates to the general community, yet our experiences and our relationships are so rarely represented in the public conversation or policy responses to gendered violence.

There is little research into the experiences of sexual assault by trans and gender diverse people. However, a 2018 study by the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales found that trans men, trans women and non-binary people are experiencing sexual assault at four times the rate of cisgender women, who, as we know, experience unacceptably high rates of sexual violence.

As this report makes clear, it will require a systemic approach to address violence experienced by the queer community. LGBTQIA+ organisations such as Thorne Harbour run successful programs like their ReVisioning program, which offers a safe environment where individuals can explore power and control in their relationships to raise awareness of the effects of their behaviour on others. This is a fantastic initiative that, across the family and domestic violence sector, has been recognised as an important component of equipping our country with the resources to be able to identify and resolve problematic behaviours.

Research demonstrates the importance of health services which display inclusivity and have an understanding of LGBTQ women's lives, as well as the need for health promotion and health information that is representative of the diversity of women's lives, including LGBTQ women. This is needed to ensure that LGBTQ women maintain a good understanding of health and wellbeing, and for the Canberra community to become more inclusive and understanding of the needs and experiences of LGBTQ women and their experiences with sexual violence.

A survey conducted by ACON, formerly the AIDS Council of New South Wales, and the University of Sydney found that 42 per cent of respondents reported that they had been in a relationship where a partner had physically or emotionally abused them. That is an astonishingly high statistic that cannot be overlooked when we consider the importance of intersectionality in actualising these policy reforms.

Much like Thorne Harbour, ACON has committed to developing a primary prevention campaign to challenge the drivers of violence in sexuality and gender diverse communities; and I know that a lot of our local LGBTQIA+ advocacy organisations, like Meridian and A Gender Agenda, were also active participants in the task force and work in our community to address the stressors that lead to violence.

In 2021 we saw the previous federal government commit to what it called “a budget for women”. Despite the praise that the government tried to lay on itself for expanding its vocabulary to consider the word “woman”, this budget was a failure from the start. We can see in stark contrast the approach that the ACT government has taken in listening to and working with survivors of abuse to achieve better outcomes.

The federal government’s response last year entrenched responsive action as the primary approach from the national government. It reflected a long tradition of underfunding the work to change abusive behaviour systemically. Now that we have a change in federal government, and the most diverse federal cabinet in our nation’s history, I look forward to seeing systemic reforms and funding to end sexual violence.

This will include the full implementation of the safe at work report undertaken by the Human Rights Commissioner, Kate Jenkins. Ensuring safety and accountability for parliamentary staffers is an important area of reform, and one that is well within the purview of every employer in this chamber.

This report has taken an approach to recommend that the ACT government continually consult with survivors of sexual violence in the implementation of reactive and preventive policy approaches. Accordingly, the report has outlined the importance of frontloading the voices of the community in addressing the problems faced by the community, specifically those victim-survivors of sexual violence. This is an approach that I hope to see reflected through continued government responses to other systemic social issues.

Of course, none of this matters unless we ensure that these programs and the facilitation of this change is well funded by the ACT government. I acknowledge an announcement that has just landed in my inbox on that question. Instead of spruiking financial frugality in the midst of a cost of living crisis, we must consider the social return on our investment in these life-saving programs.

Policy plans are meaningless in the face of financial austerity. This is recognised by numerous community organisations as being crucial to the legitimate intentions of any policies adopted by any government. I note that budget time is approaching, and I look forward to seeing even more of what the government has in mind to continue to address this issue systemically and effectively.

In closing, I want to acknowledge all of those people across the chamber and across all three parties that have contributed. The minister made reference to the Leader of the Opposition’s bill on stealthing, Dr Paterson’s bill on reforming consent laws and the work that the Attorney-General is leading.

I want to acknowledge and put on record that while all of us have contributed in some way or another, systemic, long-lasting law reform, government reform and systemic reform do require a leader, and I want to acknowledge in this place that that leader is Minister Berry. I have never questioned Minister Berry’s drive and personal commitment to this area of public policy. That is reflected in the government’s response to the recommendations and in the government’s announcement today of

new money for vital, life-saving programs. While we will all continue to be responsible for the areas where we can contribute to reform, I want to acknowledge that, in this place, the strongest advocate for reform is Minister Berry. I look forward to continuing to work with her in this important policy space.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Alcohol and other drug use—harm minimisation policy Ministerial statement

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health) (10.42): I rise today to present an update on the ACT government's work on alcohol and other drug policy, and the approach to harm minimisation in our community. As part of this, I will table the government response to the select committee inquiry into the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021, which I will speak to shortly.

The ACT government has been nation leading in taking a harm minimisation approach to alcohol and other drug policy. Our approach to this policy area has been one of collaboration, engagement and inclusion, with the central guiding principle being that drug use is fundamentally a health issue, and that, in most instances, contact with the criminal justice system for drug possession can do more harm than good.

This approach is not new. I am carrying on the work set out by my predecessor, who launched the ACT government's first Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-21 in December 2018. This plan outlined the ACT government's local actions to meet the aims of the National Drug Strategy 2017-26 and has set the government's direction in a foundation of clear, deliverable and measurable actions that have guided our investment and identified the population groups most in need.

Today, as part of this update, I will outline some of the successes that government and our partners in the alcohol and other drug treatment sector have had in implementing this plan. In this context, I will table the second and final progress report on the implementation of the Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-21. I will set out where the government intends to go from here with the development of the next drug strategy action plan, informed by a policy review of the first plan, which I will also table.

The ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-21 was the first iteration of the ACT's whole-of-government alcohol and other drug agenda under the harm minimisation framework provided by the National Drug Strategy 2017-26. It provided a strong foundation for the ongoing investment in evidence-based and practice-informed harm minimisation responses to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The action plan was launched in December 2018, as I said, following consultation with key government and non-government stakeholders, and a formal public consultation process in mid-2018.

Coordination and partnerships across multiple government agencies and the non-government sector was of key importance to achieving the objectives and actions of the action plan. The Drug Strategy Action Plan Advisory Group was established in 2019 to guide prioritisation of activities, implementation and evaluation of the action plan, and to identify emerging issues over the life of the plan. It was co-chaired by the ACT Health Directorate and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, and included representatives from across ACT government, peak bodies, community organisations and consumer organisations.

The first progress report was published in August 2020. I am pleased to present the second and final progress report on the Drug Strategy Action Plan. The report covers the final 18 months of the action plan in 2020 and 2021, and highlights the constructive steps we have taken to implement the 43 actions contained in the plan. The report includes work carried out by government policymakers and services, as well as non-government organisations and services, and private sector providers such as pharmacies and general practitioners.

The government has made new investments of close to \$20 million in drug and alcohol treatment and harm reduction during the life of the action plan. I will now outline the key achievements and investments.

The new Directions Health Services mobile primary care outreach clinic was established, with funding from both the ACT government and the Capital Health Network. The ACT drug and alcohol sentencing list was established. The ACT became the first Australian jurisdiction to remove criminal penalties for adult personal possession of cannabis. The ACT adopted the national real-time prescription monitoring system, known locally as Canberra Script. Canberra Health Services opened its new Northside Opioid Treatment Service—NOTS—in December 2020. Additional ongoing funding was provided to expand the reach of our nation-leading naloxone program, saving untold lives. The medically supervised injecting facility feasibility study was published, and additional funding was announced for further scoping work. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation model of care was finalised in partnership with Winnunga Nimmityjah. More than \$1.5 million in additional funding was provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring that people have been able to access opioid treatment medications, even when in isolation.

The final progress report is accompanied by a policy review of the Drug Strategy Action Plan, fulfilling a commitment made under the action plan. The review was conducted with the primary purpose of informing the next drug strategy action plan. The review was collaboratively drafted by the ACT Health Directorate and members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, a subcommittee of the Drug Strategy Action Plan Advisory Group, including members of the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT and the Australian National University.

Co-drafting the review was successful thanks to the strong relationships between the ACT government, the community sector and academia, developed in part through engagement on the implementation of the action plan—relationships that I greatly

value and which provide extremely valuable support, experience and advice from across the alcohol and other drug sector.

Both the progress report and the review incorporated feedback from extensive consultation across government and external stakeholders and represent a solid accounting of where we have come from, what we have achieved and where we expect to go next. The review draws on published research, a range of submissions to government and recent consultations to examine how the action plan functioned to guide harm minimisation efforts. It makes recommendations for how the next plan could be improved to further prevent and minimise alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related harm.

The review's recommendations address areas for improvement in evaluation and monitoring of the plan's outcomes, governance structures, partnership and engagement mechanisms to ensure effective collaboration, and targeting the populations most affected by alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related harm. The review recommends ensuring that the ACT continues to set ambitious and targeted goals to maintain the ACT as a national leader in alcohol, tobacco and other drug policy. The review also recommends that the next plan continue the coordinated and collaborative approach taken during the COVID-19 response to respond to emerging issues and the longer term impacts of COVID-19 on alcohol and other drug use and support services.

Together, the review and the final progress report provide a snapshot of recent achievements, ongoing challenges and opportunities for the ACT in coming years. The feedback received and the review's recommendations are being used to inform the development of the next drug strategy action plan.

The draft new action plan will build on the successes of the initial action plan, addressing the critical areas that reflect evidence informed, impactful initiatives that meet the needs of people affected by AOD-related harms.

The action plan will facilitate the systemic change required to further minimise the harms related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the Canberra community, improve the health and wellbeing of the Canberra community, and reduce stigma experienced by people impacted by alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. Actions under the new plan will address policy, regulation, treatment and support, education and awareness, and mechanisms to enhance inclusion of people with lived experience in harm minimisation initiatives.

The new action plan is being developed through comprehensive engagement across government and with non-government stakeholders in the alcohol and other drug sector and related sectors. Development of the draft new action plan has also closely considered submissions to the select committee inquiry and the evidence-based harm minimisation approaches in the National Drug Strategy.

The iterative co-design process has given stakeholders multiple opportunities to comment on increasingly more refined consultation documents and potential priorities over the past few months, including a process for stakeholders to rank priority areas, objectives and actions to indicate importance and urgency.

I am pleased to say that we have received strong engagement from stakeholders and positive feedback on the co-design approach taken. The draft action plan will shortly be made available for public consultation and I look forward to seeing the feedback received. The new action plan will be published in the second half of this year.

I would now like to provide an update on pill testing, which is a government priority as part of our harm minimisation approach to alcohol and other drugs. In the 2021-22 ACT budget, the government set aside funding to implement a six-month pilot of a pill testing service to operate at a fixed site in Canberra. A fixed-site service will make pill testing available on a regular basis to a larger population than has previously been possible through the two successful festival-based pill testing trials held at Groovin the Moo in 2018 and 2019.

Pill testing is intended to encourage choices that reduce overall drug use and the harms associated with taking drugs. However, even with pill testing, it remains risky and dangerous to consume illicit drugs, and clients of the service will not ever be told that their drugs are safe. A nurse will be available to provide health advice to clients of the service, whether or not they choose to have their drugs tested.

The ACT government considers that, as a component of harm reduction measures, pill testing is a sensible approach to limiting the dangers of illicit drug use by Canberrans. While it has taken longer than we had hoped to find a site and establish this service, the pilot is now anticipated to commence later this month.

I thought it was important to provide members with an overview of the significant progress and work underway in the alcohol and other drug policy area before discussing the government response that I am tabling today. That is because the premise and intent of Mr Pettersson's private member's bill, the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021, represents a coherent policy response to the ACT government's policy aim of harm minimisation.

The bill has prompted a conversation on the next logical step in harm minimisation, recognition that drug use is a health issue first and foremost, and that reducing stigma is key to improving outcomes for those most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our community.

I want to thank those who made submissions and provided testimony to the select committee, and also to acknowledge the significant work done by the select committee in considering the range of evidence it received. I would also like to thank members for their patience regarding the delay in providing this response, which was affected, in part, by the Omicron wave of COVID-19.

The information presented to the committee and its recommendations have informed the government's alcohol and other drug policy and program work, including proposed government amendments to the bill. In particular, I note that the government has drawn on the valuable and often challenging personal and professional experiences outlined in submissions, in meetings with me and my office, and with the dedicated officials from across government, including ACT Policing, who have been

working through the incredible complexity of this policy space for the better part of a year and a half.

On that note, I acknowledge the work of the ACT Health Directorate team, which is incredibly well informed and connected, and has provided the government with thoughtful advice on these complex issues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commit to continuing to work with key stakeholders—people with lived experience, policy experts, and those delivering alcohol and other drug treatment services over the coming weeks to ensure that the finer detail of the approach I am outlining today is clear, understandable and delivers on the harm reduction goals that Mr Pettersson set out to achieve.

The government response details our proposed approach, agreeing to eight recommendations, agreeing in principle to eight recommendations and noting one. I take this opportunity to outline where the government is proposing to amend Mr Pettersson's bill to achieve its aims.

Further decriminalisation of personal possession of illicit drugs, while retaining penalties for larger quantities, and particularly drug trafficking, is another important component of the ACT government's overall harm minimisation approach to illicit drugs. The ACT government has a nation-leading record in drug decriminalisation, and in recognising personal illicit drug use as a matter for health services instead of prosecution.

The government has given detailed consideration to the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021, including social, economic and operational considerations. The government is proposing sensible amendments to ensure that the bill can be implemented to achieve its goals—supporting people who have health needs to access the care that they need and reducing the stigma associated with illicit drug use to facilitate that access.

The proposed government amendments will ensure that the potential for diversion away from the criminal justice system is maximised, with the illicit drug diversion program to be available as a health-based alternative to paying the simple drug offence notice—SDON—fine. The proposed approach will also improve consistency of the reforms across different drugs, so that the changes are clearer for people who use drugs and those involved in enforcement.

The proposed government amendments will look to ensure that there is a considered approach to these important reforms, with a review point after three years to ensure that the legislation is fit for purpose and has not had unintended consequences. Other changes to the bill will ensure greater flexibility in response to changing trends over the longer term.

The proposed approach will include a 12-month implementation period to allow for appropriate police training and review of the supporting administrative arrangements, including the guidelines for the health-focused illicit drug diversion program. This will also allow time for a focus on messaging in relation to the government's

expectations around the bill's application developed with ACT Policing, other experts and those with lived experience, and for the ACT community to build awareness about what the changes mean for them. The government recognises that this is particularly important given the existing challenges faced by people who use drugs.

The changes proposed by the amended bill reflect global trends in decriminalisation of drug use, recognising the evidence that criminalising personal use of drugs does not deter drug use and simply creates further harm for drug users. The amended bill will continue our journey to genuinely treat drug use primarily as a public health matter rather than through the criminal justice system. My hope is that this will help to reduce the stigma experienced by people who use illicit drugs, encouraging more people to come forward and receive support.

In closing, I would again like to thank all of those who are involved in alcohol and other drug and related policy and programs in the ACT for their substantial, ongoing contributions to the ACT's overarching harm minimisation approach. I would also like to reiterate at this point that the government will continue to work closely with stakeholders as we move forward, and recognise the important work of the entire treatment and support sector. I refer in particular to the advocacy of Mr Chris Gough from the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy, Mr Devin Bowles from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Association, and the ongoing, thoughtful and progressive policy work and advocacy that Mr Pettersson has demonstrated in this field. This passionate work is done for one purpose; that is, to support people who use drugs, their families and carers to ultimately create a healthier and safer community.

Finally, I expect to have many conversations over the coming weeks, and I will endeavour to circulate the government amendments as soon as possible in order for members to consider these changes and debate the bill as soon as practicable.

I present the following papers:

ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021—

Progress Report 2020-21, dated June 2022.

Review, dated June 2022.

Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021—Select Committee—Report—*Inquiry into the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021*—Government response.

ACT Government's commitment to minimising the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs—Update—Ministerial statement, 9 June 2022.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

MR DAVIS (Brindabella) (10.58): The decriminalisation of drug use is the most important legislative change that we can make to reduce the harm of drugs in our community. If done well, this reform will improve the day-to-day lives of some of the

most vulnerable people in our community and will set an extremely important precedent across the country for treating substance dependency as a health issue.

I thank Minister Stephen-Smith for presenting the government's response to the drugs of dependence inquiry. I also thank her for the work that she and the Health Directorate have done to date on the development of the government's response to the personal use amendment bill.

I would like to take the opportunity to put on the record a series of important points about what a sensible, evidence-based approach to drug decriminalisation would look like. I do so having spent almost 12 months as a member of the select committee formed to examine the bill and the policy, funding and service environment in which it sits. I do so as someone who has had an ongoing, strong stakeholder relationship with the drug and alcohol sector since I was first elected. I also do so as someone with a lived experience of caring for a loved one who has had a problematic relationship with drugs.

In that vein, I would like to acknowledge Mr Bill Bush from Family and Friends of Drug Law Reform, who joins us in the gallery today. Thank you, Bill, for your ongoing advocacy and fight for sensible drug policy. You, Marion and the rest of the family and friends group are a constant motivation for me and my whole team.

Over the course of my time as the ACT Greens spokesperson for drug harm reduction, I have spent a lot of time reading, listening to and talking with people with significant lived experience, policy expertise and academic knowledge of drug use. We know that people with lived experience of drug use and substance dependence are best placed to understand the very real difference that decriminalisation will make. Decriminalisation is set to most impact those with compounding experiences of stigma and marginalisation—experiences at the intersection of poverty, mental health, social isolation, housing instability and discrimination. This reform must be made in primary collaboration with those that it will directly impact.

This is a very complex and politically charged area of policy development. In all of the noise that surrounds this issue, we must keep in the forefront of our minds the people that this impacts, and the overwhelming evidence base that a health and human rights approach to drug use significantly improves the lives of these people, their families and friends, and our broader community.

The Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy, in their submission to the drugs of dependence inquiry, told us:

This bill is of extreme importance to ACT society because it is focused on reducing the harms from both ... the harms that drugs cause to people and the harms that criminalisation of drugs cause to people. It must be understood that these 2 harms are intricately linked, with the criminalisation of drugs shutting down support and timely treatment of people and causing long term social exclusion in areas such as employment.

Again and again throughout the inquiry we were told by people with lived experience, community lawyers that advocate for them, the drug treatment sector that provides

support to them, and academics that research the impact of criminalisation that the inclusion of fines is highly problematic and risks re-entrenching stigma against drug users and re-criminalising those who cannot pay fines.

We know that those impacted most by criminalisation are not the wealthy coke users partying on a Saturday night after a company's big win, for whom a fine will be a mild administrative inconvenience. We know instead that fines are discriminatory and are not only disproportionately given to marginalised people but that the accumulation of fines and the consequences for not paying them fall onto those living in poverty. This is a very real and serious form of discrimination that should not be reinforced in these reforms. As Canberra Community Law said in their submission to the inquiry:

People with insecure and inadequate housing are at a greater risk of being brought to the attention of, and targeted by, police and fined or charged with poverty related offences because they live their lives outdoors and in public spaces. Additionally, homeless people cannot carry out their behaviours in the privacy of a home or store items, such as drugs, in a house which increases the chances that a homeless person who uses drugs will be in possession of them. The current provisions of the bill will not divert people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or on low incomes, from the criminal justice system. Instead, a penalty of \$100 for a simple drug offence is a potentially oppressive form of punishment for people experiencing homelessness in circumstances where it is not uncommon for them to accrue excessive infringement notices, fines and charges for minor poverty related criminal offending.

Specifically for our clients a penalty exacerbates their already difficult living situations by placing them under additional financial strain. Our clients already have limited, or non-existent, incomes. Often their sole source of income, if they have one, is Centrelink benefits. If clients are fined, this compounds the difficulties they face in trying to find affordable accommodation, obtaining stable employment, repaying other debts and dealing with personal and welfare issues.

Given that the intent of this policy and legislative reform is to decriminalise drug use, it is of the utmost importance that the government's amendments to Mr Pettersson's bill do not re-inscribe penalties. If the policy intent of this legislation is to prevent people from coming before the criminal justice system, let us make sure that we build legislation that accomplishes this very worthy goal.

On a related matter, attempts to force people into treatment will likely be ineffective and put undue strain on an already overburdened sector. We know that currently the drug treatment sector in the ACT can only meet 50 per cent of the demand from people willing and wanting to access support. Forcing people into treatment gets in the way of the real policy issue here, which is that the alcohol and other drugs sector is seriously underfunded. Therefore, mandatory treatment takes resources and attention away from the real issues.

The ACT Greens went to the last election with a promise to double funding to the alcohol and other drugs sector, and I will continue to campaign to do just that. While we were told throughout the inquiry that decriminalisation is absolutely necessary in spite of funding decisions, it is overwhelmingly clear that this legislative reform will lead to an increase in people seeking support because they are no longer subject to

criminalisation and the lifelong ramifications of this. I will continue to campaign for proper funding increases that recognise the role of drug user services and treatments in providing support to those who use substances and their families. To do the most good, and to help those who need it most, the reforms must apply equally to all drugs, especially the most stigmatised, like heroin and methamphetamine. Any carve-outs will re-stigmatise these already heavily stigmatised substances and seriously undermine the intent of this policy change.

My final substantive point is about threshold quantities that demarcate between personal possession and trafficable quantities. Trafficable quantities are already defined in the Criminal Code and should not be redefined in the legislation to decriminalise, as Mr Pettersson's legislation unfortunately accidentally risks doing. The quantities in the Criminal Code regulation were developed from thorough and well-designed research completed by the leading Australian drug researchers at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. This research was commissioned by the ACT government for the purposes of developing drug laws that reflect the reality of drug use, of cultures and patterns of purchase and the markets that surround it.

You are either possessing for personal use or you are not. We need this legislation to be as straightforward as possible. You should not have to have a law degree to understand the consequences of possession. Subclasses or competing definitions are dangerous and illogical. If we are trying to decriminalise personal possession, let us just do that.

To end, I would like to emphasise that what we do here in the ACT will likely be used as a precedent across the country for progressive drug law reform. This is an opportunity not only to impact vulnerable people within our own city but to once again lead the nation in progressive, evidence-based law reform that prioritises the wellbeing of vulnerable people. We have a responsibility to do this well, as decision-makers and representatives of people in this city, and in order to represent our city as a jurisdiction known for prioritising human rights and social justice to the rest of the country, and indeed to the world.

I will continue to work with the government to achieve the best possible outcomes in this space. I again thank Minister Stephen-Smith for her work, and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of further close stakeholder consultation. The war on drugs, at least in the ACT, is over. Now must be the time for compassion, for evidence and for care.

MR PETTERSSON (Yerrabi) (11.08): Today is an exciting day for drug law reform. I want to make sure that the many members of our community that have advocated for changes to our drug laws know that these changes are because of them. Thank you for your dedication over many, many years. I want to thank my colleagues in this place who worked on the select committee. To work on a select committee is often thankless but it is important work. I particularly want to thank Minister Stephen-Smith. She is a true champion of drug law reform, and this would not be possible without her hard work and her personal support over many years. I also want to thank the many

hardworking ACT public servants who have worked diligently on the government's response since the bill came before the Assembly.

I am so pleased to see the ACT government's response. I think it is sensible and measured, and I wholeheartedly support it. I believe that the model proposed by the ACT government is one that all Canberrans can support. It seeks to remove people from the criminal justice system for the possession of small amounts of drugs for their own personal use. It does this by placing diversion on an equal footing to that of a civil penalty. This will mean that if you are found in possession of these substances by a police officer, in small quantities for your own personal use, you will have the drugs confiscated and you will receive a fine or a diversion to an appropriate health service. If you possess larger quantities, above and beyond the thresholds of this scheme, you would still be liable to proceed through the criminal justice system.

I look forward to this bill being brought back for debate, where I think I will contribute more substantively. I will consult with colleagues in the coming days about a suitable sitting period for the bill to be considered in, as well as the time frame for the public release of the ACT government's proposed amendments. I have said for a very long time that Canberrans are ready for a sensible conversation about our drug laws. For many years we have been having that conversation, and now I look forward to this Assembly taking the next sensible step. It is time to decriminalise the possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use. It is time to treat drug use like the public health issue it is.

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (11.10): I wish to raise concerns about what is being proposed by the government. A couple of aspects in particular arise from Mr Pettersson's bill. Mr Assistant Speaker Cain, as you would be aware, as you sat on the committee that inquired into this, although there was a committee report that supported the passage of this legislation, you provided a dissenting report that recommended that the legislation not be passed. You outlined your reasons in that dissenting report.

Without going through it in detail, you made the point that it fails to offer a whole-of-government approach to a complex policy area; it fails to consider the risks and unintended consequences involved in decriminalisation; it fails to recognise that criminalising possession is, for many, a deterrent to adopting such a behaviour; it fails to recognise that diversion in the ACT is already working reasonably well; and it fails to satisfactorily resolve the issues around the conflict with criminal law. I, certainly, and the Canberra Liberals, support that dissenting report that was tabled. I point members to that report.

I often hear in this place, "Listen to the experts. What are the experts saying on this?" We have heard a multitude of voices in this debate, but I would like to add the voice of our frontline police. That is a voice that has been absent from the speeches that we have heard from those opposite, but it raises concerns. I want to quote from the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police. He is our top cop. He is a most experienced police officer, responsible for AFP matters across Australia. He knows more about law enforcement, it is fair to say, than Mr Pettersson.

Members interjecting—

Let us see what he says. These comments are reflected across a whole range of media, but in an article in the *Canberra Weekly* he said that decriminalising drugs would make society far more dangerous. The article says:

Decriminalising illicit drugs—as Labor backbencher Michael Pettersson wants to do in the ACT—would be “a far more dangerous environment” to police, AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw told a Senate estimates committee this week.

The article goes on:

“People get into ice rages and all sorts of things,” Commissioner Kershaw said, addressing the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee on Monday. “It would become a more dangerous society, and it wouldn’t be as safe as what we are enjoying today. For me, it would lead to chaos.”

Mr Pettersson has a bill before the Legislative Assembly to amend the ACT drug laws. It would decriminalise possession of small amounts of hard drugs; those caught in possession would pay a fine and be referred to a medical professional, rather than facing a two-year prison sentence.

The article says that the bill is supported by a range of people, and it continues:

But, Commissioner Kershaw said: “The evidence is not stacking up that decriminalisation necessarily leads to less crime.”

Illicit drugs facilitated and enabled other crimes, he argued. Drugs were “a causal factor” of domestic violence, and were involved more and more in traffic accidents where people lose their lives.

“Assaults, serious assaults, murder, money laundering—the list goes on of all the different criminal activities that are associated with drug crime.”

I refer to that article because I think it is worth reading in full. I will quote further from it:

Ice, Commissioner Kershaw said, was “a very addictive drug that is very destructive to society. Lots of violent crimes are committed by people who take methamphetamine ... Most of the time, it’s a tale of destruction, criminality, and woe and misery for these individuals.”

The article goes on:

Countries that had decriminalised illicit drugs were changing their policies, Commissioner Kershaw said. “As police, we’ve seen that that hasn’t worked as effectively. It can have unforeseen consequences.” The Netherlands’ soft drug policy led to ‘narcotourism’, “a lot of organised crime set up and headquartered in Amsterdam”. Portugal “had crime issues attached to it as well”.

That was the top cop sending a warning, because this is what Mr Pettersson, Mr Davis and others want to impose.

The submissions that were presented to the inquiry included submissions from New South Wales Police about the cross-border effects on the Southern Region Command. The New South Wales Police submission says:

The proposed change in legislation within the ACT will have adverse impacts on policing capabilities, safety to communities and demands on other government and nongovernment support services, and in particular those areas within the Monaro Police District.

While you have New South Wales Police and the Australian Federal Police Commissioner warning of dire consequences, using words like “chaos”, when you hear about the cross-border effects and the police saying that it is going to have an adverse impact on a range of issues, including safety to communities, I caution the government in proceeding with this legislation; it is the wrong way to go. We have engaged in this process. We have listened to the experts, and we have listened to the advice. We have had the ability to consider this for a while and it is clear that if you listen to what the Australian Federal Police Association, the Australian Federal Police and the New South Wales Police are saying, you will hear that this is a dangerous way to proceed.

I also note that the government is moving ahead with pill testing as part of this. I raise further caution when it comes to pill testing. We are all shocked and saddened when we see someone, particularly a young person, die as a result of drug use. But, in our view, pill testing is not the right way to go. Indeed, that position is supported by a range of people. Toxicologist Andrew Leibie said that statements that pill testing would help keep people safe were potentially misleading and that pill testing is based on a false assumption that if you know what you are taking it is safe. That is something that is absolutely untrue; MDMA is not a safe drug. The state Health Commander of Ambulance Victoria said, “It is a poison. You can test a poison all you like; it remains a poison.” Toxicologist John Lewis doubts its effectiveness in detecting other dangerous chemicals, and so on.

One thing that really convinces me that this is the wrong way to go is that shine of safety, because at the Groovin the Moo festival where drugs were tested, when it was shown that it was basically pure MDMA, 97 per cent of respondents then said, “Yes, we are going to take it.” Once it was tested and found to be MDMA, they then took those drugs. The ABC went on to Groovin the Moo in Bendigo and said to a whole bunch of young people, “What do you think about this?” Following the Canberra pill testing trial the ABC reported a young festival goer saying, “The fact that they can test it and make sure that you are going to be safe is definitely a good thing.” Another said, “It could make you want to take more drugs. It would definitely give you peace of mind.”

This is the problem. This is what the young people who were interviewed by the ABC said. They said, “It is great. What pill testing does is make sure drugs are safe.” That

is the shine of safety that toxicologists, medical experts and people who run Victoria Ambulance and so on are warning about. So I caution that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. I understand the good intentions here and I understand the case for pill testing, but I think that the risks that will arise will far outweigh the benefits that are being articulated.

Members interjecting—

The Canberra Liberals obviously have a different view from the government. We stand with our police. We stand with the AFP. We stand with New South Wales Police. We support the comments that we have seen from a range of experts with regard to pill testing. I do not dispute that some of the proposals that have been put forward are well intentioned, but I think that they are naive. They do not take into account the views of the experts, and they risk being very dangerous and causing much greater harm than they seek to resolve.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health) (11.20): I wish to acknowledge the presence of Bill Bush in the chamber; I had not realised he was here. Family and Friends for Drug Law Reform, particularly Bill Bush and Marion McConnell, have been incredible advocates. As people who have personally been affected by the harm caused by illicit drugs, they understand the evidence. They have looked at the evidence and they are advocating for drug law reform because they know that, as Mr Hanson says, illicit drugs are not safe. They are illicit drugs for a reason. The government will never tell anyone that illicit drugs are safe.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Cain): Mr Hanson.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: And pill testing facilities do not tell the people who turn up that their drugs are safe. They would never do that. In fact, that is an opportunity for people who are already intending to take the drug to get access to advice about the risks associated with taking that drug.

I just want to go to a couple of points before I come back to Mr Hanson and poor Ms Lee. Ms Lee keeps trying to tell the Canberra public that the Canberra Liberals are moving in a more progressive direction, and then Mr Hanson turns up and the scare campaign begins. I will address some of the substance of his comments in a moment.

Opposition members interjecting—

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr Hanson: A scare campaign? Are you accusing the police commissioner of a scare campaign?

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Mr Hanson.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: No, I am not. I am accusing you of a scare campaign, Mr Hanson. I think that was pretty clear.

Opposition members interjecting—

Dr Paterson: I have a point of order. I cannot hear the minister's response.

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Thank you. I was struggling to hear. I am close to giving someone a warning, members.

Mr Hanson: On the point of order, the minister spent my whole speech interjecting, and no-one complained and no-one raised a point of order at all. So I think it needs to be consistently applied, Mr Assistant Speaker.

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER: We will do so. We will have time for Ms Stephen-Smith to finish her closing speech. Thank you.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr Assistant Speaker. Just to be clear, Mr Hanson, I was not making any comment about police commissioners, but I will come to that in a minute.

I wish to reply to Mr Davis's comment. I would strongly encourage Mr Davis to read the government's response. I assure you, in particular, that the government's position is that methadone is the only substance that should be removed from the original list that was in the bill, and that is purely because it is already regulated as a pharmaceutical. Otherwise, the list of drugs that the government is proposing to move to regulation remains the same as the list that was originally proposed by Mr Pettersson.

I can also assure Mr Davis that we addressed the issue in relation to the payment of fines and the capacity to do that. As he would be aware, and as Mr Braddock has advocated for, there is no capacity to create payment plans for those kinds of infringement notices at this point in time, but, should that capacity become available, it would be available for these types of fines as well. The alternative to diversion to the Illicit Drug Diversion Program is a short seminar, not mandatory drug treatment. Obviously, we recognise the evidence that drug treatment works best when it is undertaken voluntarily rather than mandated.

I know that Mr Hanson touched on Mr Cain's dissenting report from the committee, which probably failed to acknowledge the actual evidence from experts and from around the world. I encourage Mr Hanson to read a very recent article from 5 June in the *Sydney Morning Herald* by Nicole Lee, Adjunct Professor at the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University. It is headlined "Canada's drug experiment could work here. This is why." It talks about the Canadian government's announcement that it will trial decriminalisation of drugs in British Columbia for three years and outlines why that is such a sensible and evidence-based move.

Adjunct Professor Lee also quotes former police commissioner Mick Palmer. Mr Hanson wanted to talk about the police view on this matter, but the former police commissioner, in 2019, responding to a Queensland inquiry, made some comments. Mick Palmer was Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police from 1994 to 2001, and he said that the current prohibitionist approach to drugs was “badly broken”:

Despite our best endeavours over many years, drugs are as readily available now as they have ever been. Experimentation is probably at an all-time high, with an ever widening array of, increasingly dangerous, drugs available for use; the market is totally unregulated and controlled by Organised Crime figures, and drug trafficking criminals who make huge profits, pay no tax—and who follow no rules other than their own.

Mr Palmer noted, as we do, that he abhorred drug traffickers and the harm they cause, but he was convinced that the current approach was compounding rather than reducing the problem. So Mr Hanson can get on his high horse and claim that the ACT government is ignoring the views of policing, but that is absolutely untrue. All of this work has been done by the ACT Health Directorate in collaboration with ACT Policing to ensure that the amendments that we are making will make the bill more easily enforceable and—to Mr Davis’s earlier point—easier generally for people who use drugs to also understand what the rules are.

And, to Mr Davis’s point, we will be having further conversations with advocates around this matter to clarify these issues in relation to the small amounts and the trafficking amount. One of our proposals is to reduce the maximum penalty for amounts that sit between the small amount, where the SDON would be applicable, and the trafficking amount, which of course is significantly larger than the personal possession amounts proposed in Mr Pettersson’s bill.

The final thing I would draw Mr Hanson’s attention to is an article first posted on 1 June, which says that New South Wales Attorney-General Mark Speakman proposes \$400 fines for drug possession instead of prosecution. I recognise that the New South Wales government are currently saying that they are not supporting the decriminalisation of possession, but what they are recognising is that prosecuting people for possession of small amounts of drugs is not an effective response.

Opposition members interjecting—

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Members.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Criminalising drug use is not an effective response, either for drug users or for community safety. It does not improve community safety, and that is the bottom line. Mr Hanson really needs to go back and have a look at the evidence and maybe talk to his leader about the kind of party that the Canberra Liberals want to present to the Canberra community, because 90 per cent of Canberrans surveyed think that the kinds of approaches that Mr Hanson is talking about are not an appropriate response to drug use. So, Mr Hanson, if you ever want to win an election, you might want to think about the kinds of evidence that you are looking at, have another good look at this and maybe have a conversation with your leader.

I thank everybody who participated in this debate today, and I look forward to the further conversations when the government's amendments are introduced and the bill is debated.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Seniors—mental health and wellbeing strategy

Ministerial statement

MS DAVIDSON (Murrumbidgee—Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (11.29): Along with the rest of Australia, Canberra's population is ageing. Canberra provides some of the highest standards of health and wellbeing in Australia, with our older people, on average, having the highest life expectancy in the country. However, this increased life expectancy, the growing ageing population, and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to intensify demand on the aged-care, healthcare and social support systems that support the needs of older people. It is important that we are able to enhance our services to be responsive to these increasing needs.

We know that there are a range of complex factors that shape the mental health and wellbeing outcomes of our older Canberrans. These can be mental, physical, social, economic and environmental. Older people can be vulnerable to experiencing poor mental health due to their increased susceptibility to chronic disease and disability; changes in socio-economic circumstances or access to appropriate and affordable housing that can occur after retirement; and the social and emotional challenges associated with ageing.

Older people are also not precluded from experiencing mental illness. Some older people will have aged with mental illness, while others will be diagnosed later in life. We know that sometimes the intersections between aged-care or older persons' services and the mental health sectors can be complex to navigate and that there are identified gaps in the current way we do things that can mean that the mental health needs of older people go undetected or untreated.

While we acknowledge that there are many positive aspects to the current ACT older persons' mental health sector, with some targeted programs being delivered at a high standard, we also acknowledge that there are many areas that will benefit from development to strengthen our mental health service response. We want to see our ageing population not only be able to access the right kinds of mental health supports when they need them but also be supported to live mentally healthy lives and continue to be productive and active members of our community.

It is in response to this complex and shifting landscape that I am pleased to be able to share with the Legislative Assembly today the Re-envisioning Older Persons' Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Strategy 2022-2026. The strategy is the result of a series of consultations with key stakeholders across the mental health and older persons' health services sectors to seek advice on measures the ACT government can take to improve the mental health and wellbeing outcomes of older Canberrans.

The strategy provides strategic guidance to the ACT government on the identified priorities and initiatives that can be implemented over the next five years to improve the mental health and wellbeing outcomes of older Canberrans in our community. The strategy proposes 26 actions across three priority areas towards the goals of building mentally healthy communities for older Canberrans, enhancing the lives and experiences of older Canberrans with mental illness, and improving structural and system capacity to respond to the needs of older Canberrans requiring mental health care.

I am very pleased to see that some of the actions proposed in this strategy recognise the social determinants of people's mental health and wellbeing. The actions in the strategy range from research and scoping initiatives to further our knowledge on emerging needs, to piloting new initiatives and enhancing knowledge and coordination across existing services to better support the mental health needs of older Canberrans.

The strategy seeks to improve coordination between the intersections of mental health and wellbeing and ageing, and to provide a focused lens on efforts to improve support for this priority population. This focused and coordinated response is anticipated to be a significant step towards improving the mental health and wellbeing outcomes for older people in the ACT.

Importantly, the implementation of initiatives will promote the strengthening of partnerships, collaboration and coordination between ACT government agencies, service providers and community organisations to progress the objectives that have been defined in collaboration with the community. The more we all work together towards the shared goal of improving the mental health and wellbeing outcomes of older Canberrans, the more improvements we will see in their mental health and wellbeing. The collaboration across portfolios will also enable us to be more responsive to the broader social determinants of mental health and wellbeing for this cohort in a more holistic way.

This work complements the existing efforts of the ACT government through the implementation of the Age-Friendly City Plan 2020-2024, which is broadly contributing to the wellbeing outcomes of older Canberrans by reducing barriers and improving their access to services across Canberra. We know that an environment that allows older people to live active, productive and mentally healthy lives is critical to supporting healthy ageing. It will also enable older Canberrans to continue to actively share their valuable knowledge, experience and contributions to our community, which we all benefit from. I am looking forward to commencing the implementation of this important strategy and sharing with you all its progress and the benefits we are seeing for this important group in our community over the next four years.

I present the following papers:

Re-envisioning Older Persons Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Strategy
2022-2026—

Towards our Vision.

Ministerial statement, 9 June 2022.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (11.35): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 to the Assembly. As members will well know by this stage, the JACS bill is an omnibus bill, making a range of minor, technical or non-controversial amendments to laws falling primarily within my portfolio as Attorney-General.

These amendments are necessary to facilitate the proper functioning of our governance and legal systems. The smooth functioning of government requires us to continually maintain our statutes, and all of these amendments are important. However, I do wish to highlight at the outset some particularly valuable amendments to improve access to justice for survivors of child sexual abuse that are included in the bill. The amendments will give the courts the power to set aside unjust child abuse settlements and remove limitation periods on causes of actions for survivors of child physical abuse.

It is critical that the territory's legislation is accurate, well-maintained and cohesive. This bill contains amendments to the Land Titles Act 1925, the Agents Act 2003 and the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 to correct technical errors in those pieces of legislation. These amendments are important to support the proper functioning of our laws.

The bill contains minor amendments that update existing territory laws to operate more efficiently following the COVID-19 pandemic. Amendments to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 will improve the efficiency of reporting to the Legislative Assembly on COVID-19 measures. Members will be familiar with the regular reporting by government on how each of the amendments that were introduced in response to COVID-19 are functioning. However, since those measures were first introduced, some have been repealed and some have been adopted as ongoing measures.

The reporting requirements reflect a very important underlying rationale: the need for transparency and accountability in extraordinary times. However, clearly that rationale does not apply for measures where they no longer have effect, or where the Assembly has seen fit to adopt it as an ongoing piece of regular legislation. As such, the amendments remove reporting and tabling requirements where a COVID-19 measure has been legislated to operate on an ongoing basis, or where such a measure has been repealed.

The bill makes amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 2004 to provide an additional year, from 30 November 2022 to 30 November 2023, for a report to be presented to the Legislative Assembly on the operation of the gaming machine tax rebate provisions. Due to COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns, many clubs have been closed and have not paid standard rates of tax. This has created difficulties for a proper assessment to be undertaken on gaming machine tax by November this year. The amendments extend the tabling requirements of this report to 30 November 2023. These amendments will support a more objective and informative report to be prepared and presented on the gaming machine tax rebate.

As I have alluded to, this bill includes two significant reforms to remove legal barriers that provide a clear pathway for access to justice for survivors of child abuse. First, the bill will allow survivors to apply to the court to have a past settlement agreement set aside if, at the time the agreement was made, there were legal barriers to the survivor being fully compensated or if the agreement in all the circumstances is not a just or reasonable agreement. Once the agreement is set aside, the survivor will then be able to have their claim determined on its merits and receive just compensation for the harm they have suffered.

Second, the bill will broaden the definition of “child abuse” in the Limitation Act to encompass “physical” abuse. As a result, survivors who experienced historical physical abuse as children will no longer be statute barred from bringing a claim for compensation in respect of that physical abuse.

I would like to acknowledge the survivors and their advocates who have placed their trust in us by sharing their deeply personal stories and generously contributing their extensive knowledge. I know they are watching the progress of this bill with great interest. Thank you for your advice, and your strength and commitment to seeing this reform through. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Steven Fisher, the CEO of Beyond Abuse. These reforms have been influenced by your voice.

I also acknowledge the survivors and advocates who lobbied for these reforms around Australia with courage and tenacity. We have a responsibility to meet the extraordinary bravery, resilience and determination of survivors and their advocates with law reform that provides a way for survivors to access the compensation they deserve. The bill builds on the ACT’s previous reforms to allow greater access to justice for survivors of child abuse, in line with and going beyond the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in its 2015 redress and civil litigation report.

The bill provides that the types of agreements that can be set aside are agreements: (a) that happened before the limitation period for the abuse was removed; (b) where there might have been the option to apply to the court to have the limitation period extended but the survivor did not do so; and (c) that happened before the JACS bill 2022 was introduced, where the agreement is not just and reasonable in the circumstances.

The latter subsection is important, as it recognises that not all barriers faced by survivors that resulted in unjust settlements were legal barriers. This broad approach is intended to result in greater rights for survivors. It reflects what we heard from survivors during the targeted consultation process for the bill: that it was not just legal barriers that prevented survivors from being appropriately compensated.

The intention is to create equality for survivors by allowing them to receive compensation that is appropriate by today's standards. It is in the court's discretion to determine what is just and reasonable according to the circumstances of each case. This may include, for example, the amount of the settlement, compared to what the survivor would receive today, and the bargaining power of the parties.

It is not necessary that the existence of the limitation period be the predominant reason as to why the agreement was entered into. It might be the reason. It might be one of the reasons. But it does not need to be the only factor that permits the court to set aside the settlement. Once the agreement is set aside, the survivor is then able to have their claim determined on its merits and receive reasonable and just compensation for the harm they have suffered.

The ACT government has heard from survivors and advocates that circumstances that resulted in unjust settlements include but are not limited to the expiry of a limitation period; the inability to identify a proper defendant; deficiencies in the law of liability at the time, including lack of clear, vicarious liability of institutions for intentional wrongs of an employee, or a person akin to an employee; misconduct of the institution—for example, withholding evidence, making false statements, denying things which they knew were true et cetera; asymmetry of power between the parties; misconduct or weak conduct by the victim's own lawyer; and inadequate understanding by the court of abuse and the effect of abuse.

This bill will provide the court with the power to consider settlements entered into because of any of these factors, or any combination of these factors, and to set them aside. It is important that there is clarity around the types of injustices that are able to be set aside, for applicants, respondents and the court. This legislation should not be weaponised in such a way that re-victimises a survivor and makes it more onerous than necessary to give the survivor access to the justice they have been denied for so long.

The bill also expands the definition of child abuse in section 21C of the Limitation Act from "sexual" abuse only to also include "physical" abuse. This aligns it with the definition of child abuse in section 114A(1) of the Civil Law (Wrongs) Act, which defines child abuse as including "sexual" or "physical" abuse.

This will allow all survivors of child abuse in the ACT the opportunity to receive equal treatment before the law, by enabling those who suffered abuse as children to bring claims for damages, regardless of when the abuse occurred and type of abuse experienced. Previous legislative reform in the ACT removed the limitation period for survivors of child sexual abuse to bring personal injury claims. This bill expands on these reforms by removing limitation periods on causes of action for personal injury resulting from child physical abuse. Limitation periods are often a significant barrier to survivors pursuing civil litigation.

The bill recognises that all forms of abuse experienced by a child are deserving of appropriate access to justice and compensation through the legal system. The bill further recognises that survivors of all forms of abuse may take significant periods of time to understand, process and act upon the harm caused by their abuse, and that limitation periods have the practical effect of denying a survivor the opportunity to access the legal system.

The amendments promote equity between survivors of child abuse by recognising that child physical abuse can, equally to child sexual abuse, cause significant personal injury and ongoing trauma for survivors of such abuse. Survivors of all forms of child abuse should have equal access to civil litigation, regardless of when such abuse occurred. By removing the limitation period for personal injury claims, survivors of child physical abuse will no longer be prevented from bringing an action because a prescribed period of time has passed.

This legislation has been crafted to help remedy the injustices of the past. Survivors of all forms of child abuse deserve, and have always deserved, adequate compensation for the grave personal injuries they have shouldered through no fault of their own. Recompense must be adequate by today's standards. This legislation must operate in a way that benefits survivors and holds offending institutions to account.

Again, I offer my sincere thanks to those who participated so generously in the targeted consultation process for this legislative reform, particularly the survivors and their advocates. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Amendment Bill 2022

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (11.47): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Amendment Bill 2022. This amendment bill integrates some of the recommendations that came from the recent 10-year review of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010.

As the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, under section 26 of the act I am required to oversee a review of the operation of the act as soon as practicable after every 10 years of its operation. The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act review in 2021 found that the act was effective in achieving its objects from 2010 to 2020.

I am pleased to announce that, overall, the act provides clear legislation that facilitates successful policy development and analysis, allowing the ACT to achieve its emissions reduction targets. A report of the review was presented and tabled at the Legislative Assembly in November 2021 and did not identify the need for significant changes to the act. However, it recommended 12 changes that would further strengthen the act's capacity to remain effective in the future. The government agreed that nine of the 12 recommendations be implemented to ensure that the ACT continues to remain a global leader in addressing climate change.

Mr Assistant Speaker, before detailing the proposed amendments, allow me to provide some background about the review that has informed this bill. For the purposes of the review, a steering committee was formed and consisted of two ACT government senior officials, one senior official of the South Australian government and a former chair of the ACT Climate Change Council. All members are experts on matters concerning climate change and emissions reduction. The committee established the terms of reference for the review.

The government commissioned the independent review in order to assess the effectiveness of the act in achieving its objects from 2010 to 2020, and the appropriateness of the act to achieve the intended outcomes to 2030, which is the year of the next scheduled review. The four objects of the act are to set greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy targets; provide for the monitoring of and reporting on progress made to meet these targets; facilitate the government's development of policies and programs to meet these targets and to address and adapt to climate change; and encourage private entities to take action to address climate change and recognise the entities that take action.

In assessing the act's effectiveness and appropriateness, the review focused on the following key parts of the act: part 2, the ACT's emissions reduction and renewable energy targets; part 3, the functions of the minister; part 4, the Climate Change Council; and part 5, sector agreements.

The committee provided input and feedback on the services provided by the independent reviewer and advised on how government should respond to the recommendations of the review. The review identified adaptation and climate action to be key focus areas for the decade ahead and provided recommendations that would strengthen the ACT's capacity to facilitate progress in these priority areas.

This amendment bill will thereby amend the act in nine key ways. Firstly, it will limit offsetting activities to within Australia. This reflects concerns over the reliability and environmental impacts of international offsets schemes. Currently, government policy does not include any offsetting activities in its plan to meet emissions reduction targets legislated in the act. This aligns with expert advice from the Climate Change Council that the ACT exclude offsetting from policy considerations.

The next amendment includes a requirement that the minister consult the ACT Climate Change Council in determining offsetting activities to meet future targets. This amendment better ensures that any decisions are informed by leading and independent analysis. The council would only be engaged as prescribed by the act.

The bill will also amend the act to require the minister to consult the Climate Change Council in setting or changing any interim targets. This amendment recognises that the council membership includes expertise in climate change science and responses.

The fourth amendment refines the functions of the minister to have three main objectives so that the focus is on enabling effective action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will ensure that the primary aim of the legislation remains to be developing and delivering effective action on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The amendment bill will also include the requirement that the minister report on the actions undertaken to address or adapt to the impacts of climate change. This amendment explicitly ensures that reporting covers both mitigation and adaptation actions. It aligns with the ACT's object to facilitate the government's development of policies and programs to address and adapt to climate change. It will contribute positively to government transparency and accountability.

The sixth amendment is to continue monitoring and measuring impact. There will also be an amendment to include the requirement for a five-yearly independent assessment of policies to achieve climate action within the ACT, including both mitigation and adaptation activities.

The seventh amendment clarifies that general membership of the ACT Climate Change Council should be based on specialist expertise, and for the inclusion of an adaptation specialist and a First Nations person. This reflects that the council is a body comprised of specific expertise rather than being a representative body of parts of the community.

The next amendment will encourage community and private sector engagement by removing the requirement that sector agreements be entered into on a voluntary basis, thereby permitting the inclusion of commercial terms and commercial values.

The final amendment expands the scope for potential sector agreements by including the word "adaptation" in the description of accepted activities. This will help to promote action in adaptation, an important focus for Canberra in the next 10 years.

In summary, I have outlined the benefits of these amendments to the act. It is important that the act remain as effective as possible in the years to come. I invite the Assembly to view the detail of the amendment bill and the attachments. Having done so, I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Integrity Commission Amendment Bill 2022

Ms Burch, pursuant to notice, presented the bill and its explanatory statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MS BURCH (Brindabella) (11.55): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present today the Integrity Commission Amendment Bill 2022, along with its explanatory statement. The objective of this bill is to prescribe additional arrangements in the Integrity Commission Act 2018 for the treatment and handling by witnesses, public servants, the commission and others of information that is potentially protected by parliamentary privilege, including information the unauthorised release of which may amount to a contempt of the Assembly.

Parliamentary privilege refers to the unique powers and immunities enjoyed by the Assembly, its committees and its members in order to effectively perform their parliamentary functions. Arguably, first amongst these privileges is the freedom of speech immunity derived from article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1688:

That the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament.

This foundational protection is recapitulated and amplified in section 16 of the commonwealth's Parliamentary Privileges Act, which applies to the Assembly and all of its members through section 24 of the self-government act. Another one of the Assembly's privileges is its power to punish contempts against it.

Conduct that is intended or likely to amount to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of their authority or functions, or with the free performance by a member of the member's duties, may constitute a contempt against the Assembly. For example, it would be open to the Assembly to treat as contempts an unauthorised release of private evidence given to the Assembly, or an Assembly committee; an unauthorised release of material held by an MLA, or on behalf of an MLA, that can be sufficiently connected to the proceedings of parliament; and non-compliance with continuing resolution 4A of the Assembly, directed towards dealing with claims of parliamentary privilege that arise during the exercise of the ACT Integrity Commission's powers and functions.

Neither the Assembly's contempt power nor the freedom of speech immunity can be abrogated by the Integrity Commission Act. Section 8 of the Integrity Commission Act provides, among other things, that, with the exception of the express statutory waiver of privilege provided for at section 178, the act does not affect the law relating to the privileges of the Legislative Assembly or any other Australian parliament. Section 177 of the Integrity Commission Act provides that a claim of parliamentary privilege that is made in the course of the exercise of the commission's functions must be dealt with by the Assembly. Continuing resolution 4A sets out such claims and how they will be handled.

However, certain features of the act relating to the provision of information to the commission—through, for example, examination summonses, preliminary inquiry notices, search warrants and information requests—potentially obscure the obligations that are imposed on the commission, witnesses before the commission, heads of public sector entities and others to ensure that the Assembly's procedures for making and determining parliamentary privilege claims are complied with and to avoid possible contempts being committed against the Assembly.

The lack of specific statutory provisions for handling potentially privileged material may place those who are the subject of an exercise of one or more of the commission's information-gathering powers—for instance, the Head of Service or the head of a public sector entity—in a difficult position.

On the one hand, refusal to provide information sought by the commission may, in certain circumstances, be treated as a possible contempt against the commission. On the other hand, the provision of information to the commissioner in a manner that came to be regarded as interfering in the internal proceedings of the Assembly or in contravention of its standing orders and resolutions may give rise to a possible contempt having been committed against the Assembly.

A statutory remedy is required to resolve this dilemma so that it is clear how certain materials must be handled in the course of the exercise of the commission's powers and functions. Members may be aware that these matters have presented very real difficulties for parliamentary chambers in other jurisdictions. Throughout the Ninth and Tenth Assemblies, the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure has kept a watching brief on matters arising in connection with a protracted dispute between the Legislative Council of Western Australia, the WA Corruption and Crime Commission and the WA Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

That dispute arose in the course of the CCC seeking to access email documents of former members of the Legislative Council held on an ICT system administered by the government department. The material at issue had not been the subject of any determination by the Legislative Council as to whether the documents, or any part of the documents, were protected by parliamentary privilege. Instead, in responding to the CCC's notices of production, the department had purported to itself determine whether or not parliamentary privilege applied to the documents, an approach that was rejected by the Legislative Council and ultimately led to litigation in the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

The bill I present today seeks to avoid similar problems emerging here in the ACT and to reduce the possibility of disputes arising between the Legislative Assembly and its members, the Integrity Commission, heads of public sector entities and others who may be regarded as holding information that is potentially protected by parliamentary privilege.

The bill makes provision for a class of information termed “Assembly information”, a class that is sufficiently broad so as to encompass material that is likely to be protected by parliamentary privilege. Under the bill, Assembly information includes information that is created for or by, or received by a committee of the Legislative Assembly; the Office of the Legislative Assembly; or a current or former member of the Legislative Assembly in the course of their parliamentary duties. It also includes information that is otherwise created for or by the Legislative Assembly or received by it. The bill establishes particular arrangements for handling such information in relation to the exercise of the following powers and functions by the commission: requests for information from heads of public sector entities, preliminary inquiries, search warrants and examination summonses.

Proposed amendments to the act have been included in the bill to address a problem that potentially arises under existing provisions whereby it is possible for the commission to request the provision of potentially protected information from the head of a public sector entity in the public service, such as the Head of Service or their delegate, on the basis that the person is regarded as holding the information.

As an example, a request could be made of the Head of Service for a member’s emails or other digital documents stored on the ICT system under the administrative control of the Head of Service. In such a case, the prospect of a contempt of the Assembly arises, were the information to be provided to the commission not in accordance with relevant standing orders and resolutions of the Assembly or where it was later found that the information was covered by parliamentary privilege.

The proposed amendments under the bill provide that the commission may ask the head of a public sector entity for information, other than Assembly information, held by the entity. The commission may ask the Speaker for Assembly information held by a public sector entity. If the Speaker receives an information request from the commission about a current or former member, the Speaker must give the member or former member a copy of the request. It would then be open to the member to make a claim in relation to parliamentary privilege, in line with continuing resolution 4A.

Amendments under the bill will also provide that the head of the public sector must not disclose any Assembly information held by the public sector entity to the commission unless the Speaker has authorised its release. This would prevent, for instance, the Head of Service from providing information relating to a member or an Assembly committee that was held on an ICT system administered by the regular public service without the Speaker’s authorisation.

Importantly, as a servant of the Assembly, the Speaker would only authorise the disclosure of such information in a manner that was consistent with relevant

Assembly orders and resolutions, such as contained in continuing resolution 4A. The bill seeks to amend the act to introduce additional requirements so far as the handling of Assembly information, pursuant to the issuing of a preliminary inquiry notice, is concerned.

Among other matters, the proposed amendments will ensure that a current or former member is given the opportunity to make any claim in relation to parliamentary privilege so that, where necessary, continuing resolution 4A is able to be applied.

The bill seeks to introduce additional requirements to apply if a claim of parliamentary privilege is made in the course of the exercise of a search warrant. In such a case, under the additional provisions, the investigator executing the warrant must either stop exercising the power in relation to the document or thing over which such a claim has been made or require that the claimant secure the document or thing and give it to the investigator. Following this, it is then given over to the custody of the Clerk and, where necessary, continuing resolution 4A is able to be applied.

The bill seeks to introduce additional requirements in relation to examination summonses. Under the proposed amendments, where a person other than a current or former member receives a summons and considers that the summons requires the giving of evidence, or the production of the document or other thing containing Assembly information, the person must not give the evidence, or produce the document or thing, to the commission; must give the Speaker a copy of the examination summons and tell the commission that they have given the Speaker a copy of the summons; and must comply with the examination summons, to the extent that it does not relate to Assembly information.

The procedure enables the Speaker to advise an affected member or former member about the possibility that a matter of privilege is at issue so that any claim is able to be made. If a claim is made, it is then able to be addressed in accordance with continuing resolution 4A. It is open to the Speaker to authorise the giving of evidence or the production of the document or thing—for instance, following the conclusion of the process set out under continuing resolution 4A.

The bill seeks to insert a number of new notes in the act in order to reinforce the operation of sections 7 and 177—that is, that the act does not abrogate the Assembly's privileges and that claims of parliamentary privilege must be dealt with by the Assembly.

The bill seeks to require that preliminary inquiry notices and examination summons issued by the commission are to include a statement relating to the requirements that must be observed in respect of Assembly information. This means that those in receipt of a notice or a summons will be made aware of their legal obligations in respect of that information as a matter of course.

The bill seeks to amend the act so that it is permissible to disclose certain information to allow a claim of parliamentary privilege to be made or to be dealt with by the Legislative Assembly. Importantly, the amendments in the bill do nothing to prevent the commission from investigating matters that arise in connection with members of

the Legislative Assembly or their staff. Nor does the bill prevent the commission from accessing documents or things relating to a member that are not covered by parliamentary privilege.

In conclusion, the bill follows consultations with the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, the Chief Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Greens, the ACT Integrity Commissioner and the Inspector of the Integrity Commission. It provides additional arrangements to prevent any inadvertent breaches of parliamentary privilege and to provide clarity for persons, including ACT public servants, of whom requests, preliminary inquiry notices and examinations summons may be directed. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Sitting suspended from 12.09 to 2.00 pm.

Ministerial arrangements

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism) (2.00): Minister Steel is absent, for the reasons I outlined yesterday, so I will assist members with questions in his portfolios.

Questions without notice

Canberra Institute of Technology—procurement

MS LEE: My question is to the Chief Minister, standing in for Minister Steel. Yesterday the minister tabled correspondence from the CIT board chair dated 5 March 2021. When that advice was received, did Minister Steel ask why, substantially, the same services appeared to be delivered from contract to contract but the costs kept escalating?

MR BARR: I will raise that matter with the minister and report back to the Assembly.

MS LEE: Did the minister ask why key information was redacted in these contracts, knowing that it is not standard practice to do that in ACT government consultancy contracts?

MR BARR: I understand that redaction for FOI purposes, for commercial-in-confidence reasons, is, in fact, standard practice. I will take further advice on the specifics of the question in providing further information, as I have undertaken to do in relation to the first part of the question and, I will speculate in advance, in relation to the supplementary question that follows.

MR MILLIGAN: Given the unusual nature of these contracts, did Minister Steel find it odd that the consultant continued to be awarded new contracts, as though the procurement process was designed to deliver that outcome?

MR BARR: It is borderline asking me to express an opinion on what another minister's opinion might have been. I will take the question in the spirit in which it was brought forward and will respond in accordance with the other questions.

Canberra Institute of Technology—procurement

MS LEE: Chief Minister, I refer to the correspondence from the CIT board chair dated 5 March 2021, tabled yesterday. The minister noted he had written to the board chair because he received a media inquiry. Other than that media inquiry, did the minister receive any representations suggesting there was questionable contracting going on at CIT? If yes, what actions were taken by the minister or his office?

MR BARR: Again I will need to confirm with the minister's office whether any other representations were received. Can I confirm: outside media?

Ms Lee: Yes.

MR BARR: I will take that on notice.

MS LEE: In line with that, were any representations received by the minister about this matter from people who worked at CIT? If so, what actions did he or his office take?

MR BARR: That is a secondary question. There are two categories, just to be clear—that there were other representations from people who were not the media and did not work at CIT, and the second question is about any representations from anyone who worked at CIT.

Ms Lee: Yes.

MR BARR: I will take those on notice, on behalf of the minister.

MR MILLIGAN: Chief Minister, has Minister Steel ever received any representations suggesting there is systemic bullying and a culture of cover-up at CIT? If yes, what actions were taken by the minister or his office?

MR BARR: Again, perhaps a not unfamiliar response to this supplementary, similar to the others: I will take it on notice.

Canberra Institute of Technology—procurement

MS LEE: Yesterday, the minister tabled the correspondence from the CIT board chair, dated 5 March 2021. Page 5 of that advice refers to two off-site CEO professional development sessions. Can you confirm that they were one-on-one sessions between the CIT CEO and a consultant?

MR BARR: I presume the question was to me; it did not come with an introduction. I will take that on notice.

MS LEE: Where were these off-site CEO sessions, and what were the travel expenses, including fuel, flights, hotels and the like that were incurred?

MR BARR: I will take that on notice as well.

MR MILLIGAN: Have there been any off-site CEO sessions held that were not mentioned in this correspondence or since this advice was received?

MR BARR: Again, I will take that on notice.

Canberra Institute of Technology—procurement

MS LEE: My question is to the Chief Minister, standing in for the Minister for Skills, in relation to the correspondence tabled—and it is dated 5 March—from the CIT chair. The contracts referred to in that document total \$3.27 million. The document clearly shows that most of the outputs produced by the consultant were mentoring, guidance and workshops, but large-scale organisational transformation, which is what CIT is claiming these services were for, requires a lot more than mentoring, guidance and workshops. Did the minister ask the board chair any further questions about whether mentoring, guidance and workshops alone were sufficient to deliver large-scale organisational transformation?

MR BARR: That seems to be a very specific question around what the minister may or may not have asked that I am not privy to so, again, I will need to seek that information from the minister.

MS LEE: Thank you. Did the minister ask any questions about the qualifications and experience of the consultant and their demonstrated ability to provide large-scale organisational transformation services?

MR BARR: Again, I will need to seek some information from the minister in relation to the question. I would note, though, that the line of questioning here suggests that the minister would be almost, in effect, making a procurement decision. I am not sure that it would be standard practice for a minister to be interrogating that level of detail in relation to any procurement.

Opposition members interjecting—

MR BARR: The line of questioning is veering into a space that I think is inviting the suggestion that ministers that are involved in assessing tenders and assessing the qualifications of people.

Ms Lee: There's a reason why he asked for information.

MR BARR: I have listened to the questions in silence and endeavoured to answer them. If you would let me make a response—we are only 50 seconds in—we would be courteous; it is not too much to ask, I would hope.

I understand the questions. I understand the line of questioning. I will get the information for the members, but I just make the observation that, as each question has gone by, it is veering more and more into a question of the minister making procurement decisions. That is not what happens, and you know that.

MR MILLIGAN: Did Minister Steel ask questions about whether mentoring, guidance and running workshops was value for money and worth the expenditure of \$3.27 million?

MR BARR: I think from what the minister has already outlined and the correspondence that is publicly available, questions were asked—that is clear—and they have been outlined and tabled in this place.

Health—investment

DR PATERSON: My question is to the Minister for Health. What steps has the ACT government taken to plug the gap made by the former Liberal-Nationals government's years of underinvestment in Medicare, making it harder and harder to see a GP?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Dr Paterson for her question. As members here know, the former federal Liberal government did spend a decade neglecting primary health care here in the ACT and around the country. Primary care is a key responsibility of the commonwealth government. They have policy and funding responsibility for primary care, including setting the rebate amount offered to patients for seeing a GP.

We know that the ACT has the lowest overall rates of bulk-billing GP services in Australia. These matters were made worse and harder for Canberrans by the former federal Liberal government freezing the indexation rate of Medicare items and making it harder for primary care to operate here in the ACT, particularly for bulk-billing practices, and then specifically targeting the ACT, cutting the bulk-billing incentive for those who need bulk-billing most, from 1 January 2020. Despite repeated representations, that was never reinstated.

As the federal Liberals continued to undermine primary health care, the ACT government stepped in to fill some of these gaps. Over the past decade the ACT government has provided \$12 million in incentives to support the GP workforce; infrastructure funding through a competitive grants process; an intern placement program; scholarships; and services to assist GPs to attend housebound and aged-care patients. We have run a GP bulk-billing round, supporting capital works for primary care services here in the ACT, and we have delivered targeted, vital support for those who need it most, through specialised primary care services delivered by Directions, Companion House and Junction Youth Health Service.

The ACT government has not only stepped up and filled this gap left by a decade of neglect and cuts to Medicare from the federal Liberal government; we have built a network of five walk-in centres, providing free nurse-led health care as an alternative, for non-urgent injury and illness.

DR PATERSON: Minister, how will the Albanese Labor government's commitments to deliver better access to general practice and primary care support the ACT health system?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Dr Paterson for the supplementary. As I outlined in my previous answer, the ACT and, indeed, Australians have weathered a decade of cuts and neglect by the former Liberal government, severely impacting Canberrans' ability to see a GP when they need to.

These cuts have led to people delaying seeing a doctor. We know that from Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data. This impacts people's health. They delayed purchasing medicines because PBS prices were too high, leaving illness and chronic disease until their only option was the public hospital system. I do not for one second want to ignore the unbelievable dedication and skill that our GPs across the ACT deliver. They know that there are better times ahead for them, with the Albanese Labor government's commitment to invest \$750 million to deliver the outcomes of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce.

That is \$750 million from the Albanese Labor government to deliver a strategy that the former minister, Minister Hunt, delivered but never put any funding behind. One of Minister Hunt's favourite approaches was to make a big bang announcement about a strategy and then move on to the next thing. Sounds familiar. Former Prime Minister Morrison also had that approach to things.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members!

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: The focus on better management of chronic disease, improved access to GP-led multidisciplinary teams and greater affordability will integrate well with the work the ACT government is doing. This work will shift the management of complex care into the community, where our health system can support and work with people with individual GP teams to deliver better outcomes, better care, closer to home. The reduction in the cost per pharmacy script by \$12.50, from \$42.50 to \$30, will also go a long way in helping people with the cost of living and reduce the number of people delaying purchasing medicines.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, given the federal Labor government's commitment to strengthening Medicare and improving healthcare delivery across Australia, how else will the ACT benefit from this new focus and prioritisation?

Mr Parton: Great question, Michael. Great question! Well done!

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I agree. Great question, Mr Pettersson. Thank you very much. We also welcome the commitment to deliver a Medicare urgent care clinic to Canberra's south side. This clinic will relieve pressure on our emergency departments and deliver bulk-billed care to those needing urgent care and after hours care, complementing our network of walk-in centres.

I suspect that members would be aware of a very big issue: the mess that the previous Liberal government has left in aged care and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and the impacts that that has had on public hospitals across Australia. These impacts were so significant that all state and territory health ministers, Liberal and Labor, wrote to the then federal Liberal government with sensible solutions to address the bed block caused by their mismanagement of aged care and the NDIS.

I was very heartened, throughout the last year and through the election campaign, to see the Albanese Labor government's suite of commitments to properly responding to the aged-care royal commission's recommendations and to go about fixing the NDIS. These are landmark Labor reforms. The Albanese Labor government has committed \$2½ billion in aged-care funding across the forward estimates to lift care equality standards and improve health outcomes, including making it mandatory to have a registered nurse on site 24 hours a day in residential aged-care facilities.

To ensure that the ACT has the workforce in the future to meet this commitment to aged care, the new government has committed up to \$23 million to the national nurse and midwife health service. This service will provide current ACT nurses with personalised and professional support services, enabling our nursing workforce to continue caring for Canberrans. This will be a critical contribution to improving aged care and relieving the pressure on the ACT hospital system.

I look forward to discussing public hospital funding reform as well with the new health minister, as, I know, do all of my state and territory health minister colleagues after the former government refused to engage on this important topic.

Energy—cost

MR DAVIS: My question is to the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction. Minister, I understand that yesterday you went to the national energy ministers meeting and discussed the nation's energy crisis. What has caused surging prices in energy across the country and how is the ACT different?

MR RATTENBURY: Yes, the energy ministers did meet virtually yesterday afternoon, in an online meeting. It was good to see a direction from the new federal minister indicating his desire to work in a collaborative manner with the states and territories, and his desire to share information and have more frequent meetings. It has been a long time since there has been an energy ministers meeting, as the commonwealth had not convened one for some period of time. I am encouraged by the direction shown by the new federal energy minister and the response from all states and territories, who indicated a desire to work in that spirit and to address the serious issues facing Australia's energy sector.

In terms of why we are seeing price rises, this was obviously a key issue for energy ministers yesterday, to look at what measures could be taken in the short term, and to understand the state of the market. We were briefed extensively by the energy regulators. Some of the factors that have helped to create this situation in Australia are that Australia's coal-fired power generators have been failing more frequently. This

has meant that they are not available and it has drawn more demand for gas generators. Australia's gas supply has been running low, and there has been no domestic gas reserve.

Of course, the global geopolitics of the war in the Ukraine has meant we have seen a significant increase in the price of fossil fuels around the world, where Australia continues to export. Because the European countries are seeking to extricate themselves from Russian gas contracts, we are seeing upward pressure on gas prices, and Australia's gas producers are exporting it rather than using it for domestic reasons. Similarly, there is the cold weather. All of these factors together have seen a significant price increase in Australia's wholesale power prices, which are now more than five times last year's average price. The ACT has been insulated from that, and I think many members know why.

MR DAVIS: Minister, can you explain how the ACT's nation-leading renewable energy policies came to be?

MR RATTENBURY: This stems back to the decision by the ACT in 2010 to legislate a greenhouse gas reduction target. This was a matter in the parliamentary agreement from 2008. The Assembly conducted an inquiry, and we agreed to adopt a 40 per cent emissions reduction target. That necessitated finding the policies that would deliver an outcome which saw us move to take a series of large-scale reverse auction contracts, which not only delivered 100 per cent renewable electricity for the ACT but—at a time when the federal government, under Prime Minister Abbott, was actively undermining the renewables sector—it actually propped up the renewables sector in this country. It maintained jobs, it created an investment path and it meant that the industry was able to keep developing in Australia so that they could accelerate in the ways that they have, where wind and solar are the cheapest new forms of electricity development in this country.

Those contracts have stood the ACT in very good stead. Members will recall that back then, way back in 2012-13, the government estimated the price impact that this would have for the ACT. That has proved to be the case. The modelling has stood up very well against time. Of course, this week we have seen that those contracts were the difference. They are doing a very effective job, in this context of extremely high wholesale prices, of insulating ACT consumers and ensuring that this year electricity prices will not be a cost pressure for people living in the ACT. Our bills, on average, will be at least \$800 cheaper than for people living in New South Wales.

MS CLAY: Minister, how is the ACT government helping Canberra households and businesses to reduce their costs from fossil fuel and electricity?

MR RATTENBURY: This is certainly something that people have had in mind, because electricity is a really important cost component of people's budgets, be it a household or a small business. Aside from the insulation that our contracts are providing this year, the ACT government has a range of programs to help both households and businesses to invest in energy efficiency. That can be through upgrading to more modern energy-efficient electric devices or transitioning from gas to electricity.

Programs such as the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme enable people to get free upgrades of their premises. There is the Sustainable Home Advice Program. The new Sustainable Household Scheme provides interest-free loans. The Business Energy and Water Program offers up to a \$5,000 rebate. We have seen literally thousands and thousands of Canberra households and businesses take advantage of these programs, which help to reduce their energy costs.

One of my favourites is the solar for low income program. Low income households who hold a government concession card can get both a rebate and an interest-free loan that enables them to put solar on their property for a zero up-front cost, and they are saving around \$1,000 a year, on average, on their electricity bills. This has an extraordinarily significant impact on low income households, and it has an ongoing impact. For the first couple of years they will pay back their loan; after that, they are simply getting significant electricity savings. We also have the \$50 million program for public housing and low income households, which will also reduce energy bills.

Whilst the energy story is reasonable good in the ACT this year, we also have in place programs that will help people to keep their energy bills down in the long term.

Canberra Institute of Technology—procurement

MS LEE: My question is to the Chief Minister standing in for the Minister for Skills, in reference to the correspondence from the CIT board chair of 5 March 2021, which was tabled yesterday. Having received the advice from the board chair that he requested, was the minister satisfied that these procurements represented value for money?

MR BARR: That would be seeking an expression of opinion from the minister. I will take the question on notice, but it may well be that the line of questioning is seeking opinion.

MS LEE: Did the minister discuss any of the Government Procurement Board advice regarding these contracts with the CIT board chair or, indeed, any other government official?

MR BARR: I will need to take that on notice.

DR PATERSON: A supplementary. My question is for the Chief Minister. How many members are there on the CIT board?

MR BARR: From recollection, the act requires between seven and 11 or 12, and I think there might be about nine, but let me double-check that and I can confirm that for the member.

Federal election 2022—impact on the ACT

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for the Arts. Minister, how will the ACT arts sector benefit from the election of the new federal Labor government?

MS CHEYNE: I thank Mr Pettersson for the question. The ACT has always been a place for people who embrace arts, culture and creativity. Canberrans fundamentally understand the importance of arts and culture for individual and collective wellbeing, as well as the enormous economic impacts of these sectors. We know this because the statistics speak for themselves. Prior to the pandemic, the ACT had the highest attendance rate at cultural venues and events and the highest cultural participation rates ahead of all other states and territories.

The new federal government also fundamentally understands the importance of arts and culture to our wellbeing and economy. In addition to several funding announcements, the federal Labor government has committed to the development and delivery of a national cultural policy that provides a broad but comprehensive roadmap for Australia's arts and culture that touches all areas of government. It was fantastic to see the new Minister for the Arts, Minister Burke, underline that in a statement he released last week, on his appointment.

Since the Abbott government abolished Australia's last cultural policy in 2013, which had also been established by Labor, the Australian arts sector has languished through almost a decade of inaction and neglect. Finally, arts and culture are back on the national agenda. These sectors, including in the ACT, will benefit from a national cultural policy that guides and coordinates action, from a government that understands the vital role of arts and culture for our wellbeing and the economy. I look forward to working with the federal government and will continue to advocate for ACT artists and organisations.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, will your statement of ambition for the arts be affected by this change of government?

MS CHEYNE: I thank Mr Pettersson for the supplementary. The ACT government's statement of ambition for the arts and its three strategies to create, develop and promote provides a lens through which our short and medium-term decisions are made, such as acting as a framework for our new ACT arts policy and arts organisation funding model.

Now, more than ever, we have a federal government that shares the same values that underpin our ambition. Those values include understanding that the arts and culture sectors are much more than simply entertainment activities and hobby interests. There are intersectional impacts for health, wellbeing, education, trade and industrial relations, tourism and democracy. They are significant drivers of economic growth.

I am encouraged that the value our government places on artists as being part of our economy, driving economic development and growth in their own right, is shared by the new federal government. It became apparent how short-sighted the previous federal government was when it excluded Australian artists and creatives from income support schemes such as JobKeeper, despite relentless advocacy from the then opposition and industry bodies.

Our statement of ambition for the arts will be supported by the values we share with the federal government about the critical importance of cooperation, collaboration and dialogue between federal, state and territory counterparts. Most immediately, the federal government's commitment to a new cultural policy provides a long-awaited foundation for a better future for Australian artists and the sector at large. It will also provide a strong context for our ambition for the arts to position Canberra as Australia's arts capital.

MS ORR: Minister, what is an example of the new federal Labor government's commitment to our growing arts sector here in the ACT?

MS CHEYNE: I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary. As I mentioned earlier, the new federal government has made a commitment—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members!

MS CHEYNE: Thank you, Madam Speaker; this is important. The new federal government has made a commitment to embark on a thorough, nationwide consultation in each—

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Not again, Mr Hanson.

MS CHEYNE: state and territory to inform the national cultural policy. The ACT government, Mr Hanson, looks forward to contributing to the policy and welcomes this direct engagement. I am also delighted to share that federal Labor—

Mr Hanson: Madam Speaker, on a point of order under standing order 42.

MADAM SPEAKER: That comments are to be addressed through the chair.

Mr Hanson: As the minister directly addressed me, I think she is breach of the standing orders.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, sit down. The standing orders also say that there are to be no interjections, so next time you do, you will be warned. Ms Cheyne.

MS CHEYNE: Federal Labor has committed \$5 million to upgrade Gorman House Arts Centre ahead of its upcoming centenary in 2024. The heritage-listed Gorman House is a much-loved arts hub located on Ainslie Avenue in Braddon. ACT Labor committed \$8 million in the 2020 election for upgrades to Gorman House. This investment will enhance accessibility, safety and energy efficiency and deliver major heritage restorations.

An additional \$5 million from federal Labor will enable further upgrades to conserve heritage values and improve functionality at the complex, including fit-for-purpose, safe and inclusive workspaces for artists, as well as spaces for the community to experience arts activities.

Youth justice—Functional Family Therapy program

MRS KIKKERT: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services. Minister, in annual reports hearings last year, you told me, “We needed to have programs like the Functional Family Therapy—Youth Justice pilot up and running.” Three months later you told this Assembly that this program was “a great example of investment in whole-of-family support for children and young people” and said, “I commit to working on diversion initiatives such as functional family therapy.” Then in estimates hearings, an official said, “It is an incredibly successful program.”

Minister, we have been told that you have decided to provide no further funding for this program after August. Is this true, and, if not, what exactly is happening with the program, going forward?

MS DAVIDSON: I thank Mrs Kikkert for the question. The program that she is talking about, the Functional Family Therapy—Youth Justice program, was a pilot program. No such decision about ongoing funding, or not, for the program has been made as yet. As with all pilot programs, the pilot runs for a period of time and then there is an evaluation of the program. The Functional Family Therapy—Youth Justice program is an evidenced-based program that achieves high program completion rates, with children and young people remaining at home, rather than entering the statutory care system, and staying engaged with their schooling, wherever possible. It engages with a quite diverse group of clients.

In early 2021 the pilot program was established through an initial allocation of \$380,000 for a six-month period from the confiscated assets trust. A further six-month funding of \$380,000 was also obtained through the confiscated assets trust program to support a continuation of the pilot. In order for a pilot to become an ongoing funded program, it would need to go through a business case process and a budget process.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, what will happen to the at-risk young people in the Functional Family Therapy—Youth Justice program who will not be able to finish before funding runs out, and what will happen to the at-risk young people who are currently awaiting intake?

MS DAVIDSON: Thank you for the supplementary question. The Functional Family Therapy program is, as I was saying earlier, a pilot program. When a pilot program is established it has a known end date, and that impacts on the intake of new referrals into the program as the pilot program nears its end date. There are a number of other programs that are running through our youth justice services that will be able to support people, should they need ongoing support, after the pilot program has ended. I can provide some further details, if there are particular people that you are concerned about.

MR CAIN: Minister, when will you know whether this program is going to be continued or not and, if not, what program are you going to provide for at-risk young people?

MS DAVIDSON: Thank you for the question. Given that we are currently considering the service response to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, as well as a number of service initiatives that are ongoing through the Next Steps for Our Kids program, which Minister Stephen-Smith was talking about, both last week and in the papers that she tabled yesterday, there is quite a lot of work going on across a number of different programs to look at how we can better support young people and their families to have good outcomes, to be healthy and to engage in healthy behaviours. The Functional Family Therapy program is just one of a number of different programs that are being considered. Decisions will be made based on the evidence that will be part of the evaluation of that program.

Mrs Kikkert: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Kikkert.

Mrs Kikkert: The question was in regard to what are the other successful programs that are available instead of Functional Family Therapy. She just mentioned the program, but she did not say what they are.

MADAM SPEAKER: She made reference to a number of other programs.

Mrs Kikkert: She didn't say what they are.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Kikkert, there is no point of order.

Planning—gas-free suburbs

MS CLAY: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister, the SLA has three land releases at Turner, Holt central and Lawson. There are different words used in different websites and sales documents, but they all make reference to all-electric connections, with no gas, and EV charging units. Can you confirm that no fossil fuel gas will be connected at the SLA's releases at Turner Place, Holt central and the two blocks currently for sale in Lawson stage 2?

MS BERRY: Yes, I can.

MS CLAY: Can you confirm that electric vehicle charging facilities will be provided in all of these developments?

MS BERRY: I understand that that is the case, yes.

MR BRADDOCK: Minister, will all future SLA land releases require EV charging where parking is mandated, and require no new fossil fuel gas connections?

MS BERRY: That is a future consideration for the Suburban Land Agency. Of course, as the minister for suburban land development, ensuring that our future suburbs are sustainable, environmentally friendly and meet the government's purpose of moving towards zero emissions by 2045 is front of mind. However, those considerations will be made as land is released, particularly with regard to electric vehicle charging stations.

Waste—Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre

MS LAWDER: My question is for the Minister for Transport and City Services. Over the past few weeks my office has received a number of reports of an unpleasant odour emanating from the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre area. One resident was told by Access Canberra on 23 March that there were works underway and that they were expected to be completed by 23 April. Another person, who complained last Friday, was told that there were works underway expected to be completed in early June. Minister, how many times do we have to go through this process of residents complaining, feeling fobbed off, and then finding out that there are works underway with flexible end dates?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Cheyne.

MS CHEYNE: I think I can speak to the substance of this, if that is all right with members! What is currently occurring at the Mugga Lane tip is different to the previous issues that we have encountered in that there are essential land-fill gas works currently being undertaken which have the potential to generate odour. The EPA, as Ms Lawder flagged, is aware of the activity underway and the strategies that are being used by the contractors to reduce odour where possible. Works were to be completed by the end of April; however, due to the wet weather and then a change in construction methodology, works were delayed. The current round of trenching work commenced on 26 April and works, at the time that I got advice, were on track to be completed by the target completion date of 3 June, and all reasonable steps have been undertaken to minimise the risk of odour transmission, including consideration of meteorological conditions.

The next round of works, which is a lateral well installation, are scheduled to commence on 27 June for completion in the first week of July. But this work is subject to EPA's approval. I understand that Access Canberra is continuing to engage with community members about this, but if community members are concerned about odour, they need to make that report as soon as possible so that the EPA can investigate the matter while the alleged odour is still present.

MS LAWDER: I have a supplementary question. Minister, how many complaints has Access Canberra received about the odour in the past few weeks?

MS CHEYNE: There have been 40 complaints received in 2022 to date, and 35 complaints have been received on or up to 22 March 2022, meaning that those 35 relate to the essential landfill works that must be undertaken.

MR PARTON: I have a supplementary question. Minister, why can't residents be given more proactive information about works like these?

MS CHEYNE: I probably need to take that question on notice to check on the contract work that is being undertaken. I think it does fall within the city services element of the portfolio, but I will check what proactive communications were made. It may also have been that we just did not expect there to be the odour that has occurred out of this. I would remind members that this work is essential; it needs to be carried out for the safety of all.

Government—business support grants

MS CASTLEY: My question is to the business minister. Late last year some businesses in the tourism, accommodation, arts, events, hospitality and fitness sectors missed out on business support grants because they did not fit neatly into certain provider categories and businesses were told that the government would review their eligibility. After this review, on 21 February businesses were informed that they could reapply for these grants, but FOI documents reveal they had to apply by 7 March, giving them only 14 days. Minister, how many of these businesses did this review affect and were they all contacted by your government to reapply?

MR BARR: In the accommodation and tourism venue operator support program there were 51 applications received and 47 were approved, worth 1.46 million. As I understand it, at the time this briefing was provided one was still under assessment awaiting further information from the applicant and three were assessed as ineligible. But that may include applications that were received under the totality of the program. I will take on notice the number who applied in the 14-day period which I think you are referring to.

Ms Castley: I could not hear the Chief Minister. Did he say 51? I need some clarification. Can he explain those numbers again?

MR BARR: There were 51 that applied for the totality of the program, I am advised. In the accommodation and tourism venue operator support program there were 51 applications received there. Forty-seven of them were approved. There is one under assessment awaiting further information from the applicant and three were assessed as ineligible.

That was a program where applications closed on 17 September last year. Your question referred to a further assessment and an opportunity for people to submit a late application in the two-week period. I will take on notice the number. There were 51 in the previous program, so I am suggesting to you that it is not going to be a big number.

MS CASTLEY: My supplementary then is: of the ones that were deemed eligible that were not previously, how many of those were there and were they all contacted, or was there just a media release?

MR BARR: My understanding is that it was more than just a media release. For those that would have applied but been told they were ineligible and then there was a subsequent reconsideration to invite them to apply, they would have been advised directly. The numbers are very small. I need to put this in context. Over all of the business support programs that assisted upwards of 12,000 businesses, the numbers we are talking about here will be a handful. I will take on notice the exact number in the time period that the question required.

MS LAWDER: Chief Minister, why did businesses have to reapply when the directorate already had all of their application details?

MR BARR: I will not take it on face value that the directorate did have all their application details, because there are still examples—and I am aware of them—of the directorate having to go to great lengths, on dozens of occasions, to contact certain businesses multiple times in order to get the information that was necessary. I have been dealing with the odd outstanding case months later because finally information came in that allowed us to make a payment.

It needs to be clear that more than 12,000 businesses received nearly half a billion dollars of assistance here.

Opposition members interjecting—

MR BARR: Of course you are not interested in talking about those ones.

MADAM SPEAKER: Members!

MR BARR: These specific cases have been dealt with on a case-by-case basis on the basis of providing information, because there have been many cases—too many cases—of fraud in this program, where we have had to say no to people who have tried to scam the system. You lot have been all about integrity this week, so do not be carrying on here about the government applying integrity to a grant assessment process.

Ms Lee: How many were fraud? It was the majority, was it?

MR BARR: No, but it was enough to be serious, Elizabeth.

Mulligans Flat—Wildbark Learning Centre

MR BRADDOCK: Minister, can you please provide an update on Mulligans Flat, and, in particular, the woodland learning centre that will be located in the suburb of Throsby?

MS VASSAROTTI: I thank the member for the question. We are very excited about the impending opening of Wildbark, which is the woodland learning centre. I think it was a little over 12 months ago that Minister Gentleman and I went to see early works at the centre and—while we have been dealing with the issues of COVID, COVID restrictions, construction shutdown and inclement weather—we are in the final stages of construction of the learning centre.

We are working on the final details of the opening, but it is due to be opened in July 2022. This is a really exciting project. The construction of Wildbark is a joint partnership between the ACT government, the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust and the ANU. We are really pleased that the ACT government has been able to contribute \$1.6 million in funding towards the learning centre, and that has been matched by funding by the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust. This is going to be a great resource and a hub for environmental and cultural education, research, innovation and community wellbeing. We really encourage all Canberrans to plan a trip out to Mulligan's Flat and out to Wildbark when it is opened. I am really looking forward to joining with ministerial colleagues when we do finalise the opening date and celebrate this really fantastic new facility for the community.

MR BRADDOCK: I am also interested in how the trial of the release of spotted-tailed quolls is going?

MS VASSAROTTI: I was really delighted to go out and meet two of the spotted-tailed quolls just before they were released into the sanctuary at the beginning of summer 2021. I was out there on 1 December 2021 and met, I think it was, Boof, and I cannot remember the name of the other spotted quoll. This is an exciting thing in the sanctuary because this is the introduction of an apex predator, which is a really important contribution to the sanctuary. This is a sanctuary and we have removed predators from the sanctuary, and we have seen the fantastic introduction of species that used to be endemic in the region but are no longer, particularly species such as the bettong. What we have seen is the need to get the ecological system working well, so we have introduced those spotted-tailed quolls into the sanctuary. We are really looking to see how this apex predator does recreate the food web and to test how these predators behave. That research is ongoing, and as soon as we have data to be provided, we will provide it to the community.

MR DAVIS: Minister, what other species may be reintroduced in the future?

MS VASSAROTTI: This experiment has really been looking at how we get new, endemic species back into the community. We have seen the introduction of eastern bettongs, eastern quolls, spotted-tail quolls, bush stone-curlews and New Holland mice. They have all been reintroduced into the sanctuary. The research team are looking at a number of other species that may be appropriate for reintroduction, but we have not yet got any time frames on new and future releases. We will be working with scientists and letting the community know when we have releases to happen. This is one of the really exciting things about the new education centre—that we will be able to provide more information and more opportunities for the community to engage and interact with these species that used to be very common within our local region but, unfortunately, since colonisation are no longer in the environment.

Carers—Carers Recognition Act implementation

MS ORR: My question is to Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services. Minister, given the Carers Recognition Act passed the Assembly in December 2021 and has since commenced, can you please provide an update on the implementation of the act?

MS DAVIDSON: I thank Ms Orr for the question and for the work that she did last year on the Carers Recognition Act. I note that the act passed unanimously last year, which I think is a really good recognition of the importance of carers in our community.

This act requires carer support agencies, both government and non-government, to consider care relationship principles and consult with carers on their needs in all aspects of the organisation's work. That might include services, programs, policies through to delivery and review. We are now putting the act into action. That means that ongoing commitment to ensuring that the policy intent and the principles of the act are translated into something meaningful for the 50,000 carers in our community to be recognised and supported in what they do by a wide range of organisations.

This is a whole-of-government and a whole-of-community responsibility. That is why the ACT government has been working closely with Carers ACT to develop and communicate support materials, like information sheets and reporting templates and frameworks, to help support carer support agencies, whether they are in the government or the non-government sector, to assist them with compliance and reporting against the act. That will also assist with any future reviews of the ACT.

I have written to carer support agencies to inform them that the Carers Recognition Act has commenced, to remind them of their obligations to carers under the act and also to encourage them to see the act as an opportunity to be more inclusive of carers. I am hoping that that provides some useful information on where we are at.

MS ORR: Can you give us an example of some of the carer support agencies that you have written to, so that we get an idea of the breadth of these groups across our community, as well as the sorts of guidelines and information they have been provided with.

MS DAVIDSON: I would be happy to take on notice and provide a full list of the agencies that we have written to and also a copy of some of the material that we have provided them with to assist them in their work.

I would note as well that there is a really diverse range of people in our community who are carers. That means that there will be a diverse range of organisations providing services that fall within this Carers Recognition Act. There are some carers who are quite young people, we have older people, we have people who have health conditions of their own to manage, as well as people who are managing caring responsibilities for multiple family members at the same time. With the nature of the pandemic that we have been through and the workforce impacts that has had on many of the support services in our city, our unpaid carers have had a lot of unpredictability in what they have needed. So it is more important than ever that we recognise what they are going through and provide the agencies that are supporting them with as much as help as possible to be able to do that work.

DR PATERSON: Minister, can you please update the Assembly on how the ACT government and directorates are working to meet the reporting obligations under the act?

MS DAVIDSON: Providing those organisations with support to be able to comply with their obligations under the act is something that our Community Services Directorate has been doing. That has involved producing some of those support materials and communicating that to those organisations and having reporting templates and frameworks to help them to understand how they can meet their compliance obligations.

Ms Orr: Point of order, Madam Speaker. The question was how the ACT government and directorates are working to meet the reporting obligations. The answer focused on the agencies, but I think the question also goes to how government directorates will be dealing with it.

MADAM SPEAKER: In the time you have left, Ms Davidson.

MS DAVIDSON: I can take on notice to provide some information about what government agencies have been doing specifically.

Mr Barr: Further questions can be placed on the notice paper, Madam Speaker.

Supplementary answer to question without notice Canberra Institute of Technology—procurement

MR BARR: Dr Paterson asked me a question in relation to the number of board members on the CIT. My recollection was correct—it is between seven and 11, under the act. I advise there are 11.

Answer to question on notice Question No 776

MS BERRY: Yesterday I said to Ms Castley that I had signed the question 776. I actually had not signed that question. I have now signed that question, and it should be with you shortly.

Supplementary answers to questions without notice Waste—Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre

MS CHEYNE: When I responded to Ms Lawder before, I spoke about the most recent update I had about the current round of trenching works at the Mugga Lane tip. The work that commenced on 26 April was due to complete on 3 June, and when I had been last updated that work was on track. However, regrettably, the weather again interrupted work, so works are now likely to conclude on 10 June, again weather permitting.

The next round of works, just to re-emphasise, are scheduled to commence on 27 June for completion in the first week of July. And I am just confirming that we will take on notice the question that Mr Parton asked me about communications.

Building—combustible cladding

MS VASSAROTTI (Kurrajong—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction), by leave: In the last sitting there were a couple of questions and also a private member's motion talking about community safety around potentially-combustible cladding.

Particularly given that this is a matter of community safety, I note there were a couple of comments made suggesting that in relation to apartment buildings thousands of Canberrans were at risk from potentially-combustible cladding—

Ms Lee: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: this is about question time. Is this matters arising out of question time?

MADAM SPEAKER: My understanding is it was in—

Ms Lee: She also said that there was a private member's motion. If the minister wants to respond, then she should bring a motion forward as opposed to—

MADAM SPEAKER: An easier way forward is that you seek leave to provide some comments, Ms Vassarotti.

**Building—combustible cladding
Statement by minister**

MS VASSAROTTI (Kurrajong—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) (2.56), by leave: Thank you for granting leave. I did want to address some of the issues that were dealt with in terms of the questions on notice as well as in other business, particularly given the fact that this is an issue of community safety.

There were comments made that thousands of Canberrans are at risk of potentially-combustible cladding, and there was an impression created that the government has not been meeting its obligations around community safety. This is not true, and it may have caused the community concern that I feel we need to clear up.

Intensive investigation has ultimately resulted in less than 100 buildings being identified as, potentially, being impacted by potentially-combustible cladding. Those owners corporations have been made aware they are eligible for assistance to test their cladding and they have engaged with the government on this issue.

I want to be really clear that this is not an issue for buildings that were constructed after changes to the National Construction Code that were made in 2018. Fundamentally, owners corporations are responsible for ensuring their buildings are safe. Governments, including ours, have acted to prevent cladding being used inappropriately once issues were identified. We are meeting our own obligations as

building owners, and we are providing assistance to help private owners meet their safety responsibility. We do look forward to finalising and opening phase 2 of our financial assistance once we finalise the required procurement of a significant \$50 million program.

This is a serious issue that has serious safety implications for the community. I would request that, in future, the opposition be accurate in their characterisation of the scope and scale of the problem and that their criticisms of government programs, whatever they are, meet the actual scale of the issue.

Supplementary answers to questions without notice

Emergency services—staffing

MR GENTLEMAN: Yesterday Mr Milligan asked me a question regarding the ACT Fire and Rescue pumper that was stood-up on the evening of Saturday, 4 June to assist ACT Ambulance Service, ACTAS.

It is standard practice nationally for a fire and rescue service to respond to incidents and provide critical lifesaving support until an ambulance arrives on scene. All ACT Fire and Rescue pumpers are equipped with basic life support equipment, including an advanced first-aid kit, an advanced oxygen resuscitation kit and defib, and all the members have first-aid training. This is a benefit of working in a collaborative agency such as ESA with a centralised business model to ensure the safety and care of the community is prioritised.

ACTAS has a detailed business continuity plan for circumstances where there is significant shortfall in available crews, and this BCP was enacted on the evening of Saturday, 4 June. The shortfall on the evening was due to increasing workforce demands, fatigue and illness—this is not uncommon, with these issues being experienced by ambulance services nationally and internationally.

Mr Milligan's question suggests that the ACT Fire and Rescue pumper was sent out to a priority 1 ambulance case. Mr Milligan has also made this suggestion in the media. This is incorrect. Before making the decision to stand-up an additional ACT Fire and Rescue crew as a precautionary measure, the ESA considered some parameters under which this additional resource could be used, including: that the ACT Fire and Rescue resource would not be used as an alternative to an ambulance; that the fire and rescue resource would only be used in conjunction with an ambulance to ensure care arrived as quickly as possible; that the additional pumper's primary function was to assist with frontline prioritising; that the resource would only provide medical assistance to low-risk category incidents; and that the resource would not be used for priority 1 cases.

On the evening of Saturday, 4 June, ACT Fire and Rescue responded to three medical-assist incidents. In all three incidents, an ambulance was already on scene. The additional crew was not required by ACT Ambulance Service to assist outside the normal business-as-usual support operations. Based on the events of the evening, the considered decision to stand-up the additional fire and rescue resource was completely appropriate.

Mr Milligan asked me a question yesterday regarding the increase of frontline staff, as opposed to the administrative and executive roles in ESA. I am not sure where Mr Milligan is getting his numbers from, but I can provide the following facts. In relation to ambulance officers, the annual report figures show an increase of ambulance officers from 214 in 2018-2019 to 244 in 2019-2020 and 262 in 2020-21. This includes the recruitment of 97 paramedics in the last four years; 15 in 2018-19; 30 in 2019-20; 25 in 2020-21, including five for PACER; and 27 in 2021-22, to date.

In relation to firefighters, the government has committed to recruit 180 firefighters over the next few years—99 additional and 81 to cover attrition. At the commencement of the ACT Fire and Rescue Enterprise Agreement in 2020, ACT Fire and Rescue was funded for 339 firefighters. Currently, ACT Fire and Rescue has 394 funded firefighters.

The commitment of an additional 99 firefighters will see a 29 per cent increase in funded firefighters from 339 to 438. The minimum requirements in the current enterprise agreement would have seen 80 recruits graduate by December 2022. Since the beginning of the agreement, ACT Fire and Rescue is currently positioned to have 87 recruits graduate—10 per cent ahead.

I also reject the premise of Mr Milligan's question that frontline staff are more important than those who support them. It is only natural that when you provide funding to increase the number of frontline staff, vehicles and equipment, you also need to increase the number in the enabling roles that recruit, procure, service vehicles and provide mental health and wellbeing support as well.

These are only some examples of the enabling services our frontline members receive and deserve for the service they are providing to keep our community safe—the back-of-house supports keeping people on the front line.

Mulligans Flat—Woodland Learning Centre

MS VASSAROTTI: Just to let everyone know that the other quoll's name is Sid.

MADAM SPEAKER: So we have Boof and Sid! Thank you.

Papers

Mr Gentleman presented the following papers:

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to subsection 8(5)—Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Directions 2022—Notifiable Instrument NI2022-308, dated 3 June 2022.

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee—Ninth Assembly—Report 9—*Interim Report on Child and Youth Protection Services (Part 1)*—Government Response to recommendation 10.

Human Rights Act, pursuant to subsection 33(2)—Corrections Management Act—Declaration of incompatibility, dated 21 April 2022.

Inspector of Correctional Services Act—Report of a Review of a Critical Incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—Escape of a detainee from a secure escort on 9 July 2021 (CIR 01/22)—Government Response.

Planning and Development Act—Applications to amend—Notices of decisions—DA201936662 and DA202037196 (Common Ground Dickson).

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 5—*Inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report No. 5 of 2021: Management of Closed-Circuit Television Systems*—Government response.

Status of the Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19—Chief Health Officer Report 27—June 2022, dated 1 June 2022.

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Directions 2022

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) (3.04): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to subsection 8(5)—Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Directions 2022—Notifiable instrument NI2022-308.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Development applications—Common Ground Dickson

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) (3.04): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Planning and Development Act—Applications to amend—Notices of decisions—DA201936662 and DA202037196 (Common Ground Dickson).

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

Inspector of Correctional Services—critical incident review—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) (3.05): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Inspector of Correctional Services Act—Report of a Review of a Critical Incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—Escape of a detainee from a secure escort on 9 July 2021 (CIR 01/22)—Government Response.

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

Auditor-General's report No 5/2021—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) (3.06): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 5—*Inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report No. 5 of 2021: Management of Closed-Circuit Television Systems*—Government response.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Human Rights Act—declaration of incompatibility

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) (3.06): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Human Rights Act, pursuant to subsection 33(2)—Corrections Management Act—Declaration of incompatibility, dated 21 April 2022.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (3.06): I rise in relation to a declaration of incompatibility made by Her Honour Justice Loukas-Karlsson on 21 April 2022 in the matter of Davidson v the Director-General, of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

When a proceeding is being heard by the Supreme Court and an issue arises about whether a territory law is inconsistent with a human right, under section 32(2) of the Human Rights Act, if the Supreme Court is satisfied that a territory law is not consistent with a human right the court may declare that the law is not consistent with that human right. Where that happens, the Registrar of the Supreme Court must present me with a copy of the Supreme Court's declaration of incompatibility, which I must then present to this Assembly.

Justice Loukas-Karlsson made the declaration of incompatibility in relation to clause 4.3 of the Corrections Management (Separate Confinement) Operating Procedure 2019. This case arose from events that occurred in 2018 and 2019. Proceedings were commenced in September 2020 and the declaration was provided in writing to me on 5 May 2022.

The matter relates to the use of the rear courtyards of the management unit in the Alexander Maconochie Centre to provide access to open air and exercise, in compliance with section 45 of the Corrections Management Act 2007. I refer members to the declaration for the full details. Under section 33(3) of the Human Rights Act, as the Attorney-General, I must prepare a response to the declaration of incompatibility and present it to the Legislative Assembly not later than six months after today.

The ACT has a strong culture of human rights and was the first state or territory in Australia to introduce a legislative bill of rights. In addition to allowing the Supreme Court to make declarations of incompatibility and individuals to make human rights complaints, the Human Rights Act also requires new legislation introduced by the ACT government to be compatible with human rights. Even though the Human Rights Act commenced in 2004, this is only the second time a declaration of incompatibility has been made by the Supreme Court in the 18 years it has been operational.

I look forward to considering the issue raised in Justice Loukas-Karlsson's judgement more closely and consulting closely with the Minister for Corrections, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and other relevant stakeholders in finalising a response.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

COVID-19 public health emergency—Chief Health Officer report 27

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) (3.09): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Status of the Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19—Chief Health Officer Report 27—June 2022.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Child and youth protection services report—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) (3.09): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee—Report No 9—Interim Report on Child and Youth Protection Services (Part 1)—Government Response to recommendation 10.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Federal election 2022—impact on the ACT

MR PETTERSSON (Yerrabi) (3.10): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) former Prime Minister Scott Morrison called a Federal election on 10 April 2022;
- (b) the Federal election was held on 21 May 2022; and
- (c) Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was elected to lead a majority Labor Government;

(2) further notes that:

- (a) Senator Katy Gallagher is likely re-elected;
- (b) Andrew Leigh MP is likely re-elected;
- (c) Alicia Payne MP is likely re-elected;
- (d) David Smith MP is likely re-elected; and
- (e) David Pocock is likely elected to the Senate;

(3) acknowledges the majority Labor Government's Federal election commitments in the ACT, such as:

- (a) \$15 million for the Australian Institute of Sport precinct;
- (b) \$10 million for youth accommodation at the Canberra Institute of Technology in Woden;
- (c) \$5 million for Gorman House Arts Centre;
- (d) \$5 million towards Northside bicycle paths;
- (e) \$3.225 million to improve Canberra's waterways;
- (f) \$1 million for crisis accommodation for women fleeing domestic violence;
- (g) \$800 000 for tennis facilities in Weston Creek;
- (h) \$750 000 to progress the University of Canberra Sports Hub;
- (i) \$450 000 to revegetate Jerrabomberra Creek;
- (j) \$250 000 for upgrades in nine local schools;
- (k) three community batteries in Casey, Dickson and Fadden; and
- (l) an urgent care clinic to be located on Canberra's Southside; and

(4) calls on the ACT Government to work:

- (a) collaboratively with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his majority Labor Government to deliver their election commitments in the ACT; and
- (b) with all Members of the 47th Parliament of Australia to ensure that the interests of the ACT are well served.

On 21 May this year, a majority Labor government was elected to serve the people of Australia. This is a historic result for the Labor Party and for working people in this country. The real story from this election is the story of the Labor Party's huge gains in the suburbs, the cities and the regions. These are the Australians that elected a majority Labor government.

The Labor Party now has a strong mandate for government across the country but particularly in the Canberra region. The Labor Party primary vote in Bean has now reached 41.7 per cent, with a 3.6 per cent swing towards David Smith MP. In the electorate of Canberra the swing is even stronger, with Alicia Payne MP gaining 4.3 per cent, to bring her primary vote to 44.8 per cent. The most astonishing result is in my home electorate of Fenner, where Andrew Leigh MP has a primary vote of 48.3 per cent after the swing towards him.

It is clear that Canberrans voted for change, and it is very clear that Canberrans voted for the Labor Party. The issues that Canberrans care about—addressing the housing crisis, doing more to help the environment and ensuring that Canberra gets its fair share of infrastructure spending—were key parts of the Labor Party's platform. It only makes sense that people's votes reflected their values. The new majority Labor government made a lot of local election commitments that Canberrans want to see delivered.

I want to see them delivered too. That is why I am calling on the ACT government to work cooperatively with the federal majority Labor government to deliver on their promises. One of those promises that I am very proud of, and one that is already ACT government policy, is \$10 million for supported student housing at Woden CIT. This project will help to house young people who are at risk of homelessness and provide key support services while they study—valuable, wonderful services.

The newly elected majority Labor government has also promised a \$1 million boost to provide more crisis accommodation to help women fleeing domestic violence in the ACT. These policies will make a tangible difference in the lives of these vulnerable Canberrans, and I look forward to seeing this promise delivered.

As well as housing, the ACT government and the Canberra community have been calling for the federal government to step up and chip in to reopen the AIS arena. Labor has promised to fully fund the repair and upgrade works, investing \$15 million.

Canberrans are proud of how far the ACT government has come in reducing our reliance on non-renewable energy, but there is no doubt that our community wants the new federal government to do more. More than a quarter of Canberra's households have rooftop solar panels. But without an expensive battery it is often hard for households to make full use of the solar energy they collect.

Labor has promised to deliver three more community batteries across Canberra to allow solar energy to be stored. These batteries will bring down power prices, as well as, importantly, reducing emissions. These are the sorts of innovative and progressive policy ideas that Canberrans want to see. In this election, Canberrans made their voices heard by strongly endorsing the proposals being put forward by the Labor Party and rejecting the years of neglect that Canberra has felt under the coalition.

I should also acknowledge and congratulate the likely new senator for the ACT, David Pocock. Whilst counting is still underway, it seems certain that Mr Pocock will become the next senator for the ACT. It is an impressive achievement to be elected to the Senate as an independent candidate, and an even more impressive achievement to do so by unseating a long-term senator from a major party.

I imagine that those opposite must be doing some soul-searching. Somehow they have managed to lose their only federal representation in parliament. Many Canberrans have long wondered how the ACT, one of the most progressive parts of Australia, ended up with someone as conservative as Senator Seselja. Many of us, myself included, thought it was highly unlikely that he would ever be beaten to a quota in the Senate race. It seems, however, that that day has arrived.

It is clear that, for the first time in a long time, Australia has elected a government that cares about Canberra. The ACT is represented by two ministers, and the Canberra region by three. Senator Katy Gallagher, a former Chief Minister in this place, has become the first finance minister from the ACT. Dr Andrew Leigh MP, the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, representing many of my constituents, will be a voice for the needs of our communities at the federal level. Kristy McBain, the new Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, will be a strong advocate for the Canberra region. I have no doubt that the ACT and the Canberra region will be very well represented.

I am also calling on the ACT government to work with all members of the federal parliament for the betterment of the territory. Our country has elected a Labor majority government but also a diverse crossbench. Their voices should be heard and they should be involved in the work of bettering our country. It is important that the ACT works with the whole parliament on the proposal to reinstate territory rights. This is a key and defining issue for Canberrans. We do not want to be treated as second-class citizens.

The ACT is often forgotten when decisions are made at a federal level. For the last nine years Canberra has been dismissed by the coalition as being the “Canberra bubble”, “cushioned from reality” and just a “regional centre full of public servants”. The election of a majority Labor government is also a clear rejection of the divisive, fearmongering culture war politics being played by the Liberal-Nationals coalition. It is a rejection of the coalition’s refusal to act on climate change, on women’s safety, on corruption and on many of the issues that Canberrans care deeply about.

Under the last nine years of coalition governments, Canberra has been treated with disdain. In the last term of government, one of the major priorities of the coalition was

to decentralise the APS. One of their key policies was to take jobs away from Canberra. Even our own senator, Zed Seselja, would not stand up for the rights of Canberrans when his colleagues called for territory rights to be restored.

In the recent budget handed down by the former coalition government, the ACT was allocated only 0.3 per cent of all infrastructure spending—0.3 per cent. Our population is 1.68 per cent of the Australian population, and yet here we were, allocated just 0.3 per cent. I do not think any member in this place could argue that that is fair. To add insult to injury, the announcement during the election campaign that the Liberals planned to cut \$3.3 billion from the public service was yet another blow to Canberrans.

I am optimistic that this city will be well served under the new Labor majority government. I look forward to seeing what this new era of progressive government in Australia will bring. It is in the best interests of all in this place to work collaboratively with the Labor majority government to ensure that Canberrans get their fair share.

MS LEE (Kurrajong—Leader of the Opposition) (3.18): I have to say that when I saw Mr Pettersson's motion on the notice paper, I was—and am still, to this day—very confused about the whole point of this motion. I think it calls for the ACT government to work collaboratively with the newly elected federal Labor government. If it takes a motion from a Labor backbencher to call on his Assembly leader to work collaboratively with his federal Labor leader then I think that says more about the lack of confidence that Mr Pettersson has in the Chief Minister than anything else.

It is astounding. This comes from the same party, two members of which, including a minister yesterday, told us that we were wasting our time in this place debating almost \$9 million worth of taxpayer funds being awarded to one contractor. To this day—we are 24 hours in—no-one can tell me what it is actually for. This is extraordinary,

I was not going to waste time on this. That is why I do not even have notes. But let us put a few things on the record. Enough of this self-congratulation. Whilst of course we acknowledge and accept that the Australian voting public have elected a Labor government, you got 30 per cent of the vote nationally. So instead of getting on your high horse, how about a bit of humility and saying, "Isn't it a privilege. We have been elected and we are going to do the best that we can"? But why should I be surprised? I also note that Mr Pettersson, in his speech, spoke about housing a number of times, so I look forward to getting his support for my motion that is next.

In all seriousness, despite what a joke of a motion this is, can I say for the record that, despite the disappointment in the result federally, it is amazing to see a record number of First Nations MPs elected and a record number of women and people from the CALD community. I think it is wonderful that our federal parliament is starting to look a little more like the community that it serves. I think that is a wonderful, wonderful thing. It is of course in stark contrast to what we see on the side of Labor and the Greens in this chamber. But it is absolutely wonderful to see.

I place on the record my congratulations to the re-elected members here in the ACT: Andrew Leigh for Fenner, Alicia Payne for Canberra, David Smith for Bean, and Katy Gallagher, who is the new minister in the federal Labor government. If David Pocock is elected as the second senator then I look forward to working with him.

I conclude by saying that it is a given—it is an absolute given—that any Chief Minister having the privilege of sitting in that seat over there, no matter what party they are from, would work in the best interests of Canberrans and work collaboratively with the federal government, no matter what political party the federal government are from. Certainly, I would hope that the Chief Minister would do the same.

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) (3.22): I thank Mr Pettersson for bringing this motion to the Assembly today. Like Mr Pettersson and like many Canberrans, I was delighted by the federal election result a few weeks ago. I can advise those opposite that our Chief Minister has full confidence from our bench, not like we see across the road.

The new government has committed to reforms that undo the years of neglect and disrespect from the former Liberal government. Neglect is what Liberal governments are best at. I am looking forward to seeing compassion from the government that cares about people. I am looking forward to the end of the cashless welfare card. It was a delight to see the Nadesalingam family return to Biloela. How those people ever supported their detention is beyond me.

Paul Keating once said, “When you change governments you change the country,” and change the country has. I think many Australian once again feel pride in the nation. We have a government that is committed to bringing people together.

I want to echo the Chief Minister’s comments from last week about the federal public service. The former government’s attack on the public service came in many forms: outsourcing, decentralisation and defunding. It was despicable and done for purely ideological reasons, because they think that Canberra-bashing will win them votes. Look at the disgraceful comments made by Liberal Senator Hollie Hughes about the new Minister for Finance last week. Her sneering and bitter comments about the nation’s capital showed just how much the Liberals hate Canberra.

The federal election result shows us that Canberrans do not take kindly to this kind of politics. They know, and we know, that a strong public service is good for our city and it is good for our country. The many thousands of Canberrans who work for the federal government will be better off under this government. Canberrans will be better off. They will be better off because this new Labor government has committed to engaging with them through proper bargaining processes. They will be able to work with their unions and their employer toward better and fairer working conditions. My long-time friend and colleague Senator Katy Gallagher will make an excellent minister for the public service. She will restore the public service, protect its integrity, and ensure that it can properly support the government and the people of this country.

The election of a federal Labor government is a significant opportunity for the territory to achieve progress on a number of reforms and projects that have been blocked or stalled under the previous government. This includes, of course, progress on the development of light rail and the reopening of the AIS arena.

The past two years have been incredibly challenging for Australians, as we have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am confident that the election of a federal Labor government will strengthen collaboration between our governments, now that we share common values and long-term economic and social reform priorities. Of particular importance, we will be working together to settle sustainable future funding arrangements for the national COVID-19 response and, in the longer term, national health system reform.

This government welcomes federal Labor's commitments to help deliver significant benefits to residents of Canberra and the wider region. This includes delivering on climate action, through creating three community batteries across Canberra and delivering Australia's first national electric vehicle strategy. ACT and federal politics now align, and we must address climate change through investment in renewables and low emissions energy technology in a way that supports this economic sector to grow and create more jobs.

Working people are at the heart of our economy, and Labor will always work to protect them. Making sure that people doing the same job get the same pay and promoting secure employment will mean that more Australians will find themselves in better employment situations. I also fully support the new government's efforts to raise the minimum wage, noting the positive effect that this will have on those struggling with the cost of living.

The liveability, growth and sustainability of Canberra relies on ensuring that we can legislate on matters that are important to us, and that we are treated equally to other states and territories, while acknowledging the critical role the ACT government plays in supporting Canberra's position as the national capital. I appreciate federal Labor's commitment, as a priority, to support recognition of the rights of Territorians to make decisions regarding voluntary assisted dying and to facilitate debate and a conscience vote to restore the rights of the territory to be able to legislate on this important issue.

A stronger ACT and Australian government relationship will boost the development of the nation's capital to be better connected and more sustainable, more liveable, a city with quality services that our nation can continue to be proud of and call its capital.

In my electorate of Brindabella there are a couple of projects that I am excited to be seeing delivered. This includes a community battery, to be located in Fadden. This is a sign of the way the Labor Party does climate policy: by bringing people together and supporting the whole community with equitable energy access. Real progressives do not take the individualistic approach of subsidising the rich to buy fancy things. Nor do we take the "hope it will go away" approach of the Liberal Party. Instead, we know that a just energy transition is the best for our country and for our future. I firmly

believe that only Labor can deliver the emissions reduction that our country must make, while making working people better off, looking after families and helping those in need.

ACT Labor has led the way on national climate action. Now we have a partner, in the Albanese Labor government. It was ACT Labor that stood up and supported the renewable energy sector when Tony Abbott came to power. We provided a lifeline through our innovative and pioneering renewable energy reverse auctions. This has helped power our city with 100 per cent renewable electricity and is cutting power prices. I want to thank Simon Corbell for his leadership on this. Federal Labor will deliver strong action on climate change and ensure that no-one is left behind. I am looking forward to seeing the end of the climate wars and seeing our country take real action on climate change under this majority Labor government.

Ten years ago we had a progressive minority government that made an extraordinary amount of change in this country. I hope we can all learn the lessons from that time—that when we are making policy it is important that we do not let the perfect be the enemy of good. Instead of having a decade of climate inaction, we could have had a decade of an emissions trading scheme and a country powered by renewable energy. Making perfect the enemy of good enabled a decade of Liberal government that undermined and attacked our social welfare system, Medicare, the NDIS, the NBN, women, the LGBTIQ community, kids, unions and working people.

I am also pleased to see the Albanese government support for a new urgent care centre on the south side. They are continuing a long Labor tradition of investing in accessible health services.

Canberrans have again shown their support for Labor candidates, with the re-election of David Smith, Alicia Payne and Andrew Leigh to the house, and Katy Gallagher to the Senate. In the House of Representatives elections ACT Labor recorded a 45 per cent primary vote, the highest Labor vote of all jurisdictions and the strongest vote of any party in any state or territory across Australia. I want to commend all of these members and their campaign teams for their excellent work on the campaign and congratulate them on their success. There is a lot of work to be done and I cannot wait to work with them all.

The Australian Labor Party's policy platform for a better future will improve the lives of Canberrans and Australians and complement the ACT's progressive legislative agenda and commitments. Congratulations again to everyone involved in the campaign and, most of all, to the Australian electorate, who have chosen unity instead of division, and compassion instead of hatred. I commend this excellent motion from Mr Pettersson to the Assembly.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (3.31): As the motion alludes to, elections are an important time for the country. We have an opportunity to change our political direction. Many of us hope for something different and better for our nation, its people, its environment and its future. This election result has delivered that to a moderate but not insubstantial degree. Congratulations to the Labor government. We in the ACT Greens party look forward to working with a new Labor government on

many policy areas that were simply impossible and intractable under the former coalition government. New doors have opened up, and we see opportunities for positive progress.

There is a reality, I think, that for many people in Australia the buoyant mood comes primarily from the fact that the egregious Morrison government has been removed. People are just relieved to be free of that compassionless, conceited government. It was out of touch with what Australians cared about. That is why we saw a pretty light election policy platform put forward by federal Labor. But I also acknowledge there are some real differences between the previous and new governments, from the big-picture 43 per cent by 2030 emissions reduction target, the prioritising of a federal integrity commission, and the scrapping of the cashless debit card, right down to the deeply personal joy expressed by the Murugappan family on finally going home to Biloela. These policy differences are meaningful. They have real impacts on people's lives, and I will not deny our appreciation for these significant changes in direction. Yet we in the Greens, like so many other people who voted in this election, cannot overlook the fact that much of what Labor proposes manifestly does not go far enough, or is disappointingly similar to coalition policy.

I will give you a key example. We must stop building new coal and gas mines that will continue to fuel climate change. This is arguably the number one action we need to take for a safe climate for future generations. As a first step, stop doing any further harm. Yet it is quite clear that there will be no change in this area. I wonder if this is an example of the perfect being the enemy of the good: keep building more coal and gas mines. The International Energy Agency has stated unequivocally that there can be no new coal, oil or gas if we are to stay below the 1.5-degree threshold of warming. This is a critical policy direction—critical for the future of our planet—and Labor continues to shut its eyes to this inconvenient truth. Rather than being honest to coal and gas mining communities, and pledging to support them through a transition, Labor is promising to open new mines and gas fields. It is selling out future generations in the worst way and leaving them a terrible climate change legacy.

Nor does the Labor government propose a different direction on asylum seeker policy. Australia is renowned worldwide for its harsh and inhumane approach to people fleeing from oppression and brutality. Under this government, it is set to stay the same. Asylum seeker policy has been a shameful political race to the bottom over many years. It is as if governments have become inured and hardened, and have ultimately given up on the notion that asylum seekers could be treated humanely. That does not need to be the case. We could be a beacon of hope and humanity.

Lastly, I touch on an issue that we have discussed regularly in this chamber—an issue where federal government policy clearly has an impact on residents of the ACT, specifically its most vulnerable. One of the best ways the new federal Labor government could genuinely help vulnerable Canberrans to lift people out of poverty would be to raise the rate of income support for people on a range of government income supports. This is something that the Greens have committed to. I think that all of us in this chamber agree that we want to see that change from the federal government because it is so significant, overall, for the cost-of-living pressures facing the most vulnerable. So I find it troubling that it appears that the federal government

is not planning to raise the rate and, in fact, will continue the punitive regimes that kick people off their already inadequate payments.

Issues like these have caused the transformative, seismic ripple that has restructured Australian politics at this 2022 election. That seismic ripple is the fact that, for the first time in Australia's electoral history, a huge number of Australians discovered and harnessed the power of their preferences and chose to support parties and candidates outside of the two-party system. The election was a comprehensive repudiation of the Morrison government and the coalition parties—that is clear—but it was not an embrace of the Labor Party in its place. The Labor Party's vote, in fact, slumped to an all-time low, as did the coalition's. Both major parties achieved their lowest votes ever. Instead, people transferred the vote to candidates who championed progressive policies like integrity and climate change. This was the so-called teal wave of progressive independents and the Greens.

The Greens had an excellent result nationally and locally. The Greens' national primary vote increased. There will be 12 Greens senators and an additional three Greens members in the House, bringing the total on the Greens benches to four. The message should be very clear to the Labor government, with its narrow majority and lowest vote ever, just as it should be clear to the coalition with its resounding eviction from government. People want a government that will act as strongly and quickly as possible on issues like climate change, integrity and equality. There is no guarantee the slim majority government will be delivered next time, and I hope this message is resonating to everybody who will be working in that building on the hill. This fracturing of the political duopoly is a significant and positive outcome from this year's federal election. I hold hope that, in part due to this message from the Australian people, we will see a change in politics, most clearly in the form of bolder climate change action.

While many people know about the wave of independent candidates that have been elected, like Ms Lee I want to make special note of the fact that there are also now more Indigenous members of parliament than ever before—10 in total. There will now also be 13 MPs from non-Indigenous and non-European backgrounds, and 10 of these are women. It is important that Australians are increasingly seeing themselves reflected in the composition of the parliament. All of this is to be celebrated and built upon. I look forward to seeing not just a more diverse chamber, but one that is more collegiate, more ambitious and more mindful of its responsibility to the Australian people. I hope to see an emboldened Labor Party willing to pursue the progressive policies we need in Australia.

Before I discuss some matters in my own ministerial portfolios, I want to pay a special acknowledgement to our local Greens candidates who stood up to represent the ACT and worked so hard on their campaigns. Tianara, Tim, Natasa, James and Kathryn believe strongly in representing their community, in Greens policies and principles, and in creating a better future for all of us. The federal parliament will be a lesser place without them. Congratulations to them and the admirable results that they achieved.

I want to touch on some issues in my own portfolios, where I will be seeking to work with a far greater degree of cooperation than we have seen previously with the federal government. Firstly, I turn to my portfolio as Attorney-General. We have an ongoing issue around the matter of voluntary assisted dying. The territories are the subject of continued discrimination and are prevented from making their own laws on this issue. I have previously raised this with my Attorney-General colleagues from around the nation and will continue to do so—I expect more successfully under this new government. I note that the Chief Minister is already commissioning draft legislation to assist the federal government in this space.

Here in the ACT we also have a commitment to justice reinvestment and to reducing the over-representation of First Nations men and women in the justice system. I am optimistic about opportunities to work with our new federal government in this space. On a related issue, I note that our community legal centres have suffered a variety of funding cuts at the hands of the coalition government over many years, and I am looking forward to speaking to my federal counterparts about restoring funding to these essential legal services.

We also need to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The evidence is clear that it should be raised to at least 14. The evidence is also clear that young people committing crimes need help rather than a criminal response. We are leading this reform in the ACT because there has been insufficient national action, and I would be delighted if the new federal government could help achieve a consistent, evidence-based national approach to raising the age.

I am encouraged to see that the new Attorney-General has previously raised public concerns regarding the prosecution of Bernard Collaery, citing issues with the secrecy in particular. I agree with the new Attorney-General when he says that the manner in which the government has sought to conduct the prosecution appears to be an affront to the rule of law. I, too, am concerned about this matter and will seek further discussions with the new attorney about the approach he intends to take. It is time that this clearly politically motivated prosecution was brought to an end.

I will be looking for an early opportunity to raise the issue of gaming advertising and online gaming with my federal counterparts, noting that these are areas where the key policy levers predominantly lie with the federal government. Not only are people sick of persistent and intrusive betting advertising—and I hear this regularly from constituents—but this insidious practice amplifies the harm that results from gaming. It needs further regulation.

Eviction of the recalcitrant and climate-sceptic coalition government gives me great hope that I can now work closely with the federal government on key environmental issues through my emissions reduction, water and energy portfolios. Gone is the government that claimed electric vehicles would ruin your weekend. Now we have a chance to implement broad-ranging and influential federal policies like vehicle emissions standards that can kick-start the zero-emission vehicle revolution. As I have always said, I am sure that we can lead that revolution from here within the territory, allowing ACT citizens to reap all the benefits that come with that.

Gone is the government that insisted we could spur a recovery from a global pandemic by burning fossil fuels—the so-called gas-led recovery. Look where that has got us! What kind of twisted nonsense was that? Instead, I am hopeful—and I will certainly be exploring the opportunities—that the ACT will work closely with the federal government on our nation-leading gas transition. In the ACT we are committed to phasing out fossil fuel gas by 2045 at the latest—a policy that is a critical response to climate change, but which will also extend so many benefits to our population, from health benefits to reduced costs. As I touched on in question time, I am certainly encouraged by the manner in which the new federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy has started discussions with energy ministers, and I look forward to further collaboration in that space.

As the water minister I also look forward to working with the federal government and Minister Plibersek to progress a range of reforms to improve water quality and waterway health, address water security, and use water more efficiently. I have key water priorities that I will raise imminently with the new minister. These include a major project to improve water-use efficiency in the ACT; ongoing work on the ACT healthy waterways projects to include local waterway health and water quality, which I know is of interest to a lot of members in this chamber; collaborating to improve the health of the Murray-Darling River system; and delivering cultural flows and enabling greater decision-making and participation for First Nations people along the river system.

Lastly, in the consumer affairs space, I will also be seeking to advance the outcomes from the major inquiry into the right to repair, conducted by the Productivity Commission last year. This is a ground-breaking report on a ground-breaking concept. Advancing the right to repair can deliver better outcomes for consumers who rightly expect their products to last for a reasonable period. It is also an important response to the challenge of waste, especially electronic waste, and a means to save resources in general. Virtually all of the recommendations were in the space of the federal government, and I will be seeking to have these implemented with priority on behalf of ACT consumers.

In conclusion, I again congratulate the new government. There are great opportunities for us to work together in the ACT. I note that Mr Albanese has said that he will live most of his time in The Lodge, which I think is a great outcome for this city, and will help ground him in the day-to-day realities, needs and challenges of this special city. I am optimistic for the next three years, and challenge the new government to pay heed to the message delivered to it by voters, and to go boldly.

MR PETTERSSON (Yerrabi) (3.44), in reply: I appreciate the chance to respond and close the debate, because elections are important. Elections shape our nation, and they shape our city. The results of 21 May will affect what goes on in this chamber for a very long time. Some in this chamber might like to pretend that the election did not happen, but—bad news!—it did. Or it may have been good news—I can see Ms Stephen-Smith—depending on which side of the chamber you are on.

I brought this motion forward because it made a very important point, which I think went over Ms Lee's head. The idea of calling for a better way of politics and asking for people to work collaboratively is not a waste of time. If Ms Lee had considered more than just the first point of the calls-on section of the motion, she would have realised that I called on this government to work with all members of the federal parliament to better the interests of the ACT. I have done that because this Federation suffered under the last government. If you have been paying attention over the last few years, you would have seen the states fighting and the commonwealth government picking favourites between the states. By some crazy circumstance the interactions between state premiers are more akin to high school bullying and name-calling than sensible government. We heard the people of Western Australia called cave people. We saw a bill considered in the federal parliament to repeal the Andrews bill, not for all affected territories but for the territories that were liked by the government in power.

We have seen funding decisions about flood relief grants that were not based on merit but on who that electorate voted for. The idea that asking politicians to work collaboratively is a waste of time is obnoxious to me. I think it goes to someone's understanding of leadership, that they cannot see that that is a problem in this country. I am very confident about the way this government handles itself. This is a collaborative government. So I am quite confident that this government will be able to uphold what I am calling for. The reason I think it is important to call for it is to put people on notice that these are the standards we will hold ourselves to—that if we hold ourselves to these standards, then you should hold yourselves to them as well.

I think it is important to talk about the hard work of government. It is very easy to say that something is a good idea, "Let's us do that." It is an election commitment—sweet!—but it takes a lot of work to take the words in those commitments and to action them. It will require work from the ACT government to bring to fruition each of those commitments made by the federal Labor majority government. Thankfully, those are great commitments that I wholeheartedly support. I believe all of my colleagues share that view. I believe that there will be consensus that we should get to work and support this new government in implementing their commitments.

I note that the motion I submitted on Monday is somewhat out of date, and I apologise to members. I can happily confirm that Andrew Leigh MP is no longer likely to be re-elected but officially is elected. Congratulations, Dr Leigh. I can happily say the same about David Smith MP. Like most Canberrans, I will wait on the edge of my seat for the Senate results.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Housing—CSIRO Ginninderra site development

MS LEE (Kurrajong—Leader of the Opposition) (3.49): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) in early 2022, the Australian Government committed to the sale of 243 hectares of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Ginninderra site for housing development;
 - (b) demand for housing in Canberra, particularly detached housing, is at crisis point, and is not being met with an increase in the supply of land by the ACT Labor-Greens Government;
 - (c) the ACT Government's land release policy to have 70 percent of people living in high-density dwellings is making Canberra's housing crisis worse;
 - (d) nine out of 10 Canberrans would prefer to live in low or medium-density housing, such as a detached house or townhouse;
 - (e) the latest land release ballot for Macnamara for 51 blocks had over 1,700 entries on the day it opened in May 2022; and
 - (f) other recent ballots have seen thousands of people applying for a small number of blocks, such as the March 2022 Whitlam ballot for 101 blocks, which had 12,417 entries;
- (2) calls on the leaders of all parties in the ACT Legislative Assembly to:
- (a) write to their Federal counterparts urging them to support the release of the 243 hectare CSIRO Ginninderra site to the market as soon as possible; and
 - (b) table a copy of their respective letters in this Chamber by the last sitting day in June 2022; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to commit to allowing low and medium-density housing at the site, in keeping with Canberrans' housing preferences.

The ACT is in a housing crisis. Whilst the reasons affecting housing affordability are complex and diverse, we must do everything we can to help ease the pressure for the many Canberrans who are struggling with housing. Now, more than ever, in the face of interest rate rises and the growing cost of living, the need to do more is becoming more and more pressing. The median price for a house in the ACT is over \$1 million and we have the highest median rent in the country. There is clear demand for more land for housing. We know that Canberrans want genuine choice when it comes to housing, whether that be a high-rise apartment, a townhouse or dual occupancy, or a standalone, detached house.

In the lead-up to the last federal election the Liberal-Nationals government committed to releasing 243 hectares of land on the CSIRO Ginninderra site. Based on the size of average blocks, this would equate to at least 2,000 detached houses. This is an area that has been explored for many years for residential development, and the Liberal-Nationals government ensured that any federal restrictions were removed to prepare it for residential development.

I note that the Chief Minister, whilst taking a petty clip about Senator Seselja's announcement in the lead-up to the election, supported this land for housing. His problem seemed to be that he got his nose out of joint because the land was not offered to the ACT government directly. To be brutally frank, it is neither here nor

there who actually develops it and has it on the market. The concern that I have, though, is when you look at the record of this Labor-Greens government and their deliberating strangling of land. It is driving up demand and it is driving up prices, so I do not really have much faith, based on their record, that they will treat this land any differently.

Whilst the Chief Minister will, once again, I am sure, say that he has already agreed to this and ask why I am bringing up it today, this is where we come to the pointy end. The Chief Minister spent more time sniping at Senator Seselja on this announcement than actually commenting on the substantive issue of whether this land should be for housing for Canberrans, whether he will commit to fast-tracking the developments here, and whether he will make sure that it is for detached and medium-density housing.

It will be an opportunity for this Labor-Greens government to put on the record its priority to get these blocks on the market as soon as possible. As we know, and from the motion we have just had as well, a lot of the Labor members in this chamber have spent a great deal of time talking about the opportunities under this new federal Labor government, but there has been a little bit of quiet on this specific issue. Let's just make sure we get this done. Canberrans deserve genuine choice when it comes to housing.

There is clear demand for more blocks. We know, because we just have to have a look at the stats from the last lot of land ballots. Just last month the latest Ginninderra ballot in Macnamara had more than 1,700 applicants within hours of it opening—1,700 applicants for 51 blocks. Fifty-one blocks: 1,700 applicants. This is not an anomaly. There were 12,417 applicants for 101 blocks in Whitlam in March this year; 8,700 applicants for 71 blocks in Macnamara in February this year; 7,484 applicants for 115 blocks in Taylor in October last year; and 7,566 applicants for 92 blocks in Whitlam in March last year. That is thousands and thousands and thousands of Canberrans applying for a total of 430 blocks.

The numbers do not lie. Canberrans want genuine choice when it comes to housing, and there is clearly a demand for more blocks. The CSIRO Ginninderra site will have a significant impact by putting more blocks on the market. Before those that are opposed to release of land start to cry out about urban sprawl, let us remember that this land is situated between Belconnen and Gungahlin. It is clearly within the existing footprint of land in the ACT. The Liberal-Nationals government identified and protected a section of this land for environmental benefits and I would expect that the new federal Labor government will do the same. This is commonwealth land that the Labor Chief Minister has said, on the record, that he wants for the ACT.

Releasing this land for housing will play a big role in helping to relieve the housing crisis. It will play a big role in helping to address the clear demand for more blocks and it will play a big role in providing genuine choice for Canberrans when it comes to housing. In addition to putting an additional 2,000 blocks into the extremely tight market, it will provide a much-needed boost to the local building and construction sector. We know that there is a critical skills shortage, but a commitment over these blocks will provide much-needed certainty for the sector, particularly for the small

and medium construction businesses, who will then have some confidence about the pipeline of work that will be there.

We have heard non-stop from virtually every single Labor member in this chamber about how good things are going to be since the change of government at the federal level. Well, here is something that will be of huge benefit to so many Canberrans trying to get into the housing market or find an affordable place to rent. Earlier this year the Liberal-Nationals government committed to releasing land at the CSIRO Ginninderra site to the market. So I urge the members in the Labor and Greens parties: now is your chance. Now is your chance to take action for the people of Canberra and make sure that we get this land on the market.

I am calling on the leaders of all parties in this place to write to our federal counterparts to get this land on the market as soon as possible. I am also calling on the Labor-Greens government to commit to zoning the site for low and medium-density housing because we know that that is what Canberrans want and we know that there is a clear demand in that area. I commend my motion to the Assembly.

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) (3.56): The government supports the intent of the motion from Ms Lee, calling on the ACT government to work with the commonwealth government to deliver more land for Canberrans. That is something that we not only agree with but it is one of those motions where the opposition have asked us to do what we have already been doing. It is something that we have been doing for some time and we will keep doing that. There are a few facts that need correcting in this motion, and I will be moving an amendment later on to reflect these, but I would like to speak, first, of the work that has already been happening in this space.

The ACT government's history with the CSIRO site goes back eight years. All of those years were under the leadership of the federal coalition government, with quite a few different prime ministers and frontbenchers along the way. All along, this government has welcomed more land but has been public about the importance of thorough consultation with our community on that land. There is a lot of detailed planning and infrastructure work that is required to bring a new suburb online. It is important that any new developments in Canberra offer the things that people here want to see—good transport options, great schools, places to work, places to have fun and access to essential services. Canberrans want that delivered in a way that preserves our green spaces. They also want to make sure that our neighbourhoods are places for everyone, with affordable and public housing and with a mix of housing choices for everyone, ensuring that our neighbourhoods are diverse and vibrant communities. That has been the government's approach to the CSIRO site all along.

When a sale was considered years ago, we thought about how to ensure the best outcomes for Canberrans, not just about the number of blocks. Well before outgoing Senator Seselja had an epiphany and campaigned on releasing the site to anyone but the ACT government, the ACT government was already well engaged with the

previous government. While the site was not then and still is not for sale, earlier this term I asked the ACT public service to work with CSIRO. Since that time, a number of ACT directorates have been giving advice to CSIRO on a range of matters. These include planning, infrastructure, schools, roads, environmental management and the process of converting land from national land to territory land.

I asked for that advice to be prepared in order to assist the CSIRO to prepare its site for a potential sale. If the site is available for sale, of course the territory will have a very strong interest in acquiring it. The ACT government is happy to support writing to the commonwealth to encourage this sale, and I am pleased that the Canberra Liberals support this approach. I am personally hopeful that, with a renewed Albanese Labor government in Parliament House, we will be able to achieve this outcome. To foreshadow the amendment I am moving, that outcome is not just about land being delivered in a format set by the Assembly vote. We want that land to be brought into the ACT's planning framework so that all future steps that are decided are following consultation with Canberrans and especially, and very importantly, Canberrans who live nearby.

While I am pleased to see the opposition supporting the ACT government's ongoing efforts to secure land for Canberra's future, there are some things in Ms Lee's motion that need a closer look. First of all, it is not true that the ACT government's policy is to have a set number of people in high-density dwellings. The 70 per cent infill target is about building on the existing urban footprint, not about the type of housing we build. That is an important target for keeping Canberra environmentally sustainable and keeping our green spaces green and ensuring the bush capital that we all love.

The motion asks for us to note a range of facts about the current housing market that members here have debated repeatedly over the last year. I will say it again: there are no simple answers to the housing market and broader economic issues facing our community. No-one can deny that housing affordability is an issue—it is an issue—and that cost of living pressures are on the rise. They are. This is an economic reality. These are not unique to the ACT. Land prices have been increasing everywhere in Australia. I am very hopeful that the newly elected Albanese Labor government will be a partner in addressing these issues, not only in the ACT but across the country. This is looking more positive than it ever has because of the Labor government federally.

The amendment that I will be moving goes to the vision that this government has for Canberra's new suburbs and what they should look like. It is very easy to just say, "Release more blocks," but that is not a realistic answer to housing prices and it takes a lot more than a headline to develop a great new neighbourhood. We know that to meet Canberra's needs we need to deliver a sustainable city. A mix of housing choices is required, and that is what Canberrans want. They want choices. They want to live in a city that keeps its natural beauty and has great services and amenities.

Our current single dwelling release targets reflect that mix. The 2021-22 to 2025-26 indicative land release program shows 25 per cent of releases—or 4,171 dwellings—as single dwelling blocks, out of a total of 16,434 dwellings. It is uncontroversial to say that any new neighbourhoods in Canberra will allow medium and low-density

housing in the future, but how that mix applies to any new sites needs to be informed by consultation. This government's vision for neighbourhoods is not only about price and housing options. It is also important to us to have inclusive neighbourhoods that offer the services people need and the amenities they want.

Last week I listed many of the reasons why the change to a commonwealth Labor government offers great hope and opportunity for Canberrans. Members came together to renew a call for waiving the ACT's housing debt. Members also heard about the ACT government's commitment to public and affordable housing, and the amendment I will move today reflects that focus. Over the next five years the ACT government will invest more than half a billion dollars to deliver 1,400 new, modern and efficient properties, including 400 additional homes for those most in need, such as Canberrans experiencing homelessness.

This program includes direct budget investment of over \$150 million. This is, per capita, the biggest investment in public housing in the country and will see almost a quarter of our public housing stock renewed—and over \$1.2 billion invested in public housing from 2014-25. The 2021-22 budget saw \$100 million committed to growing, renewing and maintaining public housing.

A commitment to inclusive neighbourhoods is what Canberrans support, and that is what they should expect from this government. The amendment I will be moving reflects our vision for future development in Canberra: inclusive, environmentally sustainable and with the infrastructure and services that make Canberra the most liveable city in Australia. Most importantly, Canberrans should have their voices heard about how those values are reflected in any new developments.

The ACT government has been working on how the CSIRO site might best fit into Canberra's future for years, and I welcome Ms Lee's support for that work. I would like to thank the ACT public servants who have been consistently and diligently providing advice and working on this, despite no action at all from the previous coalition government at the national level. With the amendment to the motion, I look forward to continuing this work and joining with the Chief Minister in sending a letter that seeks support from the new Albanese Labor government for releasing the CSIRO site.

I move the amendment that I have circulated:

Omit all text after "notes that", substitute:

- “(a) in 2015, the previous leadership of the Australian Government encountered serious governance and commercial issues in attempting to sell 243 hectares of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Ginninderra site for housing development;
- (b) despite interest from the ACT Government following 2015 and again recently, the outgoing leadership of the Australian Government failed to successfully make the CSIRO Ginninderra site available for housing;

- (c) under the election policy announced by the former Australian Government, planning decisions and consultations about the CSIRO Ginninderra site would have remained with the Commonwealth Government, with no guarantee of, or control over, good quality, affordable, environmental or community outcomes informed by engagement with Canberrans;
 - (d) the ACT Government's commitments on affordable housing, housing supply, and environmentally sustainable development, including the 70 percent infill target, represent a vision for a sustainable, connected and liveable city, and the ACT's existing housing stock at 30 June 2021 comprised of approximately 115 000 single dwellings and 63 000 of all other types including apartments, townhouses and semi-detached dwellings;
 - (e) the ACT Government is developing a robust planning framework and is experienced, through the Suburban Land Agency, at delivering new suburbs in line with its commitments and ensuring that those suburbs are environmentally sustainable, liveable, and offer the services that Canberrans need and the amenities they want;
 - (f) the ACT Government has publicly recognised the importance of thorough community consultation on any future development at the greenfield CSIRO Ginninderra site, to ensure that environmental values are preserved, infrastructure and transport needs are met and the concerns of all Canberrans are heard and reflected in any future development on the site; and
 - (g) any future development, and decision about the types of housing, including affordable housing, and the environmental importance of the site should be informed by detailed consultation and planning work by the ACT Government; and
- (2) calls on the Chief Minister and Minister for Housing and Suburban Development to jointly write to the Federal Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, to seek her support for the transfer of the 243 hectare CSIRO Ginninderra site to the ACT Government as soon as possible for the purpose of release for housing; and
 - (3) calls on the ACT Government to commit to ensuring that if it acquires the CSIRO Ginninderra site, a thorough consultation with the community will occur and any decisions about the relevant environmental factors, affordable and public housing priorities, related infrastructure and housing types ultimately delivered be informed by that consultation."

MS CLAY (Ginninderra) (4.05): I am really happy to rise to talk to Ms Lee's motion and Minister Berry's amendment today. This is an important topic. It covers housing affordability, and it also covers our duties to environmental protection and climate change. It is worth spending a bit of time and talking through what we are looking at here. We have heard quite a lot about CSIRO Ginninderra in the last few months, as part of the pre-election campaigning. It is important to me, as the ACT Greens spokesperson for planning, but it is also crucial because it is in my electorate and it affects every single person in Belconnen.

CSIRO Ginninderra is a 701-hectare piece of land bordered by Fraser, Spence, Evatt, McKellar, Giralang, Crace, Hall and Nicholls. It is a large chunk of land that has been used for the past 60 years by CSIRO for agricultural research. In recent years, CSIRO have said they have engaged the community in research on woodland and native grassland restoration. CSIRO have done some work on what development could look like at this site. They have said they aspire to create a community and urban precinct that showcases world's best practice in nature conservation, urban design, construction and long-term liveability.

This is commonwealth-owned land. It is not owned by the ACT government, and the ACT government does not control it. Ms Lee's motion, as originally drafted, asked the Assembly to call on the federal government to release this land for the purpose of housing. It is a good idea, but there are so many important steps that need to take place as part of that.

This land is greenfield land. That means it is a newly released area, and there has been very little development on it before. Greenfield land really matters. It costs a lot to develop because it does not have the necessary infrastructure like roads, sewerage and electricity. Greenfield land is likely to have important environmental and First Nations cultural value. We need to carefully study that and see what is there and make a conscious choice about whether we should protect and develop it, and about which bits we should protect and develop.

Greenfield land needs particularly careful consultation with the community about what they want in their local area. As a local member for Ginninderra, I know that that consultation has not yet happened, and it must happen before anything else is developed here. It is the core part of our planning system, and we must not override the voice of our community and the need for proper consultation.

Greenfield land needs careful thought about how it fits in with our planning and transport system too. In particular, we need to think through our public and active travel connections, our barriers and our opportunities here. Some of this work has been done, but we are at an early stage. CSIRO have identified that more than 200 hectares of the site, around a third of it, should be conserved because they have high ecological value. They need protection for the box gum grassy woodland, the native grassland ecosystems, the golden sun moth and the striped legless lizard. If we do not protect them, we are contributing to the extinction crisis that is taking place all around Australia.

Greenfield development does take time. It is not an easy or quick solution to a wicked problem—that of housing shortage. It is a way to create homes, but we have so many steps before we can skip to the end and get those homes.

We are in a climate crisis. We know this. It is here. It is real. It is already changing the way we live our lives. We have to make every single major decision in here a choice for the climate. I will once again refer to the latest IPCC reports. They are telling city planners and city managers like us exactly how to deal with climate change: infill, not sprawl; public and active transport; and well-defined transport corridors. We need to

make sure that we are protecting green spaces and trees offsetting heat islands. We need to make sure that we understand urban planning matters, because with our urban planning tools we can either contribute to climate change or we can help adapt to climate change. We can make it worse, or we can make our lives a lot better.

Previous Liberal senator Zed Seselja made an announcement about this site in March. I note that he is not part of this ACT government, and he will very soon not be part of any government. He is not in a position to make planning decisions for our government or community, and he is certainly not making good choices for the climate. That announcement noted the potential of this site for housing. It identified around 240 hectares of land that might be suitable for development without legislative change, which could result in around 2,000 new dwellings or housing for around 4,500 people.

I also stop and note here that at the Evatt Primary School polling booth last month the Liberal Party primary vote went down by 8.4 per cent; in the Giralang booth it went down by 7.8 per cent; and in the division for Fenner it went down by 17.3 per cent. Most of these residents probably live around this site. I cannot tell you why they voted the way they did, but I think it is really important we note that they did vote that way in the context of a campaign about this site. That is just another signal that we need to make sure that we do that careful community consultation here. It simply has not yet been done.

Of course, we need more housing, and we certainly need more affordable housing. We all understand that in here. We have talked about it a lot, and it is really important. More housing may well be what Canberra decides to do with this site, irrespective of who owns it. Whether or not we do that, let's remember all the options we have to make new housing. We can fund more public and social housing. We can help out our community housing sector with land and support. We can look at places within our existing footprint that can accommodate more dwellings than they currently accommodate. We can look at our vacancy rates and find out if we have empty homes right now, today, already built that could and should be occupied. We can influence our newly elected federal government to change the tax and policy settings that make it easier to own your seventh home than it is to own your first. We are quite likely to need to do all of these things. We need to do them in a smart, systematic and consultative way.

Ms Lee's motion is not a quick fix to any immediate housing problems. It will take at least five years to build any new home from this. Some of the ideas I mentioned above could deliver much faster results, and that is why we need to be looking at all the tools we have to deal with this. The problems of climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss and the problems of human housing are really complex, and our solutions will be complex. We need a whole raft of measures.

I was really pleased to work with Minister Berry on her amendments to Ms Lee's motion. I believe they will deliver some smart planning and housing options in a way that does not make climate change worse, that does not contribute to our environmental destruction and that makes sure we have the correct planning and consultation processes in there along the way.

We need to make sure that we are following good planning, following and protecting environmental and Indigenous cultural values and consulting with our community. We need to do all of these things in a really careful and considered manner. Our future developments have to be climate resilient. They need to be built in a way that makes a city that is sustainable, liveable and pleasant to use. For all of these reasons, the Greens will support Minister Berry's amendment to the motion.

MR CAIN (Ginninderra) (4.13): I just want to point out a couple of differences between these two motions, one from the Canberra Liberals leader and one from Ms Berry, and perhaps make some suggestions for Ms Berry in processing what looks to be a supported motion. I draw members' attention to Ms Lee's motion, because she calls for not only housing but also the type of housing—that is, low and medium-density housing. I must admit I got a shock when I heard Minister Berry refer to respecting the housing choices of Canberrans, because that is not something I have picked up prior to today.

As all members are aware, the government, in a previous term, instituted a survey, called the Winton survey, of Canberrans' housing choices. Ms Berry just rolled her eyes. I am not quite sure if it is because she hopes this thing will disappear somewhere. This survey—and the final report was issued in May 2015—indicated a very strong preference for Canberrans' housing choices: over 90 per cent for detached housing or medium-density alternatives, such as dual occupancies, townhouses and terraces. I note that in her amendment Ms Berry does not talk about the plan for this land, other than housing types that will be derived from consultation with the community.

Earlier this year the Leader of the Canberra Liberals called for a fresh Winton-type survey to do exactly what one could say the minister is calling on in paragraph (3) of her own amendment. What a thought: how about we consult with the community? It has been done before. You have a model on how to do it. Is that the plan? Are you going to have a fresh survey, particularly in our common electorate of Ginninderra? At least ask your own electorate, "What sort of housing would you like on the CSIRO site?"

The Leader of the Opposition has made some suggestions as to that, because that is what Canberrans have indicated they prefer. If the consultation that is mooted in this amendment mirrors the consultation we have seen in relation to changes to the planning act, I think we know what that is going to mean. The minister just needs to go and consult with the community council heads to further confirm their opinion of what that consultation really was. It was a tick-box exercise.

Minister, before you call on the commonwealth government to give you this land, you might consider telling them what you actually plan to do with it. You might even consult with the community before you lobby the commonwealth for this gift. You might be surprised by what the community says. Frankly, I would not be, but I suspect it does not align with what your plans actually are. So how about you make that commitment? Consult with the community, let us know what your plan is for this very valuable site in Ginninderra and then tell the commonwealth, "We'd like you to give us this land, and here is what we're going to do with it." Perhaps you should do that instead.

I have a feeling that that is not going to happen. I would certainly be reminding members of my electorate that the government has sought this land but is not willing to say what it is really going to do with it when it has an opportunity to tell the community, properly and appropriately, what it plans to do with the land on the CSIRO site.

In support of Ms Lee's motion, and in closing, I would just say it is sad that, in light of the Winton survey and in light of the high demand for a small number of residential parcels, as we have seen over the last 18 months—and Ms Lee has mentioned just a couple of those—it would appear to me that this government is planning for profit. It is not planning for people; it is planning for revenue. It is not planning according to what Canberrans actually want.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (4.19), by leave: I just thought it would be appropriate to point out to the Canberra Liberals, and Mr Cain in particular, that they should pay attention when members speak to their motions or amendments to motions. They should pay attention to the facts that are provided as far as those motions or amendments are concerned and actually read the full body of the amendment and the actual motion in the first place. This is particularly so in relation to this land at CSIRO and the call from the Canberra Liberals, Mr Cain's side of the Assembly, to build houses on this land. This was not my motion. This was not the Labor Party's motion.

Mr Cain: Yes, but we say what we would like to happen on it.

MS BERRY: Yes, but my amendment says that we call on the federal government to release the land and if we are successful, as a parliament, in purchasing it—and that is a big if—through that process we will very carefully consult with the community.

Mr Cain: Well, I haven't seen that before, Minister.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Cain!

MS BERRY: Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Mr Cain has not read the amendment. It says very clearly that we will consult very carefully with the existing members of our community. I mentioned in my speech earlier that decisions that might occur in relation to relevant environmental factors, affordable public housing priorities, related infrastructure and housing types will be informed by that consultation.

Mr Cain interjecting—

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Cain! You have had your chance to speak.

MS BERRY: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I just thought it was very important to clarify that because Mr Cain, through you, was off on some other tangent which really

had nothing to do with these motions that have been presented in the Assembly. The Canberra Liberals said, “Build more houses on this site.” I put in an amendment and said, “Thanks for that, Ms Lee.”

Mr Cain interjecting—

Ms Clay: On a point of order. I am finding it really hard to hear the minister and I am finding it very difficult to have to sit here and listen to somebody constantly interrupting the minister. Could we have silence?

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Clay. Mr Cain, you and I have spoken, and if we could keep it down, that would be beneficial.

MS BERRY: I just wanted to put that on the record to make sure that the facts were clear and that Mr Cain had heard exactly what has been talked about today. We support the intent of Ms Lee’s motion. We have just clarified in my amendment what we will do as far as making sure that we can, if possible, through this really important consultation, deal with that CSIRO site.

There is the work that we have been doing in the meantime with CSIRO on the possible development of that site well into the future. As Ms Clay rightly points out, there is a lot of work to be done in a greenfields area, particularly on a site like that site in Ginninderra, on whether it is suitable for a site and how many houses could be put on that site, as well as making sure that we take into very careful account the environmental considerations. I thank the Assembly for the indulgence of having a second turn at speaking to this motion.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Berry. As Deputy Speaker, I hope that members, in the context of motions like this, do not make a habit of having a second bite of the cherry. I understand that you sought leave and leave was given, but I am not sure that there was an extraordinary reason for the debate to continue. I guess what I am saying is that Mr Cain could seek leave to have a second bite of the cherry as well. I hope that members do not make a habit of standing to have a second bite of the cherry in the context of a debate like this.

MS LEE (Kurrajong—Leader of the Opposition) (4.23): It is interesting that when Ms Berry was speaking she was trying to have it both ways. On the one hand, she said, “The ACT government has been working on it for eight years.” On the other hand, she said, “Don’t you know that it takes time to get residential developments ready?” On the one hand, she said, “It is not as easy as saying, ‘Release more blocks’,” and, on the other, “We were working on this for years before Senator Seselja had an epiphany.”

Ms Berry: It is not our land.

MS LEE: This is the thing. You keep saying, “We’ve been working on this for years.” Then you say, “Now that they have come to the party and we’re calling for it, it’s not that easy.” Sometimes I think that Ms Berry, and certainly Ms Clay, think that I am an idiot. Every time it is about: “It’s not that easy, Ms Lee. This is what needs to happen.” This is a given, Mr Deputy Speaker.

There is a reason why my motion did not include a time frame. Knowing that it is federal land, there is a reason why my motion said, “Let’s write to the parties. Let’s write to the federal counterparts to get this release.” I have put in my motion no time frame to say, “Release it for sale right now,” and there is a reason for that. It is actually quite distressing that every single time we stand here it is: “It’s not that easy, Ms Lee. Don’t you know it’s not that easy?”

Whilst I do not agree with everything that is in the amendment, we are not going to oppose it because, as Ms Berry indicated, she does support the intent of the motion. I will point out just one final thing, though. Whilst there has been so much talk of collaboration, cooperation and working together from all on the Labor side this whole sitting period, I note that Ms Berry has scrubbed my calls to make sure that we express, in a tripartisan way, our support for urging the federal government to release this land.

It does not matter to me who writes those letters. If Ms Berry wants to write to Senator Gallagher and get this released—if she can get it done—that is great. That is in the best interests of Canberrans. But I do note that it is quite cheeky to spend this whole time saying, “Hey, let’s work together and be collaborative,” and then just scrub any mention of the fact that this is tripartisan support in terms of urging the new federal government to release this land to the Canberra public for housing.

At the end of the day, I think one thing that we all agree on is that we are in a housing crisis. What is also very clear is that the factors that are in the control of the ACT Labor-Greens government they have failed to exercise. We know this because 243 hectares of the CSIRO Ginninderra site will be enough for at least 2,000 average blocks. Compare that to the ACT Labor-Greens government’s own indicative land release program over the next five years, at just 4,171.

We know where this ACT Labor-Greens government stands on this. I was heartened to hear Ms Berry, after she sought leave, say, “Yes, we are going to consult.” I think that Mr Cain’s point is that it does not have a good record. So he has every right to feel concerned about how that will play out. I am sure that he—and, I am sure, Ms Clay—will be making sure that the government does indeed undertake that thorough community consultation for all of the constituents around that area.

Just on a final note, it is baffling that Ms Clay attempted to draw a comparison between the election result federally and a specific policy. It is just baffling to me that you would draw on one policy and say that that is exactly why you did not get elected. It is just baffling to me, but anyway.

At the end of the day, we are not opposing this amendment. I would like to see this land released for the Canberra public. It is about making sure that we give Canberrans genuine choice when it comes to housing. We have not seen that from the ACT Labor-Greens government. If this can go some way, a big way, to making sure that we deliver that for the Canberra public then that is a good thing. I certainly will be making sure that this ACT Labor-Greens government, in all of its spruiking about how much easier it is going to be to work with the federal Labor government, will be able to get this done. Let us get it done for the Canberra community.

Amendment agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Domestic Violence Agencies Amendment Bill 2022

Debate resumed from 24 March 2022, on motion by **Ms Berry**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (4.29): I rise today to resume the debate on the Domestic Violence Agencies Amendment Bill, which was first presented to the Assembly on 24 March this year. I wish to take the opportunity to make clear my absolute commitment to improving responses to, as well as reducing, incidences of domestic and family violence in this city.

The Canberra Liberals will be supporting this bill today, which serves to refresh the powers, functions and membership structure of the Domestic Violence Prevention Council in the ACT, which was first established in 1998. The bill will equip the council, referred to as the DVPC, with more powers in order to improve its functions, such as the power to establish and convene reference groups such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group, appointing the role of committee chair through the agreement of a member majority, and giving the DVPC the flexibility to set its own meeting schedule and frequency, as opposed to the current requirement of holding a meeting at least once every quarter.

In addition, rather than appointing individuals to the DVPC, the membership structure has shifted so that individuals are appointed in their capacity to formally represent their relevant organisation. The bill will also formally abolish the obsolete role of domestic violence project coordinator, which has been replaced by the Office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety. The Canberra Liberals are committed to supporting all legislation that supports victims. We are committed to supporting all legislation that enables better mechanisms and decision-making to achieve better outcomes for individuals, families and communities in the ACT.

I would like to note a couple of things in relation to the bill, however. Section 5 of the current legislation, as it stands, provides for a single objective for the DVPC—that is, to reduce the incidence of family violence offences. I observe that this objective has been removed without any substitution and the bill proposes that there only be a clause to detail the functions of the DVPC.

Whilst I recognise that the functions of the council, as detailed in the bill, should hopefully serve the original objective and more, I wish to highlight the risk of losing accountability where the functions of the council do not result in actual reduction of

family violence in this city. Where not enshrined in legislation, I strongly advocate for the council to exercise its discretion in developing a strategic framework with detailed objectives and goals to address the responses to and incidences of domestic and family violence in the ACT.

I also recognise the need for ensuring that certain communities are represented as a member of the DVPC, communities that are disproportionately and/or uniquely impacted by domestic and family violence. The bill specifies a minimum of two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be appointed to the DVPC and a minimum of one culturally and linguistically diverse person to be appointed.

I have been informed that there are plans for the council to establish a CALD reference group. As the minister stated, similarly, earlier this week, most people who experience violence are women, people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and children. I recognise that there is limited data in relation to the experience and impact of domestic and family violence with respect to LGBTIQ people, children, seniors and people with disability.

I acknowledge the *Listen. Take action to prevent, believe and heal* report and government response that the minister presented to the Assembly today, which is a positive start to collecting some more information that will inform better policies in this territory. However, we can do far better in addressing the data gaps for each of these at-risk groups. It is important that our most vulnerable community members are fully represented in the newly restructured DVPC. It is paramount that the ACT government is accountable to not only its founding objective of reducing domestic violence in our city but also its extended commitments to improve responses to domestic and family violence.

I and the Canberra Liberals will be closely monitoring the implementation of this bill and the impact it has on the prevention of and timely intervention in domestic and family violence incidents, as well as short and long-term supports for survivors and their families in this territory. I would like to thank Minister Berry, her staff and the directorate for their work in preparing this bill. I also express my appreciation to all the domestic violence service organisations, the multicultural advisory bodies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who provided valuable feedback during the consultation process. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

MR DAVIS (Brindabella) (4.35): On behalf of the ACT Greens, I would like to express our support for the changes to the Domestic Violence Prevention Council governance arrangements. The aim of this legislation is to increase the capacity of the council to provide advice to the minister on the prevention of family and domestic violence. This bill will allow for the proper and transparent governance of the council by revising its functions and ensuring that there is consistent membership and representation from key advocates, including the Victims of Crime Commissioner, the CEO of DVCS, the police and Corrective Services.

The governance arrangements of the council are important to get right if we are to enable experts to provide robust and authoritative advice to government. It is essential that our advisers are provided with the necessary resourcing, structures and

consistency to allow for the proper flow of information between experts within and outside of government.

This legislation is non-controversial, but it serves an important function in the proper administration of government. For issues as important and cross-sectional as this, it is essential that the council operates as effectively as possible. I thank the directorate and the minister for their work and leadership on this legislation.

DR PATERSON (Murrumbidgee) (4.36): I am pleased to speak today in support of the Domestic Violence Agencies Amendment Bill 2022. It can be easy to see this bill as simply a set of technical or bureaucratic amendments. However, I believe these changes are important and will have a real impact on the work of the Domestic Violence Prevention Council and, by extension, the ACT government's response to domestic and family violence.

The reforms in this bill will support greater integration and collaboration in the ACT's response to domestic and family violence. They will strengthen linkages between the government and community sectors. This is critical because domestic violence is a whole-of-community issue, requiring responses that cut across sectors. So the integration that this bill will support is vital to supporting the ACT's response, both now and in the longer term.

I want to take this time to recognise some of the key achievements of the council over the past 20 years. The ongoing work of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group has been critical in progressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led responses to family violence. Importantly, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group is guiding the implementation of recommendations in relation to the *We don't shoot our wounded* report, so that responses are grounded and led by what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the ACT know will work best for their communities. This includes both supporting healing and understanding the impacts of colonisation in preventing and responding to family violence.

Other key achievements of the council include the 2018 extraordinary meeting into issues and responses affecting children and young people living with violence. This has led to real change in how we respond to children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right, and informed service offerings such as the Got Your Back program for young people, as well as the new children's service for five to 12-year-olds which is currently being established.

More recently, the council has provided advice to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence around the issue of coercive control. This is an incredibly complex issue, and the advice from the council will ensure that we continue to focus on strengthening community understanding of coercive control and how to recognise and respond to this really insidious form of abuse.

These are just some of the achievements of the council. I thank all the members that have been part of this council in the past. I note that none of these achievements would have been possible without the expertise of our community sector partners and,

in particular, the incredible contribution of the ACT's domestic and family violence sector. I am heartened that the reforms in this bill clarify and strengthen the role of community sector representatives on the council and will allow membership from a range of specialist and generalist services. In turn, this will position the council to continue providing strong leadership and governance into the future.

It is important to make sure that our institutions and advisory bodies are suited to the contemporary landscape in the ACT. These reforms to the Domestic Violence Prevention Council will do just that. Domestic and family violence continues to be a significant community issue, and I see this bill as one small part of an enormous body of work to prevent and respond to it. I would like to thank Minister Berry, her staff and directorate officials, and I commend the bill to the Assembly.

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (4.40): I am pleased to speak today in support of the Domestic Violence Agencies Amendment Bill 2022. We need contemporary governance for a contemporary, inclusive Canberra. The bill introduces a number of measures that update the Domestic Violence Prevention Council so that it can carry out its functions as the key strategic governance mechanism for domestic and family violence responses in a clear and inclusive way.

As a government, we are committed to intersectional responses to domestic and family violence. We know, sadly, that forms of discrimination continue to exist that can increase the likelihood of domestic and family violence. Such forms of discrimination can also make it difficult for people experiencing marginalisation to safely access the supports that they need. The bill will support the refreshed council to include the range of voices and experiences that we need to address some of the barriers that exist in our domestic and family violence system.

I am particularly excited about the new membership model that the bill introduces. The new membership structure will ensure that members have clarity regarding their role on the council, allowing the council to spend more time focusing on their meaningful work, as well as identifying opportunities to strengthen how our system provides diverse responses for all Canberrans at risk of or experiencing domestic and family violence.

The measures will also ensure that a diverse range of expertise is represented on the council. In particular, the council will include two positions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. It will also ensure that a member of Canberra's multicultural communities is represented on the council. As my colleagues have spoken about, the new membership also includes representatives from community sector organisations. Both specialist domestic and family violence services and services that support people impacted by domestic and family violence are able to sit on the council. This ensures that we can hear from a range of community sector expertise and experience.

The new structure will also introduce more reference groups under the remit of the council. The existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group continues to lead the co-design of community-based, family-centred responses to domestic and

family violence in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. My colleague has already spoken about the critical importance of this reference group.

The addition of further reference groups will allow a wide range of voices to be heard and support the introduction of new and important policy considerations. Canberra continues to grow and to strive to be an inclusive city in all ways. These changes to the membership support that aspiration. I understand that recruitment for the new Domestic Violence Prevention Council is underway and I look forward to seeing the diverse group of members who will be appointed.

I am convinced that the reforms in this bill will help to strengthen the ACT's response to domestic and family violence by supporting governance, increasing collaboration and integration and ensuring diverse contributions to this important work. In ending, I want to acknowledge victim-survivors and people with lived and living experience of domestic and family violence. The bill delivers reforms that I believe will ultimately support all victim-survivors in the ACT to access a response that works for them. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (4.43), in reply: I am pleased that the Assembly has had an opportunity today to debate the Domestic Violence Agencies Amendment Bill.

The ACT government is committed to effective and evidence-based responses to prevent and reduce domestic and family violence, support victim-survivors to recover and heal in safety and hold perpetrators accountable in appropriate ways. To do this effectively, collaboratively and strategically, we need leadership and governance to continuously strengthen our responses. The bill introduces a series of reforms to the Domestic Violence Prevention Council which will support this objective and improve its capacity to guide the ACT's response to domestic and family violence.

We know that an integrated service system that supports coordination and collaboration between government and the community is vital to develop effective and accessible supports for victim-survivors. A robust government and leadership body made up of diverse membership across government and the community sector helps us to deliver such a system.

As the primary governance mechanism for domestic and family violence responses in the ACT, the bill ensures that the council has the appropriate functions to drive this collaboration and integration in whole-of-territory responses to domestic and family violence. Since its establishment over 20 years ago, the council has made vital contributions to improving our understanding of domestic and family violence in the ACT and inform our responses to take action. Again, I thank and commend all of the current and former members of the council for their tireless contributions to this work. The changes in this bill will build on the achievements of the current and previous councils by adapting the body for the current environment.

The domestic and family violence sector continues to face increased demands, including workforce sustainability issues and ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, the bill supports the council to better guide whole-of-territory responses to domestic and family violence in an increasingly complex and dynamic policy and service environment. The bill revises the functions of the council to advise me, as Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, on ways to continually improve our response to domestic and family violence. The council will identify gaps and opportunities for the ACT to make these improvements.

The bill also introduces a new membership model to bring together a diversity of vital expertise, skills and experience across the community, government and specialist and generalist services. This will ensure that the DVPC can function as a conduit between the community sector and the government, enabling greater collaboration and integration. Importantly, the membership also includes identified positions to represent the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the culturally and linguistically diverse community. This is absolutely vital to ensure that our responses to domestic and family violence are inclusive and intersectional and that we centre the experiences and perspectives of diverse communities in the ACT.

This focus on intersectional responses will also be supported by enabling the council to establish reference groups and allow non-members to participate. This will ensure that the council can directly engage with the community and specific cohorts, undertake focused work on specific themes and provide advice informed by and responding to the needs of our community. As part of this, the council will continue to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are centred in the territory's response to domestic and family violence.

I note that the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety provided comment on the potential human rights implications of the membership conditions described in the bill. As the committee noted, these potential limitations are justified in the explanatory statement as reasonable and necessary. They will ensure that the membership of the council is made up of leading expertise, experience, skills and on-the-ground knowledge of domestic and family violence to support the council to deliver outcomes.

We know that domestic and family violence is one of the most pressing issues facing our community in the ACT, and in our nation. It is important to remember that behind these discussions and policies there are lives that have been irretrievably changed or lost due to violence. We must work together to face these issues and create a Canberra community where all people can live safely, free of violence. I look forward to working with the reformed Domestic Violence Prevention Council to continue our work to improve responses to domestic and family violence across our community and to make Canberra safer for all.

I would like to acknowledge the victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, whose advocacy and lived experiences must always be central to our efforts to prevent

and reduce violence. I thank all of the directorates and my office for their work on this bill, and thank you for the support of everybody who has spoken in this chamber, particularly Mrs Kikkert. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Environment—improving biological diversity

MS VASSAROTTI (Kurrajong—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) (4.49): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) 22 May is the International Day of Biological Diversity, with the theme in 2022 being “building a shared future for all life”;
- (b) this fits within the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for people and for nature;
- (c) only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people’s livelihoods, counteract climate change, and stop the collapse of biodiversity; and
- (d) Canberra is a growing city with commitments to urban consolidation, with 70 percent of new housing developments to be within Canberra’s existing urban footprint. While it has unique wildlife and rich natural assets, there are currently 53 species and three ecological communities listed as threatened under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, highlighting the importance of maintaining our urban habitat;

(2) acknowledges the significant work of the ACT Government to:

- (a) reform the ACT planning system to ensure we have the best tools to plan where people will live, how they will move around, how the natural environment will be protected and how our city will be resilient to the impacts of climate change;
- (b) protect and grow a resilient urban forest through the Urban Forest Strategy;
- (c) protect nature through the Nature Conservation Strategy;
- (d) maintain and improve living infrastructure in Canberra to cool our city as the climate warms through the Living Infrastructure Plan; and
- (e) reflect the key role of our natural environment in shaping the wellbeing of Canberrans, through the ACT Wellbeing Framework, which has indicators covering access to green spaces, tree canopy cover, and the quality of our air, water, and biodiversity health;

- (3) supports the ACT Government's continued important work to protect and enhance biodiversity, which includes:
 - (a) developing biodiversity and ecological connectivity decision support tools to guide planning and development decisions that will promote positive environmental outcomes across the city;
 - (b) identifying priority areas for ecological restoration to maintain and enhance habitat corridors for species to move and adapt to a changing climate;
 - (c) embedding biodiversity sensitive principles into urban design guidelines so that biodiversity and ecosystems services are stronger considerations in shaping future development in Canberra;
 - (d) delivering demonstration projects that show how we can enhance the biodiversity values of urban areas, while also providing other benefits such as spaces for recreation; and
 - (e) working with committed and capable citizen scientists to carry out an extensive program to monitor, manage and restore biodiversity across reserves and green spaces; and
- (4) commits to protect, connect, and restore biodiversity and ecosystems to build a shared future for all life across the landscapes of the ACT.

Today I call on this Legislative Assembly to join in a shared commitment to protect, connect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems to build a shared future for all life across the landscapes of the ACT. Last Sunday was World Environment Day, and on 22 May we mark the International Day of Biological Diversity, with the theme in 2022 being "Building a shared future for all life".

You were probably, like me, quite distracted on Sunday, 22 May, as we saw Australians in the city and the regions vote for climate action, the environment, equity and integrity. It is clear that the people have spoken very loudly and clearly on climate and the environment, and we see our political representatives entering the new federal parliament with a mandate for change and an expectation from the community that we act to look after this country and the species we share it with.

Counteracting climate change is broader than just cutting our emissions. As the climate continues to change, the risk to important species and biodiversity continues to grow. Scientists tell us that we must solve nature and climate together or we will solve neither. Nature also underpins our lives, our economy, our health. It is about the places we escape to and the places we love. It is about our identity and our sense of home.

In our cities, we rely on nature-based solutions, but these are increasingly at risk. In January 2022 a global economic forum report estimated that 44 per cent of the GDP of cities globally is at risk from biodiversity and nature loss. This report noted that the loss of biodiversity poses significant risks to supply chains, transport, energy, travel, tourism, infrastructure, and urban development sectors. While Canberra has unique wildlife and rich natural assets, we must actively work to protect these natural treasures. Urban habitat is increasingly at risk or has become degraded, fragmented and fragile in the face of climate change.

In the ACT there are currently 53 species and three ecological communities listed as threatened under the Nature Conservation Act 2014. This means that they have been assessed as likely to become extinct in the foreseeable future. Some of the key threats include the loss of mature native trees, habitat fragmentation caused by land clearing and Canberra's urban development, invasive plants and animals, disease and, increasingly, the impacts of climate change. Recent decades have seen the almost total loss of native small mammals from our suburban areas. There has been a loss of several woodland birds from multiple reserves in recent years. Loss of ecological connectivity and broader loss of habitat is strongly implicated in these losses, and these key threatening processes have been formally recognised by the ACT Scientific Committee, under the Nature Conservation Act 2014.

It is in this context of change that I have been concerned by recent debates in the Assembly, where some across this chamber have pushed for development in ecologically sensitive areas on the edges of Canberra. Despite claims that there is tripartisan support for climate action, I need to be clear that, if we are committed to climate action, we must also be committed to protecting our biodiversity. If we are serious about responding to the climate emergency, we must be serious also about responding to the biodiversity crisis. These crises must be solved together.

This is something that, as a government, we understand. There is significant work occurring across a range of government agencies, and I would like to thank my ministerial colleagues for their commitment to this challenge. This has included work to reform the ACT planning system to ensure that we have the best tools to plan where people will live, how they will move around, how the natural environment will be protected, and how our city will be resilient to the impacts of climate change. We are working to protect and grow a resilient urban forest through the urban forest strategy. We are protecting nature through the nature conservation strategy. We are maintaining and improving living infrastructure in Canberra to cool our city as our climate warms, and we reflect on the key role of the natural environment in shaping the wellbeing of Canberrans through the ACT wellbeing framework, which has indicators covering access to green spaces, tree canopy cover and the quality of our air, water and biodiversity health.

I want to highlight that this government is quietly progressing the important work to protect and enhance biodiversity. This includes developing biodiversity and ecological connectivity decision support tools to guide planning and development decisions that will promote positive environmental outcomes for the city. We are identifying priority areas for ecological restoration to maintain and enhance habitat corridors for species to move and adapt to a changing climate. We are embedding biodiversity-sensitive principles into urban design guidelines so that ecosystem services are stronger considerations in shaping future development in Canberra. We are delivering demonstration projects that show how we can enhance the biodiversity values of urban areas while providing other benefits such as spaces for recreation. And we are working with committed and capable citizen scientists to carry out an extensive program to monitor, manage and restore biodiversity across reserves and green spaces.

Looking to the national and global stages again, global discussions are underway to negotiate a new global biodiversity framework ahead of the UN summit COP15 on biodiversity later this year. At the national level, I have strongly advocated for stronger environmental laws, through the once-in-a-decade review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—the EPBC Act reform. The ACT government welcomes the new federal government’s commitment to provide a full response to the Samuel review of the EPBC Act, and to implement the key recommendation of creating an independent environment protection authority. I am looking forward to working collaboratively to ensure that we have strong national environmental standards to protect nature across the country and within this city.

I think 2022 is going to be a big year for biodiversity. In this context, it is important for all parties in the Assembly to reaffirm their commitment to protect, connect and restore biodiversity in our city, especially as we continue to develop our territory. Australia should be a leader in this space, and it is important that leadership starts at home, in our big, collective backyard of the bush capital. We have a lot to celebrate, but we also have a lot of work to do. We are doing the work, and today’s motion is both a celebration of that and a commitment to the work we need to do next.

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (4.58): I support Minister Vassarotti’s motion today and I acknowledge the International Day of Biological Diversity and World Environment Day, which took place on 22 May and 5 June respectively. The International Day of Biological Diversity aims to increase an understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues, and it involves all life forms, both plant and animal, that are found in any place or ecosystem.

As we are all increasingly aware, the overwhelming threat to biodiversity is human activity, but here in the ACT we are fortunate to have such a climate conscious community, such an environmentally conscious community. It is a community that is very much in favour of supporting our biodiversity in whatever way we can. I know that many people in this place take active steps to help promote and encourage biodiversity in their own neighbourhoods, in our community as a whole and on a wider scale.

Last Sunday, as we have already heard from Minister Vassarotti, was World Environment Day, which was another opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of our local environmental assets here in Canberra. At this point, I would like to specifically mention and acknowledge the great work—the tireless work—of many environmental volunteers here in the ACT. We are very grateful to have such a wide range of environmental groups and volunteers. They are active in preserving and promoting all of the environment in areas across the ACT, and we share them here on Ngunnawal land.

In a recent report conducted by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Sophie Lewis, it was estimated that the equivalent wage cost for environmental volunteering work in the ACT would be over \$21.5 million per year. The community is benefiting because these volunteers are doing this important work on their own time and often using their own resources. They do it because protecting and preserving our local environment is a key belief, a key value, for them and their community. I note that the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and

Biodiversity is currently undertaking an inquiry into environmental volunteerism. I am looking forward to their report, and I am sure they are also looking at the opportunities outlined in Dr Sophie Lewis's report into environmental volunteering in the ACT.

These opportunities include improving accessibility to data on environmental volunteering; giving greater recognition to the contribution made by volunteers; ensuring the appropriate distribution of resources to volunteer programs and community organisations; increasing the transparency of government processes, including the allocation of funding and decisions made on project approval; and applying volunteer knowledge and data collected by citizen scientists to a greater extent to enhance environmental practices and government policy.

Recognising, measuring and celebrating the contribution that environmental volunteers make can be improved through some measures such as those outlined by Dr Lewis. We have so many great groups doing wonderful work—Landcare groups, catchment groups, Waterwatch and FrogWatch. There is so much going on, and I am sure we have all visited many of the areas around the ACT.

We spoke earlier today, in question time, about Mulligans Flat, and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, where they are preserving and improving the population of the southern brush-tailed rock-wallaby, which was, a couple of years ago, named the mammal emblem for the ACT. At Mulligans Flat we have the bettongs and the quolls and the bush stone-curlews, to name just a few, and we are looking forward, I think as Minister Vassarotti said, to the spotted-tailed quoll as well, in the future.

There is a lot more that can be done, but it is wonderful and reassuring that, through days such as the International Day for Biological Diversity and World Environment Day, we can recognise and support the work that is being done. On Saturday evening I was pleased to attend the Conservation Council World Environment Day dinner. World Environment Day has been taking place for 50 years. This year was the 50th anniversary. We spoke earlier this week about some of the work undertaken by their guest speaker, Professor Veena Sahajwalla, with her recycling work, including green ceramics, which use fabrics to get a unique texture and colour. We talked about that during the debate on Ms Orr's motion on the textile circular economy. The Conservation Council is another organisation doing fantastic work in this space, and I commend it for its work. I once again thank Minister Vassarotti for bringing this motion to the Assembly 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) (5.04): I want to thank the Minister for the Environment for bringing this motion forward—it is an important motion—and to add to her remarks by outlining efforts in the planning and land management portfolio and what staff are doing to protect threatened species and to conserve and enhance biodiversity more broadly. The ACT planning system does not sit or operate in isolation. Environmental, economic and social drivers are considerations in the planning that we do. Planning calls upon numerous ACT government policies and initiatives that dovetail to protect biodiversity in the ACT.

The ACT Planning Strategy 2018, like its predecessor, seeks to protect biodiversity. Ensuring that future generations can also benefit from this biodiversity is something that is front of mind when we are planning for Canberra's future, and the planning strategy guides how Canberra will grow and change into the future. It sets a clear and compelling vision for Canberra to be a sustainable, competitive and equitable city that respects Canberra as a city in the landscape and as the national capital, while being responsive to the future and resilient to change.

Conserving our biodiversity, including the protection of threatened species and ecosystems, is an important element of our planning. For example, the environmental offsets program has continued to grow since its inception some 10 years ago, and we now have 23 offset sites across the ACT, encompassing more than 2,300 hectares of land. Of these sites, 16 have been included in nature reserves. This has resulted in the enhanced protection, in perpetuity, of threatened species and communities, including the superb parrot, golden sun moth, pink-tailed worm-lizard, grassland earless dragon, button wrinklewort, natural temperate grassland and box gum grassy woodland. Offset sites are being managed by strategic grazing of stock and kangaroos, woodland enhancement, relocations for breeding of significant species, and intensive invasive plant management programs.

In 2020-21, \$6.2 million was allocated to managing new and ongoing offset areas, including over \$500,000 for the important annual monitoring program. Taking environmental considerations into account at the earliest stages of planning processes for urban areas means that we can protect our most significant areas and species, and this is done through the strategic assessments. Three such assessments are part of the planning process for Gungahlin, the Molonglo Valley and west Belconnen. Strategic assessments are an early broad-scale consideration of potential environmental impacts. They have involved both assessment and approval under the commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, the EPBC Act.

They have resulted in the identification of land for biodiversity protection, to offset the impacts of our urban development, and this has involved giving statutory effect by adding a nature reserve overlay over the areas needing protection. For example, Territory Plan 379 establishes a 160-hectare nature reserve, Nadjung Mada nature reserve at Kenny. Nadjung Mada assists with the conservation of the nationally threatened yellow box gum and grassy woodland community, an important habitat for the vulnerable striped legless lizard. A key feature of this reserve is its mature hollow-bearing trees. A similar process occurred last year for the protection of over 20 hectares of land at the Franklin grasslands, Budjan Galindji, which is now undergoing significant planning and on-ground work to protect the threatened Ginninderra peppercreep, golden sun moth, Perunga grasshopper, striped legless lizard and natural temperate grassland.

I was very pleased, in the last term of the Assembly, to expand the Molonglo River reserve, an area that spans 23 kilometres from Scrivener Dam to the confluence with the Murrumbidgee River. It is an area of 1,280 hectares and is home to the endangered pink-tailed worm-lizard, superb parrot and box gum grassy woodland habitat. In 2019 I expanded the Molonglo River reserve by approving a variation of the Territory Plan.

This work is ongoing and is important in identifying where our city might grow and where we need to conserve biodiversity. The ACT planning strategy identified that the area to our east, around the Majura and Jerrabomberra valleys, is an area for potential future development and employment opportunities.

In conjunction with the land management system and the ACT planning system through the Planning and Development Act, the Nature Conservation Act 2014 protects conservation areas by requiring the preparation of land management plans. More than 70 per cent of the ACT is dedicated to nature conservation in public land reserves. These include Namadgi National Park, Tidbinbilla, the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo river corridors, the lower Cotter catchment, Jerrabomberra wetlands and Canberra Nature Park.

Namadgi National Park, the largest of the conservation areas, covers over 46 per cent of the territory. Namadgi protects the upper Cotter River catchment, which is a major source of our drinking water and is also part of the 1.6-million-hectare network of reserves across three jurisdictions, known as the Australian alps national parks. I have long advocated for the protection of Namadgi National Park from the threats to its survival as a critical habitat. We have seen the terrible effects of invasive species, particularly large mammals like horses, deer and pigs.

In May this year, officials across EPSDD undertook an aerial control program for these species, using thermal imaging technology. This successfully built on past efforts. Notably, this year's program was significantly expanded to new areas, where most feral animals were detected. The program found significantly fewer feral animals in areas that had been previously controlled, indicating that those control efforts are effective.

I have spoken in this place many times about the danger that feral horses pose to Namadgi National Park and to our water catchment in the ACT. I was extremely proud to have delivered the Namadgi National Park feral horse management plan in September 2019, and continue to be involved in the implementation of this plan in our treasured Namadgi. It is pleasing that few horses have been detected in Namadgi, but we will remain vigilant and take decisive action as necessary.

Reserves are managed by a dedicated and skilled workforce who, like many of us, have needed to adapt and meet the challenges of the pandemic, along with the lingering impacts of natural disasters like fires and, more recently, the storms and floods, of course. I acknowledge the work that these frontline staff continue to deliver in the face of many new and significant pressures. I also want to recognise the many community members that chose to offer their own time and energy to assist in land management. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, more than 24,000 hours were logged by our Park Care volunteers in 2020-21—an estimated contribution of over \$1 million in in-kind support for the ACT environment. As you can see, planning and land management in the ACT plays a very important role in biodiversity and protecting our threatened species. I thank Minister Vassarotti for bringing this motion to the chamber.

MS CLAY (Ginninderra) (5.12): I am really, really pleased to stand up and speak in support of Minister Vassarotti's motion today and to echo the comments made by everyone in here. 22 May was the International Day of Biological Diversity, and it is great that we can stop and have a think about that. As Minister Vassarotti pointed out, it was a fairly important day for the environment here in Australia, for unrelated reasons. It coincided with World Environment Day, which was last Sunday, 5 June.

This year's theme for World Environment Day was "Only one earth". It is a great theme. Unfortunately, it was the same slogan that we had for the 1972 Stockholm conference, 50 years ago. I was at the same dinner as Ms Lawder—the World Environment Day dinner with the Conservation Council—and the people at our table were saying that we were probably having the same conversations 50 years ago that we were having at that dinner. Things have changed; we are making progress on some fronts, but there is still so much work to do, and it is good to recognise both the challenges and the opportunities.

I am really excited about these themes and these days, and I am pleased to have an opportunity to chat to so many people in the community about the environment and climate change. That dinner was particularly exciting for me. I got to catch up with a lot of old friends who I used to work with in the recycling sector, and a lot of climate activists who I have done a lot of work with, and I got to hear all their news. I got to catch up with a lot of the community groups, the Conservation Council, and a lot of the land managers and the people who are out on the ground doing really good work. It was nice to hear about what is going on and to find out how I can help. That is one of the joys of this job. It is sometimes a hard job, but it is a real honour and a privilege that there are some things I can do in my day-to-day work to help these causes and to help the people who are working on them. It is just a delight.

Because it is such a joy to be able to do them, I would like to share some of the things I have been really pleased to do in this job, on theme. I was pleased to introduce a motion—and to see it passed—to get the right to a healthy environment here in the ACT, and I am pleased that Minister Cheyne has taken that work forward. That is very exciting for a lot of people in the ACT and all around the country.

I have had a lot of fun working with local groups that are establishing community gardens, like Frances's in Hawker. It is great to see those projects come through. It is frustrating to hear how difficult our bureaucratic system makes it for people like that, who have so much energy and passion, and I am hoping we can make that a bit simpler. It is great to work with some of the micro forests that we are seeing pop up. We have seen a lot of work by the Climate Factory and Edwina on that front. She is good at activating people. I was pleased to see the Holt micro forest coming up; I have been pleased to support quite a lot of the micro forests. It is great to see that local grassroots action turn into actual grass roots. It is great.

I was pleased to pass a motion on dryland ovals. I am excited that that fits into government work that is going to reshape what we do with those dryland ovals. There are a lot of community groups that are keen to see those unirrigated fields get reformed and turned into something really useful. From that, I think we are going to

get some really beautiful recreational spaces, some micro forests and some sporting areas that we can use well. I am looking forward to seeing that roll out over the next couple of years.

I like to do a bit of planting on the weekends, and I have joined quite a lot of the local Landcare groups in Ginninderra in particular, in Aranda, Cook, Emu Creek in Belconnen, and Black Mountain, and around and about. I am still at the hole-digging end of my career. I have not yet confidently learned to identify a native grass from a weed, so they do not let me near the important tools, but I am trying to learn more and be a bit more helpful as I go.

I have done a bit of advocacy work on quite a few other environmental areas. It is not because I know about these issues or because I have any kind of expertise here—I know a little about climate change and a little about recycling, and I am learning about biodiversity and land management—but people come to me. Other people have the expertise, and that is how this job works. It has been really good that people have sought me out and made sure that I am taking their voices forward on the western edge and Bluetts Block and a lot of those really important areas. They have spoken to me about the crematorium down south and whether or not we need it and even on the Tarago incinerator, across our border, which could have really significant environmental impacts here. They have spoken about some of our local issues, like drones and the impacts that those can have on our wildlife. I have managed to get involved in all of those. If nothing else, being a good conduit for information is a useful role.

I really appreciate all the citizen scientists we have in Canberra. I think we are spoiled for choice for citizen scientists and for local community people who are so intimately aware of their surroundings. They know the area so well and they have been watching the wildlife and the birdlife, year on year, for so long. These are the people who will tell us what is going on and will tell us how to fix it. The wildlife carers, the frog watchers and the Canberra ornithologists are all doing such marvellous work. Please keep finding us—keep finding me—and telling us how we can help.

As a government, we are trying to hold ourselves to certain standards to help. We have targets—about 70 per cent of new development within our existing footprint. The Greens have gone further; we want 80 per cent within our existing footprint. We think it is really important that we recognise habitat loss as one of the biggest threats, and that urban sprawl is one of the biggest causes of our extinction crisis. Minister Vassarotti has explained all this really well—I will not go through it again—but we cannot ignore those big issues whilst we are working on our immediate problems. It is great to take a moment to pause and reflect on these issues. I support the motion today.

DR PATERSON (Murrumbidgee) (5.18): I thank Minister Vassarotti for her motion and her commitment to biological diversity in the ACT. Canberra's thousands of green spaces provide us with a sense of wellbeing—a place to exercise, enjoy fresh air and meet other members of the community. The International Day for Biological Diversity is an opportunity to reflect on what is being done by the government and the community to protect this city's great liveability by maintaining and growing a thriving urban forest.

Last year Minister Chris Steel released the urban forest strategy, which outlines a vision to promote “an urban forest that is resilient and sustainable and contributes to the wellbeing of the community in a changing climate”. The strategy was influenced by the values and priorities of the Canberra community. It set out six objectives: to protect the urban forest; grow a resilient forest; balance and diversify the urban forest; take an ecological approach and support biodiversity; develop infrastructure to support the urban forest and liveability; and partner with the community. This work is taking place amid challenges which include supporting our species diversity, an ageing tree population, more frequent and extreme weather events, and the urban heat island effect.

This planting activity that has been going on and the government’s plan to deliver another 38,000 new trees over the next two years show that we are on the right track to grow Canberra’s urban canopy coverage by 30 per cent by 2045. This is a big target, and the government recognises the importance of working in partnership with the Canberra community to achieve it. During this week’s Tree Week, Minister Steel announced that Canberra has been recognised as a “tree city of the world”. This means we have joined over 130 like-minded communities that have recognised the importance of nurturing a well thought out and resourced plan to protect nature within our cities.

The ACT’s new urban forest bill will play a big role in this plan. The proposals in that bill will help to protect and grow our tree canopy to reduce the urban heat island effect, address the impacts of climate change and retain the leafy character of Canberra. The proposals in the bill will also disincentivise property developers from removing or damaging trees, and encourage more sustainable building design and practices. A draft of this bill has been out for consultation for the past six weeks. Stakeholders from a wide range of industries, as well as Canberra home owners, have taken part in that consultation. Along with Minister Steel, I am looking forward to seeing what both the aggregated and detailed feedback from this process has been.

The next step is for the government to finalise the bill, taking all of the feedback into account. Once they have done that, it is anticipated that it will be introduced into the Assembly later in the year, to enable the government to get on with strengthening the protections for Canberra’s trees and putting in place the right incentives to see them maintained or replaced if they are approved for removal.

In closing, I would like to join with Minister Vassarotti in emphasising our government’s strong agenda to strengthen Canberra’s biodiversity and protect our great green and open spaces. The government is taking practical steps to plant more trees, protect existing ones and manage urban open spaces better. These actions will help us to make our city more resilient to the changing climate, protect community wellbeing and ensure that the greenery that Canberra is known for continues to be a leading feature of this city in the years and decades to come.

MS VASSAROTTI (Kurrajong—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) (5.22), in reply: I would like to thank

everyone across the chamber for supporting this motion. The discussion has shown that we are proud of living in a city that has such rich biodiversity and that we do want to protect it. I would like to thank Ms Lawder for highlighting the importance of our environmental volunteers. This is work that we do in partnership, and there is no way that we could achieve this, and continue to protect this beautiful place that we get to call home, without the partnership of our environmental volunteers. It is so important.

Minister Gentleman highlighted the fact that, when we think about planning, we often think about the development of our city. But planning is actually an important tool to identify what areas we need to protect and how we need to look after these bits of our territory to ensure that they continue to host the incredible biodiversity that we have. Minister Gentleman also spoke about the importance of active management that is needed from land managers, in partnership with environmental volunteers. It is important that we thank the dedicated rangers, ecologists and scientists that are looking after our land, as well as the amazing environmental volunteers that dedicate thousands of hours to protect our local biodiversity.

Ms Clay highlighted the importance of how connected everything is. When we think about one part of our city, it is connected to another part of our city, and biodiversity is intertwined in a lot of the decisions and issues that face our local community.

It was important to hear Dr Paterson's reflection regarding the work we are doing around tree protection. I often say when I am out in the community that trees are an issue that I talk about every day. In particular, the work that we are doing around the urban forest bill will be really important to protect and grow our tree canopy, while also thinking about the contribution to biodiversity in terms of tree legislation. We love trees for a range of reasons, but we often forget that biodiversity is an important element of that.

In closing, I would like to reflect on what I was doing on 22 May. I had the joy of going to a Landcare event. It was a community day that brought together members of the LGBTIQ+ community. It was a day to bring people who had not been involved in a Landcare activity together around a planting event. It was a really joyous event that recognised the importance of nurturing both the country that we get to call home and ourselves and each other as a community. It was a beautiful way to express what biodiversity is all about. While I, sadly, was not at the Conservation Council dinner, due to being in isolation, it was an important way to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity.

I would like to thank members for supporting the motion. I think it is really important for us today, tomorrow and into the future.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Yerrabi electorate—community engagement and events

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (5.26): Today I will give one of my first Yerrabi yaps in a little while. While it will be a tough job to fit absolutely everything that my team and the Gungahlin and Belconnen communities have been up to in one speech, I look forward to speaking about some of the highlights.

Yerrabi folks have responded to the work of this place with very much enthusiasm and passion over the last couple of months. For example, my office has received lots of positive feedback on the consultation on some of the play spaces in Gungahlin, including the Ngunnawal park and a brand-new recreation park in Casey. I am pleased to report that both projects have received a high volume and diversity of feedback, and lots of enthusiasm for them, which I have passed on to the minister, who is currently reviewing that feedback through City Services. I understand that City Services will be releasing a “what we’ve heard” report for both projects in the coming months. I am looking forward to reading that report, and I know that the community will be anticipating it.

My office has also been promoting opportunities for individuals and community groups within Yerrabi, wherever possible, to participate in the inquiries and drafting processes taking place in the Assembly. I have spoken at length in this place about the Carers Recognition Act and what its passage at the end of last year meant to me, my family and the community. I will not go into great detail except to express my gratitude to the individuals and groups from my own electorate who made up a significant number of the contributors to the bill’s construction and development.

I also wish to note, not for the first time, the truly extensive, comprehensive and overwhelmingly positive response my office has received since releasing the Period Products (Access) Bill exposure draft. I am happy to say that many individuals and groups from across Yerrabi are putting forward responses to this bill and showing a lot of support. Indeed, it has been quite touching to see Yerrabi’s overall compassionate and thoughtful character so clearly on display, upon even a cursory review of the feedback.

I would also like to take this opportunity to speak about some of the many community-organised events I have had the privilege of attending over the last couple of months. While the issue of period poverty is still fresh in our minds, I will start with the DigniTea—Share the Dignity—event which was held last month in Canberra, alongside 11 DigniTeas over five weeks, in celebration of world menstrual day, and in support of the ongoing work of Share the Dignity in fighting period poverty. Share the Dignity’s work on developing the *Period Pride* report remains a crucial resource for the ongoing work happening both within and outside this place. It is always a delight to have the chance to sit down and collaborate with other members of the community who are looking to tackle period poverty.

This would not be a complete Yerrabi yap without reference to many of the great community groups in Yerrabi. One of them, the Indian Australian Multicultural Sports Association—IAMSA—do lots of great work, particularly in the north of Gungahlin,

hosting cricket events. They hosted the Pink Stumps Day and the Independence Day Cup at Bonner Oval earlier in the year. Both events were enthusiastically embraced by the community, and I am confident in describing them as fast becoming Yerrabi institutions. Congratulations to IAMSA, and all of the parents and athletes, on the continuing work they do in supporting our local sporting community.

Another notable Yerrabi event was the AusIndia Fair and Harmony Day celebration hosted by FINACT back in April. Activities included yoga sessions. There was a tug of war, which was unfairly stacked out with David Pocock at one end and the rest of us trying to beat him at the other. There were stalls, cultural programs and even a pop-up COVID-19 vaccine clinic. The fair's stated aims of promoting harmony, bringing communities together, celebrating diversity and providing an opportunity to safely perform and socialise in person were clearly a resounding success.

I also had the great pleasure of attending the Canberra Malays association event last Saturday. Their cultural program, showcasing all of the great performances across their community, was absolutely astounding. I think everyone agreed that it raised the bar for what you could achieve in a cultural program.

The very next day, on Sunday, which was World Environment Day, my office, along with the Friends of Grasslands, hosted a tree-planting day at Budjan Galindji grasslands in Franklin. Despite the fact that it was incredibly cold, with icy winds and very soggy ground, plus the constant threat of rain, heaps of people still turned up and optimistically made a day of it. The rain held off and we were able to put the tube stock out faster than we anticipated, which meant that we were able to knock off a little bit early and warm up our fingers and toes.

We planted a total of 400 tube stock, which, in my opinion, is not bad for about two hours work. It is amazing what people can do when they move fast in order to get out of the cold. It will be great to see these plants start to rejuvenate those grasslands, with wattles, acacias and local grasses starting to restore the grasslands to what they are capable of being. The number of people who came out during that cold weather showed their support for the environment.

Domestic and family violence services—Doris Women's Refuge

MS LEE (Kurrajong—Leader of the Opposition) (5.31): Last year I had the great privilege and honour of naming the Kim Ransa Safe House, a women's refuge run by the Doris Women's Refuge. It was to provide a safe place for migrant women and children who were leaving domestic and family violence relationships and families. It came about as a result of a very charitable gesture made by a private citizen, who donated a house for six months so that this could happen. There were donors who raised the rest of the money to pay for essentials like electricity bills and food.

Whilst it was always meant to be a temporary measure—it was a house that was donated for six months—it was incredibly sad to hear last month that the model had not been taken up and it was in danger of closing. Certainly, the hardworking women at Doris Women's Refuge have done everything they can to try and fill this gap.

I want to highlight that in the Assembly and pay tribute, of course, to Marluce Silva Peters and the team at Doris Women's Refuge, who have worked for decades to provide women and children with much-needed support, wraparound support, and somewhere safe that they can go to.

I think we all know what a tragic and traumatic situation it would be to leave a very violent relationship, but there are particular challenges for migrant women. We are talking about women who, in some instances, have been almost completely reliant on their partners. We are talking about women who may be reliant on their partners for their legal ability to stay in Australia. We are talking about women who have children who are Australian born and need support. It is very difficult and very disappointing.

I reached out to Minister Yvette Berry as soon as I heard that the Kim Ransa Safe House might close. I understand that the government has responded. Whilst I acknowledge that there is a lot that is being done in this space to ensure that those services are there, it is incredibly disappointing and heartbreaking to hear that Kim Ransa Safe House itself will close. While there are other services around, the Kim Ransa Safe House provided much-needed support for that particularly vulnerable cohort of women and children. I sincerely hope that we can all work together to find some solution.

Kim Ransa Safe House was named after a notable woman in Korea's history—the first woman to be educated overseas who, through great adversity, was able to be a strength, a role model, for women in Korea. It was a very patriarchal society until recent times. I was given the honour of naming that place because there was a very special connection to our CALD community here in Canberra. I would dearly love to see that legacy continue, because it is a tribute to the very hardworking women at Doris Women's Refuge. I take my hat off to them. I certainly hope that we can find a solution.

Architecture—2022 ACT Architecture Awards

MS VASSAROTTI (Kurrajong—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) (5.35): I rise today to acknowledge an exciting celebration that was held last week, when the ACT chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects celebrated its annual awards. Chapters across Australia conduct these awards. I know that the ACT is proud to be the first jurisdiction to hold these awards each year. This is one awards process that I am very glad that I do not have to adjudicate. While we are often focused on some of the challenges around building quality, it is important to remember and celebrate the examples of great architecture that we have in this city.

This awards ceremony had an absolute star. I was delighted to announce that the pre-eminent award, the Canberra Medallion, went to the ANU Birch Building, refurbishment by Hassell. This was, in the words of the judges' panel, "a thoughtful reinterpretation of the 1968 heritage-listed building that celebrates its past and transforms it into a best practice building that supports contemporary education and

research”. It was so impressive that it picked up a swag of awards, including the JS Murdoch Award for Heritage, the Enrico Taglietti Award for Educational Architecture, and the W Hayward Morris Award for Interior Architecture.

Members might also be interested to know that Constitution Place, which our building opens onto, and from where we enter the Legislative Assembly, was recognised with the awarding of the Sir John Overall Award for Urban Design. Congratulations to Bates Smart on this achievement. It also won the John Andrews Award for Commercial Architecture. For those in this building who affectionately refer to the interiors of the ACT government premises as “death star chic”, I note that it was awarded an award for interior architecture. For this precinct, the jury noted that Constitution Place is a “masterly contribution to the centre of the Griffins’ city beautiful vision for Canberra”.

These awards also celebrated residential architecture, with 12 projects nominated. Awardees included Jingston House by Rob Henry Architects. Hugh Gordon Architects received a commendation for the McPhee Place house, and Thursday Architecture received a commendation for SALO. Robin Boyd was also recognised for Manning Clark House, with the awarding of the Sir Roy Grounds Award for Enduring Architecture.

There were many other award winners. I encourage members to have a look at the institute’s website to check out all of the winners. Luckily, as these were virtual awards, I was able to present the Canberra Medallion, even though I have had to spend the last week in isolation. However, sadly, I missed the awards afterparty. I am sure that everyone had a fantastic time celebrating such a great initiative.

The ACT winners now have the chance to compete at the National Architecture Awards. No matter what the outcome, we know that they will demonstrate how Canberra is emerging as a modern city that celebrates great architecture and design. I thank everyone who participated, and my hearty congratulations go to all of the winners. Thank you for your contributions in continuing to build and evolve our beautiful city.

Multicultural events—Dragon Boat Festival 2022 **Community services—public housing**

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (5.39): It was an honour over the weekend to attend and open the Dragon Boat Festival, along with my fellow MLAs Mark Parton, James Milligan, Michael Pettersson and Shane Rattenbury. The Dragon Boat Festival is a long-running event in Canberra. It is a dazzle of colours, performances and multicultural spirit. It commemorates the story of the death of the poet and minister Qu Yuan. At the end of a story of intrigue and exile, Qu Yuan drowns himself in the Miluo River. There are many different endings to this legend, but a common one is that the locals raced out in their boats to save him. This was said to be the first dragon boat race.

The festival here is made possible by the cooperation of many community groups, such as Community Culture Services, the Canberra Prosperous Mountain Dragon and

Lion Dance Troupe, the Federation of Chinese Community of Canberra, the Canberra Griffins Dragon Boat Club, the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble, and many others from Canberra and interstate.

Of course, the festival would not be the same without the many Canberrans who turned out to support it on a freezing day, made even colder by the cutting winds over Lake Burley Griffin. The festival is truly a small piece of China in Canberra, with traditional dance, singing, poetry reading, cultural games and cultural food. It has been running for over eight years now. I encourage everyone to attend next year. It is truly a wonderful experience. I want to give a shout-out to the president of Community Culture Services, Wenjin Zhou, who put so much time and effort into organising this event. I look forward to seeing what she comes up with next year.

In the spirit of praising our community organisations, I also wish to thank Canberra Community Law and OneLink for their advocacy on behalf of a constituent of mine. Almost one year ago, I was contacted by a resident in desperate need of public housing. This person has been a public servant for over 14 years and served in education for the ACT government for 10 of those years.

Some time ago they were diagnosed with a degenerative condition that caused a rapid deterioration in their health. I have witnessed how severe this condition is. In a relatively short amount of time, this person went from being a healthy individual to being wheelchair bound. Their only source of income is an NDIS package and a disability pension. This is not nearly enough to compete in the private rental market. A few months ago they were given notice to vacate, and must be out of their current home by the end of this month. With the disability, the low income and the freezing weather in mind, their situation is critical.

I have been in contact with Ms Vassarotti about this individual and she has been very attentive on this issue. I thank her for the work she has done so far on obtaining a home for this person. Although no home has been identified as yet, I urge her to find this person a home before they are forced to vacate during a freezing Canberra winter.

Assisted reproductive technology—children’s rights

DR PATERSON (Murrumbidgee) (5.42): This is the final story in my series of stories from donor-conceived people. This is Eleni’s story, and these are her words:

I was conceived in November 1988 via sperm donation in Canberra, born 1989. I have known about my donor conception my whole life. I have no memory of ‘being told’ so I could build my identity around it. My parents spoke very openly and honestly about it but had no information for me ...

I left Canberra for 15 years as an adult for other reasons but felt a positive side effect would be reducing the risk of unknowingly starting any kind of relationship with a half-sibling.

My understanding from my parents and the doctor is that my conception happened in consulting rooms but outside an official clinic. My parents understanding was it was a direct agreement between the three (doctor, donor,

my parents) for an anonymous sperm donation. Apparently (confidentiality/privacy) forms were signed but no records remain with any party.

My parents' psychological situation is important here in regard to medical duty of care. Four years prior to my birth, my 13-year-old brother drowned, a traumatic experience and a massive loss for the whole family.

After a failed vasectomy reversal, my father could not be the biological father. I don't know how my mother was counselled on making this decision on what the best format would be going forward. It's important to recognise the impact of her situation on the decisions she made; her trauma and loss, her age and the time pressures that presented, and how a lack of regulation and appropriate child-centred counselling played into her decision-making. She chose donor anonymity, received no information about the donor or my future rights ...

I wasn't curious about sperm donor information until I started thinking about having my own children, and how my lack of DNA knowledge may affect them ...

So, in my mid-20s I contacted the Doctor by letter asking what my rights were and what processes were in place. I was informed over the phone that as it was a private agreement no details would have been taken, and even if there were records they would have been destroyed after seven years (so I would have had to make that decision by the age of 6 years old).

I was offered a meeting with the doctor at-cost to be told ... this information, I was shocked I would be charged hundreds of dollars for 10 minutes, and decided the cost and risk of having my time wasted meant I could not accept that proposal.

This forced me to turn to DNA testing which wasn't my preferred method as I actually just wanted medical information and a knowledge of how many half-siblings, cousins etc I would have and what last names to be wary of.

Ultimately, I had to pay a genetic genealogist to make sense of my DNA, and now I have identified the sibling group the donor came from and made initial contact with the family ...

I also consulted a lawyer to understand my rights and was shocked ... to learn there was nothing in the law that allowed for any support for me, the donor, my parents or the donor's family. I was on my own. There was no requirement for any basic information such as number of siblings, cultural and medical history etc to be kept on file for a decent enough period of time in the ACT.

The costs of pursuing information with the doctor and lawyers was prohibitive and unlikely to deliver me anything except a painful experience. Of all the difficulties being donor conceived creates, the treatment by the medical system has been the worst.

After making contact with the family, I learnt all the vague statements the doctor had supplied about my donor's situation were unlikely to be true. I uncovered important medical and cultural information that my parents and I should have been able to access.

The lack of records also means the donor's family can't get to the truth of what happened, and there is a concern my donor was exploited unknowingly ... that I cannot set straight either way without records ...

That is Eleni's story, and it is because of stories like Gail's, Eleni's and Kirrily's, and many others that I have heard, thanks to Donor Conceived Australia, that I will continue to pursue seeing reform in the ACT, and seeing the rights of the child front and centre of legislative reform.

Yerrabi electorate—shopping centres

MR CAIN (Ginninderra) (5.48): Picking up on Ms Orr's theme of a Yerrabi yap, which I cannot claim, I would like to mention a few aspects of my Ginninderra journey over the last short period, with a particular focus on shopping centres.

I met with a shop owner at Evatt not too long ago about, again, their calls for public infrastructure. These innovative owners have instituted a Facebook survey, asking for things that they think would benefit both the community and the prosperity of that very popular shopping centre—a secure playground, a public toilet, parking spaces, and perhaps even some shade. I have written to the minister accordingly, and I will keep in contact with those shop owners to see how I can advance their very worthwhile requests.

It was good to meet with Anthony at Florey shops. I will be keeping a close eye on the consultation process for the location of that shopping centre and on the works on the southern face of that popular shopping centre. At the moment, unfortunately, it is restricting access to some of those shops, which is of concern to at least one of the vendors.

It was good to be near the Holt shops not so long ago. I know my Ginninderra colleague Ms Cheyne was also in attendance at the planting for the Holt micro forest, just up from the Holt shops. I was entrusted many months ago with a few seedlings, to see whether I could keep them alive for this planting. I was pleased to be able to hand over eight to 10 native grasses and bushes. Hopefully, they will survive the planting.

I would like also to acknowledge the constituents who reach out to me. I am very happy, as I am sure many members are, to meet at local shopping centres to discuss local issues with them. I was pleased to have very interesting consultations recently at both Charnwood shops and Kippax. I am certainly keen, as are all MLAs in the Assembly, to make sure that we are available to our constituents, that we are looking at and visiting local areas to see how we can enhance and advance our community.

Business—Australian Made Week

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra—Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Minister for Human Rights and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.50): I will speak briefly, to round out the week and the sittings before we enter our winter recess, to note that we are right in the middle of Australian Made Week.

Madam Speaker, this is a very important week for a range of reasons that I think are quite obvious. It is a campaign run by Australian Made, and it is all about supporting locally. We know that is very important, because every dollar that you spend supporting a local business goes back into your local community. That, in turn, stimulates other home-grown businesses, it boosts our economy and it supports local jobs. You can also be assured, especially here in Australia, of the quality, the processes and the care taken. We have much higher standards in Australia than almost anywhere else in the world.

We also have extraordinary talent and range in Australia, especially here in Canberra. When we support Australian Made, we are encouraging industries to grow. Growing industries gives us even more high-quality industries, choice and goods. With that in mind, my colleagues Ms Castley, Mr Davis and I took on a different role a few weeks ago which was published in the *Canberra Times* on Sunday. For a few hours we ditched our politician hats and became models, or something akin to that. It is certainly clear to me that I do not have a career in that space, but it was wonderful to be able to work with Handmade Canberra, the owner of Handmade markets, Julie, as well as local designers.

The local designer that I was able to work closely with was Karen Lee. Her website says that she is interested in the narrative formed by the activity of sculpting a collection through the manipulation of fabric, by draping, layering and pinning. She is conscious of creating fashion with integrity. I can certainly attest to this, and this also goes to the values that I was speaking about before—the idea of why Australian Made is so important and why this week is so important. Karen's materials and the quality of the design were outstanding—incredibly comfortable to wear, and I think looked pretty good as well.

It is worth noting, as we welcome in a federal Labor government, that Prime Minister Albanese has made it very clear that manufacturing needs to come back to Australia. That is something we very much support. We do have, surprisingly to some in the ACT, a strong manufacturing industry, particularly in the realm of space and in advanced technologies. A recent Australian Made survey noted that 89 per cent of Australians believe that more manufacturing needs to be done here. We look forward to seeing what a new federal Labor government will do in this space to support Australian Made.

As minister for business and, for a very short time, a model, it is an absolute pleasure to help spread the word about why it is so important to support Australian Made. My thanks go to Julie, and to Megan and Keegan at the *Canberra Times*, for doing all that they did to ensure that there was such great attention given to this important week.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 5.55 pm until Tuesday, 2 August 2022 at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Environment—environmental management plan guidelines (Question No 578)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 11 February 2022 (*redirected to the Minister for Business and Better Regulation*):

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that if an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) does not specifically state monitoring to be undertaken, but is required in the overarching Environmental Authorisation, then not undertaking monitoring is acceptable, given that in his response to question on notice No 446, the Minister stated that no monitoring was undertaken as it was not required under the EMP.
- (2) Does the EMP provide evidence that the Environment Protection Authority overrode its previous authorisation and agreed to not undertake monitoring; if so, can the Minister provide the evidence.

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

- (1) The Director, Roads ACT, Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCSD) holds Environmental Authorisation No. 0654 for the extraction of more than 100 cubic metres of material from a waterway.

A condition of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) requires an Environment Management Plan (EMP) be prepared and approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) prior to works being carried out for each site. The EMP does not separately specifically identify or state monitoring to be undertaken.

The EA is the overarching document and Section 18.1 of the EA states monitoring of water quality in the work area shall be undertaken during extraction of the material.

However, the work undertaken by TCCS required the pond to be drained while the extraction was taking place, with no outflow occurring during the works. Given monitoring under the EA applied to extraction while the pond was operating as normal, that is not drained, the monitoring requirements under the EA did not apply for the works undertaken. In summary, in the absence of surface water following the draining, surface water monitoring was not applicable.

- (2) In an email dated 29 April 2021 from an Environment Protection Officer to TCCSD, the officer required all works comply with the EMP and EA No 0654, in place for works in a waterway.

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

Waste—management data (Question No 581)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 11 February 2022:

- (1) How many tonnes of waste was generated in the ACT in 2021.
- (2) Of this waste referred to in part (1), how many tonnes (a) ended up in landfill and (b) were resourced and recovered.
- (3) Of the ACT Greenhouse gas emissions for 2020-21, what percentage accounts to the waste sector.
- (4) What were the key sources of waste generated in the ACT in 2021.
- (5) For each source referred to in part (4), what percentage of (a) waste in the ACT accumulates to this source, (b) this source was recycled, (c) this source was organic waste, (d) this source was used for energy generation and (e) this source was sent to landfill.
- (6) What percentage of total waste in the ACT, in 2021, was from (a) packaging, (b) mattresses, (c) disposable nappies and feminine hygiene products and (d) clothing.

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

- (1) In the 2020-21 financial year, 1,022,485 tonnes of waste were generated in the ACT.
- (2) Of this waste referred to in part (1), (a) 256,370 tonnes ended up in landfill and (b) 766,115 tonnes were resourced and recovered.
- (3) According to the 2020-21 ACT Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report, the ACT's total net greenhouse gas emissions in 2020-21 were 1,685 kilotonnes* of carbon dioxide equivalent. Waste emissions amount to 10.2% or 172 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- (4) The key sources of waste generated in the ACT in 2020-21 include construction and demolition waste, commercial and industrial waste, and household waste – including green waste.
- (5) ACT NoWaste does not collect this information for part (a), (b), (c) and (d).

(e) the below table shows the key sources that were sent to landfill.

Waste to landfill site in the ACT	2020-21 tonnes	Percentage of total waste
Construction and demolition waste	24,186	2%
Commercial and industrial waste	98,186	10%
Household waste	133,998	13%
Total waste to landfill key source	256,370	25%

Figures are estimates based on a combination of weighbridge data and composition audit data.

- (6) The ACT Government has limited information for the following waste categories:

- a. The ACT Government does not have this information readily available on packaging, as packaging can be anything from cardboard to soft plastics and some of these are collected by private businesses. For example, soft plastics are collected by Redcycle through Coles and Woolworths. Businesses that are not licensed under the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016* do not have reporting obligations.
- b. Mattresses are processed under a contract with the ACT Government and amount to less than 1% of total waste, of that 75% of mattress components are recycled.
- c. The ACT Government does not have this information available, most of these items end up in landfill as they form part of standard red-lidded bin collection.

This information is not available. The ACT Government encourages people to donate their items in good condition to businesses and charities, this activity is not reported to ACT NoWaste. Any unusable items form part of the waste to landfill category.

Health—services for children (Question No 675)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 25 March 2022:

- (1) How many children are on waiting lists for an initial appointment for children's health services in the ACT.
- (2) For each service referred to in part (1), what is the median wait time for each, for the years (a) 2020-21 and (b) 2021-22, broken down by the children's ages and gender.
- (3) How many children have been added to wait lists each year for children's health services in the ACT since 2016, broken down by the children's ages and gender.
- (4) What is the median wait time for children to be removed from waiting lists in the ACT for each service since 2016.
- (5) What policies and actions have been taken by Canberra Health Services (CHS) and ACT Health since 2020 to improve median wait times and what success have they had?
- (6) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total spending for each policy and action and how much has currently been spent on each policy/action.
- (7) How many specialists for children's health services have been employed and/or have worked in hospitals by CHS and ACT Health since 2016.
- (8) Can the Minister provide information about the shortages of specialists for children's health services including in what areas the shortages are and the relevant figures.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

1. In order to answer these questions, an assumption has been made that they refer to dedicated paediatric specialties with an ambulatory care waiting list. At 31 March 2022 there were 1790 paediatric patients aged 16 years or less on waiting lists for an initial appointment for a paediatric specialty.
2. The median wait time in days for the paediatric specialties within the Division of Women, Youth and Children and the paediatric specialty within the Division of Surgery are outlined in Table 1. It is not considered appropriate to break these figures down to individual age /gender groups, given the potential for identification where there are very small numbers of some age and gender combinations and the significant diversion of resources required.

Service	As at 30 June 2021	As at 31 March 2022
CYW	413	244
Paediatrics	246	259
Paediatric Surgery	271	196

3. Table 3 provides information about the number of paediatric patients added to an ambulatory care waiting list by financial year for a dedicated paediatric specialty. Due to the small number of children on some of the waiting lists it would not be appropriate to break these figures down to individual age and gender groups.

Specialty	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*
Total	1370	1477	1759	1993	2106	1451

* to 31 March 2022

4. Table 4 provides information about the median waiting time in days for paediatric patients to be removed for initial appointment from any ambulatory care waiting list by specialty by financial year.

Specialty	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*
Audiologist	N/A	49.5	176	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cardiology	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	353	128
CYW Child Medical Officer	97	113	138.5	92	N/A	N/A
CYW Paediatric Registrar	N/A	117.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CYW Paediatrician	308	199.5	234.5	262.5	385	181
Dermatology	154.5	65	92	79	105.5	93.5
Ear, Nose and Throat	599.5	363	390.5	471	279	172
Endocrinology	214	126.5	63.5	183	29	108.5
Exercise Physiology	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	48	N/A
Gastroenterology	77	77	23	123.5	51	83.5
General Surgery	160	83.5	237	137	111	N/A
Gynaecology	111	66.5	115.5	171.5	283	132

Specialty	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*
Head and Neck Surgery	N/A	97	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Immunology	89	273	111	110.5	214	195
Neurology	220	46	147	173	133	179
Neurosurgery	65.5	14	291	121	82	N/A
Ophthalmology	88	90.5	117.5	319	414.5	1060.5
Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery	202	220	93	48.5	51	36
Orthopaedic Surgery	182	87	87	59	563	72.5
Paediatric Surgery	392	303	157	125.5	62	239
Paediatrics	60	63	83	113	102	146
Physiotherapy	177.5	357	68.5	1322	15	24
Plastic Surgery	71	52	59.5	95.5	81	90
Play Therapist	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A
Psychology	85	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Registered Nurse	301	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Registrar	N/A	N/A	N/A	159.5	575	N/A
Respiratory	6	N/A	N/A	30	170	N/A
Rheumatology	N/A	102	191.5	216	47	81.5
Urology	131	N/A	133.5	77	N/A	72
Vascular	138.5	127	N/A	28.5	78.5	20

Note: N/A refers to zero patients seen. This may be because a service is new or has become part of another service.

*to 31 March 2022

5. The following actions are being undertaken to improve wait times:

- Actions to recover services impacted by the COVID-19 shutdown.
- Scheduling practices have been reviewed to optimise clinic times.
- Services are undertaking audits on wait lists.
- Implementation of telehealth appointments, with uptake of these appointments increasing.
- Health Pathways is being refreshed to support General Practitioners to manage their patient, ensure referrals are made at the appropriate stage and with all the required information.
- Establishment of nurse-led and allied health clinics to support medical specialist outpatient clinics which enables access to more timely screening to determine whether specialist review is required and for post-specialist follow up.
- The Digital Health Record which will be implemented later this year and is expected to make significant improvements in the management of services as a result.

- People and Culture have engaged a Talent Acquisition Specialist to support recruitment.
6. The ACT Government invested \$30 million in the public health system to support the recovery of services impacted by the COVID-19 shutdown, including funding for additional outpatient appointments. Other actions to reduce waitlists have been undertaken within existing resources.
 7. To collate the answer for this question, the scope of those reviewed and included was based on skill set of all Specialist, Senior Specialists and Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) working within the Division of Women, Youth and Children (WYC).

Specialists are engaged at CHS as salaried staff and VMOs details provided in Table 5 below are reflective of staff paid or under contract as of 30 June each year.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	46	58	80	90	100	110

NB: In order to collate the answer for this question, the scope of those reviewed and included was based on skill set of Obstetrician, Paediatrician (including Cardiology, Surgeon, Oncologists), Neonatologist, Geneticists, and Children's Plastic Surgeons. Also included in the collation were General Practitioners contracted and on staff to provide clinical services to children throughout the requested period.

8. All funded positions within paediatric services of WYC at Canberra Hospital are fully recruited with the exception of the following:
 - a. General Paediatrics by two senior medical officers. Both positions are being actively recruited to; and
 - b. Paediatric Rheumatology by one part time medical officer. WYC is working with the Division of Medicine to appoint to this position.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—mental health services (Question No 687)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 25 March 2022:

- (1) Why has the updated arrangement between the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and ACT Health not been sighted or signed by ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS).
- (2) If the updated arrangement has now been signed, what was the reason it was not sighted or signed by ACTCS at the time of the Auditor General's 2022 report into mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- (3) Did ACTCS have any concerns about signing this arrangement; if so, what were those concerns.
- (4) When did development of the service level agreement (SLA), under the updated arrangement, begin.
- (5) At what stage is the development of the SLA at now.

- (6) What has been the cause of the delay in development of the SLA.
- (7) Is there a draft version or a timeframe for delivery at this time.

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

1. The delivery of updated agreements has been impacted by resources being redirected to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Work on an updated agreement between the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) and Canberra Health Services (CHS) is underway, and the new agreement will include a schedule on mental health services for detainees. JACS anticipates that the new agreement will be in place by the second half of 2022.
3. CHS and JACS is of the view that the 2017 *Arrangement between JACS and ACT Health for the delivery of health services for detainees* still provides the guiding principles for the relationship between JACS and CHS.
4. By way of background, the fifth recommendation in the ACT Auditor-General's report titled *Management of detainee mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)*, focuses on the development of a service level agreement (SLA) between CHS JACS. Considerations regarding the development of this SLA began during this audit process.
5. Both CHS and JACS, specifically ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS), currently partner to deliver the health services within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). Initial discussions have commenced on best way to formalise these arrangements, such as through an SLA.
6. There has not been a delay in the development of the SLA. Formalising the current arrangements is underway following recommendations made by the Auditor-General.
7. At present, a draft SLA has not been prepared. As previously stated, the process is in initial stages with discussions between CHS and ACTCS having commenced.

Mental health services—Dhulwa Mental Health Unit (Question No 699)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 8 April 2022:

- (1) How many Dhulwa staff have been on WorkCover each year since the unit opened and can the Minister provide detail including staff occupation, reason for WorkCover, the length of leave, etc.
- (2) Further to the answer to a question taken on notice on 21 February 2022 (QToN No 11), can the Minister provide detail about the 'OV physical' incidents since 2019-20 including what happened in each incident, staff occupation, how was the staff member injured and what action was taken (eg, staff taken to hospital, staff treated at the scene, staff took leave).
- (3) How many Dhulwa staff have taken stress/mental health leave each year since the unit opened and in what roles were the staff (eg, mental health nurses, security).

- (4) How many staff complaints have there been each year since the unit opened, and can the Minister provide details of each complaint, staff occupation and what/if any action was taken.
- (5) What training do Dhulwa nurses receive to protect themselves from being physically attacked.
- (6) Can the Minister provide detail, for each year since the unit opened, about (a) how much time each year is allocated to each staff member for training, (b) how much has been spent on training, (c) what training has been offered and by whom and (d) how many staff have attended training programs.
- (7) How many nurses are meant to work each shift and on how many occasions, since 2019, has Dhulwa been short staffed.
- (8) Further to part (7), who is the leader for each shift and is that nurse also required to work with consumers.
- (9) Is there an Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) or Director of Nursing (DON) on site at all times; if not, who is in charge.
- (10) Have any ADONs or DONs been physically attacked since Dhulwa opened; if so, what are the details of these attacks.
- (11) What extra training are ADONs and DONs required to attend.
- (12) Can the Minister provide details about what training ADONs and DONs have done since Dhulwa opened and what the cost was of that training.
- (13) What mental health support is provided to Dhulwa nurses.
- (14) Can the Minister provide details on how much funding has been allocated and spent on mental health support for nurses since the unit opened.
- (15) What is the accreditation process for Dhulwa and can the Minister provide details on this process.
- (16) Has there been an audit, or any review, of Dhulwa since it opened.
- (17) What safety issues have been raised by staff since Dhulwa opened and what was the response for each.
- (18) What has Dhulwa's budget been each year since it opened.
- (19) How much did it cost to build Dhulwa.
- (20) What has been the Dhulwa staff/nurse turnover since it opened.
- (21) How many Dhulwa nurses have sought and been offered counselling/psychological support each year since it opened, including details of each occasion.
- (22) Have any unfair dismissal claims been lodged by any Dhulwa staff; if so, can the Minister provide details of each claim.

- (23) Have Dhulwa nurses (a) had faeces thrown at them, (b) been sexually harassed or (c) threatened.
- (24) What is the total staff numbers at Dhulwa and can the Minister provide a breakdown of roles and permanent staff versus contract positions.
- (25) What has been the staff budget each year since the unit opened.
- (26) How often have security guards intervened in occupational violence and threatening situations for staff and can the Minister provide details of each situation.
- (27) What is the role of security guards and how many are employed for each shift.
- (28) Is it the job of security guards to protect Dhulwa staff/nurses.
- (29) Does Dhulwa have a resident doctor/psychiatrist; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (30) What support staff does Dhulwa employ (eg, counsellors, psychologist, psychiatrists, OTs, music therapy, exercise therapy).
- (31) What programs have been offered to Dhulwa consumers since it opened including detail and cost (eg, cooking course, music program).

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

- 1) Data is available in relation to workers' compensation claims from 2018 onwards. 21 claims have been lodged by Dhulwa staff since 2018. All staff were Nurses.

Year	No. of workers' compensation claims submitted	Mechanism of injury	Combined total Lost time injury
2018	3	OV related injuries	99 weeks
2019	1	Physical injury	0 weeks
2020	5	Bullying/harassment, Falls OV related injuries	49 weeks
2021	6	Falls OV related injuries	9 weeks
2022 (up until 21/04/2022)	6	OV related injuries	9 weeks

- 2) For the period of 1 July 2019 to 13 April 2022, there has been a total of 312 physical incidents reported. As each incident does not involve an injury the information provided above in question one outlines the injuries because of physical incidents.
- 3) Stress and mental health leave is not a category of leave available to employees. Employees can take personal leave if they are unwell however Canberra Health Services (CHS) does not ask employees the nature of their illness.

- 4) Staff complaints can be raised in many ways, to many people and for a large number of reasons. CHS does not store centrally all types of complaints raised by employees.
- 5) The team at Dhulwa receive Occupational Violence (OV) Education. The new CHS OV Training includes four modules - Awareness, De-escalation, Protect and Restraint. The Protect Module is designed to provide a range of techniques to avoid harm from a physical attack.

A change management process is underway to transition staff from previous Violence Management Prevention (VMP) training which also provided evasion techniques for staff.

Approved Occupational Violence (OV) Training which includes training modules for (1) Situational Awareness (2) De-escalation, (3) Protect, and (4) Restraint.

Since new OV Training has commenced in February 2022, staff previously trained have received a one-day refresher program (including new protect and restraint techniques) and will continue regular team practice sessions using relevant clinical scenarios as part of a daily education plan. New staff commencing in 2022 attend a two-day OV Program with regular team practice sessions scheduled thereafter.

Each team member has been allocated three full days of OV training on commencement at Dhulwa, this is followed up with an annual refresher and practice sessions which forms part of a calendar of daily education.

- 6)
 - a) Within the first year of employment a staff member will complete approximately 40 hours of mandatory training delivered in a combination of e-learning and face to face facilitated training sessions. A number of these sessions require renewal annually to ensure currency of education. Subsequently Dhulwa staff have protected education hours each week to ensure ongoing mandatory training renewals are completed.

Staff are encouraged to speak to the Secure Mental Health Services (SMHS) education team with any requests for education that interests them so that this can be arranged to continually develop staff skills and to exceed the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) required 20 hours of continuing professional development.

The Secure Mental Health Services education team provides in-service education to staff on a wide variety of specialist mental health topics in addition to mandatory training and other sessions to meet the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

- b) This data is unavailable.
- c) All CHS staff have access to the training available on HRIMS Learning system. Dhulwa team members have also provided a range of mental health in-services. Staff can also apply for external training and study leave.
- d) The Dhulwa team are required to complete CHS and mental health mandatory training requirements. Training requirements are different dependent on the classification of the team member e.g. administration, allied health, or nursing.

The main training system used at CHS is HRIMS Learning system and only reports on current staff. Training undertaken by staff may not necessarily have been completed while they were working at Dhulwa.

Training data is held in many different locations, dependant on the type of training, for example, mandatory training, in-services, external training and study leave.

- 7) Eight nurses per shift. Due to resourcing and the size of the report, CHS is unable to provide the number of times a shift has short staffed since 2019.
- 8) During business hours the Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) RN level 3.2 is responsible for the clinical operations of the unit.

There is a team leader for each ward who carries a patient load.
After hours, the nurse in charge is a designated RN2 or senior RN1 who oversees the clinical operations.

Depending on the number of consumers admitted and the level of care required, they may have a small patient load.

- 9) The Assistant Director of Nursing (ADoN) works across both Dhulwa and Gawanggal Mental Health Unit and is located wherever needed (Dhulwa majority of the time).

The Director of Nursing (DoN) is operationally responsible for Dhulwa, Gawanggal, Adult Mental Health Unit, Mental Health Short Stay Unit, Ward 12B and the Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit. The DoN splits their time across the units but will prioritise a unit if there is a clinical need. Typically, the DoN is on site at Dhulwa one day per week.

For further advice regarding who is in charge, please refer to Q8.

- 10) This data is unavailable.
- 11) ADONs and DONs complete the same mandatory training as all staff.
- 12) This data is unavailable.
- 13) All CHS staff including those working in Dhulwa, have access to mental health support from CHS' Employee Assistance Program (EAP) - Converge International which they can access directly. In March 2022, Converge provided critical incident support to staff in Dhulwa. As EAP is a confidential service, CHS do not receive identifying information, including how many staff accessed EAP support from Converge.

Other mental health support services available to staff include Nursing & Midwifery Support Service; Next Step – Beyond Blue Program; Access Mental Health Team; CHS' Workplace Resolution and Support Service. HOT debriefs are provided immediately following an incident, COLD debriefs within the following days of the incident. In addition, welfare checks may be performed by managers where required. CHS has mandated Family Violence – a Shared Understanding for Managers to support them in identifying possible risk factors in their staff and inform them of the resources available to staff who may be experiencing challenges.

14) CHS do not receive identifying information from services that provide mental health support to team members.

15) As Dhulwa is a CHS health care facility, it is included in the organisation wide accreditation process to ensure the service is meeting the requirements of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's National Standards.

During the organisation wide accreditation assessment week (27 June to 1 July 2022), ten assessors from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) will attend various CHS facilities, including Dhulwa. During the assessment, the assessors will review existing policies and procedures, observe staff and consumer interactions, interact with a range of CHS staff and ask a range of questions related to process, improvement, consumer participation, monitoring, reporting and systems to determine how the National Standards are incorporated into practice. Assessors may also speak to patients/consumers and/or carers about their experience.

16) There have been three reviews since the unit opened:

- Independent External Review of Mental Health Inpatient Services within ACT Health (2018);
- Secure Facility Act 2016 review (2020),;and
- Human Rights Commission, Commission Initiated Consideration (2021).

17) Themes of the safety issues raised by staff are risk of occupational violence, concerns about the admission processes and infrastructure repairs. All safety issues are taken seriously by CHS and are responded to at the time they are raised.

18)

Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Net Operating Result	7,302,933.09	9,376,490.81	9,393,624.85	10,080,886.00	10,264,213.07

19) The total cost for the design and construction of the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit was \$45.7 million (GST exclusive).

20) The annual separation rate for nursing and other staff that have been employed at Dhulwa is detailed in the table below. The reported period is from the opening of Dhulwa in 2016, and data is based on all resignation and retirements, this includes permanent, temporary and casual staff each year during this period.

Typically, turnover rates are based on permanent employees only which needs to be taken into consideration when reviewing the annual data for benchmarking purposes. As all resignations and retirements have been included and considering the size of the unit, the average separation rate appears elevated. For transparency, all classifications have been shown to provide full staffing turn over.

The turnover rate for 2016 is not included as there were no separations. Data for the 2022 YTD has also been omitted as it is not a sufficient reporting period for reporting purposes.

Data used to calculate the turnover rate is based on Dhulwa headcount as at the end of each Financial Year.

Year	Nursing	All Staff
2017	23.3%	12.7%
2018	18.9%	12.2%
2019	17.8%	10.1%
2020	13.0%	8.0%
2021	12.5%	8.0%

- 21) CHS do not receive information from areas across the organisation about who seeks or is referred for counselling or psychological support. All CHS staff including those working in Dhulwa have access to EAP – provided by Converge International. Individual staff access this confidential service directly, without referral, for work or personal related issues, with anonymity. As such statistics for how many Dhulwa nurses have sought or been offered counselling/psychological support are not available.

In additional to EAP, critical incident support was provided by Converge to staff at Dhulwa in March 2022.

- 22) Unable to provide this detail as due to the small number, people may be able to be identified.
- 23) This behavioural is often seen in prison settings as a mark of protest. Mental state of consumers fluctuates along with level of insight into social propriety.
- a) Yes
 - b) Yes
 - c) Yes
- 24) Many of the staff on temporary/ casual contracts are not eligible for permanent positions due to visa requirements.

As of 30 March 2022, the Dhulwa workforce consists of 70 employees with a breakdown of classification groups and employment types listed in the table below. Note, this table does not include the management team, medical officers or security staff.

	Headcount				FTE			
	C	P	T	Total	C	P	T	Total
Administrative Officers	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3
Health Assistants	0	3	2	5	0	3	1.47	4.47
Health Professional Officers	0	6	2	4	0	2.7	0.71	2.41
Nursing Staff	3	45	3	51	3.23	42.81	3	49.04
Senior Officers	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Grand Total	3	58	7	64	3.23	51.51	5.18	59.92

25)

Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Labour	6,357,691.63	8,588,728.46	8,666,727.72	9,350,446.94	9,525,923.32
FTE	58.67	76.13	75.23	75.23	75.23

- 26) The team at Dhulwa work as a collegial team to de-escalate a situation before an incident happens. Data is not kept on how many times security guards assist the clinical team.
- 27) The staffing profile for security officers at the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit and their roles are outlined below, seven days a week.

Note: The exact timings of these shifts and the specific duties of these roles is not fully detailed, to protect operational security.

Role	Day Shift (12 hrs)	Night Shift (12 hrs)
Security Supervisor	1	1
Control Room Operator	1	1
Rover/Responder	1	1
Accommodation Officer	1	1
Reception Officer	1	0

- 28) Security officers are one facet of occupational violence minimisation and response. Security officers support the clinical Emergency Response Team in response to incidents. These are clinically led.

The primary role of a Security Officer is to cordon and contain incidents to allow clinical staff members to deal with a situation without interference by others. Security officers will provide protection for staff by applying control and restraint techniques where there is an unexpected or sudden outburst of violence.

- 29) Secure Mental Health Services is funded for three Consultant Psychiatrists and two Registrars.
- 30) Social Worker, Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Art Therapist, Allied Health Assistants, and an Exercise Therapist.
- 31) Programs at Dhulwa include and not limited to social work groups, psychology, occupational interventions, art therapy, cooking groups, external community outing including cinema, bush walks, sports event attendance, local community access, music program, therapy dogs, hosting parties, inter-ward activities, speech pathology, self-help groups and mental health recovery groups.

Unable to provide a detailed cost of the programs at Dhulwa. The cost from the programs can vary from free to paying an organisation to provide the program with a charge up to \$500 per session.

Calvary Hospital—Clare Holland House (Question No 700)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 8 April 2022:

- (1) Has a new wing opened at Clare Holland House; if so, can the Minister provide details such as cost, how many beds, reason for new wing, etc; if not, (a) why has a new wing not opened, (b) when was the new wing due to open and (c) when will it open.
- (2) How many staff are/have been employed at Clare Holland House, each year for the last five years, including their roles and employment status (permanent or contract).

- (3) Can the Minister provide total staff numbers, each year for the last five years, including roles and employment status.
- (4) Is there a lack of staff at Clare Holland House; if so, what is the Minister doing to address this.
- (5) What staff training is provided at Clare Holland House.
- (6) Can the Minister provide information, for the last three years, about how many staff (including their roles) have (a) received training, (b) the nature of the training, (c) the provider and (d) cost.
- (7) Do staff receive specific palliative care training when they are employed and each year; if so, can the Minister provide details of the training.
- (8) What has been the staff turnover at Clare Holland over the last five years.
- (9) Can the Minister provide details, for each year over the past five years, about what counselling/support is offered to staff and how often has it been taken up, including cost.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The expansion of Clare Holland House (CHH) was officially opened on 25 June 2021.

The Clare Holland House Expansion project strengthened palliative care, with the ACT Health Directorate delivering a redesigned respite facility with an additional eight inpatient bedrooms, improved patient amenities and associated clinical and administrative support facilities.

The total project budget was \$6 million, which included \$4 million funded by the Commonwealth Government and \$2 million donated by the Snow Foundation via Calvary Health Care ACT (Calvary). To support this expansion the 2021-22 Budget included \$16.1 million over four years to progressively fund additional beds to meet growing demand and immediately expand home-based palliative care services.

- (2)

New staff recruited each year							
Employment Type	Role	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Casual	Allied	1					
	Nurse	12	5	2	14	7	2
	Admin	3	2			2	
	General	1					
Fixed Term	Allied		3				
	Nurse	3	2	2	1	2	6
	Medical	2	3	1	3	2	4

Permanent	Allied		1	2	2	1	
	Nurse	18	9	18	3		8
	Medical	3	1	2			1
	Admin		1	4	1		
	General	1	2	2			

(3)

Headcount							
Employment Type	Role	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Casual	Admin	4	6	4	3	5	5
	Allied	1	1	1	1	1	
	General		1			2	
	Nurse	13	13	14	24	21	19
Fixed Term	Admin				1	1	1
	Allied	1	1	1			
	Medical	3	5	4	8	5	7
	Nurse	1	2	8	3	8	18
Permanent	Admin	5	5	5	6	5	5
	Allied	3	5	4	6	6	4
	General	4	5	5	4	2	2
	Medical	4	5	5	5	4	7
	Nurse	53	49	48	52	51	59

- (4) Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) run CHH with Calvary being responsible for the operations of both services under contract with the ACT Government. Calvary are therefore responsible for addressing any staffing shortages including recruitment of new staff.

Currently, 4.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions are vacant at CHH.

The vacant 4.0 FTE are being actively recruited to however some specialist disciplines may take longer to source suitable staff.

- (5) Each discipline group has a level of education based on the qualification that they hold.

CHH has a Palliative Care Educator on site full time. CHH also has a designated Palliative Care Educator for the Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA) for the ACT Territory.

Education for multidisciplinary teams at Orientation to CHH:

- An overview of palliative care,
- Understanding of advanced care planning and the role of the Medical Orders for Life Prognosis (MOLST),
- Access to communication education including Information from Palliative Care Australia, Care Search and other respected palliative care sources,

- END of life standards,
- Orientation to advanced care planning/goals of care documentation,
- Caring at the end-of-life pathway,
- Syringe driver specifics,
- Online resources,
- Communication tools.

Ongoing education programs at CHH are multidisciplinary and staff receive access to:

- Palliative Care Outcomes Collaborative (PCOC) online,
- Monthly Palliative Education (PED) talks with topics aligned to specific clinical learnings,
- Basic Life Support Practicals,
- Manual Handling Practicals,
- Emergency/Fire Training Practicals,
- Weekly clinical education sessions,
- Twice monthly in service options with a ward focus (available across the service),
- End of Life Essentials modules,
- Workbooks from PEPA learning guides,
- Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U), or
- In house workbooks focussed on specific nursing skills.

The CHH staff scholarship Education Fund is in place to support staff to attend and present at Palliative Care specific education including foundation Palliative Care and Bereavement courses. From 2017 to 2021, 18 staff accessed scholarship funding at a cost of \$19,321.70.

- (6) CHH is run by Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) and is fully accredited under the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards. The NSQHS Accreditation team review the training provided to all staff and the standard was fully met by CHH.

The last accreditation report noted that - ‘Governance, multidisciplinary patient care, education and training and the physical environment and service provided in support of end-of-life care at CHH is outstanding’.

CHH nurses have access to postgraduate and professional development scholarship programs through the ACT Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office (CNMO), which are available to all public sector nurses and midwives who meet the criteria. CHH nurses have also been offered access to the ACT CNMO Clinical Supervision Program. CHH provides staff a range of training see full list above at Question (5). Staff numbers at Question 3.

This education is across several platforms including Face to face, E-learning, and WebEx.

Training providers include:

- Calvary National
- Program of Experience in a Palliative Approach (PEPA) workshops for mixed disciplines. Eighty (80) per cent of nursing and allied health staff would have attended a workshop in the past three years.

- PCOC
- End of Life Essentials
- PCC4U
- In house staff and educators
- Motor Neurone New South Wales
- Palliative Care resources
- Fire Emergency Response Safety Training (FERST) Training solutions

Due to the detailed nature and timeframe of the Member's questions Calvary Public Hospital Bruce have been unable to provide full detail by cost without a significant diversion of staff resources.

(7) Full training list provided above at (5).

(8)

Year	TOTAL
2016-17*	2
2017-18	10
2018-19	6
2019-20	10
2020-21	11
2021-22**	10

* Jan-June 2017

** As at 20 April 2022

(9) All staff at CHH have access to ongoing employee assistance programs and support. Due to the detailed nature and timeframe of the Members questions full details by staff and cost are unable to be provided by CPHB without a significant diversion of resources.

During the period 2017 to 2021 staff received access to the following programs:

- Pilot Wellness program started with coordinated Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- External Supervision 3 x Allied Health and 1 x Pastoral care team
- Peer Supervision sessions ACT Palliative Care Psych-Social team
- CHH Multi-Disciplinary Clinical team have in house - 'Reflections with Mary' (Pastoral Care Team Leader)
- Clinical Supervisor training provided to 1 x staff member at CHH
- Registered Nurse Level 2 Clinical Supervision
- External Clinical supervision Specialised Palliative Aged care team
- Group Clinical Supervision sessions:
 - Administration team
 - Palliative Aged Care team
 - Hospice Nursing team
- Individual Clinical Supervision
- Peer Supervision sessions for the Pastoral care team
- External Clinical Supervision Specialised Palliative Aged Care team sessions

**Health—cardiac events
(Question No 701)**

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 8 April 2022 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) How many Sudden Cardiac Arrests (SCAs) have there been in government schools each year since 2016.
- (2) How many fatalities have there been in government schools from a SCA since 2016.
- (3) Were there defibrillators at the schools where the fatalities occurred.
- (4) How many SCAs have recovered because of the use of a defibrillator since 2016.
- (5) How many SCAs have there been in government workplaces since 2016.
- (6) How many fatalities have there been in government workplaces from a SCA since 2016.
- (7) Were there defibrillators at the government workplace where the fatalities occurred.
- (8) How many SCAs have there been on ACT government transport since 2016.
- (9) How many fatalities have there been on ACT government transport from a SCA since 2016.
- (10) How many times have the Field Response Vans responded to a SCA on ACT government transport.
- (11) What is the average time the Field Response Vans take to get to a SCA on ACT government transport.

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

- 1, 2) The ACT Government workplace incident notification system records fewer than ten ACT Government employees having suffered cardiac events while on ACT Government school premises in the period since 2016. None of these are recorded as fatal incidents.

A cardiac event is an incident involving ischaemic heart disease, heart failure, myocarditis, pericarditis or rheumatic fever.

More specific data is not forthcoming, doing so may breach the privacy of the affected people.

- 3) There are no recorded incidents of fatalities because of SCAs at ACT Government schools.
- 4) This information is not held by ACT Government.

- 5, 6) The ACT Government workplace incident notification system records 27 people having suffered cardiac events while on ACT Government premises since 2015-16 (excluding medical facilities). None of the incidents were immediately identified as having resulted in fatality.
 - 7) There are no recorded incidents of fatalities because of SCAs at ACT Government workplaces since 2016.
 - 8, 9) There are no recorded incidents of fatalities because of SCAs on ACT Government transport since 2016 (excluding ambulances).
 - 10) Nil. Transport Canberra Field Response Vans have not responded to any SCA's on ACT Government Transport.
 - 11) See response to Question 10.
-

Planning—community consultation (Question No 725)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 8 April 2022:

- (1) What community consultation has the Government done for the site at blocks 12 and 13, section 132, Casey and what feedback/comments has the Minister received.
- (2) What business consultation has the Government done for the site and what feedback/comments has the Minister received.
- (3) Is more consultation planned for the site; if so, can the Minister provide details of the further consultation that is planned.
- (4) What has been the total cost to date of consultations, including details of costs and how much will be spent on any further planned consultation.
- (5) Has the Minister met with Casey residents and/or the Gungahlin Community Council about the site.
- (6) Has any feedback about consultation been made public; if so, can the Minister provide links to where that can be found.
- (7) Is the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) considering 100 dwellings and 24,000 square metres of commercial space on this site, as reported in a RiotACT article of 4 October 2021; if so, can the Minister provide details and reasons for this.
- (8) Can the Minister describe the status of this arrangement eg, is public consultation occurring, is there a scoping study, are tenders being prepared, etc.
- (9) What other arrangements is EPSDD considering.
- (10) Has the Minister or EPSDD decided on an outcome; if so, what is the outcome.

- (11) When will a decision be made for the site.
- (12) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of staff and their classification that are working or have worked on planning policy for the site.
- (13) Is SGS Economics conducting a report, as stated in the RiotACT article of 4 October 2021; if so, (a) how much were they paid, (b) what tasks were they given and (c) can the Minister provide a copy of the report.

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

- (1) Government has undertaken the following consultation with community:

In the first half of 2021 SGS Economics and Planning on behalf of EPSDD held discussions with the following community organisations:

- Gungahlin Arts officer
- Gungahlin Community Council
- Communities@Work Gungahlin
- Barnardos.

These discussions were followed up on the YourSay Community Conversations website with engagement activities that were open from Tuesday 15 June 2021 to Monday 19 July 2021. These activities consulted Gungahlin community members on what community and recreation facilities might be missing in their area, and what facilities they might need in the future. Almost 300 individual pieces of feedback were received through the YourSay engagement activities which included 258 submissions to the survey, and 39 submissions to the mapping activity.

The most contemporaneous feedback is consolidated and contained within the Community survey listening report and the Community and Recreational Facilities Assessment – Gungahlin District (Assessment) (Links provided in response to Q6).

- (2) Government has not undertaken specific consultation with business at this time.
- (3) Yes. The Assessment will form the basis of further conversations with the community going forward. This will include engagement with a community panel, currently being established.
- (4) Consultation on the Casey sites has been part of broader consultation activities for the Gungahlin District. It is not possible to cost the Casey sites consultation in isolation.
- (5) Yes. I most recently attended a Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) meeting on 13 October 2021. I also met with representatives of the Gungahlin Community Council on 31 March 2022 where I advised that Government has not made a decision in relation to the outcomes expected on the sites beyond what is currently contemplated in the Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP).
- (6) Yes. Information can be found at the following links:
 - a. [Community and Recreational Facilities Assessment—Gungahlin District](#);
 - b. Community survey 'listening report':
<https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/gungahlin-community-facilities>.

- (7) The dwelling yield of 100 dwellings and 24,000m² of commercial for the sites is identified in the ILRP. In addition, the ILRP states: A Community and Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment for the Gungahlin district will provide the basis for community engagement on future community facilities in the district, such as the proposal for a community centre in the Gungahlin town centre and the provision of community and recreation facilities on a commercial release in Casey. The Territory Plan's Commercial Zone 1 (Core) zoning for the sites allows for a wide range of uses including residential, commercial and community facilities. The sites have not been released. There are no development proposals or tenders associated with development on the sites at this time.
- (8) The land has not been released. The recent Assessment, Community survey listening report and engagement with the community panel will inform next steps in relation to the sites.
- (9) Government will consider uses of the sites that provide the best outcome for the Casey and Gungahlin community.
- (10) No. Not beyond what is currently indicated in the ILRP and noting that the ILRP is indicative in nature and subject to change.
- (11) Timing of a decision on land uses has not been determined at this time.
- (12) No. I understand this is not the project approach EPSDD has applied.
- (13) Yes.
 - a. \$68,607;
 - b. The contract is available on the ACT Government Contract Register.
 - c. See response to Q6.

Taxation—land tax (Question No 728)

Ms Clay asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 8 April 2022:

- (1) How many dwellings are currently paying land tax in the ACT.
- (2) How many dwellings does the Government estimate may owe land tax but are not currently registered to pay it.
- (3) How does the ACT Government investigate whether a property should be paying land tax but currently is not.
- (4) What is the mean and median nominal yearly land tax payable for a dwelling in the ACT.
- (5) How many land tax exemptions were granted in the last 12 months and can a breakdown by category of exemption be provided.
- (6) When land tax is collected on properties, is the reason land tax is payable (eg, vacant, rented etc) collected; if so, could a table breaking down amount of dwellings by reason they are required to pay land tax be provided.

- (7) When is land tax payable on residential units once a development is unit titled, in the instance where there are units still unsold by the developer and untenanted.

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

- (1) and (4) The number of properties paying land tax fluctuates throughout the year as properties may change hands, or transition in and out of rental arrangements. The data on the number of dwellings currently paying land tax can therefore vary from quarter to quarter.

The data for the 2021-22 year is not yet available. In 2020-21, there were 52,389 properties subject to land tax in at least one quarter. The average number of properties subject to land tax per quarter in 2020-21 was 47,003.

The mean and median land tax amounts payable for properties in the ACT in 2020-21 are approximately \$2,875 and \$2,560, respectively.

- (2) and (3) Land tax applies to all residential properties that are not occupied as an owner's principal place of residence. Most land tax liability is self-assessed, whereby owners notify the ACT Revenue Office that a property they own is liable for land tax.

The ACT Revenue Office does not estimate the number of dwellings that may owe land tax but are not registered to pay it. However, the ACT Revenue Office does have an active compliance program that detects land tax liabilities.

The ACT Revenue Office has regard to rental information such as rental bonds, rental income or rent roll data, as well as utilities and car registration data to support its investigations and assessments of land tax.

- (5) Land tax exemptions are self-assessed. The ACT Revenue Office does not collect comprehensive data on the total number of properties with an exemption.
- (6) The reason land tax is payable is not collected.
- (7) Land tax applies to an unsold and untenanted property in a unit titled development two quarters from the time the Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

Housing—short-term rentals (Question No 730)

Ms Clay asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 8 April 2022 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) How many whole dwellings are currently being used as short-term rental accommodation (eg, Airbnb) in the ACT.
- (2) How many rental bonds are currently lodged with the ACT Revenue Office.
- (3) How many dwellings does the Government estimate should have rental bonds lodged which do not currently.
- (4) How does the ACT Government investigate whether a property should have lodged a rental bond but has not.

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

- (1) There is no Government data on short-term rental accommodation in the ACT. Short stays are private, contractual arrangements between an owner or short-term rental provider and tenant.
- (2) As at 22 April 2022, 43,900 rental bonds have been lodged with the ACT Revenue Office.
- (3) & (4)

Lessors and agents are not required by law to take a bond from a tenant, however, if they do receive a bond, they are required to lodge it with the ACT Revenue Office. Receipts are issued to all parties involved. The Government has no way of identifying whether a rental bond should have been lodged. Tenants who have paid a bond but who have not received a receipt should contact Rental Bonds, ACT Revenue Office.

ACT Health and Canberra Health Services—resources (Question No 738)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 8 April 2022:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a list of all ACT Government run health services, including (a) how much funding the service received in 2020-21 and the forward estimates to 2024-25, (b) a link to a website or information about the service and (c) how many staff work at each service including their job title, employment type and workload.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a list of all health services that have been discontinued by the ACT Government since 2016, including (a) how many staff worked at these services, (b) the type of service eg, inpatient, outpatient, recovery, screening etc, (c) total funding each program received and (d) why the service has been discontinued and how long it operated.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a list of all health services which are not run by the ACT Government but receive ACT Government funding, including (a) how much funding each service receives, (b) the type of service eg, inpatient, outpatient, recovery, screening etc and (c) how long the service has been operating and contract details.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of all staff who work in a health capacity for ACT Health and Canberra Health Services (eg, staff who provide direct health services such as doctors and nurses, not mental health staff and not administration/human resources/communications staff, etc), including job title, employment type, salary and work description.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Information in response to this question relates to Canberra Health Services, which delivers most ACT Government run health services. The ACT Health Directorate directly delivers a range of public health services and services at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm.
 - (a) Please refer to Budget Paper C. Many services are not funded at the service unit level.

https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1698934/2020-21-Budget-Statements-C.pdf

- (b) A list of services can be found via the following link:
<https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/services-and-clinics>.
- (c) Information about the number of people and employment type has been provided below per Division at Canberra Health Services (as at 30 March 2022) as the level of data granularity required to answer this question is not currently available.

Workload is a complex measure that is not reported to the level of detail asked for in the question. In any case, it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide the amount of detail requested for each of almost 8,000 staff. Roles and responsibilities for relevant staff that work across the health services in the ACT are outlined in Enterprise Agreements that can be accessed via the following link:
<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/employment-framework/for-employees/agreements>

Division	Casual	Permanent	Temporary
Allied Health	13	154	65
Cancer & Ambulatory Service	129	572	205
Chief Operating Officer	27	31	10
Finance & Business Intelligence	4	162	17
Infrastructure & Health Support Services	39	295	40
Medical Services	38	559	285
Medicine	16	871	329
Mental health, Justice Health & Alcohol & Drug Services	21	704	134
Nursing & Midwifery & Patient Support Services	171	275	31
Office of CEO	98	41	20
Office of Deputy CEO		44	7
People & Culture	1	80	7
Quality Safety Innovation & Improvement	0	40	0
Rehabilitation, Aged & Community Services	7	448	81
Surgery	1	839	227
Uni of Canberra Hospital	30	256	70
Women, Youth & Children	30	672	131
Grand Total	625	6043	1,659

- (2) Service changes occur as part of the expansion and continuous improvement of health services provision or where re-direction of services is required to respond to community need. These changes do not result in a reduction in workforce. The headcount for the health service is detailed below by FY:

Financial Year	Total Headcount
2016-17	7,043
2017-18	7,606
2018-19*	7,377
2019-20	7,597
2020-21	7,921

*Please note that in October 2018, ACTHD and CHS separated to become two different directorates and HC at this time was split.

A list of each service change to the level of data granularity requested is not currently available and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide the amount of detail requested. Recent examples of service changes include:

- The Inner-North Walk-in Centre has been closed temporarily and staff redirected to COVID, this has resulted in no job losses.
- The Chronic Diseases Unit has redirected staff to support the Acute Medical Unit, this has resulted in no job losses.

Information about funding can be found in the ACT Government Budget Papers as per the above link. Many services are not funded at the service unit level.

Information about service changes may also be found in the Annual Reports for CHS and the ACT Health Directorate.

- (3) (a) Please refer to Attachment A for a list of all health services which are not run by the ACT Government but are funded by ACTHD.

In addition, the funding and provision of services at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) is governed by the legal contract known as the Calvary Network Agreement (CNA), which came into effect in February 2012, superseding prior arrangements. The CNA establishes Calvary Health Care ACT Ltd (Calvary) as a service provider of the ACT Local Hospital Network (ACT LHN) for the services it provides at CPHB.

The CNA sets out the requirements for annual Performance Plans between the Directorate and Calvary and for the financial year 2021-22 CPHB received \$261 million in funding.

CPHB have been in operation providing health services in the ACT since May 1979 when an agreement between the Commonwealth Government and Corporation of the Little Company of Mary was reached in October 1971 to construct and operate a public hospital.

- (b) CPHB is a fully accredited general public hospital and a teaching hospital. CPHB operates several outpatient clinics and other services, including:

- cancer services
- cardiology
- critical care
- maternity
- voluntary inpatient mental health services

- stroke services
- Hospital in the Home.

(c) See response provided to question 3(a).

- (4) ACT Health data on staff who provide direct health services is not currently available and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to create in response to this question.

CHS is unable to report on staff who provide direct health services, the numbers outlined below are classification groups paid as of 30 March 2022. The Division of Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services has been omitted as have corporate divisions with the exception of the CEO's office where some COVID related health care staff reside in the structure.

As previously mentioned, CHS does not have a reporting indicator that defines frontline clinical or non clinical roles undertaken by a clinician. CHS does not report by job title, rather classification group which has been included below. Salary ranges for these can be accessed through the enterprise agreements.

	Casual	Permanent	Temporary
Dental	0	15	1
Health Assistants	1	72	15
Health Professional Officers	27	748	164
Medical Officers	5	329	639
Nursing and Midwifery Staff	282	2,689	484
Professional Officers	0	2	4
Technical Officers	35	119	19

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

ACT Health and Canberra Health Services—complaints (Question No 741)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 8 April 2022:

- (1) How can Canberrans make complaints about staff and/or services at our public hospitals and what mechanisms exist to make complaints (eg, in person at hospital, Access Canberra, a telephone hotline, etc).
- (2) How many complaints have there been to ACT Health and Canberra Health Services since 2016.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the types of complaints and how the complaints were made.

- (4) How many of these complaints (a) were resolved or escalated and (b) remain unresolved or still under investigation.
- (5) How many complaints are yet to be dealt with.
- (6) Can the Minister provide information and numbers about who is making complaints (eg, patients/consumers, carers, health staff, management).
- (7) How many complaints have resulted in legal action since 2016.
- (8) How many of those complaints that have resulted in legal action have involved legal action against the ACT Government and can the Minister provide details and costs incurred to the Government.
- (9) How long does it take to investigate a complaint on average including details by type of complaint.
- (10) What is the procedure for managing, investigating and following up with Canberrans who lodge a health complaint.
- (11) How many staff work/have worked for complaints platforms across the health system since 2016.
- (12) How many of the complaints, which have been resolved since 2016, are/have been later reopened or escalated and why.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- 1) Feedback can be provided to Canberra Health Services (CHS) in several ways, these include:
 - Speaking with a CHS team member.
 - Completing a Consumer and Carer Feedback Form and placing the form in one of the feedback blue boxes available across CHS facilities, or place in the Australia Post.
 - Sending an email to healthfeedback@act.gov.au.
 - Completing the online form on the CHS Internet site:
<https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/forms/i-want-to-provide-feedback-about-a-public-health-service>.
 - Completing the feedback form via the ACT Health App.
 - Calling the CHS Consumer Feedback and Engagement Team on 5124 5932.

Feedback about services provided by Calvary Public Hospital Bruce can be provided in several ways, these include:

- In-person to Calvary staff whilst admitted or attending outpatient services.
- Completing a "Patient Feedback" form available throughout the hospital.
- Completing the online form on the Calvary website:
<https://www.calvarycare.org.au/contact/feedback/>
- Emailing Calvary's Consumer Feedback team at feedback@calvary-act.com.au
- Calling Calvary's Consumer Feedback team on (02) 6264 7260.

Feedback about all health services can also be provided to the ACT Human Rights Commission on (02) 6205 2222 or by completing their online form at <https://hrc.act.gov.au/complaints/>

Feedback can also be provided by writing to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Mental Health, or another Member of the Legislative Assembly.

- 2) For the period of 1 January 2016 – 28 February 2022 there have been 10,941 complaints made to CHS and its predecessor services within then ACT Health. This total includes complaints received via the Ministerial and Human Rights Commission processes.

The ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) provides strategic leadership, policy and planning advice, and oversight of the public health system. ACTHD commissions and manages contracts for the delivery of public hospital services but does not directly provide any public hospital services. All feedback received by ACTHD in relation to the provision of public hospital services is referred to the relevant service provider for response.

- 3) The top 5 themes of complaints received from 1 January 2016 – 28 February 2022 were: conduct (27%), information/communication/education (22%), access (19%), quality and safety (16%), and facilities/resources (7%).

The top 5 modes that complaints were received for the period of 1 January 2016 – 28 February 2022 was via: feedback form (30%), online form (24%), telephone (15%), email (11%) and Ministerial (11%).

- 4) 23 complaints remain open from the period of 1 January 2016 – 28 February 2022. The remainder have been managed and closed.
- 5) All 23 open complaints are currently being investigated by CHS.
- 6) Many complaints are anonymous and CHS systems do not collect data differentiating between types of complainants.
- 7) Since 2016, 47 claims were received that originated as complaints. Ten of the 47 claims relate to incidents occurring prior to 2016.
- 8) The below table provides detail on the costs incurred by the ACT Government on the claims identified in question 7 to the extent possible, whilst maintaining the privacy of personal information relating to the complaints. The Territory is represented in all matters by the ACT Government Solicitor (ACTGS) and the costs of representation and compensation are met from existing ACTGS resourcing and through the Territory's insurance arrangements with the ACT Insurance Authority (ACTIA).

Category of claim	Number of claims	Costs incurred by Government
Medical Negligence	42	\$6,069,045.46
Negligence (other than Medical Negligence)	5	\$828,844.84

- 9) For the period of 1 January 2016 – 28 February 2022, the average number of days to close a complaint was 20.59 days. The National Key Performance Indicator for the closure of complaints is 35 calendar days (excluding Ministerials and Human Rights Commission responses).

- 10) Please refer to the Consumer Feedback Policy and Procedure which is available on the CHS website: <http://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/about-us/policies-and-guidelines>

Complaints about public hospital services received by ACTHD are currently referred on to the relevant public hospital service provider for management in accordance with their policies and procedures.

- 11) The CHS Consumer Feedback and Engagement Team has 4 Full-time Equivalent team members. Complaints management and responses to complaints is also the responsibility of the executive support team, clinicians and administrative team members across CHS.

Coordination and management of consumer feedback relating to public hospital services (e.g., referring to service provider for response) is managed by the relevant ACTHD business unit as part of the normal course of administrative business.

- 12) The CHS Feedback Module IT system is unable to report on reopened complaints.

Youth—programs (Question No 748)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Families and Community Services, upon notice, on 8 April 2022:

- (1) In relation to the Pilot of the Head Start program, raised in the Minister's progress update on the implementation of the ACT Children and Young People's Commitment 2015-2025, dated 6 April 2022, (a) when did the pilot of this program begin, and when is it expected to end, (b) what are the intended/desired outcomes, and how will these outcomes be assessed, (c) how many students are currently engaged in the program, (d) how were these students chosen and/or identified, (e) how many full-time equivalent staffing positions are currently being funded as part of this pilot and (f) what are the responsibilities of these staff.
- (2) In relation to the ACT Job Trainer program, raised in the Minister's progress update on the implementation of the ACT Children and Young People's Commitment 2015-2025, dated 6 April 2022, (a) when will the extension of the ACT Job Trainer program end, (b) what has been the actual demand, given the program provides 2,500 training places, (c) if demand has exceeded supply, is there any kind of waiting list; if so, how long is it, and (d) if demand has not matched supply, what steps has the ACT Government taken to promote this program.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- 1a) The 2021-22 ACT Budget committed funding for the Head Start Pilot Program over three years from 2021-22 until 2023-24. Head Start places will be available to students from term 2 in 2022.
- 1b) The aim of the Head Start Pilot program is to provide increased Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASbA) opportunities across ACT public schools and local industry, with a focus on needed skills for industries and dedicated support for students and employers. Up to 50 Head Start students and their employers will be supported by a dedicated team in the Education Support Office.

The Directorate is developing a detailed evaluation plan to assess the outcomes of the pilot, including both formative and summative evaluation stages and ongoing consultation with schools throughout the program.

- 1c) The Head Start Pilot program is on track to have its first students engaged in the program in term 2 of 2022, with the full complement of 50 students under the pilot to commence by the end of the 2022 school year.
- 1d) Head Start places will be advertised to all students in ACT public high schools and colleges. Students will be selected for a Head Start position via an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. As part of the EOI process, the Head Start team will consider a student's interests and identified career pathways they would like to explore, as well as the student's readiness for the program. The Head Start team will work together with students and their family and school to ensure that the Head Start pathway and chosen qualification, industry and employer is the right fit.
- 1e) The Head Start team includes five full-time equivalent positions funded as part of the pilot.

1f) Industry Coordinator (Fulltime)

- Identify and consult with employers in skills needs industries
- Increase student access to work placements with industry – both work experience and school-based apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities
- Assist employers that have not engaged school-based apprentices and trainees before to understand their obligations when employing a young person still at school
- Work with the Head Start Career Coach and employers to find the 'best match' for both students and employers
- Support employers to understand how to integrate school-based apprenticeships and traineeships into their workforce development model – creating a positive impact on recruitment and long-term workforce, productivity and workplace culture.

Career Coach (Fulltime)

- Increase student access to career education, and enable students across all ACT Public Schools to have equal access to Head Start positions
- Work with individual students and the Head Start Social Worker to understand the 'best match' between students and employers
- Work with schools (particularly high schools) to understand the personalised pathway needs of students that express interest in Head Start, including negotiation of a tailored school timetable
- Provide ongoing support to Head Start students throughout program to enable each student to establish their career goals and get the most out of their Head Start experience
- In collaboration with the Head Start Industry Co-ordinator, work with employers to support successful implementation of each student's Head Start Pathway Plan.

Social Worker (Fulltime)

- Work with students and their families, employers and schools to identify the wrap-around support services each student needs to maximise success in their Head Start placement

- Assist students to access support services that will enable them to remain engaged and successfully complete their Head Start placement.

ASbA Liaison and Project Support Officer (Trainee – 0.8)

- Raise awareness of the benefits of ASbAs through the delivery of information sessions to high schools
- Present to high school and college students on the benefits of a vocational education and training pathway
- Provide administration support to the Head Start team
- Provide peer support for Head Start participants

Assistant Director – Programs and Projects (2 x 0.6)

- Project development and implementation, ensuring systems and services work reliably and securely with a focus on continuous improvement
- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with key government partners, schools, employers, registered training organisations and Apprenticeship Network Providers
- Perform research and analysis work including the preparation of reports and briefs on relevant program activities and/or project milestones
- Co-ordinate procurement activities and perform contract management duties.

2a) Enrolments under the JobTrainer extension and expansion (JobTrainer 2.0) close on 31 December 2022, with programs continuing throughout 2023-2024.

2b) At 21 April 2022, there have been 1,788 enrolments in JobTrainer 2.0. courses. These courses comprise both full qualifications and short courses. Further places will be made available in the second half of 2022. The final number of places funded through JobTrainer 2.0 will depend on student demand and the uptake of higher-cost full qualifications and lower-cost short courses.

2c) Waiting lists for specific courses may be held by individual registered training organisations (RTOs) approved to enrol students in JobTrainer courses.

2d) The Australian Government MySkills, ACT Government JobTrainer and Skills Canberra websites are updated regularly to promote JobTrainer courses and the RTOs delivering them. The ACT also implemented a JobTrainer promotional campaign that includes social media and radio advertising.

**Women—build-to-rent-to-buy housing initiative
(Question No 753)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 8 April 2022:

- (1) What is the current status of the development of a Build-to-Rent-to-Buy women's housing initiative in Ginninderry.
- (2) What potential sites in Ginninderry have been identified to date.
- (3) What funding models have been considered so far.

- (4) When is the pilot expected to commence.
- (5) How long will the pilot be in operation.
- (6) How many participants are expected.
- (7) How will participants be chosen for the pilot.
- (8) How can at-risk and vulnerable women in the ACT apply to participate in the pilot.
- (9) What eligibility criteria have been considered for this initiative, eg, age range, determinants for at-risk and vulnerability, income threshold, disability etc.
- (10) What other housing initiatives are available across the ACT for at-risk and vulnerable women.
- (11) Are there any Build-to-Rent-to-Buy schemes currently available in the ACT; if so, can the Minister provide details on these schemes.

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

- (1) Discussions are ongoing between the Ginninderry Joint Venture, Community Housing Canberra (CHC) and the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC).
- (2) Project planning is still ongoing and while some sites in Ginninderry have been identified for preliminary modelling the site is yet to be confirmed.
- (3) Project planning is still ongoing and the funding models are yet to be determined. Consideration is being given to a range of funding options including equity arrangements and through NHFIC.
- (4) Project planning is still ongoing and the commencement date is yet to be determined.
- (5) Project planning is still ongoing and the length of the pilot is yet to be determined.
- (6) Project planning is still ongoing and the number of participants is yet to be determined.
- (7) Project planning is still ongoing and the method to select participants is yet to be determined.
- (8) Project planning is still ongoing and the method to select participants and how they can apply, including at-risk and vulnerable women, is yet to be determined.
- (9) Project planning is still ongoing and the eligibility criteria for participants is yet to be determined.
- (10) There are a range of social housing initiatives for at-risk and vulnerable women across the ACT. These include Housing ACT providing public housing with around 12,000 properties spread across most suburbs, this

provides long-term rental for those on low to moderate incomes. In addition, there are a number of Community Housing Providers also offering housing and services. OneLink is the central information and access point for a range of human services including housing, homelessness and child, youth and family services in the Australian Capital Territory. OneLink can talk to community members about housing options, including emergency accommodation, public housing, community housing, private rental and other options, and about what assistance might be available.

- (11) I am not aware of any Build-to-Rent-to-Buy schemes currently operating in the ACT.

**Dhulwa Mental Health Unit—safety
(Question No 761)**

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) Does Dhulwa Secure Mental Health Unit (Dhulwa) or the Directorate/Canberra Health Services (CHS) keep information about Australian Federal Police (AFP) staff/ACT Policing visiting Dhulwa; if not, why not; if so, how often have AFP staff visited Dhulwa since it opened including details for the reason for each visit and outcome.
- (2) Does Dhulwa or the Directorate/CHS keep information about staff registering complaints to the AFP; if not, why not; if so, how many complaints have been made to the AFP including the reason for the complaint and the outcome.
- (3) What action have AFP staff taken in relation to Dhulwa.
- (4) Have security arrangements/processes changed since Dhulwa opened; if so, how have they changed.
- (5) Have security arrangements/processes been reviewed since Dhulwa opened; if so, can the Minister provide details on (a) what type of review/s, (b) by whom, (c) what were the results of the review/s and (d) any action arising from the review/s.
- (6) How many security officers are employed at Dhulwa and how many are rostered for each shift.
- (7) Do security officers patrol the facility or remain at the front entrance.
- (8) Have security staff made any complaints about working at Dhulwa since it opened.
- (9) What is the process for security staff to make complaints including details on the (a) number of complaints, (b) nature of complaints and (c) how it was handled/responded to.
- (10) Have any security staff been assaulted (physically/verbally) since Dhulwa opened; if so, can the Minister provide relevant details on these assaults.
- (11) What type of specific training are security staff required to have before they are employed at Dhulwa.

- (12) How often is training required to be updated/refreshed.
- (13) Can the Minister provide details about what training security staff have received and if any training has not been delivered, why not.
- (14) What is the annual cost of employing Dhulwa security staff for each year that Dhulwa has been open.
- (15) Can the Minister provide details about any investigation and what/if any subsequent action was taken by Dhulwa/CHS/the Directorate, following the ABC report of 6 April 2022 that in 2018 several nurses reported being punched in the face and kicked in the head during multiple assaults by a patient and that ACT Policing investigated.

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

1. The Mental Health Act 2015 mandates the provision of least restrictive care. Dhulwa is a sub acute unit, a secure hospital facility and not a correctional facility. While there can be complex and challenging consumers, the model of care within Dhulwa is designed to be recovery focused and therapeutic, not punitive, or disciplinary. Police attendance at Dhulwa is not specifically recorded by Canberra Health Services (CHS), however a visitors' book is maintained by Dhulwa administration team members. To 18 May 2022, ACT Policing attended Dhulwa on 27 occasions since it opened in July 2017. For privacy and operational reasons, ACT Policing is not in a position, to share information regarding specific reasons for attendance in response to incidents at Dhulwa.
2. No. Teams are encouraged to make a complaint to police but are not obligated.
3. ACT Policing advise that when responding to any incident in the community, ACT Policing always takes the appropriate action directly relevant to the nature of that incident. For privacy and operational reasons, ACT Policing is not in a position to share information regarding specific police actions in response to incidents at Dhulwa.
4. Yes. Incidents are reviewed, both formally and informally, and risk mitigations are put in place where appropriate. Security officers are rotated between Dhulwa and other sites as part of a strategy to minimise complacency and mental fatigue, and as a continuity arrangement to provide appropriately skilled team members if there are shortages because of the public health emergency. At the request of the Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol & Drug Services Executive Director in October 2018, a security officer was permanently placed in the Lomandra nursing station to accompany clinical team members on the ward if there was a risk of occupational violence. Prior to this arrangement, security officers did not enter clinical areas unless a duress alarm was activated.
5. There has been no external reviews of security arrangements, however internal governance documents continue to be updated where gaps and improvements are identified.
6. A mixed-model approach to staffing was commenced in July 2019 across all of Canberra Health Services. The Security Supervisor and Security Control Room operator are directly employed by CHS. The remainder of guarding at the facility are contracted through a security labour company. There are five security officers during the day, and four security officers during the night, who work 12-hour shifts.

7. Security officers work primarily at the entry to the facility and are responsible for scanning and entry procedures, control room functions, and patrolling the perimeter fence, carparks and non treatment areas of the facility. The security officer assigned to the Lomandra nursing station may be asked to accompany clinical staff on the ward if there is a risk of occupational violence.
8. Yes.
9. Depending on the nature of the complaint, contracted security officers can make a complaint to their company or, for minor matters, to the site supervisor. Direct employees can make a complaint to their manager or, for more serious matters, through one of the ratified CHS or public service complaint mechanisms.
- Numerous emails from one former contracted security officer;
 - The complaint focused on perceived mistreatment of contracted security officers by management, favouritism towards employed officers, bullying and unfair work practices, response to violence and aggression incidents and several minor operational issues;
 - An internal preliminary assessment was conducted by a senior-grade officer and found that claims made directly against employees personally were unfounded. The complainant was provided with explanations and detail related to many of their grievances, however the complainant had chosen not to accept these, nor to take any initiative to make improvements on their own benefit. The assessment found that appropriate measures had been put in place to many of the complainant's concerns.
10. Yes. There was a total of 32 incidents reported by security members since the opening of the facility. These are summarised in the below table. Details of the eight serious and moderate incidents involving physical assault are outlined below.

Injury category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Serious injury received	0	0	0	1	1	1
Moderate injury received	0	0	0	3	1	0
Minor injury received	0	0	0	1	6	1
No injury, hazardous situation	0	0	0	4	16	2
Total	0	0	0	9	24	4

- In January 2022, a Security Supervisor fell and struck his head on a concrete retaining wall while trying to restrain two consumers who were assaulting each other. The supervisor momentarily lost consciousness and was taken to Canberra Hospital for assessment.
- In December 2019, two Security Officers were attempting to restrain a violent consumer. The Doctor directed them to release the consumer and the consumer immediately continued assaulting team members. Both security officers received punches and kicks to their body and received minor injuries requiring first aid treatment.
- In August 2020, two Security Supervisors were assaulted by the same consumer on separate occasions. During the process of restraining the consumer each time, one supervisor sustained a fractured cheek bone with severe bleeding and one supervisor sustained a black eye.

- d. During the 2019-20 financial year, two Security Supervisors and one contracted security officer received knee injuries requiring rehabilitation. These occurred from the same consumer, on separate occasions. When they attempted restraint, the consumer used their body weight to drop to the floor each time causing the restraint team to fall to the floor.
11. All security officers must complete their Certificate II in Security Operations, at a minimum, and possess an ACT Security Licence with appropriate sub-classes. CHS provides a training and induction program which consists of:
 - a. An initial online induction course;
 - b. A three-day familiarisation and core competency induction at Canberra Hospital with an experienced mentor;
 - c. An e-learning package consisting of topics including: Security officer role and functions, fire and emergency, child protection, hand hygiene, family violence, speaking up for safety, and working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and clients, Work Health and Safety Fundamentals, workplace Behaviours and Personal Safety and conflict Awareness modules;
 - d. A two-day Occupational Violence Training control and restraint program;
 - e. A Dhulwa-specific site orientation and familiarisation of baggage x-ray scanning, metal detection, building management systems, biometric systems and registration, and control room operations;
 - f. Security Supervisors receive additional training in supervisory responsibilities, such as Riskman reporting, managing workplace behaviours, resolving workplace issues, underperformance training, diversity and inclusion principles, conflict handling and personal safety, as well as searching, handcuffing and baton use for escorts of correctional patients outside of the facility;
 - g. At the opening of the facility, all security officers received in-depth training on communication skills, de-escalation techniques, response to incidents, and training on legislation and policies.
12. Security contractors are required to complete fire and emergency training and hand hygiene awareness annually. Directly employed security members are required to complete fire and emergency training, hand hygiene awareness, and e-learning programs for security officer role and functions, handcuff and baton use, and searching each year. Directly employed security members also must complete their Certificate III in Security Operations within the first 12 months of their employment. CHS invested \$150k in training security officers prior to opening the facility and has continued to invest \$120k since its opening on providing training in occupational violence minimisation to security officers.
13. All security officers are currently scheduled to complete a one-day transition course to train them in the new CHS Occupational Violence Training package. Security supervisors are scheduled to undertake one day of further practical training in baton and handcuffs application in Q4 of 2021-22.
14. A table of costs are outlined below. The figure for 2016-17 financial year reflects \$150k of costs associated with training of security officers prior to opening the facility. An additional 24/7 security officer was added to the staffing complement in October 2018, thus an increase in the 2018-19 financial year. The figure for 2021-22 financial year is inclusive up to end of April 2022.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Annual staffing cost	\$1.27m	\$1.87m	\$2.47m	\$2.51m	\$2.56m	\$2.01m*

15. CHS has an organisational priority to ensure team members are safe at work and take the safety concerns of teams very seriously. At team meetings in all mental health inpatient units, the Director of Nursing has outlined the OV strategies in place, what opportunities and supports are available, and how these can be utilised.

These include:

- Reinvigorating the Safewards methodology;
- Dynamic ISBAR (Introduction, Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendations/ Read back) has been introduced. This tool is used to assess risk and develop a plan before approaching or undertaking any planned intervention with a consumer that could trigger agitation or aggression towards team members;
- Safety Huddles— these occurs in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team after every clinical handover (shift change) to briefly discuss any safety incidents that have occurred over the last 24-hours and potential issues that may pose a risk to team members or consumers throughout out the shift and any team members;
- A senior nurse has been appointed to focus on OV across MHJHADS. The clinician has been assigned to Dhulwa for three months to support training, education, reporting, governance, coaching, mentoring and the development and implementation of new strategies to reduce OV;
- The introduction of scenario-based training to provide clinical teams and security the opportunity to practice OV response techniques. This is expected to support and improve team member confidence to lead and coordinate effective response to OV incidents;
- Senior management have been working on weekends to provide leadership, encouragement, and additional support for team members;
- The Clinical Nurse Educator position has recently been appointed to structure and facilitate team education programs and reinvigorate the use of the Safewards model in Dhulwa.

All nursing team members at Dhulwa have been given the opportunity to work across different mental health inpatient units across CHS. Redeployment can be temporary or long-term and remains available to team members. There are several benefits of Dhulwa nursing staff working across different units, these include:

- a break away from a forensic environment;
- teamwork and engagement with colleagues in different work environments and with different skillsets;
- opportunity to further develop skills and experience in delivering mental health services to a broad range of consumers;
- exposure to demonstrated OV training principles and de-escalation techniques in practice in different units; and
- return to their usual work environment and discuss ideas or key learnings.

Capital Linen Service—financial data (Question No 762)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

Can the Minister provide financial statements for Capital Linen Service for the financial years 2018-19 to present, including (a) operating statement, (b) balance sheet, (c) cash flow statement, (d) statement of changes in equity, (e) statement of income and expenses on behalf of the Territory, (f) statement of assets and liabilities on behalf of the Territory and (g) details of any capital expenditure.

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

Capital Linen Service's financial statements are consolidated at the Directorate level, as a result the statements provided at Attachment A are the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the periods requested.

Further material financial information is contained within Transport Canberra and City Services financial statements and notes, published in the corresponding annual reports.

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

Government—debt (Question No 763)

Ms Lee asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

Can the Treasurer advise, in relation to all ACT Government borrowings broken down by tranche the (a) amount borrowed, (b) strike date, (c) expiry date, (d) interest rate and (e) debt type (interest only, principal and interest, or other).

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

Information about ACT Government borrowings is provided on pages 302-304 of the 2021-22 Budget Outlook and pages 90-92 of the 2021-22 Budget Review.

The details of all current outstanding ACT Government borrowings are set out below:

Series	Tranche	Type ¹	Face Value Issued (\$m)	Issue Yield (%)	Coupon (%)	Issue Date	Maturity Date
ACT002	ACT001	IAB	300	2.400	na	12.06.2008	12.06.2048
	ACT002	IAB	120	3.920		03.06.2009	
ACT003	ACT001	CIB	250	3.700	3.50	17.06.2010	17.06.2030
ACT008	ACT001	MTN	500	4.200	4.00	22.05.2014	22.05.2024
ACT010	ACT001	MTN	525	2.645	2.50	23.05.2016	21.05.2026
ACT011	ACT001	MTN	550	3.235	3.00	18.04.2018	18.04.2028
ACT012	ACT001	MTN	675	2.360	2.25	22.05.2019	22.05.2029
	ACT002	MTN	225	1.785		17.04.2020	
ACT013	ACT001	MTN	1,000	1.160	1.25	13.08.2019	22.05.2025

Series	Tranche	Type ¹	Face Value Issued (\$m)	Issue Yield (%)	Coupon Rate (%)	Issue Date	Maturity Date
ACT014	ACT001	MTN	1,000	1.845	1.75	23.10.2019	23.10.2031
ACT015	ACT001	MTN	1,100	0.860	1.00	17.04.2020	17.04.2023
ACT016	ACT001	MTN	1,000	1.790	1.75	17.05.2021	17.05.2030
ACT017	ACT001	MTN	1,250	2.575	2.50	15.02.2022	22.10.2032

¹ Type

- Indexed Annuity Bond ('IAB'). Annuity payments are made quarterly, comprising both interest and principal payments. Both the interest and principal repayments are adjusted for movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The bond is fully repaid by maturity.
- Capital Indexed Bond ('CIB'). The capital value of the security is adjusted for movements in the CPI. Interest is paid quarterly at the fixed coupon rate on the adjusted capital value. The adjusted capital value is fully repaid at maturity.
- Medium Term Note ('MTN'). Interest payments are made semi-annually at the fixed coupon rate over the life of the bond. The capital face value is fully repaid at maturity.

Planning—housing choices (Question No 764)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

Is household formation factored into the residential supply and demand modelling; if so, can the Minister briefly describe how; if not, why not.

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

Yes. The *Residential Supply and Demand Model* considers the household formation such as people's living arrangements by dwelling type, household type and family type. This data is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2016 Census and forward data in its *Household and Family Projections publication*. This information is an input to inform the average persons per dwelling calculations during the development of the Indicative Land Release Program.

ACT State Emergency Services—work health and safety (Question No 766)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) What are the work health and safety standards for State Emergency Service (SES) vehicles.
- (2) What is the minimum level of equipment for ensuring the safety of volunteers that is required to be carried by the vehicles.
- (3) What is the minimum level of equipment for ensuring the safety and health of those at the scene being responded to.

- (4) Does each vehicle carry the same level of equipment.
- (5) Does the minimum level of equipment meet with the work health and safety standards.
- (6) Do automated external defibrillators (AEDs) form part of the minimum level of equipment for each vehicle; if not, (a) how many vehicles are equipped with AEDs and (b) how often are these vehicles deployed.
- (7) How often are AEDs used in emergency situations where SES vehicles attend.
- (8) Is there spare stock of AEDs available for use in all vehicles.

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

- (1) All ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) vehicles are designed and maintained to meet operational and legislative requirements. This includes the requirements contained in the Australian Design Rules, Road Transport Act 1999, and Work Health and Safety Act 2011.
- (2) The minimum level of equipment for ensuring the safety of volunteers and those at an incident is a fire extinguisher (1kg and 4.5kg), First Aid Kit, an automated external defibrillator (AED), fire blanket, eFlare kit, P2 dust masks, C5 ear plugs, traffic cones, compliant day/night high visibility vests and a carton of water 600ml bottles.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic all vehicles have also maintained a stock of masks, hand sanitiser, spray disinfectant and alcohol wipes for cleaning and personnel hygiene.

- (3) The ACTSES utilises their vehicles as a mobile work platform, containing necessary equipment to complete temporary repairs deemed appropriate for each Request For Assistance (RFA), while ensuring the safety of those at the scene, including the public and/or crew members.

If an RFA is deemed too hazardous or places the public and/or crew members at risk, Team Leaders are authorised to inform the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Communications Centre and the resident that ACTSES is unable to assist, and further advice is provided to contact a subject matter expert, for example, utility providers, arborists, asbestos removalists, and building maintenance contractors.

- (4) The ACTSES fleet consists of different types of vehicles depending on the nature of the incident they are attending. All ACTSES vehicles carry a minimum level of equipment for ensuring safety, as outlined in question (2). In addition, each type of vehicle carries the specific equipment required to perform their specific operational tasks.
 - (5) Yes, as outlined in question (1).
 - (6) Yes, as outlined in question (2).
 - (7) AEDs have been in ACTSES vehicles since 2018. To date, there have been no reports of an AED being used in an emergency situation, where the ACTSES has attended.
 - (8) Yes.
-

**Transport Canberra—bus stops
(Question No 769)**

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of what buses stop at (a) Canberra Hospital, (b) each walk-in centre, for example, Dickson, Belconnen, Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Gungahlin, (c) University of Canberra Hospital, (d) Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, (e) Canberra Region Cancer Centre and (f) Calvary Public Hospital.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of (a) the first and last stop of the buses, (b) what times buses are scheduled to arrive and (c) any other public transport that stops, at the buildings listed in part (1).

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

- (1) and (2)

Refer to Attachment A for a breakdown of bus routes passing each location including indicative off peak weekday frequency. The information provided is a guide to available public transport services. For information on specific times please refer the Transport Canberra Website www.transport.act.gov.au

(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).

**Municipal services—Fix My Street
(Question No 770)**

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown, by each Yerrabi suburb, of how many Fix My Street requests have been lodged for (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18, (c) 2018-19, (d) 2019-20, (e) 2020-21 and (f) 2021-22.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the requests referred to in part (1) by categories in Fix My Street.

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

- (1) The ACT Government does not collect or collate data on the basis of electorates. When considering the available data in the context of suburbs located within the Yerrabi electorate, a total of 29,388 Fix My Street requests have been lodged in these suburbs since 2016. These have been broken down in the table below.

Data is not provided for Evatt, Lawson and McKellar beyond 2018-19 as these suburbs were removed from the Yerrabi electorate in 2019.

Data is not provided for Taylor prior to 2017-18 as this suburb was only created in 2016.

Where there is no data in a particular category for a particular suburb, this means there were no Fix My Street requests in that category for the relevant time period.

(2) See categories in the table overleaf.

FMS Service Requests By Suburb	Fin. Yrs 2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Grand Total
AMAROO							
Place Management	35	13	17	10	33	120	228
Regulatory Activities	70	39	57	60	40	27	293
Roads Management	45	31	44	80	89	105	394
Streetlights	155	191	102	39	21	44	552
Tree Management	106	113	115	111	118	144	707
AMAROO Total	411	387	335	300	301	440	2,174
BONNER							
Place Management	61	33	19	21	33	108	275
Regulatory Activities	88	69	60	60	51	66	394
Roads Management	24	15	16	38	84	51	228
Streetlights	69	62	60	58	13	84	346
Tree Management	24	22	35	44	43	73	241
BONNER Total	266	201	190	221	224	382	1,484
CASEY							
Place Management	73	21	41	23	50	131	339
Regulatory Activities	90	50	100	103	83	59	485
Roads Management	28	21	26	69	171	92	407
Streetlights	31	58	37	32	14	73	245
Tree Management	38	35	36	57	54	49	269
CASEY Total	260	185	240	284	372	404	1,745
CRACE							
Place Management	34	28	9	9	18	87	185
Regulatory Activities	105	40	47	62	49	25	328
Roads Management	31	18	15	29	35	42	170
Streetlights	11	33	50	6	7	41	148
Tree Management	35	41	35	53	35	48	247
CRACE Total	216	160	156	159	144	243	1,078
EVATT							
Place Management	23	15	12				50
Regulatory Activities	47	45	41				133
Roads Management	49	25	34				108
Streetlights	33	37	79				149
Tree Management	192	124	135				451
EVATT Total	344	246	301				891
FORDE							
Place Management	66	36	13	20	19	73	227
Regulatory Activities	50	37	34	38	35	22	216
Roads Management	31	20	15	40	80	79	265
Streetlights	42	59	71	30	4	23	229
Tree Management	64	69	62	70	58	47	370
FORDE Total	253	221	195	198	196	244	1,307
FRANKLIN							
Place Management	19	20	10	17	28	121	215
Regulatory Activities	109	98	105	67	77	134	590
Roads Management	23	24	40	45	62	51	245
Streetlights	48	71	68	29	10	30	256
Tree Management	55	61	54	49	45	69	333
FRANKLIN Total	254	274	277	207	222	405	1,639

FMS Service Requests By Suburb	Fin. Yrs 2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Grand Total
GIRALANG							
Place Management	30	14	15	9	15	84	167
Regulatory Activities	42	29	45	33	17	12	178
Roads Management	48	27	21	45	45	53	239
Streetlights	30	51	84	29	7	16	217
Tree Management	86	55	54	67	64	83	409
GIRALANG Total	236	176	219	183	148	248	1,210
GUNGAHLIN							
Place Management	71	34	30	43	67	322	567
Regulatory Activities	203	122	132	141	141	104	843
Roads Management	111	95	87	173	244	253	963
Streetlights	110	167	94	52	14	50	487
Tree Management	72	110	74	97	77	113	543
GUNGAHLIN Total	567	528	417	506	543	842	3,403
HALL							
Place Management	11	3		1	6	12	33
Regulatory Activities	12	5	5	28	3	3	56
Roads Management	24	10	12	23	13	17	99
Streetlights		8	3	3	0	2	16
Tree Management	19	12	13	17	22	16	99
HALL Total	66	38	33	72	44	50	303
HARRISON							
Place Management	48	22	9	15	43	217	354
Regulatory Activities	114	93	100	102	89	56	554
Roads Management	48	38	39	88	112	73	398
Streetlights	93	146	106	42	8	59	454
Tree Management	53	55	78	67	88	99	440
HARRISON Total	356	354	332	314	340	504	2,200
JACKA							
Place Management	5	0	1	0	5	12	23
Regulatory Activities	10	9	7	4	1	6	37
Roads Management	3	1	1	3	10	6	24
Streetlights	2		3	3	3	5	16
Tree Management	4	1	2	2	4	1	14
JACKA Total	24	11	14	12	23	30	114
KALEEN							
Place Management	45	21	37	22	36	148	309
Regulatory Activities	100	75	91	67	28	28	389
Roads Management	79	69	68	126	112	156	610
Streetlights	114	164	68	68	16	70	500
Tree Management	242	212	213	194	229	213	1,303
KALEEN Total	580	541	477	477	421	615	3,111
LAWSON							
Place Management	6	10	14				30
Regulatory Activities	23	36	67				126
Roads Management	12	8	5				25
Streetlights	4	21	1				26
Tree Management	9	11	12				32
LAWSON Total	54	86	99				239
MCKELLAR							
Place Management	15	4	11				30
Regulatory Activities	17	12	29				58
Roads Management	20	14	20				54
Streetlights	42	40	106				188
Tree Management	71	63	62				196
MCKELLAR Total	165	133	228				526

FMS Service Requests By Suburb	Fin. Yrs 2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Grand Total
MONCRIEFF							
Place Management		21	23	18	18		80
Regulatory Activities	19	47	62	99	48		275
Roads Management	8	11	16	43	20		98
Streetlights	12	37	21	7	0	11	88
Tree Management	10	25	21	36	11	19	122
MONCRIEFF Total	49	141	143	203	97	30	663
NGUNNAWAL							
Place Management	76	29	57	7	21	3	193
Regulatory Activities	152	98	116	96	70	2	534
Roads Management	63	34	68	120	104	4	393
Streetlights	204	199	157	69	9	65	703
Tree Management	162	166	123	187	180	189	1,007
NGUNNAWAL Total	657	526	521	479	384	263	2,830
NICHOLLS							
Place Management	69	45	33	26	27	4	204
Regulatory Activities	66	49	49	47	38	2	251
Roads Management	96	45	75	88	104	2	410
Streetlights	122	202	172	52	10	61	619
Tree Management	149	152	152	119	130	196	898
NICHOLLS Total	502	493	481	332	309	265	2,382
PALMERSTON							
Place Management	38	14	14	14	16	8	104
Regulatory Activities	61	41	55	52	35	0	244
Roads Management	25	15	24	58	69	1	192
Streetlights	136	95	72	16	15	13	347
Tree Management	119	123	122	76	115	110	665
PALMERSTON Total	379	288	287	216	250	132	1,552
TAYLOR							
Place Management		0	1	14	10	0	25
Regulatory Activities		0	8	64	52	0	124
Roads Management		0	5	19	15	0	39
Streetlights		1	5	13	9	16	44
Tree Management		0	0	4	9	11	24
TAYLOR Total		1	19	114	95	27	256
THROSBY							
Place Management		1	1	11	17	2	32
Regulatory Activities	2	6	6	58	43	1	116
Roads Management			1	14	15		30
Streetlights		1	14	4	2	5	26
Tree Management		3	3	21	30	20	77
THROSBY Total	2	11	25	108	107	28	281
Grand Total	5,641	5,001	4,989	4,385	4,220	5,152	29,388

Taxation—commercial property rates (Question No 773)

Ms Castley asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) What was the number of businesses in each suburb in Yerrabi, each year since 2016.
- (2) What was the breakdown by suburb of average commercial rates in the electorate of Yerrabi, each year since 2016.
- (3) What was the breakdown by suburb for median land tax in Mitchell, each year since 2016.

- (4) Can the Minister list all charges and the total revenue received by the ACT Revenue office from (a) businesses and (b) residents, each year since 2016.
- (5) What is the breakdown of the charges listed in part (4) for each suburb in Yerrabi, each year since 2016.
- (6) What information was used to determine the forward estimates for (a) general tax, (b) duties, (c) gambling taxes and (d) other taxes (Budget Outlook 2021-22, page 240).

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

- (1) Information on business counts by suburb is available from the ABS in the *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits* publication.
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/business-indicators/counts-australian-businesses-including-entries-and-exits/latest-release>
- (2) The breakdown by suburb of average commercial rates in the electorate of Yerrabi since 2016:

SUBURBS	2016/17 (\$)	2017/18 (\$)	2018/19 (\$)	2019/20 (\$)	2020/21 (\$)	2021/22 (\$)
Amaroo	115,677	92,075	103,099	62,162	78,257	75,878
Bonner	45,734	47,788	49,176	50,503	52,088	52,913
Casey	71,977	72,265	75,966	44,540	46,022	47,727
Crace	52,935	21,763	23,022	24,311	24,872	26,639
Forde	6,474	6,836	7,414	7,662	7,709	8,505
Franklin	53,325	18,726	9,063	9,042	8,958	9,554
Giralang	18,889	24,478	36,231	37,255	38,129	51,495
Gungahlin	35,288	39,307	38,848	41,337	42,318	39,018
Hall	22,817	27,386	21,518	22,179	24,837	22,948
Harrison	4,110	4,349	6,115	11,256	13,096	14,093
Jacka	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kaleen	18,290	19,177	18,969	19,576	20,032	20,231
Moncrieff	95,741	25,465	52,474	53,853	3,548	N/A
Ngunnawal	16,647	17,496	18,015	20,371	20,058	20,559
Nicholls	28,169	33,299	38,046	25,383	25,673	25,571
Palmerston	7,095	7,488	7,723	8,051	7,925	8,097
Taylor	N/A	N/A	318,190	141,328	153,899	159,925
Throsby	128,902	219,290	166,800	119,146	168,696	72,645

Notes:

- The suburbs tabled comprise of the entire district of Gungahlin and includes the suburbs of Amaroo, Bonner, Casey, Crace, Forde, Franklin, Gungahlin, Harrison, Jacka, Moncrieff, Ngunnawal, Nicholls, Palmerston, Taylor, Throsby, the Belconnen district suburbs of Giralang and Kaleen, and the Township of Hall. The current boundaries of the Yerrabi electorate have been used, historic movement of boundary lines have not been considered.
- The commercial rates values tabled are net of rebates and includes the Fire Emergency Services Levy.
- The values are current to 10 May 2022.
- N/A denotes no commercial properties exist in the suburb in the specified time periods.

- (3) Land tax only applies to residential properties. There have not been residential properties in the suburb of Mitchell since 2016.
 - (4) + (5) Revenue is recorded by tax line. Information about the revenue received for tax lines is reported in regular Treasury publications, refer <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/publications>.
 - (6) The Budget Outlook 2021-22, pages 241 to 255 provides detailed information on forward estimates. <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2021-22/budget-papers>.
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ACT Health—nurses and midwives (Question No 775)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) In relation to freedom of information documents for the Canberra Health Services Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Plan 2022-2023, Attachment D – Consultation process and contributors, page 34, that stated “focus groups were held throughout the first half of 2021... 7% of the workforce attended these sessions”, (a) how many, (b) when (including time) and (c) where were the focus groups held.
- (2) What is the breakdown of the job titles and number of staff who attended the focus groups.
- (3) What was the total cost of the focus groups.
- (4) Who ran the focus groups and how was that decided, including details of cost (if any) if the job was outsourced.
- (5) Was an invitation sent to all staff and how much notice was given.
- (6) What alternatives/solutions were offered to staff who could not attend the focus groups.
- (7) Was feedback sought by the directorate about the focus groups; if so, what feedback was received about the focus groups.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

1. Thirty-six (36) focus groups were conducted at various locations on the Canberra Hospital campus, Alexander Maconochie Centre, Walk in Centres and via WEBEX. These sessions ran from Tuesday 6 April to Tuesday 12 October 2021. Times for sessions included 9am, 10am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm and 8:30pm.
2. This information was not collected in the focus groups to ensure staff confidentiality. Staff in attendance covered the entire spectrum of the professions from Assistants in Nursing through to Executive staff.
3. Nil. Focus groups were conducted onsite and facilitated by Workforce Strategy and Planning Staff.

4. The Executive Director, Nursing and Midwifery and Executive Group Manager, People and Culture approved Workforce Strategy and Planning staff to conduct and facilitate the focus group sessions due to their previous experience and training undertaking such tasks. Development of the plan was not completed by external sources.
 5. A communications plan was developed and approved. Communications were delivered through internal communications including the CEO Bulletin, the main Intranet page, DONS and ADONs meetings, flyers in tea rooms and an Eventbrite link. Communications commenced on 31 May 2021 and concluded in October 2021.
 6. All nursing staff were sent a link to an online survey they could complete. Workforce Planning staff also undertook individual meetings with staff as requested and conducted online focus group sessions.
 7. The ACT Health Directorate was engaged throughout various stages of the workforce plan development. Within CHS, the CEO and Executive Director, Nursing and Midwifery were advised of progress of focus groups throughout the consultation period via regular catchups.
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Schools—school psychologists (Question No 776)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) How many ACT government schools are there.
- (2) How many school psychologists are employed by the Education Directorate, broken down by (a) full-time, (b) part-time and (c) casual, etc.
- (3) Does every government school have a full-time school psychologist; if not, how often is a school psychologist at the school.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a list of all schools which have school psychologist and whether they are at the school five days a week, two days, etc.
- (5) Can the Minister provide a list of schools that do not have a school psychologist.
- (6) Are there more school psychologists employed in high schools and colleges than primary schools; if so, how many and how often are school psychologists at high schools and colleges compared to primary schools.
- (7) What is the role of the school psychologist.
- (8) Are school psychologists required to submit reports with the Education Directorate about their work and the nature of the student issues they deal with; if so, can the Minister provide details for the last two years.
- (9) Has the number of school psychologists changed over the last five years; if so, can the Minister provide details.

- (10) What is the waiting time for a student to see a school psychologist, or is this information not kept, and is there a waiting list.
- (11) How many times, on average, will a school counsellor see a student/child.
- (12) What are the five most common reasons for students to see a school psychologist.
- (13) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of psychologists and their qualifications.
- (14) Has there been a review of the school psychologist program over the last six years; if so, can the Minister provide details of any review.
- (15) What is the total cost of the school psychologist program and can the Minister provide the cost over the last five years.
- (16) Are there plans to review, change or expand the school psychologist program.
- (17) How much directorate staff are employed to work on the school psychologist program and what are their roles and salaries.

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

- (1) There are 90 public schools in the ACT.
- (2) The Education Directorate employees fully registered psychologists in the school psychology service. In 2022, ACT public schools are supported by a total of 83.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) psychologists.
 - 64.0 FTE school psychologists (including two COVID-19 Response fund temporary positions)
 - 14.0 FTE senior psychologists
 - 1.0 FTE Director of School Psychology, Clinical Practice
 - 1.0 FTE Senior Director of Clinical Practice
 - 3.0 FTE psychologists in the Child Development Service, Community Services Directorate

Approximately 41.3% work full time and 58.7% work part time. This includes one staff member on a part time temporary contract. There are no staff on casual employment arrangements.

- (3) All ACT public school students have access to a school psychologist. The amount of time each school is allocated a school psychologist is determined through data modelling, completed every three years. All attempts are made to ensure schools have a school psychologist placed in their school for their allocated time and changes in staff are minimised during a three-year rotation.

The average time a school psychologist is allocated to an ACT school is 2-3 days per week, with a range of 1 – 5 days per week determined according to data modelling.

- (4) All ACT public school students have access to a school psychologist. Senior psychologists work with the schools to facilitate services from the centralised psychology teams ensuring all schools have access to a psychology service.

- (5) All ACT public schools have access to a psychologist. At any time, school psychologist vacancies, either anticipated or unforeseen, can arise due to staffing changes. Recruitment to cover vacancies is undertaken regularly to minimise disruption to services in schools.
- (6) The number of days a school psychologist is allocated to a school varies and is not solely determined by the sector. In addition to primary schools, school psychologists are also allocated to early childhood schools, specialist schools and centralised teams. High schools will have between 2 – 4 days per week of psychology allocation and the majority of colleges 3 – 5 days per week.
- (7) School psychologists can provide direct support or interventions to students, consult with teachers and families, or work alongside other members of the student services team (school youth health nurse, school social worker, youth worker) to assist students to thrive in their school environment. School psychologists may also work with the school executive team on school-wide practices and procedures, as well as collaborate with community providers to co-ordinate services for students. The key aspects of a psychologist's work in schools include the following:
- Undertake psychological evaluations, including individual student cognitive assessments
 - Assist with Individual Learning Plans
 - Provide psychological intervention individually or in groups. This may include a referral to a community provider for long term support
 - Facilitate workshops and training for parents or teachers
 - Act as a liaison to community services (paediatricians, allied health professionals) to provide information on a student's progress or to obtain additional information for evaluations.
 - Offer grief counselling in the event of a tragedy affecting the school community
- The responsibilities of this professional group may vary from school to school and may even change periodically based on student/staff needs.
- (8) School psychologists do not submit reports regarding their work.
- (9) There has been a significant investment by the ACT Government in increasing the psychology work force in schools.
- The 2016-17 election commitment was to increase 20.0 FTE of psychologists in schools incrementally over 4 years. This was successfully achieved.
 - In 2019-2020 four temporary positions (4.0 FTE) and one (1.0 FTE) administrative officer received ongoing funding.
 - In 2022 there was an investment of a temporary increase of two (2.0 FTE) psychology positions to assist with the increased need for mental health supports resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (10) Each school psychologist triages referrals based on the individual needs of the student and circumstances. The wait time to see a school psychologist, therefore, varies from school to school.

- (11) The Directorate does not employ School Counsellors in ACT Public Schools.
- (12) The reasons to see a school psychologist varies across schools and settings. Obtaining common reasons for referral risks generalising the range of issues supported through psychology services.
- (13) A psychologist is legally required to be registered with the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA) which operates under the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA). For further information refer to <https://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/>

To register and maintain registration psychologists must:

- Have their formal, accredited qualifications assessed by AHPRA
- Adhere to the APS Code of Ethics - professional conduct
- Meet Continuing Professional Development requirements (CPD)
- Be available for a formal audit process of their CPD and professional practice

ACT Education has a highly qualified and experienced workforce with many psychologists holding either a Master or Doctorate qualification.

- (14) An internal review of the ACT Education School Psychology Service (SPS) was undertaken in 2018. The review coincided with the government commitment of 20 additional psychologists in schools.

The Minister was briefed in December 2018 and approved the revised model of service which commenced in 2019.

- (15) This table provides the costs of the School Psychology Service over the past 5 years.

School Psychologist Program	2017-18 Actual \$'m	2018-19 Actual \$'m	2019-20 Actual \$'m	2020-21 Actual \$'m	2021-22 Forecast \$'m	Total (5 Years) \$'m
Employee Expenses (including oncosts)	8.08	8.65	9.47	10.23	10.49	46.92
Non-Employee Expenses	0.36	0.51	0.49	0.45	0.52	2.33
Total Expenses	8.45	9.15	9.95	10.68	11.01	49.25

The School Psychologist Program is estimated to have cost \$49.25m for the five-years to 30 June 2022.

- (16) A formal review of the school psychology service was undertaken in 2018. This led to changes in the service delivery model which was implemented from 2019. The school psychology service continually reviews its services and supports, making changes as required to meet current need. An example of this is the delivery of a telehealth service in response to COVID 19.
- (17) The Education Directorate employees five Education Support Officers to coordinate the School Psychology Program:

- 2.0 FTE Assistant Directors (SOG C), \$113,397 - \$122,062
- 1.0 FTE Business Coordinator (ASO6), \$90,099 - \$108,430
- 1.0 FTE Administration Officer (ASO4), \$75,239 - \$81,466
- 1.0 FTE Telehealth Admin Officer (ASO4), \$75,239 - \$81,466 temporary position to 30 June 2022.

Gold Creek Homestead—development (Question No 777)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 6 May 2022 (*redirected to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development*):

- (1) Can the Minister provide an update of Gold Creek Homestead.
- (2) What work has been completed at the homestead.
- (3) How much has been spent so far on the homestead.
- (4) How many staff in the directorate are working on this planning variation.
- (5) Will there be a public announcement when planning is complete; if so, can the Minister provide details on this announcement.
- (6) What is the estimated (a) start date of construction and (b) completion of the project.
- (7) Have any Canberrans sought information about the homestead or provided feedback to your office or directorate; if so, what has been the feedback.

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

- (1) Lendlease was announced as the successful tenderer for the purchase of the site in March 2021 and have exchanged on the Contract for the Sale of the Land which includes the Concept Delivery Deed (CDD). Suburban Land Agency (SLA) is currently managing the CDD.
- (2) Repairs and maintenance on the property and surrounds are undertaken regularly and as necessary. Recent works undertaken at the homestead from 1 January 2018 to 30 April 2022 include grounds maintenance, gutter cleaning, plumbing, security (includes patrols, monitoring, and call outs) and electrical maintenance.

Gold Creek Homestead is not a heritage listed place however, Lendlease have proposed to retain and incorporate the buildings within their new development. Design for the restoration of the original Homestead and adjoining slab hut back to its 1860's form has progressed. Lendlease have submitted their Development Application for the Gold Creek Precinct to Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). EPSDD are currently undertaking completeness check.

- (3) From 1 January 2018 to 30 April 2022, a total of \$83,375.30 (excl GST) was spent on repairs and maintenance on the homestead and surrounds.

- (4) None. Gold Creek Homestead land release is not subject to a Territory Plan Variation.
 - (5) Public announcement is likely once Development Application has been approved.
 - (6) Construction commencement is subject to Development Application approval timing. Works on site are anticipated to commence in late 2022 with completion by late 2024.
 - (7) In 2019, SLA undertook extensive community engagement prior to land being released to the market. SLA facilitated and supported the Community Panel in their deliberations and creation of the Gold Creek Homestead Community & Stakeholder panel's Precinct Development Brief, available on the SLA website, which formed part of the design based tender process that followed.
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Environment—pest management (Question No 778)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for the Environment, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) What methods does the Government use to monitor the population of mice in the ACT.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the estimated mice population for the ACT.
- (3) What research or assessments has been done into the environmental impacts of mice on ACT flora, fauna, farmland, and waterways and can the Minister provide a breakdown and link to the reports for each.
- (4) If reports or assessments have not been completed on flora, fauna, farmland, and waterways, why not, and will the Government produce a report or assessment given the population is increasing.
- (5) What is the threshold that Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) use to determine whether a mice population needs managing and what research was used to determine the threshold.
- (6) What research has the Government completed on the health impacts of mice in the ACT.
- (7) What programs are the Government developing to control the increasing mice population.
- (8) Is the directorate aware of increasing populations of mice in Throsby.
- (9) How much do the programs, referred to in part (7) cost and can the Minister provide a breakdown for each government action.
- (10) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of specific locations where EPSDD have identified as a priority to reduce mice populations.
- (11) Has the Government managed mice populations in the past; if so, when.

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

- (1) Expert advice is that plague numbers of mice infestation is more likely to occur in the rural grain growing areas in Central and Western New South Wales (NSW) where they are close to ample food sources. The ACT Government continues to monitor the situation regarding mice in NSW and continues to work closely with our interstate colleagues in various government departments and local government areas in the broader Canberra region.
- (2) The ACT Government does not have an estimate of the mice population for the ACT.
- (3) There are no known mice populations in the ACT near the industry standard for a plague of 3,000 per hectare (3.3 per square metre). Research or assessments on the environmental impacts of mice on the ACT environment is not considered a priority use of resources at this stage.
- (4) Compared to known impacts of other invasive and overabundant species on the ACT environment, mice impacts are not considered a priority and as such no research is planned in the immediate future.
- (5) The ACT Government investigates when there is environmental concern and determines the likely cause and recommends mitigation strategies to suit. The Government does not monitor populations for the purpose of reducing population numbers alone.
- (6) The Government is not aware of any ACT-led research occurring in regard to the impact of mice on people's health within the ACT. The passing of diseases from feral mice and other rodents to humans is well known. Information on the health risks posed by rodents can be found on the ACT Health website:
<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/fact-sheets>.
- (7) The ACT Government has established a cross agency working group to work with our interstate colleagues to assess the risk to the ACT community and monitor any potential abnormal increase in mouse numbers.
- (8) The ACT Government is aware of isolated reports of increasing populations of mice in Throsby. These isolated reports are not to the levels considered plague populations. This increase in numbers is likely due to good food supply and seeking shelter in the colder months.
- (9) Current programs are conducted as part of "business as usual" and costings are not available.
- (10) There are no specific locations identified.
- (11) No.

Roads—safety (Question No 779)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) How does the Minister's directorate determine if infrastructure is required to control speeding on a street.
- (2) How does the directorate determine if speed limits need changing on a street to reduce speeding.
- (3) Has the Minister's office or directorate received any complaints or feedback about Bettong Avenue, Throsby; if so, what action has been taken by the Minister's office or directorate; if not, would the Minister consider lowering the speed limit or installing infrastructure to stop speeding in this area.

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

- (1) Roads ACT considers traffic volume, speed data, the seven-year crash history of the road and the percentage of heavy vehicles using the route to determine if traffic calming infrastructure is required. In addition, a preliminary investigation takes into account surrounding land use such as the presence of shops or schools. The results are compared with other similar streets across Canberra to determine the priority for detailed investigation.
- (2) Roads ACT does not determine if speed limits need changing to reduce speeding. Speeding and other anti-social driving behaviour ('hoon' behaviour) are best addressed by enforcement by ACT Policing. Such behaviour should be reported to ACT Policing on 131 444 or to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.
- (3) Roads ACT has received community feedback about speeding on Bettong Avenue together with requests to reduce the speed limit in the area. The road was inspected on three separate occasions. Visibility and pedestrian movements were observed with no major issues identified. Speed surveys and crash history do not indicate a major safety issue, with average travel speeds of 47.4km/h and no injury crashes in the last seven years. A speed limit reduction to 40km/h was implemented around the local school earlier this year. No further speed limit reductions or traffic calming are planned for Bettong Avenue at this time.

Health—elective surgery cancellations (Question No 780)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) How many elective surgeries in our public hospitals booked for a certain day do not happen on that day and can the Minister provide numbers for the last five years for each hospital.
- (2) When do those elective surgeries happen and can the Minister provide figures about if those surgeries go ahead the next day, after two days, etc.
- (3) How many elective surgeries, on average, are booked each day and can the Minister provide the figures for each public hospital.
- (4) Are all patients told to return the next day if elective surgery is cancelled and can the Minister explain the process including who is asked to return the next day and, if not, are the other patients who miss out given another day for their elective surgery.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- 1 The level of data granularity required to answer this question is not currently available. Accordingly, to provide a response to this question would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
 2. The level of data granularity required to answer this question is not currently available. Accordingly, to provide a response to this question would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
 3. The average number of elective surgeries booked for completion each day that elective surgery is performed at both Canberra Health Services and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce is approximately 30 each.
 4. When a patient is cancelled a note is made of that in their elective surgery listing. The patient is then rescheduled based on normal surgical listing parameters, which include the frequency of these lists, surgeon, anaesthetist, bed availability and competing priority of other patients.
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**Municipal services—street sweeping
(Question No 781)**

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) How many street sweeping machines does the ACT Government have in its fleet.
- (2) How many of these machines does the ACT Government (a) own and (b) lease.
- (3) Of those leased, when do the leases finish.
- (4) Is any of the street sweeping activities contracted; if so, what types of street sweeping activities are contracted.
- (5) How much was spent on street sweeping for the financial years of (a) 2017-2018, (b) 2018-2019, (c) 2019-2020 and (d) 2020-2021.
- (6) How much does a street sweeping machine cost to purchase.

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

- (1) Roads ACT has five vehicles. City Presentation have two vehicles that can be classified as street sweepers however, these vehicles support amenity cleaning programs and not the street sweeping program.
- (2) All of the above vehicles are leased.
- (3) Street sweeping vehicles are typically leased for five-year terms. The lease for the current street sweeping vehicles will expire at the end of 2023. The two vehicles involved in amenity cleaning will expire in 2022 and 2024.

- (4) TCCS do not contract any street sweeping services.
 - (5) Please see below street sweeping spend for the requested financial years for Roads ACT. The sweepers at City Presentation form part of the amenity cleaning program and their operational cost is not itemised.
(Exclusive of GST)
 - a) Approximately \$1.8m spent
 - b) Approximately \$1.4m spent
 - c) Approximately \$1.9m spent
 - d) Approximately \$2.8m spent
 - (6) As these vehicles are leased, TCCS does not hold current information on the purchase price of street sweeper machines.
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**Transport—active travel
(Question No 782)**

Ms Clay asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) Could the Minister detail how Transport Canberra and City Services determined that the proportion of the projects of (a) Monaro Highway Upgrade - \$16,000,000, (b) Schools for our growing city — Kenny High School \$1,968,000, (c) Northbourne Avenue Pavement - Part 2 \$84,000, (d) Northbourne Avenue Pavement - Part 3 \$75,000 and (e) Mawson Stormwater and Placemaking Improvements – Construction \$300,000, were considered active travel expenditure.
- (2) Which parts of these projects enable or are for the purpose of active travel.
- (3) Do the projects involve separated walking and cycling paths or other targeted active travel infrastructure; if not, what infrastructure specifically do they include.

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

- (1)
 - a) The proportion of the Monaro Highway Upgrade expenditure expected to be spent on active travel infrastructure was estimated based on the design completed at the time the estimates were made. It relies on an indicative proportion of the works that will contribute to active travel outcomes based on prior experience with similar projects.
 - b) A construction cost estimate was prepared as part of the final design for the East Gungahlin High School supporting road infrastructure project (Schools for our growing city — Kenny High School).
 - c) Due to the nature of this project being rehabilitation of an existing asset, a proportion of the works value equivalent to the proportion of the road which accommodates on road cycle lanes was used to calculate this investment.

- d) Due to the nature of this project being rehabilitation of an existing asset, a proportion of the works value equivalent to the proportion of the road which accommodates the on-road cycle lanes was used to calculate this investment.
- e) A construction cost estimate was prepared as part of the final design for the Mawson stormwater and place making improvements project.

(2)

- a) The Monaro Highway Upgrade project will have sealed shoulders that can accommodate on road cycling from the northern extent of the project north of David Warren Road to the southern extent of the project south of Isabella Drive. The existing on road cycle lanes on Lanyon Drive will be retained, new 3-metre sealed shoulders will be provided on the new southbound overpass over Lanyon Drive and on the associated ramps, and 1-metre wide sealed shoulders will be provided on David Warren Road.
- b) The active travel components of the East Gungahlin High School supporting road infrastructure project are 3-metre-wide and 4-metre-wide shared paths in the verges of Well Station Drive. These paths cross the road via the new signalised intersections at the Kings Canyon Street and Albatross Crescent (west) intersections. A 3-metre-wide shared path is also being constructed along the new road which is an extension to the south of Albatross Crescent (west). These shared paths will be used by cyclists and pedestrians, including students attending the new Kenny High School. In addition to this on-road cycle lanes which are 2m wide are being provided along Well Station Drive.
- c) The rehabilitation of Northbourne Avenue pavement included the rehabilitation of the on-road cycle lanes.
- d) The rehabilitation of Northbourne Avenue pavement included the rehabilitation of the on-road cycle lanes.
- e) The active travel elements of the Mawson stormwater and place making improvements project are shared paths between the Mawson District Playing Fields and the southern side of the Mawson Shopping Centre for use by cyclists and pedestrians.

(3)

All the projects aside from the East Gungahlin High School supporting road infrastructure and the Mawson Stormwater and place making improvements provide for on road cycling infrastructure as part of the works, with design being in accordance with both Austroads and ACT Government standards. The East Gungahlin High School supporting road infrastructure and the Mawson Stormwater and place making improvements provide for separated paths to move cyclists away from the road. These projects will also allow for walkers to use these separated paths. The East Gungahlin High School supporting road infrastructure also provides for new signalised pedestrian crossings at both Kings Canyon/Well Station intersection and Albatross/Well Station intersection.

**Planning—western edge
(Question No 784)**

Ms Clay asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) In relation to the Western Edge Investigation Area, can the Minister provide the lease purpose clauses for the recently purchased leases of (a) Blocks 418, 435, 439, 440, 441, 456, 476 Stromlo and (b) Blocks 1600, 1582 and part block 1601 Belconnen.
- (2) Given that section 99 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* defines “strategic environmental assessment” as “a comprehensive environmental assessment, suited to proposals in relation to major policy matters rather than individual development proposals”, will a strategic environmental assessment be produced for the Western Edge Investigation Area; if not, why not.

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

- (1) The leases are publicly available documents, that can be obtained through the ACT Land Titles Office.
- (2) At this stage of investigations, it is premature to indicate a statutory approval pathway, as no decisions have been made about potential land use change in the Western Edge Investigation Area. The need for a strategic environmental assessment will be determined based on ongoing and further studies.

**West Macgregor—odour control units
(Question No 785)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 6 May 2022 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) How high, in metres, were the ventilation stacks for the odour control units (OCUs) in West Macgregor when they were first constructed;
- (2) To what height, in metres, were the ventilation stacks for these OCUs then raised, and when did this happen.
- (3) On what basis were the ventilation stacks for the OCUs in West Macgregor raised, including relevant data such as, for example, measured levels of hydrogen sulphide that contributed to this decision.
- (4) What is considered an acceptable level of hydrogen sulphide leaving these ventilation stacks.
- (5) How is the level of hydrogen sulphide that leaves these stacks monitored, and how frequently is this monitoring conducted.
- (6) Did the Chief Minister, in a letter dated 30 June 2020, mention that Icon Water would investigate odour concerns in relation to the OCUs in West Macgregor; if so, when was this investigation completed, and what were the outcomes.

- (7) How many West Macgregor residents were consulted as part of the investigation referred to in part (6).
- (8) Can the Chief Minister provide a summary of hydrogen sulphide levels as measured at the OCU ventilation stacks in West Macgregor from when they were gifted to Icon Water in 2010 until now.
- (9) How frequently are the filters in an OCU cleaned and/or replaced.

Mr Barr: I have sought Icon Water's advice and the answers to the Member's questions are as follows:

- 1 Please refer to QON 3 to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, which was provided on 7 April 2022. The height of the stacks (approximately 20m) was determined through a detailed investigation and design process to meet the performance requirements of the facility.
2. None of the West Macgregor Odour Control Unit Vent stacks have been raised since their installation and commissioning.
3. As per 2 above.
4. While hydrogen sulphide is often used as a proxy for odourous emissions it is not a measurement of odour itself. Icon Water is required to comply with concentration levels specified in the South Australian 2016 Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy, as stipulated by the ACT Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The policy states performance levels for both odour and other emissions. The design and performance of ventilation assets to meet these requirements is confirmed through computer modelling (which is site specific and influenced according to factors such as location, facility size, distance from sensitive receptors, terrain and meteorological conditions) and then managed over time through monitoring and operational controls. Because of the above factors, acceptable odour performance can be achieved with a range of hydrogen sulphide emissions from a ventilation asset dependent on climatic and meteorological conditions.
5. Hydrogen Sulphide is recorded at each of the West Macgregor OCU's using permanent H2S monitoring on the vent outlets.
6. For the response to this question regarding investigations undertaken, please refer to the response to QON 10 which was provided to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on 3 March 2022.
7. For the response to this question regarding consultations undertaken in an investigation, please refer to the above response and the responses to QON 10 which was provided to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on 3 March 2022, and QON 3, which was provided to Ms Kikkert MLA on 7 April 2022.
8. The median outlet hydrogen sulphide concentrations at each facility and overall are shown below in Table 1. These values can be variable over time and as advised in QON3, performance against regulatory standards is impacted by a number of other factors. Hence a value recorded at the outlet does not represent the odour or hydrogen sulphide concentration at ground level.

Table 1: Median H2S values in parts per million (ppm)

Period	West Mac 1	West Mac 2	West Mac 3	All sites
2011	0.17	0.12	0.26	0.17
2012	0.14	0.04	0.00	0.06
2013	0.22	0.00	0.04	0.05
2014	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.03
2015	0.12	0.02	0.00	0.04
2016	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	0.24	0.04	0.02	0.08
2018	0.19	0.04	0.04	0.06
2019	0.27	0.00	0.02	0.05
2020	0.20	0.00	0.01	0.04
2021	0.32	0.01	0.00	0.03
2022	0.18	0.03	0.00	0.02
2011 to 2022	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.05

9. The basis for replacement of filter media is determined by a unit's performance. Measuring gas concentration indicates the proportion of odourous gas removed as the gases pass through the *media* (media refers to the carbon filter which removes odour). When the media reaches a saturation point, removal effectiveness declines, and the media is replaced.

There are three units in the area. Since 2011, the carbon filters have been changed nine times at one of the units (due to it taking the majority of load) and two times for the second unit. The third unit has not been changed as it has not reached its saturation point due to very low H2S inflow.

Belconnen trunk sewer upgrade—odour control units (Question No 786)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 6 May 2022 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) On what basis was it determined that the ventilation stacks, for the new odour control units (OCUs) associated with the Belconnen Trunk Sewer Upgrade, should be 14 metres in height.
- (2) What is the maximum possible height for an OCU's ventilation stack.
- (3) Is it possible that the ventilation stacks for the planned OCUs could be raised if necessary.

- (4) Was the public ever informed, as part of the community consultation in relation to the Belconnen Trunk Sewer Upgrade, that OCUs may release hydrogen sulphide into the air and/or cause nuisance odours; if not, why not?
- (5) What is the elevation above sea level for the top of each odour control unit (OCU) ventilation stack planned as part of the Belconnen Trunk Sewer Upgrade.
- (6) Were prevailing winds considered in any way in relation to the location or height of these OCU ventilation stacks; if so, in what way; if not, why not.

Mr Barr: I have sought Icon Water's advice and the answer to the Member's questions are as follows:

- (1) Stack heights for the four Odour Control Units (OCUs) have been determined following the completion of air quality assessments which have included dispersion modelling.
 - North Latham: Details are provided in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) document, section 11. The EIS assumed a stack height of 24 m (table 11.7). This has been refined through the detailed design process (and verified with dispersion modelling) with a revised stack height of 15 m.
 - Latham, Florey and Evatt: Details are provided within their respective Air Quality Impact Assessments which were submitted with the Development Applications (DA). The assessment has assumed a stack height of 14 m (table 5.1). The detailed design has resulted in the stack height at Florey being slightly increased to 15 m. The other two sites remain at 14 m.
 - (2) Stack height is determined by air quality assessment and odour dispersion modelling. This determination also accounts for a variety of other factors including sensitive receiver locations, topography and local climatic conditions. The stack heights for the Belconnen trunk sewer project are as per the above.
 - (3) Technically, the ventilation stacks could be replaced with a larger unit. However, this action is not foreseeable given the dispersion modelling verifies that system performance is well within the compliance criteria.
 - (4) Information on the OCU function of filtering gases was included in consultation activities. Fact sheets created for this purpose are available on the Icon Water website at (iconwater.com.au/bts). This information was included in community newsletters (delivered to homes in the area and emailed to members of the community who requested to be informed of updates). The topic is also covered in the FAQs available on the website. Furthermore, the developments have been subject to statutory planning approval processes including public notification.
 - (5) The elevation above sea level for each ventilation stack is provided below:
 - i. North Latham: 574.98 meters
 - ii. Latham: 574.696 meters
 - iii. Florey: 584.90 meters
 - iv. Evatt: 589.604 meters
 - (6) Yes, refer response to question 2 above. Please refer to the respective air quality assessment submitted with the EIS/DA's.
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**Sentence Administration Board—offenders at large
(Question No 787)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) Given that during annual reports hearings in February 2022, the chair of the Sentencing Administration Board (SAB) informed the committee that there were seven offenders who were at large, one had been at large at that time for 514 days, what offences was that offender found guilty of and are they still at large.
- (2) What offences were the other six offenders found guilty of and how long have each been at large for at this time.
- (3) What are the new offences that three of these offenders have committed, given the chair of the SAB told the committee that they have committed new offences.
- (4) Are any of these at large offenders currently under a custodial sentence.
- (5) What rules and procedures will the at large offenders be subject to once they have been apprehended.

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

1. The offender who had been at large for 514 days on 18 February 2022, had been found guilty of and was subject to sentence for, Knowingly Concerned Burglary and Knowingly Concerned Theft x2. As at 9 May 2022, the offender remains at large and has been at large for a total of 594 days. Please note the offenders at large discussed during the 18 February 2022 hearings relate only to those who participated remotely in a Sentence Administration Board (SAB) hearing, had their community corrections order cancelled and a warrant subsequently issued for their return or induction to custody.
2. Upon a further review of the data, the SAB makes a correction, that one of the six other offenders at large had their warrant of imprisonment executed at the time of reporting on 18 February 2022. In the case of this offender, the SAB issued a warrant for imprisonment on 30 September 2021, and it was executed on 23 October 2021. The offender was at large for a total of 23 days.

The answer to the question for the other five offenders is as follows. They were found guilty and subject to sentence for:

- Make Demand with Threat to Endanger Health and Joint Commission Aggravated Robbery. This offender was at large for a total of 246 days before the warrant for imprisonment was executed on 20 February 2022.
- Fail to Appear after Bail Undertaking, Fail to Stop Motor Vehicle for Police, Drive while Disqualified and Drive Motor Vehicle with Alcohol in Blood or Breath. This offender is still at large, being a total of 326 days as at 9 May 2022.
- Damage Property Over \$1000 in Value. This offender is still at large, being a total of 300 days as at 9 May 2022.
- Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm and Theft. This offender was at large for a total of 51 days before the warrant for imprisonment was executed on 10 March 2022.

- Robbery with Actual Violence Armed/In Company/Wounded/Use Personal Violence and Contravene Family Violence Order. This offender is still at large, being a total of 98 days as at 9 May 2022.
3. Upon a further review of the data, the SAB makes a correction, that one of the offenders at time of the 18 February 2022 hearings, their warrant for imprisonment had been executed. One offender who was at large at time of the 18 February 2022 hearings, was subject to a parole order and he was charged in NSW with the following additional offences:
- Enter Dwelling with intent to steal
 - Larceny
 - Custody of a knife in public place
 - Steal property in dwelling-house
 - Destroy/damage property

This offender has since had their parole order cancelled and is in custody at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). The following two offenders who were at large on 18 February 2022 were charged for Assault Occasioning actual Bodily Harm and Stalk/Intimidate Intend Fear Physical Harm (Personal) and Enter Enclosed Land. The commission of these offences occurred in NSW.

4. All of the offenders were subject to a form of custodial sentence, but were serving their sentence in the community under various sentencing options. Three offenders originally reported as being at large were serving their sentence by way of Intensive Corrections Order (ICO) in the community, and the other two offenders were subject to a parole order, serving the rest of their sentence in the community. While offenders are subject to serving their sentence in the community, they may have these revoked for breaches and are liable to serve the remainder of their sentence in the AMC.
5. Offenders who have their community based sentence order cancelled are liable to serve the remainder of their sentence in custody. However, they may apply for and be granted a new parole order, or have their ICO reinstated. In considering whether they should be released back into the community, the SAB considers previous orders which have been cancelled due to non-compliance, failure to comply with a warrant for imprisonment and the commission of new offences while in the community, if any.

Schools—Mental Illness Education ACT programs (Question No 788)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) How much government funding has been granted to Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT) to implement programs in schools, for each year since funding was first granted.
- (2) Can the Minister list all schools that are currently running MIEACT programs, detailing the name of the program/s being run, program duration and frequency per year.

- (3) Can the Minister list all schools that have run MIEACT programs in the past but no longer run these programs, detailing the name of the program/s and when they were run.
- (4) For those schools no longer running MIEACT programs, what were the reasons for no longer running the programs.
- (5) Has the ACT Government received any requests from other schools for the MIEACT program to be implemented; if so, how many and were they primary, high schools or colleges.

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

- (1) The ACT Government has had a longstanding partnership with MIEACT to provide funding for mental health promotion and illness prevention programs in schools.

This partnership has included ACT Government funding for mental health education programs, through contracted agreements and grant payments including Health Promotion Grants and COVID-19 Support Packages. This ACT Government funding is allocated for mental health education across school-based and adult programs. The breakdown of this funding between the different programs is determined by MIEACT according to current demand.

From 2019/20, funding has also been provided to MIEACT for the delivery of the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program, which is an evidence-based program delivered to year 9 students in high schools across the ACT to promote mental health and address suicidal behaviour in young people. While the YAM program is managed by the ACT Health Directorate, the funding for it has been provided through a Commonwealth Government grant.

Given the length of the partnership between MIEACT and the ACT Government, a large number of documents are currently archived in line with the Territory Records Act 2002. As such, the review of currently available records shows that the ACT Government has provided the funding as set out in the table below, to MIEACT over the years.

Financial Year	MIEACT funding – ACT Government Funding (\$)	MIEACT funding (Youth Aware of Mental Health) – Commonwealth Funding (\$)
2002/2003	85,000.00	
2003/2004	87,000.00	
2004/2005	89,000.00	
2005/2006	175,871.00	
2006/2007	231,241.00	
2007/2008	239,913.00	
2008/2009	277,978.80	
2009/2010	360,107.00	
2010/2011	371,990.30	
2011/2012	384,638.10	
2012/2013	395,787.70	
2013/2014	542,368.70	
2014/2015	558,132.30	

Financial Year	MIEACT funding – ACT Government Funding (\$)	MIEACT funding (Youth Aware of Mental Health) – Commonwealth Funding (\$)
2015/2016	578,004.85	
2016/2017	651,353.60	
2017/2018	679,149.31	
2018/2019	708,333.27	
2019/2020	829,484.93	330,000.00
2020/2021	862,189.75	421,845.60
2021/2022	870,877.85	302,500.00

- (2) ACT schools have autonomy to select which providers to engage with to support the wellbeing needs of their student population. Schools may have individual arrangements with MIEACT. This data is not collected centrally.
- (3) Schools engage directly with MIEACT when deciding what programs meet the needs of their students. The Education Directorate does not collect data on participation numbers for each of the programs run through MIEACT.
- (4) Due to Covid-19 disruptions many schools have rescheduled wellbeing programs offered to students. The Directorate does not collect data on individual school participation for programs run through MIEACT.
- (5) ACT schools have autonomy to select which providers to engage with to support the needs of their student population and work with them directly to deliver programs. This information is not gathered centrally.

ACT Policing—domestic and family violence data (Question No 789)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

In relation to domestic and family violence offences and reports, what has been the total number, for each of the past five years, of reported or otherwise known to ACT Policing, (a) assaults, (b) sexual assault, (c) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence, (d) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence resulting in grievous bodily harm, (e) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence resulting in death, (f) sexual assault committed in the context of domestic/family violence, (g) intimate partner violence, (h) assaults against children committed in the context of domestic/family violence, (i) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence involving someone who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or questioning, (j) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence involving someone who identifies as culturally and linguistically diverse, (k) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence involving someone who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, (l) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence against women and (m) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence against men.

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

ACT Policing is committed to protecting the safety of the community and will continue to work with the relevant Government agencies and non-government partners to ensure a collaborative approach to supporting victim survivors of family violence.

ACT Policing treats all reports of assault seriously and invests every available effort in providing a safe community for ACT residents.

ACT Policing undertakes education and prevention strategies and works with community organisations to educate the community on personal safety, which includes measures to mitigate the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

This financial year to date (1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022) there were 2,573 family violence related incidents, including 937 family violence related assaults, reported to ACT Policing.

Pertinent to each element of the Question on Notice, the data provided below is differentiated on the basis of being descriptive of either the number of victims reported or the number of offences committed.

2021 statistics relating to victims of assault figures, have yet to be formally released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

(a) *victims* of assault

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2,327	2,364	2,343	2,399	2,215

SOURCE: Table 9 - Victims, Selected offences by states and territories, 1993–2020; Australian Bureau of Statistics.

(b) victims of sexual assault

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
272	266	278	327	289

SOURCE: Table 9 - Victims, Selected offences by states and territories, 1993–2020; Australian Bureau of Statistics.

(c) *victims* of assault committed in the context of domestic/family violence

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
734	760	685	760	721

SOURCE: Table 20 - Victims of assault, Relationship of offender to victim by sex and age at report, Selected states and territories(a)(b), 2014–2020; Australian Bureau of Statistics.

(d) assault *offences* committed in the context of domestic/family violence resulting in grievous bodily harm

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
39	41	74	58	58

SOURCE: PROMIS as of May 13th, 2022.

(e) assault *offences* committed in the context of domestic/family violence resulting in death

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Murder	1	0	2	0	1
Attempted Murder	1	0	0	0	0
Conspiracy to Murder	0	0	0	0	1
Manslaughter (excl. Death by driving)	0	0	0	1	0

SOURCE: PROMIS as of May 13th, 2022.

(f) *victims* of sexual assault committed in the context of domestic/family violence

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
64	40	41	72	45

SOURCE: Table 21 Victims of sexual assault, Relationship to offender by sex and age at report, Selected states and territories 2014–2020; Australian Bureau of Statistics.

(g) *offences* where victim relationship is “FAMILY - PARTNER, SPOUSE, ETC” (intimate partner violence)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Homicide offences	1	0	0	0	0	1
Assault offences	560	597	522	586	485	524
Sexual assault offences	20	25	21	29	26	29

SOURCE: PROMIS as of May 16th, 2022.

(h) assault of *victims* (children) committed in the context of domestic/family violence

Female	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0-9 years	20	21	21	13	21
10-14 years	20	31	26	19	20
15-19 years	49	61	39	46	44

Male	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0-9 years	18	24	22	33	18
10-14 years	22	28	19	18	25
15-19 years	34	21	10	19	34

SOURCE: Table 20 Victims of assault, Relationship of offender to victim by sex and age at report, Selected states and territories(a)(b), 2014–2020; Australian Bureau of Statistics.

(i) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence involving someone who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or questioning

(j) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence involving someone who identifies as culturally and linguistically diverse

(k) assaults committed in the context of domestic/family violence involving someone who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

In relation to questions i, j, and k, ACT Policing’s data does not drill down to specify whether a person identifies as any of part the above categories.

It is at the discretion of the person/s involved as to whether they provide this information to police.

(l) assault *victims* (women) in the context of domestic/family violence against women and;

(m) assault *victims* (men) in the context of domestic/family violence against men.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Females*	514	533	470	544	470
Males*	222	224	205	217	242

* Includes all age groups

SOURCE: Table 20 Victims of assault, Relationship of offender to victim by sex and age at report, Selected states and territories(a)(b), 2014–2020; Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Ginninderra electorate—public art (Question No 790)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for the Arts, upon notice, on 6 May 2022 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) How many public spaces, such as graffiti walls, in the Ginninderra electorate area are available for artists to place art on.
- (2) Can business owners who lease commercial space from the Government request for public art to be placed on their exterior, public facing walls.
- (3) What scope is there for artists to request permission from the Government to place art on public infrastructure such as odour control units and underpasses.
- (4) What criteria does art have to meet to be placed on the public art list.
- (5) Are there any murals in the Ginninderra electorate area on the public art list.

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

- (1) There are currently 30 legal graffiti practice sites across Canberra of which eight sites are located in the Ginninderra Electorate.
- (2) Yes. However, this is subject to approval by ACT Property Group on a case-by-case basis for any buildings they own. An applicant should contact the asset owner to discuss.
- (3) An applicant should contact the asset owner to discuss. For assets owned by Transport Canberra and City Services there is a link on the City Services website where community groups can nominate a wall to be painted.
- (4) The ACT Government's Public Art Collection is managed by artsACT and comprises 117 artworks. Most of the artworks in the collection are sculptures located in city and town centres. For public artworks to be included in the ACT Government's collection,

they are required to meet a number of criteria including excellence in arts practice, use of robust materials and safety in design requirements. Detailed information about how to donate an artwork to the ACT Government public art collection and what criteria must be met is available online in the ACT Government Public Art Guidelines https://www.arts.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/751642/2015publicartguide.pdf

- (5) The ACT Government's Public Art Collection does not include murals, street art and legal graffiti which are defined in the ACT Government Public Art Guidelines as, 'temporary and community art on ACT Government Land'. Community artworks and murals are usually intended to be removed, replaced, or refreshed at some stage, with consideration of the artwork's relevance to its site as well its ongoing condition.

Umbagong District Park—bridges (Question No 792)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) Why are there no fences blocking people from using the Umbagong footbridges, if the bridges were closed due to being unsafe.
- (2) If there were ever fences, why are they no longer there.
- (3) If the fences were moved without permission, how many times have government officials had to replace the fences.
- (4) Why is car access to the small cul-de-sac at the corner of Dalley Crescent and Macrossan Crescent in Latham, blocked.
- (5) Was it ever accessible by cars; if so, when was it blocked off.

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

- (1) Access to the Umbagong footbridges has been blocked a number of times using different methods. Unfortunately, the fences are continually vandalised or removed without permission. Signage advising of the closure of the footbridges has been installed on a number of occasions and this has also been continuously vandalised or removed without permission. Roads ACT is progressing the installation of temporary surveillance cameras for the three bridges to stop the vandalism of the fences and signs, in addition to providing more robust barriers to prevent access to the bridges.
 - (2) Refer to response above.
 - (3) The fences have been replaced twice to date.
 - (4) The access is blocked off due to antisocial behaviour and illegal dumping.
 - (5) Yes. Records are not held reflecting the date of closure.
-

**West Macgregor—bus routes
(Question No 793)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) Was the concrete slab with yellow tactile paving opposite 212 Macfarlane Burnett Avenue, intended to be a bus stop; if so, (a) was a bus route ever assigned to this stop and when and (b) when did the bus route cease; if not, (a) why not and (b) what is/was its purpose.
- (2) Was there ever a plan to have a bus route pass along the northern (north of Constance Stone Street) stretch of Macfarlane Burnett Avenue in West Macgregor.

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

- (1) The original planning for the suburb did allow for bus stops north of Constance Stone Street.
 - (a) The current network does not include a route that uses Macfarlane Burnett Avenue.
 - (b) The current configuration of Constance Stone and Northern McFarland Burnett Avenue allows for on-street parking. This arrangement currently restricts the ability to operate buses through this area. Restrictions to parking on one side of the street would be needed to facilitate a future bus route.
- (2) The planning for the suburb allows for a bus route and some bus stop infrastructure was installed however the current bus network does not use this street.

**Domestic and family violence services—referral data
(Question No 794)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Families and Community Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2022 (*redirected to the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services*):

- (1) In relation to the domestic and family violence data collected by OneLink, what referral data is collected by OneLink.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a list of services relevant to domestic and family violence support that OneLink is able to refer clients to.
- (3) What has been the total number, for each of the past five years, of clients referred for services in relation to support for domestic and family violence.
- (4) How many clients were referred to support for (a) crisis accommodation, (b) housing, (c) counselling, (d) homelessness services, (e) health services, (f) financial aid, (g) legal aid, (h) employment services, (i) education services and (j) childcare services.
- (5) How many clients, for each of the past five years, have been identified as (a) mothers, (b) fathers, (c) male, (d) female, (e) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or

questioning, (f) culturally and linguistically diverse and (g) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

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

Question 1

OneLink collects two types of referral data, which are:

- Number of support periods in which clients who identified a need for Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) related support have been referred to a DFV service; and
- Number of clients experiencing DFV who were referred and successfully connected to services.

Question 2

OneLink refers clients experiencing DFV to both specialist DFV services and generalist services. Specialist services include Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS), YWCA, Beryl Women Inc., Doris Women's Refuge, CatholicCare, Toora Women Inc., Salvation Army. Generalist services include, but are not limited to counselling, health services, financial aid, legal aid, employment services, education services and childcare services.

Question 3

From January 2017 to March 2022, OneLink has **successfully connected** approximately 704 clients experiencing domestic and family violence with accommodation and 1276 clients with other relevant support services.

People with DV	Accommodation	Support
Jan to Jun 2017	77	77
Jul 2017-Jun 2018	131	257
Jul 2018-Jun 2019	89	195
Jul 2019-Jun 2020	158	267
Jul 2020-Jun 2021	141	328
Jul 2021-Mar 2022	108	152
Total	704	1276

Question 4

To provide a breakdown for each of the categories over the five years would be a significant diversion of frontline resources.

Over the period from 2017 to 2021, a total of 2120 clients experiencing DFV were **referred** by OneLink to different services including accommodation, tenancy support, counselling, family and child support, disability support, financial support, mental health services, youth support, and other specialist services. Of these, top referral numbers include:

- 680 referred to assistance with access to independent housing
- 657 referred to short-term accommodation
- 224 referred to family support
- 132 referred to tenancy support
- 91 referred to transitional accommodation

Question 5

To provide a breakdown for each of the categories over the five years would be a significant diversion of frontline resources. Total numbers, however, can be provided; please refer to table below:

Number of DFV clients (2017 to 2021)	
Individuals	783
Families	1392
Men	203
Women	1983
LGBTI	*
People from Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander background	415
People from Cultural and Linguistically Diverse background	435

**The OneLink database, Specialist Homelessness Information Platform (SHIP) does not currently provide for specific LGBTI data collection, allowing for only 'other'. SHIP is a platform managed and maintained by the Commonwealth through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).*

***Figures in above table are not mutually exclusive (e.g., a man may also be counted as an individual).*

****SHIP does not currently specifically collect data on "mothers" and "fathers"*

Domestic and family violence services—client data (Question No 795)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) In relation to domestic and family violence data collected by the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, what has been the total number of clients supported, each year for the past five years.
- (2) How many clients, for each of the past five years, have been identified as (a) mothers, (b) fathers, (c) male, (d) female, (e) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or questioning, (f) culturally and linguistically diverse and (g) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- (3) How many children have been supported in each of the past five years.

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

- (1)-(3) The ACT Government receives reporting by funded program, not at the aggregate level requested. Aggregate data is available publicly through the Domestic Violence Crisis Service's annual reports for 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19, 2017-18 and 2016-17. Requesting additional data beyond what is publicly reported or collected through standard program reporting places an additional burden on community sector organisations.

Questions without notice taken on notice

Health—specialist waiting times

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Castley and Mr Parton on Tuesday, 22 March 2022*):

- (1) Waiting lists for outpatient appointments are very dynamic with new referrals and new appointments occurring every business day. Overall, the paediatric outpatient waiting list has stayed steady with some specialties improving.
- (2) As at 28 February 2022, 118 of the 707 patients triaged at that time for immunology outpatient review were seen for an initial appointment. Additional patient referrals were also removed from the waiting list for various reasons such as no longer requiring the appointment as the condition had been treated by their General Practitioner or had resolved.

Dhulwa Mental Health Unit—safety

Ms Davidson (*in reply to a question by Mr Milligan on Tuesday, 3 May 2022*):

- Two nurses are currently on leave as a result of physical injuries sustained during their employment within Dhulwa Mental Health Unit.

Dhulwa Mental Health Unit—safety

Ms Davidson (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Kikkert on Tuesday, 3 May 2022*):

The following safety measures have been implemented at Dhulwa:

- Reinvigorating the Safewards methodology
- Dynamic ISBAR (Introduction, Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendations/Read back) has been introduced. This tool is used by clinical and security staff to assess risk and develop a plan before approaching or undertaking any discussion with a consumer that could generate agitation/aggression or violence towards staff.
- Safety Huddles— these occur by clinical and security staff after every clinical handover (shift change) to identify any potential issues that may pose a risk to staff or consumers and any staff safety incidents that have occurred over the last 24-hours.

- A senior nurse has been appointed to focus on OV across MHJHADS. The clinician has been assigned to Dhulwa for the next three months to support training, education, reporting, governance, coaching, mentoring and the development and implementation of new strategies to reduce OV.
- The introduction of scenario-based training to provide clinical staff and security the opportunity to practice OV response techniques. This is expected to support and improve staff confidence to lead and coordinate response to OV incidents.
- Senior management staff have been working on weekends to provide leadership, encouragement, and additional support for staff.
- A Clinical Nurse Educator has recently been recruited to structure and facilitate staff education programs and reinvigorate of the Safewards model in Dhulwa.
- Audiovisual equipment in the de-escalation area, to engage and deescalate aggressive/agitated consumers, is to be installed. The expected completion date for this is July 2022 dependent on the availability of the equipment.
- Conversion of an interview room in Lomandra into a second sensory modulation room. This room will have interactive audio-visual equipment and massage chair. This room is expected to provide a more calming environment and be easily accessible to agitated/aggressive consumers. This is also expected to be completed by the end of July 2022.
- Increased consumer access to structured activities and engagement in therapeutic group programs is in place. This is expected to further reduce boredom which can be a trigger for agitation in mental health units.

Education—languages action plan

Ms Berry (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Davis on Tuesday, 3 May 2022*):

ACT schools deliver languages as a part of the Australian Curriculum, the Board of Senior Secondary Studies Curriculum and the International Baccalaureate Curricula. Each of these curricula offer differing streams of proficiency of language education. Upon the development and updating of these language curricula there is a public consultation process, which includes native speakers.

The next round of consultation will commence in June 2022 and continue until the end of 2023 through an Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) public consultation process. This process is open to native speakers.

In addition to the ACARA review of language curricula, the ACT is also developing the draft ACT Languages Education Action Plan. It is anticipated the ACT Languages Education Action Plan will help to address complexities of the current global shortage of language teachers. It will be the ACT Government's key tool for the strategic planning around language learning, recruiting, and retaining language specialists, and making the ACT a jurisdiction of choice for language teachers. Prior to implementation of this Plan, there will be extensive and wide-reaching public

consultation through an ACT Government YourSay campaign. This will include engagement with native speakers and consultation will be open to language learners, educators, and the broader community.

Schools—teachers

Ms Berry (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Cain on Wednesday, 4 May 2022*):

There have been **136** permanent school-based support staff that have left the system in the last two years (1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021).

The following table provides a breakdown of school-based support staff separations by classification:

Classification	2020	2021	Total
School Assistants	43	52	95
Administrative/ICT	10	15	25
Building Services Officers	12	4	16
Total	65	71	136

The following table provides a breakdown of school-based support staff separations by separation reason:

Separation reason	2020	2021	Total
Resignation	34	35	69
Retirement	31	34	65
Other	0	2	2
Total	65	71	136

The following should be noted in the interpretation of this data:

- These figures reflect school-based staff only and do not include staff in office-based positions in the Education Support Office.
- In many instances, staff members will leave their permanent role but continue to be employed in temporary or casual positions, particularly for staff transitioning to retirement. In these instances, they will be recorded as a permanent separation, despite continuing to work in the system.
- Reporting of temporary or casual staff leaving the system is unreliable and has therefore not been included. This can be due to staff working in permanent, temporary or casual positions concurrently or switching between modes of employment. Because of this, a single employee can be recorded as ceasing as a temporary or casual employee, multiple times, within a reporting period despite continuing to be employed as a permanent employee.

Schools—teachers

Ms Berry (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Cain on Wednesday, 4 May 2022*):

There have been **337** permanent school-based teachers that have left the system in the last two years (1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021).

The following table provides a breakdown of school-based teacher separations by classification:

Classification	2020	2021	Total
Classroom Teacher	141	150	291
School Leader C (Executive Teacher)	13	16	29
School Leader B (Deputy Principal)	5	4	9
School Leader A (Principal)	5	3	8
Total	164	173	337

The following table provides a breakdown of teacher separations by separation reason:

Separation reason	2020	2021	Total
Resignation	100	111	211
Retirement	61	59	120
Other	3	3	6
Total	164	173	337

The following should be noted in the interpretation of this data:

- These figures reflect school-based teachers only and do not include teachers in office-based positions in the Education Support Office.
- In many instances, staff members will leave their permanent role but continued to be employed in temporary or casual positions, particularly for staff transitioning to retirement. In these instances, they will be recorded as a permanent separation, despite continuing to work in the system.
- Reporting of temporary or casual staff leaving the system is unreliable and has therefore not been included. This can be due to staff working in permanent, temporary or casual positions concurrently or switching between modes of employment. Because of this, a single employee can be recorded as ceasing as a temporary or casual employee multiple times within a reporting period despite continuing to be employed as a permanent employee.

Schools—safety

Ms Berry (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Wednesday, 4 May 2022*):

As at 9 May 2022, ACT Policing have been contacted by an ACT public school or contacted an ACT public school in relation to an incident or matter involving a student, community or safety issue on 30 occasions during the 2022 school year. This number is based on incidents reported by schools in line with incident reporting procedures.

Telecommunications—reception black spots

Mr Barr (*in reply to a question by Mrs Kikkert on Thursday, 5 May 2022*):

I refer the member to my response to Question on Notice No. 10 dated 4 December 2020, attached here for reference. Communications infrastructure is the responsibility of the federal government.

Waste—Gungahlin recycling drop-off centre

Mr Steel (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Thursday, 5 May 2022*):

The Recycling Drop Off Centres (RDOC) are managed by ACT NoWaste through two Territory contractors, Remondis and Suez. Remondis is responsible for the collection of paper and cardboard and general cleaning of the facilities and manage any illegal dumping. Suez is responsible for the collection of comingled bins (hoppers with recycled cans and bottles).

The RDOC facilities are serviced as follows:

- The paper and cardboard cages are emptied once daily (excluding Sundays).
- The comingled bins are emptied three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

ACT NoWaste conducts weekly inspections of the RDOCs to ensure they are in an operable state and do not present any safety risks. If maintenance issues are identified, members of the public are encouraged to contact 13 22 81 to report the issue.

COVID-19 pandemic—school camps

Ms Berry (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Hanson on Thursday, 5 May 2022*):

Outward Bound was successful in the 2021-22 Technology Upgrade Funds Grant Program for \$40,000 (GST exclusive) to assist with the Outward Bound Back in the Bush Safely – Technology Upgrade. On 4 May 2022, Minister Davidson, Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, announced the outcome of the grant round and letters of offer to all successful grant recipients were issued.

Outward Bound was successful in the 2021-22 Community Support and Infrastructure Grant program for \$10,000 (GST exclusive) as a contribution towards Outward Bound High Ropes Course Equipment Renewal. On 11 May 2022, Minister Stephen-Smith, Minister for Families and Community Services, announced the outcome of the grant round and letters of offer to all successful grant recipients were issued.

On 12 May 2022, the Community Services Directorate received both signed Grant Acceptance letters and are preparing payments of the grants to Outward Bound.