



# Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**TENTH ASSEMBLY**

**21 September 2022**

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**Wednesday, 21 September 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.

### **Privileges 2022–Select Committee Statement by Speaker**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members, before we get to business, on 15 August of this year, Mr Milligan, as chair of the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23, gave written notice of a possible breach of privilege, alleging that a minister had interfered with the estimates committee by writing to certain MLAs and making incorrect assertions about what had been agreed by the estimates committee considering the conduct of hearings.

Mr Milligan has alleged that the minister's correspondence had the effect of falsely reporting what he had reached in agreement with the committee, and this letter was circulated to witnesses. Under the provisions of standing order 276, my role is to determine, as soon as practicable, whether or not the matter merits precedence over other business. If, in my opinion, the matter does merit precedence, I must inform the Assembly of that decision, and the member who raised the matter may move a motion without notice forthwith to refer the matter to the select committee appointed by the Assembly for that purpose. If, in my opinion, the matter does not merit precedence, I must inform the member in writing and also inform the Assembly of this decision.

I am not required to judge whether there has been a breach of privilege or a contempt of the Assembly; I can only judge whether the matter merits precedence. Having considered the matter, I have concluded that the matter does merit precedence over other business, and I wrote to Mr Milligan on 12 September informing him of such. I will be forwarding the relevant material to the privileges committee. In the absence of Mr Milligan from the chamber today, I now give the call to a member who may wish to move that this matter be referred to the privileges committee.

## **Privileges 2022—Select Committee Inquiry**

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (10.03): Mr Milligan, chair of the estimates committee, is unfortunately absent, attending to a personal matter. So, I, as deputy chair of the estimates committee, and on behalf of the committee, wish to move the motion circulated under Mr Milligan’s name to expand the scope of the privileges committee.

I seek leave to move the motion.

Leave granted.

**MR BRADDOCK:** I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 15 August 2022, which established the Select Committee on Privileges 2022, be amended by inserting:

“(1A) the Committee also examine the alleged breach of privilege raised by the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 in relation to a possible interference in the work of the Committee by a Minister;”.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Reporting date**

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (10.04), by leave: I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 15 August 2022, as amended, which established the Select Committee on Privileges 2022 be amended by omitting “last sitting day of October 2022” and substituting “last sitting in November 2022”.

**MR HANSON:** Essentially, we are just asking for a little bit more time. Given the public hearings that we are now going to have, and trying to schedule them in; three weeks of sitting during that period; two weeks of school holidays; and other committee business, it is the view of the members of the committee that we need a little more time to get that done so that we can report back. That is the essence of it. I seek the chamber’s support.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Gentleman**) adjourned to a later hour.

## **Estimates 2022-2023—Select Committee Establishment—amendment**

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (10.06), by leave: I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 24 March 2022, as amended 15 August 2022, which established the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 be amended by:

- (1) omitting paragraph (6) and inserting the following paragraph: “(6) the Committee is to report by Friday, 30 September 2022”; and
- (2) inserting a new paragraph (7A): “(7A) the Committee is to be dissolved on the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on Privileges 2022;”.

This motion has two aims. It gives the government certainty that the estimates committee report will be tabled in a timely manner and expedites the budget process. The motion sets a tabling date of no later than 30 September 2022. The motion also allows the estimates committee to continue to contribute as a committee to the enquiry on the Select Committee on Privileges 2022. This motion seeks to allow the estimates committee to continue until that privileges committee is dissolved. This is to allow the estimates committee to provide evidence and to release documents to the privileges committee, if required.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Petition**

### **Ministerial response**

The following response to a petition has been lodged:

#### **Ngunnawal—traffic management—petition 9-22**

By **Mr Steel**, Minister for Transport and City Services, dated 19 September 2022, in response to a petition lodged by **Ms Castley** on 2 June 2022, concerning parking at the Platypus Centre in Ngunnawal.

*The response read as follows:*

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 2 June 2022 regarding petition 9-22, lodged by Ms Leanne Castley MLA requesting to create a one-way car park system at the Platypus Centre in Ngunnawal.

Traffic management and safety on the road network and access to car parking facilities is an area of ongoing community interest.

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) will review the circulation aisle width requirements and turning requirements for both the car parking and the movement of delivery and waste vehicles within the carpark. This will allow TCCS to determine if improvements are required to the current traffic management arrangements.

TCCS will consult key stakeholders, including the lease holders within the Platypus Centre and the community who use the carpark, if improvements are recommended for the carpark or the traffic movements.

I trust this information is of assistance.

**Motion to take note of petition**

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

That the response so lodged be noted.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**COVID-19 pandemic—update  
Ministerial statement**

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH** (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health) (10.08): I wish to provide what I hope will be my last regular update to the Legislative Assembly on the COVID-19 situation in the ACT and the actions taken by the ACT government to protect the health and wellbeing of Canberrans. I will, of course, continue to update the Assembly if there are significant changes, but I am currently intending to revoke the public health emergency declaration—a declaration that has been in place since March 2020—by 30 September, and we will step down to a COVID-19 management declaration.

I am pleased to say that the ACT is in a strong and stable position as we move towards this new phase of the government's COVID-19 response. This therefore seems an appropriate time to cease providing a ministerial statement at the beginning of each sitting period—something I am sure many members will be relieved to hear. Since my last update, the COVID-19 situation in the ACT and nationally has improved significantly and we have clearly passed the peak of the second Omicron wave. We have seen daily case numbers consistently declining here in the ACT and across the country.

We know that the pandemic is not over. It is important that Canberrans remain vigilant and continue to be COVID smart, but, as the World Health Organisation has now said, the end of the pandemic is in sight. We are moving closer to treating COVID-19 like other infectious diseases. In the interests of time, I will keep my remarks short today, and table my detailed update along with the Chief Health Officer's 30th report on the status of the public health emergency.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank Canberrans for how they have rallied together over the past two and a half years. COVID-19 has been one of the biggest challenges our community has ever faced. Canberrans have responded with incredible resilience, compassion and an unshakeable community spirit. I know it has not been easy, but Canberrans have been incredible at doing what was necessary to respond to this global public health challenge. Throughout the pandemic, our community has followed the public health directions, socially distanced, worn masks, gotten tested, gotten vaccinated, quarantined and stayed at home when unwell.

As at 14 September 2022, nearly 1.7 million vaccine doses have been administered in the ACT. Canberra's testing centres have conducted more than a million PCR tests since the beginning of the Delta outbreak in August 2021. A further 55,000 rapid



antigen tests have been distributed at ACT testing centres. Collectively, Canberrans have quarantined more than 300,000 times. These numbers reflect the determination with which Canberrans took steps to keep themselves, their loved ones, and the community, safe.

They also reflect the truly remarkable effort of our public health officials and healthcare workers. I have spoken many times before about the outstanding contribution that Canberra's nurses have made and continue to make to our COVID response and the protection of our community. We have seen our nurses go above and beyond over the past 2½ years. They have been vital to the running of our testing centres and vaccination clinics and to the maintenance of regular health system operations. We know that the whole health system has been impacted by COVID in myriad ways. So, to our doctors, midwives, pathologists, allied health professionals, paramedics, cleaners, security staff, wardspeople, administrators and everyone else who continued to keep our health system going through these busy and challenging times: thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge the effort of ACT Health Directorate staff. Since the beginning of the pandemic, ACT Health staff have provided monitoring and support to Canberrans during the more than 300,000 quarantine periods I mentioned earlier. Since 1 June 2021, more than one million SMSs and emails have been sent to people in quarantine, and since 1 November 2021 more than 1.5 million SMSs and emails have been sent to positive cases in isolation. The exemptions team processed just under 95,000 exemption applications. The vaccine booking team responded to almost 340,000 calls. And, of course, the digital solutions team developed the nation-leading Check In CBR app and kept the IT systems going, even when they were doing more than they were really designed for. This work has been essential to the ACT's COVID response.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the ACT Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerryn Coleman; her deputy, Dr Vanessa Johnston; and the Executive Branch Manager of the COVID-19 Policy and Support Services, Vanessa Dal Molin. Their expertise and professionalism have been the guiding lights for the government's pandemic response, and I cannot thank them enough for their service to the Canberra community.

I am sure the Assembly will join me in extending thanks and appreciation to all the workers who have contributed and continue to contribute to the ACT's public health response: the public health officials, hospital staff, pathology staff, contact tracers, COVID care and wellbeing teams, and so many more. I also want to acknowledge all the other ACT government and non-government workers who have had to respond, pivot, and pivot again, through the phases of the pandemic. Whether you are a teacher, or you work in child protection, drive a bus, build our essential infrastructure or staff our detention centres and high-risk settings, or you do one of the many more jobs that have felt the impact of COVID-19, thank you for your flexibility, resilience and commitment to the ACT community.

We are in a strong position to move to the new step-down phase of our COVID-19 response, thanks to the efforts of every Canberran. Whether by working on the front line or by being COVID-smart in their homes and out in the community, every Canberran has contributed to our COVID response, and that contribution has been

outstanding. If there is one good thing to have come out of the challenges and hardships we have faced since March 2020, it is how they have highlighted the remarkable strength and compassion of the Canberra community.

I present the following papers:

Coronavirus (COVID-19)—ACT Government Response—

Ministerial statement, 21 September 2022.

Update, dated 21 September 2022.

Status of the Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19—Chief Health Officer Report 30—August 2022, dated 29 August 2022.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**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) (10.14): I would like to say a few words, if I can, about the amazing amount of work that has been done throughout our community to take care of each other over this period. Our aim throughout all of this has been to protect those who are most at risk while also supporting the mental health and wellbeing of people and their ability to continue their paid work to put food on the table and keep the rent paid.

Throughout this period new variants have emerged, and we have had the difficulty and complexity of implementing clear and consistent regulations across jurisdictions at times. But, with a lot of effort by a lot of people, we have managed to protect many more people than we might have otherwise. There have been times when NDIS providers have had cases within their services, and at times there have been more than 40 providers who have had cases at any given time, but as at 9 September there are no providers who have notified cases to ACT Health. This is, in part, due to ongoing work to ensure that people have PPE, are trained in how to use it properly, and have access to rapid antigen test kits so that we can ensure that people who may have been exposed to COVID are able to get tested quickly and easily.

I would like to thank CSD and ACT Health for their work in distributing more than 82,000 rapid antigen test kits to cover the gaps in distribution of those test kits by the NDIA and the commonwealth government, to make sure that people who are providing in-home disability care and aged care are able to continue their work where it is safe to do so. I would also like to thank NDS for their support in managing the workforce and coordinating to make sure that shifts were covered during difficult periods when many people had to be in isolation. I thank ACT Health and the Office for Disability for coordinating communications to NDIS providers so that they could understand what they needed to do to protect people. There was also a lot of great work done by our access and sensory clinic and Canberra Health Services to provide in-reach vaccinations to those people who are most at risk—and that work is ongoing.

Within AMC we have had a unique situation in our ability to contain outbreaks, with minimal transmission between people who are in the AMC. That is due to a lot of

hard work by our justice health staff and corrections officers to make sure that they are able to use PPE appropriately and to make sure that people are vaccinated. In fact, we have had amazingly high rates of first-dose vaccination amongst people in the AMC—often 70 to 80 per cent receiving their first-dose vaccination. At 5 September, 75 per cent of people had received their second-dose vaccination, 55 per cent had received their first booster, and 22 per cent had received a second booster. These are really amazing numbers, and that is thanks to many clinics run by justice health services and by Winnunga to make sure that people are able to be vaccinated. Within Bimberi, the use of PPE and vaccination by many staff members has helped to reduce the risk of transmission there. As at 5 September, we have no cases of COVID in Bimberi. Similarly, in our acute mental health unit the use of PPE and providing vaccinations to inpatients has helped to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID in a very high-risk place.

There were times, too, when almost every aged-care facility in this city had COVID cases, particularly during 2021, but today there are only a handful of residential aged-care facilities which have cases, and it is generally only a few cases at a time. That shows that the use of PPE, and vaccinations for those people who are most at risk, make a real difference in reducing transmission and improving health outcomes.

I would also like to thank Winnunga for its work in making sure that people in our community are vaccinated, as well as people in the AMC, and for looking out for people's mental health and wellbeing while they have experienced lockdowns at the AMC. They have also done some great work in making sure that people know that they can get a telehealth appointment so that they can access antivirals if they do test positive in the community. I would also like to thank them for making sure that I am vaccinated.

Socioeconomic situations have a big impact on people's health outcomes from COVID. We have had more cases of people who tested positive in the outer suburbs than in the inner suburbs in the ACT. That is why it has been so important that we have commonwealth support with payments for people who are in isolation and are not able to take sick leave or access paid work, so that people are able to quarantine and reduce transmission in the community. It is also why the ACT government put so much effort into making sure that we had food relief programs to support people in situations where they were not able to engage in paid work.

The Canberra Relief Network, which ran until 12 February, transitioned to supporting local food pantries after that date, and that is an important way of supporting not only food relief, but also people's ability to connect with other support services that those local food pantries might be able to help with and ensure that people are able to access all of the kinds of support that they might need in difficult circumstances. It is why the ACT government has committed over \$475,000 over four years in the 2021-22 budget to continue supporting our local food pantries through a database and a dedicated project coordinator for the food security network. This is an example of community-led and government supported recovery.

I would like to thank CSD and Volunteering ACT, the SES and Veterans Volunteers through the Disaster Relief Australia organisation for their work in supporting the

Canberra Relief Network. I would also like to say thank you to Multicultural Hub Canberra and Companion House for their food relief support for the multicultural community. I would also like to say thank you to the many thousands of informal volunteers who helped out with mutual aid groups and organisations like Helping ACT, and local small businesses who made donations of food and support. What they have done has helped many thousands of households in Canberra, in addition to the more than 4,000 deliveries by the Canberra Relief Network to literally put food on the table when people were having a difficult time.

I would like to recognise that COVID-19 is not over for everyone. There are people with disability, older people in our community and carers, who are still having to stay in physical isolation to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19 and transmitting it to someone who may be most at risk from it. This is why it is so important that we continue to provide vaccinations and that antivirals are available for those people who are most at risk. It is also important that we continue to wear masks in crowded indoor situations where we are unable to distance from each other. If we can meet outdoors wherever possible and continue to support flexibility for working and studying from home, those people who are not able to go back into crowded indoor situations can continue to engage and not end up even more socially isolated. But, most significantly, it is important for all of us to be kind to each other and to think about the fact that not everyone is experiencing the same thing at the same time. Thank you.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Domestic Violence Agencies (Information Sharing) Amendment Bill 2022—consultation draft 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) (10.23): I wish to provide a second update to the Assembly on work progressed on the Domestic Violence Agencies (Information Sharing) Amendment Bill 2022, which has occurred as part of the ACT government's work to increase safety for people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic and family violence.

Development of the bill has progressed significantly since my last update to the Assembly. Before I update the Assembly on our progress and the next steps for consultation, I would like to speak briefly about why we are proposing an information-sharing framework for the ACT. We know that timely access to, and sharing of, information is critical to ensuring the safety of people experiencing family violence. The Domestic Violence Prevention Council review of domestic and family violence deaths in the ACT found that information was often seen in isolation by service providers and that information sharing was limited. In some of the cases reviewed, there were pieces of information available on the files of numerous service providers which, if viewed in isolation, did not indicate a risk of future violence or lethality; however, when these various pieces of information were put together, a different picture emerged, very clearly indicating a heightened risk of violence or lethality to victims.

The importance of information sharing is echoed by other jurisdictions. Every second year, the New South Wales Coroner prepares a domestic violence death review report. These reports inevitably include deaths that may have been prevented if agencies and services had shared information about clients under threat of domestic violence, and had taken action to prevent the violence from escalating. On 29 June 2022, the findings of the coronial inquest into the tragic death of Hannah Clarke and her children were released. While there were many contributing factors that led to this unthinkable tragedy, it is clear that improvements to the way information is shared between agencies is necessary to get a full picture of domestic and family violence risk. When this risk is understood, agencies can work together more effectively to hold perpetrators to account, and to provide support to the people impacted by this violence.

The central elements of the proposed information-sharing scheme for the ACT are as follows. Agencies designated by the minister to be information-sharing entities will be able to disclose information to each other to provide a coordinated, integrated and timely response for a victim-survivor. Victim-survivor consent is intended to be central to the proposed information-sharing scheme. Information-sharing entities will work hard to support victims-survivors to make informed choices to engage in the scheme. Information can only be shared to the extent necessary to achieve a protection purpose. A protection purpose includes undertaking a risk assessment and/or taking action to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence. There will be limited circumstances where information may be shared without the consent of a victim-survivor, to protect their safety. For example, where seeking consent could, in itself, put at risk the life, health or safety of a victim-survivor.

The scheme will protect the information shared by agencies by prohibiting the reckless sharing of information by information-sharing entities. This is consistent with approaches that the ACT government has taken to provide the privacy of sensitive, personal information elsewhere. The scheme will enable the making of detailed operational guidelines and regulations relevant to information sharing, to support its implementation. The scheme will be subject to review after two years of operation. This means there will be an opportunity to consider what has worked well and where there is room for improvements, to assist us to achieve better outcomes for victims-survivors of domestic and family violence. This is complex and detailed legislation which has required extensive consultation to develop as we balance competing human rights considerations.

The purpose of this legislative reform is to promote the safety, protection and wellbeing of victims-survivors of domestic and family violence and those who are at risk. To this end, I am pleased to advise the Assembly that the ACT government is commencing a public consultation process through the YourSay website on the proposed information-sharing scheme. This consultation process will involve sharing a draft bill, alongside a discussion paper to guide community feedback on more complex issues related to a proposed legislated information-sharing scheme.

In addition to the YourSay consultation process, we will continue to consult closely with key government and community sector agencies so that we can get this model right. To do this, we will be working to ensure that the views, experiences and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is front and centre, given the

historical punitive treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by government and institutions. We will also be working closely with persons with disability within our community to ensure that their experiences and expertise informs this work as it progresses. The Coordinator-General for Family Safety and I will consider the feedback received during the public consultation as we take the final steps towards designing an information-sharing model. The feedback received will inform the final bill and its supporting documents.

In closing, I look forward to the community's feedback on the information-sharing model we are developing. I encourage both community organisations and community members to provide feedback on the draft bill. I particularly encourage people with lived experience of domestic and family violence to participate in the YourSay consultation. Their experiences and expertise will directly inform how this model is delivered. In releasing the draft bill to the public, I acknowledge that we have work to do to support the community to continue to feel safe and supported to engage with domestic and family violence support services. It is my hope that the domestic and family violence information-sharing scheme will make the ACT a safer place for all of us.

I present the following paper:

Domestic Violence Agencies (Information Sharing) Amendment Bill 2022—  
Ministerial statement, 21 September 2022.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Environment—threatened species**

### **Ministerial statement**

**MS VASSAROTTI** (Kurrajong—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) (10.30): I am pleased to deliver to the Assembly today a ministerial statement commemorating Threatened Species Day, which was held on 7 September 2022. It is observed across Australia to raise awareness of plants and animals at risk of extinction. Threatened Species Day is when we highlight the native plants, animals and ecological communities that are under threat, and consider how we can protect them. The day also celebrates our committed rangers, ecologists, researchers, volunteers, conservationists and community experts and the amazing work they are doing to save our threatened species.

An increase in the threat of extinction for many native species was highlighted in the *Australia state of the environment 2021* report. There is much to be done to reduce the threats and arrest the decline of our threatened species. The ACT is home to many fascinating and extraordinary listed threatened species. In the ACT there are currently over 50 native species and three ecological communities listed as threatened. This means that they have a high probability of extinction in the near future if measures are not taken to stop their decline and support their recovery.

Partly due to the Black Summer bushfires, this year has seen the assessment and listing under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of around 15 native species that are relevant to the ACT. Another eight species relevant to the ACT will be assessed under the EPBC Act soon. An important discovery in the ACT last spring was of the threatened purple copper butterfly. It was previously known to be found only in the Bathurst area, and was discovered in Namadgi National Park after the Orroral Valley fire. The ACT is now a known important location for the species and it is likely to be the only remaining, unmodified, naturally occurring habitat for the species. Its status is also being reassessed under the EPBC Act.

The *State of the environment* report made it clear that immediate action through innovative management and collaboration can turn things around. To combat the range of threats facing our threatened species, the ACT government currently runs over 20 threatened species programs and research projects. These are delivered by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, working in strong collaborative partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including local Ngunnawal communities; trusts; universities; zoos; botanic gardens; state and Australian government agencies, especially in New South Wales; and community conservation organisations.

Strengthening our collaboration and partnerships is critical for delivering outcomes for threatened species. This has included ongoing investment to support catchment groups, ACT Wildlife, community projects and university research to support proactive management. The Biodiversity Conservation Forum commenced late last year to strengthen the partnership between community and government on biodiversity issues in the ACT. It is co-chaired by the ACT's Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Executive Director of the Conservation Council (ACT Region), with my support as Minister for the Environment.

In addressing some of the *State of the environment* report concerns, the ACT government is also collaborating with the commonwealth and other jurisdictions to help build the biodiversity data repository. This is designed to inform and help us improve how we plan and make environmental decisions. Developing metrics around values, threats and distributions that help track the performance of matters of national environmental significance is crucial. To facilitate this, the environmental offsets policy is being reviewed, and a strategic framework and work plan is being developed.

I am also very pleased that the ACT will soon engage with the Australian government and other states and territories to progress the national recovery plan for the koala. The ACT's experience and knowledge of koalas through the work at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve will be of great value to this important body of work.

In 2020 the Orroral Valley bushfire severely impacted a range of species and communities. A suite of ecological recovery initiatives to mitigate the impacts of bushfires are underway, including restorative actions and research programs. Updates on these projects are communicated online. EPSDD, in collaboration with New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the University of Canberra, are undertaking research into the bushfire impacts, genetic diversity and post-fire recolonisation of burnt areas by the threatened broad-toothed rat.

This year EPSDD led the first stage of the national coordination of gang-gang cockatoo recovery. EPSDD also successfully secured funding from the Australian government for additional recovery actions for gang-gang cockatoos, southern brush-tailed rock wallabies and greater gliders in the ACT. These projects are being delivered in collaboration with community groups, conservation organisations and research partners. At Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, the ACT government undertakes captive breeding programs for three threatened species, the brush-tailed rock wallaby, the northern corroboree frog and the Canberra grassland earless dragon. These captive breeding programs form part of national recovery efforts for these species, and they are critical for these species' survival.

Meanwhile, the success of a reintroduction program for the critically endangered northern corroboree frog, along with captive breeding at Tidbinbilla, continues in collaboration with the Australian National University. Since the release of 540 northern corroboree frogs in late 2020, another 309 frogs and 1,000 eggs have been recently released to bolster the population at a new, carefully chosen, trial release site in Namadgi National Park, and early results are very promising. Follow-up surveys have shown that the frogs are persisting and breeding at the release site.

Another of our critically endangered species, very close to extinction in the wild, is the Canberra grassland earless dragon that is restricted to fragments of grassland habitat in Canberra and neighbouring south-west Queanbeyan. A breeding colony and insurance population of Canberra grassland earless dragons was established at Tidbinbilla last year. The first breeding season was successful, with 30 baby dragons hatching. The total number in the colony at Tidbinbilla has increased to 56 dragons. Reintroduction of some of these individuals is planned for this spring. EPSDD, in collaboration with the New South Wales government and the University of Canberra, have successfully established a captive breeding colony of the endangered smoky mouse at the University of Canberra. Individuals bred at the colony will be used to trial soft release methods for the species at Tidbinbilla.

Looking after the habitat of our threatened species is also critically important. The ACT is significant in having a large intact grassland and grassy woodlands, as well as high country bogs and fens that contain our only Ramsar site. Natural temperate grassland is considered to be one of the most threatened Australian ecological communities, and is listed under both the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and the ACT's Nature Conservation Act as critically endangered. The ACT contains significant remnants of the remaining extent of the natural temperate grassland in the region, and therefore is a priority for protection and management.

The ACT's remaining box-gum woodlands are also nationally significant, as they are among the biggest, most connected and most botanically diverse examples of their type. The critically endangered yellow box-Blakely's red gum grassy woodland is particularly important. In 2021 the formal protection of 160 hectares in the Nadjung Mada Nature Reserve protected important habitat for the vulnerable striped legless lizard, superb parrot, and Perunga grasshopper, and includes 85 hectares of critically endangered box-gum woodland.



I recently received a five-yearly implementation progress report on the vulnerable pink-tailed worm-lizard action plan from the Conservator of Flora and Fauna. The ACT is a hot spot for the pink-tailed worm-lizard and its habitat exists in many Canberra nature reserves, but the Molonglo River Reserve protects the largest known population of pink-tailed worm-lizards in Australia, and monitoring indicates that population numbers are stable in this reserve.

In response to the 2020 bushfires that devastated most of our endangered high-country bogs and fens ecological community, the ACT sphagnum bog rehabilitation and monitoring plan was developed, and is being implemented in a selection of burnt bogs. Observed recovery of the bogs is slow but there has been noticeable improvement in ground cover, and minimal erosion. The rehabilitation interventions appear to be working well.

Under the Australian government's Landcare Program, the ACT government delivered a five-year project, principally to establish the impact and abundance of sambar deer to inform control programs and protect the Ginini Flats Ramsar site from the destructive impacts of sambar deer. Feral vertebrate pests, including deer, pigs and horses, remain major threats in the fragile high-country areas. While this project finished in June, it has implications beyond the Ramsar site, and is guiding annual management and monitoring actions across the entire bogs and fens ecological community.

The ACT government is working to protect our beautiful but threatened bird species. Monitoring of breeding and movements of the vulnerable little eagle continue, in collaboration with the CSIRO, the ANU, and Ginninderry Conservation Trust. Research into another iconic bird, the vulnerable superb parrot, continues to ensure that critical breeding and habitat resources are maintained in the ACT. As migratory shorebirds face challenges of habitat loss, the ACT government has supported research conducted by the Woodland and Wetlands Trust, in collaboration with Japan. This work will help Japan and Australia conserve the charismatic species, the Latham's or Japanese snipe, into the future. Insights have been gained into its migratory land use through tracking the species' movements from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands since 2017.

The ACT government undertakes monitoring of threatened fish species including trout cod, Murray cod and two-spined blackfish, as well as Riek's crayfish, which is being assessed under the EPBC Act. The monitoring program has special importance following the considerable impacts on populations following the Orroral Valley fire and the large volumes of sand and sediment from the fire that are still present in many reaches of the river, within and downstream of the fireground, despite high river levels in the past 12 months. This has significantly impacted the vulnerable two-spined blackfish, with no indication of breeding since spring last year. A genetic condition assessment of this two-spined blackfish population is also being undertaken, to determine whether direct management action will be needed to maintain this population into the future.

The ACT government conducts annual monitoring of many populations of threatened plants and habitat conditions. This helps to inform on condition, species occurrence, threats, and management needs. We also need to secure flora. Threatened orchid seeds

are being banked in an ongoing collaboration with the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and planning for the translocation of the Canberra spider orchid is underway. The Botanic Gardens has had a breakthrough with the first ever-known successful germination of a seed from the ACT endemic and endangered Tuggeranong lignum, and they are now undertaking more formal germination trials for the ACT government.

The Botanic Gardens are raising 900 endangered small purple pea plants, in partnership with the ACT government over the next three years. This will help to supplement existing wild populations and establish new wild populations in environmental offset areas and nature reserves. The ACT government is working with the Botanic Gardens, several other partners and a strong network of Canberra volunteers to secure threatened plant species in the sub-alpine regions severely impacted by the 2020 bushfires. The project team are working to secure seed and plant collections of the dwarf violet and 11 other threatened species in Namadgi and Kosciuszko as insurance against their extinction and to uncover the germination cues on how to grow these species.

Engagement and education is also important. Looking after our threatened species also means helping the community to understand and experience native species and ecosystems and what is needed to protect their long-term future. The Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary—run by a partnership between the ACT government, the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust and the Australian National University—provides a safe haven for a range of threatened species in the ACT, as well as opportunities for research and communication about the restoration of threatened woodland ecosystems. To help people better understand and experience our native species and environments, the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary partnership is preparing to open Wildbark, the Woodland Learning Centre in Throsby.

In conclusion, I am extremely proud to present these examples of our work to demonstrate that the ACT government is committed to ensuring the long-term conservation of our threatened plants and animals and to show that we are dedicated to enabling the ACT community to experience, learn and engage with nature. Our unique species are part of our landscape health and part of our community's wellbeing and culture. These threatened species need our ongoing help to address the range of threats and the extinction crisis, to get them back on the road to recovery and thriving into the future. We have dedicated teams of rangers, ecologists and support staff who are passionate about their jobs and work really hard to deliver better outcomes for our threatened species.

The different futures that lie ahead also depend on our collective ability to address climate change impacts for the sake of our plants and animals and the ACT community. We are also very fortunate in the ACT to have many expert scientists, both in universities and in the community, as well as other keenly interested citizen scientists and conservation groups that are fully engaged in their drive to stop the decline and support the recovery of our threatened species.

I present the following paper:

Threatened Species Day—7 September—Ministerial Statement.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Planning Bill 2022**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.48): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

This is an important day for planning in Canberra, as we move from our current planning system to a new, simpler system that will focus on the best outcomes for our city, our environment and our people. I am proud to introduce the Planning Bill 2022 in the Assembly today. This important bill will repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2007. When the Planning and Development Act was introduced, it was the most significant reform to planning legislation in the ACT since self-government. The resulting planning system was, at the time, a nation-leading practice model for development assessment and regulation.

This new planning bill is the result of a comprehensive review of our planning system. We want to further improve and modernise the way we plan for the future, in light of the new challenges faced by cities around the world, including population growth and climate change. At the same time, we want to honour the city that we know and love, to maintain the characteristics that make our city special, such as being a city in the landscape. We have heard extensively from the community and industry on how the planning system can be improved.

This bill is the first of three major reforms to arise from the review. These reforms will support Canberra's growth, while maintaining its valued character, respecting our environment and heritage values and acknowledging the important contribution that traditional custodians can make to planning in the ACT. The bill sets out our vision for a modern planning system that is accessible, easy to use and delivers improved development outcomes across the ACT.

The review found that parts of the current legislation, over time, have become complex and prohibitive to achieving this vision. The bill keeps the parts that are still effective and removes or amends those aspects that prevent the planning system from

meeting the needs of current and future Canberrans. The bill seeks to implement our vision by delivering a spatially led and outcomes-focused planning system that meets the long-term aspirations for the growth and development of Canberra.

A greater emphasis will be placed on strategic planning and spatial direction for the territory at different scales, from the city level to the local area and site levels of planning, as well as improved and built form outcomes. An outcomes focus means that the new planning system will outline the desired results of planning rather than prescribe how things need to be done. It looks beyond buildings in isolation and looks at how they sit in their environment. It means considering things like: are those new buildings being respectful neighbours? How do they perform in terms of Canberrans' wellbeing, health, recreation, employment, housing and environment? An outcomes focus will lead to greater flexibility in the way developments can be designed, allowing for greater emphasis on improving design quality and built outcomes so that developments can perform well within their local context.

We wanted the bill and subsequent statutory instruments such as the Territory Plan to be easy to use and to provide certainty. At the same time, we wanted to encourage innovative and flexible planning, build trust and confidence in the planning system, and encourage outcomes-focused planning and high quality design. We have expanded the bill's objects to encourage thinking about planning in the ACT that goes beyond a focus on bricks and mortar. We want to make sure that the planning system continues to deliver for the wide-ranging and often changing needs of all parts of the ACT community.

Sustainable development was a fundamental part of the Planning and Development Act. We are maintaining the importance of this concept in the bill and expanding it to encompass the idea of ecologically sustainable development. We want decisions made within the planning system to support economic growth, but in doing so we want to protect ecological processes and natural systems at the local, territory and broader landscape levels. We want to maintain and enhance the cultural, physical and social wellbeing of all Canberrans.

The bill explicitly encourages planning decisions to consider the knowledge, culture and traditions of the traditional custodians and to plan for population growth. Planning decisions could also consider Canberra's biodiversity and landscape setting, creating a sustainable and resilient environment and high quality, people-focused and design-led built outcomes.

Planning can be a complex task, where decision-makers need to consider, balance and prioritise sometimes competing policy goals. The bill will include principles for good planning to highlight the importance of good strategic planning. Planners will consider these principles when undertaking strategic and spatial planning. The principles set a benchmark for how planning should be undertaken and help industry and the community to understand the purpose of planning and how good planning should occur.

The move to an outcomes-focused planning system is a significant shift from the Planning and Development Act. We believe that it is necessary and appropriate to create a new entity, to be called the Territory Planning Authority. The change

acknowledges the expanded role of the authority in seeking better development outcomes and considering development applications from a performance perspective.

The bill will also provide for the appointment of a chief planner as the statutory office holder who performs the functions of the Territory Planning Authority, similar to the chief planning executive of the current planning and land authority. The bill outlines several complementary provisions that will enable the Territory Planning Authority to perform its increased functions throughout the planning system.

The bill will support the ACT planning strategy's current territory and city-wide focus with a district focus, by introducing district strategies. District strategies will be prepared for nine districts: Belconnen, Tuggeranong, Woden, Molonglo, Weston Creek, inner south, inner north and city, Gungahlin and east Canberra. The district strategies will continue the strategic and spatial planning expressed through the planning strategy at the district level, using the same long-term time frame. They will contribute to a line of sight between our planning policies and documents, including this bill and the Territory Plan.

The strategies will identify areas for future detailed planning, such as planning studies and investigations, and contain long-term planning policy and goals for each district, while considering the special characteristics that make each district unique. They will guide and manage change at and below the district level. The district strategies will be reviewed at least every five years.

The bill will require a new Territory Plan. The Territory Plan will give effect to the planning strategy and district strategies and support greater connection with other government strategies, policies and plans. The bill also sets out two pathways to amend the Territory Plan. Firstly, major amendments will require consultation with the community and the National Capital Authority before being considered by the minister and will be subject to Legislative Assembly review. Minor amendments are the same as the technical amendments under the current Planning and Development Act and will be considered by the Territory Planning Authority.

The bill will also introduce a process for an interim Territory Plan, to be approved by the Legislative Assembly, and for it to be operational while the interim Territory Plan is referred to the Legislative Assembly standing committee. Following the committee advice and further government consideration, the amended or unamended Territory Plan can be presented back to the Legislative Assembly for final approval.

The bill will introduce a revised development assessment process to support the shift to an outcomes-focused planning system. It will simplify development assessment into a single, efficient and transparent pathway, with an additional requirement around significant development. It will maintain the entity referral, public notification and procedural safeguards from the Planning and Development Act, which have worked well. A concept of significant development will be introduced as another type of assessable development. Significant development will involve the consideration of additional matters such as proposals requiring design review, environmental impact assessment or subdivision design.

The bill will introduce a new stage into the development assessment process to recognise the expanded role of the Territory Planning Authority. It will enable the authority to provide pre-decision advice on changes that the authority believes need to be made to an application to achieve good planning outcomes under the Territory Plan.

The bill will support a range of initiatives to give effect to the outcomes-focused planning system. It will enable the authority to consider all relevant matters when deciding a development application. New considerations will allow the assessment of the proposed development's performance and merit, having regard to the scale, complexity and design of development proposals, and their context. This will direct attention to the performance and suitability of a development proposal in the site and surrounds, including its interaction with existing and as yet unconstructed development proposals.

The bill also adopts a simple and certain approach to time frames for development assessment processes. It will use a complete application process for deciding an application, where the clock starts upon receiving a full application and stops at the Territory Planning Authority requiring further information to decide the development application. The bill introduces new transparency requirements for advice, decisions and information to be published on the authority's website. Community and industry will be able to go to a single website to access all the information they need about planning in the territory.

The bill provides the Minister for Planning and Land Management with a territory priority project declaration power. This will enable the minister, with the support of the Chief Minister, to declare certain significant projects to proceed through a new pathway. Proposals would need to achieve a major government policy outcome that will significantly benefit the people of the ACT; substantially affect the achievement of the desired future planning outcomes set out in the planning strategy, a relevant district strategy, the Territory Plan or any relevant zone; or deliver critical infrastructure or facilities that also significantly benefit the people of the ACT.

These proposals would relate to three categories of projects: first, projects of the scale and significance that have been the subject of specific legislation in recent years, such as the light rail; second, government projects that have been approved at the development application stage by the minister, such as the Canberra Hospital expansion; and, third, major private proposals that will deliver significant public benefit, such as critical public housing.

A consultation notice would be published, setting out the proposal to declare the project as a territory priority project. All representations made in response to the notice will be considered when deciding to declare a project as a territory priority project. Once a project is declared as a territory priority project, the Minister for Planning and Land Management will be the decision-maker for the subsequent development application.

The bill will carry across most of the provisions from the Planning and Development Act relating to leasing and licensing. The bill will better clarify and reshape how the

concessional status of leases is to be removed. A development application seeking to remove the concessional status on a concessional lease will be referred to the Minister for Planning and Land Management for consideration and a decision will be made in accordance with a refined process and specific criteria relevant to assessing the public interest.

The bill will also continue to allow the Territory Planning Authority to authorise, for a short time, the use of land for purposes not currently permitted under the lease, where there is a significant public benefit and pressing time considerations—for example, the need for land to support the public health response to the COVID-19 health emergency.

The bill maintains compliance and enforcement powers and expresses them in a way that is easier to understand. The bill introduces discretion into the controlled activity order processes. A person will still be able to lodge a complaint in accordance with the existing complaints process. However, to reduce frivolous or vexatious complaints that slow the development process, the Territory Planning Authority will have discretion in making a controlled activity order.

The bill still allows for the review of certain decisions and the people who may seek that review, but it simplifies the statutory framework. The bill will identify categories of decision that are exempt from review, rather than the current by regulation made under the bill. This is intended to promote transparency and certainty. The categories of reviewable decisions that are exempt from review have been simplified and realigned, having regard to the new outcomes focus of the planning system. Developments in the city centre, a town centre, an industrial zone or the Kingston foreshore continue to be exempt. Developments in other non-residential zones will be exempt where fundamental development controls are met and a development is not close to a residential block. This approach reflects that, where key acceptable measures within the Territory Plan are met, the proposal is delivering an intended development outcome.

The ACT government consulted extensively with the local community and industry on a draft version of this bill from mid-March to mid-June 2022. During this period, individuals, groups and industry representatives engaged with the proposed bill. There was general support for the policy intention behind the planning system reforms, including the objects of the bill and the principles of good consultation and good planning. There was also support for the introduction of district-level planning through district strategies. A range of views were received about the removal of pre-development application consultation and opportunities for public consultation and third-party appeal rights through the development process. We also heard people's differing views on territory priority projects and the role of the chief planner in the territory priority projects process.

In response to this feedback, several changes have been incorporated into the final bill introduced today—for example, the incorporation of the principles of good consultation into the bill itself, and the minister exercising the power to decide a territory priority project development application instead of the chief planner. The majority of changes have been amendments to wording, to achieve the original policy

intent and to be compliant with human rights. There have also been some procedural changes to improve our administrative processes.

Under the new legislative framework we propose to have two planning regulations: a general regulation and an exempt development regulation. The general regulation will contain detailed provisions and thresholds for the application of processes under the bill, process requirements and administrative detail to support the provisions of the bill. The exempt development regulation will provide a standalone regulation to allow certain low-risk development to occur without development approval. It is anticipated that these regulations will be made in the coming months.

We recognise that the bill introduces a number of significant changes to improve our planning processes. To help industry and the community adjust, transitional provisions have been drafted to support the effective transition from the current system to the reformed planning system. We have a lot of work to do in a short amount of time on this review. As a government, we will work with the community and with industry to get great outcomes for this new system. The ACT community and industry recognise the important role of a modern planning system that is accessible, easy to use and delivers improved development outcomes across the ACT.

This legislation keeps the parts of the previous legislation that support this vision and removes those aspects that prevent the planning system from meeting the needs of current and future Canberrans. The bill provides a significant step forward to support this vision by delivering a spatially led and outcomes-focused planning system. The new system will realise long-term aspirations for the growth and development of Canberra, while maintaining the valued character of our city. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Guardianship and Management of Property 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) (11.10): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Guardianship and Management of Property Amendment Bill 2022 to the Assembly. The bill amends the Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991 and seeks to achieve two important objectives: firstly, to promote the human rights of people with disabilities and older people who require support with decision-making; and, secondly, to expressly recognise and promote the



awareness of supported decision-making principles in the ACT guardianship and management framework.

These reforms are a critical first step in the journey toward the ACT adopting a supported decision-making model in the Guardianship and Management of Property Act. The current framework relies on a substitute decision-making model. This involves a guardian or property manager being appointed to make decisions for a person. Supported decision-making describes a human rights centred approach to help people with decision-making disabilities access the tools they need to make and participate in their own decisions, rather than decisions being made for them by a substitute decision-maker.

To explicitly introduce the concept of supported decision-making to the act, the bill makes two key changes. Firstly, before determining whether to appoint a guardian or manager, the ACAT will be required to specifically consider whether a person could access supports that would allow them to make, communicate and participate in relevant decisions. If the person's needs could be met and their interests protected if they could access those supports to make the decision themselves, this would be a factor that may lead the ACAT not to appoint a guardian or manager.

Secondly, the bill explicitly requires guardians and managers who are appointed to make decisions on behalf of a person to facilitate a supported decision-making approach in exercising their functions, as far as practicable. This principle recognises that, where a guardian or manager has been appointed to make certain decisions, they will still formally make the decision and the support will focus on enabling the protected person's participation in the decision-making process.

There are two outcomes that the bill is seeking to achieve. Firstly, we anticipate that, by specifically requiring ACAT to consider supported decision-making, this will focus attention on this alternative approach and may reduce the need to appoint guardians and property managers. Secondly, embedding supported decision-making as a necessary feature of guardianship and property management will mean that people receive more support to participate in decisions that affect their lives and wellbeing.

These supports will look different for every person. Different people will need different levels of support at different points in the decision-making process. Supports can assist a person to understand that they have the right to make decisions, to work out what the decision means, to find and understand information, to reflect on decisions, to consider options and to predict consequences. This is intended to better reflect the dignity and human rights of people subject to or being considered for guardianship and management orders.

The bill recognises that there may still be structural barriers to the recognition of supported decision-making in certain cases where a person has impaired decision-making capacity. For example, financial institutions, private health services and other service providers may require a guardian or manager to formally make decisions regarding consent for medical procedures or significant financial transactions. Because these institutions still, in large part, rely on substitute decision-making as part of their risk management strategies and duty of care

obligations, the bill preserves ACAT's ability to make guardianship and management orders in circumstances where a guardianship or management order is the only practical way to ensure that the relevant decision is able to be made and recognised.

The bill does not prevent the appointment of a guardian or manager if a person could make their own decisions with supports. Instead, the bill makes it a factor for the ACAT to consider but not a factor that would stop them from being able to appoint a guardian or manager if other criteria are satisfied.

In addition, we recognise that the role of guardian or property manager will often be taken on by caring family members who accept this responsibility voluntarily out of love for their child or relative. In most cases, family members or friends will be the best guardians or managers, as they know the person well and are part of their lives. The Public Trustee and Guardian takes this role only as a matter of last resort. Accordingly, while the bill will introduce requirements to facilitate supported decision-making approaches, it will not impose an unreasonable burden on guardians and property managers. Guardians and managers will only be required to provide supports as far as is reasonably practicable. This will look different in every circumstance.

The bill progresses action 4.8 of the disability justice strategy. The strategy aims to achieve equity and inclusion for people with disability in the justice system. In doing so, it recognises that equality before the law is not the current reality for too many ACT residents with disability. With this bill we take one step towards changing that. This is an important step to facilitating supported decision-making in the ACT.

An effective supported decision-making model requires both policy and programs that support a reform to the legislation, a shift in culture and a change in practice. The bill takes us further towards this goal. There are opportunities for further reform and looking at ways in which institutions and service providers can reduce reliance on substitute decision-making. The next steps on this journey will be the subject of further policy work and consultation.

This bill builds on previous reviews and stakeholder consultation. In May 2022 approaches to supported decision-making were considered in a facilitated conversation with people with disability, as part of public consultation on the ACT's new disability strategy. This consultation provided important evidence of the challenges associated with the current guardianship and management framework and the importance of the legislative recognition of supported decision-making.

The Office for Disability, the ACAT, the ACT Human Rights Commission, the ACT Public Trustee and Guardian, and disability advocacy organisations have also been involved in the development of these reforms. I would like to thank all these passionate participants for their work on these reforms and their commitment to meaningful change to the lives of people with a disability.

The supported decision-making framework recognises that adults with impaired decision-making ability should be assisted to make decisions with support, based upon their will, their preferences and their rights, and to be protected by appropriate safeguards. Supported decision-making is consistent with the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the right to equality before the law under the ACT's Human Rights Act. Equity and inclusion are cornerstone values of the ACT government. Our vision is for the ACT to be an inclusive, welcoming society where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. This bill is part of that commitment. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Transport Canberra and City Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2022**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee—Minister for Skills, Minister for Transport and City Services and Special Minister of State) (11.19): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Transport Canberra and City Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 to the Assembly today. The bill makes amendments across six pieces of legislation. It is an omnibus bill which makes a range of minor and technical amendments to laws falling within the City Services portfolio.

This suite of non-controversial amendments will improve the administration and operation of some essential municipal functions and services by ensuring that the legislation that backs these operations accurately reflects current practice, is consistent with similar provisions and is fit for purpose. While minor, these amendments combined promote an improved regulatory framework and improved operation of the ACT government's agencies. The bill will also improve the clarity of the territory's laws through the updating of unclear and outdated references and provisions.

I would first like to outline the most significant amendments in the bill, which relate to the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2020. A lot has changed for the better in cemeteries and crematoria in recent years, with the creation of a new act and the opening of a new public crematorium in the ACT which meets the needs of our diverse multicultural community. Since the new act was established in 2020, various operational requirements have been identified where the overarching legislation could be better supported.

Of particular importance, this bill seeks to address the privacy concerns of family members collecting their loved one's ashes by ensuring that their personal information will not be published on a public register. Publishing their information is not current practice, but it is essential that the legislative framework reflects this practice.

Other amendments concern the administrative realities around burials and cremations. The representative funeral directors or undertakers will be provided with burial or

cremation information if family members nominate them to take on this role, rather than requiring this information to be provided directly to family members.

The requirement to provide a unique identification number at the application stage for burials and cremations will be made more flexible, as currently these numbers may not always be generated until later in the process. In addition to this, more flexibility will be provided in the scheduling of cremations by requiring only the scheduled day to be provided upon application, instead of the day and time, as timings can be variable for this service early in the booking stage. These amendments align with existing policies and procedures, with the intention to ease the administrative burden on family members in their time of mourning.

This bill also proposes to make the Chief Executive Officer of the ACT Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority a member of the ACT public service, in addition to maintaining their membership on the governing board. This will not change the current roles undertaken by the CEO and gives certainty for the effective management of staff in the day-to-day operations of Canberra's public cemeteries and crematoria.

This bill also reflects advice from the ACT Veterinary Practitioners Board around how the Veterinary Practice Act 2018 can better support their business and business-as-usual work. Board membership criteria will allow for residents of the ACT as well as surrounding regions to participate, reflecting the key contributions that residents just over the border can make to providing best practice industry advice to government.

Similarly, the quorum requirements for the board have also been amended to allow meetings to proceed in circumstances where the president or deputy president cannot attend due to a conflict of interest or leave. These amendments will allow for greater engagement by the board and will ensure that their valued advice may continue on routine matters, even with some members away. Safeguards are also built into the amendment to maintain direction and consistency in these circumstances.

In the spirit of amending our veterinary practitioner legislation, it is also proposed to include long-awaited amendments to the regulation, following targeted industry consultation by the board in 2019. The existing list of restricted acts of veterinary science will be updated to reflect this consultation, where it was found that a number of veterinary procedures and treatments were only being conducted by vets in the community due to their high risk nature, meaning that the regulation should also reflect the sensitivity of these acts. These amendments reflect accepted current practice and are necessary to safeguard the wellbeing of animals subject to veterinary procedures.

A minor amendment to the Plastic Reduction Act 2021 is also proposed under this bill, specifically around the existing definition of "compostable", which will be expanded to include compostable plastic products in general, rather than limiting it solely to compostable plastic bags. The way the legislation is designed means that expanding this definition does not expand the scope of potential items that can be prescribed by regulation under the single-use plastics ban. Instead, this minor amendment to the definition of compostable will support clarity in how the broader legislation is applied and referred to.

This bill also addresses the Litter Act 2004 by making technical corrections to a range of offences. Firstly, the wording for exemptions to the depositing of waste at dedicated waste management facilities will be clarified to ensure that it is clear that this must be done in accordance with the facilities' procedures. Secondly, the wording relating to securing loads on vehicles will be clarified so that both offences specify that a vehicle load, or any part of it, must be secured.

These changes align closely with the overarching policy intent of the legislation and with the existing operations and procedures of city rangers in enforcing our litter and illegal dumping legislation. It is important to note that this will not impact on current operations; rather, these amendments meet existing expectations, policies and enforcement practices by reinforcing the existing laws.

While I have summarised the bulk of the amendments in this bill, I would also like to outline the technical and typographical corrections proposed that further improve on the administration and operation of city services. Unclear and outdated references and provisions are corrected in the Magistrates Court (Litter Infringement Notices) Regulation 2004, the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2020 and the Plastic Reduction Act 2021. These updates play a significant role in ensuring that the ACT's legislative frameworks are accurate, reliable, consistent and up to date with current drafting practice and with the operational realities on the ground.

I am pleased to say that the bill being introduced today improves the operation and effective administration of the laws in the territory and protects the essential municipal services that the government provides to the community. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Freedom of Information Amendment Bill 2022**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee—Minister for Skills, Minister for Transport and City Services and Special Minister of State) (11.27): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Freedom of Information Amendment Bill 2022 to the Assembly. The bill makes changes to the Freedom of Information Act 2016 to allow more flexibility in administrative processes and enable more efficient processing of information access requests. A more streamlined FOI framework supports applicants and respondents to direct their resources and time to processes that contribute to fast and fair decision-making. This bill is intended to facilitate access to government information and improve outcomes for all individual applicants, government respondents and review bodies.

In 2018 the ACT revolutionised its approach to FOI, when the Freedom of Information Act 2016 came into effect. The new regime moved government to a pro-disclosure model for providing access to government information. It gave every person an enforceable right to obtain access to government information where it is not contrary to the public interest to disclose, and required that the act be administered as far as possible in favour of disclosing government information.

We have evidence that the act is working to facilitate access to government information. The annual reports prepared by the ACT Ombudsman give us valuable insight into the operation of the act each financial year. For example, in 2020-21 a total of 1,688 decisions to publish proactively on the open access portal were made. This was an increase on the 1,430 decisions published in 2019-20.

The introduction of the new act has also led to a sustained increase in the number of access applications received by agencies. Although demand has tapered slightly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of applications received each year since 2018 has been measurably higher than those received under the old FOI regime.

In 2020-21 the government received 918 access applications. In the same year 97 per cent of decisions made on these applications were decided within the statutory time frame. That is within the standard time frame or where an extension was granted by the applicant or the Ombudsman. This is a positive reflection on Canberrans interacting with the FOI system and exercising their right to access government information.

Nevertheless, while the evidence is that the new act is working well, the increase in demand has led to significantly increased workloads for agencies. This reflects the more detailed analysis and reasoning required to be articulated in decisions and a range of new administrative requirements in the act. We hear this from our FOI processing teams across directorates and we also heard it in an independent review report prepared for the ACT government by Deloitte in 2021.

The government has invested considerable resources in our FOI system to respond to the increased processing demand. Since the new act came into effect in 2018, the government has committed an additional \$6.5 million to our FOI system, on top of existing recurrent funding, including 12 new full-time positions to work in FOI processing teams across government.

It is important that we ensure that our FOI regime is sustainable over time. Processing resources need to be used as efficiently as possible to achieve the best results for applicants. It is with this in mind that the government introduces the Freedom of Information Amendment Bill 2022. The bill will improve and streamline the processing of FOI access applications and reviews and provide greater flexibility in managing workflows in order to meet the objectives of the act more efficiently for applicants and the broader public.

The bill does this in four key ways. Firstly, the bill makes a range of amendments to address processing issues, including pausing processing time to ensure that as much of the statutory time frame is spent by agencies actively processing requests, rather than

time expiring whilst agencies wait to receive information that is necessary for their consideration of the request.

Secondly, the bill provides legislative clarity in several instances. For example, the bill clarifies open access publication obligations and provides greater certainty about when extensions of time given by the Ombudsman are appropriate and permissible. These amendments will better support agencies and applicants to interpret and understand the FOI Act and their entitlements and responsibilities.

Thirdly, the bill aims to increase the efficiency with which respondents process information access requests. For example, the bill requires third parties who object to the disclosure of information to provide their views to agencies earlier. The bill also encourages applicants to respond more quickly and more proactively to requests to clarify the scope of applications. The bill also sets clearer time frames for parties to an Ombudsman review to provide requested particulars.

Fourthly, the bill increases the processing time initially granted to respondents, from 20 to 30 working days. This increase to the processing time reflects the reality of processing times under the act and avoids the need to request relatively small extensions in time, which are already being granted or agreed to in most instances.

We know that the commencement of a new FOI regime in 2018 has made processing access applications more time intensive, yet the statutory time frame for deciding access has not been adjusted to reflect this. In 2020-21 only one directorate had a processing time average of 20 days or fewer. Processing times in all other directorates exceeded 20 working days but only slightly. Six out of eight directorates had an average processing time of 27 days or fewer.

If the majority of applications are resolvable in 27 days or fewer, then this means that the majority of extension requests are for small periods of time, like seven days or fewer. Increasing the statutory processing time from 20 to 30 working days avoids the need for these small extensions of time and saves respondents, applicants and the Ombudsman from the administrative burden associated with seeking, agreeing to or granting them.

As you can see, this amendment is not intended to delay access to government information in practice but is a necessary update to the legislation to ensure that statutory time frames are fit for purpose. In addition to these efficiency measures, the bill provides greater scope for the ACT Ombudsman to review decisions to make open access information publicly available and to give access to government information.

Changes that improve the efficiency of the framework make the FOI Act work better for applicants, the public sector and the Canberra community. Nothing in the bill undermines the transparency and accountability of government that the scheme promotes. Our conventions of representative democracy and responsible government are strengthened by a robustly defended right to access government information and efficiently administered FOI legislation.

This bill serves an important function in ensuring that our freedom of information regime will be effective and sustainable into the future. It will reduce the increased administrative burden associated with the new Freedom of Information Act 2016 and avoid government agencies spending time and resources in ways which do not assist applicants or serve the public interest. It does this while carefully preserving the pro-disclosure approach of the FOI Act and the high level of accountability and transparency that the act provides. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Bill 2022**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MS CHEYNE** (Ginninderra—Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Minister for Human Rights and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.37): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Bill 2022. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner will be established as an independent statutory authority with a broad mandate to promote the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people through both individual and systemic advocacy functions.

This bill marks an important milestone in the government's commitment to implementing the Our Booris, Our Way review recommendations. As the Our Booris, Our Way Steering Committee stated:

This report demands change. It is a compelling and detailed analysis of the circumstances of our children and what needs to change to reflect the contemporary nature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and culture.

As part of that fundamental change, the review recommended the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioner. This recommendation was for a commissioner with a broad mandate, carrying review and advocacy roles, and the capacity to specifically intervene and engage in child protection processes.

The Protection of Rights Services Review completed in 2021 further considered this recommendation. That review found that a new commissioner would complement existing statutory oversight roles. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community's voice, self-determination and cultural safety have been at the heart of this entire process.



The model for this commissioner was developed through a co-design process with community, facilitated by the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at the University of Technology Sydney in late 2021.

As members will recall, I tabled the final report from the co-design process and government response in the Legislative Assembly in August, confirming that the government agreed to all aspects of the proposed legislative model. From that co-design process, this bill sets out the operating principles, powers, functions and requirements of the new commissioner. The bill includes a set of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural principles which are intended to provide guidance to the commissioner on how they exercise their functions.

These principles give effect to a proposal, developed through the co-design process, that the legislation include an explicit requirement for the commissioner to focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people from a cultural standpoint, and noting the importance of connectedness to family, community, culture and country as critical to their best interests.

The new statutory role will be an identified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander position, appointed by the executive for a term not longer than five years, following a selection process involving the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The commissioner will be empowered to advocate on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people individually.

In line with the recommendation from the Our Booris, Our Way review and the proposal developed through the co-design process, the commissioner will have a function to intervene on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in relation to decisions that will affect their rights and interests.

This function will largely be achieved through consequential amendments to the Court Procedures Act and the Children and Young People Act, which will ensure that the commissioner is entitled to appear in any hearing in a court of a proceeding against an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child or young person or in a proceeding or matter under the Children and Young People Act. This includes engagement in care and protection matters, including case conferences.

The bill also enables the commissioner to undertake systemic advocacy, including advising the government and conducting systemic inquiries. The commissioner will be able to conduct an inquiry into any matter relating to systemic issues that affect, or may affect, the rights, development, safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

As recommended in the co-design process, the bill provides the commissioner with the power to make recommendations to an entity in individual advocacy matters or relating to systemic inquiries and require a written response within a reasonable time frame. To support their individual and systemic advocacy functions, the commissioner will have information gathering and sharing powers, including the power to require information, documents and other things.

Continuous engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community was identified in the co-design process as a priority for the new commissioner. The bill requires that, in exercising their functions, the commissioner must regularly engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and consult with children, young people and their families in ways that promote their participation in decision-making.

To promote transparency about the activities of the commissioner, the bill requires the commissioner to prepare an annual statement about their operations, which will be given to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. While the commissioner will operate independently, it is intended that they will complement other statutory roles, including the ACT Human Rights Commission. The bill encourages these two agencies to cooperate and avoid duplication.

To give effect to the functions and powers proposed for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, amendments, as I flagged, are proposed to the Children and Young People Act 2008, the Children and Young People Regulation 2009, the Court Procedures Act 2004, the Human Rights Commission Act 2005 and the Official Visitor Act 2012.

I am pleased that the government committed to fully fund the commissioner and their office in the 2022-23 budget. The allocation of over \$3½ million means that there will be a team dedicated to improving services and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

I warmly thank everyone who has contributed to the design of this reform to date, including the Our Booris, Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, co-design participants, the ACT Human Rights Commission, and the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research.

The co-design process has been critical in developing a model for the commissioner that meets the needs of the community and will make a tangible difference to the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the ACT.

I am looking forward to working with the community on the implementation of this new statutory role, including the recruitment of the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner once the bill passes. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mrs Kikkert**) adjourned to the next sitting.

## **Standing orders—suspension**

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

That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent Assembly Business, Notices numbers 1 to 4 being called on and debated forthwith.

## **Legislative Assembly—sitting pattern 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) (11.46): I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 11 November 2021 setting the sitting days for 2022 be amended to remove 22 September 2022.

I thank all three whips for the work facilitating sittings following the death of Her Majesty the Queen. To make up for the private members' business, an additional item has been added today, and the remaining three will be facilitated during the next sitting fortnight.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee Planning Bill 2022—amendment to reporting date**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (11.47): I move:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of the resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended, that established general purpose standing committees, the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services shall present its report on the Planning Bill 2022 by 22 December 2022.

In accordance with the Assembly resolution establishing a general purpose standing committee, the Planning Bill 2022 was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services today, 21 September 2022.

The committee considers the bill to be a significant piece of legislation. For this reason the committee has resolved to undertake an inquiry into the bill. The committee will call for submissions today and has set a submission closing date of Wednesday, 16 November 2022.

The resolution of establishment for standing committees states that all bills presented to the Assembly stand referred to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and to report within two months of the presentation of the bill. Reference of the Planning Bill 2022 under this resolution means that the reporting date for this bill is 21 November 2022. My motion asks for the reporting date on the Planning Bill 2022 to be extended.

This is the first stage of a major review of the ACT planning system. There is a need for wide and deep community consultation on the bill. We have an overlap of the annual reports hearing period, between 31 October and 11 November, and we have a very long and complex piece of legislation that we need to examine.

Accordingly, the committee requests that an extension be granted to review this important piece of legislation. The committee asks that the reporting date be extended to 22 December 2022.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Urban Forest Bill 2022—amendment to reporting date**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (11.49): I move:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of the resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended, that established general purpose standing committees, the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services shall present its report on the Urban Forest Bill 2022 by 22 November 2022.

In accordance with the Assembly resolution establishing general purpose standing committees, the Urban Forest Bill 2022 was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services on 3 August 2022.

The committee considers this bill to be a substantial change in policy and, for this reason, at a private meeting on 11 August 2022, the committee resolved to undertake an inquiry into the bill. The committee called for public submissions on 12 August 2022. Due to the large volume of extension requests for submissions, the committee has decided to extend the submission closing date from 2 September to 23 September 2022.

The resolution of establishment for standing committees states that all bills presented to the Assembly stand referred to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and to report within two months of the presentation of the bill. The reference for the Urban Forest Bill 2022 under this resolution means that the reporting date for the bill is 5 October 2022. My motion asks for the reporting date on the Urban Forest Bill to be extended.

The bill sets a commencement date for the act of 1 July 2023. The committee considers that, due to major policy changes proposed in the bill, due to the overlap with the annual reports hearing period between 31 October and 11 November and the commencement date of the bill in 2023, an extension should be granted to the committee to review this important piece of legislation. The committee asks that the reporting date be extended to 22 November 2022.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Education and Community Inclusion—Standing Committee Racial vilification inquiry—amendment to reporting date**

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (11.51): I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 11 November 2021, requesting the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion inquire into and

report on the matter of racial vilification, be amended by omitting in part (4)(c) “30 September 2022” and substituting “24 November 2022”.

The committee has experienced several unexpected delays in conducting this inquiry. It is the intention of the committee to publish its report as soon as possible. However, the committee has asked for an extension to 24 November 2022 to provide adequate leeway.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee Report 7**

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (11.52): I present the following report:

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—Report 7—*Inquiry into the West Belconnen supercell thunderstorm*, dated 13 September 2022, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

In my role as Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing, I have tabled a report into the west Belconnen supercell thunderstorm. The report is a result of a motion introduced in this place by Mr James Milligan MLA, followed by the unanimous support of the committee.

This is the seventh report from the committee and it was due for tabling on 1 September. However, due to the postponement of estimates hearings, the committee was unable to meet to finalise the report for that date. Nevertheless, I am pleased to be able to table the report today.

The storm event occurred on 3 January 2022 and resulted in severe damage to homes and to the electricity grid in west Belconnen. Many homes remained without power for up to six days due to the extensive nature of the clean-up.

The committee received 23 submissions and conducted one public hearing. The committee now makes 15 recommendations to the ACT government and to Evoenergy. Today we will write to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services and draw to their attention recommendation 8 of our report:

... that the ACT Government consider the appropriateness of tree species as part of future urban planting with regard to risk of damage from severe weather events.

I hope, accordingly, that the work of the health and community wellbeing committee, in documenting the lessons learned from the west Belconnen supercell thunderstorm, will inform the current inquiry being led by that committee into the Urban Forest Bill 2022.

On behalf of the committee, I thank everyone who contributed to this inquiry. I thank the other members of the committee, Mr Milligan and Mr Pettersson. I commend the report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Education and Community Inclusion—Standing Committee Statement by chair**

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (11.54): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion.

On 2 August 2022, a petition was received by the Assembly and forwarded to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion for consideration. The petitioners supported the concerns of the Lyneham Primary School Parents & Citizens Association that their school building, which is over 60 years old, presents several risks and hazards. The petitioners called on the ACT government to complete its building report that was commenced in 2013 and later stalled. Increased enrolments at Lyneham Primary School have also resulted in specialist teaching rooms being converted into general classrooms.

The petitioners' requests are echoed by several of the recommendations of the report by the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion entitled *Managing ACT school infrastructure*, which was tabled in May this year. The committee also notes the government's response to our report and welcomes its support of our recommendations; namely, to support schools to communicate and engage with families on hazardous materials in schools, ensure that specialist teaching spaces are taken into account when the capacity of a given school is increased so that these learning environments are not lost in repurposing for general classrooms, and articulate and communicate to the wider community medium- and long-term plans to address capacity issues at schools.

The Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion continues its commitment to examine school infrastructure, especially in light of population growth within the ACT.

## **Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Statement by chair**

**MS BURCH** (Brindabella) (11.56): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

Standing order 16 requires the committee, in each term, to inquire into and report on the operation of the standing orders and continuing resolutions of the Assembly, with a view to ensuring that the practices and procedures of the Assembly remain relevant and reflect practice.

At its meeting on Monday, 19 September 2022, the committee agreed to commence its review. The committee has adopted the proposed timetable. In late September,

the inquiry will be advertised in the press and the following parties shall be written to: all current members, former chief ministers and speakers; the Head of Service; the Labor Party, the Canberra Liberals and the ACT Greens; staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly; Parliamentary Counsel; the Electoral Commissioner, the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman and the Integrity Commissioner; relevant academics; the Commissioner for Standards and the Ethics and Integrity Adviser; and other relevant parties.

Submissions will close on 16 December 2022, and any public hearings that the committee elects to conduct will be held in early February 2023. The committee expects to be able to report in late April 2023. I encourage all members to contribute to this inquiry.

## **Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity—Standing Committee**

### **Statement by chair**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (11.58): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity.

In accordance with the Assembly resolution establishing general purpose standing committees, the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Natural Gas Transition) Amendment Bill 2022 was referred to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity on 4 August 2022.

The committee considers the bill to be a substantial change in policy. The explanatory statement to the bill notes that the amendments include the power to modify national energy laws, but only to the extent that they give effect to preventing new natural gas connections in prescribed circumstances.

For this reason, at its private meeting on 9 August 2022, the committee resolved to undertake an inquiry into the bill. The committee called for public submissions on 12 August 2022. This period closed on 30 August 2022. The committee held a public hearing on 13 September 2022. The committee will report to the Assembly by 6 October 2022.

### **Statement by chair**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (11.59): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity relating to referred petitions.

Petition 17-22, concerning kangaroo culling, a moratorium and independent review, was received by the Assembly on 2 June 2022 and referred to the committee under standing order 99A. As signatories to petition 17-22, 853 residents of the ACT requested the Assembly to declare a moratorium on kangaroo culling and conduct an independent review.

The committee notes that the ACT's kangaroo management program has already been extensively reviewed, including in four ACAT hearings and reviews of the counting methodology and culling program.

In her response to the petition, the Minister for the Environment advised that the kangaroo program has been periodically and scientifically peer reviewed and that the ACT government relies on best practice scientific methodologies for undertaking kangaroo surveys and population estimates.

The minister also stated that, in keeping with its commitment to ongoing review and improvement, over the next 12 months the government will repeat the ACT residents' opinion poll, review the 2017 Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan, and undertake an independent veterinary audit during the 2023 conservation culling program, to ensure continued regard for animal welfare issues.

For these reasons, and in light of the minister's commitments, the committee will not be inquiring further into the matters raised in petition 17-22.

## **Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee**

### **Statement by chair**

**MR DAVIS** (Brindabella) (12.00): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing.

On 3 August 2022, a petition of 2,697 Canberrans calling for a recovery plan for nursing and midwifery workers was presented to the ACT Legislative Assembly. This is the largest petition presented to the Assembly so far this term.

At its private meeting on 9 August 2022, the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into petition 19-22, relating to a recovery plan for nursing and midwifery workers. The committee understands that the past few years have seen all frontline healthcare workers, particularly nurses and midwives, facing stress, fatigue and burnout. The committee is keen to inquire into this issue and provide solutions-focused recommendations to government, with a particular focus on workforce planning, staff shortages and skill mix issues.

The committee is now accepting submissions, with a closing date of 5 pm on Monday, 9 December 2022. The committee then intends to conduct public hearings in the first half of 2023, with a view to finalising and presenting a report shortly afterwards.

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

### **Statement by chair**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (12.01): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services relating to the Legislative Assembly resolution of 5 May 2022 requesting that the committee consider investigating the impact of short-term holiday letting on the rental housing market.



The committee notes that the Better Regulation Taskforce is currently undertaking a review of short-term rental accommodation, and that the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality is conducting an inquiry into housing and rental affordability. Furthermore, issues relevant to this topic may be raised through scrutiny of the planning bill once an inquiry is underway.

The committee believes that the impact of short-term holiday letting on the rental housing market is currently well covered by these reviews and inquiries, and it may wish to return to this topic after reviewing their results. For these reasons, the committee will not be inquiring further into the impact of short-term holiday letting on the rental housing market at this time.

## **Public Accounts—Standing Committee**

### **Statement by deputy chair**

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (12.03): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts relating to statutory appointments in accordance with continuing resolution 5A.

I wish to inform the Assembly that during the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022 the standing committee considered no statutory appointments. In accordance with continuing resolution 5A, I will now table the schedule of statutory appointments considered during this reporting period. I present the following paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—  
10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2022.

**Sitting suspended from 12.03 to 2 pm.**

## **Questions without notice**

### **Acton waterfront—procurement**

**MS LEE:** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Chief Minister. In his report on the Acton waterfront project released last week, the Auditor-General found that the City Renewal Authority's "management of the procurement and the contract ... has been ineffective" and that the City Renewal Authority board provided "inadequate" attention to the procurement. The City Renewal Authority has been running this project for five years now. When will it be finished, and what will it actually cost to complete the project?

**MR BARR:** I take the question to mean the entire waterfront. I will presume it is that. The planning commenced in 2002, under the Howard government, and was finalised through a series of amendments to the National Capital Plan over the ensuing 15 years. The current project, which includes the extension to the boardwalk is at practical completion. The next stage involves the public park, and the bit of the project that is the reclaimed lakebed will need several years to settle before it will be open in its final form. It was always intended to be a multi-decade project, but in relation to the stage that is currently under construction, the boardwalk is at practical completion and other elements are a matter of months away.

**MS LEE:** Chief Minister, I have to repeat my question because you did not answer the second part of my question which is: what will it actually cost to complete the project?

**MR BARR:** It depends on what you define the project as. The entire waterfront project—public and private investment—is likely to be in the billions of dollars over the next 15 to 20 years, but if you are referring specifically to the current works, I have no update on the project budget beyond what has already been published. I am not aware of any further increases in costs from what was contained within the audit report. It depends on what we are talking about. The project has many different elements of both public and private investment. So, to be clear, the substantive issue in relation to the audit report was a cost estimate undertaken by the former Land Development Agency; that was in 2014, so it was undertaken nearly a decade ago. There has clearly been a cost escalation over the pandemic, and there have been delays to the project as a result of unavailability of materials, closure of state borders that have affected workforce availability, and, indeed, closure of the construction industry in the ACT at various points during the pandemic. That, together with eight years of inflation, does account for many of the factors associated with the difference between the early LDA price estimate and the outcome of the current works that were part of the audit investigation.

**MR CAIN:** Chief Minister, why didn't the City Renewal Authority review the Acton waterfront contract when it took over in 2017?

**MR BARR:** The authority believes that it did, and it has outlined in its response that was included in the audit report the actions that it took. The Auditor has taken the view that they should have done more. It is, of course, well within the purview of the Auditor to make such a recommendation, and the City Renewal Authority will be preparing a response to the Auditor's report. That will be part of the government response that will be tabled within the statutory time frame for the government response to the audit report.

### **Justice—sentencing**

**MR HANSON:** My question is to the Attorney-General. Attorney-General, recent reports show that ACT prosecutors are filing a record number of appeals to address sentences that the DPP describes as falling “clearly short of community standards”. The DPP were successful in 68 per cent of appeals, and stated:

Most of the crown appeals sought to address sentences for murder and child sexual offending that we considered fell clearly short of community standards for offending of this type.

Further:

... our job is to make sure that the ... precedents are correct and reflect community values.

Attorney-General, you have repeatedly stated that an independent review of sentencing is not necessary. Given the record number of appeals from the DPP,

who have said that they have clearly fallen “short of community standards”, do you still maintain that an independent review it is not required?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I think the circumstances that Mr Hanson has described show the justice system working exactly as it is intended to. There is significant accountability in place for judges. If there is a view from the Director of Public Prosecutions that a sentence is inadequate or in some way inappropriate, that sentence or finding can be appealed against. There is direct and immediate accountability for judges built into the justice system. That is exactly how the system works. It is there for the independent Director of Public Prosecutions to form these views and to test these matters and for different judges to then review the finding of a judge that has already been made. This is the system at work.

I think this underlines the fact that, over many years, a strong system of accountability has been built up to ensure that, where some hold a view that the sentence is inappropriate, there is an opportunity for it to be reviewed. So I would make that as an initial comment.

Mr Hanson has made reference to calls for reviews. There have been calls for review of sentencing and there have been calls for review of the judiciary. Depending on who you are talking to, there are a number of different calls around. My view has been that I do not believe that we need a wholesale review of the judiciary or of sentencing. But I have also been clear that that does not mean that there are not particular areas of work that we can do. There have also been calls for review of bail. Everyone wants a bit of a review of everything at the moment.

The point is that there are pieces of work to be done—there is no doubt about that—but Mr Hanson sweeping statement that we need a review of all of this does not help us. What we actually need to do is to work through matters where there are particular concerns. This is exactly what the Director of Public Prosecutions is doing, where he is appealing particular matters where he has formed a view, in his independent role, that they warrant testing on appeal. (*Time expired.*)

**MR HANSON:** Attorney, in your view, what is an appropriate percentage in terms of the level of review? You are saying that 68 per cent shows that the system is working well. What is the appropriate level of appeals, in your view?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Again, Mr Hanson is using statistics in a way that suits his narrative, but I do not think that it is an accurate reflection. I do not have the numbers in front of me—I am seeking these at the moment—but we have to bear in mind that the number of matters that go to appeal is extremely low as a proportion of all the matters that go through the courts in the ACT in a year. The Director of Public Prosecutions will take on matters for appeal where he feels that it is warranted. The fact that there is that proportion in recent periods indicates that the DPP has been well founded in his decision to take up an appeal. As I say, I believe that is the system working, where there is accountability for judges.

In terms of characterising the many different narratives that are around at the moment, I think what people are looking for is accountability. I would argue that the appeals system provides that accountability. The ability of the independent Director of Public

Prosecutions to decide to mount an appeal provides that accountability. What they are asking for, I think, is accountability, and I think it exists.

**MR CAIN:** Attorney, does a record number of appeals lead to a loss of confidence in the justice system?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I refer Mr Cain to my earlier answer, where I indicated that I believe this is how the system works. Other people may see that differently. But, after careful consideration over an extended period of time, this has been the way that people have worked out to bring accountability to the judicial decision-making process.

Sentencing is a difficult and complex matter. There is no doubt about that. I refer to the fact that, when a judge is sentencing, they are required to weigh up many competing factors to impose a sentence that is proportionate, fair and in the interests of justice for the community and for the individual being sentenced. I think it is difficult at times for people to form a view on these things, because what we see in the press does not often reflect the full circumstances that are presented before the judge and all the factors that the judge or judicial officer must weigh up.

The two significant studies that have been done on this in Australia have both shown that, where the general community are given details about individual cases and asked what sentence they think would be appropriate, the community is more lenient than the judges—the judges imposed stronger penalties than the community would in the same set of circumstances. I think we need to be mindful of that complexity and reflect on the fact that there are strong systems of accountability built into judicial decision-making.

### **Education—teachers**

**MR DAVIS:** My question is to the Chief Minister in his capacity as the Treasurer. On 22 August, the minister for education, the Education Directorate and the Australian Education Union ACT branch, released the report from the Teacher Shortage Task Force, along with its 20 recommendations aimed at recruiting, retaining and supporting a high-quality teaching workforce. The task force and subsequent report are nation-leading work and a credit to the minister; her directorate, the employer; and the union, the employees working together to acknowledge and solve a challenging and complex problem. But many of these recommendations will require additional resourcing. Will you, as Treasurer, ensure that the minister and her directorate receive the additional resourcing required to enact all of the report's recommendations as soon as possible?

**MR BARR:** As Mr Davis is aware, the suite of proposals that are put forward in that particular package contain a mixture of initiatives, some of which can be met within the existing resources of the Education Directorate. Those that would require additional resources may be considered as part of enterprise bargaining discussions, but the usual process for allocation of additional resources in any area of government is principally through the annual budget process. We do, of course, have a budget review that does enable a series of smaller initiatives to be supported.

It is not for me to prejudge an ERC process or, indeed, a cabinet process in relation to what initiative will or will not be funded. Certainly, a question of this kind is seeking for me to announce government policy in question time, which does border on or is stretching the standing order, I would have thought. It is certainly taking it to its outer edge!

Of course, Mr Davis, every single proposal that comes forward before the expenditure review committee is very worthy. Not every single proposal can be funded in any given budget round. It is the job of the expenditure review committee to make the decision—the three members sitting here on the front bench, including your own party leader, who is involved in that process. I am sure you are all familiar with how the budget works. So the question itself does appear to be a little bit leading and designed, perhaps, for a social media outcome.

*Members interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members! I knew you would be aware, Mr Barr, of not making announcements in an answer.

**MR DAVIS:** You will love this one, Chief! Chief Minister, can you commit to ensuring that Canberra's teachers remain the highest paid teachers in this country after this round of enterprise bargaining negotiations?

**MR BARR:** Again, the government's approach to the enterprise bargaining round is to ensure that the ACT public service, through the combination of salary, wage and conditions, and the totality of employment within the ACT public sector, remains both attractive and competitive with other states and territories.

I can control, at any certain period of time, the extent to which the ACT's offer is comparable or otherwise with other jurisdictions. Of course, it may well be, over the course of an enterprise bargaining period, that another state or territory may leapfrog each other at different levels of employment within different occupations. We have certainly had a long history of having very attractive salary offers and conditions compared to other states and territories in the teaching profession.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Chief Minister, what is the time frame for the enterprise bargaining negotiations with Canberra's teachers?

**MR BARR:** I thank Mr Braddock for the question. Most enterprise bargaining agreements—I believe, including the teachers'—have an expiry in this calendar year, between now and the end of Christmas. We have been receiving, as part of the bargaining process, logs of claims from unions on behalf of their members. The government is processing those, and getting some early indications of the costs associated with each of the items within each of the logs of claims. This is across all areas of ACT government employment, so it involves engagement with around 15 different trade unions and across multiple agreements. It will be a busy period of bargaining that will commence in the next few months, beyond where we are now, which is the receipt of logs of claims. The whole-of-government agreement was rolled over for another 12 months, and I believe it expires towards the end of October.

**Health—paediatric services**

**MS CASTLEY:** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, I refer to an article in the *Canberra Times* on Sunday, September 18 where you said that an external review of paediatric services was done late last year. What were the findings of this external review and why have you not released it?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Castley for the question. There were a number of findings and actions in relation to that. It resulted in the development of what is called the paediatric organisational and services plan 2021-23. While this was an external and independent review, it was done internally for Canberra Health Services for the purposes of Canberra Health Services' own quality improvement.

**Mr Hanson:** So it was a secret review.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** It was by an external expert, but it was a review that was commissioned by Canberra Health Services itself for its own planning purposes and quality review purposes. We are looking at what we can release of that review and operational and services plan. I am happy to come back later in the day, in the course of our debate, and have a further conversation about that, recognising Ms Castley's motion that is already on the Assembly notice paper.

**MS CASTLEY:** Minister, what prompted the external review?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** There were a number of things that prompted this work. One of them was in fact the ongoing work that we have been doing on our culture across our health services. This is very serious work that we recognised in 2018 with the independent culture review. That work has been ongoing for some years now. As members in this place would be very well aware, it includes the undertaking of cultural surveys that do identify some areas of our hospital services and our health services where culture is a challenge. Paediatrics was one of those areas that was identified. Further work has been undertaken in response to some of those issues that have been identified through the processes that we have been undertaking.

**MR COCKS:** Minister, prior to that review, when was the last time an external review was conducted into paediatric services?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** Thank you, Mr Cocks. I will take that question on notice.

**Education—post-secondary study**

**MS ORR:** My question is for the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs. Minister, COVID-19 has been a challenge for young people, and as we get closer to the end of the year many secondary students are thinking about what is next. What is the government doing to give students options for finding a career that suits them?

**MS BERRY:** I thank Ms Orr for her question. I am really happy to let Assembly members know that over a month ago I launched the pilot program Head Start. This was an ACT Labor election commitment to increase school-based

apprenticeships for our public school students. Government committed \$2.2 million for this program which is supporting up to 50 students to follow the path they have chosen. What is really special about the Head Start program is the personalised support that students get from the team, giving them the best possible chance of a transition from school into good secure jobs.

**MS ORR:** Minister, how does this program benefit industries that are facing skills shortages?

**MS BERRY:** I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary. There are eight employers across five industries who are participating in the pilot. These industries are hospitality, automotive trades, light automotive, construction/carpentry and light metal fabrication. One of the employers that I met during the launch told me that what they valued about the program was the opportunity for the Head Start team to match the student with the industry, so a perfect match in some ways. It makes for a great experience for the students and it benefits the employers because the students are more likely to stick with their employer. It gives them the chance to be welcomed into a new talent. It also gives the employers the chance to train students up and give them a chance to be the best they possibly can be.

**DR PATERSON:** Minister can you give me an example of how this program will make a difference to young people.

**MS BERRY:** Getting real life experience is one of the best ways to set students up for their careers. This program is a perfect launching pad for students to start their journey into the workforce. At the launch, I met the wonderful Charlie who has been part of the first group of students going through this program. I think it is fair to say that school didn't quite work for Charlie and he didn't love the traditional school setting. He told me that working in automotive trades was really interesting and he felt like he was learning so much more—that what he has learned at school makes more sense to him and he is getting real hands on experience.

Charlie also told me that the program gave him the chance to try out a range of different skills so he can figure out what his interests are. I am really proud of this election commitment by Labor, it is really making a difference for kids like Charlie and their families.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee education and training programs**

**MRS KIKKERT:** My question is to the Minister for Corrections. Minister, it was revealed during estimates that since early October 2021 there has been no formal and routine education provider at the AMC.

According to an answer to an estimates QON, as of 14 September only 12 detainees are engaged in distance tertiary education, and 67 have been or are enrolled in some ad hoc construction courses. This is a total of only 79 detainees out of more than 300.

Minister, how do you expect the detainees to integrate back into society when the majority have not been receiving any helpful education to help them get their lives back on track for close to a year?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Mrs Kikkert for the question; it is an important one. Indeed, we have been struggling to get educational services for detainees, but the commissioner is doing his best to roll those out in the near future.

It does, as Mrs Kikkert said, make an important contribution for detainees to come back into society with some skills and some opportunities to learn into the future. We do expect those educational courses to resume as soon as we can provide the tender support for that.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Minister, would it be accurate to say that for close to a year now most detainees in the AMC have not been receiving any form of education that would result in a recognised qualification, which would help them once they leave the AMC.

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I will refer Mrs Kikkert to the detailed answers we did provide on this matter during estimates. We do want to do the best we can for those detainees, and it has been a struggle to provide those service provisions in the AMC. We do recognise the importance of the skills that can be provided, and we are doing our very best to get them rolling as soon as we can.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, when do you plan to have chosen a preferred tenderer, and when do you plan for that tenderer to start providing education services at the AMC?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** The commissioner has been onto that—as we speak. I do not know how far along the decision-tree he has reached. I will find out and come back to the chamber.

### **Waste—green waste services relocation**

**MR CAIN:** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister for City Services. Minister, earlier this week your government highlighted that there would in fact be a green waste facility in Belconnen, despite the DA being rejected. Will you guarantee that a green waste facility will be opened in west Belconnen?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. As he knows, due to the move of Canberra Sand and Gravel from Parkwood in the future, to facilitate the development of the Ginninderry subdivision, we need to move the green waste facilities on the north side. We have been undertaking extensive planning on those matters for a while, about where those types of facilities could be located. That is why we lodged a development application for the preferred site, which unfortunately has been rejected by the independent ACT Planning and Land Authority.

We are continuing to work through the issues that have been raised by ACTPLA in the planning process and will continue to work through the planning system to deliver a green waste facility for Belconnen. We will look at the issues raised, and we are



confident that we can address those in the future. That may include the resubmission of a new development application for a facility in the future.

**MR CAIN:** Minister, when will a temporary green waste facility be open and functional in Belconnen?

**MR STEEL:** We will continue to provide green waste facilities until the new facility is open. We will work through the planning system. We are expecting a resubmission of this in the next weeks and months, and then we will see whether it will get approval to move ahead, and we will start construction.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Minister, how come your own government cannot communicate effectively between agencies?

**MR STEEL:** That question shows an astonishing lack of understanding of our planning system! We do have an independent ACT Planning and Land Authority that assesses development applications. There are, of course, a range of issues that have been raised in relation to this particular development through that process. We will be addressing those through the planning system and looking at whether we can resubmit that application to deliver this facility.

### **Lakes and waterways—swimming safety**

**MS CLAY:** My question is to the minister for parks and conservation. Following a tragic drowning in 2019, the Refugee and Migrant Swimming Project have identified a number of critical safety measures, including signs, life preservers, and the ability to call 000, that they think would make swimming safe at the Cotter and other inland waterways in the ACT. How does the ACT government ensure inland waterways are safe for people to swim and play?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Clay for the question. This covers a number of different ministerial portfolios, but, if I can, I will try to answer all of those. Signage at urban lakes, for example, is managed by TCSS. The permitted use of urban waterways, including lakes, is outlined in the urban lakes and ponds strategy. Some examples here are safety signs at Yerrabi Pond and lifesaving measures at high-traffic areas such as the Kingston Foreshore. For rivers, our Parks and Conservation Service manages our rural river corridors. As we come into the summer months, it is important that people are aware of the dangers of swimming in open waterways and, indeed, recreating in rural areas that do not have mobile coverage. Most of the waterways have signage about these dangers and some also have lifesaving items available too.

In regard to the sport and recreation portfolio, Minister Berry is leading some excellent work with Royal Life Saving's Refugee and Migrant Swimming Project, and she has recently announced recipients for the 2022 sport and rec grants program and funding support of \$5,500 to the Royal Life Saving group in support of the Refugee and Migrant Swimming Project. I note the importance of this program as a legacy from the tragic drowning on one of our most popular local waterways. The government will of course continue to work with stakeholders and the community to ensure everyone can enjoy our waterways safely.

I understand that some further discussions between government officials and Royal Life Saving are occurring on the mode, which is that safety aspect. I understand the Greens' advocacy for our CALD community people. Access Canberra provides some translation services there.

**MS CLAY:** Minister, what are the criteria for determining that an inland waterway needs safety measures installed?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** It is usually with regard to depth and waterflow and the bottom of the river corridor, for example. If, for example, it is down at the Cotter—I am just trying to think of the name of the area—there are different levels of depth around those waterways that our Parks people look at with regard to safety and advise people where they can swim and where you see currents, as well.

**MR DAVIS:** What has been the government's response to the recent tragic drowning at the Cotter?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** We did install some safety signs there and, of course, as I mentioned earlier, there is a program in response to that recent drowning. The area that I was trying to think of the name of is Casuarina Sands. It is well-known as an enjoyable waterway to recreate in, but it does have some concerns around it. Those signs have gone up and we are looking at communication devices as well. Mobile phone coverage is difficult in some of those areas. There is a fixed line to the ranger's area, which has been in place for quite a number of years. Whether we can move a fixed-line connection closer to the river is something that we will certainly look at into the future.

### **Roads—maintenance**

**MS LAWDER:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, I refer to some recent media and public commentary regarding the number of potholes plaguing ACT roads. I and many others have raised concerns with you about the poor quality of some of the fix jobs that often lead to the recurrence of potholes a short time later. Minister, why have you failed to take these concerns seriously, and how much will ACT ratepayers have to pay in compensation for pothole-related damage to vehicles before you change these practices?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. We do take this matter seriously. During a time of quite a significant amount of rainfall, and with La Niña weather conditions affecting all cities and roads across the eastern seaboard, with a 45 per cent increase in the amount of rainfall over this period, there has been damage to our roads. During the colder months, we repair some of that damage when it occurs through potholes with cold mix. That is a short-term fix for the roads before we then do hot patching. That is due to begin in October, through the annual road resurfacing program, which begins in the warmer months and goes throughout the summer. It will look at permanently repairing some of those road sections that do require that more significant treatment.

Roads ACT crews have been working incredibly hard over the last few years. In the last year they have fixed almost a thousand potholes. I know that during recent rain

over the last few weeks even more have occurred on the roads. The teams and crews are out there patching those up as soon as possible with cold mix. We encourage Canberrans to report those potholes on our roads through Fix My Street so that we are aware of them and can get onto them as soon as possible. Of course, we will be going through the annual road resurfacing program to do more of that heat patching from next month. We are also working with the Australian Road Research Board to inform a strategic approach to our road maintenance going forward. We are looking forward to using that research to provide further investment in this area.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, why don't Canberrans have roads to drive on that are safe and do not damage our cars, considering rates revenue has tripled over the last 10 years?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for her question. Of course, we are investing in our roads. In fact, in the last financial year we invested \$10 million to cover an area of approximately 660,000 metres squared over 146 sites. We continue that in this financial year, with the road resurfacing program providing funding to keep our roads well maintained and safe. But we are in a period of very wet weather, and that does cause damage to roads, together with sunlight; it causes cracking which ends up causing potholes. We are out there responding to requests for repair as quickly as we can. We will then go through that longer term repair process and preventive resealing process to stop those occurring in the future.

We will use an evidence-based approach. We have been undertaking our road condition assessment, which will also inform the future program ahead. Canberrans can be assured that we continue to invest in this important area of city services.

**MR DAVIS:** Minister, will you consider redirecting some of the money allocated to road duplication projects to instead repair the roads we already have?

**MR STEEL:** I thank the member for his question. There is a variety of ways that we invest in roads. Of course, we do need to augment many of our roads to respond to our growing population, and the need to release more housing.

**Ms Lawder:** A point of order, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, Mr Steel.

**Ms Lawder:** Is the question in order? The question was about road maintenance and potholes. It was not about road duplication.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** No, but it was about redirecting funds, so it is in order. You could have a view on the supp, but it is in order.

**MR STEEL:** As part of major roadworks, including road duplications and augmenting existing roads through a variety of different ways—the introduction of grade-separated road interchanges, those sorts of projects—we will look at how we can rehabilitate the existing road surface.

In the electorate of the member who asked me the supplementary, the Athllon Drive project is a really great project which will enable us to rehabilitate the road surface of Athllon Drive at the same time as we undertake those important duplication works, both on the southern section in Tuggeranong and in the northern section in Phillip.

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

**DR PATERSON:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, last week you announced that the ACT's nurse-led walk-in centres will now be treating children aged one or older. How will this benefit the Canberra community?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Dr Paterson for the question. I was indeed very pleased to announce last week that the ACT's network of nurse-led walk-in centres will be able to provide families and carers of young children with more options to seek treatment closer to home. The walk-in centres have expanded their services to include the treatment of children from one year of age for non-urgent injuries and illnesses such as cold symptoms, superficial wounds and simple lacerations, rashes and skin conditions, minor head injuries and other presentations. Previously, the service at walk-in centres was limited to children from two years of age, so this change means that families and carers can access more treatment from our talented advanced practice nurses and nurse practitioners without the need to attend an emergency department and with no appointment needed.

The ACT government recognises that with children the unexpected can happen and families may not be in a position to wait for an appointment with their regular health practitioner. We also know that waiting in the emergency department for this kind of treatment is not something that families want to be doing. This service expansion provides another option for parents and carers to have in their toolbox and will mean fewer presentations at our emergency departments.

Of course, the parents or carers of children with serious or complex care needs should continue to seek medical care for them from a GP or, if urgent, attend an emergency department. But our nurse-led walk-in centres are open seven days a week, 365 days a year, across the ACT. They are innovative. They are highly valued by Canberrans. They are an important part of our health system. I am very proud of the work that they do, continuing to find new ways to expand their exceptional care for Canberrans.

**DR PATERSON:** Minister, what research and work has been undertaken to facilitate this change at our walk-in centres?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Dr Paterson for the supplementary. The service expansion to children of one year of age is a great example of an evidence-based innovation that has been backed by feedback from consumers, staff and the examination of emergency department presentation data. The dedicated nurses at our walk-in centres have completed a research and consultation project over an 18-month period.

I particularly want to call out Jon Howes, an advanced practice nurse at Tuggeranong walk-in centre, who initiated and drove this research. Jon and the team found that

there were many conditions being treated at our emergency departments, for one-year-old patients, that two-year-olds were being treated for at our walk-in centres. The research also showed that the treatment for these emergency department presentations was in line with how they would be managed for a two-year-old under the walk-in centre treatment protocols. Feedback from the community showed that 98 per cent of people using walk-in centres would prefer that they expand their service to this younger population. The consultation with walk-in centre users also showed that if walk-in centres had not been available, 43 per cent of people would have presented to an emergency department.

While walk-in centres have nurses with lots of experience in paediatric care, additional training has been provided to the advanced practice nurses to ensure that the provision of high quality clinical care to paediatric patients continues. The walk-in centre teams are working to recruit additional highly skilled advanced practice nurses and nurse practitioners, which will also allow the reopening of the inner north walk-in centre as soon as these staff are on board and trained up—something I know people in our electorate are very keen to see. A recent walk-in centre nurse practitioner recruitment process resulted in an additional two nurse practitioners for our walk-in centres, and these nurses will commence with the services shortly.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, can you please update the Assembly on other changes and innovations at our walk-in centres to support the Canberra community to access free public health care?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the supplementary. The ACT's walk-in centres provide an incredibly important service to the ACT and surrounding region. From January to March this year there were 18,700 presentations to a walk-in centre, including our dedicated, nation-leading COVID-19 clinic at the Garran Surge Centre. To continue to expand access to our walk-in centres, the ACT government invested more than \$3 million, delivering more care closer to home by increasing the number of nurse practitioners across our walk-in centres in the most recent budget. This increased funding will ensure that a nurse practitioner is available at every walk-in centre on each shift.

The ACT government is also delivering on its commitment to establish the Weston Creek community medical imaging facility, co-located with our walk-in centre at Weston Creek, to provide better access to public imaging services. Construction of the new facility has commenced and it will be operational in early 2023. This means that our teams will be able to send patients for commonly required diagnostic imaging in the community, rather than redirecting them to our busy public hospital imaging departments.

The new digital health record is also being implemented across our walk-in centres and will go live on 12 November. This transformational project will mean our nurse-led teams will have faster access to information, meaning more time to focus on the person requiring care, rather than searching for key health information stored in different places.

Through the regular review of treatment protocols, the teams at the walk-in centres

regularly consider opportunities to expand the services and ensure that treatment remains appropriate and best practice. Through their work, they ensured that over 80 per cent of presentations at a walk-in centre between January and March this year were able to be treated fully, with just 7.1 per cent redirected to the emergency department.

### **Public housing—renewal program**

**MR PARTON:** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Chief Minister in his capacity as Treasurer. Chief Minister, regarding the 2015 asset recycling initiative agreement with the commonwealth government, did the funds from the sale of the ageing public housing complexes and the associated 15 per cent commonwealth bonus—that money—go directly to light rail as per the agreement you signed?

**MR BARR:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Well, Mr Parton, the agreement is public. It does indicate the assets that were sold and the bonus payments that were part of the Asset Recycling Initiative. The money that went to light rail was, from memory, about \$67 million. That was the 15 per cent bonus. The agreement with the commonwealth ensured there would be no net reduction in the number of public housing properties. So the accusation—

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** So the accusation that has been made is that the sale of the properties attracted both the sale price plus a 15 per cent bonus from the commonwealth. The bonus went to light rail; the sale price of the properties is reinvested in housing.

**MR PARTON:** Chief Minister why did either your housing minister or treasury officials give an indication to media that that bonus money was directly reinvested back into public housing?

**MR BARR:** I do not believe that they did. The mechanism and the agreement in the schedule to the Asset Recycling Initiative—an initiative of the Abbott-Hockey government—was quite clear in relation to the requirements. Now I also need to note, as you would be aware Mr Parton, most of the assets were not public housing. They were in fact the TAB, the former visitors information bureau site and a number of other sites that were sold that were not public housing sites. Yes, some sites that contained public housing were part of the asset recycling initiative. The bonus, the 15 per cent that was the commonwealth contribution, went into light rail. The point is that we had to go through that quite convoluted process in order to get federal support for the light rail project.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** Fortunately, for future stages of the project we do not have to go through that process, depending, of course, on the outcomes of future budget rounds; there is already a further commonwealth contribution that was announced by former Senator Zed Seselja—through gritted teeth, Madam Speaker, in the most uncomfortable press conference of his career, standing next to me, and the former Deputy Prime Minister,

Michael McCormack, both of whom having to speak very enthusiastically about light rail. So that, Madam Speaker, is the journey here. No conspiracy theories. No conspiracy theories.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** Investment back into renewing public housing. So the outcome of all of this is a light rail project—

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** and 1288 renewed public housing properties and more public housing being built. So in the end, we have improved the housing stock and we have improved public transport in the ACT, and we were able to achieve that while working with the Abbott government, for crying out loud!

**MS LEE:** Chief Minister, why has your government failed to keep pace with the population growth in the provision of public housing?

**MR BARR:** The government continues to invest in public housing. This government has invested more in public housing than any government before it in the history of self-government.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members!

**MR BARR:** We have invested in both the renewal of an ageing public housing stock that we inherited from the commonwealth and we have invested in growing the public housing portfolio and the community housing portfolio. Recent examples include the Common Ground project.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** They don't like to hear about it, Madam Speaker. Ask the question and then it's just a constant stream of interjections. The recent Common Ground project in my own suburb of Dickson; a wonderful community housing initiative, recently opened. There are literally more than 1,200 new public housing properties that have been built under the renewal scheme being led by the Deputy Chief Minister. It is the single largest investment in renewal of public housing in the Territory's self-governing history—hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars invested in new housing right across the Territory. It has reduced the average age of the housing portfolio by nearly a decade. We still have more housing per capita than any other state or territory; we have the highest level of public housing provision of any state or territory; and we are renewing the housing stock, getting rid of the most degraded, inefficient, unsustainable housing, and building new housing to meet the needs of our city's population.

There will always be a need to invest more and I am delighted that we now have a federal government that will partner with us to increase the pace of new social

housing delivery after a decade, Madam Speaker, of inaction from the mates of those opposite, who did nothing nation-wide for ten years! Now we have an opportunity to build on the work that we have already undertaken at a local level, and we look forward to doing so.

### **Gambling—harm minimisation measures**

**MR PARTON:** Minister, regarding the proposed legislative changes involving \$5 bet limits in our clubs: you were asked in estimates about what percentage of spins in ACT clubs are over \$5, and your written response indicated that the Gambling and Racing Commission did not have any of that data.

Why are you going to force clubs to spend many millions of dollars—they believe \$70 million—to get to \$5 bet limits, when you have no idea how many people this will affect?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Madam Speaker, Mr Parton's question misses the obvious point that independent research and advice from harm minimisation advocates indicates that limiting bets—putting a cap on how much can be spent on a single bet—is a recognised and successful harm minimisation measure. What it does is reduce the amount of money people can lose. It slows down the rate. That is the point, and that is the basis on which the policy is developed.

Mr Parton is chuckling away over there. I am sure he is going to start making his interjections shortly. He asked the question. That is the basis on which the policy is built. Interestingly, all other jurisdictions except New South Wales have the same bet limit of \$5, but for some reason Mr Parton thinks it is not appropriate for the ACT.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, is it possible that there are no bets made above \$5, given that you have no data on this at all?

**MR RATTENBURY:** That is information that, as Mr Parton knows, a range of the clubs do have, and some of them are starting to share it with us as part of the consultation process.

What I can say is that the government has gone out with a detailed proposal. We have had quite a number of submissions come in. I am very pleased with those submissions that have come forward, and what we are now doing is going through that feedback, analysing—

*Mr Parton interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members, please!

**MR RATTENBURY:** We are analysing that feedback and then establishing an ongoing technical working group to continue to work both with harm minimisation advocates and clubs in the sector to make sure we come up with an efficient and effective outcome that has a significant impact in reducing harm from poker machines in the ACT. That is our objective. That is what we are working towards.



**MR COCKS:** Minister, we all know where good intentions can lead. Given you do not have this data, will you stop pursuing clubs to try and force them to spend more than \$70 million of their own money, until you collect and review data, and then will you consider dropping your legislation because it is an excessive use of the law?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Mr Cocks had built a lot of assumptions into his question, including the proposed cost of the scheme.

*Mr Parton interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members! You asked the question; have the decency to be quiet to listen to the answer.

**MR RATTENBURY:** At this point, for example, the \$70 million figure that Mr Cocks has cited is not a figure the government accepts. The government sought independent advice from a well-recognised company that works in the gaming machine space in Australia. They indicated a range of costs that they felt this transition could be made for. People have come back with alternative cost analyses. Some of those are much higher. One might have views on why those estimates are much higher. That is why we are now setting up a technical working group. We are seeking to work collaboratively with the industry here in the ACT to work through the details. There probably is a really expensive way to do this, and there is a cost-effective way to do it. We are most interested in finding the cost-effective way to do it, and we intend to collaborate with the industry to find the pathway to the most cost-effective implementation.

### **Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—spit hoods**

**MR BRADDOCK:** My question is to the Minister for Justice Health. Minister, given that, during estimates, evidence was heard from the Chief Police Officer of a spit hood being used on a 16-year-old, I would like to ask: what are you doing as youth justice minister to ensure that we respect the human rights of children and young people in the youth justice system by not using spit hoods?

**MS DAVIDSON:** Thank you, Mr Braddock, for the question. I can confirm that as the first youth detention centre that was developed under human rights legislation, Bimberi does not, and has never, approved the use of spit hoods. I did write to the Human Rights Commission a couple of months ago to let them know that I would be seeking to have the notifiable instrument updated to make that clearer, but Bimberi does not, and has never, approved the use of spit hoods. The reason for that is that a lot of the young people that end up in the youth justice system have complex needs. Those can include mental health conditions, disability, the impacts of drug and alcohol use and a background with quite a lot of trauma. All of that can result in a lot of difficulty in self-regulating behaviour when they are feeling anxious or distressed.

If someone were in that situation and an adult in a position of authority were to put a bag over their head, that would not help. That would make them feel even more distressed and more anxious. It would make it even harder for them to understand the situation they were in, and to behave in a way that does not put them or anyone else at risk. I very much look forward to being able to discuss this with the police

commissioner as soon as possible. We will continue to make every effort to support the staff at Bimberi to provide a safe, secure and supportive environment for young people who are in custody, and to facilitate their rehabilitation and their reintegration back into the community in safe ways. That includes making sure that staff have access to personal protective equipment like face shields so that that kind of behaviour does not have that kind of impact on youth workers in Bimberi. Thank you for the question.

**MR BRADDOCK:** Thank you, Minister. Can I please have the status of the notifiable instrument that you referred to in your reply.

**MS DAVIDSON:** Thank you for the question. I am just reading from the notifiable instrument, which came into force on 15 September. At 6.14 (d), about restrictions on the use of force, it says:

- 6.14 Youth workers, transfer escorts and escort officer must ...
- (d) not use spit hoods or mechanical restraint chairs.

That is very clear.

**MS CLAY:** I have a supplementary question. Minister, what else are you doing to ensure that we are respecting the human rights of children and young people while they are in Bimberi?

**MS DAVIDSON:** We have a range of programs in place at Bimberi to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of young people back into the community in safe ways, including education and behaviour change programs. In terms of making sure that their human rights are respected, we are also doing work to deliver the ACT government's commitment to modernise the Children and Young People Act, and there will be an opportunity for a range of amendments to be considered. I am committed to seeing that legislation strengthened by explicitly stating that spit hoods are not an approved item of restraint, which will further reinforce what was in the notifiable instrument.

### **Municipal services—infrastructure projects**

**MR PETTERSSON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, how is the ACT government delivering on ACT Labor's commitments for better suburban infrastructure across Canberra?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Mr Pettersson for his question about the progress of our \$65 million suburban infrastructure program, which is delivering for communities, delivering on our election commitments and also providing good, local jobs along the way across our city.

Our suburban infrastructure pipeline is the largest in self-government. We are delivering on our election commitments through the program, including budget funding for a new destination playground in Watson, improvements to Charnwood shops, new bridges at Umbagog District Park, and a co-design for a new library and community facility in Molonglo. This complements our pipeline of local shop

upgrades, with construction underway at Campbell and Duffy shops. Consultation is underway for improvements at Kippax and Brierly Street at Weston Creek, and construction in Kaleen will be coming to a conclusion very soon.

We know that revitalising local precincts like these bring life into these communities and also provide important upgrades that make it easier for Canberrans to use their local shops and support our local small businesses. Our investment continues our commitment to new and upgraded play space and a refreshed Lake Tuggeranong foreshore precinct, improved active travel connections through Canberra and two new dog parks, which we have committed to build in Lanyon and Franklin. This pipeline of work is delivering on our commitments and creating jobs and vibrant communities.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, how is the ACT government working to deliver better recreational spaces for people of all ages and abilities?

**MR STEEL:** I thank Mr Pettersson for his supplementary. We know the importance of creating great recreational spaces for all Canberrans and how important it is that these spaces are built with everyone in mind. That was once again proven in the federal *State of the environment* report, where Canberra came out on top in terms of our access to open spaces.

The government has just released preliminary designs, after a wide range of community consultations, on Casey Recreation Park. This is something that I know is close to the hearts of Ms Orr and Mr Pettersson. Feedback has told us that Canberrans want recreational spaces that bring people together and are accessible for all people of all different ages. The new park will include a multipurpose court for basketball and also other types of sports. It will include all-abilities play equipment, including a nature playground to complement the existing playground close by, including a new flying fox and, importantly, toilets, barbecues and picnic tables that provide a space where the community can come together.

The new park is just one of our great projects for improved recreational facilities and spaces. It builds on our commitment to a wide range of play space upgrades in Chisholm, Gordon, Ngunnawal and Aranda. Community consultation will begin later this year on playground upgrades in my electorate, in Lyons and also in Kaleen, in Yerrabi. A record investment in suburban infrastructure will also deliver a destination playground in the inner north. We have been consulting with that community, and we are looking forward to that continuing next year with a variety of improvements across Lake Tuggeranong foreshore.

**MS ORR:** Minister, what can Canberrans expect from improvements to Lake Tuggeranong's foreshore?

**MR STEEL:** I know that it is not down in your neck of the woods, Ms Orr—through you, Madam Speaker—but Lake Tuggeranong foreshore is a really important part of Canberra. It is a great recreational precinct. We are committed to delivering upgrades there, building on the existing upgrades that we have undertaken in Anketell Street, the main street through the laneways and now through the foreshore precinct.

Community consultation revealed a range of priorities from local residents and businesses, including a desire for improved accessibility and safety of the path network, improvements to Tuggeranong Town Park, and more places to sit, eat and study. Taking on board this feedback, our first designs show improvements along the boardwalk area, particularly around some of those sharp corners for walkers, including our park runners; improved shared path connections; revitalisation of the area new Lake Tuggeranong College; replacement of some of the street furniture; and removal of some of the cluttering along the foreshore edge.

Our plans for the town park include a wide range of improvements to the existing play space, including more nature play and additional facilities—including a new flying fox there as well, children will be pleased to learn—improved pedestrian crossing across the town park and a new toilet block to replace the existing one. These preliminary plans are now out for community feedback, and artist impressions are available, to get a sense of what these improvements will look like. We are looking forward to hearing the community's views in this second stage of consultation on those plans. We are really looking forward to getting on and delivering that project once we have taken into account those views.

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

### **Supplementary answer to question without notice Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee education and training programs**

**MR GENTLEMAN:** In relation to the question from Mr Parton regarding education at AMC that I took on notice, and to Mrs Kikkert's question on the same topic, I am advised that the tender process for the provision of education and vocational training services at AMC is still an active process. This process is undertaken at arm's length from ministers. In this regard I refer members to this statement by the commissioner at estimates: "It is preferable to have them in the service as quickly as we possibly can."

I also draw members' attention to the following evidence provided during estimates. Education provider Quality Training in Construction—QTIC—has been delivering units in cert II in construction at the AMC. From May to August 2021, there were seven female participants, in January 2022 there were 40 male participants, and in July 2022 there were 20 male participants.

A senior education officer at AMC provides support to detainees undertaking distance tertiary studies as required, and detainees are also able to access the library, which is stocked with education and legal resources. A library staff member can also print required materials for detainees' studies where necessary.

As at 14 September 2022, there are 12 detainees engaged in distance tertiary education, and another 67 detainees are enrolled in vocational training.

## **Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee Membership**

Motion (by **Ms Orr**) agreed to:

Mr Pettersson be discharged from the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing and that Dr Paterson be appointed in his place.

## **Papers**

**Madam Speaker** presented the following paper:

Bills referred to Committees, pursuant to resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended—Correspondence—

Bills—Inquiry—

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Natural Gas Transition) Amendment Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, dated 9 August 2022.

Period Products and Facilities (Access) Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing, dated 24 August 2022.

Urban Forest Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services, dated 11 August 2022.

Bills—Not inquired into—

Senior Practitioner Amendment Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion, dated 9 August 2022.

CSIRO Ginninderra site housing release—Assembly resolution of 9 June 2022—Correspondence from the Deputy Chief Minister to the Speaker, dated 8 August 2022.

Legislative Assembly (Members' Superannuation) Act, pursuant to section 11A—Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board—Annual Report 2021-2022, dated 19 September 2022.

**Mr Gentleman** presented the following papers:

ACT Social Recovery Plan—Update.

ACT Transport Recovery Plan Refresh, dated August 2022.

Crimes (Controlled Operations) Act, pursuant to subsection 28(9)—Annual report 2021-22—Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, dated 28 July 2022.

Crimes (Surveillance Devices) Act, pursuant to subsection 38(4)—Annual report 2021-22—Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, dated 28 July 2022.

Disability Justice Strategy—Third Annual Progress Report, dated September 2022, together with a statement.

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 39—Copy of notice provided to the Ombudsman—Freedom of Information request—Decision not made in time—Community Services Directorate (FOI-CYF-20/15), dated 14 April 2022.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap—Annual Report 2022, dated September 2022.

Non-payment of fines—Penalties for minor offences—Government response to Assembly resolution of 24 March 2022.

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to section 76—Approval—Variation to the Territory Plan No 328—Oaks Estate: Zone changes and amendments to the Oaks Estate Precinct Map and Code, including associated documents, dated 16 September 2022.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—ACT Government Fourth Progress Report responding to recommendations, dated August 2022, together with a statement.

Youth Mental Health—A Framework for Change: ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy—Government response to Assembly resolution of 8 October 2021.

### **Children and young people—mental health—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) (3.07): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Youth Mental Health—A Framework for Change: ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy—Government response to Assembly resolution of 8 October 2021.

**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) (3.08): Madam Speaker, on 8 October 2021, a resolution was passed by the Legislative Assembly for an ACT mental health workforce strategy to be developed within six months. On 21 March 2022, I shared with you the progress we had made and the process we were undertaking towards developing this strategy.

Today, I am pleased to present the ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy: A Framework for Change. I remind members that, since the passing of the resolution, significant work has been undertaken, through co-design with the ACT mental health sector, to develop the strategy. It aims to support positive outcomes in the mental health and wellbeing of the ACT mental health workforce, as well as enabling the workforce to deliver outcomes for the community through the delivery of services.

The strategy outlines the sector's shared objectives, their expectations on the values and principles that should underpin workforce initiatives and the desired outcomes. Four priority areas for reform have been determined through this process, including data-driven planning, monitoring and evaluation; attraction, recruitment and retention;

education, training, research and innovation; and developing and embedding the lived experience workforce.

This strategy allows us to coordinate new and existing efforts across the ACT government and to bring us together under a shared purpose and direction. The approach will allow us to identify the current strengths of the system, the pressure points and where there are gaps to inform where our future efforts and investments should be.

In developing this strategy, we consulted broadly across the ACT mental health sector. We heard from clinicians, service providers, the community-managed sector, universities, unions, professional associations, and royal colleges on what should be reflected in the strategy. We took a broad definition of the workforce, in acknowledgement that there are a range of mental health clinicians, allied health and community supports that come together to support the mental health needs of our community.

We heard that there is a need to implement further efforts towards attracting and retaining a skilled workforce in the ACT to address the increasing demands on mental health services. We also heard that to support the wellbeing of the mental health workforce, people need to feel valued and safe.

**Ms Orr:** Mr Assistant Speaker, on a point of order.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER** (Mr Pettersson): Ms Davidson, can you resume your seat? Ms Orr.

**Ms Orr:** I am trying to listen to Ms Davidson's statement. However, Ms Lee and Mr Parton are having what seems to be quite an interesting conversation.

**Ms Lee:** Do you want to come and join us?

**Ms Orr:** I would like you to keep it down so that I can hear Minister Davidson.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Ms Orr, that is a good observation. I ask all members to please listen in silence.

**MS DAVIDSON:** We heard that there is a need to implement further efforts towards attracting and retaining a skilled workforce in the ACT, to address the increasing demands on mental health services. We also heard that, to support the wellbeing of the mental health workforce, people need to feel valued and safe. Greater opportunities to continue professional development, including research to enhance delivery of care and ensure that we are delivering services according to best practice was another theme that emerged.

The ACT strategy also acknowledges the role of community-managed support and services. During consultations, we heard that the community-managed workforce faces many of the same challenges as the clinical workforce. We have responded by making a commitment in the strategy to explore reforms in the community-managed

workforce by working with this part of the sector to understand their specific needs. This will not only better assist them to support our community but will enable the community-managed sector to continue to supplement the important services delivered by the clinical workforce.

On a broader level, we heard that workforce initiatives need to be underpinned by evidence-based planning, through quality data and monitoring and evaluation activities that can help us to work towards clear outcomes.

The strategy also identifies the outcomes that the sector would like to see come to fruition through the next phase of this work. It acknowledges that the impacts of initiatives arising from this work will be not only on the workforce itself but on the ACT community and the mental health system. The strategy provides clear direction for planning and implementation that is agreed by the sector. We are now able to progress towards driving change and addressing some of the persistent challenges facing the mental health workforce in the ACT, and nationally.

Following the release of the strategy, an implementation plan will be developed in collaboration with the sector that will explore each priority area in more depth. Each priority area will be explored across the clinical and community-managed workforce to ensure that future initiatives support the whole continuum of care from the community response to the acute.

The development of this strategy coincides with the development of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy. The national strategy will identify practical approaches that can be implemented by Australian governments to attract, train, maximise, support and retain the workforce required to meet the demands of the mental health system now and into the future.

The national strategy is aimed at providing strategies for the sector to work together on growing, upskilling and supporting the mental health workforce nationally. There will be the opportunity for us to leverage the work of the national strategy and align the implementation activities of both strategies towards what we know the ACT mental health sector wants and needs.

Once again I want to commend the ongoing efforts of our mental health workforce in the face of a challenging few years. We see the hard work that you do every day to support our community, and we are committed to working with you to ensure you have what you need to continue to support our community. We care about your wellbeing, the conditions you work in and your overall satisfaction with the important work that you do.

I am excited to be able to take the next steps with this work and to commence the scoping of actions and initiatives towards these goals and ensuring that the operational strategy is appropriately resourced to address workforce challenges. I will continue to provide periodic updates on the progress of this important work.

Question resolved in the affirmative.



### **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—government progress report**

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

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—ACT Government Fourth Progress Report responding to recommendations.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Planning and Development Act—variation No 328 to the Territory Plan—Oaks Estate**

**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) (3.15): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to section 76—Approval—Variation to the Territory Plan No 328—Oaks Estate: Zone changes and amendments to the Oaks Estate Precinct Map and Code.

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

### **Justice—fines—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) (3.16): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Non-payment of fines—Penalties for minor offences—Government response to Assembly resolution of 24 March 2022

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

### **Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission—annual report 2021-22**

**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) (3.16): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following papers:

Crimes (Controlled Operations) Act, pursuant to subsection 28(9)—Annual report 2021-22—Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

Crimes (Surveillance Devices) Act, pursuant to subsection 38(4)—Annual report 2021-22—Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Freedom of Information Act—Community Services Directorate decision not made in time**

**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) (3.16): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 39—Copy of notice provided to the Ombudsman—Freedom of Information request—Decision not made in time—Community Services Directorate (FOI-CYF-20/15).

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **National Closing the Gap Agreement—ACT annual report 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) (3.16): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

National Agreement on Closing the Gap—Annual Report 2022.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Transport—recovery plan**

**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) (3.16): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

ACT Transport Recovery Plan Refresh.

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

## **Disability Justice Strategy—annual progress report 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) (3.17): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Disability Justice Strategy—Third Annual Progress Report.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Government—social recovery plan**

**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) (3.17): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

ACT Social Recovery Plan—Update.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Leave of absence**

Motion (by **Ms Lawder**) agreed to:

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

## **Freedom of Information Amendment Bill 2022 [No 2]**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MS LEE** (Kurrajong—Leader of the Opposition) (3.19): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today, I present the Freedom of Information Amendment Bill 2022 to improve transparency, to improve accountability, to improve integrity, by amending the FOI Act to create a proactive disclosure provision for the government to publicly release records within 30 business days after cabinet consideration.

Cabinet records are defined as:

- a document given to Cabinet for its consideration or created for that purpose
- an official record of Cabinet.

The guiding principle of my bill is to encourage better governance, open governance, and enhance public confidence in government through transparency. Lacking the usual checks and balances provided by an upper house or house of review, we need more open government not less.

My bill strikes the right balance between genuine cabinet confidentiality, where documents that are clearly not in the public interest to be released will continue to be protected, and the need for the utmost transparency and openness of decisions made by cabinet that have an extraordinary impact on our community.

My bill clearly describes exemptions where public release of information would reasonably be expected to endanger a person's life or physical safety, limit a person's rights, prejudice an ongoing criminal investigation or discloses information contrary to the public interest, per schedule 1 and schedule 2, part 2.2 of the Freedom of Information Act.

An exemption would also apply to cabinet records where government intends to make the decision and related materials public within 50 business days of making the decision, or if it relates to a bill to be presented to the Legislative Assembly.

My bill describes actions to be undertaken by a minister if a record is subject to exemption. If the minister does not publish a record for a prescribed reason, they would be required to provide an explanation for the decision not to publish and give consideration to releasing any relevant factual material.

We are not alone in being a unicameral parliament. This is a policy that has been operating in New Zealand since 2018, which also has one house like our own. Whilst there are some mixed reviews about the actual implementation of the policy, if every member in this place, and in particular the members of cabinet, are committed to transparency and open government, there is no reason—no excuse—not to have this work the way it is intended, to provide confidence and trust in government decisions here in the ACT.

Only a few months ago, the Queensland Labor government immediately agreed to a recommendation calling for the same thing, as a result of a scathing integrity review. Whilst we await the actual implementation of that policy, we in this jurisdiction are in a position to take leadership and get this right. Transparency and open government are fundamental aspects of what makes good democracy and we, every member in this place, must always strive to improve this.

Earlier this year I tabled an exposure draft of this bill and received some constructive feedback from members of the community. To those who took the time to read my bill and provide me with feedback, thank you. The community is calling for, and

deserves, greater scrutiny, greater transparency, greater accountability, and greater probity and integrity in government decisions.

My bill will deliver more transparency, more accountability and more integrity to government in the territory, and I urge every member to support it. I commend my bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Health—paediatric services**

**MS CASTLEY** (Yerrabi) (3.23): I move:

That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the tragic recent deaths of a five year old girl and 13 year old boy and acknowledges parents' concern about ensuring the best hospital care for sick and deteriorating children;
- (2) further notes:
  - (a) there has been media attention on the early warning system for paediatric patients at the Canberra Hospital and how it can be improved;
  - (b) the Australian Medical Association (AMA) (ACT) has called on the Government to consider changing its system so monitoring can be escalated based on one factor (one vital sign) alone and referred to better systems in Victoria and NSW; and
  - (c) Canberra Health Services has said the system has been under review over the past 12 months with input from a range of clinicians; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) immediately improve the early warning system for paediatric patients by introducing a new protocol enabling staff to escalate the care of a deteriorating child based on a single vital sign—such as increased heart rate, blood pressure, temperature—which would trigger an increase in patient monitoring;
  - (b) provide training in the new system to all staff to ensure compliance, including in the emergency department, intensive care and paediatrics;
  - (c) release the review into the system as well as recommendations and the Government's response, before the October sitting period;
  - (d) detail what investigations the Government has made into the Victorian and NSW systems which the AMA (ACT) have said are better and the Government's response, before the October sittings; and
  - (e) explain and provide details about what evaluation has been done of the ACT's Paediatric Early Warning System before the October sittings.

This motion today has been prompted by the waste of a beautiful life and the recent deaths of children in the Canberra Hospital. Rozalia Spadafora deserved a full life and all of our children do. But her life is over. As we know, she died at the Canberra Hospital and the coroner will hold an inquest sometime next year.

We cannot wait for an inquest to be held, for recommendations to be made and for considerations of those recommendations before we improve healthcare for our most vulnerable in Canberra, our sick and deteriorating children.

Changes can be made to improve paediatric care today, which would be the most appropriate tribute to Rozalia's shattered family and the families of the other children who have died in the last two years. A hospital is there to save lives. The government must do everything it can to stop children dying in hospitals.

On 13 July 2017, the *Canberra Times* ran a story with a headline, "The horror day that robbed a family." The story marked the 20th anniversary of the Canberra Hospital implosion in 1997 that claimed the life of 12-year-old Katie Bender, killed instantly when she was hit by a piece of flying steel.

Katie's death rocked Canberra and indeed the nation, and Canberrans have not forgotten. Canberra is a tight-knit community and Canberrans have also been shocked by Rozalia's death. For Rozalia's parents, their horror day that robbed a family was 5 July this year—the day mum Katrina saw her only daughter rapidly deteriorate and die before her eyes. Twenty years after Katie Bender's sudden death, her family said, "Our hearts will always be broken." That is the same reality now inflicted on the Spadafora family, as well as the grieving mother of 13-year-old Brian Lovelock who died in August.

The coroner who conducted Katie Bender's inquest, Shane Madden, concluded, "what occurred when Katie Bender was killed was inexcusable." At the time, Labor opposition leader Jon Stanhope called for the resignation of Chief Minister Kate Carnell, moving a motion of no-confidence in the Assembly.

"It is simply not possible for the government," Mr Stanhope declared, "or the legislature, to walk away or to stick its head in the sand and say we do not have a major problem of government in the ACT". Those words of Mr Stanhope's are apt today, because it is simply not possible for this government—this tired, incompetent government—to walk away or stick its head in the sand and say that we do not have a major problem of government in the ACT. We do. We also have a completely out-of-touch health minister, who has been in the job for more than three years yet failed to fix the catalogue of problems in our health system. In fact, Minister Stephen-Smith has presided over more problems, with the list of failures growing longer on her watch.

Recently there has been media attention on how paediatric emergency care at the Canberra Hospital can be improved. The ACT President of the Australian Medical Association, Professor Walter Abhayaratna, has called on the government to consider changes to its system of monitoring paediatric patients, in particular deteriorating children. That is what today's motion is about. Professor Abhayaratna has called for the paediatric early warning system, or PEWS as it is called, to be tweaked. Currently it has an aggregate score which determines how often a patient is monitored. A new protocol, Professor Abhayaratna has explained, would allow staff to escalate the care of a paediatric patient based on one factor alone; a single vital sign such as an

increased heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, saturation of oxygen, respiratory rate could trigger an increase in patient monitoring from four-hourly to half-hourly, as an example.

A single-point trigger system would be more sensitive to deteriorating children and escalate the frequency of observations and the call for additional care. It is a given, Mr Assistant Speaker, that as well as introducing the new protocol to improve the system of monitoring sick children, staff working in these areas—for example ED, intensive care, paediatrics—must be trained in the new system to ensure compliance.

The Canberra Health Services has said in the media that this system has been under review for over 12 months and that the review has included input from clinicians, a review of national and international literature and alternative warning systems. The Canberra Liberals today call on the health minister to immediately release this review and its recommendations. More importantly, what has the health minister done? What action has she taken following this review? That is what Canberrans want to know. They do not want more reviews without action.

Professor Abhayaratna has also referred to better systems offered in New South Wales and Victoria. At the risk of stating the obvious, if the medical experts say that there are better systems currently working in other states then surely the government must do everything it can to implement these better systems here. Canberrans deserve the best system.

The New South Wales system, which is called Between the Flags, is a deteriorating-patient safety net system for patients in New South Wales public health facilities. It is designed to assist clinicians to recognise when patients are deteriorating and to respond appropriately when they do. There is regular staff training and education.

The Victorian model is for paediatrics. It helps healthcare staff to recognise early signs when a child becomes more unwell and to respond appropriately. ViCTOR stands for Victorian Children's Tool for Observation and Response. It is a set of standardised evidence-based tools to help health services develop more robust mechanisms to detect and respond to patient deterioration. ViCTOR comprises a set of five age-specific track-and-trigger paediatric observation charts for use in Victorian hospitals. Those age groups are: less than three months, three to 12 months, one to four years, five to 11 years, and 12 to 18 years. Importantly, concerning changes in any one observation or vital sign are indicated by two coloured zones: orange and purple. If a child's observation transgresses the orange or purple zone, an escalation of care response is triggered. Imagine if the Canberra Hospital had had the ViCTOR system operating here. Imagine how events might have unfolded differently for Rozalia.

The government must do everything it can to stop children dying in our hospitals. That is why, as part of this motion, I am calling on the government to detail what investigations it has made of these two systems and when the ACT will implement a similar model.

Before concluding, I note the health minister has said in the media that she literally thinks of these families every single day. These families want action. That is what a minister of the crown is expected to do—to act professionally, to act with integrity but, above all, to act. So I call on the minister to rise above the politics, above the petty and ridiculous game of blaming others for her lack of care and compassion, and to get on with the job that she is paid so handsomely to do. It is a privilege to be ACT health minister, and with that comes enormous responsibility. So I urge the minister to accept responsibility for the broken health system that she leads and start fixing it. Enough of hearing, “Ms Castley did not tell me that Katrina’s family needed support”! It is not for me nor anyone else to tell the minister that a traumatised family, who lost their only daughter, might want contact and support by Canberra Health Services—particularly as we read in the media that the hospital was providing support to the staff involved. To reach out to a bereaved family in a time of utter despair is not an intrusion; it is called compassion. That is what humans do.

Canberra families grieve with the parents of Rozalia Spadafora, Brian Lovelock and others. Parents and carers are understandably thinking, “This could have been my child,” but, no matter how much we grieve, we cannot bring back these children. What the Labor-Greens government can do, and what it must do, is improve health care for our most vulnerable, our sick and deteriorating kids, to ensure the best services are provided to them. Nothing less. This would be the most appropriate tribute to these grieving families to show the government genuinely cares about improving health care; this is what Canberrans elect their governments to do.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH** (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health) (3.34): I made a comment earlier to the media that I was pleased Ms Castley had moved away from simply focusing on my character to something more substantial. I thank Ms Castley for bringing this motion to the Assembly today, but, unfortunately, she did not maintain that focus on substantial issues throughout her comments.

I do want to assure Ms Castley—and she is, in fact, well aware, so maybe I am assuring the rest of the chamber—that Canberra Health Services has not waited for a coronial inquest. Ms Castley is well aware that Canberra Health Services commissioned a clinical review of Rozalia Spadafora’s tragic death, and this review is being considered by the clinical review committee this week. The Chief Operating Officer of Canberra Health Services has written to the Spadafora family, providing an update and inviting them to a meeting to discuss the findings. Before Ms Castley encourages me to publicly release that review, I will advise her that those clinical reviews are subject to very strict privacy rules, and I will not be able to do that; but we will, of course, be publicly releasing any actions that arise from that, taking those very seriously and acting on those as quickly as possible.

We, in government, certainly do understand that parents and carers are concerned about ensuring the best hospital care for sick and deteriorating children. I appreciate that there has been media attention about the early warning system, so I also appreciate the opportunity to have this debate today.

I have circulated amendments to ensure that everyone in this place has more comprehensive information about the ACT government’s work to continue to deliver



safe, high-quality health services for children, adolescents and families in the ACT. The amendment also recognises work that has already been done and is currently underway and commits to updating the Assembly on that work in the first half of next year.

I move the amendment circulated in my name:

Omit all text after 2(b), substitute:

- “(b) the ACT Government is committed to the provision of safe, high-quality health services for children, adolescents and families in the ACT and surrounding NSW region;
- (c) children and adolescents have specific medical, therapeutic, developmental and broader health needs that require systems to be responsive to their individual circumstances;
- (d) the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has called on the Government to consider changing its system so monitoring can be escalated based on one factor (one vital sign) alone and has referred to alternative systems used in Victoria and NSW;
- (e) under the current system, paediatric patients have all observations recorded on their Paediatric Early Warning Score (PEWS) charts;
- (f) PEWS is a multi-variable track and trigger system where vital signs are recorded at the bedside, a score is allocated to the vital signs and the individual scores are summed to a total PEWS that assists in the identification of deteriorating patients;
- (g) individual vital sign scores (including heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, respiratory rate and oxygen saturations), as well as an increasing PEWS trend can trigger an escalation pathway for clinical review and management of the patient;
- (h) paediatric early warning system training is mandatory training for clinicians at orientation and at consistent refresh intervals to maintain evidence-based practice in the management of acute deterioration;
- (i) the Call and Respond Early (CARE) for Patient Safety program is in place to enable patients, carers and families to escalate concerns around clinical deterioration;
- (j) a working group of clinicians from the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Paediatrics, Medical Emergency Team and Anaesthetics has been meeting for 12 months to review key areas of policy and procedure for the care of deteriorating and critically ill children, and in particular the early warning system in anticipation of the Digital Health Record implementation;
- (k) the Digital Health Record Project Team has continued to work with clinicians to collect data and provide an analysis alongside case scenarios to inform future decision-making regarding the potential adoption of an alternative system;
- (l) an external review of Canberra Health Services’ (CHS) Paediatric Services was conducted in 2021 resulting in the development of the CHS Paediatric Organisation and Service Plan 2021-2023 that outlines recommendations and actions that are currently being implemented at CHS;

- (m) CHS underwent an organisation-wide accreditation conducted by independent assessors in June 2022, meeting the National Safety and Quality Health Services Standards across all aspects of paediatric service provision, including all actions under Standard 8 Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration;
  - (n) the Minister for Health will convene a Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Expert Panel to support the finalisation of the Territory-wide Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Plan; and
  - (o) the Expert Panel will review and monitor implementation of existing recommendations and priorities, including recommendations from the CHS Paediatric Organisation and Service Plan 2021-2023; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to report to the Legislative Assembly on the work of the Expert Panel and the development of the Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Plan by 30 June 2023.”.

Public paediatric health services are delivered across a range of areas in the ACT, including both hospital and community settings. Each year, thousands of children, adolescents and families will present for appointments or urgent treatment for a range of acute and chronic conditions. To enable the continued delivery of accessible and sustainable health services for paediatric patients, Canberra Health Services commissioned an external review of paediatric services across the continuum of this care. This review was finalised in 2021, and work to implement the findings of the review has been occurring since.

As I noted in question time, one of the prompts for this work was the ongoing cultural improvement activity across Canberra Health Services and, indeed, our wider public health system. However, the primary focus of the in-depth review was to look at Canberra Health Services paediatric services into the future based on population needs, data, best practice and consultation with staff and stakeholders.

A key outcome of the review was the working document known as the CHS Paediatric Organisation and Service Plan 2021-2023. This outlines the considerations needed to expand specialty services, including when the ACT and surrounding New South Wales region population grows to a point that sub-specialities, such as paediatric cardiologists and neurologists, can be safely supported, and how services can be strengthened, in the meantime, through a networked approach with the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network. I note Ms Castley has been out in the media talking about the need for paediatric cardiology and neurology, without seeking any briefing whatsoever. I am, as I indicated in question time, looking at how we can release this work, which clearly indicates that those services could not be sustained in the ACT safely at this point in time.

The review also looked at how Canberra Hospital can expand paediatric intensive care capability and work towards the establishment of a level 1 paediatric intensive care unit as part of the critical services building development. It is important to ensure that all this work is done in a safe and evidence-based way. Supporting subspecialities has a number of safety and quality considerations, including: accreditation, training and population requirements. Also included in this review was consideration of the systems in place to provide care and treatment for critically unwell children and adolescents, and that is the focus of today’s motion.

This work was informed by the CHS care of the deteriorating child working group, comprising of emergency, intensive care, paediatric, medical emergency team, and anaesthetics team members, which has been meeting to review key areas of policy and procedure. The primary purpose of this working group is to provide multidisciplinary expertise to support and monitor CHS practices for the early recognition, management and escalation of care for acutely unwell or deteriorating paediatric patients. This has included the working group's review and discussion more broadly with clinicians on early warning systems, with consideration of case analyses and literature on alternative systems.

I recognise that the public discussion on this matter has been prompted by views shared by the president of the Australian Medical Association ACT branch that there are better systems than the one used in Canberra Hospital. There is no doubt that one challenge over recent years in this work has been the different views held by senior clinicians. However, I am assured by people with considerable experience in these settings, working in these settings, that early recognition of a deteriorating patient and the provision of prompt and appropriate responses are well embedded in practice in both our public hospitals in the ACT. Canberra Health Services has clear procedures in place to recognise early signs of deterioration, and escalation protocols in place across the service.

Paediatric early warning systems enable staff to escalate the care of a deteriorating child based on their heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation, levels of consciousness, as well as looking at the child's specific condition. Paediatric patients have observations recorded on their paediatric early warning score, or PEWS charts.

PEWS functions as a multivariable track and trigger system, where vital signs are monitored and recorded at the bedside and a score is allocated to the vital signs. The individual scores are summed to a total PEWS, and this assists in the identification of deteriorating patients. But as I have said multiple times publicly, and Ms Castley has completely ignored, individual vital signs results can also trigger an escalation pathway for clinical review and management of the patient under the current system, as well as an increasing PEWS trend.

Frequency of observations and escalation are the key components of the early monitoring system that is currently in place. If a PEWS identifies deterioration, frequency of observations are increased to half hourly, or more frequently, depending on the needs of the patient. Frequency can also increase to continuous monitoring if required.

A 2019 systematic review by Trubey et al was published in the *British Medical Journal*, looking at the validity and effectiveness of early warning systems and track and trigger tools for identifying and reducing clinical deterioration in hospitalised children. As part of the review, the validation research of 18 unique paediatric track and trigger tools was evaluated, which goes to the breadth of tools that are used internationally as part of monitoring the deterioration of children and adolescents in hospital settings.

The systematic review found that there are still gaps in the current evidence base regarding these systems and tools. We will look at these to effectively determine their specific use. Future research is still needed to understand the full evidence base.

There are a number of considerations for implementing a paediatric track and trigger system, which also include scoring thresholds. These can be different depending on the protocol in use, of which there are many. The fact that New South Wales and Victoria have different systems, and Ms Castley is not providing a recommendation about which one should be used, is an indication that there are different systems in place. The systematic review found:

... at lower triggering thresholds, sensitivity is high but specificity is low; at higher thresholds, the opposite is true.

It stands to reason. This means, depending on the thresholds that are set, you might have significantly higher detection of “derangement”, the clinical term, but it might not be specific to deterioration. These kinds of issues, which are very technical, I understand, have implications and unintended consequences for the patient, who may become subject to unnecessary interventions. They also have implications for the clinical practice of clinicians who are managing day-to-day patient care.

The tool used to score vital signs is just one element of the entire early warning system, and this map does need to be kept in mind when we, as politicians, are talking about clinical systems and their everyday use in clinical practice. We are not just talking about a simple protocol change.

The early warning system is talking about processes that extend throughout the hospital and the way escalation occurs within a single team, to medical emergency teams, to critical care outreach teams and to the broader speciality network that encompasses the entire management of deteriorating patients. A change to even one part of that system, without knowing the evidence base for that change or considering the local context implications, can have significant, serious, knock-on effects for other parts of the system.

The paediatric early warning system has been reviewed over the past 12 months to consider the ongoing application and effectiveness for identifying and responding to a deteriorating child, particularly in the context of implementing the Digital Health Record in November this year.

This examination of the paediatric warning system has included input from a range of clinicians, case analyses, and consideration of national and international literature on alternative warning systems. There is no clear evidence in the available literature that any single system is better than others in terms of identifying deteriorating patients and avoiding negative outcomes.

In 2016, the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand, and the Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society, released a joint position

statement on rapid response systems in Australia and New Zealand, and the roles of intensive care. They acknowledge that despite the best efforts of rapid response systems:

... some patients will deteriorate, even with appropriate and timely care—

and—

... deterioration is commonly due to complications of the primary illness such as arrhythmias, progression of an acute illness such as renal failure from sepsis, or the complications of correct treatment despite best practice preventive measures including wound infection and venous thrombosis.

We have to recognise that despite the best efforts of clinicians and systems, there are circumstances where they cannot always prevent the very real consequences of illness and injury that can have devastating impacts for a person and their family.

Preparation for the commencement of the Digital Health Record has involved engagement with clinicians to ensure implementation of the paediatric early warning system, and that the necessary triggers for observations and escalations are in place. These will be implemented in the Digital Health Record from commencement in November 2022, with ongoing review and further opportunity to enhance the DHS application triggers in early 2023.

For Ms Castley's information, I did actually see the system—it is the adult system, but it is very similar—in place, on a screen, when I went to have a look at the Digital Health Record equipment demonstration the other day. It literally has a yellow band and a red band for every individual observation measure, and it has a score, and it triggers a response. That is the electronic system that is going to be in place. The Digital Health Record team will continue to work with clinicians to collect data and provide further analysis, alongside case scenarios, to inform future decision-making regarding any potential adoption of an alternative system.

This recognises that people have different views and there are different systems. What the DHR will enable the team to do is to measure in the background all of those different measures to understand and build an evidence base about what would happen if we changed to an alternative system, bearing in mind the wide ramifications that would have. It means that any changes will be strongly evaluated in the context of our systems, ahead of implementation to ensure our organisations are making strong evidence-based decisions.

As part of the early warning system in use at Canberra Hospital, comprehensive training is provided to all staff in the early recognition of deterioration through the COMPASS program. All clinical staff are required to complete the COMPASS program, which provides clinicians with the ability to initiate appropriate and timely management of deterioration. This mandatory training is completed on orientation to the health service and at yearly refresher intervals.

I am going to run out of time to talk in any more detail about this, but I want to table some documents for the information of the Assembly (*Extension of time granted.*)

I present the following papers:

Canberra Health Services Guideline—Acutely unwell and deteriorating paediatric patient, dated 8 August 2022.

Canberra Health Services—General observation chart paediatric.

This paper includes explanations for how the early warning system works at Canberra Hospital. It also includes the escalation protocols and emergency management for deteriorating patients.

I am also tabling the observation charts of paediatric patients at Canberra Hospital, which clearly show how our clinicians track and trigger vital signs as part of the early warning system. These systems ensure that our health services are recognising and responding to acute deterioration, which is the foundation of an early warning system.

In closing, I want to again recognise that the health services that we provide for children and adolescents are of very clear interest to families, parents, carers and the wider community. We have been undertaking work alongside the CHS specific paediatric planning and operational work. We have been undertaking work to develop a Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Plan, territory wide. This is a significant commitment under the ACT Health Services Plan that I released in August, and work has been underway on this for quite some time.

In order to elevate this work, provide some more transparency of it, and to make sure that it is completed in a timely way, I have today announced the establishment of a Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Expert Panel. It will bring in expertise and bring together senior people from across Canberra Health Services and the ACT Health Directorate, with an independent chair, an independent paediatrician, an academic with expertise in paediatric clinical services, an academic with expertise in paediatric nursing and/or paediatric allied health, a consumer representative and the ACT Human Rights Commission to oversee the finalisation of the Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Plan for the ACT.

It will also review and monitor the implementation of existing recommendations and priorities, including recommendations in the Canberra Health Services Paediatric Organisation and Service Plan 2021-2023, and the Kids Interstate Shared Care Project, which was an important project undertaken in partnership with the Health Care Consumers' Association, recognising the complexity for children and families receiving interstate care.

We made significant investments in the ACT budget, including a \$4.8 million investment in specialist health services for children and young people, with the establishment of a neurodevelopment and behavioural assessment and treatment service, and with additional GP-led multi-disciplinary outpatient clinics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young adults. That is on top of significant investments we have made right across the system, but the neurodevelopment and behavioural assessment and treatment service reflected specifically the findings and recommendations out of the review of paediatric services. It is something that I was very pleased to be able to fund.

We do take these things very seriously. I do see my role as Minister in this government as a privilege. I think every MLA is privileged to hold these roles, and I believe every MLA has a responsibility to advocate for those people with whom they speak. And if they understand that an individual is reaching out for support, they have a responsibility to seek to try to get that person additional support, recognising that not everyone has the same contacts and not everybody is going to respond in the same way.

Absolutely, I take my responsibility seriously, and that is why we are continuing to do this work and to escalate this work.

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (3.54): I rise to deliver some comments from Mr Davis, who has been called away on an urgent matter. He wanted to make sure that I read these into the record for him.

The loss of a child leaves an empty space in the hearts of their family and friends, and it can never be filled. It is the worst thing. Not a day will go by that the families of those children will not grieve for someone who was so loved. My thoughts are with those families, and I hope they are receiving the support they need during this awful time.

I know from the many conversations I have had with nurses and clinical staff at Canberra Hospital over the past year and a half, that what they do there is more than just a job. It is a calling. It is a vocation. They want to provide the best quality care they can to support the health and wellbeing of everyone in our community.

That is why, when there is a tragic outcome such as this, it is so important that there are reviews, inquiries and coronial inquests into what occurred. The families of the children and the healthcare workers, and the management at Canberra Hospital, will want to know why this happened and what could have been done differently to prevent the loss of life.

Sometimes a seemingly healthy person becomes sick very quickly and the outcome cannot be foreseen. Sometimes a person with known health conditions experiences an additional illness or a complication that deteriorates unexpectedly fast. In any case, clinicians having access to information about a person's history and current symptoms and treatment is critically important to providing the right care at the right time.

I appreciate hearing from Minister Stephen-Smith about the various systems in place that help detect and alert clinicians. It is also good to hear that the Digital Health Record will add to Canberra Hospital's ability to give clinicians the information they need to make good decisions quickly.

I have heard from Minister Davidson, who attended the "60-day go live readiness" assessment for the DHR last week, and that ACT Health, CHS and Calvary are making remarkable progress towards this major new system being implemented later this year. That includes the paediatric team at Canberra Hospital.

I will not pretend to understand the detail of an IT project of this scale and complexity, but when Minister Davidson says that it looks like one of the most well-managed projects of this nature that she has seen, I am impressed. I wish ACT Health all the best in rolling it out.

Even with systems in place, and committed and professional clinicians, it is important that our health systems are always striving to improve and to find and fix any flaws. Perfection may well be an impossible ideal, but the constant journey for our public health services to be the best they can be is a noble mission, and it is something we must resource.

I support Minister Stephen-Smith's amendments, particularly the commitment to a Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Expert Panel, and the ongoing rollout of recommendations and improvements from the CHS Paediatric Organisation and Service Plan 2021-2023.

It needs courage to look at the most tragic of outcomes in our health system and to ask what we could have done better. Everyone in our health workforce and everyone in our community wants to have confidence that our hospital is able to provide the right care for every person who walks through the door needing help.

For our hardworking doctors and nurses and our hospital management, to hear that they could have done better is really challenging. But these are the conversations and the processes that we need to have, and they take dedication and time. They are necessary for our community to have the public health system that it deserves.

Being able to sit with hard truths, to look critically at what we do and how we do it, to listen deeply and without presumption to those who have been left feeling hurt by the failures of this system, and to those who have been tragically wounded and will never recover, is an important step in our growth. It requires every participant in the process to come to the conversation in good faith with a shared commitment to making things better. The next step in the journey is to put in place actions that make real and lasting change.

I want to say, on behalf of all of us: this is the worst thing that can happen. Most of us have walked that journey with someone, and some of us have had that loss. I cannot imagine how it must feel right now.

The Greens are supporting the minister's amendments.

**MS CASTLEY (Yerrabi) (3.59):** The question that I am asking today is: do we have the best early warning system for our kids? After listening to the minister, I really do not have any more confidence now than I did before she spoke that the early warning system with one spike in a vital sign, as was recommended by the AMA and other paediatricians, is in place. I keep hearing about the group and that there are lots of things going on. We need a simple system. We need a simple system that parents have an assurance will work. It is what the minister needs to do to reassure Canberra parents that we have the best system in place.



MyDHR is coming, and I am sure it is going to make some great changes, but just because that is on the way does not mean we cannot investigate other systems. It cannot be a system over life or death. Things have not changed. We have seen children die and there has been no action, other than more reviews and more groups to review the reviews. It is just not practical change, which is what parents need. Mr Davis and the minister say that their thoughts are with the family, but there is still no change—other than to these families.

As I said earlier, the minister has done very little to allay my concerns or answer the question that is on the lips of every Canberran as to whether we have the best early warning system and whether she has investigated that. So the Canberra Liberals will not be supporting the amendment this afternoon.

*Ms Stephen-Smith interjecting—*

**MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Ms Stephen-Smith. Ms Stephen-Smith!

Question put:

That the amendment be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 13

Noes 6

Mr Braddock

Dr Paterson

Mr Cain

Ms Burch

Mr Pettersson

Ms Castley

Ms Cheyne

Mr Rattenbury

Mr Cocks

Ms Clay

Mr Steel

Mr Hanson

Ms Davidson

Ms Stephen-Smith

Ms Lawder

Mr Gentleman

Ms Vassarotti

Mr Parton

Ms Orr

Amendment agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

## Public Place Names Amendment Bill 2021

Debate resumed from 30 November 2021 on motion by **Dr Paterson**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (4.05): I am pleased to rise to speak to the Public Place Names Amendment Bill 2021.

I would like to thank Dr Paterson for providing the opportunity to have this important discussion. Whilst this bill is technically classed as not being significant in the sense of the standing orders, it is in fact a really important bill.

The bill amends the Public Place Names Act 1989 to remove the word “colonisation” and replace it with “reconciliation” when it comes to a minister determining the name of a public place. Currently, the minister must have regard to certain matters such as the names of persons famous in Australian exploration, navigation, pioneering, colonisation, administration, politics, education, science or letters.

It is striking how far we have come since 1989, the year that this act was put in place—a time that most in this chamber do not regard as being in the very distant past—when we consider the word “colonisation”. The 1995 edition of the *Macquarie Dictionary*—which has been with the Greens in the Assembly since time immemorial, passed down through various officers!—defines “colony” as “a group of people who leave their native country to form in a new land a settlement subject to or connected with the parent state”.

Today, in striking contrast, the *Oxford Learner’s Dictionary* defines “colonisation” as “the act of taking control of an area or a country that is not your own, especially using force and sending people from your own country to live there”. It would behove us in this place to at least keep pace with the painfully considered word of lexicographers.

We acknowledge every sitting day in this place that this is Ngunnawal country. It is no more than a long overdue step that we stop commemorating the acts of colonisation and, directly from that colonisation, the violence of First Nations dispossession. This of course will not complete the work when it comes to justice for First Nations people. There is an enormous amount of effort to be applied at all levels of government, but it is a small step on the path of a longer journey.

Perhaps when we have made this amendment we can begin to address the colonial and at times painfully boring nature of some of Canberra’s place names. As but one example, the world is littered with Black Mountains. Indeed, the entire nation of Montenegro takes its name from one of the innumerable protuberances bearing this name. Many of them, including ours, are not even technically mountains at all.

Our Black Mountain was known to the early European settlers as Black Hill, which indicates that we can survive changes to the names of our landmarks. Possibly in the future we can consider its Ngunnawal name of Galambany. I think these are the sorts of changes that reflect the true history of our region, recognise the first peoples who inhabited what are now often referred to as the Limestone Plains, and give us a strong sense of having names of places that are of relevance to this region and reflect the unique nature of our region and its history and the particular features that are here.

The names we assign to places do reflect our values as a community and they do change over time. It is not a revolutionary act or a destructive one; it is simply a reflection of our evolving community, and that is where I think this amendment bill is a welcome one. It does seek to pick up what we have learnt. It seeks to think about how do we commemorate things, what parts of our history do we want to emphasise and what parts perhaps do not warrant further commemoration? That, of course, is what naming things is about: creating that sense of ongoing commemoration.

If this Assembly does see fit to pass this bill, as I am confident it will, we can move further in a small way not just in removing “colonisation” from the Public Place Names Act but in changing how we reflect on it overall, reflecting on the fact that it has been a very painful process for the First Nations people, and understanding the true history of our nation.

In that sense, I notice that this week there is to be a new show debuting on SBS tonight that explores the frontier wars in Australia. I think the program is called Australia’s longest war. From the advertisements I have seen, it looks like a very interesting series. It explores how the process of colonisation took place in Australia and the significant dispossession and the loss of life, those sorts of matters. It is certainly one I will be having a look at.

It is very interesting that when I was taught history as a young student these issues were never discussed. We learned about all sorts of European history and various other history, but we were not taught a lot of history about Indigenous Australia, or how the process of British arrival in Australia rolled out over time, beyond things like the Eureka stockade. So this is all part of our ongoing journey towards true reconciliation in this country, but also developing a deeper understanding of the history of this place.

We need to celebrate, as is proposed in this bill, those who have played a part in reconciliation. This is a much better word to suggest in prioritising the naming of places after the people who have done a lot to build connection between the many cultures that now call Australia home, those who have made an effort to recognise and understand the full history of this country, not just selected versions of it.

These are challenging debates, but what is really healthy in the way that we are moving forward is that we are starting to explore other elements of Australia’s history and developing a broader understanding of what that is and what it means for us, as a country, going forward. The Greens are very pleased to support Dr Paterson’s bill today. We think that this is an important development in how we name and commemorate things in Canberra’s place names. Thank you very much.

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (4.12): Thank you to Dr Paterson for bringing this important bill before the Assembly. The Indigenous people of Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, were dispossessed of their land by a colonising power. This is the undeniable history of these ancient lands and our young nation. It is important to acknowledge that this dispossession was violent and that the effects of this dispossession resonate throughout our society to this day.

If you walk through the towns and cities of Australia, Canberra included, it is impossible to miss the many streets, statues and other public works that are named in commemoration of those who colonised these lands. Rightly, for many First Nations peoples these figures and their commemoration evoke painful responses.

In my opinion, the decision before us is a straightforward one: those that have sought to bring Australians together, to provide our nation with a path of reconciliation,

should be commemorated. Those historical figures who rose to prominence for their work in the colonisation of this land need not be further commemorated and acclaimed. The place in Australian history of colonisers is fixed. But the decision on who we wish to commemorate must be an expression of our values today.

Currently, when the minister is determining the name of a public place or geographical feature, the minister must have regard to certain matters, among which include the names of persons famous in Australian exploration, navigation, pioneering, colonisation, administration, politics, education, science or letters.

I believe that replacing the word “colonisation” with “reconciliation” is a small change but an important and meaningful one. This change will allow the minister to consider a broader range of esteemed Australians when determining a public place name. It will place prominence on selecting for public commemoration those who have been pivotal to the ongoing process of reconciliation. Again, I thank Dr Paterson for bringing this to the attention of the Assembly. I commend this bill to the Assembly and encourage all members to support it.

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (4.14): I rise today to speak in support of this amendment bill. The bill updates the Public Place Names Act 1989 to replace the word “colonisation” with “reconciliation”. Under the Public Place Names Act 1999 the minister may determine the name of a public place that is territory land. In making such a determination, the minister must have regard to certain matters, among which include, at section 4(2)(a), the names of persons famous in Australian exploration, navigation, pioneering, colonisation, administration, politics, education, science or letters.

Replacing the term “colonisation” with “reconciliation” is a small, simple change yet one that will have a meaningful impact for our community. It does not disadvantage anyone or put any particular group above another, but this simple and important change in language better reflects the Canberra community’s attitudes. This change will allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to see more members of their community recognised in the street names and public place names of the ACT. The Canberra Liberals are pleased to support this amendment bill today, and I thank Dr Paterson for bringing it to this Assembly.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH** (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health) (4.16): I am pleased to speak today in support of Dr Paterson’s bill. I commend her on her work to bring it to this place and on her engagement with the Elected Body in the process.

Dr Paterson’s bill represents a simple change to the Public Place Names Act—omit “colonisation”; substitute “reconciliation”. This one-word amendment goes to the heart of an issue which is being grappled with across the post-colonial world, often referred to colourfully by the media as the statue laws or monument laws.

There are complex questions that underpin the monument laws. How do we appropriately record our shared history in the public realm? How do we adapt our national identity to confront the dispossession, injustice and racism interwoven

through our true national story? These debates frequently centre around the more visible and prominent monuments in our public spaces. However, in commemoratively naming our streets, parks and other public places, they too become monuments to our history and our collective identity.

There are, of course, a diversity of views on this topic. In 2017 Stan Grant wrote:

Captain Cook's statue stands in the centre of our biggest city. There are Indigenous people who for good reason would prefer to see it removed.

Personally I accept that it remains; Cook is part of the story of this nation.

But surely we need no longer maintain the fiction that he "discovered" this country. It dishonours the people who reached this continent 60,000 years before Cook.

This was not an empty land.

There are no easy answers to the question of whether, and how, we replace the names and faces that already exist in our places and spaces. What we can readily do, and what I believe Dr Paterson will achieve with the passage of her bill, is to take the opportunities to highlight that which unifies rather than divides us. By choosing to shift our commemorative efforts from a focus on the figures of colonisation to the champions of reconciliation, we have an opportunity to diversify and strengthen the story we tell through our public monuments.

The ACT is already leading the nation through the observance of Reconciliation Day as a public holiday, allowing all Canberrans to take a day to pause, reflect on our true history and learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, whose sovereignty of this land was never ceded. As the nation's capital, Canberra's monuments and place names reflect both our local identity and the national identity. Making the change proposed in Dr Paterson's bill is not just important for the Canberra community; it is an important step in reshaping how we tell our national story in a way that is reflective of our true history and inclusive of all Australians. I commend Dr Paterson's bill.

**DR PATERSON** (Murrumbidgee) (4.19), in reply: I would like to start by thanking colleagues for their contributions to the debate, and noting that I am happy to close the debate on the in-principle stage of the Public Place Names Amendment Bill. I am proud to stand here today, representing the people of Murrumbidgee and Canberra more broadly, in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the ACT, to effect positive change towards reconciliation.

It is poignant that the debate on this bill is happening today, as the world mourns the passing of Her Majesty, a figurehead of colonialism across the commonwealth. The symbolism is not lost on me that this bill will be passed in the Assembly today to no longer hold colonisation and colonisers in the ACT in high esteem, to tell the truth about our history, and to now, in 2022, move to celebrate those people in our community that work for reconciliation. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on not only our past but our future as a nation—a future where truth-telling and reconciliation are at the heart.

In setting the tone for this speech, I would like to quote from a speech made by Stan Grant earlier this year. He said:

Reconciliation is about truth, and it is about justice, and it is about recognition in this country. It asks more of all of us. We have to bring real substance to this idea of reconciliation. We have to honour the memories of the people who have come before us. We have to live up to Peter Yu's challenge to all of us to make reconciliation mean something, to give it back its sense of moral purpose.

He continued:

If reconciliation is going to mean anything to us, then we need to live up to the traditions of those who have come before us, those great warriors, men and women, who have fought for this country and are still promising a new future for this country—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are asking Australians to walk with us to a better future, a future where we don't turn away from the past, where we don't silence our voices, but the voices of First Nations people are heard.

Reconciliation is a verb. Reconciliation is up to each and every one of us, each and every single day. There are actions that we can take in our personal and professional lives to do more. We have way too many statistics on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disadvantaged and discriminated against in the ACT and across our country. Our criminal justice system has significant over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders also experience significant health disadvantage, substantially greater than other Australians, particularly in relation to chronic and communicable diseases, infant health, mental health and life expectancy.

In the ACT we have the highest youth Indigenous incarceration rate in the country. According to the *Report on Government Services*, the proportion of prisoners in the ACT who are Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders has doubled over the last 10 years. The ACT also has Australia's highest rate of recidivism, with 91 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees having experienced prior imprisonment. Twenty-eight per cent of children entering out of home care are Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. In the ACT, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent 17 per cent of people seeking support for homelessness services, despite making up just 1.3 per cent of the ACT population. The list goes on, and the data collected represents only part of the picture of the ongoing injustices faced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The path to justice is one that I know we as a government are deeply committed to. It is essential that effective solutions are developed with and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Change will be achieved through many different aspects of reconciliation, including cultural integrity and identity, principles of an inclusive community, full economic participation, justice, community connections, lifelong learning, information sharing, respectful interactions, and leadership and decision-making from within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

I commend the work of colleagues in this Assembly, including Minister Stephen-Smith, and particularly her work on and responsibility for the Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander agreement and impact statement, as well as actions towards a treaty in the ACT.

Labor governments have consistently led the way in advancing the rights of First Nations people. A defining moment in our country's reconciliation process was the national apology in 2008. Core to the speech was a recognition of harm and a commitment to ongoing truth-telling. Fourteen years on, we are still in a position where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are victims of systemic injustice. To address such injustice, we must all commit towards the goal of truth-telling and reconciliation.

The recently elected Labor federal government is making positive inroads on the continued path towards reconciliation, with the Prime Minister making a very clear commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, as well as many other initiatives which will benefit reconciliation across Australia for all Australians.

The upcoming referendum on the voice to parliament is a significant step. Having direct Indigenous input into law and policy making is essential to ensuring decision-making is informed by people with a deep understanding of the communities that it will affect. Indigenous communities must be able to take control of their own futures.

The commitment to ongoing truth-telling and healing through the Makarrata commission at the national level is a process that will awaken the Australian consciousness to the realities of our past. This will be a difficult process but a necessary one for reconciliation. There is no treaty, no voice, without truth-telling.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart offers a genuine partnership and a real chance for reconciliation. It calls for three things: voice, treaty and truth. I look forward to seeing this implemented and collaborating with First Nations people in the ACT and across the country. We need a shared sense of pride in and understanding of our history and our shared future, and implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart will go a long way towards this.

We are making progress, but we have a very long way to go. There are many Australians who have made important contributions and have gone above and beyond in creating significant change towards reconciliation, and who continue to do so, in both our community and across the country.

The amendments in this bill legislate that those Australians can be recognised. I hope that these amendments go some way towards encouraging and inspiring others to do more in the space of reconciliation in our community.

I am grateful to the community members who have helped to advise me on these amendments, especially Paula McGrady, the Deputy Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body. Her advice has been invaluable. When we spoke, it was clear how much these amendments meant to her and her community. As she cannot be here today, I will read a quote from her. She said:

This is a significant moment for us as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT. My children were the first in my family to complete their year 12 certificates in New South Wales and the ACT. This is quite profound for me as they have opportunities now that were not historically destined for us. Their ability to achieve this, I believe, is largely due to the tireless advocacy and work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community. To be able to celebrate and acknowledge the people who have made sure that the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are recognised and enabled us to live the lives we do is a moment of great importance. There are countless people who deserve to be honoured for their work, and this amendment will mean that they can finally get the recognition they deserve.”

The amendments in this bill alone will not bring about reconciliation, but they will highlight and celebrate those who have effected and are continuing to effect positive change in our community. In doing so, greater attention will be drawn to celebrating the positive steps being taken by numerous individuals, to hold them up as leaders in our community, to serve to shine a spotlight on them, and be an important reminder for all of us of the ongoing need for each of us to implement reconciliation practices in all of our work.

The amendments proposed in this bill align with contemporary community understandings and expectations. It is time that we replaced recognition of persons famous in Australian colonisation with persons famous for Australia’s process towards reconciliation.

Again I would like to thank my colleagues in this place for tripartisan support on this bill. That is also a testament to how important reconciliation is to the ACT community. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of these amendments and seeing more public places in the ACT named in recognition of these important people. It always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land. 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.

## ***Our Canberra newsletter***

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (4.30): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) this Government has a dedicated policy which claims to save the environment via such measures as banning plastic bags;



- (b) the ACT Government should aim to be fiscally responsible with revenue from Canberrans; and
  - (c) this ACT Government should make information available online wherever possible;
- (2) further recognises the Our Canberra newsletter:
- (a) is currently available online;
  - (b) is currently distributed monthly for 11 months of the year; and
  - (c) was delivered quarterly prior to the 2016 election; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) reduce the Our Canberra newsletter hardcopy delivery from monthly back to quarterly, from 11 times per year to four times per year; and
  - (b) highlight the ability for Canberrans to access the newsletter online more prominently in the hardcopy newsletter.

I start by saying that if there is a single motto that sums up this government, it would be: do as I say, not as I do. This Labor-Greens government is the single most arrogantly hypocritical government in the history of this nation. And this is a classic example. At a time when this government are banning all sorts of single-use plastics, when they are forcing organisations and individuals into paperless, waste-reducing practices, whether they like it or not, at a time when it is a crime to provide a plastic straw, this government will, over the course of the electoral term, print 8.4 million copies of this glossy, tri-fold piece of pure propaganda and distribute them 11 times per year to every single household, whether they want it or not. And it must stop. Mr Assistant Speaker, I stand before you today to stop it.

I know that the 16 MLAs who sit on the other side are not so much a government as a virtue-signalling orchestra. I know that. And here is the thing: I am not asking you to actually change the tune that you are playing. You can keep playing that tune, because all I am asking you to do is to live up to the song and to do the things that you are expecting the rest of us to do.

If the Greens, in particular—and I will single out the Greens, because I like the Greens—do not vote yes to this motion then they prove to their voter base what the rest of us have known for years. They will prove that they are chameleons who preach the word of climate gods with the conviction of an American TV evangelist. But just like the disgraced Jim Baker, as soon as the cameras are turned off, they go about their business, living a completely different life to the one that they present publicly.

The question we should be asking in the chamber today is not whether this motion will be agreed to. I would have thought that it was a given. I would have thought that it was an absolute given. The question for the chamber is: how on earth was this situation of monthly deliveries of glossy newsletters allowed to continue for this long? That is the question regarding 8.4 million tri-fold pieces of glossy propaganda from a government that passed a motion in this chamber declaring a climate emergency. You people are a joke. Seriously, you are a joke.

Over here on the non-virtuous side, we wondered: if we rolled out all of these 8.4 million copies, would we get to Perth? If we went west, would we get to Perth? The answer is yes, we would get to Perth, and back. You cannot justify the spend. You cannot justify the environmental impact of this. And how truly bizarre is it that it is us evil Liberals who are calling out Labor and the Greens on this? We will see how sticky the CLaG is when we come to vote on this motion.

I had a look at some of the amazing information, particularly in the Tuggeranong version of this newsletter. There is some pretty special information in here! One of the things that it says here, in the month of September, for Tuggeranong is that light rail is coming. That is what it says. There is an article. It does not give any dates, times or anything like that; it just says that light rail is coming. The ice age is coming as well; eventually, we will get into another ice age, so it is coming as well. I would say: maybe leave that article in the newsletter for the next 150-odd months, because it will still be current. But that is a whole other story.

Basically, the entire front page of the Tuggeranong version of the newsletter says, “Celebrate spring with Floriade.” There is a picture of a family, and that is it for that story. There is nothing else.

There is another version from August where there is a picture of a couple of kids with a dog, looking very pretty and sitting on some grass. The big front-page story here, which covers half of the page, is, “Delivering for Canberra’s future.” That is it. For that message, among others—

**Mr Hanson:** It sounds like a campaign slogan.

**MR PARTON:** It does sound terribly like a campaign slogan. Additionally, on the front page we have a picture of the ever-smiling Chief Minister, with a message about being committed to saving the planet. Mr Assistant Speaker, you could not make this stuff up. This is probably version No 4.12 million, and sustainable households—

**Mr Pettersson:** A point of order.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Cain):** A point of order. Mr Parton, sit down.

**Mr Pettersson:** Mr Parton is using props.

**Mr Hanson:** He is reading from a document.

**Ms Lawder:** He is reading from it.

**Mr Pettersson:** No, he was not. He was waving it around.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** He is reading from a document. That is okay.

**Mr Hanson:** On the point of order, Mr Parton is quoting from a document. If the rule we are going to adhere to is, “I’m holding a piece of paper and I’m not allowed to move it around,” if that is now the rule, everything is a prop in this place. If Mr Parton

is quoting from a document, he can be asked to table that document, under standing orders. I think he will be delighted to; there are millions of them out there. He can table it. But how could a piece of paper that you are quoting from be a prop?

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr Hanson. If Mr Parton is reading from a document, that is fine. Please proceed.

**MR PARTON:** Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker. In document No 4.12 million, we have the ever-smiling Chief Minister talking to us about sustainable households and saving the planet. This is actually comedy gold. It is absolutely amazing.

Let us all be honest about what we are talking about here, because these so-called newsletters have descended into the realm of campaign material, so let us be honest about what is going on. We are all friends in here. We all get along well in here. Let us be honest about it. The reason that this government wants to cling on to the *Our Canberra* newsletter in this form is that this is campaign material which is not included in the expenditure cap in an election year, and it is political propaganda which is paid for entirely by the taxpayer. It is a pretty good lurk, isn't it? I can sort of understand why they want to hang onto it.

My message to Canberrans is this: whichever way you vote, every time you get a copy of the glossy communist times in your letterbox, think about your rates—think about how much your rates have gone up—think about who paid for it, think about the damage that is being done to the environment as a consequence of it, and make it known to the government that you do not care for this rubbish.

It is almost bizarre that, at a time when the government is rolling out 8.4 million copies of this newsletter across the city at taxpayers' expense, if I, as a local Brindabella member, a non-executive opposition member, want to communicate a message, for argument's sake, to the people of Theodore about upgrades to a dangerous intersection on Tharwa Drive, it is against the rules for me to even print a document on my Assembly printer. I am not even allowed to do that because that is a blight on democracy, based on the rules here! I cannot do that. I have to stroll on down to Officeworks and buy my own printer before printing out my material and then walk around and deliver it myself. I did seek advice from the Clerk again to get an absolute ruling that we are allowed to use Assembly electricity to do that. Indeed he suggested yes; we do not have to steal down into an alleyway and find a plug to plug it into, to get our communication out!

If you did not know any better, Mr Assistant Speaker, you would swear that we had a long-term government in power here and that they have gone through a process of trying to make it tougher for the opposition to have a voice. And the Greens are absolutely complicit in all of this. How dare you force people to eat their soup with a shallow bamboo spoon, while at the same time rolling out millions upon millions of glossy, full-colour propaganda.

Please understand that I am not being critical of your plastics policy. That is not what I am doing. I am not being critical of that at all. All am I saying is: how dare you be so arrogantly hypocritical?

I go back to my initial point, Mr Assistant Speaker. This is the single most arrogantly hypocritical government in the history of the entire nation, and we are not going to let you get away with it.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism) (4.40): I move:

Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

- (a) the ACT Government is committed to making Canberra a more sustainable city;
- (b) the ACT Government should aim to be fiscally responsible with revenue from Canberrans; and
- (c) ACT Government information and communication should be fit for purpose;

(2) further recognises the Our Canberra newsletter:

- (a) is currently available online;
- (b) is currently distributed monthly for 11 months of the year;
- (c) consistently ranks as one of the most preferred methods for Canberrans to receive government communication – particularly for older Canberrans; and
- (d) recently changed to non-recycled, imported paper stock sourced from sustainably managed forests due to supply issues with 100 per cent recycled, coated paper sourced overseas which was previously used; and

(3) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) continue monitoring the availability of 100 per cent recycled paper and move back to recycled, coated paper stock for Our Canberra as soon as it is financially viable;
- (b) more prominently highlight the ability for Canberrans to access the newsletter online via other Government communication channels; and
- (c) continue asking Canberrans what communication channels they would like to see the Government use for delivery of important information, with specific consideration of community members, such as older Canberrans and people at risk of digital exclusion, who rely on physical newsletters to receive government communications.”.

I give Mr Parton 6 out of 10 for his comedy and 7 out of 10 for the delivery. He certainly has gone over—he has dialled it up to 11!—on the hyperbole, though. Well done. Well done, Mark! You have undoubtedly got a social media video in your theatrical performance. You have certainly elevated hypocrisy to a new level, given that your complaints about this newsletter were undertaken whilst you were busy in the background pumping out your own printed material. I appreciate the purity of Mr Parton’s stated view. Of course I am sure he will never, ever produce another piece of written material again in his time.

**Mr Parton:** Yes, but I will pay for it. I will pay for it.

**Ms Lawder:** Not the taxpayer.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER** (Mr Cain): Thank you, members.

**MR BARR:** As for being paid, your entire existence in this place, Mr Parton, is taxpayer funded, so let us not kid ourselves that all of the time—

**Mr Parton:** I know it is fundraising money. It is fundraising money, mate.

**MR BARR:** that you spend undertaking all of your various stunts is not entirely taxpayer funded.

**Mr Parton:** “Stunts”?

**MR BARR:** Well, that is what this is, and that is certainly what the TikTok videos and all the other stuff are—all taxpayer funded! So let us not come in here and give everyone a lecture that you are somehow doing all of this with no taxpayers’ assistance, all on your own time.

**Mr Parton:** I think you have got a bigger team than me, buddy. I think you have got a bigger team than me.

**MR BARR:** Well, we are the government.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Parton, I am close to warning you.

**MR BARR:** We do have responsibilities. I think the irony of all of this is that, on any other given sitting day, one of Mr Parton’s colleagues will come in and complain about a lack of consultation or not enough information being provided. I am sure that, were we to support Mr Parton’s motion, there would be complaints about not receiving sufficient information from the government in printed form. The opposition would be the first to say, “You have cut back on your communication with the people of Canberra.” I have been in this place long enough to have seen exactly that process.

Let us be clear that the newsletter is one of many ways that the government engages with the community and keeps people up to date. They include websites, social media, traditional media, email newsletters, radio and television, advertising, and physical notices placed in various locations. What I can advise the Assembly is that the *Our Canberra* print newsletter consistently ranks as one of the most preferred methods for Canberrans to receive government communication.

In the 2021 ACT government community priorities survey conducted on the YourSay community panel, the *Our Canberra* newsletter ranked as the second most preferred method for Canberrans to receive government information. In fact, the survey found that older Canberrans, those 65 and over, were most likely to mention *Our Canberra* as the channel they used to keep informed about the issues in the area in which they live.

In the most recent survey of *Our Canberra* readers, Canberrans aged 55 plus were most likely to “always read” the *Our Canberra* newsletter, compared to other age groups. Eighty-eight per cent of people 55 years plus always read the newsletter, compared with 70 per cent of people in my age category, between 35 and 54, and 54 per cent of people under 35. So printed materials remain a highly preferred form of communication, particularly for older Canberrans, which is of course why those opposite also print and distribute thousands of copies of printed political material themselves.

I note, through the original motion, the insinuation by Mr Parton that in some sense the printing of a newsletter is at odds with the single-use plastics reduction agenda. He seemed less concerned about the environmental impacts of mass paper printing when he proudly filmed himself and his newly purchased laser printer, keeping his office warm with his own political materials in his daily selfie videos on Facebook.

For a number of years *Our Canberra* was printed on 100 per cent recycled paper, sourced from European paper mills. As with many sectors, the war in Ukraine has impacted on supply lines, so since June of this year the newsletter has been printed on paper stocks sourced from sustainably managed forests. This is not a permanent solution. As outlined in the amendment circulated in my name, the government will continue to explore a return to 100 per cent recycled paper when it becomes available again.

**Mr Parton:** Because you care about the environment, don’t you?

**MR BARR:** Mr Assistant Speaker, I will compare my record on environmental matters with that man opposite any day of the week. Any day of the week. What we will continue to do is to keep the community informed through the *Our Canberra* newsletter, which, I would remind members, is independently reviewed under the laws of the territory by an independent reviewer, each edition—

**Mr Hanson:** But 11 of them? Why do we need it? Yes, of course they are all reviewed, but why do we need 11?

**MR BARR:** Every edition, under the government advertising arrangements that require independent review. That process is adhered to. There was a report that was tabled in this place yesterday in relation to the independent assessment of the content of the newsletter. It is valued by Canberrans. That is very clear. It is important that the government communicate through a variety of different channels. There may come a time in the future, probably after I am dead, that everyone younger than me will no longer want printed material, but it is still clearly the case that the more than 100,000 Canberrans who are older than me do want printed material.

**Mr Parton:** That’s not what you said about the *Chronicle*.

**MR BARR:** I do not remember the *Chronicle*, Mr Assistant Speaker. The point is that there may come a time when the preferred method of engagement with government is all online, but that time is not now. There is still very high demand for printed communication, and the government will continue under the arrangements that we

have in place. It is quite absurd that we are even debating this in this place, but I guess it is a reflection of Mr—

**Mr Hanson:** It is a question of how many, isn't it?

**MR BARR:** "It is a question of how many." So you are so concerned about that. And we have the ridiculous statement from Mr Parton about it being the Communist Party newsletter, yet his motion suggests that it is okay to produce the "Communist Party newsletter" four times a year. It is one or the other, isn't it, really?

**Mr Hanson:** But it is the Community Party newsletter! It is?

**MR BARR:** It is not the Communist Party newsletter.

**Mr Hanson:** It is not? I thought it was. I thought you said it was. The Socialist Party? Is it the Socialist—

**MR BARR:** I suspect the Communist Party might be somewhat offended by the suggestion that the *Our Canberra* newsletter is indeed a communist newsletter.

**Mr Hanson:** Yes, you are far too far to the left for them! They would not like you decriminalising drugs.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson!

**MR BARR:** This is now clearly degenerating into the sort of undergraduate behaviour that typifies those opposite. It is the last motion on a Wednesday afternoon. The interjections and the contribution from Mr Parton might play well at a Young Liberals meeting, but, seriously, in this parliament, on this day—this is the best you can come up with? We will not be supporting Mr Parton's motion. I commend the amendment to the Assembly.

**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) (4.49): I rise to speak to Mr Parton's motion and the amendment moved by the Chief Minister, in my capacity as Minister for Veterans and Seniors, Minister for Disability and the minister responsible for carers.

Thankfully, because I almost always read my speeches from my iPad, which is not as easy to wave around as paper, I am probably not going to be accused of using a prop today. I am delighted that Mr Parton and the Canberra Liberals are so concerned about our environment and effective communications in our community, as evidenced by this motion. I am, however, disappointed that the Canberra Liberals have, in this motion, failed to consider the needs of our older Canberrans, particularly given that Mr Parton was just talking about how much printing he does for his local electorate, which I am sure he knows includes quite a large number of older Canberrans.

That is why the Greens have worked with Labor to make amendments to this motion, as moved by the Chief Minister.

Whilst we should be fiscally responsible and continue to strive to make Canberra a more sustainable city, we must do so in a just way. That means leaving no-one behind. It means making changes that reduce inequality and increase inclusion. This is reflected in the way that the ACT approaches policy in this space, evidenced by the ACT climate change strategy, which contains actions on a just transition, as well as efforts to reduce the impact of the phasing out of single-use plastics, such as plastic straws, on people with disability who need them as an accessibility tool.

ACT government information and communications should be fit for purpose. Over the last few years ACT government communications played a vital role in the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this period, the ACT government has distributed important information and advice to the ACT community on how to stay safe during COVID, including providing accessible and tailored information, in partnership with the community sector, to targeted audiences, such as people with disability, older Canberrans, carers, the multicultural community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We have used a range of traditional and social media sources, government networks, community partner connections, webinars and newsletters to the sector.

I would like to particularly thank COTA ACT, Advocacy for Inclusion, Carers ACT, the members of the Disability Reference Group, the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, the Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their Families, and many others in our community sector for all they do to support accurate and accessible information being shared throughout their networks, and also the large number of people from the seniors community in Canberra who have met with me and have specifically asked for particular types of information to be shared through the *Our Canberra* newsletter because they know that people read it.

Direct and appropriate communications to those most at risk from COVID-19, and their carers, about testing and accessing medical treatment early, if required, including antivirals, has made—and is making—a real difference. We continue to do this today to ensure that the most at risk in our community are not left behind. Older people, like all age groups, are a diverse group, and this applies to their digital literacy and engagement. A range of information channels is therefore important to capture and communicate with older Canberrans.

Older people are increasingly online, particularly in light of the COVID-19 experience. However, research from the Australian Communications and Media Authority on older people's use of digital media, following COVID-19, suggests that older people's views of the digital world remain circumspect. The research suggests that some older people may be feeling forced online. Research from National Seniors on older people's digital engagement as a result of COVID-19 found an increase in digital technology use but a decrease in comfort using online and digital technologies. This has no doubt informed much of the feedback the ACT government received from key stakeholders in the last two years about the importance of having information available in hard copy print.

As Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, I have been very happy to see the great work in our community sector to reduce digital exclusion, supported



by the technology upgrade fund, through which \$478,000 was distributed in 2021, and similarly distributed this year, and the next and the one after that. Not everyone in our community has access to a smartphone or an internet connected home computer or feels confident using it to access the information and services that they need.

Community organisations have received grants to cover the costs of hardware and software, training and programs that make digital technology easier to access for those in our community most at risk of not being able to engage online. Recognising the greater reliance on offline information among older people, the Office for Seniors and Veterans newsletter, as an example, is very deliberately made available through post and in hard copy to ACT libraries and the flexible bus service.

Members of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing have identified *Our Canberra* as an important source of accessible offline ACT government information for older Canberrans. A 2021 survey on *Our Canberra* found that Canberrans aged 65 and over were more likely than any other age group to mention it as a way to stay informed about issues in their local area.

For many parts of our community, such as older Canberrans, people with disability and carers, the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over and we have much more work to do. To those Canberrans still at risk from COVID, I have not forgotten about you and I am committed to ensuring that you have the supports you need, including access to information in a format that works for you.

The ACT government should strive towards making Canberra a more sustainable city. However, consideration of the frequency of delivery of the *Our Canberra* newsletter should not be to the detriment of older Canberrans, who are already at greater risk of social isolation and not receiving the appropriate health information and advice. That is why I am pleased to see the addition of a clause to Mr Parton's motion to continue to ask Canberrans what communication channels they would like to see the government use for the delivery of important information, with specific consideration for community members such as older Canberrans and people at risk of digital exclusion, who may rely on physical newsletters to receive government communications.

I would also like to acknowledge my Greens colleagues in the Assembly for their work in creating a more sustainable Canberra, particularly Shane Rattenbury, as the Minister for Energy, Water and Emissions Reduction; Rebecca Vassarotti, as the Minister for the Environment; and, of course, Jo Clay, as the Greens spokesperson for transport, active travel, parks and conservation, and the circular economy.

"You can't stop change any more than you can stop the suns from setting," as Anakin Skywalker's mum said, but as the way we communicate changes we must keep in mind that the pace of change may need to be different for some in our community.

In closing, I support the amendment moved by the Chief Minister. I thank his office for working with me to amend and include provisions on how older Canberrans' needs should be considered as part of a review into the *Our Canberra* newsletter.

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (4.57): I want to make a few remarks in my capacity as the ACT Greens spokesperson for the circular economy, because I have been listening to the debate and I have not really heard the information told in a way that I think is easily digestible for people. I am going to talk about the environmental impact and the recycling aspects of this motion. I think others have covered other aspects of it really well.

The reason I really want to make a few remarks is that I used to run a paper recycling company. I hold a patent in the technology that we came up with. We set that company up, I ran it for a few years and I sold it when I got elected here. I have been through the process of thinking through the sustainability aspects of how we recycle, how we source the material, how it travels in freight—all of those chains.

I have also run a climate change project in which I carbon-counted a lot of these same sorts of steps. There is a lot of confusion these days and it is really hard for people to work out what is a real problem and what is not when they are talking about the environment. When you have been working in and around some of these fields it can get a bit simpler quite quickly with a bit of targeted information.

There is a really simple principle, and that is that you should always think about what you need. What do you need? Is this a useful thing that people need? I have heard this afternoon that this newsletter is really, really useful. I heard Mr Barr, the Chief Minister, say that 88 per cent of people over the age of 55 always read it. Nine in 10 people in that age bracket always read it. I cannot think of a single other government communication that has that kind of reach and uptake. I do not think that television, radio, socials or anything else reaches people at that level. If that many people are reading this, it is clearly something we need.

The next thing that you do when you are looking at environmental management is think: “If this is something that we need, how do we deliver this in the least damaging way possible?” I have had a little look at this newsletter, and it is doing pretty well. Things printed on paper that are of a size that can be recycled in our ordinary household and commercial materials recovery facility are pretty low impact things to make. It is made from a renewable resource; it can be easily recycled back into that renewable resource.

I encourage everyone who has not done it yet to hop on a bus, jump down and have a look at the MRF, the materials recovery facility, and see how paper is recycled. Having run a paper recycling company, I have actually tracked through to make sure that these sorts of paper materials in Australia are being recycled. They are. It is a pretty good process. This is coming from FSC certified paper. We know that, before, it was 100 per cent recycled, and soon again it will be 100 per cent recycled, but FSC certified means that it is coming from an industry certified renewable wood source. That is a really, really good material to be using. There are very few things we can do in our modern society that have as low an impact as that.

The next thing I look at is delivery and freight and some of those other things that people do not always think about. This is being delivered by Australia Post. That is a really efficient way to deliver things. That means we have got great big, full trucks that are delivering this. AusPost are in the process of moving to zero emissions freight

at the moment. They are upgrading their fleet, every aspect of it. I know this because I worked with them with my company. So we are moving towards a world where it will be zero emissions. It is already part way there. This is going in extremely efficient delivery loads. It is extraordinarily difficult for me to think of anything that we are doing in this very wealthy, high consumption city right now that actually meets as many of the sustainability tests that I have just set out.

I encourage people to think really hard about what they need. I think it is always really good for us to be thinking sustainably. But we also need to understand that we do actually need some things. It is not very helpful to make people feel guilty or to spread myths about recycled paper and FSC certified paper, which are really useful resources that are being delivered in a really efficient way and that can then go into your yellow-topped bin at the end of the process and get recycled. It is not actually that helpful to tell people they should feel guilty about that. That is something that they need that is currently being produced in about the best manner we possibly can. It may be that, in the future, we come up with something even better, and I look forward to that day, but right now this one has passed my test.

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (5.02): I rise to speak in support of Mr Parton's motion today, in my capacity as shadow minister for the environment and city services and shadow minister for seniors. I appreciate the desire of so many Canberrans to reduce waste in our community.

I am sure those of us in the chamber have various views about the usefulness of the *Our Canberra* newsletter, but that is not what I am here to talk about today. Like some residents—I guess many residents—throughout the ACT I have seen the *Our Canberra* newsletter having been swept into gutters or having gone flying about in suburban streets.

It is possibly something like when I spoke to the minister for city services about mowing and about grass going directly into Lake Tuggeranong. He assured me that this does not happen—until I sent him photographs of the grass on Lake Tuggeranong, with the mower in the background. I am sure I will get that same argument—that this does not happen, and that copies of the *Our Canberra* newsletter do not go flying into gutters and about in our streets. But I have seen it and so have other Canberrans. This is not only an eyesore; it contributes to the untidiness of our suburbia and it certainly contributes to waste in our waterways.

As Mr Parton has already noted, there is an economic and environmental cost to delivering this newsletter 11 times a year. I have been here for long enough that I can remember when it was delivered four times a year; then, magically, it increased—from memory, in an election year.

It has been estimated that approximately 1,612 trees every four years could be saved if the newsletter reverted to being delivered quarterly—1,612 trees every four years. In the ACT we have declared a climate emergency. We talk about the sky falling in, “Woe is me; the world as we know it is coming to an end,” yet we can devote thousands of trees to producing this newsletter!

Moving to a quarterly cycle would also save an estimated \$1.7 million every four years. We have heard that the newspaper is not printed on recycled paper. Perhaps this is something that we should go back to. The Chief Minister made the point that it is done on sustainably managed forest paper. Wouldn't it also be a good time to go to delivery four times a year, given that the recycled paper is not available at the moment?

I will move on to the comments by the minister for seniors and veterans, who cited the concerns of older Canberrans. I am thrilled with her comments, because it is great to see that this Labor-Greens government at last is acknowledging the existence of our older Canberrans—after years of neglect, after years of not really acknowledging them, after years of abandoning them and actively ignoring them, if not actively disliking them!

I have repeatedly argued in this place in favour of physical materials being accessible to seniors, to help keep them informed, given that some may be unable to access online materials. Many older Canberrans are absolutely comfortable with the online world. Many of those aged 55-plus have come through the public service, and it has been their day-to-day job to use computers. But that is not everyone, whether it is the much older people or people who have been in jobs in the workforce for whom computer use is not in their everyday life. We must make sure that we can accommodate them, and the hard-copy newsletter is fantastic for them.

I can assure members that older Canberrans are also very concerned about the environment. Older Canberrans feel that we should be looking after our environment. So there are differing narratives there. Changing the *Our Canberra* newsletter from 11 times a year to quarterly would not stop those people having a hard copy of the *Our Canberra* newsletter.

If the minister is concerned about older Canberrans accessing the *Our Canberra* newsletter, perhaps she could look at making the newsletter better suited to and more accessible for older Canberrans. For example, simple changes such as making the font larger would make it more accessible for older Canberrans, rather than seizing on the needs of older Canberrans as a convenient excuse for an 11-times-a-year newsletter.

Who exactly is completing this survey, saying that they read it every single time? For example, if four older Canberrans respond to the survey and three of them read it all the time, that is not a particularly representative example. No-one asked me, and I am in this group aged 55-plus. No-one has asked me if I read it all the time. In actual fact I do read it all the time, but this is usually accompanied by laughter and a certain amount of swearing, because the one I get says it is the Tuggeranong version of *Our Canberra*, and it is pretty hard to find what is relevant to Tuggeranong. We have seen that light rail is coming. Light rail is coming to Tuggeranong! I do not know that that will be in my lifetime.

It is something that we thought that the Greens would support, and that the Greens would not support this environmental vandalism being perpetrated by the Labor-Greens government, who love to say, "Don't do as I do, just do as I say." They love to virtue signal. They like to say, "We have to do this because it's better for the

environment.” Yet they can come out with this newsletter 11 times a year, at the cost of 1,612 trees every four years that would be saved if the newsletter reverted to being delivered four times a year.

Once again, the Greens are given the opportunity to stand by the things that they once stood for, to stand up for the things that they say matter to them, to stand up and be counted, rather than just talking about something. I would have thought that they would choose the environmental values that they have been aligned with for so many years. But it appears that that is not the case today. Surprise! Is this once again, “Don’t do as I do, do as I say,” from this Labor-Greens government? It is disappointing; I guess that is an understatement.

I would like to thank Mr Parton for bringing this motion today and highlighting that hypocrisy, highlighting the number of trees that could be saved, highlighting the amount of money that could be saved, and highlighting that this is a government that likes to virtue signal and tell you what you have to do without actually doing it themselves.

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (5.09): For the benefit of Mr Pettersson, this has my speech on it, so it is definitely not a prop.

What a weak and pathetic response from ACT Labor, and an even weaker and more pathetic response from the Greens! What we see here with Labor is that the climate heroes, the people who cast themselves in the role of saving the planet, are happy for someone else to do it.

The people, the Greens, who lay awake at night thinking about waste, about saving forests, and who lay awake at night thinking about recycling, are just going to look the other way and support their climate-trashing friends. When it comes to the distribution of political propaganda, the climate emergency is not really an emergency; it is an emergency for someone else to deal with.

What we see from the Chief Minister’s amendment is that the situation we have highlighted in this motion is actually much worse than we have portrayed. Mr Barr indicated in his amendment that the government recently changed to non-recycled imported paper stock. I would love to know how recently that change was made.

We also had references made to the Your Say 2020 survey, which, apparently, so much of the information that we have had in this debate today is based on. I would note that nobody in this survey was asked, “Would you like the newsletter 11 times a year or four times a year?” That question was not asked. All we have are some responses from a collection of people, and 31 per cent of them, which we gather equates to 186 people, based on what we have seen, said that their preferred communication method was via the newsletter sent by mail. No questions were asked about how often. On the basis of that, why don’t you ramp it up to fortnightly? If 31 per cent is what you require to win an election, we may have to rethink some things, because it is not really a big figure, is it? I have gone through this survey at length, and there is no question at all asked about how often you would like to receive it.

The Chief Minister wants us as an Assembly to call upon the government to continue monitoring the availability of 100 per cent recycled paper and, when that becomes available, if it suits you, you can move back to that option, if it is financially viable. On one hand we have hospitality operators saying, “Do you know what? We’d love to move to those more environmentally friendly containers for hot soup, but we can’t seem to find a financially viable option.” The government says to those business owners: “Tough luck. There’s a climate emergency. Suck it up, sweetheart, because there’s a climate emergency and you’re going to have to do this because the planet is at stake.” “Do as I say, not as I do.” We will keep cutting down the trees by the thousands. You see, Madam Speaker, we are spreading the word about saving the environment. You can always trash the environment if you are spreading the word about saving the environment. You can always justify it.

When I saw the amendment, I thought, “Surely, the Greens haven’t even read this?” But I heard from Ms Davidson that they got together with Labor and put them together. Seriously, this is a comedy show. We will not be supporting the amendment.

Question put:

That the amendment be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 13

Noes 6

Mr Barr	Ms Orr	Mr Cain
Mr Braddock	Dr Paterson	Ms Castley
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mr Cocks
Ms Cheyne	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson
Ms Clay	Mr Steel	Ms Lawder
Ms Davidson	Ms Vassarotti	Mr Parton
Mr Gentleman		

Amendment agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

## **Privileges 2022—Select Committee**

### **Reporting date—amendment**

Debate resumed.

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (5.18): It is an honour to rise and speak to this motion, because I think it is a sensible one. This motion was brought on by leave, so most members were unaware that they would be considering this matter today. The input of all members has been constructive in finding a reporting date that is agreeable to all members, which is why I would like to move the amendment to Mr Hanson’s motion circulating in my name. I move:

Omit “last sitting in November 2022”, substitute “last sitting day in 2022”.

It is a minor amendment which puts our reporting date at the end of the sitting period instead of the middle. It also provides a very small increase in the time available for the committee to undertake its work.

Amendment agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

### **Estimates 2022-2023—Select Committee Dissolution**

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (5.19), by leave: I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 24 March 2022, as amended 15 August 2022 and 21 September 2022, which established the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 be amended by omitting paragraph (7A) and substituting “(7A) the Committee is to be dissolved on 31 October 2022;”.

I thank the Assembly for its indulgence. Upon figuring out the reporting date for the estimates committee, before the privileges committee, we are satisfied that we are able to complete all requirements for the estimates committee by 31 October.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Ms Julia Agostino—resignation Statement by Speaker**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members, I want to make some remarks about Ms Julia Agostino, who is Deputy Clerk and Serjeant-at-Arms, who finishes at the Assembly at the end of this week, after almost five years in the Assembly. Julia was the first woman to be appointed permanently to the position of Deputy Clerk and Serjeant-at-Arms in the Assembly. In many ways, we almost got female majority across many positions, so that was very good to see.

Julia has managed a significant change in the way committee services are delivered in the Assembly. Those members on committees will appreciate the efforts that she has put into that. She has also managed the Hansard, Chamber Support and Library offices during her time here. In addition, Julia often acted as Clerk, during his absences. She accompanied me and Mrs Kikkert—again an all-female delegation—to our twin parliament of Kiribati during the last Assembly.

I have indeed enjoyed working with Julia. On behalf of all members, I would like to thank Julia for her work here in the Assembly and wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

**Members:** Hear, hear!

## Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

### **Ms Lee Maiden—services to the community**

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (5.21): I rise today to recognise and celebrate the work and contribution of Communities@Work CEO Lee Maiden. After 33 years at Communities@Work, in Tuggeranong and across the broader ACT area, Ms Maiden has decided to finish up at Communities@Work.

Ms Maiden's initial involvement with Communities@Work began in 1985, with the opening of the Richardson Child Care and Education Centre, where her two young sons were attendees. It was through her volunteering there as a roster mother and helping to prepare fruit that Ms Maiden discovered her passion for helping children to learn and grow. In 1989, she was offered a position as a casual educator at Richardson and accepted that role enthusiastically.

Ms Maiden held various positions over the 33 years at Communities@Work, including as an educator, centre manager, manager of outside school hours care, executive manager of transformation, director of children's services, deputy CEO and of course CEO.

When I asked some of Ms Maiden's colleagues for information about her achievements over the years, I should have been prepared for the extremely extensive list that they provided. I can only share a mere snippet of them, because it has been such a long career with so many achievements. During her tenure, countless programs were launched. In 2008 there was the Yellow Van, a program that rescued excess food from supermarkets to deliver to local charities. The Yellow Van not only helped to provide food to those in need but helped to prevent unnecessary food waste ending up in landfill.

In 2012 the Malkara holiday program was launched, a school holiday program for children with and without disabilities and high support needs, the first of its kind in the ACT. That year, 2012, also saw the amalgamation of Galilee Inc with Communities@Work, which brought us the Galilee School, which has continued to prosper, with two separate campuses in Canberra, one in Holder and one in Kambah.

In my electorate of Brindabella, Ms Maiden helped to facilitate the Tuggeranong youth forum, which brought together secondary students to discuss issues that are important to them.

In 2020, Ms Maiden's leadership and expertise were tested by the bushfires and then the COVID-19 pandemic. As always, she stepped up to the challenge and Communities@Work continued to keep all of its children's services open to families. They worked with the Canberra Relief Network to provide food hampers to families, and they froze children's service fees for a period.



The best people suited to comment on Ms Maiden’s contribution are of course her colleagues, many of whom shared their personal experiences with me. For example, one person said that as a new employee the first time they worked directly with Lee:

She was easily one of the most down to earth and gracious people I have come across. She immediately made me feel at ease with her calm and positive demeanour and demonstrated a trust in my abilities that automatically helped my confidence in the task I was carrying out.

Another said:

Not only is Lee an incredible CEO, growing the organisation through the challenges of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, and helping the organisation to create an even greater positive social impact in the Canberra region, but she is an incredibly inspiring leader. She is empathetic and compassionate. She takes time to know her employees and remembers even small details about them, making them feel unique, special and valued. She trusts her employees, which gives them the encouragement and confidence to use or grow their skills and the knowledge to innovate and find better ways of serving the community. Lee inspired me to become a leader myself, and she continues to inspire me in my management position. She will be missed.

Ms Maiden, who is here with us today, has given 33 amazing years of service to Communities@Work. While I am sure she will be sorely missed, I am confident that we will see Ms Maiden serving the Canberra community for many years to come.

### **Children and young people—racism**

**MR BRADDOCK** (Yerrabi) (5.26): Earlier this month I was privileged to receive an update from the Children and Young People Commissioner in which she advised on some of the initial findings from the face-to-face conversations that she is currently having as part of a consultation with the young people of Canberra on their experience and opinions of racism.

She is hearing directly from these children and young people, who are expert in their own lives. It is important that they have a chance to tell us about the things that are important to them and to be involved in making decisions about things that are happening in their lives. I am pleased to be able to share some of these stories with you today.

The children and young people’s responses have demonstrated a nuanced understanding of racism and an impressive amount of resilience in the face of it. For example, one person said:

Before I just ignored it. My head was always down. Now I have my head up and I say, “What’s your problem?” And I give them some life lessons about the impact they are having.

But in all of these responses there is also a worrying level of resignation to the ubiquitous nature of racism—for example: “If they are around something a lot it just gets normalised,” or “It’s everywhere and you just can’t stop it.” Many of the children and young people described experiencing racism on a daily basis in almost every

aspect of their lives. In fact, if you plot their daily routines in their neighbourhoods, at the bus stop, on public transport, at school, at work, online and during extra curricula activities, racism occurs in every one of them.

Sadly, a strong theme is that adults are ill-equipped to properly deal with instances of racism. One young person described adults as being suspiciously quiet when it comes to racism. Children and young people who report instances are told to walk away, and they feel that their experiences are dismissed or diminished or that nothing is done to address the underlying issue. One person said:

We get told to go to authority figures or someone you trust. And they do nothing about it.

Children and young people who have engaged with this consultation have also provided a rich pool of ideas and suggestions about what might need to change to better address racism. These range from having specific anti-racism frameworks in schools to opening up conversations about racism and, more importantly, anti-racism training and learning from an early age.

They were also clear that adults need to be better able to respond when children and young people come to them. Listening to and learning from children and young people makes for good policy, more effective service delivery and, ultimately, better outcomes. We need to make sure that children and young people know they will be taken seriously when they raise important issues. Racism is too important an issue for us to not listen to them.

I look forward to the final report from the Children and Young People Commissioner. In the meantime, we adults, particularly those in positions where it is possible to make a difference, are on notice. Children and young people are calling on us to fight the scourge of racism, which has no place in our society. We need to actively fight against racism. The Welcoming Cities standard requires that the ACT government demonstrate how it is supporting initiatives that empower individuals to prevent and respond effectively to racism and discrimination. We owe it to our young people to do just that.

In closing, I want to draw attention to a particularly impressive young person, who happens to be my nephew, who is sitting in the gallery behind me. Oscar, thank you very much for taking the opportunity to come and join us here today. I hope that I can represent you and your generation in combating racism, plus many other causes. Thank you.

### **Mr Mark O'Neill**

**MS BURCH** (Brindabella) (5.30): I rise today to make a few comments about Mark O'Neill. Mark passed away on 7 September this year. Mark was a big man in many respects. He was a loving family man to his wife, Lizzie, and daughter, Danielle, who live here in the ACT. Mark was a loyal member of the Labor Party and a member of the Lanyon sub-branch since the early 1990s. He was one of the first people I met when I joined Lanyon and he has been a constant ever since. Mark was a keen warrior at election time and told many stories of times on the stalls. He was a solid

campaigner, helping me and others. John Hargreaves has many campaign stories to share regarding what he and Mark got up to.

Mark was a director and vice-president of the Burns Club and an active advocate for the club industry. He loved his community and was active in the Parents & Citizens Association, holding positions on the ACT P&C council. Another one of Mark's passions was the raising and racing of thoroughbred horses—but, he would admit, with only some limited success.

He was well regarded in the snooker world, as president of the ACT Billiards and Snooker Association for decades. Mark was also influential on the national stage for the sport, in addition to being a club champion, and at times a professional player.

The Lanyon sub-branch met last night to remember Mark. The stories were many and reflected his diverse interests. A common thread was that, no matter what the topic was, Mark had a view and a genuine interest. He also had an absolute commitment to doing whatever he could to make his local community a better place. It was said that, in everything he did, he was a titan. The lasting memory that I have is of Mark wearing jeans with braces and making a contribution to a conversation.

Given his love of snooker, I will end with a post on social media by ACT Eight Ball Association. It says:

It is with great sadness and shock that we advise you all of the unexpected passing of one of our members and players, Mark O'Neill. Mark has been part of the snooker and pool community for many years, and a strong advocate for cue sports in the ACT. He was a loved and integral member. He was also known for his kindness, generosity, caring and giving personality. He was a community man who was always willing to assist others. He always left a positive impact on people around him and he will be sorely missed by all.

Vale, Mark O'Neill.

## **Environment—Zero Emissions Day**

**MS CLAY** (Ginninderra) (5.33): I want to pause and have a shout-out about Zero Emissions Day, which is today. I do that in the context of quite a lot of worrying news that we received last week. Lead scientists published some pretty frightening information about the world heading past multiple tipping points. They spoke about the drying out of the Amazon rainforest, the melting of the ice caps and the weakening of the Gulf Stream. It is really hard in the climate movement, because we hear this sort of information, and we get so worried and frightened that we actually just shut down. We cannot process it anymore.

What is happening now is that scientists are getting a lot better at communicating and they have worked out that they need to do a lot more work on calls to action. We need to do a lot more listening and acting on those calls to action.

This report also said that some governments are doubling down on their fossil fuel addiction in relation to these events and they are not cutting emissions fast enough. It is a good time for me to stop and think, and for us to look at what we are doing here.

We are doing quite a bit in the ACT. We have 100 per cent renewable electricity. We have legislated targets and we are meeting them. We have launched our electrification pathway and we have launched our EV strategy pathway. We have quite a lot of fossil fuels that we know we are on the road to phasing out, and that is fantastic.

This morning, I was at a breakfast discussing one of the issues that we have not yet sorted out. This was a scope 3 emissions business breakfast. I think that we are having some trouble in the climate movement because we use a lot of language that people do not understand. Scope 3 emissions are basically the emissions in all of your stuff. Canberra has not really started work on this bit of our footprint. It is 16 times higher than the bit of our footprint that we are really well advanced on, and we have not really begun work on it.

We heard from our Greens environment minister, Rebecca Vassarotti. We heard from the MBA and the ACT's chief architect. I have to say that it was really good; it was quite uplifting. There is a lot of innovation going on. There is a lot of work going on. There are a lot of really smart businesses who are looking at low-carbon concrete. Sophia Hamblin Wang could not join us. She was telling us how to save the planet only last Thursday at another conference, but she could not make it to this one, so it was a pretty good idea to skip it. She has come up with a type of concrete that genuinely sequesters carbon in the concrete.

We are rolling out a lot of technology like that. There are a lot of really smart systems, and there are a lot of people who are thinking about this stuff. It is good to look at the solutions.

I was at a conference on Thursday that was on the circular economy, which is working in the same kind of patch. Again, not many people readily understand what the circular economy is. We used to just say "recycling". It is a bit bigger than that. It is basically about how we get what we need without destroying the planet. It is a bit broader than that. That was, again, a really great event, because there is a lot of bad news but there is also a lot of really quick action. It was put on by the Conservation Council.

We heard from Two Before Ten, a cafe in Aranda. They have looked at their entire supply chain and how to make it more sustainable. They grow their own food and they compost on site. It is really fun. We heard from Lids4Kids, Tim Miller's charity company that does lid recycling. We had reps from the community toolboxes, who are making sure that you do not need to buy stuff that you only need once; you can just re-use it. We heard from Upparel, which is a business that I have used a lot. They do fabric recycling. They do a lot of stuff behind the scenes that you would not know about. They also have a consumer branch. We had the Green Shed there. I think everyone knows what the Green Shed does. It was really good.

A common thread from all of these businesses and non-profits is that they do not behave like any ordinary sector. They do not behave like capitalists. All of them said they want to no longer exist. They actually want to do their jobs so well that they put themselves out of business, and there is no longer any stuff to deal with. I thought that was delightful.

We also heard from Dr Sophie Lewis, the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, at the same event. A lot of people walked up to her afterwards and asked her, on a scale of one to 10, how much they should be panicking. I think that authority figures are being asked that question. It is actually good to have a look not only at the panic scale but also at all of the amazing stuff that is happening right here in the ACT, and at all of the solutions that are now starting to come together on some of these really complex problems.

It has been a bit of a ride in the last week, and I wanted to take a moment and have a chat about some of it.

### **Sport and recreation—skateboarding facilities**

**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) (5.38): I wish to talk about sports facilities in my electorate of Murrumbidgee. Skateboarding is a solo sport of freedom for many young people and adults alike. However, there is a lack of adequate facilities throughout Murrumbidgee. One area severely lacking anything to support skateboarding is Molonglo Valley. Molonglo is a rapidly developing area with thousands of young people and families moving in. Despite this, there are not many spaces for young people and those interested in skateboarding to enjoy.

Skateboarding is recognised internationally through its recent introduction to the Tokyo Olympics, yet Molonglo is lacking facilities for those wanting to learn near their homes. A local non-profit organisation, the Canberra Skateboarding Association, focuses on giving Canberrans the opportunity to learn for free, but many do not feel comfortable going to the skateparks outside of their local areas for these lessons. If they had something closer to home, it would create access to the freedom and public health benefits that skateboarding provides.

The proposal for Murrumbidgee is to create smaller incidental facilities scattered throughout the suburbs—smaller skateable spots, especially in lesser-used public parks. These locations can be transformed into inclusive, multipurpose spaces, with the goal of bringing more people to these parks. An example of facilities similar to this are the Stirling and Rivett mini ramps, which were built in the 90s in the empty space near playgrounds. What is currently stopping this from happening is a large amount of hostile architecture being installed. This type of design prevents skaters and those doing similar sports from enjoying our public spaces, and discourages the sport.

Focusing on decorative architecture that actively prevents skateboarding creates a lack of enjoyment in these areas. The alternative is to create long-lasting skateable sculptures, seats, ledges and objects. The addition of these multi-purpose structures would provide enjoyment for the skateboard community, while also providing seating and additional decoration in parks for those who do not skate. Some examples consist of wave-like features, as these are not only skateable, but add variety to the decoration of the space. Installation of skateable architecture creates multi-purpose parks and suburbs, leading to more community interaction and a safer, well-used environment.

In most cases, footpaths are designed for people and bikes. However, to include skateboarding in these spaces by widening footpaths, or an additional path off to the side, creates a segmented area for both skaters and foot traffic to coincide and interact. This can lead to freedom to use spaces to their full ability and provide further community connections and recreational enjoyment. I thank you for taking time to listen to this proposal regarding the lack of incidental skate facilities throughout Murrumbidgee, and what can be done to fix the issue.

### **Belconnen electorate—community events**

**MS CHEYNE** (Ginninderra—Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Minister for Human Rights and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.41): Given that we have just one day for adjournment speeches, I might do a quick whip-around of a few things that have happened in the last little while. Our city has been very busy, indeed, and I think we can all agree that there is a new sense of optimism and movement, not least with spring, but also with the COVID numbers trending right down. I think it is fair to say that that has come as a relief to us all.

First of all, last night was the Belconnen Community Council annual general meeting. At that meeting, Glen Hyde, who has been the chair for the last five years—indeed he has given everyone quite a bit of heads-up—confirmed that he would not be standing again as chair, as he will be retiring elsewhere. But he is staying on, at least in the interim, as deputy chair, as we welcomed Lachlan Butler last night as chair. But through that transition, while we have got more time to continue to work with Glen, I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank him for all that he has done for Belconnen, particularly through the council. As chair, his leadership has always taken a really considered view, and he has provided very strong representation to the community, particularly on issues of community infrastructure, but also delivering a real message about Belconnen pride. He always proudly referred to Belconnen as the jewel in Canberra's crown, and I think we can all strongly agree with that!

I also give a very big thanks and congratulations to three young Canberrans, who I spent some time with, judging their cooking creations at the Capital Region Farmers Market on the weekend in the Canberra's Best Young Aspiring Chef competition. Of course, the Capital Region Farmers Market is run by the Rotary Club of Hall. This was their marketing manager Sarah's idea to further the values of supporting local and buying local and engaging with local producers. The idea promotes the superior taste of fresh produce and produce that does not have to travel far, and looks at how we can we promote those values to people from a young age.

From 15 young Canberrans aged under 16 who submitted recipes created with ingredients from the farmers' market, it was whittled down to just three. Amalija, who was 13, and Charlie and Leeland, who were both 10. I was very proud to be a judge there. I might not be much of a cook, but I certainly am pretty good at knowing what tastes good! We were joined by the president of the Rotary Club of Hall as well as chef Gerald Ong from Project Enoki. It is fair to say that Charlie's strawberry and chocolate clafoutis won out on the day, but just by a whisker. It was such a tight

competition, but I think most pleasing of all was the wonderful support that the three contestants showed each other on the day. Long may it continue. I certainly hope to see the competition back again next year.

This has been the hospitality awards season, and this past Monday night and the Monday before, we had the Australian Hospitality Association ACT branch awards, as well as the Restaurant and Catering Australia awards. I offer my very warm and sincere congratulations to the many award winners that were recognised on both of those nights. I also recognise the opportunity that owners and employees had to let their hair down after a very difficult few years. Their resilience is something to be admired and celebrated. I know that I can speak for many of us when I say that we were proud to be there to offer our support on those nights. Congratulations to all.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**The Assembly adjourned at 5.46 pm until Tuesday, 11 October 2022 at 10 am.**

## Answers to questions

### Alexander Maconochie Centre—mental health care (Question No 686)

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 25 March 2022:

- (1) Why are there no performance indicators for ACT Corrective Services relevant to the delivery of mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- (2) Are any performance indicators being developed for this.
- (3) Why are there no performance indicators that relate to detainee access to mental health treatments.
- (4) Are any performance indicators being developed for this.
- (5) Why are there no performance indicators that relate to the development of release plans for detainees with mental health conditions.
- (6) Are any performance indicators being developed for this.
- (7) Why are there no performance indicators that relate to detainees' access to acute inpatient care.
- (8) Are any performance indicators being developed for this.
- (9) Why are there no performance indicators that relate to detainees who have experienced an escalation of psychiatric or suicide risk ratings.
- (10) Are any performance indicators being developed for this.

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

- 1) Custodial Mental Health Services (CMHS) assess and provide mental health services and clinical management to detainees with severe mental health issues. If a detainee is assessed by CMHS as not requiring clinical management for a severe mental illness ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) may provide support for detainees who have mild to moderate mental illness. The needs of detainees are highly variable, and measures of performance are subject to individual need. ACTCS keep data regarding contact with detainees for mental health support and treatment. A draft Model of Care (MoC) is in development in consultation with CMHS and ACT Health.

Once the MoC is completed, ACTCS will work closely with CMHS to determine appropriate KPIs' that accurately reflect the purpose and intention of the work of the Specialist Intervention Unit (SIU) at the AMC. CMHS currently have clear performance indicators in relation to mental health treatment and care, and ACTCS will be guided by these contemporary measures and will work to ensure services are complementary and avoiding duplication of effort.

- 2) ACTCS will continue to collect data regarding contact with detainees for mental health support and treatment and set key service standards and indicators once the MoC has been completed.



- 3) Detainees are assessed upon their admission to custody and intervention and treatment pathways are identified as required. For detainees with a severe mental illness CMHS will provide clinical management and treatment and ACTCS will provide support and treatment for detainees who have a mild to moderate mental illness. ACTCS and CMHS have established processes in place to ensure appropriate intervention pathways are identified. CMHS have clearly identified performance indicators that meet National Standards. ACTCS will further develop their complementary service standards to reflect current mental health treatment expectations and in line with National Standards in the treatment of mild-moderate mental health.
  - 4) Please see answers to questions one, two and three.
  - 5) All sentenced detainees have a case plan that includes release planning and reflect any treatment needs. Remandees may also have a remand management plan, noting remand periods are variable and often unpredictable. CMHS also have discharge plans that are developed with detainees and meet their individual mental health treatment needs post release.
  - 6) All sentenced detainees have a case plan that includes release planning and reflect any treatment needs. Remandees may also have a remand management plan, noting remand periods are variable and often unpredictable. CMHS also have discharge plans that are developed with detainees and meet their individual mental health treatment needs post release.
  - 7) Detainees do not receive acute inpatient care at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. They are referred to the Adult Mental Health Unit by qualified and experienced CMHS professionals as required.
  - 8) See above
  - 9) CMHS manage all episodes of acute psychiatric escalation or suicide risk. ACTCS would have no performance indicators to reflect this service.
  - 10) Please see answer to question nine.
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### **Health services—transport (Question No 772)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 6 May 2022:

- (1) What services does the Government fund for (a) hospitals, (b) walk-in centres and (c) clinics to take patients from transport stops to those buildings.
- (2) What is the schedule of these services.
- (3) Have there been any complaints to any (a) hospitals, (b) walk-in centres and (c) clinics about availability of public transport to the location.
- (4) Does the Government offer any subsidies for public transport for patients and families; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (5) How much do these services cost per year for each building since 2016.

- (6) How many (a) full-time equivalent, (b) part-time and (c) casual staff operate these services for each building.
- (7) When did this service start for each building.
- (8) Does the Government have any plans to review or increase these services; if so, please provide details.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1)
  - a) The Canberra Hospital Courtesy Bus operates on a circular, continuous route looping through the campus, with stops at the Transport Canberra bus stops on Gilmore Crescent and Yamba Drive incorporated on an as needed basis since 2021.

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) does not have a dedicated patient transport service in the ACT.

If CPHB requires patient transport to facilitate patient transfer outside of the ambulance service CPHB arranges this through Canberra Health Services (CHS) patient transport service.

Transport Canberra operates multiple bus services which provide links to a range of health facilities. These include the 901 service (formally known as the Bruce Shuttle) which links the University of Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) to the Belconnen Bus Interchange. This service operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 09:00 and 16:20pm. Route 902 (formally known as the AMC Shuttle) links the Canberra Hospital to the Woden Bus Interchange seven days a week between the hours of 07:41am and 19:35pm. Normal fares apply for both services.

- b) No transport services are provided specifically by CHS to Walk-in Centres however there is public transport available through Transport Canberra's light rail and bus network to these locations. Further information about these services can be found on the CHS website here:  
<https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/locations-and-directions>.

- c) No transport services are provided specifically by CHS to clinics however there is public transport available through Transport Canberra's light rail and bus network to these locations. Further information about these services can be found on the CHS website.

- (2) The Canberra Hospital Courtesy Bus loops through stops on campus and surrounding bus stops every 15-20 minutes. Please see the above responses for information and links to access schedule of other services.
- (3) CHS' Consumer Feedback and Engagement Team (CFET) does not record complaints related to public transport. However, I receive occasional feedback about public transport access to hospital services and this was a theme in consultation for the Canberra Hospital Master Plan.
- (4) CHS does not routinely offer any subsidised travel outside that provided generally to concession card holders and the Taxi Subsidy Scheme through ACT Revenue Office. CHS works with patients to assess requests for taxi vouchers on a case-by-case basis

and there are several alternative options to ensure patients are able to attend appointments and return home safely.

CPHB may offer patients a taxi voucher based on a recommendation from clinical staff and the patient's individual circumstances; each case is assessed individually. CPHB clinical staff will authorise an ACT Revenue Office application for subsidised transport if requested for patients that meet the scheme criteria.

Other community transport services and public transport options, depending on accessibility criteria include:

#### ACT Community Assistance and Support Program

ACT Health's Community Assistance and Support Program (CASP) funds eight providers to deliver subsidised transport services to assist eligible ACT residents and their carers to access medical appointments and other health services. Further information about CASP eligibility and available services is available on the ACT Health Directorate website: <https://health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/act-community-assistance-support-program-casp>

#### Community Bus Services

The Community Bus Service (CBS) is funded by the ACT Government and operated by the ACT's Regional Community Services. The CBS is for eligible ACT residents who are socially isolated due to a lack of transport options and provides flexible bus services Monday to Friday, generally within their own regional area. Further information on eligibility and how to apply is available on the Community Services Directorate website:

[https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/community/community\\_bus\\_services](https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/community/community_bus_services)

#### Taxi Subsidy Scheme through ACT Revenue Office

The ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) provides financial assistance to eligible ACT residents with a disability or significant mobility restriction preventing them from using public and community transport. A TSS member must be a passenger in the taxi to be eligible for the subsidy however other non TSS members may accompany them in the taxi. More information on eligibility and how to apply is available via:

<https://www.revenue.act.gov.au/community-assistance/taxi-subsidy-scheme>

#### Flexible Bus Service

Transport Canberra operates the Flexible Bus Service which is available to eligible community members and has remained available throughout COVID. The Flexible Bus Service operates in five zones to help Canberra residents, such as the aged or people with mobility difficulty, to get from their home to local community locations such as hospitals, shopping centres and medical centres. More information is available via: <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/about-us/accessible-travel/flexible-bus-service>

#### Canberra Region Cancer Service Volunteer Transport Program

The Canberra Region Cancer Centre Volunteer Transport Program transports eligible patients to and from their appointments for cancer treatment.

- (5) Annual costs for the Canberra Hospital Courtesy Bus since 2016 are as follows:

Courtesy Bus cost (ex GST)*	
2016	\$35,517.71
2017	\$36,202.74
2018	\$13,359.85
2019	\$17,521.60
2020	\$20,255.46
2021	\$31,925.60
2022	\$18,122.68

\* The cost of the Courtesy Bus fluctuates annually due to several factors, including vehicle model/type changes and adjustment of kilometres travelled by the vehicle, which in turn impacts the monthly lease costs.

- (6) The Canberra Hospital Courtesy Bus driver is provided by a contractor, rather than full-time equivalent staff. The Canberra Hospital Courtesy Bus service began in 2015.
- (7) Review of the Canberra Hospital Courtesy Bus occurs continuously as feedback is received and changes occur on the campus and surrounding areas.

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### **Canberra Health Services—staff leave (Question No 797)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 3 June 2022:

- (1) How many different types/categories of leave are there for Canberra Health Services (CHS) staff and can the Minister describe each type/category of leave.
- (2) Are there requests, plans or discussions for new categories of leave.
- (3) How many CHS staff (numbers and percentages) are currently on leave, what type of leave are staff on and for how long.
- (4) Can the Minister provide leave data for CHS staff for the last six years.
- (5) How many CHS nurses and midwives (numbers and percentages) are currently on leave, what type of leave are they on and for how long.
- (6) Can the Minister provide the figures outlined in part (5) for the last six years.
- (7) How much annual leave has been accrued by CHS staff and how does this compare to the last six years.
- (8) What are the leave loadings for each type/category of leave.
- (9) What has been the total bill/cost of leave taken each year for the past six years.
- (10) How many nurses work in Canberra Hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) including a breakdown of the level of nurse/qualification.
- (11) How many nurses have been employed in ICU for the past six years.
- (12) What is the average length of stay/employment for a nurse working in the intensive

care unit.

(13) Further to parts (10) to (12), can the Minister provide the same data for

- (a) nurses working in the Canberra Hospital emergency department,
- (b) midwives and
- (c) nurses working in neonatal intensive care.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) There are 47 different types/categories of leave for Canberra Health Services (CHS) staff. A description of each leave type is provided below, further information can also be found in Enterprise Agreements that can be accessed via the following link:  
<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/employment-framework/for-employees/agreements>.

**General Leave Types (applicable to all staff)**

- **Adoption or permanent care leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty to care for and bond with an adopted child or a child for whom the employee has a permanent caring responsibility, including kinship arrangements, where the child is under 18 years old.
- **Annual leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty for the purposes of rest and recreation.
- **Birth leave** is available to pregnant employees to enable them to be absent from duty to support their own wellbeing and to care for and bond with a newborn child.
- **Bonding leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty to bond with their newborn child, adopted child or a child for whom the employee's domestic partner has commenced a primary care giving role under a permanent caring arrangement.
- **Community service leave** is available to employees to allow them to be absent from the workplace to engage in the following 3 distinct types of community service activities: jury duty, voluntary emergency management or other recognised voluntary community service activities. This leave can be paid or unpaid depending on the specific circumstances.
- **Compassionate leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty when a member of an employee's immediate family or household have a personal illness or injury that poses a serious threat to the person's life or in case of bereavement.
- **COVID leave** is available for every employee who tests positive for COVID, needs to care for a child as a result of a COVID-19 related school or childcare change/closure, are experiencing adverse effects following a COVID-19 vaccination or are required to isolate following a COVID-19 test.
- **Disability leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty for the purposes of activities associated with an employee's diagnosed permanent or ongoing physical or psychological disability.
- **Foster and short-term care leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty to care for a child in an emergency or other short-term out of home care placement, including kinship arrangements and respite care, that has not been determined to be permanent.

- **Gender transition leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty for the purposes of activities associated with affirming an employee's gender. Gender transition leave is available to an employee for the first 52 weeks after commencement of living as a member of another gender.
- **Grandparental leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty to undertake a primary care giving role to their grandchild during normal business hours.
- **Leave for family violence purposes** is available to employees who are experiencing family violence to allow them to be absent from the workplace-related to attend counselling, appointments, legal proceedings and other activities related to, and as a consequence of, family violence.
- **Long service leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty in recognition of their length of service in the public sector.
- **Parental leave** is available to an employee or an eligible casual employee who is the primary care giver of a child following the birth or adoption of a child or the commencement of a permanent caring arrangement for a child.
- **Personal leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty in case of a personal illness, or personal injury, or the employee must provide care or support to a member of the employee's immediate family.
- **Primary care giver leave** is available to employees to enable them to be absent from duty to care for and bond with a newborn child.
- **Recovery Leave Arrangements for Senior Officer Grade A and B and Equivalent Employees** in recognition of extensive hours performed.
- **Special birth leave** is available to employees that are not fit for work due to a pregnancy-related illness or in cases where the pregnancy of the employee ends between 28 weeks and 20 weeks of the estimated date of delivery, other than by the birth of a living child.
- **Study Assistance Scheme** Studies assistance may be provided for work-related courses that lead or contribute to a nationally recognised tertiary or vocational qualification, skillset, Statement of Attainment or Certificate.
- **Surrogacy leave** is available to pregnant employees who have entered into a valid surrogacy arrangement to enable them to be absent from duty to support their own wellbeing.
- **Other leave (available to all staff)**  
A broad category of leave types known as "other leave" is provided to staff under the various enterprise agreements. These leave types include:
  - **Leave to accompany a domestic partner on a posting** is available to enable an employee to accompany the employee's domestic partner for the period, or part of the period, of a posting.
  - **Leave to attend Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Ceremonies** is available to enable employees to attend a ceremony associated with the death of an immediate or extended family member or for other ceremonial obligations under Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law.
  - **Leave to attend Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander meetings** is available to enable employees to attend representative meetings in the capacity of an elected representative of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak body.

- **Leave to attend sporting events as an accredited competitor or official** is available to enable employees to attend sporting events as an accredited competitor or official.
- **Leave to attend as a witness** is available to enable an employee to give evidence before a body or person before whom evidence may be taken on oath.
- **Leave to attend NAIDOC week activities** is available to enable an employee to attend and participate in NAIDOC Week activities.
- **Leave to attend proceedings at the Fair Work Commission** is available to enable the employee to give evidence on behalf of a staff organisation in proceedings at the Fair Work Commission.
- **Leave to campaign for election** is available to enable the employee to campaign for election.
- **Leave to cope with a disaster** is available where an employee is affected by a disaster which has destroyed or significantly damaged the employee's usual place of residence or its contents.
- **Leave for Defence Reserve** is available to enable an employee to undertake specified defence service and, also, enlistment, training and/or deployment with the Australian Defence Force Reserve (ADFR).
- **Leave to donate an organ** is available to enable an employee to donate an organ.
- **Leave to donate blood** is available to enable an employee to donate blood.
- **Leave to engage in employment associated with compensation** is available to enable an employee to engage in employment outside the ACTPS as part of a rehabilitation process under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*.
- **Leave to engage in employment in the interests of the ACTPS** is available to enable an employee to engage in work or employment outside the ACTPS where the head of service is satisfied that the employment is in the interests of the ACTPS.
- **Leave to hold a full-time office in a staff organisation** is available to enable an employee to hold a full-time office in a staff organisation; council of staff organisations, or credit union, co-operative society, building co-operative or similar body.
- **Leave for local government purposes** is available to enable the employee to attend formal meetings, in the capacity of an elected office holder, of a local government council.
- **Leave for Operational Service Personal Leave** is available to enable officers and employees who have rendered operational service to be absent from duty when they are unfit for work because of war-caused injuries or diseases.
- **Leave for religious purposes** is available to enable an employee to attend a ceremony integral to the practice of the employee's religious faith.
- **Leave for returned soldiers for medical purposes** is available to enable an employee to attend an appointment for treatment or review as a returned soldier under the *Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 (Commonwealth)*.
- **Leave to take leave where leave cannot be granted under any other provision** is available to enable an employee to be absent from duty where the leave cannot be provided for elsewhere.

## Employment Category Specific Leave Types

### *Health Professional Enterprise Agreement*

- **Professional Development Leave** is available to employees to be absent for professional development.

### *Medical Practitioners Enterprise Agreement*

- **Conference leave** is available to enable a Career Medical Officer, Senior Career Medical Officer or Postgraduate Fellow leave with pay for the purpose of attending a medical or related conference.
- **Conference leave - Junior Medical Officers** is available to enable Junior Medical Officers leave with pay to attend medical conference(s), workshops relating to their field of study or approved training programs.
- **Study leave** is available to enable Resident Medical Officers, Registrars and Senior Registrar leave without loss of pay for study purposes.
- **Training, Education and Study Leave (TESL)** is available to enable specialists and senior specialists to leave for the purpose of undertaking training and educational activities, it encompasses leave to attend short courses, seminars and sabbatical leave.

### *Nursing and Midwifery Enterprise Agreement*

- **Professional Development Leave** is available to enable an employee to be absent for professional development.
- **Sabbatical leave** is open to all permanent employees after 2 (two) years of continuous service with the ACTPS who have made substantial progress towards the attainment of a higher-level degree that is relevant to their work area.

- (2) There are currently no requests, plans or discussions for new categories of leave, but it is possible that claims in relation to leave will arise during the current enterprise bargaining round.
- (3) To obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources, however CHS is able to provide advice for the last reportable period to 25 May 2022, the chart below shows the type and hours of leave taken. For the pay period, 5,767 instances of leave were processed, noting that there are many instances where multiple leave applications are processed for the same employee.

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

- (4) To obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources, however CHS is able to provide data on the paid leave taken from January 2020 through to 8 June 2022 and is detailed in the data table and graph below by pay period and total sum of hours paid grouped into:
- a) Annual Leave
  - b) Long Service Leave
  - c) Maternity Leave and Related
  - d) Other Leave
  - e) Personal Leave



PayPeriodEnd	Leave Group	Sum of Total Hours
08/01/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	68803.52065
08/01/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6387.576742
08/01/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	15150.25896
08/01/2020	OTHER LEAVE	18991.90223
08/01/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	17846.51892
22/01/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	58383.45515
22/01/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8650.313782
22/01/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	15443.9329
22/01/2020	OTHER LEAVE	19943.01723
22/01/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	24567.44459
05/02/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	50737.208
05/02/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7787.39781
05/02/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	15050.31072
05/02/2020	OTHER LEAVE	19023.87841
05/02/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	24162.79483
19/02/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	35028.32
19/02/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7402.165027
19/02/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16031.85901
19/02/2020	OTHER LEAVE	17577.75448
19/02/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	26791.5412
04/03/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	32898.35781
04/03/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7635.619189
04/03/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16537.00551
04/03/2020	OTHER LEAVE	17508.48335
04/03/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	29305.27226
18/03/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	33131.41223
18/03/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7620.222261
18/03/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16417.10451
18/03/2020	OTHER LEAVE	17877.65811
18/03/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	30110.25249
01/04/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	28909.55662
01/04/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7476.067689
01/04/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17012.2416
01/04/2020	OTHER LEAVE	23071.39688
01/04/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	27125.66266
15/04/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	32544.25999
15/04/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	5679.564901
15/04/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16481.11203
15/04/2020	OTHER LEAVE	18252.3713
15/04/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	19998.16522
29/04/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	35592.35091
29/04/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8006.668943
29/04/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16708.99943
29/04/2020	OTHER LEAVE	18504.66763

PayPeriodEnd	Leave Group	Sum of Total Hours
29/04/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	20993.70211
13/05/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	25076.71995
13/05/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7168.151584
13/05/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16499.26274
13/05/2020	OTHER LEAVE	19150.03193
13/05/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	24419.2639
27/05/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	24104.35478
27/05/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7321.447788
27/05/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16545.77297
27/05/2020	OTHER LEAVE	18893.07446
27/05/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	25741.69922
10/06/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	25397.88202
10/06/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6044.77617
10/06/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16626.48477
10/06/2020	OTHER LEAVE	17444.23147
10/06/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	23217.55582
24/06/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	24122.47533
24/06/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6479.526861
24/06/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17013.69824
24/06/2020	OTHER LEAVE	18207.78749
24/06/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	30603.80271
08/07/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	33687.93497
08/07/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7149.767154
08/07/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16664.88858
08/07/2020	OTHER LEAVE	20045.56514
08/07/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	29492.32424
22/07/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	42860.92285
22/07/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7483.993849
22/07/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16777.00395
22/07/2020	OTHER LEAVE	20791.69507
22/07/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	28174.04544
05/08/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	28729.14249
05/08/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7674.471634
05/08/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	16696.07514
05/08/2020	OTHER LEAVE	20195.92604
05/08/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	29570.70361
19/08/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	29976.98861
19/08/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7374.070491
19/08/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17449.29109
19/08/2020	OTHER LEAVE	20427.43844
19/08/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	28841.03141
02/09/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	29877.09074
02/09/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7568.420868
02/09/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17468.13463

PayPeriodEnd	Leave Group	Sum of Total Hours
02/09/2020	OTHER LEAVE	20184.90754
02/09/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	32046.87301
16/09/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	31719.63391
16/09/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7563.457556
16/09/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17292.72379
16/09/2020	OTHER LEAVE	18717.78274
16/09/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	28990.31814
30/09/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	38421.65152
30/09/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7851.722424
30/09/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17717.95207
30/09/2020	OTHER LEAVE	18322.67468
30/09/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	29770.68037
14/10/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	48370.52002
14/10/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8153.399767
14/10/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18070.02934
14/10/2020	OTHER LEAVE	18492.61056
14/10/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	26881.65082
28/10/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	34190.72082
28/10/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8224.379986
28/10/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17784.45569
28/10/2020	OTHER LEAVE	20629.31542
28/10/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	29323.63095
11/11/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	34514.83778
11/11/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8085.080461
11/11/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18123.59536
11/11/2020	OTHER LEAVE	19132.90172
11/11/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	28797.46229
25/11/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	35724.634
25/11/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7651.896415
25/11/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17784.19993
25/11/2020	OTHER LEAVE	19037.56429
25/11/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	31314.82616
09/12/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	34877.84098
09/12/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7010.051358
09/12/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17377.6828
09/12/2020	OTHER LEAVE	19730.25485
09/12/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	30496.3863
23/12/2020	ANNUAL LEAVE	48018.44629
23/12/2020	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6472.022185
23/12/2020	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17354.46255
23/12/2020	OTHER LEAVE	17678.41098
23/12/2020	PERSONAL LEAVE	29050.7207
06/01/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	63374.96877
06/01/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	5296.624981

PayPeriodEnd	Leave Group	Sum of Total Hours
06/01/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17196.9045
06/01/2021	OTHER LEAVE	15843.11988
06/01/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	16182.29547
20/01/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	63487.49464
20/01/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8319.708351
20/01/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17887.47838
20/01/2021	OTHER LEAVE	18066.74195
20/01/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	25573.20849
03/02/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	54145.0238
03/02/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8881.829694
03/02/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18211.58733
03/02/2021	OTHER LEAVE	16511.58214
03/02/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	23072.97211
17/02/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	34811.62754
17/02/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8175.740212
17/02/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	17659.84561
17/02/2021	OTHER LEAVE	17828.5901
17/02/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	28319.27305
03/03/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	33941.52917
03/03/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7989.324139
03/03/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18007.58617
03/03/2021	OTHER LEAVE	19552.36241
03/03/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	30423.56766
17/03/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	32483.52556
17/03/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8157.938916
17/03/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18243.16754
17/03/2021	OTHER LEAVE	16559.85147
17/03/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	28499.42877
31/03/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	34332.64447
31/03/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8013.565094
31/03/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18071.49324
31/03/2021	OTHER LEAVE	19046.5199
31/03/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	31756.60138
14/04/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	48074.89525
14/04/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6166.416186
14/04/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18293.37091
14/04/2021	OTHER LEAVE	17505.35678
14/04/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	26486.96359
28/04/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	37578.94883
28/04/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6360.966772
28/04/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18857.05405
28/04/2021	OTHER LEAVE	18647.01364
28/04/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	28647.10182
12/05/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	32125.51692

PayPeriodEnd	Leave Group	Sum of Total Hours
12/05/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7071.745863
12/05/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18982.7749
12/05/2021	OTHER LEAVE	20285.34722
12/05/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	31561.12478
26/05/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	32304.12855
26/05/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6499.600209
26/05/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18777.36482
26/05/2021	OTHER LEAVE	19821.1003
26/05/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	34477.95855
09/06/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	30852.73975
09/06/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7053.538884
09/06/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18982.46626
09/06/2021	OTHER LEAVE	19288.10546
09/06/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	30736.71194
23/06/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	33103.30277
23/06/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6836.572666
23/06/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19134.8322
23/06/2021	OTHER LEAVE	19913.79707
23/06/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	30795.41916
07/07/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	47467.95442
07/07/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8672.712024
07/07/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19390.68604
07/07/2021	OTHER LEAVE	20605.79068
07/07/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	31565.41487
21/07/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	43221.05727
21/07/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9733.635541
21/07/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19702.51137
21/07/2021	OTHER LEAVE	18374.51919
21/07/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	30349.68049
04/08/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	33690.35576
04/08/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9576.127583
04/08/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19397.40863
04/08/2021	OTHER LEAVE	20067.59467
04/08/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	32641.15197
18/08/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	30089.24789
18/08/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9651.034349
18/08/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19466.09279
18/08/2021	OTHER LEAVE	29030.72546
18/08/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	30695.04765
01/09/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	26097.72966
01/09/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8976.965861
01/09/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19679.20296
01/09/2021	OTHER LEAVE	34514.14376
01/09/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	24520.1645

PayPeriodEnd	Leave Group	Sum of Total Hours
15/09/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	25809.28923
15/09/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8703.233879
15/09/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19665.64224
15/09/2021	OTHER LEAVE	25280.38676
15/09/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	23421.7644
29/09/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	38070.87577
29/09/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8715.027119
29/09/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18587.77785
29/09/2021	OTHER LEAVE	24422.27168
29/09/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	23237.51746
13/10/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	30556.16768
13/10/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8372.741994
13/10/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18122.45971
13/10/2021	OTHER LEAVE	29703.21953
13/10/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	21197.04691
27/10/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	27915.84907
27/10/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9194.581817
27/10/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18438.11736
27/10/2021	OTHER LEAVE	22754.38958
27/10/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	26668.06472
10/11/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	31685.39534
10/11/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8633.553323
10/11/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18830.1978
10/11/2021	OTHER LEAVE	21844.13844
10/11/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	31275.47313
24/11/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	35516.15027
24/11/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7848.739364
24/11/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18887.18924
24/11/2021	OTHER LEAVE	21577.36141
24/11/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	31350.90292
08/12/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	36909.34114
08/12/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7138.198567
08/12/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18765.64562
08/12/2021	OTHER LEAVE	20828.87909
08/12/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	30433.11327
22/12/2021	ANNUAL LEAVE	46640.47975
22/12/2021	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	7546.378108
22/12/2021	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	18867.65371
22/12/2021	OTHER LEAVE	21162.49828
22/12/2021	PERSONAL LEAVE	30877.6866
05/01/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	125897.8941
05/01/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	10557.49244
05/01/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	36669.71728
05/01/2022	OTHER LEAVE	48483.35318

PayPeriodEnd	Leave Group	Sum of Total Hours
05/01/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	37847.86562
19/01/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	134912.5505
19/01/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	16708.69443
19/01/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	38800.69385
19/01/2022	OTHER LEAVE	79888.36114
19/01/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	57592.83726
02/02/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	118078.9788
02/02/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	18811.59097
02/02/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	38022.03395
02/02/2022	OTHER LEAVE	61223.19282
02/02/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	46965.59729
16/02/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	79400.13096
16/02/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	20183.38679
16/02/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	37547.92741
16/02/2022	OTHER LEAVE	50867.97177
16/02/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	57765.39731
02/03/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	74900.01726
02/03/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	20780.14755
02/03/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	37377.61421
02/03/2022	OTHER LEAVE	52115.79353
02/03/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	59103.80905
16/03/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	69229.2483
16/03/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	22916.04459
16/03/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	38267.06338
16/03/2022	OTHER LEAVE	54808.72725
16/03/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	61891.11169
30/03/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	36517.97144
30/03/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	10092.26331
30/03/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19451.91021
30/03/2022	OTHER LEAVE	33202.3205
30/03/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	32805.20993
13/04/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	42259.15845
13/04/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9281.813061
13/04/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19428.78683
13/04/2022	OTHER LEAVE	33577.9942
13/04/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	31402.97737
27/04/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	51638.20192
27/04/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	8690.657376
27/04/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	20099.50868
27/04/2022	OTHER LEAVE	30331.75196
27/04/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	25141.56763
11/05/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	36005.63011
11/05/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9598.542032
11/05/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	20145.46506

PayPeriodEnd	Leave Group	Sum of Total Hours
11/05/2022	OTHER LEAVE	34960.03341
11/05/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	33551.78433
25/05/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	34843.14062
25/05/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9692.982099
25/05/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	19957.41355
25/05/2022	OTHER LEAVE	34817.16348
25/05/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	35152.53818
08/06/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	33313.77183
08/06/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9277.230256
08/06/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	20696.93836
08/06/2022	OTHER LEAVE	27988.71244
08/06/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	30625.99625
22/06/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	35036.28375
22/06/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9160.5589
22/06/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	21333.76784
22/06/2022	OTHER LEAVE	28612.95834
22/06/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	29756.87258
06/07/2022	ANNUAL LEAVE	18248.55116
06/07/2022	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	9915.556807
06/07/2022	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED	20735.30902
06/07/2022	OTHER LEAVE	11414.50876
06/07/2022	PERSONAL LEAVE	3969.111662

*(Graph available at the Chamber Support Office).*

- (5) To obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources, however for the last reportable period 25 May 2022, the chart below shows the type and hours of leave taken for Nursing Staff (this includes Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses, Midwives, Nurse Practitioners and Assistants in Nursing). For the pay period, 3,581 instances of leave were processed, noting that there are many instances where multiple leave applications are processed for the same employee.

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

- (6) To obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources, however paid leave taken from January 2020 to 8 June 2022 is detailed in the data table and graph below by pay period and total sum of hours paid grouped into:
- a) Annual Leave
  - b) Long Service Leave
  - c) Maternity Leave and Related
  - d) Other Leave
  - e) Personal Leave



<b>PayPeriodEnd</b>	<b>Sum of Total Hours</b>	<b>Leave Group</b>
08/01/2020	35555.58552	ANNUAL LEAVE
08/01/2020	3586.808077	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
08/01/2020	9451.266338	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
08/01/2020	8903.31342	OTHER LEAVE
08/01/2020	10978.97112	PERSONAL LEAVE
22/01/2020	28254.94838	ANNUAL LEAVE
22/01/2020	4118.850872	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
22/01/2020	9421.036911	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
22/01/2020	8947.062189	OTHER LEAVE
22/01/2020	12924.19317	PERSONAL LEAVE
05/02/2020	25632.30412	ANNUAL LEAVE
05/02/2020	3894.450872	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
05/02/2020	9108.311412	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
05/02/2020	8964.820547	OTHER LEAVE
05/02/2020	12866.60209	PERSONAL LEAVE
19/02/2020	20135.78628	ANNUAL LEAVE
19/02/2020	3624.211984	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
19/02/2020	9943.437967	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
19/02/2020	7478.622793	OTHER LEAVE
19/02/2020	12984.22626	PERSONAL LEAVE
04/03/2020	18278.6717	ANNUAL LEAVE
04/03/2020	3710.973095	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
04/03/2020	10327.00611	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
04/03/2020	7549.680993	OTHER LEAVE
04/03/2020	14335.59531	PERSONAL LEAVE
18/03/2020	18778.63932	ANNUAL LEAVE
18/03/2020	4017.167539	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
18/03/2020	10376.07321	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
18/03/2020	7749.223216	OTHER LEAVE
18/03/2020	15447.86158	PERSONAL LEAVE
01/04/2020	17870.12434	ANNUAL LEAVE
01/04/2020	4069.067539	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
01/04/2020	10840.54907	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
01/04/2020	10008.36783	OTHER LEAVE
01/04/2020	14057.75476	PERSONAL LEAVE
15/04/2020	21752.22171	ANNUAL LEAVE
15/04/2020	3315.52048	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
15/04/2020	10624.16465	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
15/04/2020	7496.928855	OTHER LEAVE
15/04/2020	11451.35473	PERSONAL LEAVE
29/04/2020	22990.186	ANNUAL LEAVE
29/04/2020	5047.749541	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
29/04/2020	11170.45474	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
29/04/2020	8051.045002	OTHER LEAVE

<b>PayPeriodEnd</b>	<b>Sum of Total Hours</b>	<b>Leave Group</b>
29/04/2020	11426.09031	PERSONAL LEAVE
13/05/2020	17404.26737	ANNUAL LEAVE
13/05/2020	3610.260909	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
13/05/2020	11006.33293	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
13/05/2020	7914.131183	OTHER LEAVE
13/05/2020	13553.87558	PERSONAL LEAVE
27/05/2020	15604.31789	ANNUAL LEAVE
27/05/2020	3815.801324	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
27/05/2020	11026.43628	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
27/05/2020	7801.718317	OTHER LEAVE
27/05/2020	12786.25698	PERSONAL LEAVE
10/06/2020	15024.37801	ANNUAL LEAVE
10/06/2020	3426.09048	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
10/06/2020	11184.71499	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
10/06/2020	7220.656912	OTHER LEAVE
10/06/2020	12026.86364	PERSONAL LEAVE
24/06/2020	15003.85292	ANNUAL LEAVE
24/06/2020	3848.944683	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
24/06/2020	11405.49277	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
24/06/2020	8323.449968	OTHER LEAVE
24/06/2020	16292.17541	PERSONAL LEAVE
08/07/2020	19892.89143	ANNUAL LEAVE
08/07/2020	4369.006532	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
08/07/2020	10911.38176	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
08/07/2020	8903.264046	OTHER LEAVE
08/07/2020	15277.34094	PERSONAL LEAVE
22/07/2020	23855.02208	ANNUAL LEAVE
22/07/2020	4780.651449	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
22/07/2020	10771.15145	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
22/07/2020	9311.025982	OTHER LEAVE
22/07/2020	14463.65264	PERSONAL LEAVE
05/08/2020	16669.8496	ANNUAL LEAVE
05/08/2020	4539.843598	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
05/08/2020	10643.26414	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
05/08/2020	9248.942566	OTHER LEAVE
05/08/2020	15318.7482	PERSONAL LEAVE
19/08/2020	18148.3259	ANNUAL LEAVE
19/08/2020	3935.521598	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
19/08/2020	11146.00195	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
19/08/2020	9492.827628	OTHER LEAVE
19/08/2020	14376.13594	PERSONAL LEAVE
02/09/2020	17881.29167	ANNUAL LEAVE
02/09/2020	3876.275598	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
02/09/2020	11192.09282	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED

<b>PayPeriodEnd</b>	<b>Sum of Total Hours</b>	<b>Leave Group</b>
02/09/2020	9161.148062	OTHER LEAVE
02/09/2020	17052.95579	PERSONAL LEAVE
16/09/2020	18849.39272	ANNUAL LEAVE
16/09/2020	3677.776556	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
16/09/2020	11059.13036	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
16/09/2020	8742.226244	OTHER LEAVE
16/09/2020	15264.81207	PERSONAL LEAVE
30/09/2020	21656.55223	ANNUAL LEAVE
30/09/2020	3703.562424	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
30/09/2020	11623.47572	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
30/09/2020	8224.24637	OTHER LEAVE
30/09/2020	15738.58378	PERSONAL LEAVE
14/10/2020	26041.55877	ANNUAL LEAVE
14/10/2020	3843.262424	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
14/10/2020	12001.77652	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
14/10/2020	7697.643463	OTHER LEAVE
14/10/2020	14908.58501	PERSONAL LEAVE
28/10/2020	19494.00554	ANNUAL LEAVE
28/10/2020	3580.912424	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
28/10/2020	12056.34801	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
28/10/2020	9211.602193	OTHER LEAVE
28/10/2020	15567.89464	PERSONAL LEAVE
11/11/2020	20577.83725	ANNUAL LEAVE
11/11/2020	3735.512424	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
11/11/2020	12388.30428	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
11/11/2020	8101.977747	OTHER LEAVE
11/11/2020	15163.74137	PERSONAL LEAVE
25/11/2020	20874.89352	ANNUAL LEAVE
25/11/2020	3652.677576	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
25/11/2020	11997.00079	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
25/11/2020	8012.117237	OTHER LEAVE
25/11/2020	16435.55541	PERSONAL LEAVE
09/12/2020	20478.45936	ANNUAL LEAVE
09/12/2020	3460.8	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
09/12/2020	11533.43666	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
09/12/2020	8853.988568	OTHER LEAVE
09/12/2020	16531.93827	PERSONAL LEAVE
23/12/2020	23047.50861	ANNUAL LEAVE
23/12/2020	3342.177005	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
23/12/2020	11348.65455	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
23/12/2020	8114.682055	OTHER LEAVE
23/12/2020	16761.57234	PERSONAL LEAVE
06/01/2021	35093.5269	ANNUAL LEAVE
06/01/2021	3052.647936	LONG SERVICE LEAVE

PayPeriodEnd	Sum of Total Hours	Leave Group
06/01/2021	11517.20445	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
06/01/2021	6875.124766	OTHER LEAVE
06/01/2021	10738.15476	PERSONAL LEAVE
20/01/2021	30209.06938	ANNUAL LEAVE
20/01/2021	4153.309914	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
20/01/2021	11750.36889	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
20/01/2021	7065.931354	OTHER LEAVE
20/01/2021	14078.9091	PERSONAL LEAVE
03/02/2021	26223.46179	ANNUAL LEAVE
03/02/2021	4766.041465	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
03/02/2021	12317.56213	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
03/02/2021	6503.082319	OTHER LEAVE
03/02/2021	12559.24301	PERSONAL LEAVE
17/02/2021	20792.40636	ANNUAL LEAVE
17/02/2021	4088.297615	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
17/02/2021	11921.54502	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
17/02/2021	7846.705701	OTHER LEAVE
17/02/2021	14514.33242	PERSONAL LEAVE
03/03/2021	20800.30462	ANNUAL LEAVE
03/03/2021	4019.94197	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
03/03/2021	11813.1665	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
03/03/2021	9259.981456	OTHER LEAVE
03/03/2021	15294.11667	PERSONAL LEAVE
17/03/2021	19615.40267	ANNUAL LEAVE
17/03/2021	3834.834211	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
17/03/2021	11841.73822	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
17/03/2021	7304.667106	OTHER LEAVE
17/03/2021	14678.30787	PERSONAL LEAVE
31/03/2021	20389.77729	ANNUAL LEAVE
31/03/2021	3778.351094	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
31/03/2021	11594.46571	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
31/03/2021	8745.607799	OTHER LEAVE
31/03/2021	16733.08621	PERSONAL LEAVE
14/04/2021	26029.89312	ANNUAL LEAVE
14/04/2021	3367.217255	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
14/04/2021	11993.68695	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
14/04/2021	7934.227265	OTHER LEAVE
14/04/2021	15018.99971	PERSONAL LEAVE
28/04/2021	22455.14484	ANNUAL LEAVE
28/04/2021	3427.859758	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
28/04/2021	12448.96036	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
28/04/2021	8566.724173	OTHER LEAVE
28/04/2021	15066.14353	PERSONAL LEAVE
12/05/2021	18731.69651	ANNUAL LEAVE

<b>PayPeriodEnd</b>	<b>Sum of Total Hours</b>	<b>Leave Group</b>
12/05/2021	3280.768849	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
12/05/2021	12638.55446	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
12/05/2021	9728.854496	OTHER LEAVE
12/05/2021	16666.31051	PERSONAL LEAVE
26/05/2021	18777.53654	ANNUAL LEAVE
26/05/2021	3572.179862	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
26/05/2021	12621.23487	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
26/05/2021	9083.345421	OTHER LEAVE
26/05/2021	17732.33368	PERSONAL LEAVE
09/06/2021	17504.39889	ANNUAL LEAVE
09/06/2021	3774.923204	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
09/06/2021	12886.94512	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
09/06/2021	9305.999921	OTHER LEAVE
09/06/2021	16153.5008	PERSONAL LEAVE
23/06/2021	18981.25453	ANNUAL LEAVE
23/06/2021	3923.112397	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
23/06/2021	12740.14482	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
23/06/2021	9768.86773	OTHER LEAVE
23/06/2021	16340.25457	PERSONAL LEAVE
07/07/2021	26147.5741	ANNUAL LEAVE
07/07/2021	4709.170356	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
07/07/2021	12863.93113	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
07/07/2021	9998.058555	OTHER LEAVE
07/07/2021	16184.28812	PERSONAL LEAVE
21/07/2021	23602.39719	ANNUAL LEAVE
21/07/2021	5193.449421	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
21/07/2021	13271.94763	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
21/07/2021	9155.647141	OTHER LEAVE
21/07/2021	14577.92432	PERSONAL LEAVE
04/08/2021	19657.49903	ANNUAL LEAVE
04/08/2021	4686.347797	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
04/08/2021	13342.49833	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
04/08/2021	9820.151025	OTHER LEAVE
04/08/2021	16631.56033	PERSONAL LEAVE
18/08/2021	17955.18675	ANNUAL LEAVE
18/08/2021	4541.568576	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
18/08/2021	13517.16332	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
18/08/2021	14624.1752	OTHER LEAVE
18/08/2021	16012.41793	PERSONAL LEAVE
01/09/2021	15904.47581	ANNUAL LEAVE
01/09/2021	3941.129615	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
01/09/2021	13632.00671	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
01/09/2021	17968.91023	OTHER LEAVE
01/09/2021	12815.91534	PERSONAL LEAVE

<b>PayPeriodEnd</b>	<b>Sum of Total Hours</b>	<b>Leave Group</b>
15/09/2021	16248.91581	ANNUAL LEAVE
15/09/2021	3350.487191	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
15/09/2021	13447.78496	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
15/09/2021	12999.50663	OTHER LEAVE
15/09/2021	11410.69963	PERSONAL LEAVE
29/09/2021	22550.9014	ANNUAL LEAVE
29/09/2021	3634.58953	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
29/09/2021	12871.62681	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
29/09/2021	12316.87766	OTHER LEAVE
29/09/2021	11795.82793	PERSONAL LEAVE
13/10/2021	19485.96269	ANNUAL LEAVE
13/10/2021	3597.627247	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
13/10/2021	12136.40821	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
13/10/2021	14883.81828	OTHER LEAVE
13/10/2021	10535.89413	PERSONAL LEAVE
27/10/2021	18380.75224	ANNUAL LEAVE
27/10/2021	4376.008622	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
27/10/2021	12464.36363	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
27/10/2021	10399.70459	OTHER LEAVE
27/10/2021	13867.26618	PERSONAL LEAVE
10/11/2021	19484.78243	ANNUAL LEAVE
10/11/2021	3686.055128	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
10/11/2021	12494.57088	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
10/11/2021	10373.49903	OTHER LEAVE
10/11/2021	16992.05187	PERSONAL LEAVE
24/11/2021	21715.94802	ANNUAL LEAVE
24/11/2021	3600.313143	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
24/11/2021	12402.0065	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
24/11/2021	10153.76499	OTHER LEAVE
24/11/2021	16028.52604	PERSONAL LEAVE
08/12/2021	21489.34282	ANNUAL LEAVE
08/12/2021	3169.904	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
08/12/2021	12455.74218	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
08/12/2021	9716.170148	OTHER LEAVE
08/12/2021	16344.08723	PERSONAL LEAVE
22/12/2021	24347.15022	ANNUAL LEAVE
22/12/2021	3210.4	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
22/12/2021	12585.40612	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
22/12/2021	10249.20944	OTHER LEAVE
22/12/2021	17065.29742	PERSONAL LEAVE
05/01/2022	35501.45562	ANNUAL LEAVE
05/01/2022	2470.3	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
05/01/2022	12179.65231	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
05/01/2022	12538.42176	OTHER LEAVE

<b>PayPeriodEnd</b>	<b>Sum of Total Hours</b>	<b>Leave Group</b>
05/01/2022	12494.00396	PERSONAL LEAVE
19/01/2022	32003.33418	ANNUAL LEAVE
19/01/2022	3646.733333	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
19/01/2022	12831.4828	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
19/01/2022	19853.66012	OTHER LEAVE
19/01/2022	15666.8529	PERSONAL LEAVE
02/02/2022	30161.93441	ANNUAL LEAVE
02/02/2022	4543.933333	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
02/02/2022	12271.77373	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
02/02/2022	15933.78788	OTHER LEAVE
02/02/2022	12753.56236	PERSONAL LEAVE
16/02/2022	23054.02316	ANNUAL LEAVE
16/02/2022	4899.122353	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
16/02/2022	12481.92907	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
16/02/2022	14171.18216	OTHER LEAVE
16/02/2022	15670.69857	PERSONAL LEAVE
02/03/2022	21838.65412	ANNUAL LEAVE
02/03/2022	4793.584314	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
02/03/2022	12403.61688	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
02/03/2022	13725.60169	OTHER LEAVE
02/03/2022	15736.75603	PERSONAL LEAVE
16/03/2022	19705.70521	ANNUAL LEAVE
16/03/2022	5954.037041	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
16/03/2022	12719.24825	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
16/03/2022	14377.69899	OTHER LEAVE
16/03/2022	18086.12357	PERSONAL LEAVE
30/03/2022	21599.07412	ANNUAL LEAVE
30/03/2022	5209.666738	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
30/03/2022	12706.03569	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
30/03/2022	16928.8617	OTHER LEAVE
30/03/2022	18231.51832	PERSONAL LEAVE
13/04/2022	23104.01184	ANNUAL LEAVE
13/04/2022	4943.216089	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
13/04/2022	12895.62531	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
13/04/2022	17461.60309	OTHER LEAVE
13/04/2022	17320.84126	PERSONAL LEAVE
27/04/2022	28316.65663	ANNUAL LEAVE
27/04/2022	4520.554472	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
27/04/2022	13259.5737	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
27/04/2022	15585.8415	OTHER LEAVE
27/04/2022	15125.63817	PERSONAL LEAVE
11/05/2022	21032.462	ANNUAL LEAVE
11/05/2022	4725.411432	LONG SERVICE LEAVE

PayPeriodEnd	Sum of Total Hours	Leave Group
11/05/2022	13878.26368	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
11/05/2022	18021.38536	OTHER LEAVE
11/05/2022	17837.8828	PERSONAL LEAVE
25/05/2022	19955.14424	ANNUAL LEAVE
25/05/2022	4794.255129	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
25/05/2022	13962.66894	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
25/05/2022	17108.35124	OTHER LEAVE
25/05/2022	18795.95501	PERSONAL LEAVE
08/06/2022	3821.687991	ANNUAL LEAVE
08/06/2022	4546.54927	LONG SERVICE LEAVE
08/06/2022	14091.043	MATERNITY LEAVE & RELATED
08/06/2022	5078.480685	OTHER LEAVE
08/06/2022	673.2324731	PERSONAL LEAVE

(Graph available at the Chamber Support Office).

- (7) Annual leave accrued by staff is detailed in Annual Reports. Reporting prior to 2019-20 will include ACTHD as CHS became its own entity on 1 October 2018 and as a result definitive advice is not able to be reported. Annual leave liabilities have increased due to reduced utilisation of annual leave linked to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Pay increases for staff that occurred during the year consistent with enterprise agreements will increase this amount and increased headcount also means more people are accruing leave.

Reported FY	Annual leave Accrual \$'000
2020-21	142,631
2019-20	129,036

- (8) Leave loading only applies to annual leave and is calculated as the greater of:

- 17.5 per cent of the employee's ordinary rate of pay on 1 January 2022 multiplied by the number of hours of annual leave accrued during the preceding calendar year (excluding shift penalties). The maximum amount payable under this option is the equivalent of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' male average weekly earnings for the May quarter of the year before the year in which the date of accrual occurs. In 2021 the maximum payment was \$1,537.70; or
- Any shift penalties that the employee would have received had the employee not been on approved annual leave. This payment is not subject to a maximum.

- (9) Annual Leave and Long Service Leave are accrued and recognised as an entitlement on the CHS balance sheet. Data for the last six years is unable to be provided due to the split of directorates into ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services, the cost of these leave types for the last 3 years are:

	2018-19 (\$000)	2019-20 (\$000)	2020-21 (\$000)
Annual Leave	58,001	58,620	63,282
Long Service Leave	10,829	11,347	11,543

- (10) The below chart details headcount and FTE of Nursing staff within the Intensive



Care Unit (ICU) on pay date 25 May 2022. To obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

- (11) Employment data for Nursing staff over the last six years is unable to be provided, to obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. Paid FTE and Headcount from January 2020 to 25 May 2022 for the ICU is detailed in the graph below:

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

- (12) The average tenure for Nurses working within the ICU as at the end of May 2022 is 6.17 years.

- (13) a) The below chart details headcount and FTE of Nursing staff within the Emergency Department (ED) on pay date 25 May 2022:

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

Employment data for Nursing staff over the last six years is unable to be provided, to obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. Paid FTE and Headcount from January 2020 to 25 May 2022 for the Emergency Department is detailed in the graph below: Employment data for Nursing staff over the last six years is unable to be provided, to obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. Paid FTE and Headcount from January 2020 to 25 May 2022 for the Emergency Department is detailed in the graph below:

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

The average tenure for Nurses working within ED as at the end of May 2022 is 5.68 years.

- b) The below chart details headcount and FTE of Midwives at CHS on pay date 25 May 2022:

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

Employment data for Midwives over the last six years is unable to be provided, to obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. Paid FTE and Headcount from January 2020 to 25 May 2022 for CHS is detailed in the graph below:

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

The average tenure for Midwives as at the end of May 2022 is 8.13 years.

- c) The below chart details headcount and FTE of Nursing staff in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) on pay date 25 May 2022:

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

Employment data for Nursing staff over the last six years is unable to be provided, to obtain all information as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Paid FTE and Headcount from January 2020 to 25 May 2022 for NICU is detailed in the graph below:

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

The average tenure for Nursing staff in the NICU as at the end of May 2022 is 9.59 years.

## **Mental health—staffing (Question No 829)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 10 June 2022:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of all mental health staff exits, by category, since 2016 (eg, retirement/redundancy/fired).
- (2) Did each staff member listed in part (1) have an opportunity to provide exit feedback; if not, why not; if so, (a) what feedback are staff able to provide and (b) how many staff have completed this feedback since 2016.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a breakdown by job title/classification of the top 10 types/categories of feedback and how many staff provided each type/category of feedback, each year since 2016.

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

- 1) Canberra Health Services (CHS) exit survey data commenced being collated electronically in October 2019. Prior to this date, data is unable to be sourced readily and as such only data dating from October 2019 to present has been reported.

*(Available at the Chamber Support Office).*

<b>Calvary Public Hospital Bruce mental health staff exits since 2016:</b>	
<b>Reason</b>	<b>Head count</b>
Cessation / contract end	5
Resignation	30
Retirement	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>

- 2) Every CHS staff member is provided the opportunity to provide written feedback as part of an anonymous online survey as well as the opportunity to undertake an exit interview.
  - a) Staff exiting the organisation are able to provide confidential and anonymous responses to a range of questions focused on improving Canberra Health Services (CHS) such as their reason for leaving, how their team members work together, is recognition afforded and regularly provided, how visible the values are in the organisation and how supported the staff member felt in their role. Staff are also able to provide open comment on their experience with CHS including what improvements they would recommend. If they wish they may also leave their contact details and request a one-on-one interview with their manager, a HR professional, an Executive or the Chief Executive Officer.

b) Data collated electronically commenced in October 2019. Data collected since that time has shown 112 mental health staff have completed this feedback.

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) offer every staff member the opportunity to provide written feedback and undertake an exit interview. The number of staff that have provided feedback is not captured in an easily retrievable manner.

- 3) Due to the confidentiality and primarily anonymous nature of the CHS exit survey process, job title and classification are not provided for reporting purposes. As feedback is provided through open ended responses, we are unable to supply the top 10 types of feedback however we have listed the top three responses to questions in the survey.

The top three reasons staff listed as their reason for leaving CHS were:

- I. Promotion or new employment opportunity;
- II. Change in personal circumstances; and
- III. Interstate or overseas transfer.

The above three reasons accounted for 70 per cent of all responses received.

When asked **what the best thing was about working at CHS**, the top responses were:

- I. Team and work colleagues,
- II. Learning and development opportunities, and
- III. Being in a supportive environment.

When asked **what CHS could do better**, the top responses were:

- I. Less paperwork and better technology,
- II. More leadership and management development, and
- III. More opportunities for personal development.

When asked **if they would be interested to work for CHS again**, 56 per cent commented yes with the remainder leaving the question blank or stating no

CPHB have advised the information for this question is not captured in an easily retrievable format, however anecdotally, the main reason for staff exits is employment opportunity.

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## **ACT Health—mental health wards (Question No 830)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 10 June 2022:

What is the breakdown of all mental health wards at the (a) Canberra Hospital (b) Calvary Public Hospital, including (a) a brief description of the ward, (b) how many beds in each ward, (c) how many treatment spaces in each ward, (d) how many staff scheduled for each ward including job title and classification for (i) morning, (ii) afternoon and (iii) night shift, (e) how many patients have been admitted to each ward in the last financial year, (f) how many patients have been discharged from each ward in the last financial year, (g) how many staff (headcount) have been recruited for each ward in the last financial year, (h) how many staff (headcount) have separated from each ward in the last financial year,

(i) what was the budget allocated for each ward in the last financial year, (j) how much was spent by each ward in the last financial year and (k) what is the average length of stay for a patient in each ward.

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

a) b) c)

Name of Ward	Description	# Beds
Adult Mental Health Unit (AMHU)	Provides voluntary and involuntary psychiatric care and treatment for people with a mental health illness who require hospitalisation. AMHU has a Low and High Dependency Unit (LDU and HDU). The units provide short term specialised acute clinical intervention, treatment and care for persons experiencing moderate to severe mental illness or mental dysfunction where less restrictive options have been deemed unsuitable or unavailable.	40
Mental Health Short Stay Unit (MHSSU)	Provides voluntary and involuntary psychiatric care and treatment for people with a mental health illness who require hospitalisation. The unit provides an opportunity for extended clinical observation, crisis stabilisation, mental health assessment and intervention for people admitted from the Emergency Department.	6
Ward 12B	The unit provides assessment, treatment, and therapeutic intervention for persons with mental health presentations requiring inpatient care with a lower risk of behavioural disturbance, vulnerability, or other issues than persons requiring the more restrictive environment of the AMHU HDU.	10
Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit (AMHRU)	The purpose of a specialist mental health rehabilitation service is to deliver effective, interdisciplinary and recovery-based treatment and rehabilitation to people whose needs cannot be met by less intensive community based mental health services. The focus for an admission to AMHRU is on people with moderate to severe mental illness who face challenges living more independently in the community. Priority is given therefore to those who will benefit from rehabilitation services such as people exhibiting signs and symptoms of a First Episode Psychosis and people in the early stage of their illness.	20
Dhulwa Mental Health Unit (Dhulwa)	Dhulwa supports a person's treatment, care and recovery by responding to the needs of people with moderate to severe mental illness who are or are likely to become involved with the criminal justice system and for those civilian people who cannot be treated in a less restrictive environment.	17
Gawanggal Mental Health Unit (Gawanggal)	Gawanggal Mental Health Unit provides medium term, forensic, residential style care for consumers with complex and enduring mental health issues and who require assistance to transition into the community setting.	10

a) b) c)

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce		
Name of Ward	Description	Number of beds*
Acacia Ward	<p>The Acacia ward provides care for patients in an acute stage of mental illness and/or psychological distress, across the psychiatric diagnostic spectrum. Patients are predominantly in the 18–65 year-old age range, however the unit will manage patients outside of this age range if appropriate and there is a lack of capacity to be managed elsewhere.</p> <p>The unit is gazetted under the <i>Mental Health Act 2015</i> and can accept patients who are detained under the Act. The unit is an open environment and as such does not have a de-escalation suite or a high dependency environment. Any admission is risk assessed for safety and suitability to be managed within the unit environment.</p> <p>Patients not meeting the above criteria are assessed on an individual case basis to ensure a safe patient journey and person-centred care is provided.</p>	21
Older Persons Mental Health Unit (OPMHU)	<p>The patient group serviced by the Older Persons Mental Health Unit (OPMHU) are generally persons aged over 65 years, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50 years, who may be experiencing issues with mental health. This may be a longstanding mental illness complicated by issues of aging (e.g., multiple medical problems, physical disability, or significant cognitive impairment), or recent onset of mental illness.</p> <p>Those patients with behavioural disturbances related to delirium are transferred to a medical inpatient setting for appropriate general medical care.</p> <p>The unit is gazetted under the <i>Mental Health Act 2015</i> and includes a high dependency area.</p>	15

\*Average number of beds operated throughout the year. Some wards may have a higher number of physical beds available for use to meet increased demand as required.

d)

Ward	Classifications	Morning Shift	Afternoon Shift Indirect staff until 1600hrs	Night shift
AMHU MHSSU 12B	Medical	Consultants x 6 Registrars x 6 Junior Medical Officer (JMO) x 6	Consultants x 6 Registrars x 6 JMO x 6	On call psychiatrist On call registrar
	Nursing	Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) x 1 Nursing Unit Manager (NUM) x 1 Clinical Nurse Educator (CNE) x 1 Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) coordinator x 1 Clinical Development Nurse (CDN) x 2 Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) x 3 Nurses x 14 Assistant In Nursing (AIN) x 3	ADON x 1 NUM x 1 CNE x 1 ECT coordinator x 1 CND x 2 CNC x 3 Nurses x 14 AIN x 3	Nurses x 10 AIN x 3
	Allied Health	Allied Health Manager x 1 Allied Health x 9 AIN x 3	Allied Health Manager x 1 Allied Health x 9 AIN x 3	
	Administration	Office Manager x 1 Facilities Manager x 1 Reception x 4	Reception x 1 until 8pm	
	Wardsperson	x 3	x 3	x 1
	Security	x 2	x 2	x 2
	Health Services Officer	x 1	x 1	
AMHRU	Medical	Consultant x 1 Registrar x 1 JMO x 1	Consultant x 1 Registrar x 1 JMO x 1	On call Psychiatrist On call Registrar
	Nursing	ADON x 1 CNC x 1 Nursing x 4	ADON x 1 CNC x 1 Nursing x 4	Nursing x 2
	Allied Health	Allied Health x 6.4	Allied Health x 6.4	
	Administration	x 1	x 1 until 4.20pm	
	Security	On site	On site	On site

Ward	Classifications	Morning Shift	Afternoon Shift Indirect staff until 1600hrs	Night shift
Dhulwa	Medical	Consultant x 2 Registrar x 2 JMO x 1	Consultant x 2 Registrar x 2 JMO x 1	
	Nursing	Nursing x 9	Nursing x 9	Nursing x 8
	Allied Health	Allied Health x 4 AIN x 5	Allied Health x 4 AIN x 5	
	Security	x 5	x 5	x 5
Gawanggal	Medical	Consultant x 2 Registrar x 2 JMO x 1	Consultant x 2 Registrar x 2 JMO x 1	
	Nursing	CNC x 1 Nurses x 4	CNC x 1 Nurses x 2	Nurses x 2
	Health Services Officers	x 1	x 1	x 1
	Allied Health	Provided by Dhulwa		
	Administration	x 1	x 1	

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce		
Name of Ward	Staff (FTE) scheduled to each ward – Morning Shift /Afternoon Shift	Staff (FTE) scheduled to each ward – Night Duty
Acacia Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Nurse L2 x1,</li> <li>Registered Nurse L1 x4,</li> <li>Enrolled Nurse x1</li> <li>Psychiatrist 2.2</li> <li>Resident Medical Officer x1</li> <li>Psychologist x 1</li> <li>Social Work x 1</li> <li>Occupational Therapy x 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Nurse L2 x1,</li> <li>Registered Nurse L1 x2,</li> <li>Enrolled Nurse x1</li> <li>Medical staff for night duty are covered through the ACT Mental Health crisis service</li> </ul>
Older Persons Mental Health Unit (OPMHU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Nurse L2 x1,</li> <li>Registered Nurse L1 x2,</li> <li>Enrolled Nurse x1</li> <li>Psychiatrist 1.6</li> <li>Registrar x 1</li> <li>Resident Medical Officer x 1</li> <li>Psychologist x 1</li> <li>Social work x 1</li> <li>Occupational Therapy x 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Nurse L2 x1,</li> <li>Registered Nurse L1 x1,</li> <li>Enrolled Nurse x1</li> <li>Medical staff for night duty are covered through the ACT Mental Health crisis service</li> </ul>

e) f)

CHS			
Financial Year	Ward Name	Admissions	Discharges
2021-2022 **	AMHRU	80	80
2021-2022 **	Dhulwa	6	16
2021-2022 **	Gawanggal	2	4
2021-2022 **	12B	200	283
2021-2022 **	MHSSU Surge Unit	9	59
2021-2022 **	AMHU – High Dependency Unit	314	137
2021-2022 **	AMHU – Low Dependency Unit	583	747
2021-2022 **	MHSSU	366	383
2021-2022 **	AMHRU	80	80
2021-2022 **	Dhulwa	6	16
2021-2022 **	Gawanggal	2	4

\*\* From 1 July 2021 to 15 June 2022

Excludes Statistical Admissions to Wards

Excludes Statistical Discharges from Wards

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce 01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021			
Financial Year	Ward Name	Admissions	Discharges
2020-21	Acacia ward	485	476
2020-21	Older Persons Mental Health Unit	253	252

g) h)

CHS is unable to report at the ward level. Data has been provided detailing the paid headcount on 24 June 2020 and corresponding headcount paid on 23 June 2021 (Closest end pay period to FY).

AREA	Headcount at 24 June 2020	Headcount at 23 June 21	Difference Headcount
AMHU	89	97	8
MHSSU	14	15	1
Acute MHS	4	6	2
Gawanggal	31	25	-6
Dhulwa	72	72	0
Allied Health Secure Mental Health	15	11	-4
Forensic MH	6	2	-4
AMHRU	27	31	4
UCH	8	9	1
Total	266	268	2

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce 01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021			
Financial Year	Ward Name	Recruited staff headcount	Separated staff headcount
2020-21	Acacia Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Registered Nurses</li> <li>2 Enrolled Nurses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Registered Nurses</li> <li>2 Enrolled Nurses</li> </ul>
2020-21	Older Persons Mental Health Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Registered Nurses</li> <li>1 Enrolled Nurses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Registered Nurses</li> <li>1 Enrolled Nurses</li> </ul>



- i) CHS does not report Budget allocations at the Ward level. The total output cost for Mental Health, Justice Health, and Alcohol and Drug Services is outlined on pages 40 of Budget Paper C –  
[https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/1870220/2021-22-Health-Directorate-Budget-Statements.pdf](https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1870220/2021-22-Health-Directorate-Budget-Statements.pdf)

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce do not report budget allocation at the Ward level, internal budgets are not representative of the costs as there are different treatments between hospitals as to the allocation of direct and indirect costs. NWAU costs per mental health patient episode are available through the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) benchmarking portal, the latest data publicly available is 2019/20 -  
<https://benchmarking.ihipa.gov.au/extensions/ihipanbp/index.html#/periodic-insights/overview>

- j) CHS does not report expenditure at the Ward level. CHS' 2021-22 Annual Report has yet to be finalised, however a recent comparison of CHS' financial position can be found within CHS' 2020-21 Annual report –  
[https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/file/0009/1933191/CHS-2021-Annual-Report\\_DigitalFA\\_LR-1.pdf](https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0009/1933191/CHS-2021-Annual-Report_DigitalFA_LR-1.pdf)

See response at question i) for Calvary Public Hospital Bruce

- k) CHS does not report Average Length of Stay (ALOS) for overnight patients by ward, however for Quarter 2 2021-22 CHS' ALOS for the Mental Health care type is 17.6 days. Further performance information is available via the ACT Public Health Services Quarterly Performance Report [https://www.health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-05/Att%20A%20-%20QPR%20Q2%202021-22\\_Addendum%20Edit.pdf](https://www.health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-05/Att%20A%20-%20QPR%20Q2%202021-22_Addendum%20Edit.pdf)

For CPHB data refer to ACT Health Quarterly Performance Report, Quarter 2, for the overnight mental health care type, results are presented at a Territory wide level and also broken down by hospital.

- <https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/act-public-health-services-quarterly-performance-report>

## **Canberra Health Services—mental health staffing (Question No 831)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 10 June 2022:

- (1) How many psychologists (headcount and full-time equivalent (FTE)) have been employed by Canberra Health Services (CHS) each year since 2016.
- (2) How many psychologists (headcount and FTE) have exited CHS each year since 2016.
- (3) Can the Minister provide, for all psychologists employed by CHS, a list of (a) the name of the organisation, (b) how many psychologists work at the organisation (headcount and FTE), (c) the wait times to make an appointment with a psychologist, (d) the wait time to meet the psychologist and (e) the wait times for any follow-up meeting or post-discharge appointment for a psychologist.
- (4) What is the average tenure of a psychologist working for CHS since 2016.

- (5) How many people have been on the wait list to see a psychologist each year since 2016.
- (6) How many psychiatrists (headcount and FTE) have been employed by CHS each year since 2016.
- (7) How many psychiatrists (headcount and FTE) have exited CHS each year since 2016.
- (8) Can the Minister provide, for all psychiatrists employed by CHS, a list of (a) the name of the organisation, (b) how many psychiatrists work at the organisation (headcount and FTE), (c) the wait times to make an appointment with a psychiatrist, (d) the wait time to meet the psychiatrist and (e) the wait times for any follow-up meeting or post-discharge appointment with a psychiatrist.
- (9) What is the average tenure of a psychiatrist at CHS since 2016.
- (10) How many people have been on the wait list to see a psychiatrist each year since 2016.
- (11) What is a psychiatry registrar.
- (12) How many psychiatric registrars are employed by CHS.
- (13) What is the wait time for a psychiatric registrar.
- (14) Do all patients who need to see a psychiatrist speak to a psychiatry registrar before speaking to a psychiatrist.
- (15) What programs or policy is the ACT Government adopting and/or considering to employ more (a) psychologists and (b) psychiatrists.

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

- 1) Data dating from 2016 is unavailable, the current FTE and headcount is provided below
- 2) This data is unavailable.
- 3) a) CHS division as set out in the table below.  
b)

Division	Headcount	FTE
Acute Allied Health (Acute)	14	9.73
Women Youth & Children (WYC)	6	4.6
Rehabilitation Aged and Community Care (RACS)	8	7.6
Cancer and Ambulatory Support (CAS)	1	0.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22.33</b>

This information is unable to be sourced for Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services (MHJHADS) due to employing majority of its psychologists under an Allied Health/Health Professional Officer classification. This classification includes psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists.

- c) Response provided is the wait time between receipt of the referral and when the patient is contacted to make an appointment

Division	Service	Wait time
Acute	Outpatient Paediatric Clinic	63 days
	Outpatient Neuropsychology Clinic	6 months
WYC	All services	1 week
CAS	Outpatient	4 weeks
MHJHADS	Outpatient	2 weeks
RACS	Outpatient Neuropsychology	3 months
	Outpatient Clinical Psychology	1 month
	Inpatient	2 days

MHJHADS do not provide the option for individuals to call or send a referral requesting an appointment with just a psychologist. Psychologists work as part of a multidisciplinary team providing assessment and care planning for people experiencing mental illness.

- d) Response provided is the wait time between contact for an appointment and actual appointment

Division	Service	Wait time
Acute	Outpatient Paediatric Clinic	3 weeks
	Outpatient Neuropsychology Clinic	3 weeks
	Inpatient	3 days
WYC	All services	2 weeks
RACS	Neuropsychology	3 months
	Clinical Psychology	1 month
	Inpatient	2 days
CAS	Outpatient	4 weeks

MHJHADS - As per response for question 3c.

- e) Response provided is the time between discharge from hospital and follow up outpatient appointment by same provider AND Time Between appointments.

Division	Wait time
Acute	2 weeks
WYC	2 weeks
RACS	2 weeks
CAS	No wait

MHJHADS per response for question 3c.

- 4) The average tenure of a psychologist within MHJHADS is three to four years. The average tenure for a psychologist within the acute support psychology unit and RACS is approximately seven years.
- 5) Data for previous years is available, current number of people waiting to see a psychologist below.

Division	Service
Acute	Clinical Psychology – 19
	Neuropsychology - 22
WYC	Women's Health Service - 37
RACS	Neuropsychology 83 outpatients 28 inpatients
	Clinical Psychology 74 outpatients 145 inpatient referrals
CAS	Nil

MHJHADS - As per response for question 3c.

- 6) CHS is unable to report how many Psychiatrists (Headcount/FTE) have been recruited and separated within detailed areas of interest provided. Data has been provided detailing the paid headcount annually from 2020. The reported Headcount and FTE only reflects paid specialists employed by CHS. This may also include non-psychiatrists who work within the MHJHADS Division.

Pay Date	FTE	Headcount
27 May 2020	43.85	55
26 May 2021	41.55	51
25 May 2022	37.77	48

Please note the reported data in the table does not include Junior Medical Staff or Visiting Medical Officers. The data above only reflects paid specialists employed by CHS.

- 7) As per response to 6).

8)

a) Canberra Health Services, MHJHADS

b) As of 1 June 2022, the headcount of psychiatrist's at CHS is 48 and FTE 37.77.

c) When a person is referred to MHJHADS for a psychiatrist appointment, the individual is assessed based on their clinical presentation and is triaged appropriately, therefore wait times will vary dependent on the person's clinical needs and degree of risk.

d) If a psychiatrist accepted a referral, an appointment is generally booked within 48 hours of receiving a referral. The average wait time currently to see a psychiatrist with Adult Community Mental Health Services is four weeks. For children and adolescents clinically managed by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, the average wait time is three weeks.

- e) Follow up appointments are scheduled as clinically indicated this will determine the time an individual must wait for an appointment. Majority of psychiatrists within MHJHADS have emergency appointments available, if required.
- 9) The average tenure of a psychiatrist at CHS is 11 to 12 years.
- 10) When a person is referred to mental health services, they are allocated an appointment with the relevant multidisciplinary team member based on the outcome of a triage assessment. For individuals who are assessed as requiring an appointment with a psychiatrist, they are allocated to the next available appointment. Mental health does not operate on a wait list model.
- 11) A psychiatric registrar is a junior doctor who has completed medical training and a mandatory internship to gain experience across a range of medical specialties, including psychiatry. If the psychiatric registrar is interested in pursuing psychiatry as a specialty, they will apply for registrar positions and work across a range of different psychiatric disciplines such as general adult, acute and community based, older persons mental health, and child and adolescent mental health. Psychiatric registrars are able to apply and join the training program of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP). The training program is a minimum of five years duration and involves an undertaking of a formal education program, workplace based practical assessments, as well as formal exams. On successful completion of the training program, they are awarded an internationally recognised qualification.
- 12) As at 16 June 2022, the identified psychiatric registrars is listed below

Registrar	34
Senior Resident Medical Officer	4
Career Medical Officer	4
Senior Career Medical Officer	2

Note: This is individuals, not FTE, all undertaking the work of a psychiatric registrar

- 13) As per response for question 8c.
- 14) For individuals who require a psychiatric assessment, the level of care and treatment required from the multidisciplinary team is determined on a case-by-case basis, therefore the level of medical support one person requires will be different to another. This is also determined by a person's clinical presentation and degree of risk.
- 15) The service is committed to supporting ongoing recruitment of psychiatrists and psychologists and recognises this is a crucial area of focus, both nationally and internationally. MHJHADS senior clinicians attended the RANZCP Congress in Sydney in May 2022 to promote employment opportunities within CHS for medical staff, as well as nurses and allied health professionals. MHJHADS provides a range of opportunities for psychologists and psychiatrists inclusive of supervision, mentoring and training for professional development to attract and retain our workforce. MHJHADS additionally ran a recruitment campaign through LinkedIn in 2021 to attract staff to work for the service which continues to be advertised through CHS social media channels.

- a) An Intern program was established in 2015, 16 psychologists have commenced on internships with 12 remaining within the workforce – 75 per cent retention rate. The previous two-year programme has been replaced by a one-year programme, therefore increasing the intake to annually rather than every two years. It can be projected that with annual recruitment, numbers of interns will grow due to the shortening of the intern programme.
- b) All vacant medical positions within MHJHADS, including rolling recruitment are advertised through the ACT Public Service jobs website, the RANZCP journal, LinkedIn and other relevant websites. An ongoing campaign to recruit Psychiatrists is now live on the ACT Public Service jobs website. Where there are no suitable Australian qualified applicants, the Area of Need program allows suitably qualified internationally trained medical officers to be employed under particular supervisory and contractual arrangements. CHS supports international graduates to transition into meeting the RANZCP pathway and guidelines to successfully work within the ACT. A Talent Acquisition specialist has been employed at CHS to focus on a search assignment for psychiatrists.

### **Hospitals—bed occupancy rates and staffing (Question No 833)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 10 June 2022:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of all wards at the (a) Canberra Hospital and (b) Calvary Public Hospital, including (i) a brief description of each ward, (ii) how many beds are in each ward, (iii) how many treatment spaces are in each ward, (iv) how many staff are scheduled for each ward including job title and classification for (A) morning, (B) afternoon and (C) night shift, (v) how many patients have been admitted to each ward in the last financial year, (vi) how many patients have been discharged from each ward in the last financial year, (vii) how many staff (headcount) have been recruited for each ward in the last financial year, (viii) how many staff (headcount) have separated from each ward in the last financial year, (ix) what was the budget allocated for each ward in the last financial year, (x) how much was spent by each ward in the last financial year and (xi) what was the average length of stay for a patient in each ward.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- i. See Canberra Health Services (CHS) Ward Map at [Attachment A](#). Note that bed numbers/wards are dynamic and subject to change according to clinical need.

See the below table for information from Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB).

<b>Calvary Public Hospital Bruce</b>	
<b>Name of Ward (Inpatient wards only)</b>	<b>Number of beds<sup>1</sup></b>
Calvary Respiratory Assessment Unit	12
Intensive Care and Coronary care unit	14
Emergency Short Stay Unit <sup>2</sup>	15
3S Maternity	18
Birth Suite	6
Birth Centre	2
Special Care Nursery	8
Medical Assessment and Planning Unit	28

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	
Name of Ward (Inpatient wards only)	Number of beds <sup>1</sup>
4E Medical	24
4W Medical	28
Stroke Unit	6
Acacia Ward (Mental Health services only)	21
Older Persons Mental Health Unit (Mental Health services only)	15
Surgical	28
5W Surgical	28

<sup>1</sup> - Average number of beds operated throughout the year. Beds is the measure used for inpatient settings, treatment spaces not applicable. Note that bed numbers/wards are dynamic and subject to change according to clinical need.

<sup>2</sup> - Excludes beds currently utilised for the COVID-19 Red zone

ii. See above response to Question i.

iii. See above response to Question i.

iv. A complete list of all staff rostered for morning, afternoon and night shift for each ward at CHS and CPHB has not been provided as it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to complete this request.

v. Neither CPHB nor CHS report at the ward level. Performance information for each hospital is available via the ACT Public Health Services Quarterly Performance Report.

<https://health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/act-public-health-services-quarterly-performance-report>

vi. Refer to response to Question v.

vii. CHS is unable report at the ward level and CPHB does not routinely collect data at ward level for staff recruitment. The ACT Health Directorate provided mental health ward level data for QON 830, however, to provide detailed staffing recruitment and separation information for each ward would be resource intensive and take key personnel away from their core functions which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

viii. Refer to response to Question vii. I also refer the Member to QON 834 which provides overall staff exits.

ix. CHS does not report Budget allocations at the Ward level. Please refer to *Budget Paper C*:

[https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/1698934/2020-21-Budget-Statements-C.pdf](https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1698934/2020-21-Budget-Statements-C.pdf)

CPHB does not report budget allocation at the Ward level. National Weighted Activity Unit (NWAU) costs per patient episode are available through the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) benchmarking portal, the latest data publicly available is 2019-20.

<https://benchmarking.ihpa.gov.au/extensions/ihpanbp/index.html#/periodic-insights/overview>

- x. CHS does not report expenditure at the Ward level. CHS's 2021-22 Annual Report has yet to be finalised, however a comparison of CHS's financial position can be found within CHS' 2020-21 Annual Report - Canberra Health Services Annual Report 2020-2021 (act.gov.au).

See CPHB response to Question ix.

- xi. Neither CHS nor CPHB report Length of Stay at the Ward level. Performance information is available via the ACT Public Health Services Quarterly Performance Reports.

<https://health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/act-public-health-services-quarterly-performance-report>

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

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### **ACT Health—occupational violence (Question No 835)**

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 10 June 2022:

- (1) What have been the occupational violence figures in each ward (eg intensive care unit, emergency), for the past 12 months.
- (2) Can the Minister explain how (a) Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) and (b) occupational violence LIFTR is calculated and used as an indicator for work health safety incidents.
- (3) What is the actual rate for occupational violence LTIFR in June 2022.
- (4) What is the target occupational violence LTIFR for (a) 2020-21, (b) 2021-22 and (c) 2022-23.
- (5) What is the actual occupational violence LTIFR, both (a) verbal (b) physical, broken down for each month for the past year.
- (6) What is the actual rate for LTIFR in June 2022.
- (7) What is the target LTIFR for (a) 2020-21, (b) 2021-22 and (c) 2022-23.
- (8) What is the actual LTIFR, both (a) verbal (b) physical, broken down for each month for the past year.
- (9) What are the LTIFR classifications.
- (10) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of all LTIFR incidents by classification for (a) 2020-21 and (b) 2021-22.
- (11) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of how many occupational violence incidents were by (a) patients, (b) consumers, (c) clients and (d) staff for (i) 2020-21 and (ii) 2021-22.



**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- 1) Canberra Health Services (CHS) Occupational Violence (OV) Staff Incident Reports FY2021/22 (as at 15/06/2022) based on staff incidents reported in the CHS Riskman system.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>FY2021-22</b>
<b>Physical Location</b>	<b>Number of OV Incidents</b>
Adult Mental Health Unit (AMHU)	170
DMHU	103
Level 2 - Ward 11A	72
Level 2 - Emergency Department (ED)	70
Level 4 - Ward 4B	39
Level 3 - Intensive Care Unit (ICU)	34
Level 7 - Ward 7A	30
Level 2 - Ward 11B	25
UCH – Stromlo Ward	25
UCH - Namadgi Ward	22
Alcohol & Drug Unit	22
UCH – Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit	18
Level 7 - Ward 7B	18
Level 9 - Ward 9A	17
Level 10 - Ward 10A	15
UCH – Majura Ward	14
Level 9 - Ward 9B	12
UCH - Cotter Ward	9
Level 5 - 5B	9
Level 6 - Ward 6A	8
Level 3 - Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU)	7
Level 5 - Orthopaedics Surgery 5A	7
Level 6 - Ward 6B	7
TCH - B1 - Level 10B (QSII)	7
CHWC- Paediatric Adolescents Ward	6
Level 4 - Ward 4A	5
TCH 14A - Inpatient Haematology	5
Level 8 - Ward 8B	4
TCH - 12B	4
CHWC - Birthing Suite	3
Mental Health Short Stay Unit	3
CHWC - Antenatal and Gynaecology Ward	2
CACHS Ward 14B / Medical Oncology	2
Acute Medical Unit (AMU)	1
Acute Surgical Unit	1
CHWC - Birth Centre	1
CHWC - Foetal Medicine	1
CHWC- Paediatric High Care Ward	1
CHWC- Paediatric Medical Ward	1
CHWC-Special Care Nursery	1
Level 3 - Coronary Care Unit (CCU)	1
Level 8 - Ward 8A	1

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce Occupational Violence incidents - by ward*	July 2021 – 27 June 2022
4E	13
4W	1
5W	2
6W	1
Acacia (Adult Mental Health)	6
Clare Holland House	12
COVID Respiratory Assessment Unit	2
Emergency Department	20
GRACE service	1
Intensive Care	5
Main Reception	1
MAPU	6
Older Persons Mental Health Unit	4
Physiotherapy	1
Security	1
SSU	1
Stroke	1
Theatre	3
Hospital in the Home	1

\* The numbers include incidents in CPHB wards only, therefore differ to numbers in question 11.

- 2) a) CHS and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) define and calculate LTIFR differently.

CHS defines LTIFR as 'lost time incident frequency rate' and this is calculated based on a variation of the Safe Work Australia formula for 'lost time injury frequency rate'. The following calculation is used:

$$\frac{(\text{Number of lost time incidents* in accounting period})}{(\text{Total hours worked in accounting period})} \times 1,000,000$$

\* Lost time incident = lost time of less than 1 day or more than 1 day lost time (based on any staff incident reported in Riskman of any classification as per the *Types of Occurrence Classification System*)

Lost time incidents are used as an indicator of the severity of incidents.

CPHB defines LTIFR as 'lost time injury frequency rate' and this is calculated according to the Safe Work Australia formula for 'lost time injury frequency rate'.

$$\frac{(\text{Number of lost time injuries* in accounting period})}{(\text{Total hours worked in accounting period})} \times 1,000,000$$

\*Lost time injury = Lost time injuries involving 1 day or more lost time (based on injury claims recorded by the insurer)

- b) CHS defines OV LTIFR as 'occupational violence lost time incident frequency rate' and this is calculated based on a variation of the Safe Work Australia formula for 'lost time injury frequency rate'. The following calculation is used:

$$\frac{(\text{Number of OV lost time injuries* in accounting period})}{(\text{Total hours worked in accounting period})} \times 1,000,000$$

\* OV Lost time incident = lost time of less than 1 day or more than 1 day lost time (based on staff incidents reported in Riskman and classified as either 'exposure to workplace or occupational violence' or 'being assaulted by a person or persons' as per the *Types of Occurrence Classification System*)

Lost time incidents are used as an indicator of the severity of reported staff incidents that involve OV.

CPHB does not measure or report on LTIFR by incident classification.

3) CHS = 6.73. Data is not available for CPHB, see response to 2(b).

4)

CHS	
Financial Year	Target OV LTIFR
2020-21	0.484*
2021-22	5.80
2022-23	5.80
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that methodology changed between 2020-21 and 2021-22. The Director Business Intelligence, FBI, recommended a revision of the formula to provide slightly better accuracy and to be consistent with calculations typically used by CHS for FTE count and deduction of leave entitlements etc.</li> <li>The 2020-21 calculation measured the number of incidents (per month) per million hours worked (per 50-week year).</li> <li>The updated calculation reflects the number of incidents (per year) per million hours worked (per 45-week year) i.e. 45 weeks/12 months = 3.75 and 40 hours = hours per week.</li> </ul>	

CPHB does not have specific occupational violence LTIFR targets.

5) The Occupational Violence (OV) LTIFR is calculated as a total only (not by type of OV).

CHS	
Month	OV LTIFR
June 2021	0.291
July 2021	10.56
August 2021	7.68
September 2021	5.92
October 2021	8.35
November 2021	3.37
December 2021	1.69
January 2022	5.08
February 2022	15.85
March 2022	3.35
April 2022	8.37
May 2022	3.36

Data is not available for CPHB. See response to 2(b).

6) Rates for the month of June 2022: CHS = 20.25; CPHB = 14.40.

7)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
CPHB – Overall LTIFR	18.00	18.00	18.00
CHS – All WHS Incidents LTIFR	1.74*	23.50	23.50

\* See response to Question 4 regarding revision to formula between 2020-21 and 2021-22

- 8) For CHS the actual 'All WHS Incidents' LTIFR is not broken down into further categories.

Data is not available for CPHB. See response to 2(b).

- 9) For staff incidents, CHS and CPHB use classifications based on the Australian Safety and Compensation Council 'Type of Occurrence Classification System' (TOOCS) codes. These codes are available via: [Type of occurrence classification system \(TOOCS\) 3rd Edition May 2008 | Safe Work Australia](#)

- 10) a) CHS 'All WHS Incidents' LTIFR Classification 2020-21:

	<b>Total</b>
29 Being assaulted by a person or persons	53
42 Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down	47
41 Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, or putting down objects	35
02 Falls on the same level	31
87 Work related harassment and/or workplace bullying	30
44 Repetitive movement, low muscle loading	16
11 Hitting stationary objects	14
61 Single contact with chemical or substance	11
43 Muscular stress with no objects being handled	8
82 Exposure to workplace or occupational violence	8
01 Falls from a height	7
21 Being hit by falling objects	5
92 Vehicle incident	5
99 Unspecified mechanisms of incidents	5
84 Work Pressure	4
12 Hitting moving objects	3
28 Being hit by moving objects	3
24 Being hit by a person accidentally	2
26 Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	2
53 Exposure to environmental heat	2
55 Exposure to non-ionising radiation	2
72 Contact with, or exposure to, biological factors of human origin	2
81 Exposure to a traumatic event	2
98 Other and multiple mechanisms of incident	2
25 Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment	1
63 Insect and spider bites and stings	1
86 Other mental stress factors	1

- b) CHS 'All WHS Incidents' LTIFR Classification 2021-22 (as at 15 June 2022)

	<b>Total</b>
29 Being assaulted by a person or persons	73
02 Falls on the same level	36
87 Work related harassment and/or workplace bullying	29
42 Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down	28
11 Hitting stationary objects	19
41 Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, or putting down objects	16
82 Exposure to workplace or occupational violence	16
28 Being hit by moving objects	12
44 Repetitive movement, low muscle loading	12
84 Work Pressure	11

	<b>Total</b>
01 Falls from a height	9
43 Muscular stress with no objects being handled	9
26 Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	5
72 Contact with, or exposure to, biological factors of human origin	5
81 Exposure to a traumatic event	5
13 Rubbing and chafing	3
23 Being hit by an animal	3
03 Stepping, kneeling or sitting on objects	2
21 Being hit by falling objects	2
61 Single contact with chemical or substance	2
62 Long term contact with chemicals or substances	2
86 Other mental stress factors	2
99 Unspecified mechanisms of incidents	2
12 Hitting moving objects	1
63 Insect and spider bites and stings	1
69 Other and unspecified contact with chemicals or substances	1
88 Other harassment	1
89 Mental stress related to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)	1
92 Vehicle incident	1

CPHB does not measure or report on LTIFR by incident classification. CPHB has provided the below data on Lost Time Injury (LTI) incidents for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 periods.

<b>Calvary Public Hospital Bruce – LTI incidents by classification</b>			
<b>2020-21</b>		<b>2021-22</b>	
Being hit by moving objects	1	Being hit by moving objects	0
Blood and body fluid exposure	1	Blood and body fluid exposure	3
Chemicals and other substances	5	Chemicals and other substances	4
Falls, trips and slips of a person	18	Falls, trips and slips of a person	10
Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	3	Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	0
Hitting objects with a part of the body	17	Hitting objects with a part of the body	1
Laceration	4	Laceration	1
Manual tasks	18	Manual tasks	25
Mental stress	12	Mental stress	2
Sounds and pressure	1	Sounds and pressure	1
Vehicle incidents and other	11	Vehicle incidents and other	0
Violence and aggression	9	Violence and aggression	1

- 11) CHS Occupational Violence staff incident reports include all incidents involving patients, consumers, and clients. They do not include incidents involving other CHS staff.

<b>Calvary Public Hospital Bruce – Breakdown of all* OV incidents</b>		
	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Patients	50	84
Consumers	14	0
Staff	12	5

\* The numbers include all incidents across the CPHB and CHH campuses (not just wards) and therefore differ to numbers provided in response to Question 1.

## **Government—commercial forestry (Question No 842)**

**Mr Parton** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 10 June 2022:

- (1) What are the names and locations of forests that are, or could be, harvested for commercial purposes (eg, pine forests) that are owned by the Government or of which it has custody.
- (2) What is the planted area of each forest referred to in part (1).
- (3) What forests are due to be harvested in the next (a) six months, (b) twelve months, (c) two years and (d) three years.
- (4) What is the expected quantum of the harvest (eg, tonnes) for each planned harvest activity for each forest.
- (5) Which business entities is the harvest sold to (eg, is it sold to local processors or timber industry businesses or sold to interstate customers).
- (6) Does the Government use a marketing agent or does it sell the harvested timber directly to customers.
- (7) If a marketing agent is used, (a) who is that agent, (b) for how long has the Government had a contract with that agent, (c) when was that contract established and (d) when does it expire.
- (8) If the harvested timber is sold to individual customers, (a) what are the contractual arrangements for undertaking those sales, (b) who are the contracts with and (c) when do these contracts expire.
- (9) What have been the receipts from sale of timber in each of the past five financial years.
- (10) What receipts are expected from timber sales in 2021-22 and across the forward estimates.
- (11) What plans are in place to improve yield and sustainability.
- (12) What plans are there to use forest plantations for alternative purposes such as residential or recreational areas.

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

1 & 2)

Forest Name	Planted Area (hectares)	Species
Fairbairn	53	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Gibraltar	16	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Hyles	306	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Isaacs	23	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Ingledene	195	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Kowen	4372	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Majura	53	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Miowera	107	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Pierces Creek	1377	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Stromlo	105	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Tuggeranong	28	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Uriarra	952	<i>Pinus radiata</i>

3)

Harvesting period	Forest name and operation type
(a) 6 months – Q3&Q4 2022	Kowen – clearfall & replanting Majura – clearfall & replanting Uriarra and Pierces Creek - thinning
(b) 12 months – FY23 (2022-23)	Kowen – clearfall & replanting Uriarra and Pierces Creek - thinning
(c) 2 years – FY23 and FY24	Kowen – clearfall & replanting Fairbairn – clearfall & replanting Kowen – thinning Uriarra and Pierces Creek - thinning
(d) 3 years – FY23, FY24 and FY25	Kowen – clearfall & replanting Kowen – thinning Uriarra and Pierces Creek - thinning

4)

Estimated Harvest quantity - tonnes					
Period	Kowen	Majura Miowera	Uriarra/ Pierces Creek	Fairbairn	TOTAL
<b>FY22</b>	65535	9100	30589	0	<b>105224</b>
<b>FY23</b>	61764	9729	35165	0	<b>106658</b>
<b>FY24</b>	84956	0	3123	12253	<b>100332</b>
<b>FY25</b>	67723	0	16028	0	<b>83751</b>

5) The ACT Government has three Timber Sales Agreements in place with businesses located in Fyshwick ACT, Tumbarumba and Tumut NSW. The harvested timber is sold at commercial rates.

6) The ACT Government has direct Timber Sales Agreements with each customer which were established following a competitive tender process. The Forest Corporation of NSW provided assistance in this process.

7) Not applicable.

8) The harvesting contract is available at  
<https://www.tenders.act.gov.au/contract/view?id=189853>

Timber is sold via a competitive process under Timber Sale Agreements. The ACT Government has Timber Sale Agreements with three business in the ACT and Region. Contracts expire in December 2023.

9)

Financial Year	Receipts from timber sales (ex GST)
2020-21	\$5,038,954.27
2019-20	\$5,676,168.40
2018-19	\$5,733,491.71
2017-18	\$5,467,317.09
2016-17	\$5,300,562.80

10)

Financial Year	Expected receipts from timber sales (ex GST)
2021-22	\$7,980,000
2022-23	\$8,200,000
2023-24	\$8,000,000
2024-25	\$7,400,000
2025-26	\$7,600,000

- 11) The ACT Government is working to obtain independent third-party sustainable forest management certification through the globally recognised Forest Stewardship Council.

The ACT Government's plantation manager, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, is preparing for its first full assessment against the Forest Stewardship Council's Australian Forest Management Standard in January 2023.

To improve yields, the ACT Government regularly undertakes foliage sampling and assessment to tailor fertiliser applications to suit local growing conditions.

- 12) Noting the multiple recreational values that timber plantations already provide, there are no plans to use forest plantations for alternative purposes with two exceptions:

- planted *Pinus radiata* forests in the Lower Cotter Catchment will be converted to permanent native vegetation cover after the current crop rotation is completed;
- planted *Pinus radiata* stands in the former Stromlo pines area adjacent to the Tuggeranong Parkway and National Arboretum Canberra are expected to be removed in future to enable development of Molonglo Stage 3 for residential use.

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### Influenza—vaccination (Question No 862)

**Ms Castley** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 10 June 2022:

- (1) Is the Government considering free flu vaccinations to more at-risk groups in the ACT.
- (2) What information did the Government use to inform its decision to deny a free flu vaccine to seniors under 65 who are self-funded retirees.
- (3) What is the average length of stay for emergency department presentations due to influenza.



- (4) What is the average cost of an influenza presentation to ACT's public hospitals.
- (5) How much is the Government spending on flu vaccinations.
- (6) What is the expected total cost of flu vaccinations.
- (7) How much has been budgeted for the program and where is the money coming from.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Annual influenza vaccine is available through the Commonwealth funded National Immunisation Program (NIP) for people most at risk of complications from influenza. This includes children aged 6 months to less than 5 years; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over; pregnant women; people aged 65 years and over; and people with certain medical conditions.

In 2022, the ACT Government is also providing free influenza vaccinations to additional members of our community who are most at risk of poor health outcomes and for those where significant barriers to access remain. These individuals may not be eligible for vaccination under the NIP and includes people with disability, their support workers and carers, and concession card holders.

The decision of the ACT Government to offer free flu vaccinations to these vulnerable members of the community is in response to the increase in cases of influenza anticipated during 2022. Vaccination for eligible individuals is available at the Access and Sensory Clinic in Weston Creek.

- (2) Self-funded retirees less than 65 years are eligible to receive a free flu vaccine if they are identified in the NIP, live with disability (including being a carer), or are a concession card holder.
- (3) See combined response below for questions 3 and 4.

The average cost of influenza emergency department presentations in 2019-20 was \$1,246.21 (261 presentations) and in 2020-21 was \$836.69 (12 presentations). The average length of stay for an emergency department presentation was 435.61 minutes in 2019 20 and 352.16 minutes in 2020 21.

2021-22 data will be finalised after the national submissions are completed and activity is reconciled with National Health Funding Body. This is likely to occur after November this year.

- (5) Purchase of influenza vaccines for the ACT program was at a total cost of \$148,500 for a small number of additional vaccines funded by ACT Government to fill a gap that the NIP did not cover. The majority of vaccines for the ACT are provided by the Commonwealth under the NIP.
- (6) The ACT Influenza Program is an opportunistic vaccination program, administered in conjunction with the COVID-19 Vaccination Program (Co-administration). Free vaccines are administered at the Access and Sensory Clinic alongside COVID-19 vaccines and is therefore already staffed by appropriate nurse immunisers. Administration costs associated with the program are therefore expended from the COVID-19 Response budget.
- (7) The cost of influenza vaccines purchased to support the program is \$148,500.

Costs for program administration are shared by the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services and funds are allocated from the 2021-22 COVID-19 Response Budget as part of Access and Sensory Clinic delivery.

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**Municipal services—Fix My Street  
(Question No 864)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) How many full-time equivalent employees are employed at Transport Canberra and City Services to specifically respond to Fix My Street requests.
- (2) What is this average annual salary for the roles referred to in part (1).
- (3) Are there teams to respond to specific categories of Fix My Street requests, for example, potholes, footpath maintenance, illegal dumping; if so, can the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of staff dedicated to each category.
- (4) Is there a team specifically employed for proactive maintenance of Canberra suburbs that carry out regular inspections of suburbs and areas that have high levels of maintenance complaints; if so, how often are suburb inspections undertaken.

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

- (1) Any member of TCCS may directly or indirectly respond to Fix My Street (FMS) requests either to liaise and consult with a customer or action a request. No teams' duties are restricted exclusively to respond to FMS enquiries.
  - (2) See above.
  - (3) No, FMS enquiries are often multi-faceted and may require input from one or more TCCS officers and teams. No teams' duties are restricted exclusively to responding to FMS enquiries.
  - (4) Regular inspections of Canberra suburbs occur in line with the information provided on the City Services website.
    - Public land maintenance at <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/maintenance>.
    - Road infrastructure and maintenance at <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/roads-and-paths/road-infrastructure-and-maintenance>.
    - Community path repairs and maintenance at <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/roads-and-paths/policies-reports/guidelines-for-community-path-repairs-and-maintenance>
- 

**Government—revenue  
(Question No 865)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

Can the Treasurer provide the revenue, by suburb, for the financial years 2011-2012 to 2016-2017 (inclusive), from (a) conveyance duty, (b) residential rates, (c) commercial rates and (d) land tax.

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

The revenue by suburb for the financial years 2011-12 to 2016-17 (inclusive) from (a) conveyance duty, (b) residential rates, (c) commercial rates and (d) land tax, are tabled below.

**(a) Conveyance duty**

Conveyance duty revenue by suburb is not available. The IT system that supported the collection of conveyance duty during this period was decommissioned in 2017. The system is archived, and transaction data is not able to be retrieved accurately on a suburb-by-suburb basis. Aggregated Duties amounts appearing in Consolidated Annual Financial Statements for financial years 2011-12 through to 2016-17 are summarised as follows:

<b>FY</b>	<b>2011-12 (\$m)</b>	<b>2012-13 (\$m)</b>	<b>2013-14 (\$m)</b>	<b>2014-15 (\$m)</b>	<b>2015-16 (\$m)</b>	<b>2016-17 (\$m)</b>
Duties <sup>1</sup>	320	306	291	270	327	348

<sup>1</sup> These amounts are the actual, audited amounts published in Consolidated Annual Financial Statements at the end of each financial year.

**(b) Residential Rates**

<b>Residential Rates <sup>1</sup></b>						
<b>Suburbs</b>	<b>2011-12 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2012-13 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2013-14 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2014-15 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2015-16 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2016-17 (\$'000)</b>
Ainslie	3,411	4,249	4,645	5,109	5,710	6,181
Amaroo	2,254	2,413	2,682	2,932	3,274	3,592
Aranda	1,485	1,754	1,961	2,206	2,472	2,735
Banks	2,201	2,319	2,547	2,772	3,089	3,303
Barton	872	1,026	1,131	1,260	1,555	1,691
Belconnen	2,063	2,274	2,830	3,333	3,998	4,547
Bonner	1,589	2,412	2,731	2,961	3,343	3,678
Bonython	1,579	1,688	1,861	2,035	2,291	2,500
Braddon	2,209	2,641	3,021	3,645	4,597	4,905
Bruce	2,343	2,717	3,211	3,559	4,040	4,466
Calwell	2,545	2,721	3,005	3,304	3,715	4,056
Campbell	2,536	3,190	3,459	3,801	4,414	4,798
Casey	1,207	1,827	2,385	3,100	3,520	3,860
Chapman	1,670	1,912	2,071	2,271	2,511	2,786
Charnwood	1,367	1,439	1,591	1,722	1,922	2,088
Chifley	1,504	1,693	1,862	2,031	2,267	2,482
Chisholm	2,455	2,641	2,891	3,128	3,461	3,720
City	944	986	1,340	1,809	2,052	2,338
Conder	2,091	2,208	2,419	2,618	2,921	3,175
Cook	1,687	1,933	2,168	2,359	2,610	2,858
Coombs	0	0	66	886	1,501	1,898
Crace	1,047	1,520	1,998	2,281	2,659	2,991
Curtin	3,534	4,112	4,518	4,949	5,417	5,848
Deakin	2,670	3,452	3,738	4,121	4,508	4,845
Denman Prospect	0	0	0	0	0	680
Dickson	1,265	1,536	1,725	1,908	2,156	2,437

Suburbs	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
Downer	2,142	2,434	2,709	3,044	3,510	3,866
Duffy	1,739	1,944	2,193	2,367	2,620	2,814
Dunlop	2,848	2,921	3,257	3,587	4,068	4,387
Evatt	2,610	2,760	3,035	3,283	3,642	3,918
Fadden	1,538	1,702	1,868	2,024	2,238	2,416
Farrer	1,969	2,304	2,531	2,755	2,994	3,203
Fisher	1,591	1,774	1,985	2,173	2,402	2,601
Florey	2,379	2,587	2,869	3,117	3,463	3,742
Flynn	1,632	1,740	1,904	2,043	2,243	2,424
Forde	1,505	1,731	1,931	2,140	2,432	2,709
Forrest	2,070	2,757	2,982	3,273	3,513	3,824
Franklin	1,689	2,002	2,489	2,842	3,558	3,945
Fraser	961	1,024	1,116	1,218	1,356	1,469
Garran	2,076	2,492	2,776	3,080	3,377	3,606
Gilmore	1,232	1,307	1,452	1,597	1,791	1,946
Giralang	1,593	1,698	1,876	2,056	2,307	2,515
Gordon	3,248	3,420	3,807	4,155	4,643	5,018
Gowrie	1,370	1,455	1,603	1,757	1,973	2,180
Greenway	728	765	968	1,067	1,197	1,473
Griffith	3,689	4,640	5,055	5,657	6,249	6,919
Gungahlin	2,184	2,325	2,647	2,925	3,306	3,602
Hackett	1,874	2,195	2,427	2,672	2,958	3,224
Hall	199	238	261	286	318	327
Harrison	1,749	2,458	2,937	3,387	4,029	4,718
Hawker	1,686	1,954	2,188	2,383	2,608	2,794
Higgins	1,461	1,594	1,812	1,972	2,190	2,369
Holder	1,435	1,590	1,784	1,941	2,145	2,324
Holt	2,219	2,346	2,617	2,889	3,215	3,487
Hughes	1,898	2,273	2,493	2,732	2,994	3,222
Isaacs	1,467	1,672	1,859	2,046	2,254	2,390
Isabella Plains	1,740	1,852	2,045	2,240	2,508	2,756
Jacka	0	51	191	233	288	356
Kaleen	3,560	3,866	4,245	4,673	5,270	5,800
Kambah	7,399	7,976	8,750	9,539	10,602	11,588
Kingston	2,190	2,454	3,056	3,503	4,256	4,772
Latham	1,685	1,798	1,997	2,173	2,418	2,635
Lawson	0	0	0	39	604	1,131
Lyneham	2,253	2,856	3,187	3,509	4,059	4,400
Lyons	1,552	1,907	2,082	2,338	2,554	2,763
Macarthur	671	727	796	869	969	1,056
Macgregor	2,655	2,926	3,290	3,594	4,065	4,457
Macquarie	1,314	1,519	1,720	1,991	2,199	2,412
Mawson	1,762	1,993	2,219	2,447	2,748	2,989
McKellar	1,296	1,424	1,606	1,775	1,960	2,093
Melba	1,532	1,673	1,860	2,035	2,249	2,450
Monash	2,346	2,506	2,746	3,010	3,383	3,673
Moncrieff	0	0	0	0	261	2,126
Narrabundah	3,925	4,675	5,165	5,688	6,276	6,733
Ngunnawal	3,765	4,044	4,771	5,576	6,481	7,038
Nicholls	3,063	3,340	3,693	3,989	4,430	4,797
O'Connor	3,810	4,602	5,025	5,596	6,276	6,876
O'Malley	926	1,111	1,245	1,381	1,528	1,651
Oaks Estate	95	112	123	139	159	172
Oxley	815	878	966	1,047	1,166	1,273
Page	1,293	1,431	1,607	1,766	1,989	2,173

Suburbs	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
Palmerston	2,384	2,543	2,838	3,119	3,504	3,780
Pearce	1,595	1,815	1,983	2,154	2,333	2,486
Phillip	1,191	1,442	1,636	1,885	2,265	2,676
Pialligo	15	17	16	21	28	33
Red Hill	2,945	3,832	4,084	4,537	5,026	5,445
Reid	1,056	1,424	1,554	1,722	2,008	2,182
Richardson	1,386	1,464	1,609	1,763	1,979	2,144
Rivett	1,645	1,791	1,990	2,173	2,412	2,626
Scullin	1,352	1,488	1,671	1,831	2,045	2,207
Spence	1,174	1,267	1,406	1,535	1,692	1,821
Stirling	1,040	1,135	1,246	1,363	1,519	1,636
Tharwa	19	19	21	23	27	30
Theodore	1,615	1,723	1,894	2,067	2,307	2,524
Throsby	0	0	0	0	0	23
Torrens	1,383	1,572	1,707	1,864	2,018	2,165
Turner	2,066	2,599	2,913	3,246	3,681	4,104
Uriarra Village	129	126	136	147	165	183
Wanniassa	3,802	4,159	4,537	4,988	5,528	5,960
Waramanga	1,304	1,509	1,700	1,846	2,049	2,216
Watson	2,785	3,253	3,685	4,115	4,623	5,074
Weetangera	1,461	1,701	1,947	2,151	2,398	2,574
Weston	1,744	2,028	2,214	2,475	2,801	3,047
Wright	76	553	1,065	1,233	1,827	2,200
Yarralumla	3,105	3,955	4,287	4,779	5,317	5,784

<sup>1</sup> The residential rates amounts are net of rebates and includes the Fire Emergency Services Levy. In the 2016-17, the residential rates amounts also include the Safer Families Levy. These residential rates amounts are current as at 9 August 2022.

### **(c) Commercial Rates**

<b>Commercial Rates <sup>1, 2</sup></b>						
Suburbs	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
Acton	13	22	27	26	34	18
Ainslie	94	184	257	271	297	315
Amaroo	15	34	56	318	340	234
Aranda	18	39	57	67	74	79
Banks	15	26	51	57	44	43
Barton	1,926	4,617	5,834	6,831	7,490	7,157
Beard	293	843	1,007	1,101	1,187	1,457
Belconnen	3,475	7,447	8,055	9,645	9,601	10,504
Bonner	44	100	107	117	129	137
Bonython	17	32	41	46	50	53
Braddon	1,834	5,053	5,203	6,031	5,170	7,493
Bruce	718	1,477	1,210	820	1,512	1,447
Calwell	109	260	329	370	403	428
Campbell	160	458	566	814	487	1,142
Canberra Central	36	84	109	126	139	148
Casey	16	32	361	603	306	545
Chapman	14	30	36	33	30	32
Charnwood	101	223	275	304	343	412
Chifley	13	21	26	28	31	32
Chisholm	125	282	352	391	424	450
City	7,697	17,457	25,165	28,893	29,687	32,456
Conder	220	509	651	747	810	860

Suburbs	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
Cook	12	20	24	26	28	30
Coombs	0	0	0	24	139	148
Crace	7	96	92	123	138	150
Curtin	127	255	317	353	386	409
Deakin	1,675	2,948	3,670	4,131	4,508	5,089
Denman Prospect	0	0	0	0	0	8,180
Dickson	1,297	2,813	3,251	4,105	4,451	4,291
Downer	11	22	27	30	33	34
Duffy	11	0	18	4	21	22
Dunlop	14	32	41	47	52	55
Evatt	19	37	40	43	47	50
Fadden	16	25	31	32	35	37
Farrer	17	26	32	35	38	41
Fisher	22	34	42	46	50	53
Florey	42	74	90	98	106	112
Forde	33	56	57	69	80	84
Forrest	699	1,142	1,544	1,775	2,626	2,556
Franklin	11	165	242	326	358	0
Fraser	7	12	14	15	16	17
Fyshwick	8,035	17,305	21,286	23,671	25,709	27,380
Garran	72	124	209	223	244	259
Giralang	18	37	54	56	61	0
Gordon	14	24	30	47	32	69
Gowrie	20	42	52	59	64	68
Greenway	2,051	4,826	6,292	7,222	8,235	8,462
Griffith	1,844	4,021	4,963	5,748	6,077	6,691
Gungahlin	1,632	2,753	3,893	4,711	5,131	5,577
Hackett	21	39	48	52	56	59
Hall	52	97	115	158	74	126
Harrison	60	70	131	138	178	173
Hawker	181	337	417	460	497	527
Higgins	23	39	47	51	55	206
Holder	15	24	30	33	36	38
Holt	225	518	652	684	733	761
Hughes	34	63	74	78	85	90
Hume	1,846	4,251	5,199	6,214	7,212	7,959
Isaacs	31	60	77	87	96	101
Isabella Plains	11	23	28	30	33	34
Jerrabomberra	44	79	101	112	122	128
Kaleen	134	276	342	378	389	384
Kambah	279	593	740	817	1,048	1,120
Kingston	1,162	2,415	2,592	2,880	3,970	2,854
Latham	9	21	27	30	34	35
Lawson	3	5	7	7	1,389	0
Lyneham	378	654	820	923	1,000	1,060
Lyons	35	55	66	73	94	94
Macarthur	3	4	5	6	6	199
Macgregor	17	32	38	42	46	49
Macquarie	379	842	1,138	928	1,156	1,259
Majura	390	1,049	1,497	1,745	1,876	2,022
Mawson	322	643	791	873	949	1,005
McKellar	34	71	90	235	175	186
Melba	24	45	55	58	63	67
Mitchell	2,341	4,672	5,825	6,339	6,921	7,342
Molonglo	41	99	128	149	164	175

Suburbs	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
Monash	18	34	42	46	50	53
Moncrieff	0	0	0	0	0	126
Narrabundah	121	271	344	390	422	447
Ngunnawal	41	80	113	104	158	167
Nicholls	180	415	530	602	835	824
O'Connor	66	125	155	170	186	197
O'Malley	89	107	121	100	126	174
Oaks Estate	20	32	40	35	37	40
Oxley	0	0	33	29	32	34
Paddys River	11	16	20	20	22	23
Page	38	39	52	0	32	34
Palmerston	19	32	39	43	47	50
Pearce	15	23	29	32	35	37
Phillip	3,211	7,343	9,378	10,749	12,049	11,268
Pialligo	48	101	134	170	256	1,719
Red Hill	101	159	166	214	231	244
Reid	2	3	4	2	22	23
Richardson	11	22	26	29	31	33
Rivett	16	14	31	30	33	74
Scullin	36	68	84	93	102	108
Spence	24	42	50	54	58	62
Stirling	10	17	27	29	32	34
Stromlo	13	20	25	28	31	32
Symonston	628	1,532	1,972	2,202	2,343	2,530
Tharwa	10	14	18	20	22	23
Theodore	7	10	13	14	15	16
Throsby	0	0	0	0	0	35
Torrens	25	38	47	51	55	58
Tuggeranong	59	103	128	147	185	248
Turner	507	990	1,304	1,447	1,594	1,433
Wanniassa	428	883	1,091	1,210	1,298	1,369
Waramanga	31	45	55	61	66	70
Watson	127	336	515	392	531	563
Weetangera	16	23	30	32	35	37
Weston	515	1,115	1,402	1,588	2,422	2,199
Yarralumla	1,387	1,704	2,203	2,643	3,009	3,299

<sup>1</sup> The commercial rates amounts are net of rebates and includes the Fire Emergency Services Levy. These amounts are current as at 9 August 2022.

<sup>2</sup> In 2012-13 and as part of tax reform, commercial land tax was incorporated into general commercial rates.

#### **(d) Land Tax**

Land Tax <sup>1</sup>						
Suburbs	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
Ainslie	1,765	1,999	2,109	1,889	1,861	1,998
Amaroo	816	794	878	1,054	1,104	1,103
Aranda	552	609	645	570	657	596
Banks	459	436	513	668	678	621
Barton	2,886	538	736	935	962	1,010
Beard	293	3	0	0	0	0
Belconnen	4,546	1,065	1,114	2,605	3,024	3,132
Bonner	198	339	459	845	1,022	1,030
Bonython	463	481	475	714	760	728
Braddon	3,552	1,386	1,643	3,074	3,639	3,896

Suburbs	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
Bruce	1,670	1,032	1,277	2,216	2,538	2,727
Calwell	676	548	602	726	847	769
Campbell	1,355	1,369	1,380	1,211	1,293	1,721
Canberra Central	41	0	0	0	0	0
Casey	250	458	559	855	1,133	1,152
Chapman	344	401	341	427	359	348
Charnwood	366	297	255	353	378	407
Chifley	808	898	1,000	1,155	994	1,024
Chisholm	617	469	484	543	595	592
City	9,489	0	927	1,058	1,629	1,895
Conder	667	407	434	544	572	591
Cook	553	618	684	694	611	725
Coombs	0	0	1	60	152	218
Crace	109	211	402	724	921	1,033
Curtin	1,531	1,643	1,652	1,615	1,765	1,689
Deakin	2,444	1,737	1,854	1,479	1,431	1,472
Denman Prospect	0	0	0	0	0	321
Dickson	2,105	998	1,021	1,311	1,523	1,658
Downer	1,432	1,426	1,457	1,447	1,556	1,619
Duffy	384	452	492	541	551	505
Dunlop	568	499	609	848	867	778
Evatt	520	558	542	673	726	800
Fadden	249	263	266	231	233	273
Farrer	527	545	672	635	728	666
Fisher	459	459	540	518	525	540
Florey	728	700	790	984	911	940
Flynn	304	343	360	346	379	429
Forde	335	417	393	658	712	716
Forrest	1,302	1,077	1,581	1,158	1,180	1,201
Franklin	471	729	888	1,446	1,657	1,818
Fraser	119	112	142	150	139	156
Fyshwick	8,202	2	26	0	0	0
Garran	788	1,020	1,049	1,170	1,045	1,111
Gilmore	271	255	272	329	353	386
Giralang	449	410	437	456	494	658
Gordon	651	636	752	1,041	1,014	1,036
Gowrie	232	229	235	286	295	300
Greenway	2,888	330	398	673	753	756
Griffith	3,747	1,914	2,254	2,943	2,729	2,703
Gungahlin	2,226	1,094	1,411	2,019	2,194	2,196
Hackett	621	648	739	681	733	797
Hall	114	77	70	50	52	60
Harrison	934	943	1,153	1,766	2,107	2,233
Hawker	514	363	417	538	523	566
Higgins	331	312	341	370	405	428
Holder	336	372	505	490	526	520
Holt	684	377	512	748	757	793
Hughes	642	688	780	916	813	782
Hume	1,896	10	0	0	0	6
Isaacs	501	618	632	693	567	643
Isabella Plains	419	405	447	587	642	711
Jacka	0	0	3	20	83	49
Jerrabomberra	29	0	0	0	2	2
Kaleen	1,177	1,112	1,232	1,490	1,348	1,497
Kambah	1,726	1,433	1,564	2,065	1,827	1,917



Suburbs	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
Kingston	2,642	1,509	2,080	3,094	2,799	3,117
Latham	369	309	318	445	485	513
Lawson	2	0	0	0	42	114
Lyneham	1,434	1,301	1,294	1,891	2,089	2,169
Lyons	895	837	992	1,054	1,142	1,206
Macarthur	82	83	111	150	118	177
Macgregor	427	511	517	822	929	955
Macquarie	897	535	630	882	942	917
Majura	510	0	0	0	0	0
Mawson	1,043	829	900	1,071	1,013	1,172
McKellar	276	273	329	337	400	344
Melba	283	304	262	367	346	416
Mitchell	2,102	0	0	0	0	0
Molonglo	50	0	0	0	0	0
Monash	550	534	569	780	773	846
Moncrieff	0	0	0	0	16	215
Narrabundah	2,113	2,313	2,348	2,309	2,372	2,492
Ngunnawal	1,123	1,108	1,264	1,819	1,998	2,077
Nicholls	901	765	874	858	816	826
O'Connor	2,300	2,638	2,642	2,718	2,578	2,839
O'Malley	627	799	839	684	811	839
Oaks Estate	28	16	26	35	37	50
Oxley	148	208	172	201	206	220
Page	679	634	720	746	837	895
Palmerston	813	797	899	1,119	1,219	1,202
Pearce	551	626	729	654	673	681
Phillip	4,292	641	772	1,097	1,877	1,858
Pialligo	64	13	15	15	17	18
Red Hill	1,377	2,290	1,903	1,819	1,515	1,399
Reid	553	508	540	546	666	755
Richardson	225	219	247	311	326	370
Rivett	390	419	488	485	457	509
Scullin	432	394	468	529	608	703
Spence	204	165	204	221	263	289
Stirling	223	234	268	311	314	340
Symonston	797	0	0	0	0	0
Theodore	279	251	287	364	387	379
Torrens	534	550	545	570	593	562
Tuggeranong	53	11	11	9	9	9
Turner	1,838	1,528	1,746	2,260	2,338	2,456
Wanniassa	1,219	874	788	1,070	1,039	982
Waramanga	427	444	525	467	485	507
Watson	1,153	1,202	1,472	1,798	1,858	1,952
Weetangera	357	506	442	417	447	456
Weston	1,038	570	594	609	613	822
Wright	0	3	78	310	704	561
Yarralumla	1,857	2,414	2,012	1,622	1,672	1,608

<sup>1</sup> In 2012-13 and as part of tax reform, commercial land tax was abolished.

## Drugs—illicit drug related offences (Question No 866)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) How many people were charged with illicit drug related offences, broken down by (a) month, (b) type of drug and (c) quantity possessed, in (i) 2019-20, (ii) 2020-21, (iii) 2021-22 and (iv) 2022 to present.
- (2) How many of the people referred to in part (1) were charged multiple times for separate instances of illicit drug related offences.
- (3) How many of the people referred to in part (1) were incarcerated either as sentenced detainees or unsentenced detainees.

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

- 1) The below table is a breakdown of people charged with illicit drug related offences:

People Charged with Illicit Drug Related Offences					
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
<b>1a) Charges by month</b>					
July	35	15	14	25	89
August	27	21	10	6	64
September	24	23	10	0	57
October	38	13	17	0	68
November	40	15	21	0	76
December	45	24	17	0	86
January	27	32	16	0	75
February	17	11	11	0	39
March	46	20	12	0	78
April	22	31	20	0	73
May	32	23	14	0	69
June	23	21	23	0	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>841</b>

Total Illicit Drug Related Charges					
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
<b>1b) Drug Type</b>					
1,4-BUTANEDIOL	0	1	0	0	1
ACETYLCODEINE	0	6	8	0	14
ALPRAZOLAM (XANAX)	9	3	0	0	12
AMPHETAMINE	5	3	9	0	17
BENZOCAINE	1	0	2	1	4
BENZODIAZEPINE (E.G. DICLAZEPAM, FLUBROMAZOLAM)	0	1	0	0	1
BUPHEDRONE, MABP (A-METHYLAMINO-BUTYROPHENONE)	0	1	1	0	2
BUPRENORPHINE (SUBUTEX, BUPRENEX)	4	7	1	0	12
CANNABIS (THC,CBD)	276	129	106	1	512
CLONAZEPAM (KLONOPIN)	2	4	0	0	6
COCAINE	92	106	93	3	294
CODEINE	2	0	1	0	3
DIAZEPAM (VALIUM, RANZEPAM)	7	13	10	0	30
DMT (N,N-DIMETHYLTRYPTAMINE)	1	0	1	0	2
ETHYLPHENIDATE (EVOKE, GOGAINE)	1	0	0	0	1
FENTANYL (DUROGESIC)	0	1	0	0	1
GBL (GAMMA-BUTYROLACTONE)	8	8	8	0	24
GHB (GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID)	0	0	4	0	4
HEROIN	20	22	5	0	47
KETAMINE	4	5	3	0	12
LIGNOCAINE, LIDOCAINE, XYLOCAINE	1	10	20	0	31

Total Illicit Drug Related Charges					
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
<b>1b) Drug Type</b>					
LSD, LYSERGIDE (LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE)	4	2	0	0	6
MDA (3,4-METHYLENEDIOXYAMPHETAMINE)	4	2	0	0	6
MDMA (3,4-METHYLENEDIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE)	77	32	19	0	128
METHADONE	0	5	3	0	8
METHAMPHETAMINE	198	133	85	1	417
METHYLPHENIDATE (RITALIN)	0	0	1	0	1
MONOACETYLMORPHINE	0	0	1	0	1
MORPHINE	1	1	0	0	2
NANDROLONE (DURABOLIN)	3	0	0	0	3
OXYCODONE (OXYCONTIN, ENDONE)	4	6	4	0	14
PSEUDOEPHEDRINE	0	0	1	0	1
PSILOCIN	4	1	0	0	5
STANZOLOL (WINSTROL)	0	2	0	0	2
TAPENTADOL (PALEXIA, NUCYNTA)	0	1	0	0	1
TEMAZEPAM	1	1	1	0	3
TESTOSTERONE	13	5	19	2	39
THC (TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL)	10	7	10	0	27
TRAMADOL (TRAMAL, DUROTRAM)	0	1	1	0	2
TRENBOLONE	11	2	6	0	19
OTHER - IDENTIFIED DRUG	11	2	0	0	13
OTHER - UNIDENTIFIED DRUG	60	66	116	1	243
<b>Total</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1971</b>

Total Weights for Illicit Drug Related Charges					
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
<b>1c) Quantity possessed (Net Weight)</b>					
Weight not recorded	118	158	129	3	<b>408</b>
0 - 0.5 grams	288	147	116	0	<b>551</b>
0.5 - 1 grams	100	48	56	1	<b>205</b>
1 - 1.5 grams	48	27	21	0	<b>96</b>
1.5 - 2 grams	26	19	7	0	<b>52</b>
2 - 5 grams	74	52	55	2	<b>183</b>
5 - 10 grams	46	33	50	2	<b>131</b>
10 - 50 grams	74	47	48	1	<b>170</b>
Over 50 grams	60	58	57	0	<b>175</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1971</b>

- ACT Policing drug seizures count each individual drug package/item seized. As a result drug seizure counts will not equate to charges. Contributing factors include:
  - Like for like drug seizures may be combined for an individual drug possession charge.
  - Ownership of seized drugs may not be able to be ascertained, and
  - Drug seizure counts also include where drugs have been found, stolen or surrendered to police and may include traces or residue only.

2) The below table represents the number of apprehensions for repeat offenders\*:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
Apprehensions for repeat offender	78	56	24	3	161

\* An individual is considered a repeat offender if they are apprehended more than once over the four financial years.

3) The below table represents the individuals cleared by arrest or result in imprisonment\*\*:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
Cleared by arrest or court result of imprisonment	118	84	70	7	279

\*\*The number of offenders arrested and those whose court result was imprisonment.

- ACT Policing is unable to supply the number of unsentenced detainees (those on remand and yet to attend court).

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### **Waste—nappy rebate scheme (Question No 867)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) Can the Minister provide an update on the investigation into introducing a nappy rebate scheme into the ACT.
- (2) When can ACT residents expect to access a nappy rebate scheme.

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

- (1) The ACT Government is continuing to take an educative approach to nappies to allow informed consumer choice. To support this approach, the ACT Government has developed a range of educational materials to encourage the use of more sustainable alternatives to disposable nappies. These initiatives are aimed at helping to assist the community to make informed choices for increasing the uptake of reusable alternatives to disposable nappies.
- (2) Transport Canberra and City Services will investigate options to manage nappy waste as part of the planning for the rollout of the citywide food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service. In response to the Assembly resolution, the government will report back in June 2023 on how this waste stream will be addressed through future household collection services.

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### **Calvary Hospital—oncology unit (Question No 868)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) Why was the oncology unit removed from Calvary Hospital.
- (2) What was the average daily amount of patients seen at the oncology unit for the financial years of (a) 2020-21, (b) 2021-22 and (c) 2022 to date.
- (3) How much notice did Calvary Hospital receive before the closure of the oncology unit.

- (4) How many staff were working at that oncology unit.
- (5) How many staff working in the oncology unit were relocated to other areas within ACT Health.
- (6) Were any staff made redundant; if so, how many.
- (7) How many specialist doctors were working at the oncology unit.
- (8) How many specialist doctors were relocated to other areas within ACT Health.
- (9) Were any specialist doctors made redundant; if so, how many.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) In 2020, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce reviewed the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care 2020 Guidelines for Medication Management in Cancer Care and advised the ACT Health Directorate that the hospital would not be able to meet accreditation standards for governance (medical support and comprehensive care) for oncology and haematology services. It was agreed that rectifying the identified gaps would have been resource intensive and some would not be able to be met in the short to medium term. Following consultation, a phased approach to delivering all hospital-based chemotherapy, medical oncology and haematology outpatient services at the Canberra Region Cancer Centre was implemented.
- (2) The average number of patients receiving cytotoxic chemotherapy at Zita Mary Clinic was:
  - (a) 2.6 patients per week in 2020-21
  - (b) 1.9 patients per week in 2021-22
  - (c) Less than one patient per week in July 2022.
- (3) Calvary Public Hospital Bruce collaborated with Canberra Health Services and the ACT Health Directorate on the transition of chemotherapy services from the Zita Mary Clinic to the Canberra Region Cancer Centre.

Some lower acuity transfusion therapy activity was transferred from Canberra Hospital to Zita Mary Clinic through this change as well.

Consultations occurred between 14 July and 13 August 2021. Changes were implemented following the consultation period. The last patient received chemotherapy at Zita Mary Clinic on 21 July 2022.

- (4) There were and continue to be five nurses working at the Zita Mary Clinic.
- (5) Canberra Region Cancer Centre offered to accommodate those staff from Zita Mary Clinic who wished to continue to work in chemotherapy care. One staff member chose to move from Zita Mary Clinic to Canberra Region Cancer Centre.
- (6) No staff were made redundant.
- (7) Up to four oncologists were referring patients to the Zita Mary Clinic for cytotoxic chemotherapy treatment.

(8) No specialist doctors were relocated to other areas.

(9) No staff were made redundant.

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**Government—advertising expenditure  
(Question No 869)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

Can the Chief Minister detail, for the financial years 2013-2014 to 2021-2022 (inclusive), the ACT Government's total expenditure on advertising or other expenses on (a) print, (b) online, (c) radio and (d) television.

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

The Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate oversees the obligations under the *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009* which require that campaigns over the value of \$40,000 to be reviewed by an Independent Reviewer.

The Independent Reviewer provides a biannual report to the Speaker on all campaign reviews conducted, which is then presented to the Legislative Assembly. These reports dating back to 2013 are available at [www.parliament.act.gov.au](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au).

Campaigns with a value below the \$40,000 threshold or that are exempt from review are managed by individual Directorates and Agencies.

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**Planning—Theodore  
(Question No 870)**

**Mr Davis** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) What has the land at the tail end of Lienhop Street Theodore (Theodore, Block 1, Section 679 and Block 2, Section 680, PRZ1, Urban Open Space) previously been used for.
- (2) Does the ACT Government have any intentions for this land's use in the future.
- (3) What methods are most appropriate for constituents to propose ideas to the ACT Government on how to use or reinvigorate this space.
- (4) What obligation does the ACT Government have to follow up with these ideas.

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

- (1) Theodore: Block 1, section 679 is identified in the Territory Plan as having a Land Use Zone: PRZ1: URBAN OPEN SPACE, with an additional overlay of Main Avenues and Approach Routes. The overlay exists in case the space is needed to improve the nearby main intersection. The block had a neighbourhood garden located

on it until approximately 2006, when it closed due to lack of community interest. The site was then levelled and grassed. Theodore: Block 2, Section 680, PRZ1, Urban Open Space is identified as a drainage line/ floodway.

- (2) Given the space may be needed to improve the main intersection, community use of the space wouldn't be supported on a long-term permanent basis, but the community may be interested in creating a volunteer group to undertake maintenance activities to support improved aesthetic values in part of the space. The Government has a program to support and work in partnership with volunteers, and members of the community are encouraged to contact the Urban Parks and Places Volunteering program on how to form a group.
- (3) Constituents can propose ideas for future use of urban space through the Urban Parks and Places Volunteering program if forming a community group is desired.
- (4) The ACT Government would consider a number of factors in determining community use of urban open space. This might include public and staff safety, infrastructure, culturally significant sites, environmental outcomes and amenity.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—anti-smoking measures (Question No 871)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Justice Health, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) Does the job description for the Director, Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) Smoke Free Project state that it is a temporary vacancy available for up to 12 months; if so, is it the intention of ACT Corrective Services to have the prison smoke free for detainees within the 12 months the job is funded.
- (2) Will the project be a phased ban on nicotine and tobacco related products; if so, can the Minister describe each phase.
- (3) Is the Smoke Free Project being modelled on the Smoking Cessation Pilot Program; if so, what findings from the Pilot are being applied to the AMC Smoke Free Project.
- (4) Is it the intention of the Government to ban AMC staff from smoking on AMC grounds as part of the AMC Smoke Free Project.

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

As recommended in the Blueprint for Change report, ACT Corrective Services is commencing work on a plan to transition the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) to be a smoke free environment within a period yet to be finalised. While the advertised position of Director, Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) Smoke Free Project is a temporary position for a period of up to 12 months, the final timeline for the transition will occur in consultation with stakeholders and will be carefully phased over at least 12 months.

The first phase of the project will involve communications, and extensive consultation with Canberra Health Services, AMC staff, detainees and other stakeholders. This will involve any lessons learnt from the Smoking Cessation Pilot Program and will inform the further planning and phased approach to management of the transition, including for staff. It is expected there will be ongoing consultation throughout the transition and that the process will be dynamic and responsive.

### **Housing ACT—sales and revenue (Question No 872)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

Can the Minister provide details, for the financial years 2013-2014 to 2021-2022 (inclusive), regarding the total revenue from the sale of Housing ACT assets, including a breakdown of the revenue for each site sold.

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

Total volume and proceeds of assets sold by the Commissioner for Social Housing, by financial year below:

<b>FY</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Revenue (,000)</b>
13-14	66	\$37,992
14-15	77	\$40,938
15-16	59	\$39,885
16-17	58	\$32,961
17-18	68	\$52,727
18-19*	99	\$35,172
19-20	81	\$45,703
20-21	164	\$121,197
21-22	153	\$139,255

\*18-19 saw a number of inter-directorate asset transfers at book value to the previous Public Housing Renewal Program and Asset Recycling Initiative, increasing the overall disposal volume.

The table demonstrates a relatively consistent volume of asset sales from 13-14 through to 18-19, as required by Housing ACT's business as usual asset management activities and prior to the commencement of Growing and Renewing Public Housing in July 2019.

The increased volume of disposals in recent years responds directly to the Program's capital requirements and targets older, no longer fit for purpose assets, which have reached the end of their useful life within the Territory's housing portfolio.

Additionally, a substantial increase in average sale value is experienced progressively from 18-19 onwards. This is primarily attributed to a period of growth in the residential property sector and targeted disposals.

To provide the requested breakdown of revenue for each site sold would be a significant diversion of resources and a potential privacy issue for current owners.

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### **Wallaroo solar farm—site (Question No 873)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) Why was a site directly adjacent to the ACT border in view of residences, chosen for the site of the Wallaroo solar farm when there is plenty of empty space in the Wallaroo area that is out of sight of ACT residents.



- (2) What made this site the most beneficial location?
- (3) If a direct road to the solar farm is built from the ACT through either Dunlop or Macgregor, who will fund the cost of maintenance for the road, (e.g. the ACT Government or the developer).
- (4) If a direct road to the solar farm is built from the ACT through either Dunlop or Macgregor, will the Wallaroo developer be required to provide a traffic management plan to the ACT Government that details the amount of traffic that will use this road during construction and ongoing maintenance of the farm; if so, can the Government provide the document to the response to this question.
- (5) Where exactly would this road be built from in the ACT.
- (6) How many homes that sit on a higher elevation to the farm will be affected by glint or glare from the solar farm.
- (7) If the Wallaroo solar farm uses single axis tracking, will this make glint and glare more likely.
- (8) What impacts will the farm have on existing vegetation.
- (9) What safeguards will be put in place to protect the endangered lizard species in the area.
- (10) What percentage of the energy production from the solar farm will the ACT be receiving.

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

1-10 This is a private development occurring in New South Wales. It is not a project that has been procured through the ACT Government's renewable electricity reverse auction process. As such, the project proponent would be best placed to answer your questions - <https://wallaroosolarfarm.com.au/>.

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### **Waste—green waste services relocation (Question No 874)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) Was a location further south along Stockdill Drive considered for the green waste relocation; if so, why was it decided to not relocate the green waste further south away from residences; if not, why not.
- (2) Further to the answer to question on notice No 430, where the Minister advised that several sites had been identified for the relocation of the Parkwood green waste, where were those sites.
- (3) How was it determined that the Stockdill Drive location was the most suitable over the other identified sites.

- (4) What methods of consultation was conducted with residents likely be most affected by the decision to relocate the site to Stockdill Drive.

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

- (1) Several other locations were considered but were not considered feasible due to leasing and road constraints.
- (2) Shorter term locations were examined along Parkwood Road; however these were not considered appropriate due to the future development proposed within the area.
- (3) An assessment was undertaken to examine potential impact to the community, environment, future development, access to utilities and planning considerations such as zoning.
- (4) Information on the preferred site was distributed in January 2022, including a letter box drop for surrounding residents. An information session was held with the Belconnen Community Council in February 2022. Two information sessions for Ginninderry residents on the development application were held at the Link building in Ginninderry on the 6 and 14 July 2022.

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### **Water quality—staff qualifications (Question No 876)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) How many people are employed by Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) or related directorates for their expertise in water quality.
- (2) Under what positions are the people employed by TCCS or related directorates.
- (3) What are the qualifications of the people employed by TCCS or related directorates for their expertise in water quality.
- (4) How many contracts for water quality works have been entered into with TCCS over the past five financial years, including during the current financial year.
- (5) What are the details of the contracts, referred to in part (4), including the (a) companies or entities involved, (b) reasons for entering each contract, (c) term length of each contract and (d) dollar value of each contract.

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

- (1) Within TCCS there are at least three persons employed for their expertise in water quality. TCCS employs other persons outside the Directorate as subject matter experts in water quality, such as engineering consultancies and other stormwater management consultancies.

There are 16 staff currently employed within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) who engage in water management activities, and support water quality outcomes through roles that extend across

technical, planning, project management, community engagement and education, policy and planning.

(2) TCCS positions with water quality expertise include:

- Senior Director, Environment and Utilities
- Director, Capital Works Planning
- Director, Program Development

Staff employed in EPSDD currently include:

- Director, Healthy Waterways
- Technical lead, Healthy Waterways
- Citizen science data analyst
- Senior analyst – hydrology
- Assistant Director, Urban Water Policy and Planning
- Assistant Director, Water Policy
- Director, Water Policy
- Senior Director, Environmental Protection Policy
- Officer - Water policy and planning
- Senior Policy Officer – Water compliance policy
- Water watch Facilitator
- H2OK program co-ordinator
- Senior Aquatic Ecologist
- Aquatic Ecologist

(3) The qualifications of TCCS employees working in the planning and management of water related infrastructure assets are diverse and include tertiary qualifications in fields such as environmental science, civil engineering, dam engineering and hydraulic/hydrologic engineering. There are other employees within TCCS with no formal qualifications though have attained technical expertise through years of experience working on the stormwater network. TCCS employs qualified subject matter expertise through contracts with engineering consultancies and stormwater management consultancies.

Staff employed within EPSDD, with a role in water quality management, have skills, knowledge and experience in water chemistry, ecology, water resource planning, stakeholder engagement, project management, analytics and government administration.

(4) At least 20 contracts.

(5) TCCS contracts related to water quality works are listed in the contract register Contracts Register - Procurement ACT.

**Youth justice—programs  
(Question No 877)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

Does the ACT currently utilise any pre-plea programs such as Victoria’s Children’s Court Youth Diversion Service or the NSW MERIT program; if so, what are those programs; if not, why not.

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

ACT Policing, Courts and the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) can make referrals to the Restorative Justice Unit at pre-plea stage that can be completely diversionary, in a manner that is similar although not exactly the same as, the Victoria’s Children’s Court Youth Diversion Service.

The *Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004* provides for ACT’s Restorative Justice Scheme and gives people most affected by a crime – the victim and their family and friends – the opportunity to meet with an offender to discuss the harm caused and work together to determine what needs to be done to repair that harm. Participants and processes are carefully assessed by trained convenors in order to facilitate a restorative process which addresses the unique needs of participants. Restorative justice conferencing can only proceed if it is safe and meets the needs of the victim of crime.

Since the commencement of Phase Three in November 2018 victims of any offence (in ACT legislation), including family violence and or sexual offences, have been able to access restorative justice. Referrals can be made by prescribed justice agencies at relevant stages of the criminal justice process.

Referrals can be made prior to a plea where the offence is a ‘less serious offence’ (where the maximum penalty of imprisonment for that offence is less than 10 years for an offence against the person and 14 years where the offence relates to property). These referrals can be made by ACT Policing prior to a charge being sworn in the Court, by the DPP prior to the second mention in the Court, or by the Court after the second mention, so long as the child does not deny the commissioning of the offence. If the matter proceeds to a meeting, the parties agree on what can be done to repair the harm, and if those actions are completed, the referrer may determine that the matter does not need to proceed through the criminal justice system ie is completely diversionary (however, this remains at their discretion).

While the ACT does not auspice an equivalent pre-plea program to the NSW MERIT program, it is noted that ACT Policing implement the Youth Alcohol Diversion initiative and Illicit Drug Diversion initiative, which could be characterised along similar lines to NSW’s MERIT program as both constitute pre plea diversion initiatives. To be eligible, amongst other things, the person must admit to committing the offence and the crime must not be violent in nature.

On occasions the Courts may also make a deferred sentencing order pursuant to section 27 of the *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005*.

**Municipal services—mowing  
(Question No 878)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) What is Transport Canberra and City Service’s policy regarding collecting grass clippings when mowing.
- (2) Are clippings collected and disposed of or are they left in situ.

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

- (1) Grass clippings are typically left in situ. Mower operators ensure that clippings are evenly spread over an area and that clippings are not left in windrows. When mowing around stormwater drains or culverts, operators ensure the clippings are left clear of the drain, when safe to do so. Mower operators do their best to ensure that grass clippings are not left on pathways, gutters or roads.
- (2) Refer to 1.

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**Government—legal defence costs  
(Question No 879)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) What were the total legal costs incurred by the ACT Government in the matter of Davidson v Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate.
- (2) Which law firm was hired by the ACT Government for their legal counsel and how much were they paid.
- (3) How much did the ACT Government pay to cover the plaintiff’s legal costs.
- (4) What other costs were incurred by the ACT Government related to their legal defence in this matter.

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

In response to the Member’s questions the ACT Government Solicitor was instructed in the matter and its resources were met by appropriation.

In addition, Counsel was engaged. The costs of Counsel in the matter to date are \$109,542 and no other costs were incurred.

The matter of the plaintiff’s legal costs is yet to be resolved.

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**Municipal services—shopping centre amenities  
(Question No 880)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

What is the average cost to the ACT Government, based on the past five financial years, of installing at local shops in Canberra, the amenities of (a) rubbish bins, (b) recycling bins, (c) public toilets and (d) drinking fountains.

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

The average cost to the ACT Government of installing amenities at local shops over the past five financial years is:

- rubbish bins \$1,300.00 per unit ex GST (bin and shroud supply only does not include install costs) (this unit cost is based on 21-22 FY prices).
- recycle bins \$1,300.00 per unit ex GST (bin and shroud supply only, does not include install costs) (this unit cost is based on 21-22 FY prices).
- public toilets \$367,000.00 for 2 cubicle unit ex GST – average cost based on toilets delivered at local shops over the last 5 years (demolition, landscaping and utilities connections costs, not included, as these costs vary greatly depending on site location and conditions).
- drinking fountains \$17,273.00 per unit ex GST - average cost/ unit including site works and utilities connection.

Please note that these costs do not include servicing (regular maintenance and cleaning), cost of utilities (water, sewage, power) or ongoing repairs and maintenance.

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**Planning—Belconnen  
(Question No 881)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) How many expressions of interest did the Government receive for block 45 section 54, Belconnen.
- (2) When does the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) intend to complete the second stage evaluation.
- (3) What is the next stage for progressing development on this site, once EPSDD completes the second stage evaluation.
- (4) Is there a certain type of demonstration housing being favoured for this site such as ageing in place homes, manor houses or multigenerational living homes.

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

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

Phase 1 expression of interest (EOI) occurred between April 2018 and May 2018 and 27 proposals were received. 13 proposals were 'without a site' and one of the proposals nominated Block 45 Section 54, Belconnen as being a potentially suitable site. The Assessment Panel determined that the proposed development was appropriate for the site, and subsequent discussions have been restricted to the original applicant.

- (2) The second stage evaluation is anticipated to be completed within the 2022/23 financial year.
- (3) If the proponent is successful through the second stage of the Demonstration Housing process, the next steps will include a direct sale of the land as well as the pre-development application requirements, including design review and community consultation. A Territory Plan variation is not anticipated for this site if this progresses.
- (4) The proposal is for an affordable build-to-rent housing development targeted at singles and couples in the lower end of the Quintile 2 income bracket. If successful through the second stage, more detail about the proposal will be provided on the Demonstration Housing website, during community consultation and through the Development Application process.

### **Canberra Institute of Technology—course delivery costs and number of graduates (Question No 882)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Skills, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

In relation to the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), for the period between 2016-2017 to 2021-2022 (inclusive), can the Minister advise (a) the number of graduations or course completions each year, by each course provided, (b) the number of participants in each of these courses per year and (c) the cost of delivery for each course delivered by CIT per annum.

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

Table 1 at Attachment A shows the number of course completions each year by course. This does not include students undertaking a statement of attainment.

Enrolments and completions are not comparable within single years, as many take place over year-end boundaries.

Completion figures do not take into account students transitioning to other qualifications.

Students who ceased studying prior to qualification completion due to early achievement of their enrolment objectives (e.g. employment or promotion, or only enrolled to be trained in a specific skillset) are counted as non-completions.

Table 2 at Attachment A shows the number of participants in each course by year. This does not include students undertaking a statement of attainment.

CIT is unable to provide a meaningful answer to per-course costs, as CIT's expenditure base is independent of individual course offerings. As an example, building costs remain

regardless of the number of courses offered, teaching staff work across multiple course offerings and support staff can support multiple buildings and courses.

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

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**Human Rights Commission—cultural rights of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders  
(Question No 883)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) Is the Supreme Court decision in the *Brown v Director-General of the Justice and Community Services Directorate* still subject to an appeal; if so, when is it estimated that the outcome of the appeal will be decided.
- (2) If the outcome of the appeal has been decided, what was the decision.

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

In response to the Member's questions the appeal of the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v Director-General of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate* is yet to be heard by the Court of Appeal.

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**Suburban Land Agency—land sales  
(Question No 884)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

In relation to land release targets and actual sales, for each financial year from 2015-2016 to 2021-2022 (inclusive), can the Minister advise the (a) land release targets for single residential blocks, (b) actual number of single residential blocks settled, (c) target number of medium-density dwellings for release, (d) actual number of settled land sales for medium-density dwellings, (e) target number of high-density dwellings for release and (f) actual number of settled land sales for high-density dwellings.

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

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) (a) - (f): The Suburban Land Agency does not set release targets or record sales/settlements by density. The Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP) is established by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and identifies ACT Government land which may be released for a range of uses. Current and past ILRPs are available at: <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/planning-our-city/land-release>.

(b), (d), (f): The table below provides the actual settlements by product type.



Settlements by product type* (Dwellings)	Single Residential Blocks	Compact/ Terraces Blocks	Multi-units/ Mixed Use	Total Dwellings
2017-18	499	169	1,539	2,207
2018-19	1,007	7	3,242	4,256
2019-20	456	93	277	826
2020-21	1,662	62	2,960	4,684
2021-22	781	355	1,785	2,921
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,405</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>9,803</b>	<b>14,894</b>

\* Product type does not represent a certain density type and varying density types may exist within a product type.

### Roads—Ginninderra Drive (Question No 885)

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) Are there plans to extend Ginninderra Drive as shown in The Canberra Times article “Ginninderry housing approval in the face of opposition to tree removal” published in 2018; if so, what is the projected timeline and expected completion date.
- (2) Will the section between Kerrigan Street and Tillyard Drive be duplicated as part of the extension, to accommodate increasing volumes of traffic.
- (3) Is there a base threshold on the number of residents required to be living in Ginninderry before the extension is considered.

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

- (1) The completion of a link from Ginninderry Development to Ginninderra Drive will correspond with development activity, population and traffic volumes. The West Belconnen Technical Traffic Report (2015) estimated that the Ginninderra Drive extension will be complete no sooner than 2031.
- (2) Transport Canberra and City Services uses transport modelling to forecast travel demand and evaluate transport network performance arising from developments such as Ginninderry. Current modelling suggests that only the segment of Ginninderra Drive between Tillyard Drive and Florey Drive will be operating near capacity in the peak direction, and warrants duplication beyond 2031 as Ginninderry is further developed. The Ginninderra Drive extension is part of the proposed future off-site works for the Ginninderry development.
- (3) The population estimation for the Ginninderry development suburbs by 2032 is 11,700.

## ACT Health—midwives (Question No 886)

**Ms Clay** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) How many midwives were employed in birthing services by (a) Canberra Health Services and (b) Calvary Public Hospital, for each year from 2012 2022 inclusive.
- (2) How many first year (i.e. newly graduated) midwives were employed in birthing services by (a) Canberra Health Services and (b) Calvary Public Hospital, for each year from 2012-2022 inclusive.
- (3) For each year cohort referred to in part (2), how many midwives were still employed in birthing services (a) three and (b) five years after graduation at (i) Canberra Health Services and (ii) Calvary Public Hospital.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

*As agreed by Ms Clay, the scope of this question has been adjusted to request available data from 2019 onwards.*

- (1) (a) Midwives employed at Canberra Health Services (CHS) are not employed in a single area such as birthing services but across maternity services, birthing is one part of the whole journey, and CHS staff are employed to work across the continuum.

As a result, the head count breakdown is provided for all paid midwives as at the end of each Financial Year between 2019-20 and 2021-22:

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Maternity Services	141	167	167
Continuity of care	25	34	33

- (1) (b) Midwives employed at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) are not employed in a single area such as birthing suite but across the whole maternity unit. Below is the breakdown of the headcount for all paid midwives that work across Maternity Services at the end of each financial year between 2019-20 and 2021-22:

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Maternity Services	125	120	132
Continuity of care	14	12	16

- (2) New graduate midwives are not specifically employed into a single area such as birthing but across maternity services on a rotational basis to work across the continuum. As a result, a breakdown is provided below of the headcount of new graduate midwives employed each calendar year:

a)

Canberra Health Services				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
New graduate midwives	9	20	19	17
Grad Dip/Masters (Registered Nurse's doing post-graduate midwifery qualifications)	2	0	0	1

b)

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
New graduate midwives	6	5	4	8

(3) (a) i) and ii)

Canberra Health Services		
Year	Staff in year 3 post-graduate year	Staff in year 5 post-graduate year
2019	11	N/A**
2020	N/A*	N/A**
2021	N/A*	N/A**
2022	N/A*	N/A**

\*Data not available as cohorts have not yet achieved 3 post-graduate years.

\*\*Data not available as cohorts have not yet achieved 5 post-graduate years.

(3) (b) i) and ii) CPHB was unable to identify the separations at 3 and 5 years. The midwifery graduates currently employed are as below. Note that it is a manual data capture.

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce		
Year	Staff in year 3 post-graduate year	Staff in year 5 post-graduate year
2019	4	N/A**
2020	N/A*	N/A**
2021	N/A*	N/A**
2022	N/A*	N/A**

\*Data not available as cohorts have not yet achieved 3 post-graduate years.

\*\*Data not available as cohorts have not yet achieved 5 post-graduate years.

### Planning—Strathnairn Primary School (Question No 887)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) On what block of land was the Strathnairn Primary School planned to be built on when it was first announced.
- (2) Has the block of land intended for the Strathnairn Primary School changed since the announcement; if so, (a) when and were residents notified of the change before the change was made and (b) what is the block and section number of the new location.

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

- (1) The site originally identified is adjacent to the 'Link' building, bounded by Pro Hart Avenue, Asimus Avenue and McClymont Way.
- (2) No. Several sites were considered and the original site has been confirmed as suitable.
  - (a) not applicable (b) the site location is part of Block 5, Section 37.

**Environment—water quality  
(Question No 888)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) Has monitoring of the performance of constructed assets started; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will this performance monitoring commence.
- (2) Why has the annual ACT Water report not been published since 2015.
- (3) Why is the cost of disposal of stormwater waste, sediment from ponds and dredging spoil nearly twice that of asbestos.
- (4) Have any Canberrans become sick as a result of poor water quality in the ACT's waterways.
- (5) What monitoring is being done regarding the floating wetlands research project at the Village Creek inflow.
- (6) In relation to the project referred to in part (5), what nutrient uptake is expected and how is it analysed/determined.
- (7) How frequently will the plants be harvested.
- (8) How does it compare to other floating wetlands, such as the one in Wagga.
- (9) How does it compare to the nutrient uptake of shoreline macrophytes or in-situ wetlands.

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

- (1) Procurement activities are progressing to allow the purchase and installation of the monitoring equipment for the ACT Healthy Waters constructed assets. It is anticipated that these activities will be complete in late 2022 to allow monitoring to commence over the 2022-23 summer season.
- (2) There is no statutory requirement to produce an annual ACT Water Report. Information contained within previous Water Report is publicly reported in the Environment Protection Authority's annual report, the Catchment Health Indicator Report and on websites managed by the responsible agencies for water quality monitoring. The new Office for Water will be working with the relevant agencies to scope a contemporary web-based platform for providing improved public access to water information.
- (3) The cost to dispose of stormwater waste is not twice that of the cost to dispose of asbestos. For the 2021-2022 financial year, the cost to dispose of stormwater waste was \$157.77 (GST exclusive) per tonne. In comparison, the cost to dispose of asbestos or products containing asbestos was \$177.13 (GST exclusive) per tonne.
- (4) Communicable Disease Control in ACT Health Directorate conducts routine surveillance of a number of these infectious pathogens, and for two or more linked cases of waterborne illness. Surveillance has not detected any outbreaks of waterborne

illness in the last 10 years. Since 2012, there have been two cases detected of cryptosporidiosis (an illness caused by a waterborne parasite) that were attributed to swimming in lakes in Canberra (in 2016 and 2021). There have been no cases of shigellosis, Shiga-toxin producing E. coli or Legionnaire's disease attributed to exposure to local waterways.

- (5) Monitoring of water quality, microbial communities in the plant root system and nutrient uptake is planned for the floating wetland to inform evaluation of its performance.
- (6) As plants grow, they take up nutrients. It is expected that over time as the plants grow on the floating wetland, they will take up nutrients from within the Lake. In addition, the roots of the plants provide structure for a range of other microbial communities to develop, which in turn also take up nutrients. Nutrient uptake will be assessed by examining plant biomass growth and examination of the in-water microbial communities.
- (7) There are no plans to harvest vegetation growth across the entirety of the platforms over the life of the trial. Plants harvest will be limited to sampling to evaluate nutrient uptake. If an opportunity and reason to do broader harvesting arises, it will be considered.
- (8) Given that the performance of the floating wetland has not been assessed, it is pre-emptive to attempt benchmarking its performance against other asset types or classes.
- (9) Given that the performance of the floating wetland has not been assessed, it is pre-emptive to attempt benchmarking its performance against other asset types or classes.

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### **Agriculture—Capital Food and Fibre Strategy (Question No 889)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Environment, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

What is the estimated time of (a) completion and (b) public release, for the draft Capital Food and Fibre Strategy.

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

- (a) It is estimated that the Capital Food and Fibre Strategy will be completed in 2023.
- (b) A public release of the draft Capital Food and Fibre Strategy is anticipated in the coming months.

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### **ACT Supreme Court—drug and alcohol sentencing list program (Question No 890)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) How many individuals were referred to the Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List (DAS) during (a) 2019-20, (b) 2020-21 and (c) 2021 to date.

- (2) How many individuals who were referred to the DASL were accepted into the program during (a) 2019-20, (b) 2020-21 and (c) 2021 to date.
- (3) What are the reasons for those who were referred to but not accepted into the DASL.
- (4) How many of those who completed the DASL program did not have a conviction recorded.
- (5) How many people can currently be on the DASL program.
- (6) Does the DASL program have any beds in residential rehabilitation facilities set aside for use by DASL participants.
- (7) Does the DASL program have any beds in properties such as homeless shelters and Justice Housing that are set aside for use by DASL participants.
- (8) How many full-time equivalent (FTE) case managers does the DASL program have.
- (9) Are case managers expected to provide counselling to DASL participants.
- (10) What is the maximum case load per case manager.

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

- (1)
  - (a) 2019-2020 = 21
  - (b) 2020-2021 = 42
- (2)
  - (a) 2019-2020 = 8
  - (b) 2020-2021 = 32
  - (c) 2021-2022 = 23
- (3) To date, the reasons why individuals have not been accepted into the DASL comprise circumstances where:
  - the relevant sentence is outside the required 1-4 year range;
  - the person withdrew their consent to participate in the DASL;
  - an election was made for the relevant charge to be dealt with in the Magistrates Court summarily, and the charge was therefore unable to be committed to the ACT Supreme Court;
  - the person's substance use did not directly contribute to their offending behaviour;
  - the person was unwilling to engage with the assessment team;
  - the person had significant and pervasive mental health issues that would impact on their ability to participate in the DASL;
  - there was no suitable accommodation and/or residential placement available;
  - the person was subject to another sentencing order that was already in effect; and
  - the person was incarcerated on other matters during assessment stage.

- (4) None. The sentencing process for a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Order does not include a non-conviction option.
  - (5) 35.
  - (6) There are eight priority beds set aside for DASL participants across the Canberra Recovery Service, Karralika and Arcadia facilities. The DASL also has access to fee for service beds as needed, however these are not priority access and are subject to availability.
  - (7) No.
  - (8) Canberra Health Services has two FTE case managers. ACT Corrective Services has three FTE Community Corrections Officers and one FTE Team Leader.
  - (9) No. DASL Participants can access counselling via the Canberra Health Services Alcohol and Drug Service, who has a dedicated DASL Team and may also refer to external service providers as appropriate. This counselling is accessed by referral made by the Canberra Health Services case managers.
  - (10) There is no mandated maximum case load for case managers.
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### **Education—Australian Curriculum implementation (Question No 891)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, upon notice, on 5 August 2022:

- (1) What is the timetable to implement the foundation stage changes to the ninth version of the Australian Curriculum in the ACT for learning to read, which was agreed to by all state and territory education ministers.
- (2) Will the ACT Government ensure ACT schools are supported to move in Term 1 of 2023 from the balanced literacy reading instruction methodology, to evidence-based instruction, including explicit and systematic phonics instruction, supported by decodable texts, in line with the updated curriculum.
- (3) When will the ACT follow other jurisdictions, including South Australia, NSW and Tasmania, and introduce phonics screening for all Year 1 students, as a critical assessment tool to ensure no child in the ACT is denied the support they require when learning to read.

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

- (1) ACT schools will continue using Australian Curriculum Version 8.4 throughout 2022 and 2023, and implement Version 9.0 in its entirety from 2024 for all year levels and all learning areas of Version 9.0, including the reading component in the English Foundation Curriculum.
- (2) ACT schools will be supported to engage with Version 9.0 of the Australian Curriculum throughout 2023, in preparation to implement in 2024. Schools will be supported to understand the highlighted changes in Version 9.0 through ACARA

produced webinars and ACT specific professional learning opportunities to ensure understanding of the curriculum.

- (3) Currently there are no plans to introduce the phonics screening for all year 1 students. The Phonics Screening Check is freely available for all teachers to use as one of their many tools to support students learning to read. ACT teachers use different sources of data from standardised testing in the early years as well classroom-based assessment to support students as they are learning to read. It is important that teachers have access to a variety of assessment tools to meet the individual needs of their students and the school context.

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## Questions without notice taken on notice

### Teachers—recruitment

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a question by Ms Castley on Tuesday, 22 March 2022*):

As reported in the Education Directorate's 2020-21 Annual Report, 4,004 teachers were employed in ACT public education.

The government will provide a more detailed update to the Assembly on the workforce of public schools by the first sitting of 2023, as per the Assembly's motion of 1 June.

### ACT Health—nurses

**Ms Stephen-Smith** (*in reply to a question by Ms Castley on Wednesday, 1 June 2022*):

From 01 June 2021 to 01 June 2022, 59 nursing staff have had contract cessation or have been dismissed from Canberra Health Services due to underperformance action, misconduct proceedings or invalidity retirement. Many nurses have gained further employment at the cessation of their contract end date, however it is difficult to determine the exact number due to the way data is collected.

For the same period, six nursing staff have had contract cessation or been terminated by Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.

The Government's commitment to providing secure work for ACT Government employees requires that all employees on fixed-term contracts and long-term casuals are assessed and provided priority for conversion to ongoing employment.

### Government—business support grants

**Mr Barr** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Castley on Thursday, 9 June 2022*):

Every applicant that was approved for a Business Support Grant payment was provided the opportunity to submit additional information that was required to assess their eligibility for a top-up payment, for larger businesses, or a Tourism,



Accommodation Provider, Arts and Events, Hospitality and Fitness (TAPAEHF) payment.

Consistently with similar programs run in other jurisdictions, eligibility for TAPAEHF payments was determined using Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) codes. This is the best available method to use in programs of this size, but we recognise it is an imperfect classification tool.

This is why a “Sector-Based Eligibility Review” (SBER) process was established.

If a business was assessed as ineligible for a TAPAEHF payment, they were notified of this outcome and advised that the SBER process was being established and that further information would be provided when it became available.

On 21 February 2022, these businesses were again contacted via email with the review guidelines, supporting documentation, and instructions on how to apply for the SBER. Applications were open for two weeks, closing 11:59pm on Monday, 7 March 2022. Information regarding this process, including instructions detailing how to apply, was also published on the Business Hub website.

Of the 1270 businesses contacted with instructions on how to apply for SBER, 228 applications were submitted and assessed. Of these, 179 local businesses were approved for TAPAEHF payments totalling \$1.37 million.

### **Rental properties—minimum energy standards**

**Mr Rattenbury** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Lee on Thursday, 4 August 2022*):

Extensive economic modelling and analysis to inform the introduction of a minimum energy efficiency standard for rental homes was undertaken by ACIL Allen as part of their work to prepare the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) which is available on the YourSay website at <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/minimum-energy-standards>.

While the RIS did not explicitly model impacts on the rental market, it did model the range of possible impacts on tenants and rental providers. The analysis considered boundary cases where either the tenant absorbs the full cost or the rental provider absorbs the full cost (in reality, any particular case will be somewhere in between). Given these boundary cases, the analysis in the RIS indicates that there is not likely to be significant adverse impacts on rental providers or tenants and that overall supply is unlikely to be affected. This is detailed in the RIS:

- Tenants will generally be better off, benefiting from reduced energy costs and by improved health and wellbeing. This is even the case where full costs are passed through as increased rents. (pages 47-48).
- The introduction of the minimum standard is unlikely to have sizeable impacts on the rental returns for rental providers. Even assuming no cost pass-through,

the impact on annual rental returns is likely to be small for most investors. (page 49-50).

- There are also some potentially beneficial impacts for rental providers (page 51):
  - capital appreciation of properties due to improvements in thermal comfort and energy efficiency;
  - greater tenant retention in more comfortable houses; and
  - greater security of rental income with tenants experiencing reduced financial stress due to lower energy costs.
- The analysis of rental returns, as well as the results of a survey of rental providers undertaken as part of the RIS, suggest that the proposed standard will not drive large numbers of rental providers to withdraw their property from the rental market. But even where rental providers sell their property, the nett housing stock available for rent is not likely to be significantly impacted as rental properties sold will either be rented out or redeveloped by the new owner if an investor or will free up other housing stock if the new owner is an owner-occupier. (pages 53-54).

Measures to mitigate the potential for impacts on the rental market from the introduction of the minimum standard are also being considered in the design and implementation of the standard, such as:

- The standard is likely to focus on only the worst performing properties – those with no or only very poor insulation. The majority of rental properties will already meet the standard.
- There will be exemptions where installation of insulation is not feasible.
- The requirement to meet the standard will be staggered over a phase-in period of several years, with rental providers being given plenty of time to comply.
- Support for rental providers to meet the upfront cost of installing the insulation is also being considered.

Full details will be available when the regulation introducing the standard is ready to be announced.

In addition, a monitoring and evaluation plan for the introduction of the standard is being developed and will be implemented over the phase-in period. It will include monitoring to determine and assess any changes to the rental market over this time.