



Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

NINTH ASSEMBLY

22 AUGUST 2019

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Thursday, 22 August 2019

MADAM SPEAKER (Ms J Burch) took the chair at 10 am, made a formal recognition that the Assembly was meeting on the lands of the traditional custodians, and asked members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

Leave of absence

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

That leave of absence for today be granted to Mrs Dunne to attend a conference, Mr Hanson for family reasons, and Mrs Jones due to illness.

Petitions

The following petition was lodged for presentation:

Roller derby facilities—petition 25-19

By Ms J Burch, from 170 residents:

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

The following residents of the ACT draw to the attention of the assembly the lack of indoor facilities for training and competition games for roller derby in the ACT (both Canberra Roller Derby League and Varsity Derby League).

We therefore, request the Assembly to urgently review existing facilities in both public and private ownership and to ensure that roller derby in the ACT has the required facilities for future growth and demand.

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

Ministerial response

The following response to a petition has been lodged:

ACTION bus service—petition 17-19

By **Mr Steel**, Minister for Transport and City Services, dated 20 August 2019, in response to a petition lodged by Miss C Burch on 4 June 2019 concerning the ACT bus network.

The response read as follows:

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 4 June 2019 regarding petitions 17-19 lodged by Miss C Burch MLA regarding bus services for school students.

I am pleased to advise that since the introduction of the new public transport network at the beginning of Term 2 2019. More than 223 dedicated school bus services and many thousands of other bus and light rail services are used by school students.

During Term 2 2019, the number of journeys made by school students on Transport Canberra services increased by 3.25%, equivalent to more than 25,000 extra journeys in just ten weeks.

While some students are changing buses more, this has been offset by other students who are now able to make a direct trip to or from school.

During Term 2 2019, about 74% of school students using public transport caught a single bus or light rail vehicle as part of their journey. In comparison, during the same period in 2018, this figure was 81%.

Of those students who do transfer, almost all change between buses or light rail vehicles just once, with less than 2.6% of school students journeys during the first ten weeks of the new network involving two or more transfers.

However, the ACT Government recognises that there have been significant changes for many families, and that there are further improvements which could be made to services. That is why Transport Canberra is working closely with schools, parent representatives, the Education Directorate and other key stakeholders to address specific concerns with services, infrastructure around schools or other issues relating to school travel.

To date, there have been more than 100 adjustments to bus services made since the commencement of the new network, and I have asked my directorate to focus in particular on services used by school students.

The ACT Government is committed to continuing to invest in our public transport network and working with Canberrans to make practical improvements to the public transport services they rely on every day.

Thank you for raising these matters. I hope the information is of assistance.

Motion to take note of petition and response

Motion (by **Madam Speaker**) agreed to:

That the petition and response so lodged be noted.

Courts (Fair Work and Work Safety) Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events, Minister for Building Quality Improvement, Minister for Business and Regulatory Services and Minister for Seniors and Veterans) (10.03): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Courts (Fair Work and Work Safety) Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 to the Assembly. The ACT government is committed to supporting workers in the ACT, especially vulnerable workers. Minister Stephen-Smith recently launched a new young workers advice service, funded by the ACT government. That service, which is provided by UnionsACT, will provide young workers with information about their workplace rights. As a government we have also worked hard to ensure that we have a strong and effective work safety regulator.

This bill continues those achievements. It delivers legislation that will make our courts more accessible for people seeking to enforce their rights to wages and entitlements. And it will build on the experiences of recent work safety prosecutions to make a stronger framework for holding corporations criminally responsible when they break the law. Our workers deserve to be treated fairly, and to be safe at work, and this government will keep working to ensure that our courts and justice system are there to support them.

Firstly, I will outline the measures in this bill that support workers to enforce their right to fair wages and conditions. These amendments support our Magistrates Court to develop expertise, and provide a foundation for quick and efficient resolution of fair work claims.

The Fair Work Act 2009 is federal legislation that governs workplace relations in Australia. The act provides a safety net of minimum entitlements for employees, enables flexible working arrangements and prevents discrimination against employees.

This bill contains amendments to existing territory courts legislation to improve the accessibility of the Magistrates Court for Canberrans seeking to uphold their rights and resolve their workplace disputes in a way that is easy, quick and inexpensive. This is expressly supported by the insertion of an objects provision within the bill to ensure that the court's fair work jurisdiction is exercised in such a way as to achieve the timely, cost-effective and informal resolution of fair work claims.

One way in which this bill supports the resolution of fair work claims is by ensuring that the Industrial Court, which sits in the ACT Magistrates Court, has jurisdiction to hear fair work matters. The Industrial Court is a specialised court which allows for the development of expertise in industrial and work health and safety matters.

The amendments to the prescribed jurisdiction of the Industrial Court will ensure that fair work matters are heard in the most appropriate forum within the court. This will facilitate the further development of expertise by the Industrial Court Magistrate, promote consistency in approach and outcomes for parties, and enable fair work matters to be dealt with alongside other industrial and work-related litigation.

The changes to the process for resolving fair work matters also include compulsory mediation. The government recognises that access to non-adversarial methods of dispute resolution has significant advantages for parties. It promotes the early resolution of disputes and can be much more cost-efficient and timelier than the court process. This is particularly the case with disputes seeking small claims.

Mediation is a less adversarial approach to conflict resolution where a mediator assists parties to negotiate an agreement to resolve their dispute. A mediator's functions can include encouraging settlement of the dispute, promoting the open exchange of information between parties and providing information to the parties about the operation of relevant laws.

In fair work matters, where there can often be power imbalances between employers and employees, mediation provides a more equal field in which parties may reach an agreed solution to their matter. By encouraging the early resolution of disputes, compulsory mediation will also have the added benefit of relieving pressure on the court system.

This bill makes a number of amendments that are aimed in particular at small claims in fair work matters, which are those of \$20,000. The amendments include allowing representation of workers by their unions, and businesses by industry associations. This is an important amendment made by the government to enable more accessible representation to ensure that Canberrans can assert their rights in a more accessible and less formal setting, reduce power imbalances between big business and workers, and make the resolution of complaints more affordable.

As part of its focus on ensuring accessibility for small claims, this bill also ensures that people who go to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, or ACAT, are not disadvantaged. In our justice system normally the ACAT is the place to go for any claim under \$25,000 in value. From \$25,000 to \$250,000, claims go to the Magistrates Court. However, the ACAT is prohibited due to federal laws from hearing fair work claims. Accordingly, the bill makes amendments to the Magistrates Court Act and the ACAT Act to clarify that no monetary limits are placed on fair work claims that are brought to the Magistrates Court.

There may be times, however, where the ACAT becomes aware that a fair work claim has arisen in the context of a person's dispute. As the ACAT has no jurisdiction to hear the fair work claim, the bill amends the ACAT Act to require the tribunal to remove the civil dispute application and the fair work matter to the Magistrates Court, either on its own initiative or on application by a party to the matter. This will avoid duplication of proceedings and enable the fair and efficient resolution of all issues in dispute in a single forum.

This bill does more than help people to recover their entitlements and wages. It also supports the government in its efforts to hold businesses criminally responsible when they breach our health and safety laws. Through recent court experience, the Director of Public Prosecutions identified a range of legal issues involved in the prosecution of corporations. These issues included the application of the Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act to those prosecutions.

The bill amends the Magistrates Court Act, the Crimes Act, the Work Health and Safety Act and the Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act in response. We developed these amendments by working with the Director of Public Prosecutions, and they will strengthen our ability to prosecute corporations.

These amendments will mean that corporations can be committed to the Supreme Court for trial on indictment, just like individuals. These amendments will also ensure that when corporations are found to have committed criminal work safety breaches, the proceeds of those crimes can be seized under the ACT’s confiscation of criminal assets legislation.

This bill demonstrates the government’s commitment to the protection of workers’ rights in the territory. The efficient resolution of fair work matters is critical for those in our community who simply cannot afford to be underpaid, out of a job or subjected to a range of unfair treatment at work. The bill introduces a range of amendments to support access to justice for these working Canberrans and promotes the timely, inexpensive and informal resolution of disputes. This bill also ensures that corporations are on the same footing as natural persons with respect to industrial offences so that our workplace safety laws are applied as intended within the court system.

This government will keep working to deliver stronger protections for workers. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Legislative Assembly
Sitting pattern 2020

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries) (10.12): I move:

That, unless the Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting on receipt of a request in writing from an absolute majority of Members, or the Assembly otherwise orders, the Assembly shall meet for the year 2020 as follows:

| | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|
| February | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 | |
| March | 31 | | | |
| April | | 1 | 2 | |
| May | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| June | 16 | 17 | 18 | |
| August | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

I want to thank everybody across the chamber for their input into the proposed sitting pattern for next year. It gives us an opportunity to get the business of government and the Assembly done in a timely manner.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Report 15

MS J BURCH (Brindabella) (10.13): I present the following report:

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee—Report 15—*Additional amendments to the Standing Orders*, dated 19 August 2019, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (10.13), by leave: I move:

That the report be adopted.

Very briefly, this report has been discussed with all party rooms. It has recommendations to amend a few different parts of our standing orders, particularly relating to where there might be matters of privilege arising in relation to committee inquiries and giving the committee where that matter of privilege arose a bit more power in trying to sort it out for themselves first. It also deals with some unintended consequences of amendments that we made at the end of last year. I commend the report to the chamber.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee Report 9

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (10.14): I present the following report:

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Report 9—*Inquiry into a Territory Coat of Arms*, dated 19 August 2019, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

This is the ninth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services. On 29 November 2018, the committee commenced an inquiry into a territory coat of arms. The committee received 68 submissions and heard from 12 witnesses during a public hearing. The report makes five recommendations, including that the ACT government clarify the legal standing of the city of Canberra

coat of arms; that, depending on the legal standing of the city of Canberra coat of arms, the government either adopt an ACT coat of arms or update the city of Canberra coat of arms; and that the government consult with the community to determine the final design for any new coat of arms for the ACT.

The report also considers evidence that the ACT flag, which depicts a modified version of the city of Canberra coat of arms, is problematic for a range of reasons. The report therefore recommends that the government consult with the community to redesign the ACT flag. The report also recommends that the government develop guidelines for the appropriate use of the territory's official symbols.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all the witnesses and submitters for their contribution to this inquiry. The committee would also like to thank the staff at the Canberra Museum and Gallery, ArchivesACT and the National Archives of Australia for their assistance with the inquiry.

The inquiry has highlighted that while legal and procedural issues remain to be clarified, there is a strong desire in the community for the adoption of a new territory coat of arms and a new ACT flag that better reflect the ACT of the 21st century.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the other members of the committee, Miss C Burch and Mr Milligan, for their contribution to the inquiry. I commend the report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee Report 6

MS CODY (Murrumbidgee) (10.16): I present the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 6—Report on inquiry into domestic and family violence—policy approaches and responses, dated 22 August 2019, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

As deputy chair, I am pleased to present to the Assembly the report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety on policy approaches and responses to domestic and family violence in the ACT. The standing committee commenced this inquiry in 2017. During the inquiry Ms Lee MLA and Mrs Jones MLA chaired the committee. Unfortunately neither is here today. The committee inquiry process took place in 2017 and 2018.

The committee's terms of reference were to inquire into and report on a range of issues which are relevant to and impact on the current policy and responses to

domestic and family violence in the ACT. The committee's terms of reference asked the committee to inquire into and report on relevant matters including:

- a) the adequacy and effectiveness of current policy approaches and responses in preventing and responding to domestic and family violence in the ACT;
- b) the implementation of the ACT Government's 2016-17 funding commitments to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence in the ACT, and how those outcomes are being measured;
- c) the issues and policy challenges (if any) for the ACT arising from the National funding/framework—including how outcomes are measured and reported;
- d) best practice policy approaches and responses being undertaken in other jurisdictions to prevent and/or respond to domestic and family violence.

At the commencement of the inquiry the committee invited submissions from the public and wrote to a wide range of persons and organisations, particularly support agencies and organisations which are in daily contact with the confronting and challenging situations generated by domestic and family violence.

As is recognised throughout our community and Australia as a whole, domestic and family violence is a pervasive social problem which affects families and our whole community. DFV confronts all levels of society and must be recognised and confronted with all the resources we can direct at the problem.

The committee received a very comprehensive, detailed and informative response in submissions and evidence taken at the committee's hearings in 2017 and 2018. These were provided by all levels of ACT government and by policing, legal services, women's groups, men's support groups and a number of organisations and individuals involved in domestic violence programs, providing the committee with analysis, comment and proposals for dealing with DFV in the ACT and, increasingly, as part of a national program aimed at recognising and preventing domestic and family violence.

The committee's report deals with the first two years of the program as part of the safer families budget initiatives and the application of the safer families levy. The committee's report has not dealt with the 2019-20 budget provisions for safer families. The committee has made 60 recommendations which are directed at all aspects of current policies and programs which are in place and are being developed for combatting domestic and family violence in our community.

I take a moment to thank all the committee staff who worked on this report, including Andrea Cullen, secretary for the first part of the inquiry, Danton Leary, research officer; Lydia Chung, administrative support; and Andrew Snedden, secretary for the latter part of the committee inquiry. I also thank Michael Pettersson, who is the new member of the committee; and Chris Steel, who was on the committee at the time of the inquiry.

I also include some personal remarks at this time. I firstly thank the Assembly for supporting us in conducting this inquiry. During the inquiry we heard the stories of a

lot of women, and some men, who have been victims of domestic violence. I wish there was the opportunity to give everyone the chance to tell their stories here or in a place where they feel safe. I wish I could extend parliamentary privilege to each one of them, to all those who had the courage and the circumstances to tell their stories and, even more, all those whose circumstances do not put them in a place to tell their stories. But I cannot.

We must recognise that there are thousands of women stuck in circumstances that they cannot speak of because of fear, because of shame and because many put their children's safety or position in front of their welfare. That calculation is real.

The old advice "if he hits you, leave," is garbage. Leaving is, for many, the hardest decision that they will ever make. It is so hard. For too many, the idea of leaving is impossible. Where would they go? Where can they go? Until our community provides a solid, reliable and dependable answer to that question many will not leave. And when the idea of leaving enters their head they dismiss it. It is easier to pretend that everything is okay, because most of the time the hardest part is admitting to yourself that you are in trouble, not to mention that the easiest way to be murdered in this country is leaving. I know. That is how it was for me.

To be honest, I do not know what I was thinking. I did not realise that I was in as bad a situation as I was until it was time to go. I did not realise how controlling he was and how unhappy and unhealthy I was. I also did not realise that it was not normal. It was my first relationship. I did not know what was normal. I did not realise that controlling behaviour was not normal, and that makes me feel weak.

I let myself become isolated. I told my friends it was not happening, because that is what domestic violence does. It makes the victim an accomplice. And it feels like the whole world is an accomplice too. That is how it felt for me. The neighbour who wilfully does not hear, the friend who does not follow up, the police officer who finds it all too rude to ask the extra question—that is how it was for me.

There are some amazing recommendations in this report but there are also many recommendations—good ones—that are not in this report. We need to do these things but we also need to keep imagining the answers to the questions the committee did not get. We need to make a change in here and in every directorate. I know that the minister has started that journey—and it has been wonderful—but we need to continue that. We need to make a change in every street in Canberra, in every house, until nobody lives in fear in their houses and nobody is forced to lie to themselves about what is happening to them, because every time we do not do these things we are accomplices in somebody's abuse.

We tell our daughters to be afraid walking through the park at night, when really they can be in more danger in their kitchen or their lounge room in their own home. That is right. A young woman walking drunk through the park at night is in more danger after she gets home to her intimate partner. And every time we tell them the opposite is true we put them at more risk.

I tell you my story because I have the immense privilege of doing so, the privilege of being a member of this place; the privilege given to me by the people of Murrumbidgee; the privilege given to me by great friends, by a very strong family and by my comrades at the CFMEU who protected me in my lowest moments; a privilege that I wish we would extend to every woman, every man and every child who has become a victim of domestic violence.

I first met the father of my children when I was 16. He was my first boyfriend. He was funny, he was opinionated, and he had a job and a very nice red Holden. I was 16 and, for me, those things mattered. I was an apprentice hairdresser and I fell so hard in love—as hard as you can at 16. He was an escape. I thought I was so grown up. I thought my parents were unfair. I was 16. It did not take long before he was more important to me than my friends and my family. He made me feel guilty if I was not with him. He would come to work and wait for me every single day. At first I thought that was sweet. I now realise that was his way of keeping an eye on me.

We were married on election day in 1996. The *Canberra Times* did a very nice article about me, including a wonderful photo, of me in my wedding dress with my father. My partner saw it the next day and I got into so much trouble. He told me that we were married now and that I should not be drawing attention to myself. He told me that I was his and nobody else's.

As I stand here today, I have to remind myself that I am safe, that I am protected, that I am strong and that I can. These are things that some women forget. Too many in this place, and many who have met me in recent times, would say I am hard, I am confrontational, I am bold. But that was not the case. Sure, when I was young, I would always stand up to the bullies at school. I would stand up for all the girls who were treated wrongly or poorly. But then I got a man, a man I married and stayed married to for 15 years, a man who had strong opinions, often very different to mine, a man who increasingly made sure his opinions were the only ones that mattered.

It did not start with him hitting me. It started with him telling me that his ideas were mine. It started with him demanding I come straight home from work and, when I did not, phone calls would start, first to my friends, then to my family, demanding they tell him where I was. It continued with him telling me how to feed my own children, how to bathe them, how to care for them, with him telling me who could visit and when. It ended with me running away. It ended with him finding me and choking me.

It ended with me starting again. I could get out. I could get away. I am lucky. But I am still very ashamed. I feel ashamed of not being strong enough. I feel ashamed of always fighting for others but unable to fight for me or my boys. I feel ashamed of people not understanding. I feel ashamed still of being not able to talk about it for real. Today is the first time that I am sharing my story so that others know they can be strong. I do not want anyone else to ever feel this shame. (*Extension of time granted.*)

We all need to remove the stereotypes of domestic violence: domestic violence is about more than a man hitting a woman; it is about more than a woman hitting a man. It is about controlling behaviour, it is about financial control, it is about an intimate

partner who uses force to get what they want without any consideration for the other partner.

In 2019 I find it unbelievable that many people do not realise that domestic violence has no postcode. It does not happen just to those who live in public housing. It knows no boundaries. Your friend, your family, your neighbour, you—domestic violence can happen to anyone. And it is up to all of us to stand up and say no.

In the media we hear about women murdered in their homes. We hear about women who do not feel safe walking around alone. But we do not hear about the women who are most afraid of standing in their kitchen every day, those who are scared to death that the coffee they make for their partner will cause it to be thrown at them, the woman who believes she is worthless, that she has nothing to give. That is the scariest of all. We all live on a street where it is probably happening. And we have all walked past its front door.

I encourage everyone to read the committee's report, to talk to your friends and family and to remove the stigma of domestic violence.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (10.34): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services relating to petition 6-19. The petition was received by the Assembly on 21 March 2019 and referred to the committee under standing order 99A.

As signatories to petition 6-19, 1,128 residents of the ACT sought to draw to the attention of the Assembly the removal of bus route 3—"a route", in the words of the petition, "that has serviced the ANU campus for many years, providing transport options to thousands of students who live in the residence halls and others who commute to and from the campus". The petition highlighted that the removal of bus route 3 "particularly affects students with disabilities and mobility issues, students living in self-catered accommodation, financially disadvantaged students who cannot afford cars, international students, and students with safety concerns".

The petition called for the reinstatement of bus route 3, the diversion of other routes to service the ANU via Daley Road or the provision of funding for the ANU to provide a reliable shuttle bus to run from the ANU to the city bus station.

Minister Steel provided a response to this petition on 2 July 2019. The minister's response pointed out that the new bus network "includes a range of frequent, direct public transport services for students and staff travelling to the Australian National University" and noted that "there is a bus or light rail vehicle stopping near the ANU about every 30 seconds in peak times". The response also noted that 90 per cent of students and others travelling to the ANU do so via "rapid stops on the fringes of

the campus” and stated that the new bus network “improves services to these stops, with simpler and more frequent services”.

The minister concluded by assuring the signatories to the petition that “Transport Canberra is continuing to work with the ANU to make sure that students know what services are available to them, including ANU operated shuttle services within the campus” and noting that “the Government has no plans to operate a bus service similar to the former route 3 in the future”.

The committee will not be inquiring further into the matters raised in petition 6-19.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Student climate strike

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Corrections and Justice Health, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety and Minister for Mental Health) (10.37): I move the motion standing in my name and that of Ms Berry:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) the increasingly dire climate change impacts predicted for the world, and the ACT;
- (b) that students and young people in the ACT are very concerned about climate change action, and many will participate in a “Strike for Climate” on 20 September 2019; and
- (c) this Assembly’s recent declaration that we are in a state of “climate emergency”;

(2) declares its support for the ACT Strike for Climate and for the students and residents that choose to support this event; and

(3) invites representatives of student climate strikers to present to MLAs about their climate change concerns.

Students in the ACT are incredibly concerned about climate change and the ways that climate change will impact the planet and their futures. Just like children all over the world, the ACT students are so concerned about climate change and so concerned about their futures that they are striking from school. A strike occurred earlier this year. On September 20, the ACT students will again participate in a strike for climate.

Why would a young person not be concerned? No-one aged under 40 has even lived in a year with global average temperatures below those of last century. The July just past was the planet’s hottest ever month on record. That has seen heatwaves, health impacts and fire risks across the Northern Hemisphere in particular. It also means that the Arctic and Antarctic sea ice levels are hitting record lows.

In the ACT, 2018 was the hottest year on record. We had the hottest summer on record over 2018 and 2019. Several of the months this year have already been the hottest on record.

Our ability to respond to climate change directly relates to our ability to continue having a planet that is livable in the future. The environmental, social, health and economic costs of runaway climate change are extreme and catastrophic.

I can understand why, when faced with these predictions, young people might start thinking: “Why am I even going to school? I need to get out there and help change the direction of this ship, otherwise we will not even have a future.” I have heard young people express those views. Students are acutely aware of the urgent time pressure. It is a climate emergency.

The science has determined a remaining carbon budget, and if we emit more than this budget we are essentially throwing away the hope of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees or less, or to two degrees or less. Those are key numbers that have significant impacts for the world. On 1 January 2018, the carbon budget that would give a two-thirds chance of staying below two degrees was 1,170 gigatonnes of CO₂ emissions. That number is lower every single day.

Members may be interested to know that the coal burned from Adani’s proposed Carmichael coalmine, which is starting to be constructed in the Galilee Basin in Queensland, will itself use up 0.5 per cent of the entire global two degrees carbon budget—one single coal mine in Queensland.

Meanwhile, people like the Prime Minister are essentially telling concerned students to butt out. He tells them to stay out of politics, stay at school and everything will be fine. It is hard to swallow that when the government’s approach to climate change is so obviously out of step with what the science demands and when many of their pronouncements are patently false.

As an example, the claim that Australia “will meet its Paris targets in a canter” has been rebuffed by a range of leading economists, climate scientists and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The recent IPCC report said that Australia’s emissions on current trend are projected to remain at high levels rather than reducing in line with the 2030 target.

The students know this. They are not stupid. Good on them for learning about climate change, learning about the science and about the solutions and demanding that governments take action. The students are already receiving a good education if they understand climate change and the actions that are needed to combat it, and they are willing to sacrifice their time and energy to make sure that there is action.

They may be missing a day of school but they are already smarter than many of our supposed adult leaders. Maybe it is the climate change denying and apathetic politicians that in fact need to go back to school. The ACT Greens put on the record our support for these students. They are admirable young leaders who are taking this action because they care; they care about the future, about people and about the planet.

My message to the students is this: “You are to be congratulated for your dedication and passion. Your actions are changing the future and you are making an important difference.” I am proud of the students and young people for showing this deep passion and global empathy. They are some of the best qualities you can have.

My other message to the student strikers is this: “Climate change is bad, but do not give up. The solutions to climate change are there for us to grab: renewable energy, clean and green transport, sustainable agriculture, and leadership that emphasises compassion and sustainability. The technology and policies are all achievable.” History is full of examples of people like these students demanding change and achieving it.

This Assembly recently took an important step by passing a resolution acknowledging that we are in a climate emergency. As I said in the Assembly at the time, the climate emergency declaration says that this Assembly gives particular recognition to the enormous existential threat posed by climate change, and it says that we will prioritise climate action. At the time I asked for tripartisan support, to acknowledge that we are in a state of climate emergency and to acknowledge that this climate emergency requires urgent, significant, ongoing and unprecedented action, including from this ACT government and this Assembly.

That motion did pass and became a resolution of the Assembly. Particularly in these circumstances, I think that there is an onus on this Assembly to engage with our young people and to hear what they want to tell us about climate change. Members may have noted that this has been occurring in other parliaments and councils, both in Australia and around the world, and we should do the same here.

With this in mind, the motion calls on the Assembly to invite in representatives of the striking students to present us with their concerns. I can let the Assembly know that I have spoken to ACT students who are organising the September event and who are anxious about climate change. They would greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Assembly. Let us have them talk to us directly and hear why they are leaving school and what they need from their Assembly representatives.

It is up to the Assembly to think about what form that could take; there could be a number of different approaches. I suspect the best option is some sort of lunchtime briefing in one of the meeting rooms in this place, but I would be happy to work with colleagues, perhaps with the whips, to sort out a suitable time with you, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Assembly.

In conclusion, I commend this motion to the Assembly and I ask that the Assembly both endorse the climate strike and hear from the ACT students who strongly wish to talk to us about climate change. We have declared a climate emergency; we have children who are incredibly engaged and concerned about climate change. Let us allow them to come and address us on this important matter.

We are making decisions on behalf of future generations in the ACT and it would reflect well on this Assembly if, in the month after we declared a climate emergency,

we heard in person from these young climate activists who are so worried about their future. I commend the motion to the Assembly and look forward to hearing Ms Berry's remarks in particular.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (10.45): I thank Mr Rattenbury for allowing me to jointly move this motion with him today, and I reiterate the government's support for youth-led action to secure a sustainable future at a time of a climate emergency.

The Legislative Assembly has already declared that it understands the gravity of the climate emergency, and it is taking action. In May this Assembly resolved to declare a climate emergency, the first Australian state or territory to do so. This government is nation leading when it comes to taking action on climate change.

We understand the potential consequences of not acting. Importantly, those in the government and on the crossbench understand that today's children and young people, including students in ACT schools, will live in the world that legislators and policymakers like us leave them.

There is a clear need and evidence that immediate action is required to avoid a catastrophic climate change. Globally, we are already well behind. ACT students understand this, and, as an Assembly, we do need to listen to them, not just because they are right but because they are demonstrating leadership and their agency in seeking a sustainable future. In fact they led the Assembly through the school strike for climate in March.

In March I backed the right of students who are concerned about climate change to take action, and I acknowledge their commitment to action. Participation in activism is a learning experience in itself.

It is inspiring that ACT students are mobilising and demanding climate action. Student agency is a key principle in the ACT's future of education strategy. Our world-class Australian curriculum produces students who are active and informed citizens, participating in Australia's civic life and supporting the Melbourne declaration on educational goals for young Australians.

In educating our students, the ACT gives attention to sustainability as a cross-curriculum priority in delivering the Australian curriculum. This is not a subject of itself but rather a priority area of study that connects and relates all relevant aspects of sustainability content across all subjects.

Sustainability as a curriculum priority encompasses three key aspects: systems, world views and futures. The systems aspect explores the interdependent and dynamic nature of the system that support all life on our planet and our collective wellbeing. The world views aspect enables a diversity of world views on ecosystems, values and social justice to be discussed and recognised when determining individual and community actions for sustainability.

The futures aspect is aimed at building student capacity for thinking and acting in ways that are necessary to create a more sustainable future. This aspect seeks to promote reflective thinking processes in young people and empowering them to add their voice and design actions that will lead to a more equitable and sustainable future.

As I have mentioned, student agency is a key principle of the future of education strategy, which guides the future of ACT schools. Young people want a greater say in what and how they learn. They see themselves as decision-makers within their learning environments and through this action they are showing that they can influence change.

By sharing their voices, ACT students are exercising their agency and using their capacity to have a voice and take action towards a more equitable and sustainable future. They are giving effect to the learning that they have engaged in through the sustainability cross-curriculum priority. ACT students are applying their learning to this critical juncture in the history of our planet, and they should be applauded for this.

My daughter can be quite brutal in her honesty around this, and very direct with her thoughts on the issues of climate change in our world. She is very blunt with me and says, "Mum, you need to fix this. You need to fix it because there won't be much left when I grow up." I encourage her and I encourage children to use their agency to participate in this action, to have their say and have their voices heard.

Shane Rattenbury is right. Kids know much more than adults do, and they are deeply passionate about the challenges, the future and climate change, particularly climate change, and they do want to make change for all of our sakes. I call on all members to support this motion and support student participation in the ACT strike for climate.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries) (10.50): I want to thank the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister Rattenbury for bringing forward this motion today. We are custodians in the place, and we should always work to leave our city in a better state than we have found it. A key part of achieving this is to govern for young Canberrans. They are our future leaders, but they do not always have a say in what happens in this place.

We should include young people in more decisions, not just climate change. It is something that I have been working towards, particularly in the planning space. Our city is changing, and we need to ensure that we have a city that our young people want to live in.

In relation to climate change, there is no question about ACT Labor's commitment and passion. We have led the nation and the world. It is because of our efforts that Canberra will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity. It is because of ACT Labor that we are reducing emissions, with the aim of achieving zero net emissions. We are committed to building a more sustainable city. We have also shown

that you can grow a strong economy that works for all Canberrans while tackling climate change and protecting the environment.

Our actions in the territory are in stark contrast to another government that happens to convene in our city. The federal Liberal government has been shocking when it comes to climate change. My colleague the Attorney-General, in another debate yesterday, highlighted how the Canberra Liberals bring into this place the conservative agenda of their federal Liberal Party time after time. I hope that they do not do this in this debate. I hope that the Canberra Liberals support the motion that is before the chamber; not only that, but clearly commit to tackling climate change.

I also hope that the Canberra Liberals call out the outrageous remarks of their Deputy Prime Minister about the Pacific Islands. I will not read out those remarks in this place, but I will table the article that reports on those insulting and offensive comments about our Pacific Islander brothers and sisters. I present the following paper:

Pacific islands will survive climate crisis because they 'pick our fruit', Australia's deputy PM says—Copy of article from The Guardian, 16 August 2019.

Those sorts of comments have no place in a vibrant and inclusive Canberra. The Canberra Liberals must condemn the Deputy Prime Minister. They must also call out the outrageous actions of the Prime Minister at the Pacific Islands Forum. We cannot stand by and allow the PM to insult Canberrans of Pacific Islands heritage.

It is reported that at one point during the forum the Tongan Prime Minister cried as he reflected on what two young women had said at a climate change summit about their future and fears. Yet the Australian PM chose not to act on climate change. Let me quote the Tuvalu PM, who said about the Australian Prime Minister, “You are trying to save your economy, I am trying to save my people.”

We must listen to our young people and the people who will be directly impacted because of Australia’s failures on climate change. I urge the unanimous adoption of this motion and for the Canberra Liberals to stand up for all Canberrans.

MR WALL (Brindabella) (10.53): I thank members for bringing this motion here, but they may have missed the mark on some of the other challenges that are facing their portfolio responsibilities that probably deserve more attention than encouraging school students to skip school. This motion would be easier to swallow if it were not so heavily laced with the inconsequential detritus that it has, but I guess that when the government needs something to draw the eye from the manifest issues in our education system, this is the product that we are served up. Whether it be our comparative academic underperformance, the numerous issues of violence against students and employees of the Education Directorate, our inadequate facilities or the overcrowding of numerous schools up and down the territory, anything that serves as a distraction would be welcomed by this government.

Whatever the reason the minister is co-sponsoring this motion, I find it strange that the education minister would think that students missing school at what is the business end of the year is a good thing. But wait. School students who do not go to these protests still get the opportunity to be sat in a school hall and lectured about the importance of climate change and the climate emergency that is ever present so that they can be in attendance at the protest next time around. That was the experience of a number of students in various schools when the protest rallies occurred this year.

The future of education refers to supporting community and parental values, but this is a galling example of supporting only community and parental values that are in line with the government of the day. Then again, if I had the track record and educational success of the current minister and the current government, I too might be looking for anything outside what is happening inside our schools to distract parents and the general public from those issues.

We do not have to go very far back in this education minister's tenure to build a very convincing case for F-grade failure that has been presided over. There is such a richness of mistakes, poor performance and lack of understanding that it is hard to decide what the highlights of the failings are. Perhaps at the top of the pile might be the often-discussed buzzword-packed future of education strategy that I suspect is bemusing parents, teachers and educators alike, as it is those in the opposition, trying to figure out what exactly the minister is trying to achieve.

The education minister manages to include an aspect of the future of education strategy and its multitude of buzzwords in just about every answer that is delivered to the Assembly. While she talks about equity and strong communities, we have schools where children are too scared to attend classes and where teachers know that they are likely to be physically injured. When she says that there is even more evidence that we are on the right track, I have to ask: is the right track the same track that is seeing children being strangled, choked and terrorised in classrooms? Is the right track the ever-growing number of injuries being reported by employees of the Education Directorate?

When the minister was asked last week about the significant increase in reports of teacher abuse, she suggested that it was because the system was working so much better now and teachers were reporting incidents more often. The fact that we still have in excess of 2,000 instances of occupational violence in our schools is a bleak reflection on the minister and the actions she has taken so far. There is no embarrassment either that this government is under an enforceable undertaking by WorkSafe because of violence in schools towards teachers, assistants and principals. This happens to be in spite of the so-called "nation-leading" workplace health and safety policy put in place last October. There is no embarrassment that teachers are still coming to us advising us of their incidents. And the worst part is that the reports that they are submitting go unanswered or ignored.

In all of this, there is no sign of a revised suspension, transfer and exclusion policy that was to be delivered earlier this year after some time under review. Maybe that is something that the minister might like to put her mind to instead of encouraging students to take the day off school.

It is apparently quite appropriate for students, presumably of any age, to miss a day of school because they are so far behind in their studies. That is obviously what the minister believes. She continues to suggest that the ACT is leading the country in educational outcomes but, in the past three years, there have been no fewer than four reports, all independently researched, that paint a serious picture of academic underperformance in our schools.

The Lamb report, commissioned by the ACT government and entirely misunderstood by the education minister, said:

State and Territory results show that after taking account of intake and context differences, ACT government schools on average achieve negative results on every measure.

The second example is a report from the Australia Institute which the authors made public in 2017 after they realised that the government was not likely to do anything with it. The report suggests that in 41 per cent of cases, ACT schools were significantly below other schools. At the time, the institute's Andrew Macintosh said that the ACT government's ongoing future of education community conversation was not enough. He said:

ACT public schools are performing below similar schools in other jurisdictions despite expenditure on a per student basis for public schools being one of the highest in the country.

The ACT's own Auditor-General came to the conclusion that the ACT government schools on average achieve negative results on every measure. She found:

ACT public schools are performing below similar schools in other jurisdictions despite expenditure on a per student basis for public schools being one of the highest in the country. Since 2014 reviews of ACT public schools have consistently identified shortcomings in their analysis of student performance information and their use of data to inform educational practice. These shortcomings indicate a systemic problem.

The fourth report was a very well researched and documented submission by an ACT teacher who has consistently expressed concern at what he sees firsthand as failings in our schools.

How does the minister respond to these concerns from recognised credible researchers? Like any poor workman, she blames the tools. On cue, she drags out the now somewhat unsupported line that says that Canberra remains typically the highest or equal highest performer in the vast majority of assessment domains and year levels. When challenged about declining NAPLAN results, she attacks the test, claiming that it has become a trigger for stress, anxiety and depression among some students.

Mr Gentleman: Point of order, Mr Assistant Speaker.

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Mr Wall, can you be seated, please.

Mr Gentleman: Mr Assistant Speaker, the motion here goes to the increasingly dire climate change impact predicted in the world, and students' and young people's action in regard to that. I think Mr Wall is straying incredibly away from the detailed information and should be relevant to the motion itself.

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker. I could fill another 10 minutes or so just on the issue of underperformance, but there is so much more in the suite of failures. For example, there is the minister's total lack of interest in the fate of music students whose only opportunity for extension-level music training was cut off, for the want of a mere \$300,000. The education committee is currently inquiring into the H course for music, but we know that such an inquiry was only brought about because hundreds of students and parents were angered by yet another of the minister's poor decisions and set up a petition. This was another poor call by the minister, who obviously thought that providing such an offering for gifted music students did not fit her profile of the poor and downtrodden who needed equity in their education. I suspect she thought of it more as an elitist opportunity that would simply not do in her flat-line socialist perspective that is being imposed on our education system.

The minister's recent announcement about three-year-old preschool education was made last year as part of her magical mystery tour called the future of education and was repeated again this year. But there is still an absence of detail. We are close to the end of August and those on this side of the chamber are continuing to take calls from parents as well as teachers who are asking us if we can offer any more detail about where it will start, who will be included and how it will be delivered.

Amid all that we have overcrowded schools; schools that have been given additional space without wanting it; and schools being vandalised because the minister will not allow CCTV to be installed even if it is the wish of the school community.

Mr Assistant Speaker, this motion does nothing and will achieve little in improving educational outcomes for students. I do not believe that the Assembly should waste much more time on it. Addressing systemic issues in ACT schools rather than encouraging students to wag the day off would be a better use of the time of this minister and this government.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Corrections and Justice Health, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety and Minister for Mental Health) (11.03), in reply: That was the speech I might have expected. Nonetheless, I want to focus on the positives here. I am very proud of the students for having passion, for having commitment, for being very clear about what they think is really important for the future, and for having the courage to stand up for that. That is what this is about. I think it is entirely appropriate for this Assembly to spend time reflecting on what our students are thinking about and reflecting on our part and our responsibility in meeting their desires and their demands.

I will not speak too much longer; I was very clear in my earlier remarks. I will be joining the students on 20 September this year. I think that it is important that we stand with them and that we demonstrate that we stand with them. I look forward to inviting them to the Assembly. I hope that all members will be able to find the time in their diaries to come to listen to why the students are taking the position that they are taking. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

ACT Teacher Quality Institute Amendment Bill 2019

Debate resumed from 6 June 2019, on motion by **Ms Berry**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR WALL (Brindabella) (11.05): The ACT Teacher Quality Institute Amendment Bill has a few minor amendments to the act, one of the big ones being the inclusion of the removal of hyphens from the word “pre-school” throughout the act, and modernising the definition of “Indigenous person” to “Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander”. These are fairly minor amendments and need not be mentioned again.

On the other hand the bill does have three major key objectives. Firstly, there is the pre-service teacher register. The bill establishes a mechanism to create a register of pre-service teachers to be administered by the TQI. This register will contain various pieces of information about pre-service teachers, including their qualifications and the details of the education program in which they are enrolled, the pre-service teacher’s contact details, information about their working with vulnerable people registration, and where the pre-service teacher will be placed for professional experience.

This register for pre-service teachers brings them into line with other teachers whose information is contained on a separate register and will allow the TQI to better know who is teaching or training within any school in the ACT.

I note that in the minister’s presentation speech, and in the explanatory statement, the minister described this as helping to deliver high quality practicum to pre-service teachers. Our interpretation of the change is that it is just a mechanism to ensure that the TQI knows where pre-service teachers are—aside from setting an almost unattainably lofty ambition, as described in her presentation speech. Similarly, under the bill, a pre-service teacher would be expected to seek “approval” from the TQI to begin to seek placement for pre-service training.

A concern which has been drawn to the opposition’s attention is the use of the term “approval”. It is intriguing and a little concerning that this term exists to describe the situation. The bill makes it very clear that as long as the applicant has a working with vulnerable people card and provides the relevant details to the institute, they must be included on the register of pre-service teachers. That is to say that the role of the TQI is not active or discretionary; it is simply a matter of including pre-service teachers on the register.

We have no problem with the mechanism or with the concept of having to register, but the use of the word “approval” suggests that the registration is something within the gift of the TQI; in fact, it really is not. I would encourage the minister and the directorate to consider the use of the phrase “apply for admission to the register” or “inclusion on the register of pre-service teachers”. This would perhaps better encapsulate the process and the particular role that the TQI plays. Although we have raised an issue with the phrasing, we will keep a watching brief on it, and at this stage we do not intend to make any amendments to it.

The second major change under the bill is to establish a mechanism for sharing information kept by the TQI on both the teacher register and the new pre-service teacher register. There are two provisions for this power. The first allows the TQI to share the anonymised information on the registers with approved data linkages agencies, as part of the national teacher workforce data strategy. This is an important facet of ensuring that there are appropriately qualified teachers in the labour force and will also help to address any shortcomings in supply within future planning for the teacher workforce. The act also allows the sharing of anonymised information on the registers with other entities for planning and research purposes.

Finally, the act also removes a grandfathering clause from within the TQI act which allows teachers who were qualified when three-year courses were the norm to continue to teach. Grandfathering clauses are an important factor in maintaining a working regulatory system as it evolves, as much as the transitional provisions that existed, but it is also important that they be removed when appropriate. After much consultation undertaken by the opposition within the sector, it is widely believed that sufficient time has passed since the introduction of the grandfathering clause and that the amendment to remove that provision will not have an impact on any teachers currently registered within the ACT.

Overall, these changes in the bill are seen to be reasonable and necessary. They will ensure a more uniform system of teacher qualification, more transparent pre-service training and, most importantly, more disciplined use of hyphens. The Canberra Liberals will be supporting the bill.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (11.09): The ACT Greens are happy to support the bill that is before us today, and I will speak only briefly to the amendments. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the Teacher Quality Institute, TQI, and the often silent role they play in safeguarding the education system. As a former education minister, I had the pleasure of working with the very passionate and hardworking staff at TQI for a short period. As a small organisation whose activities primarily take place behind the scenes, they certainly impressed upon me the importance of the work they do and the commitment they have towards supporting the Education Directorate and, of course, the teaching profession.

The bill today supports the professionalisation of the teacher workforce, safeguards the quality of the teaching profession in the ACT and progresses the whole-of-government commitment to child safety. As Mr Wall noted, while the amendments are mainly technical in nature, I certainly recognise the benefits that the

bill will provide to all stakeholders and the increased transparency and clarity it will offer to new and existing teachers. On that basis we are pleased to support the bill today.

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (11.11): The Teacher Quality Institute Amendment Bill 2019 supports the government's strategy for the future of education over the next 10 years. In particular, the bill supports the strategy's foundation "empowered learning professionals". The bill is about building the quality of the teaching workforce and improving government's capacity to ensure that there are quality teachers available into the future to meet the needs of ACT students.

Minister Berry has spoken about the pre-service teacher register, which will deliver an online platform and contact points where pre-service teachers can be supported through their teacher training into the teaching profession.

I am sure almost all of us have experienced the transformative power of an effective teacher. If we were particularly fortunate, we had numerous exceptional teachers who made school an exciting and interesting place. Those teachers possessed a passion for the subjects that they taught and inspired us to play with ideas, think deeply about the subject matter, take on more challenging work, and set us on the path of being lifelong learners. These are the sorts of teachers we want to emerge from our teacher education institutions.

Pre-service teachers identify that in-school experience is one of the most valuable experiences of their teacher education program. They value the opportunities to connect what they learn at university with real-world practice. The practicum allows pre-service teachers to increase their confidence, improve their skills and build their readiness for the realities of the classroom.

Professional experience provides the opportunity for prospective teachers to learn and practice the art of teaching, reflect on and learn from their experiences, observe and be mentored by experienced teachers, experience working in a school community, and commence their professional life as a teacher.

Since the commencement of the Teacher Quality Institute Act 2011, there has been an increased emphasis on strengthening initial teacher education to ensure that graduates are ready to teach. To prepare them for day one, and their teaching future, high quality professional experience is critical. For this reason, in 2018 the government launched the professional experience framework, which provides the direction for schools and universities to provide high quality practicum to pre-service teachers. This bill builds on that work.

While the pre-service teacher register can be seen as a precursor to teacher registration, it will be made clear to pre-service teachers that their enrolment on the register is not an approval to teach in the ACT; rather, it enables them to undertake professional experience placements in an ACT school. Establishing a pre-service teacher register, as occurs through the bill, will assist universities and schools to provide high quality, practical in-school teaching experience so that schoolteachers are better equipped with the classroom skills they need when they graduate.

The government is conscious that any administrative burden and cost of a framework like this should be minimised, so there will be no fee or charge required for pre-service teacher approval and registration.

The second major amendment, as Ms Berry has explained, is the strengthening of requirements for teachers to have, as a minimum, a four-year teaching qualification. The ACT government knows that having well-trained and knowledgeable teachers provides the foundation for a strong, high-quality education system. During the four years of pre-service study, teachers develop a thorough knowledge of the content they will go on to teach and a solid understanding of teaching practices that are proven to make a difference to student learning.

As a complement to the amendments to the act around teacher qualifications, the future of education strategy sets out two initiatives to enhance practice and maximise learning impact for every child in the ACT. The first is the government's vision for a highly accomplished or lead teacher in every government school. These teachers are known as HALTs. Certification recognises and promotes the development of collaborative learning professionals who strive to continually reflect upon and improve their practice. It opens up a wealth of career possibilities for the HALTs, without them having to leave the classroom. Certification empowers them to lead the profession towards better outcomes for teachers and learners everywhere.

The second is scoping the enhancement of the role of the Teacher Quality Institute to share excellent practice and contemporary research evidence across the ACT, giving the institute an administrative framework to provide the best and latest evidence on teaching and learning, and spread success across all ACT schools.

Research is central to the third amendment focus of the bill that we are debating today, amendments allowing the ACT Teacher Quality Institute to collect information about the teacher workforce to inform national and ACT teacher workforce planning. There are important changes occurring in the demand for teachers, the nature of the existing teacher workforce and the cohort of students being prepared to become teachers. Under these circumstances it is essential that we have accurate and reliable data for workforce planning and a good understanding of developments and trends that will shape the teacher workforce of the future.

The overarching challenge is to ensure that Australia, and in particular the ACT, has the numbers of future teachers it requires and is not training too few or too many teachers; that we have teachers in the areas in which they will be required, geographically, by stage of schooling and by subject specialisation; and that we work to ensure that Australia's future teaching workforce is drawn from the best and brightest of our school leavers.

The Teacher Quality Institute Amendment Bill, in short, is about building the quality of ACT teachers, starting from when the teachers are in training and continuing throughout the teacher's career. It is about the ACT building the right workforce to provide progress in learning for every student every day. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

MR GUPTA (Yerrabi) (11.17): I rise today to speak to the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Amendment Bill. The ACT Teacher Quality Institute Amendment Bill 2019 demonstrates that a key focus for this government in the education portfolio has been respecting and investing in the teaching profession. It is a priority of the government because we understand that teachers play an integral role in a child's development and we are committed to supporting teachers to engage effectively with students as professionals.

I want to mirror and reiterate the minister's clear statement that, after personal factors related to a school student, the single most significant factor in their learning outcomes is the standard of teaching available to them.

In a lot of areas we can see how the government is demonstrating that we can take education seriously. Respecting and empowering the teaching profession is a clear priority for this minister and this government. There are many great examples, such as building on the future of education strategy and the foundation it sets through empowering learning professionals.

The education strategy is the product of extensive consultation and research. The strategy draws on the accumulative experience of children, parents, teachers and education experts. Our teachers deserve a strong foundation and ongoing support when working with students, and our government acknowledges and respects the great contribution of our teachers.

Relevant to today's debate, in the 2018 budget the government allocated funding to build better links with the University of Canberra, where many ACT teachers gain their initial and postgraduate qualifications. Work on this university partnership is progressing and will provide teachers with opportunities for professional learning through research collaboration, growing the University of Canberra as a centre for excellence in teaching. The ACT government also kicked off a new teacher mentor program, with school leaders being provided with better training in mentoring and supporting teachers who are beginning their careers in one of the ACT's public schools.

The bill we are debating today continues the government's work by formalising the good work that the ACT Teacher Quality Institute is doing through professional experience for student teachers. By providing a registration scheme for student teachers undertaking a practicum, the institute will be able to better support both these student teachers and their host schools to provide a high quality learning experience. Student teachers will also gain an improved record of their practical experience.

Another key element of the bill will better equip the government to work with the education sector to support and plan for future workforce needs. It will do this by allowing de-identified information about the teaching workforce held on the teacher register to be used for workforce planning and research, and will allow the institute to contribute to this work.

It is vital that our community encourages the right people to enter the teaching profession, supports them through their journey into the profession and provides them with opportunities to learn and specialise in this area of need. I am pleased to support this bill.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (11.21), in reply: I welcome the opportunity to put before you the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Amendment Bill 2019. The government values and respects the professional expertise of our teachers and appreciates the significant impact that the high quality of teaching has made on the lives of children and young people in our community.

Every child and young person is unique. They bring their own abilities, interests and life experiences to their learning journey. What all students have in common, apart from personal factors, is that the standard of teaching that they receive is the most important factor that influences learning outcomes. This is where we can make the biggest difference for every child.

Teachers in the ACT education system are experts at designing and delivering learning opportunities to meet the unique needs and interests of each student. The knowledge and skills that they bring to this important role should be acknowledged and supported. For this reason, the government has invested significantly in the professional development of our teachers and school leaders through the 10-year future of education strategy. We are empowering learning professionals, including teachers and school leaders, other educators, allied learning professionals and supporting staff in our schools, to meet the learning needs of all students.

The Teacher Quality Institute, TQI, is a critical part of this work. This bill provides the way forward in achieving several key directions, as set out in the future of education strategy. The ACT Teacher Quality Institute was established through the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act in 2010. The institute's function is to build the professional standing of the ACT's teachers and to enhance the community's confidence in the teaching profession through professional regulation and practical initiatives to raise teacher quality. The institute is well respected nationally and is known as a leader in many areas. It is well placed to take on an expanded role, and this bill begins the process towards that.

The institute enhances student outcomes by integrating standards-based quality measures into professional regulation, collaborating across school sectors, and promoting continuous professional learning development and the professionalism of all teachers in the ACT. This happens as teachers enter the profession when they start their initial teacher education at university and continues as they progress to graduate teacher and through the years as a teacher and school leader.

The amendments to the Teacher Quality Institute Act that I propose are about ensuring the quality of the ACT's teacher workforce and building a workforce that

meets the needs of ACT schoolchildren into the future. The future of education strategy, in supporting a workforce for the future, targets people in the very early stages of their teaching career. The bill put before you today is the beginning of the implementation of this strategy.

The bill proposes the establishment of a pre-service teacher register which enables the provision of coordinated professional experience placements for pre-service teachers who will move on to teach in the ACT's public, Catholic and independent schools. Improving the quality of teaching in ACT schools means that every child will experience the transformative power of expert and passionate teachers. It is important that beginning teachers possess the skills and characteristics of expert teachers from day one. The role of a teacher comes with high expectations, including from beginning teachers. That is why the supports outlined in this bill are so important.

Through this bill, pre-service teachers will now be approved by the institute to undertake professional experience at a school in the ACT and will be included on a pre-service teacher register. Arrangements for professional experience will be formalised in the Teacher Quality Institute Act by amending the act to require the institute to maintain a professional experience register.

This bill is not only about pre-service teacher registration. It is also about strengthening the qualification requirements for teachers wishing to teach in an ACT school. The bill aims to build the confidence which the ACT community can rightly have in teachers in our schools by ensuring that all newly registered teachers must hold a minimum of a four-year teaching qualification. I can assure the Assembly that teachers who are currently registered will not be affected by these changes. The changes are for new registrations only.

With the passing of this bill, the ACT community can be confident that the ACT teacher workforce is highly qualified, is professional and has completed teacher education that gives people the right mix of academic and practical skills needed for the classroom. Be assured that teachers will not be left to go it alone after their training is complete. The future of education strategy has in place better induction for new teachers as they begin their career in the classroom and mentoring for teachers at all stages during their career.

The changes to the act are not just about strengthening the teaching workforce of today. The amendments are also about creating a dynamic and fit for purpose teaching workforce into the future. The quality of the ACT teaching workforce is key to the effective implementation of reforms arising from the future of education. There is a need for improved teacher workforce planning at the local and national level.

This bill will amend the Teacher Quality Institute Act to allow the ACT to participate in national teacher workforce data initiatives in order to inform a better teacher workforce strategy for the ACT. To do so, the proposed amendments will allow the institute to collect information about teachers which can be used locally and nationally to inform essential workplace planning while ensuring that appropriate privacy conditions are in place to prevent the identification of individual teachers.

The effective management of the teacher workforce is far more complex than simply matching the number of available teachers and school leaders to the number of students in schools. It involves detailed understanding of the many factors affecting teacher supply and demand. For example, the skill needs of the labour market and economic development policy have upstream implications for the skill and capability needs of school leaders. Meeting these needs requires appropriately skilled teachers, including specialist teachers. Equally, our community expects that school students are supported with learning and development in important social and cultural knowledge and skills like languages and music. Again, appropriately skilled teachers, including specialist teachers, are required.

In summary, the changes to the Teacher Quality Institute Act that I have proposed will ensure that pre-service teachers participate in professional experience which prepares them for the classroom; only highly qualified teachers are teaching in our schools; and the Teacher Quality Institute can undertake expanded functions relating to workforce planning in the ACT and nationally. By recognising and building on the professional standard of teaching in the ACT, we will enhance the community's confidence in our schools and improve outcomes for children and young people. This bill is an important step forward to achieving these objectives, and 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.

Unfantastic plastic—government response

Debate resumed from 16 May 2019, on motion by **Mr Gentleman**:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act, pursuant to subsection 21(2), Unfantastic Plastic—Review of the ACT Plastic Shopping Bag Ban—Government response.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries) (11.29): Single-use plastic shopping bags litter our environment, harm wildlife and require valuable resources to manufacture. The Northern Territory, South Australia and Tasmania have banned single-use plastic shopping bags.

Mr Wall: I thought we were removing them, not speaking to them.

MR GENTLEMAN: Yes; just a minute. The ban has reduced plastic bag use, with shoppers encouraged to bring their own bags. Overall, the ban has reduced the volume of plastic bag waste going to landfill by around one-third. I thank members for their input into this discussion.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Achievements over the past year Ministerial statement

Debate resumed from 31 October 2017, on motion by **Mr Rattenbury**:

That the Assembly take note of the paper:

Achievements in the first year—Ministerial statement, 31 October 2017.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 11.30 am to 2.00 pm.

Questions without notice Government—heritage policy

MR COE: I very much encourage an answer to my questions! My question is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage. What additional work or what tasks will the additional staff member in the heritage team be undertaking?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Coe for his question. It is an important one with the city moving to an improved and increased population across the ACT. These staff will be able to assist the heritage team in looking at decisions on DAs and nominations into the future. I am very pleased to be able to support EPSDD in doing that particular work.

MR COE: Minister, will the additional staff member or additional staff resources in the heritage unit be working to address a backlog in nominations to the heritage register?

MR GENTLEMAN: Mr Coe touches on a very important point and that is that the staff in EPSDD, whether they be in the development application process team or indeed work in assisting heritage nomination decisions, work as a whole team. This government has resourced EPSDD with extra staff to work through the DA process but also through the heritage applications. So I am very pleased to be able to see that work proceed. Of course the council has looked at more nominations most recently and has reduced the list of heritage nominations for decision.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why then did your answer to question on notice E-19508 say that the funding for a full-time equivalent would “not relate to nominations of a place or object to the ACT Heritage Register”?

MR GENTLEMAN: As I said, they work as a whole team, whether they are working particularly on nominations or working on decisions for DA that need heritage aspects looked at. The extra staff that we have provided for the directorate will help to assist the whole team in dealing with that work.

Domestic and family violence—family safety levy

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and relates to a response that Minister Stephen-Smith provided to questions in question time yesterday, when she indicated that funding for legal aid's provision of family violence support would come from a different bucket of money. Minister, can you advise us exactly which bucket of money that funding will come from?

MS BERRY: The whole purpose of the family safety levy is to provide funding for innovation, to trial new ways to address this complex and complicated issue of domestic and family violence. Through the review work that has been happening around the implementation of the domestic and family violence levy, a change to the way that legal aid was funded was decided—

Ms Le Couteur: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Resume your seat, minister.

Ms Le Couteur: I am not asking what the family safety levy is for. We have been through that at length. I am asking: where is this bucket of money?

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, to that point of the question.

MS BERRY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, we have been through the domestic and family violence levy at length, and it is important to note that that was where the funding for legal aid was originally sourced from. The decision has been made that that will not be the funding source for legal aid in the future, and the government will make a decision on that in due course.

MS LE COUTEUR: I note that my original question was not answered. I note the prioritisation of innovative projects to be funded by the family safety levy, but can you advise us what will happen if one of these innovative programs has been evaluated and found to be effective? Does that mean it will then be regarded as no longer innovative so it will not be funded by the levy?

MS BERRY: The funding that is decided on—where the levy goes towards innovation—is done in co-design with the domestic and family violence sector on working out different ways to challenge new ideas to address this situation. Some of those new ideas, such as the justice health partnership which is currently occurring in health settings and community and family centres to provide access to legal support and legal advice in a safe place for women and children, are a way that we can pilot how that works within our own health settings, within our child and family centres,

and then ask what are the future options around making sure that that service can continue. That is the whole purpose of the levy. I look forward to continuing to work with the sector in challenging ways to bring innovation in addressing these important issues.

MR COE: Is the balance of the fund quarantined somewhere or has it simply gone into consolidated revenue?

MS BERRY: The family safety levy has its own line item. It is shown separately in the budget papers. It is very clear, open and transparent for everyone to see where the funding is going. The funding will be provided, as I said, for innovation in addressing domestic and family violence.

Education—future strategy

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, why does the future of education first implementation plan have such a strong focus on teachers?

MS BERRY: As the Assembly has already discussed today, there is no doubt about the significance of teachers in student learning outcomes. Because of this the quality of ACT teaching is a key to the effective implementation of the reforms arising from the future of education strategy. The future of education first implementation plan provides a systematic induction program for new teachers that ensures that consolidated planned, professional supports are in place the moment that they arrive in the classroom.

By ensuring that new teachers get the best start to their careers, students will benefit from improved teacher practice. Teachers will feel supported in their practice and wellbeing, and schools will increase the impact of their teachers and their leadership teams. Support for new teachers will also lead into universal professional learning and support strategies that unfold over all career stages and are replicated across numerous school sites.

The ACT government is investing in strategies to support continual professional learning, which will lead to greater student learning outcomes. This work will include deepened pedagogical and curriculum expertise, cohesive and systemic professional learning and an increase in coaching, mentoring and instructional leadership opportunities for teachers and school leaders. The ACT government recognises and values school leaders as education specialists.

The implementation plan will also strengthen school leadership capabilities across the education system, and it will do this through work to develop, attract and retain high quality school leaders, strengthen collaborative relationships to effectively meet student needs and ensure that school leader wellbeing underpins high quality educational leadership in every school.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, what are the practical strategies that will support teachers to deliver a high quality education?

MS BERRY: The implementation plan includes three priorities that support teachers. The first priority is a best start in a career of learning. Under this priority, the government will build on an affiliated schools program with the University of Canberra, including joint research, school-based pre-service teacher clinics, and a comprehensive mentoring training program.

Thirty masters of education scholarships will be provided each year to teachers from early childhood, primary school, high school, college and education support office, as well as specialist settings. Coordinated professional experience places will also be delivered to enhance placements and make sure they are matched to the developmental needs of the pre-service teachers, something that the passage of the TQI bill this morning will support.

The second priority is thriving in a career of learning. Under this priority, the government will increase the number of highly accomplished and lead certified teachers alongside other initiatives to strengthen school leadership and create the culture, structures and conditions needed for positive student outcomes. The government will also develop a whole-of-jurisdiction workforce plan to make sure that there are specialist teachers, including language teachers, available to schools.

The third priority is supporting leaders in a career of learning. Under this priority, the ACT government will introduce a revised principal career structure and ensure that both newly appointed and experienced principals have access to many development opportunities. The principal health and wellbeing plan will be implemented to ensure that principals can meet the complexities that they face every day.

School leaders will also be supported to respond to complex student needs by scoping a complex student needs team, supporting learning, supporting assistance to complete a certificate four in education support and provide legal assistance for students experiencing vulnerability.

MS ORR: Minister, what other strategies in the implementation plan will have a direct impact on student outcomes?

MS BERRY: The implementation plan provides a cohesive set of actions that seek to ensure that all students, regardless of background or vulnerability, feel welcome, respected, supported and valued in their school community, and that the right things are in place to address individual student needs. Through this plan the ACT government is building upon targeted efforts to address enduring barriers to inclusive education, such as the positive behaviours for learning framework, student resource allocation and digital solutions.

The plan also focuses on ensuring that schools are safe and inclusive through collaboration between schools, students, families and the community sector, as well as other government agencies. Inclusive learning environments are also focused on through contemporary infrastructure and personalised learning programs, reflecting the expectations of the ACT community.

The ACT government recognises students as individuals with their own path, based on their developing interests, knowledge and skills. This plan supports teachers to ensure that all students are appropriately engaged, challenged and extended by designing classroom activities to meet students' individual learning needs. The plan includes strategies to involve students as decision-makers in their learning. A student voice will allow students to have a say about how things are done and pathways that are most suited to their goals.

The plan also includes strategies to focus the education system on what matters most in achieving student outcomes. This includes aligning legislation, resources, organisational structures, public accountability and reporting and teaching tools, along with data and IT, with the aim of pursuing educational equity. The full implementation plan can be accessed on the Education Directorate website.

Government—heritage policy

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. Minister, nearly half of all nominations of places or objects to the heritage register have waited decades to be assessed. This morning's *Canberra Times* reported that the president of the Canberra & District Historical Society said that this backlog "implies the government has put a very low priority on heritage". Minister, why has this government put such a very low priority on heritage?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Lawder for the question. It is not the case at all. In fact, we have invested in more staff for EPSDD in each of our budgets over the past couple of years. I remind the Assembly that the Canberra Liberals have voted against those resources.

The work that the Heritage Council do is very important. They do that work in best practice to prioritise heritage nominations for assessments based on a range of factors, including imminent threat, thematic representation and pressures from development or other works. When we talk about those numbers, since reaching a peak of 320 nominations in 2008, 232 decisions have been made, resulting in a current nomination list of 88. We are now seeing only 10 or fewer nominations each year.

I do not think it will be too long before we get to the end of the list. If we look at the period for this year, 2018-19, there were six nominations accepted, and three of those were dismissed. The trend is coming down on nominations. That is because Canberra is still a young city. People have identified earlier heritage aspects of the city. Those were nominated in the early days. The other thing to think about is that as these nominations come forward, on a number of occasions there will be a nomination perhaps for an object or a building and a secondary nomination for a part of that object or building. Some of these nominations are to do with the one structure, for example. The Heritage Council need to go through and have a look at all of those.

The extra resources that we are providing will assist EPSDD in providing the resources to the Heritage Council to make the nominations and decisions.

MS LAWDER: Minister, how will providing additional resources for planning and development proposals as per your answer to question on notice E-19508 assist with clearing the backlog of nominations to the ACT heritage register?

MR GENTLEMAN: As I said in answer to the previous question, EPSDD work as a whole team. Whilst they have dedicated officers in certain areas, the extra relief that we are providing in resources and staffing means that that frees up other resources in the directorate to help out in heritage work.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, how can Canberrans trust you to manage the ACT heritage portfolio given the low priority that you have given to it thus far?

MR GENTLEMAN: I do not accept the premise in that question. In fact it is this side of the chamber that is providing resources for the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and heritage. The other side of the chamber voted against the budget.

Waste—recycling

MS ORR: My question is to the minister for city services. Minister, can you outline what steps the ACT government is taking to encourage more Canberrans to recycle?

MR STEEL: I thank Ms Orr for her question and for her passion and advocacy for waste reduction. Canberrans are excellent recyclers and, for the most part, do the right thing. Our government is committed to encouraging greater waste diversion and better re-use and recycling of materials that would otherwise go into landfill.

We now have 70,000 households that have taken up a green bin, with very low contamination rates. We have funded the next step to develop a food waste avoidance campaign and plan for a food organics collection service in the coming years. Our container deposit scheme continues to perform well, with over 31 million containers now collected under the scheme thus far.

In order to expand our excellent recycling record, I was very pleased to launch the recycle right campaign, alongside the Canberra Region Joint Organisation and mayors from neighbouring local governments, helping to reduce contamination in our recycling stream so that those products can then go on to be manufactured into other high-grade products, with some very clear and simple messages.

Canberra is a hub for the whole region, and greater cooperation on waste avoidance, waste reduction and recycling benefits Canberra and our broader region. It is something that our government will continue to work on.

MS ORR: Minister, what are the key messages of the recycle right campaign?

MR STEEL: There are six key messages of the recycle right campaign. The first is keep it simple. This means that you can only recycle hard plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminium cans, and paper and cardboard

in your recycle bin. The second is keep out soft plastics. They cannot be recycled through our MRF. They can be dropped off at a recycle collection point at our major supermarket providers. The third is keep out small items. Nothing smaller than a credit card can go in your recycle bin. It simply cannot be sorted to be recycled.

The fourth is keep it safe. Make sure that you are keeping things like hoses out of your recycle bin because they can get caught up in the plant at the materials recovery centre. The fifth is keep it clean. Make sure that you are not putting in containers that are dirty and might contaminate other material in the bin, like paper and cardboard. And last is keep it loose. Make sure that what you put into your yellow bin is separate and loose so that it can be sorted and then go on to be recycled.

MS CODY: Minister, how does expanding the container deposit scheme improve recycling and waste reduction in the ACT?

MR STEEL: I thank Ms Cody for her supplementary. As I mentioned, 31 million containers have now been collected under the container deposit scheme. The CDS targets beverage containers, which are most commonly found in the litter stream. It encourages recovery, reuse and recycling of these containers with a 10c refund as an incentive. Being able to collect containers in that way through the CDS ensures that a cleaner waste stream is provided. This makes it much easier for these products to be sold on to resource markets.

We are currently making it easier for people to return their containers. Just over a week ago, I visited the Phillip CDS depot where a new Australian-designed reverse ATM has been installed. New to the ACT, this technology sorts through beverage containers with a significant efficiency rate, halving the time it takes to return containers. It provides an instant cash refund for people using the terminal as well.

I was very lucky to be joined by Brindabella Christian College student James, who has so far collected 25,000 containers from his community, mostly by doorknocking some of his neighbours and getting them to save the bottles for him and his friends. He and other users were highly impressed with the new technology now being trialled at Phillip. We will continue to roll out more points throughout the ACT, and potentially this new technology as well.

Planning—Ginninderra Estate

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. Minister, massive steel towers for a new 330,000-volt transmission line are being erected only 16 metres away from metal residential fences in the Ginninderra Estate. In addition, the environmental impact statement identified these towers as high risk for visual pollution, even after mitigation. Consultation for this project occurred before most homes in this estate were built and occupied. Minister, why was approval given for these towers to be built only 16 metres away from residents' fences?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mrs Kikkert for her question. It is an important one as we move forward and as Canberra's population increases and we look to other areas

to provide housing for the ACT. These towers are built to a national code across Australia. Approval would sit with us and also with the commonwealth in regard to the placement of those particular towers. All of that work needs to go forward to ensure that they are constructed appropriately. Then, in regard to the design for residential areas around or amongst the towers, that goes through an environmental process with our directorates as well, and the community is involved in that process.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, is the ACT government going against the national code when TransGrid guidelines state that fences within 20 metres pose a safety risk? Minister, have you warned residents in Ginninderra Estate about the safety risk created by having a 330,000-volt transmission line so close to their homes and fences? If not, why not?

MR GENTLEMAN: I have not been briefed on any of this by residents in regard to high voltage power lines across the ACT. I will take the detail of the question on notice, though, and come back if I have any more information.

MR PARTON: Minister, did you warn those who purchased blocks in the Ginninderra Estate of the high risk of visual pollution identified in this project's environmental impact statement; if not, why not?

MR GENTLEMAN: I do not recall providing any advice to residents purchasing in that estate. It might have been prior to my time. However, I will have a look at the record and ask the directorate if they have provided any advice to residents, and come back to the chamber with more detail.

Australian National University—legal practice course

MR PARTON: My question is to the Attorney-General. Attorney, recently it was announced that the ANU will disband the school of legal practice and cease the course that permits graduating lawyers to become qualified to practise, the GDLP. This decision has been criticised by the profession, including the ACT Law Society, by legal academics and by the National Tertiary Education Union. Attorney, was the government consulted on or informed of this decision, and what is the government's position on the announcement?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Parton for the important question and for his interest in the importance of our strong legal profession here in the ACT being well educated, well trained and well equipped for the work that they do. The decision that was made by the ANU was entirely a decision for the ANU, and I understand that it was simply an internal decision of the ANU. There was no consultation with the government in relation to that. We look forward to continuing to work with the ANU, with other institutions and with the legal profession here to ensure the ongoing high quality of the legal profession that we have here in the ACT.

MR PARTON: Attorney, is the government consulting with other institutions for replacement courses to allow graduating lawyers within the ACT to become eligible to practise?

MR RAMSAY: Educational offerings that are the equivalent of what has been provided by the ANU are a matter for those tertiary educational institutions. I will continue to work with the legal profession in relation to that.

MR WALL: Attorney, what alternatives are or will be available for students wishing to qualify for practice as a lawyer in the ACT? Are you satisfied that there will be sufficient capacity?

MR RAMSAY: As I said, the decisions that may be available in the future will be decisions that will be made by tertiary institutions, and there are a number of those. I will continue to work with the legal profession, who have expressed their view on this, to ensure that the ongoing work of the educational institutions, and the ongoing work of the legal profession, is high. I do note that of course it is not that there has been a withdrawal of the undergraduate training for people who are seeking to receive a bachelor of law or its equivalent. There are a number of those already provided here in the ACT and beyond.

Mr Coe: Madam Speaker, I have a point of order on being directly relevant. My colleague was asking the chief law officer of the ACT what alternatives are or will be available to students wishing to qualify for practice as a lawyer in the ACT. This surely is a very important question for the chief law officer, and to date he has not answered it.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time has expired or the clock has been set, but I believe that he answered it by saying that there was a range of opportunities elsewhere and he is continuing dialogue with the sector.

ACT Health—SPIRE project

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, can you please update the Assembly on the progress of SPIRE?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for her question and her interest in the SPIRE project, which is the largest investment in healthcare infrastructure in the history of self-government. I am very pleased to confirm that substantial progress is being made on the SPIRE project. It remains on track for construction to be completed in 2023-24.

As I have said, this project represents the ACT government's largest ever investment in healthcare infrastructure. It will substantially transform the ACT's healthcare system for the better. It is a complex project requiring considerable planning and consultation with clinical and stakeholder groups, including consumers, to ensure that we that deliver the best possible outcomes for the Canberra community.

There are now ten people dedicated to the project in the Major Projects Canberra team. That team is supported by other senior staff within Major Projects Canberra, including the chief projects officers, communications and governance staff. In turn, they are supported by advisory teams who have joined, or will shortly join, the

project. Health planning, legal and commercial advisors are all in the process of being appointed. The procurement process for design consultants will commence in the next few weeks.

Add to that the many staff in Canberra Health Services involved in the project, and it is clear that substantial resources are actively engaged in delivering this very important project. Enabling works are currently an area of focus, particularly the movement of service areas to enable demolition on the site for the project, after which the SPIRE project's main construction works will commence.

In addition, work is under way to update models of care and functional briefs in consultation with CHS clinicians to ensure that we are providing the facilities that clinicians need to deliver health services for our community now and into the future.

MS CODY: Minister, what will SPIRE deliver for the Canberra community?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for the supplementary. As our city continues to grow, so, too, does demand for health services. Territory-wide health services planning undertaken by the ACT Health Directorate aims to ensure that the healthcare needs of Canberrans are met today and into the future. An important part of this planning is the assessment and provision of infrastructure that will allow Canberra Health Services to continue to fulfil its goal of providing quality health care when and where it is needed.

As I mentioned, the SPIRE project is the largest healthcare infrastructure project being undertaken in the ACT. It will deliver a state-of-the-art emergency, surgical and critical healthcare facility on the Canberra Hospital campus. The SPIRE project will transform the Canberra Hospital campus and enhance the delivery of hospital-based health care in a modern and purpose-built facility. It will anchor future hospital campus planning and developments.

The SPIRE project will deliver 148 inpatient beds, including 60 intensive care unit beds and 24 coronary care unit beds; 22 operating theatres; 114 emergency treatment spaces; 55 day-surgery beds; integrated radiology and medical imaging facilities; 12 ambulance bays; a 10-bed short-stay mental health unit; two cardiac catheterisation laboratories; and patient, carer and staff spaces for respite, learning and meeting. Existing critical operations such as the helipad and emergency services area at the Canberra Hospital will continue to function during the build, uninterrupted by the SPIRE project.

The Health Directorate has also commenced work for the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. With these two projects underway, a Canberra Hospital master plan is being developed to help inform future development on the campus to serve the Canberra community.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how is the government managing demand for health services prior to SPIRE's completion?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. Of course, there are many ways in which the government is managing demand for health services that we have talked about in this place over the past few weeks and, indeed, months. I have outlined a number of these over the past few sitting weeks, including our increased investment in doctors and nurses, the timely care strategy, our nurse-led walk-in centres, and the University of Canberra Hospital.

The timely care strategy aims to improve patient care delivery, access to services across Canberra Health Services and patient flow processes. Canberra Health Services is continuously identifying and incorporating change to improve communication and decision-making processes, as well as implementing several projects to refresh and refocus systems and processes using a whole-of-hospital approach.

For example, CHS manages periods of high demand in the cardiac care unit by utilising territory-wide services. A cardiologist has introduced day procedures for low-risk angiograms and stenting to limit the number of patients who require an overnight bed in the CCU. These patients are cared for in the catheter laboratory day ward prior to discharge.

CHS is also in the process of developing an intensive care unit escalation policy to address periods of excessive demand, as well as managing demand by utilising additional appropriate treatment spaces in the post-anaesthetic care unit.

The network of walk-in centres across the territory is assisting by reducing demand on our hospital system. The network will be increased to five by late 2020. They provide treatment for one-off episodic care for minor injury and illnesses, as well as health advice and information.

We have much anecdotal evidence about the fact that the walk-in centres divert people from the emergency department. Indeed just on Tuesday I was talking to someone whose family member had developed pneumonia and required care outside normal GP hours. They were accurately diagnosed by a nurse practitioner, who was able to prescribe antibiotics and provide other advice about care. (*Time expired.*)

Woden—parking

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, how do you propose to protect the Woden Early Childhood Centre's current parking and drop-off arrangements from a less secure relocation of drop-off points should the Hindmarsh development next door proceed?

MR STEEL: I thank Mr Wall for his question and I note that that proposal's notification period recently closed and that proposal will be assessed by ACTPLA. Of course ACTPLA will have regard to parking matters. At this point in time the Woden community centre building is actually owned by the CIT, not Property Group which is in my portfolio. It will shortly be transferred to Property Group. We are certainly aware of the concerns of the early childhood centre, and that is something that no doubt will be raised through the planning process which is underway.

MR WALL: Minister, have you, any other minister or representatives of your departments met with the Woden Early Childhood Centre about this issue and, if so, when?

MR STEEL: I have written in relation to this to the Woden Early Childhood Centre and I am happy to come back on notice to provide any advice in relation to that. But, as I said, the planning process is underway and as part of the planning we will consider the traffic impacts on neighbouring services and the community. So I am confident in that process going ahead. That is a process that is ongoing, so if those discussions have not been had there is still an opportunity, I am sure, for that to occur. But, as I said also in my first answer, this is actually a building that is owned by the CIT, not Property Group. It will be transferred and at that point it will become the responsibility of Property Group.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, have you met with families from the Woden Early Childhood Centre, and what arrangements will you put in place to protect children and their families from disadvantage during the building process?

MR STEEL: It is too early to pre-empt the outcomes of the planning process that is underway. I have not met with families from the early childhood centre. It is not a centre that is in my portfolio. But I am certainly aware of the concerns that have been raised in relation to traffic, and I have raised that with Property Group. No doubt they will be communicating that through the planning process that is taking place and that should take place in accordance with legislation.

Hospitals—emergency department performance

MISS C BURCH: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, on 12 August 2019, in answer to an estimates question taken on notice and tabled in the Assembly after question time on 20 August, which asked how our emergency departments performed against their target in the fourth quarter of 2018-19, you said, “The fourth quarter performance is not likely to be significantly different compared to quarter 3, given the early flu season.” Yet, in question time on 20 August, you took on notice a question on the same subject. Minister, why did your knowledge on this issue decline between 12 August and 20 August?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Miss Burch for the question. I cannot recall the specific detail of the question I was asked on 20 August. As members will be well aware, I have a practice of taking questions on notice when I do not have the specific detail in front of me. I do not know if the question asked on that day was the exact same question I was asked on notice. I took that question on notice, and that is my practice when I do not have the information in front of me, or in my head.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, how did ED performance rate against targets in the third quarter of 2018-19?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will take that question on notice.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what advice have you been given about how ED performance is trending so far in the first quarter of 2019-20?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Lawder for the supplementary question. The advice I have received is very similar to the response to the question on notice: that there will not be a significant change in performance as a result of the seasonal impacts that we have seen expected in this quarter. The question I was previously asked I interpreted as being more specific. As a general response to that question, the expectation is that the performance would be about the same. That is my understanding. If that is incorrect, I will obviously come back to the Assembly with further information.

Arts—Belconnen Arts Centre

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events. Can the minister please update the Assembly on the progress of the expansion of Belconnen Arts Centre?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for her question, especially given her strong and dedicated history at the Belconnen Arts Centre. The stage 2 expansion of the Belconnen Arts Centre was a \$15 million election commitment of the government. The funding was announced in the 2017-18 budget. I was pleased to turn the sod at the establishment of the building site in December 2018, and construction commenced officially on 10 January 2019.

As the building occupier and operator, Belconnen Arts Centre Incorporated has been absolutely instrumental in project development which is being delivered by PBS Building. PBS Building is taking a highly collaborative and innovative approach to the build to minimise the impact on the centre's operations while the BAC management has devised flexible and clever ways to continue delivering its extensive arts programs despite the inevitable disruptions that are on site.

Works in the existing building are underway, including the expansion of the administration office and the comms room. PBS is taking a sustainable approach to managing waste and recycling on site, with a very strong focus on recycling and not over-ordering materials. The building design will achieve the same high standards of accessibility that were established in stage 1.

I can advise that the concrete slabs are poured, the structural steel frame is going up, and we expect to see the main roof on by early September. Some of the areas, including the main gallery, the cafe and some back-of-house spaces are already roofed, and they have heating and cooling systems going in and internal walls are underway.

I very much look forward to the new facility's opening to the community in early 2020.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, what benefits is the ACT government's investment in stage 2 going to bring to the local community?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. When the expansion of the Belconnen Arts Centre is complete the centre will have doubled in size. The expansion will include a flexible theatre space, a new dance and rehearsal studio, new gallery spaces, resident company offices, a cafe and catering facilities. This will transform the Belconnen Arts Centre into a true multi-arts hub, with purpose built spaces for the development and the performance of dance, theatre and music, as well as an ongoing commitment to the visual arts and a host of other creative activities.

In recognition of the increasing size and capacity of the BAC the government allocated in last year's budget an additional \$700,000 over two years to support innovative approaches to exhibitions and public programming during and immediately following the construction of stage 2. I can report that the BAC is still hosting some stunning and well-attended exhibitions, highly professional dance performances and a huge variety of arts workshops even during this tricky time of transition.

The expansion of the BAC will be of significant benefit to Belconnen and also to the broader arts sector across Canberra. The centre is an important key arts organisation and provides exhibition, performance and workshop and rehearsal space for Canberra artists across a wide range of media and art forms. Its community programs are also global best practice for inclusiveness and accessibility.

The completion of the facility will allow the BAC to continue to grow to meet unmet demand for rehearsal, performance, exhibition and event space and will provide an important community hub for the growing Belconnen town centre.

MR GUPTA: Can the minister please advise how the stage 2 expansion will connect to other government investments in Belconnen?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Gupta for the supplementary question. The Belconnen Arts Centre sits at a key lakefront location in the Belconnen town centre on Lake Ginninderra, which is itself a hugely popular area for walking, cycling and other forms of recreation and exercise. Until now there has been a missing link in the otherwise excellent shared path that runs all the way around the shoreline, which means that runners, walkers and cyclists need to take an awkward detour up to the crowded Emu Bank footpath.

I am pleased that in the 2018-19 budget the ACT government announced that there would be funding for a new boardwalk that will join up the shared path where it currently ends to the east of the BAC with the public parkland at Emu Inlet to the north. That is the area where Floriade in the Suburbs will soon be held in Belconnen. This will allow full, seamless circumnavigation of the lake on a shared path for recreational use and will better integrate the BAC with the adjacent commercial precinct, which includes restaurants, bars, cafes and wellness services. It will provide a defined and attractive water's edge in harmony with the arts centre's expansion and aesthetic.

artsACT is working closely with Transport Canberra and City Services on the design of the foreshore path link. Preliminary design is being finalised, detailed design is

expected to commence towards the end of 2019 and construction is anticipated to begin in early 2020.

Gungahlin—policing resources

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. I refer to a number of recent incidences of crime in my electorate of Yerrabi and in particular the incident of a woman wielding a knife and going around properties in Moncrieff yesterday. Minister, what additional resources do the police in Gungahlin need in order to reduce the rate of crime in the area?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Milligan for his question. It is an important question as we see our city grow. This government is investing most readily in our police resources right across the ACT. This will also assist, of course, in Gungahlin.

In regard to crime trends, I am pleased to announce that the number of offences reported over the past number of years has been decreasing. We have seen offences from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 decrease by 5.9 per cent when compared to the previous financial year. Offences that relate to theft are down 12.5 per cent and motor vehicle theft is down 18.5 per cent. Offences against the person, which is what Mr Milligan goes to, have seen a slight increase and we have seen decreases in alcohol related offences by 9.4 per cent.

The crime trends are trending down and that is because of the extra resources that we are providing for ACT police. I am incredibly proud of the excellent work they do across the territory, whether it is in Gungahlin or other parts of the territory, working with our ACT community.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, should residents of Moncrieff feel safe given the current level of police resources in the Gungahlin region?

MR GENTLEMAN: Canberra is a safe city. We have seen that in survey results both locally and nationally. We know that people in Canberra feel safe. I would say that the extra investment that we are putting into ACT policing—more than \$30 million—will ensure safety for Canberra residents into the future. The opportunity that we are now presenting to allow ACT Policing to upgrade their police service model will mean better interaction between frontline police officers and the community.

MR COE: Minister, what specific measures are you putting in place to tackle crime in Moncrieff and Taylor in particular?

MR GENTLEMAN: As I said we are investing strongly in ACT Policing right across the territory. That includes the suburbs that Mr Coe has just mentioned. It allows police now to free up resources as they go forward with this extra resource, to ensure the safety of all Canberrans.

Mr Coe: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: A point of order?

Mr Coe: It is on relevance. I asked about the specific measures that he was putting in place for Taylor and Moncrieff. He spoke about some general measures across Canberra, not about specific measures for those two suburbs.

MADAM SPEAKER: I think increased funding may have been a response on those two suburbs benefitting. Do you have anything else to add, minister?

Mr Gentleman: No.

Tuggeranong—government support

MR GUPTA: My question is to Minister Gentleman and relates to all his portfolio responsibilities. Minister, what support has the government provided to Tuggeranong and surrounding regions in the ACT?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Gupta for the question. One of the greatest privileges of being a minister is being able to make decisions that benefit all of Canberra, and being able to see the difference that these decisions make in my local area is even more pleasing.

The healthy waterways project has funded seven new stormwater assets in Tuggeranong. Four rain gardens, a wetland, a pond and channel restoration will help intercept sediment before it gets to Lake Tuggeranong. This will improve the quality of the water in Lake Tuggeranong, something that I know local Tuggeranong residents have been wanting to see for a long time. The stormwater assets are full of plants, and the areas contain lawns, paths and benches, so they will also be parks for our local residents. I have also funded the Southern ACT Catchment Group to provide public education on what Tuggeranong householders can do to keep our local waterways clean.

We are replanting some 500,000 trees in the Ingledene forest, which will both improve the environment and provide outdoor recreation space for Tuggeranong residents who enjoy trail walking, mountain bike riding and orienteering.

In my Police and Emergency Services portfolio we have seen upgrades or new stations for all of our emergency services: the Tuggeranong ESA station, the South Tuggeranong Fire & Rescue station, the Greenway ambulance station, the Tuggeranong State Emergency Service station and the Kambah non-emergency patient transport service.

MR GUPTA: How has this supported local groups and jobs in Tuggeranong?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Gupta for his strong interest in creating jobs across the ACT. I am strongly committed to jobs in all of Canberra, with recent budgets funding more police, more firefighters and more paramedics. This government is protecting our services from cutbacks.

We can see the results of investment in my local area in Tuggeranong. Our investment in environmental benefits like forests and waterways are a clear example of how protecting our environment and providing secure local jobs can go hand-in-hand. Many of the stormwater assets were constructed by local Canberra companies, so local businesses and workers have benefited from this investment. Replanting of Ingledene forest will create an estimated 20 new jobs for the region. The emergency services facilities have allowed our local Tuggeranong emergency services personnel to protect the people of Tuggeranong in purpose-built facilities.

I am also committed to assisting our local groups to help the community. The funding to our catchment groups, including in southern ACT, provided support when the federal government stopped providing assistance. I have secured additional parking to assist members of the Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club to be able to participate in group activities.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, how are you helping the Tuggeranong region to develop?

MR GENTLEMAN: In addition to the jobs and opportunities across the Tuggeranong region, in my planning portfolio I have implemented the Tuggeranong master plan, bringing more people and more businesses to the Tuggeranong town centre. Planning policy is critical to creating inclusive and connected communities.

Implementing the master plan included rezoning parcels of land and changing building heights to encourage development and redevelopment, which we can see now in the town centre. It also included measures to protect views and vistas of the distant hills and mountains and identified new landscape areas, pedestrian connections and roads through the town centre. New residential development is being released along the foreshore in other key areas of the town centre. We can now see how the master plan has made a positive contribution to the development of the town centre.

Greenway was one of Canberra's fastest growing suburbs in 2017-18. Attracting jobs and people does not happen by accident, it happens by careful design. Creating a compact and efficient Canberra means creative urban infill in all Canberra, including on the south side. The development in the Tuggeranong town centre means that more people are living closer to jobs and closer to services like the Tuggeranong walk-in centre.

Mr Barr: I ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.

Supplementary answers to questions without notice Woden—parking

MR STEEL: In relation to the answer that I provided about the Woden Early Childhood Centre, I can confirm that I wrote to them on 12 August. Property Group have not met with Woden Early Childhood Centre at this time because the asset has not yet been transferred to them. We understand that they were in contact with CIT, who currently own the asset. We also understand that Woden Early Childhood Centre made a submission as part of the planning process in relation to the

development application which was the subject of the question, and no doubt it will be considered as part of that process.

Hospitals—emergency department performance

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: In Miss C Burch’s question she clearly implied that I had replied in two different ways to a question on notice that was exactly the same as a question I was asked in this place. I clarify for the Assembly that the question I was asked on notice was a prospective question about the performance in a quarter for the Canberra Hospital emergency department and the question that Mr Parton asked me two days ago was:

... how did the Canberra Hospital and Calvary hospital public emergency departments perform against their targets in the fourth quarter of 2018-19?

It was a retrospective question. Of course I will provide the detail of that on notice when it is available.

Gungahlin—policing resources

MR GENTLEMAN: I have some more information for Mr Milligan and Mr Coe in relation to questions on policing. I can advise that ACT Policing is intelligence informed and uses information to prioritise and direct its workforce to best serve the people of Canberra. ACT Policing deploys resources flexibly to ensure an appropriate police response to target and disrupt those seeking to cause harm in all suburbs in the Canberra community. Nine of the 68 recruits, or 13 per cent of the most recent three recruit courses were deployed to the Gungahlin police station.

On 30 May this year the government announced \$33.9 million in funding to transition to a community-focused policing model which will see increased efforts aimed at the prevention and disruption of crime before it occurs. This marks the first step towards the new community-focused model of policing which will focus on the effective use of intelligence, building proactive policing capacity and growing community engagement capabilities.

Papers

Madam Speaker presented the following paper:

Inspector of Correctional Services Act, pursuant to subsection 30(2)—Report of a Review of a Critical Incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—Assault of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 15 April 2019 (CIR 02/19), dated 14 August 2019.

Mr Gentleman presented the following papers:

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee—Report 8—*Review of the standing orders and continuing resolutions of the Legislative Assembly*

(2 volumes)—Government response to Recommendation 7—Honorifics—Use of the honorific “The Honourable” in the Legislative Assembly.

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee—Report 5—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018*—Recommendation 1—Update on progress to improve Sydney to Canberra rail link, dated August 2019.

Low income Canberrans—Support—Response to the resolution of the Assembly of 28 November 2018, dated August 2019.

Financial Management Act, pursuant to subsection 30F(3)—2018-19 Capital Works Program—Progress report—Year-to-date 30 June 2019.

ACT Government delegation to Singapore and London—July 2019—Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment, dated 22 August 2019.

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 39—Copy of notice provided to the Ombudsman—Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—Freedom of Information request—Deemed decision, dated 19 August 2019.

2018 ACT Youth Assembly Report—Government response, dated August 2019.

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 17(5)—Auditor-General’s Reports—Government responses—

No 3/2019—Access Canberra Business Planning and Monitoring.

No 4/2019—2017-18 Financial Audits—Computer Information Systems.

ACT Government Study Delegation to the USA—July 2019—Minister for Transport and City Services.

Low income support

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries) (2.56): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Low income Canberrans—Support—Response to the resolution of the Assembly of 28 November 2019.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Le Couteur**) adjourned to the next day of sitting.

2018 ACT Youth Assembly report—government response

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries) (2.56): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

2018 ACT Youth Assembly Report—Government response.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Disability, Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (2.56): I thank the Assembly for the opportunity to table in the Legislative Assembly today the ACT government response to the 2018 ACT Youth Assembly report. Members may recall that in September last year 116 young people participated in the ACT Youth Assembly which took place in this building. The ACT Youth Assembly provided young people with a platform to speak on issues that are important to them and ensured that a broad range of views were represented and heard.

The ACT Youth Assembly was a deliberative democratic process designed to draw out key ideas and policy recommendations. The goal was to encourage the direct participation of young Canberrans aged 12 to 25 in discussing four contemporary issues. These four issues, each of which had its own forum, were youth mental health, homeless and young people, youth civic participation and equality, and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Our ACT Youth Advisory Council members co-facilitated each forum to explore creative solutions for each issue. Through group work and discussions, participants explored the issues and developed recommendations across the four forums for the ACT government's consideration.

The Youth Advisory Council compiled the 2018 ACT Youth Assembly report, which highlights the key information from the Youth Assembly, in particular the recommendations made by the young Canberrans who participated in the Assembly. These recommendations are those that our young people believe will help the ACT to meet the current and emerging needs of young people in our community. The report contains 29 recommendations across the four issues forums.

The youth mental health forum identified 10 recommendations to improve, promote and advocate on the health and wellbeing of young people. The homelessness and young people forum identified six recommendations to address systemic issues that drive and exacerbate youth homelessness for young people. The youth civic participation forum identified four recommendations on how government can better engage with young people on policy reforms and issues that directly impact young people. The equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people forum identified nine recommendations towards a more just and inclusive society for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in our community.

I believe the Youth Assembly provided a platform for young people in the ACT to engage with issues that affect them. We have seen genuine youth participation and expanded partnerships between young people, government and the community. The 2018 ACT Youth Assembly and the ACT government response to the report reflect our commitment to improve policy, services and programs for young Canberrans. As a result of the Youth Assembly, the ACT government can now direct resources,

activities and opportunities to young people in the places and ways that best meet their needs. I am pleased to add that the ACT government has been working across many areas to meet the current and emerging needs of young people in Canberra that overlap and align with the recommendations of the report.

As members will be aware, considerable work has been done and continues to be done to better care for and protect children and young people in the territory. The establishment of the office for mental health and wellbeing is a major achievement and will play an important role in improving cross-sectoral collaboration and service integration to promote mental health and wellbeing in the territory, which will help young Canberrans.

The consultation process on the road map for mental health of Canberra children and young people has just commenced, and I encourage everyone, including the young people in the chamber here today, the members of the Youth Advisory Council, to participate in that process run by the office for mental health and wellbeing.

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement 2019-28 sets the long-term direction for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in the ACT. The agreement focuses on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ensure that they have equity in health and wellbeing outcomes. A focus of the agreement is supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to grow up safely with their families and in their communities. The ACT government has committed to implementing the initiatives to address the Our Booris, Our Way review recommendations when the final report is available. This is in line with one of the Youth Assembly recommendations.

The ACT government has also committed \$480,000 in a joint project with the Youth Coalition of the ACT and three youth services, with a focus on defining service needs and the future service design for an optimal youth at-risk services system. This work seeks to develop a service system that supports children and young people who are at risk of homelessness, youth justice or child protection intervention.

Today I have outlined only a few of the initiatives that support the 29 recommendations. There are many more detailed in the report and response. I encourage members to read both the report and the ACT government response. Our focus will now turn to delivering on these recommendations, ensuring that we continue to respond to the various needs of young people, as well as welcoming and encouraging their participation in all aspects of community life.

I thank the members of the ACT Youth Advisory Council for their diligence in preparing this report. Again, I acknowledge the co-chairs of the advisory council and other members that are here today, as well as their support team from the youth interact area in the Community Services Directorate, who do an incredible job giving voice to young people and enabling young people to have a voice in our community.

I commend to the Assembly the ACT Youth Assembly report and the ACT government response to the report.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Outer suburban bus network

Discussion of matter of public importance

MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Ms Cody): Madam Speaker has received letters from Miss C Burch, Ms Cheyne, Ms Cody, Mr Coe, Mr Gupta, Mrs Kikkert, Ms Le Couteur, Mr Milligan, Ms Orr, Mr Parton and Mr Pettersson proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, Madam Speaker has determined that the matter proposed by Mr Parton be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The importance of a well-connected and practical bus network for Canberra's outer suburban areas.

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (3.03): We have some pretty radical ideas over here on the Liberal side of affairs. Madam Assistant Speaker, I must share one of them with you now, particularly with my propensity for loose words. We have this crazy idea that during the debate on matters of public importance we should actually discuss matters that are important to people. That is what we are doing today.

Madam Assistant Speaker, I know that you and all of your Labor colleagues are aware of how much time I spend knocking on doors in Tuggeranong. I can tell you that, based on dozens and dozens of conversations that I have had in recent weeks, this is genuinely a matter of vast importance to a large number of people in the south. I dare say that my colleagues Mrs Kikkert and Mrs Dunne have heard this in Belconnen and that Mr Milligan and Mr Coe have encountered similar stories in outer Gungahlin.

The people in outlying suburbs have been let down by this government in many ways, but they are absolutely ropeable over the disdain that has been shown to them in regard to the bus network changes. They are absolutely ropeable. Bus connections in Tuggeranong have been decimated. It is not taking it a step too far to say that lives have been changed. Lives have genuinely been changed. Some people now find themselves confined to their home because it is too difficult to get out. People have been left stranded.

It is difficult to believe that these changes have been made by a Labor government. I know what we will hear from the other side. Let's hope that we do not hear from Mr Gentleman; I am sure that if we do hear from Mr Gentleman, we will probably have Mr Abbott on a bus somewhere. I know that we will hear from Mr Gentleman and others who are already panicking about the prospect of us winning government in 2020. We will hear from those opposite that we are evil Liberals and we will make cuts, cuts and more cuts, that we will probably privatise public transport.

Is it not ludicrous that these suggestions have been made particularly by Mr Gentleman, a fellow Brindabella MLA, who so far has shown that he has no intention whatsoever of standing up for his own electorate in regard to bus services. He read out his list of achievements for the Brindabella preselectors for Labor, but that list of achievements did not mention standing up for his own electorate in regard to bus services. Mr Gentleman would do well to listen to the people of Tuggeranong.

He has been a minister of this government for seven years now. What do the people of Tuggeranong have to show for it? Fewer bus services, fewer local services and not a peep from our local Labor MLAs.

The only party that is making to cuts to basic, and often essential, services is Labor. It is Labor. It is the only party that is making cuts. Minister Steel is making cuts to weekend bus services. Minister Ramsay is making cuts to legal aid. Minister Stephen-Smith wants to deny arthritis sufferers access to an essential service. And all the while, Mr Barr continues to squeeze local business and residents for every cent that he can get his hands on.

The only party that is privatising public transport in Canberra is the Labor Party. It is the only party that is privatising. It is not us. How absurd that over there they are warning that we evil Liberals are going to privatise, when we are having a longer conversation about Icon Water and asking why it was ever privatised in the first place. It is just absurd.

Mr Barr continually says that past behaviour is a good indicator of future behaviour. I would agree with the Chief Minister absolutely and completely. When he says it, he is trying to suggest that somehow what has gone on in other jurisdictions with Liberal parties in power is a link to us in terms of past behaviour. This is not Adelaide; this is not any other jurisdiction. This is the ACT. Past behaviour is usually a great indicator of future behaviour. This government's rap sheet is metres and metres long. I cannot believe that the Chief Minister would bring this up as an example. Past behaviour is a wonderful indication of future behaviour.

On that basis, I would expect that this government, if it is returned in 2020, will continue to squeeze Canberra families through its escalating raft of taxes and charges. Health services in our town will continue to lag behind the rest of the country because this government refuses to get that most important shop in order. We will continue to pay more than every other jurisdiction in the areas of education and corrections, but our outcomes will continue to fall behind. If past behaviour is an indication of future behaviour, we will continue to see a decline in the per capita numbers of police; we will continue to see a lack of basic suburban services; and we will continue to see people let down by their bus services, particularly in outer suburban areas.

Andrew wrote to me this week—not Mr Wall or Mr Barr: a different Andrew. He said:

My son caught one bus from Bonython to Belconnen to go to work every morning. It was full of paying customers all going to work.

Now, with the new timetable, he has to catch one bus to Tuggeranong, one to the city and one to Belconnen. He gets to work late. Andrew says, "Why did they change the south side buses? We didn't get the tram." That is from Andrew.

Jamie wrote to me on the same thread. He said:

They need to revert back to the old bus routes and service south side. 1400 metres to the nearest bus stop with severely arthritic knees. It hasn't been fun twice every day.

I live in Theodore. Theodore has been smashed by the changes to the bus network. We have young adults in our house who were relying on the bus network to get them to school, university and work. That has changed under the new network. They have both been forced to purchase motor vehicles. Our 17-year-old would have needed to catch a bus at 6.15 am to get to school on time for two of her weekday starts. That is ludicrous.

I know that Mr Steel will rattle off journey numbers being on the increase. He will try to spin it and say that there has never been a better time to travel on public transport in Canberra. Mr Steel needs to come with me and walk around Wanniasa. I do not know if he is walking around Kambah. He certainly needs to come and walk around Theodore and down in the Lanyon Valley. Mr Steel should walk with me and talk to those people and answer the questions that they will have about Xpresso services and stacks of other things.

I want to give you a hypothetical today. I want you to imagine that I am an elderly woman living in Theodore. My husband passed away some months ago and I miss him dearly. He is buried at the Gungahlin cemetery, because there is no other option in the ACT in terms of burial. There is not one that is closer. If I was to catch a bus to go and visit my beloved who is buried in Gungahlin—I have it here on Google maps—it would take me one hour and 53 minutes one way. I would get the 79 at 3.32 from Theodore. I would walk three minutes to get that bus at Chippindall and take it to the Tuggeranong interchange, which would get me there at 3.52. I would then get a 4 to Belconnen. Goodness me. I am going to end up at the city interchange at 4.36. I am going to get the tram from there to EPIC racecourse, which sees me there at 4.55. Then I am going to walk 2.1 kilometres to the Norwood Park Crematorium. Basically, that means that if I am that elderly woman whose husband passed away and whose husband did all the driving, I cannot access that through public transport. I can no longer do it.

Alistair wrote to me—no, it is not Alistair Coe—and said:

As I reflect on the changes to bus timetables with main arterial routes having been given preference over service to suburban streets it occurs to me that these reforms discriminate against those who need proximity to bus services, that is the elderly—

and the economically disadvantaged—

This is shameful from the point a roundabout Barr administration and I hope you can make that case strongly.

That is Alistair.

I know that as soon as I am standing up here and I mention rainbow roundabouts, there will be people, whether they be on the other side or just haters from the left, who will suggest that I am dismissing our LGBTIQ community and that the shock jock is coming out in me. I would say to those people: seriously, grow up. I would refer them to former Chief Minister John Stanhope in *CityNews* on 5 June this year, in yet

another of his withering attacks on this Labor-Greens government. Mr Stanhope, a former Labor leader, quoted a local Aboriginal leader who recently said these words: “The Chief Minister needs to understand”— (*Time expired.*)

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (3.13): The really positive thing about this current debate is that all three parties are unanimously agreeing that what we want is a good bus service. I am always trying to find the positive side and that is the positive side of this one. I agree with Mr Parton 100 per cent about the importance of a well-connected and practical bus network for Canberra’s outer suburban areas. Well, I do not 100 per cent agree with him; I would take out the words “outer suburban areas”. I think we all deserve decent public transport, a decent bus service—even people who live in inner areas.

As part of the estimates process, I asked a question on notice about the changed bus service. I asked for lots of figures from June this year compared to June the year before in terms of patronage and the number of services. The figures just came as raw figures, but today we actually got it together to analyse them a bit more—and I was shocked. We have all been told that journeys have gone up overall. That is true, but once you look at it by district you will find Canberra central went up by 12 per cent. Yes, that is good. It is not just the light rail, I can tell you, because I have a number of people who live in Canberra central who work in my office; they got more buses as well as the light rail. So, yes, we would expect that figure to go up.

Next is the one that has shocked me the most. For Woden Valley on a weekday all passengers are down by five per cent. That is one of the reasons I said that this is not an outer suburban problem. Woden is not outer suburban, and, even if it was, that is irrelevant. All of Canberra deserves a decent bus service. Woden was down five per cent and Belconnen was down two per cent. Tuggeranong, as Mr Parton would know from his doorknocking on the streets, was down five per cent. However, Molonglo was up by 29 per cent. If you put another few thousand people somewhere, you have got to hope that some of them catch the bus, and I think that is what is going on there.

The numbers in Gungahlin were up 27 per cent. If the light rail could not make a difference in Gungahlin, I do not know what could. Weston Creek numbers were up nine per cent. No, Mr Parton, that is for real; Weston Creek was the one big winner out of the bus services. They now have a 15-minute service between Cooleman Court and Woden. Yes, there have been a few winners and Weston Creek is one of them. In Majura, much to my surprise, they were up 15 per cent, but there are not many of them anyway.

If you look at the weekend figures, you will find that everywhere the weekend numbers have gone up—apart from Sunday concession passengers from Majura. I must admit that I really do not understand the bus usage of Majura, so I will not make more comments on that. Clearly, the weekend services have been big successes. Through all of Canberra, they are up 27 per cent on Saturday and 39 per cent on Sunday, and that is really good. I got somewhat confused and then enthusiastic, but then I looked at the other figures that I got from this question on notice, the increased number of services, and this is where you realise that the government has really got a problem. We have 19 per cent more services on weekdays, but we have only a seven

per cent increase in patronage. Saturdays were up 65 per cent in services and Sundays were up 77 per cent in services.

While I have criticised the minister for not having reliable bus services, I think I have said at least once before that I am very pleased that the ACT government had the courage to try to introduce a vastly better weekend service than had been there before. I am hoping that it will go from 89 per cent reliability to 99. I think their target is only 95 per cent, but there is still hope for 99 per cent. I am hoping it will become more reliable, but I do very much applaud the government for the ambition of trying to give Canberra at last a viable bus service at the weekend.

The interesting thing is that places where services have gone up have come at the cost of services to other areas. I was also rereading some of the estimates discussion when I was getting organised for this. In the estimates hearing Mr Duncan Edghill many, many times said the words “tough decision”—tough decision in terms of the trade-offs. He said:

That invariably means that there will be changes for some people and other people win. What is the ultimate measure? The ultimate measure is patronage, and we have been delighted with the outcomes from the new network.

I have to say that that is incredibly cold comfort to people outside of the privileged light rail area, because outside of that area patronage has gone down, apart from Molonglo and Weston. We have got three big areas, Woden, Belconnen, and Tuggeranong, where patronage has gone down.

One of the reasons for the problem is that we have totally changed how our network works. Instead of having buses that start somewhere in the suburbs and wander their way—to Civic principally—to somewhere you want to get to, we have finally implemented a hub and spoke methodology, which has been talked about for many years but not implemented before now. I suspect that in the long run this is actually what we need to do. That is for the rapid services, but we also have to maintain a viable service for the people for whom the rapids do not work, the people who are not living over in the hubs or on the spokes, which after all means an awful lot of our suburban areas. Under the old network we were 1.31 boardings per journey and at the moment, according to estimates, we are at 1.36 or 1.37 boardings per journey.

Mr Parton was talking about a lady who was having real problems visiting her husband’s grave. Apart from the 2.2-kilometre walk, which I agree is unreasonable, she also had an unreasonable number of transfers. Transfers make your trip take longer. Transfers also make a trip take longer in your mind. It is one thing to get on a bus and settle down with a book or your iPhone until your destination. It might take 40 minutes—and I would be happier if it did not take 40 minutes—but at least that is all I have got to do. But if you have to take one bus that takes 10 minutes, then hop off and wait for another 10 minutes for the next bus and then perhaps another bus after that, you do not have any chance to relax, as you worry that you might be late. You do not feel confident that you are going to get where you are going. This really is a problem.

I am running out of time, which is equally a problem, but I want to briefly mention two things. The ACT budget has funding for 84 buses over four years. But the majority of these are replacement buses, not additional. We are going to be replacing 72 of the non-disability access compliant orange buses, so 84 minus 72 is only 12. So it would appear on the basis of the budget commitment that there will be only an additional 12 buses, and that is really not good enough.

The other one I would like to talk about is safety and accessibility. I asked this question yesterday, but unfortunately the minister chose to answer only about the bus interchanges. The problem is not so much the bus interchange; it is the perceived danger of walking home from the bus or to the bus. Madam Assistant Speaker Cody, you spoke about this earlier today in responding to the domestic violence committee report. You said that people tell young girls that walking home from the bus is dangerous but that the reality is that intimate partner danger is potentially more problematical. While that statement is true, in terms of what people think about, as you said, people are concerned that the trip from the bus stop to home is dangerous.

That message was really pushed home to me at a Tuggeranong Community Council meeting I attended, where their youth committee talked about buses. There was a strapping young man—about a foot taller than me and I am not quite sure how many kilos more but physically a lot more capable than me—who said that he did not feel safe walking home from the bus. I walk home from the bus on a regular basis and I do feel safe. But we need to improve the infrastructure so that people believe that it is safe, and for people with disabilities we need to improve it so that it is not only safe but practicable.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee—Minister for Community Services and Facilities, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Transport and City Services) (3.23): I thank Mr Parton for bringing this matter of public importance to the Assembly today. As members know, the ACT government has made a major investment in public transport since we came to power in 2016, following the election, to give Canberrans a realistic alternative to getting away from their cars and into a bus or on to light rail.

This investment allowed for the introduction of a new public transport network, with every bus route across the city re-designed to give Canberra a modern public transport system for our growing city, as Ms Le Couteur mentioned, based on a hub-and-spoke model. The key benefits of that network include an expansion of the rapid network from four to 10 routes, including light rail on the R1 route; more frequent services; and an all-day, seven-day network with a step change in service levels on weekends, including the same routes as on weekdays and much more frequent services that start earlier and run later.

The scale of the increase in services has been significant, giving Canberrans the opportunity to use public transport and making the network more attractive for those who could choose to drive but would prefer not to. As a result of these improvements many Canberrans now have a public transport service that meets their needs, rather than a second-best service that might have got them to work or school but did not give them a realistic alternative to getting in their cars for other trips.

In particular, we know that residents are flocking to new rapid bus services that reach further into our suburbs. I will not go through all of them but I highlight one of them that was mentioned and that I think is directly correlated with the increase that we have seen in patronage in the Molonglo Valley that would not have occurred in the absence of changes to bus services. The rapid 10 was instituted under the new network and provides frequent, all-day, direct services from the Molonglo Valley suburbs of Coombs, Wright, Denman Prospect right into Civic and the parliamentary triangle via the Cotter Road.

We have heard from Canberrans who love these new services. Indeed, just last month, as we have discussed in this Assembly before, the *Canberra Times* highlighted the case of Ms Julie Peat, a resident of Conder in the Lanyon Valley who works in the parliamentary triangle and has been the beneficiary of the rapid 5 service which saves her 20 minutes each way on her commute each day and avoids the need to change buses at Woden. And Ms Peat is not alone.

If you ask residents of Holt, Macgregor or Dunlop whether they like their new direct bus service to Barton on rapid 2, which avoids the need to change buses in Civic and runs every 10 minutes at peak times, or residents of Burrinjuck Crescent in Duffy who can now use the rapid 7 service to travel to the city all-day, seven days a week, and do it two minutes faster than the former route 725 Xpresso service, there are very positive comments to make about the new network.

The government also recognises that Canberrans living in different parts of our city need different things from our public transport network. And that is complex. During public consultation we heard from many Canberrans in outer suburbs that the government's original proposal did not quite strike the right balance between frequent all-day services and more targeted services such as express commuter services during peak times and dedicated school bus services.

We listened to that feedback and made changes during the draft stage of the network to address the concerns of residents in outer suburbs. And that included extending the rapid 7 further into the suburbs of Weston Creek, restructuring local buses in Weston Creek and Molonglo to connect directly with the Woden town centre. We added three peak bus routes from southern Tuggeranong directly to the city, providing a fast, single-seat option for commuters in peak times. In those areas we have added 78 extra dedicated school bus services from what we originally consulted on, bringing the total number of dedicated school bus services to more than 220, with many serving students living in outer suburbs, particularly in Mr Parton's electorate of Brindabella.

Every region in Canberra now has a rapid or local bus service that operates on the same routes every day of the week, making it much easier to use our transport network, regardless of which day you may be using it. They start earlier in the morning and finish later in the evening and connect more Canberrans with their town centre and the wider public transport network as part of that hub-and-spoke model.

As members may recall from recent debates in this place, in the first 11 weeks after the end of the free travel period we have seen an increase in the number of people

taking journeys on the network. And that is a very positive thing. As the network becomes embedded, because it is still relatively early days, we will continue to monitor and review how people are using the new public transport network and will make tweaks where needed. In fact, we have made over a hundred tweaks to the network since it started on 29 April.

There have been an extraordinary 4,571,499 boardings on bus and light rail services, 11.3 per cent more boardings than the same period in 2018. There have been 3.36 million journeys on bus and light rail services, which is 6.9 per cent more journeys than during the same period in 2018. We are seeing more people using the public transport network overall. And that was certainly one of the reasons why we invested such a significant amount in light rail and why we have also looked at further changes to make sure that we have got an integrated transport system with buses and light rail working together with other types of transport services to increase the number of people who find our public transport system to be a better alternative to the car.

The numbers speak to the benefits that Canberrans in every district and every suburb are seeing from the delivery of the first stage of the city's light rail network from Gungahlin to the city. Light rail now accounts for around one in every five boardings on Transport Canberra services, and it simply would not be possible to provide the frequent, all-day services Transport Canberra operates in other parts of the city without light rail doing the heavy lifting on one of the busiest transport corridors in our city. It allowed us to use all those freed-up kilometres of bus travel to then be able to provide those more frequent services elsewhere.

While I understand Ms Le Couteur's comment in relation to the number of extra services we have put on compared to the number of people using our transport system, we certainly hope that over time more people will use those frequent services as they come to learn how to use the network. The new journey planner is a very good way to do that. And hopefully people will take up the opportunity of using the public transport system for the first time.

I am very keen on hearing feedback from the community as we continue to operate the new transport network. It is only early days. Whilst there was some initial feedback, mainly in relation to the changes that were made compared to the previous network, what I am keen to hear from the community is areas where they think that improvements can be made to the network.

Recently—I have made mention of this before—I met with the Mitchell traders to discuss the Mitchell service, which is now being extended out to EPIC, which is one of the tweaks we have made. We will continue to make improvements to the new network because we want to make sure that it becomes a service that people want to use and that will increase patronage over time. Of course the government is very much committed to bringing light rail across the lake to Woden so that we can extend the benefits and successes that we have seen with light rail stage 1 to other parts of the city.

Under our city-wide light rail network that we outlined in our light rail masterplan, we hope that other parts of the city can benefit from light rail services that are comfortable and provide a mass transit system for a city that will hit half a million very soon, and we need to make sure that we are establishing the backbone of the transport network with the Gungahlin to Woden route that can serve our city. In the future I really hope that it goes down to places like Tuggeranong in Mr Parton's electorate. I hope he would support that cause as well. It is a service that I think has been primed with the R4 route, which is the most popular route in the network.

I look forward to continuing to work on further investments in our transport network in future, to improve patronage, and we will continue to monitor how the system is operating, including in suburbs that are on the fringes of our city. I certainly agree with Ms Le Couteur's comment that this is a public transport system for all. We hope that everyone can benefit, and we will continue to make sure that that is the case.

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (3.33): I am very pleased to speak on this matter of public importance today. I am surprised that it was brought on by Mr Parton, but he has insisted to me that he has taken the bus at least a few times in his life.

I take Ms Le Couteur's point that having to change buses can give people some degree of anxiety. I noticed Minister Steel nodding when Ms Le Couteur was raising that important point. I will not stand here and pretend that things are all sunshine and roses. I do understand that changing buses does cause anxiety for people.

Firstly, I want to commend the many officers at the interchanges who have helped people to change buses for the first time. We have received extraordinarily positive feedback about that. I also think it is worth stressing that while a few people benefited from those long, winding, meandering routes through the suburbs that basically were delivering people door to door, it was a huge barrier in terms of some people taking up public transport. It was a massive turn-off for them; they did not want to sit on the bus while it stopped every few hundred metres. They just wanted to get from place to place. As a government we did have a responsibility, as part of our commitment to getting more people on public transport, to try to shake things up a little bit.

I acknowledge that there have been some really big changes for people, and we have been listening. I know that some of those changes have not been particularly well suited to some people's lives, but we have been listening really carefully and recording all of the feedback, and feeding that back to Minister Steel.

I have even taken the bus home with different constituents so that I can experience what they are going through. Sometimes things can get better over time as well, as people get more used to things. As Minister Steel said—and I really appreciate and am comforted by his efforts in this space—with more than 100 tweaks, I know it has made a huge difference to some of the routes in Belconnen. There are still a few outstanding issues that we are continuing to work on and provide feedback on.

Things are improving. It is slow going; this was a huge change. It was a massive shake-up of the network. I encourage people to continue to give us that feedback. We

are listening, and I put on the record that I am happy to continue to take the bus with people, and speak to constituents in that way.

There has been a lot of good in this regard, too. What I have really liked hearing, and what I have experienced myself, is that a lot of people are at least giving things a go for the first time. In the past, when we were updating the network each year, there were minor changes to different routes. We were not seeing people say, “Maybe I’ll actually have a look at the bus network and see if there’s something that suits me after this network change,” because they knew that things had not changed dramatically, so why bother?

This time there are a whole lot of people who looked maybe two or three years ago and thought, “No, the bus doesn’t take me where I need to go.” With this shake-up it has encouraged them to look at the new network to see if there are some routes that will benefit them. In some cases maybe not, but in some cases I have heard people say, “I didn’t even know that I could take the bus from Belconnen to Dickson, and do it quite quickly, in under half an hour.” That can save people money on things like parking, and particularly if they need to leave their car behind, for whatever reason.

Importantly, there has been a whole heap of new rapid routes. I think that has been a little bit dwarfed by or missing in the broader conversation here. It is something that has really benefited people in Belconnen. That includes being able to take a bus directly from the outer suburbs all the way to the airport. You might remember, Madam Assistant Speaker, that about two-and-a-bit years ago the government announced the No 11 and 11A—maybe just the 11A—to the airport from the city. That was not too bad for Belconnen residents, because they could take a blue rapid to the city, then they could walk a little bit and get on another bus. Now they can just get on the bus in the outer suburbs of Belconnen and go all the way to the airport, which is a huge saving in terms of taxi costs or parking fees; you just have to pay \$5, or less if you have a MyWay card.

One of the biggest pieces of feedback that I used to receive before the new network change was from the many public servants in Belconnen—and I used to be one of them—who worked in Barton. A number of years ago there used to be a direct route to Barton from Belconnen; then that was changed, and you had to take multiple routes to get to Barton. Now, under the R2, that has been restored, and there has been a lot of positive feedback about that.

As a government, while we are hearing feedback from people who might be negatively affected by some of those changes, we need to make sure that we are not completely disrupting a whole route or network for a few people when there might be a silent majority who are really benefiting from the change. We might make the change for a few and the silent majority suddenly might be worse off. It is something that we have to approach quite carefully. I think that the minister has been really considerate about it. We have made over 100 tweaks, and I know that there is a broader review on the cards.

I am encouraged by the feedback that I have been getting over time, and I thank the minister in particular for his openness. I am one of those people who has been taking

some new routes. I have been from Belconnen to the Old Canberra Inn, which is direct, for those people who want to know. I have taken the bus from Belconnen to Dickson. Of course, I still regularly use the bus to get to work here.

I am very proud to speak about the efforts here. It is not perfect; I do not think anyone on this side says that it is perfect. But it was worth doing to try to encourage greater take-up. There is more work to do in this area, but there has been some great work done already.

MISS C BURCH (Kurrajong) (3.41): I thank my colleague Mr Parton for giving us yet another opportunity to discuss this very important issue. Once again we have heard the minister stand here and claim that network 19 has been a huge success. Once again we see him patting himself on the back for what he claims to be a successful network. But the truth of the matter, Madam Assistant Speaker, is that thousands of Canberrans have been negatively impacted by this network; thousands, not a few, as Ms Cheyne will have you believe. And the largest impact has been on those in our outer suburbs.

The minister has admitted here and on ABC radio that patronage in Tuggeranong has fallen, a fact that he failed to mention today. We on this side of the chamber have been inundated with correspondence and contact from people who have lost their bus services and who have been negatively impacted by this network. Thousands of Canberrans have signed petitions that have been presented here; not a few Canberrans but thousands of Canberrans who have been negatively impacted. The government continue to ignore these Canberrans. They continue to disregard their comments and complaints. These Canberrans are sick and tired of their complaints falling on deaf ears.

I cannot quite believe the patronising response that we had from the minister today, saying to Canberrans, "It will get better once these residents learn to use the new network." The problem is not that they do not know how to use the new network; the problem is that they have lost services and they have lost bus stops.

I have no doubt that we will hear screeching again from those opposite about cuts, about privatisation and about efficiencies. I am sure Mr Gentleman will run in here any second now, to lecture us about how the Liberal Party is trying to cut and privatise the network. But this government continues to forget the inherently public nature of public transport.

As I have said in this place many times before, there are two purposes to public transport. There are commuter services, which aim to reduce congestion and get people off our roads and around our city quickly, and there are other public transport services for those who do not have other options: for those who are mobility impaired, for those who do not have a car and cannot afford a car, and for those who depend on public transport to get around our city. Once again it is those people who have been most significantly affected by these changes.

It is this government that continues to ignore the public nature of public transport. The former minister for transport continuously spoke about efficiencies. When she spoke

in this place she mentioned 28 times alone that network 19 was aiming to be more efficient. So it is not us who are going on about efficiencies in the public transport network; it is the Labor-Greens government.

On Tuesday we spoke in this place at length about the latest cuts that this minister has made to the weekend bus network. Again it is the Labor-Greens government that continue to cut bus services. School buses: we know that they have cut dozens of school bus services, with 50 schools having no dedicated school bus services. And they continue to ignore the safety concerns being raised by parents and schools. They have cut over 750 bus stops, the vast majority of them on the south side of Canberra.

As we know that those opposite follow Mr Parton's social media so closely, I am sure that they have seen the video of the hundreds and hundreds of bus stops that have been decommissioned on the south side of Canberra. It is this Labor-Greens government that have privatised light rail operations, not a Liberal government. Mr Gentleman, I think the South Australian Liberals are actually taking notes out of your playbook, not ours.

“Better connected,” they claim, “more buses, more often.” Minister Steel seems to think that if he says it often enough, it might start to become true, but that is not how the real world works. When will Minister Steel wake up and realise that public transport is about more than just a 12-kilometre stretch of Canberra, an \$800 million stretch that has come at the cost of critical services for our outer services and outer suburban residents?

This government continue to claim to be building an inclusive city, but you have to ask: inclusive for who? It is certainly not inclusive for residents of Tuggeranong and residents of west Belconnen. They claim to be the workers party: for which workers? Certainly not for workers who are trying to get around our city on the bus network or workers who depend on public transport on weekends.

They claim to be supporting minorities: which minorities? It is certainly not disabled people or people with mobility impairment. They claim to be the party of unions, but we have seen that they are no longer even listening to the Transport Workers Union and their concerns about this bus network.

To address Ms Cheyne's allegations that we on this side of the chamber do not catch buses, the truth is that we do not feel the need to virtue-signal or post on Facebook or Twitter every time that we do.

Finally, I would like to address Minister Steel's constant use of the word “tweak”. The *Cambridge Dictionary* definition of “tweak” is “small changes”. If you say that you have made more than 100 tweaks to the network, at what point will you admit to Canberrans that these are not just tweaks, that these are substantial changes, because network 19 is such a complete disaster for Canberrans?

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on

Advanced Technology and Space Industries) (3.47): I am delighted to be able to speak again in this place about public transport. There is a contrast in this place between this side and those opposite, as they have indicated in their speeches. We believe in public transport and we work hard to improve services and respect the people who get up early and work late to keep our city moving.

For much of their time in opposition, the Canberra Liberals have not talked about public transport. They did not have plans. They had some. They were going to cancel light rail and buy everyone Audis. But something has changed in recent times. There is an interest over there in our bus network, but the interest is pure negativity. All they can do is criticise and attack. They have no plans. This tells me one thing: they are setting up action for privatisation. They are copying the playbook of the South Australian Liberals, as we have heard in their speeches today, and following the cuts in the tradition of Mr Tony Abbott.

We have an excellent public transport system, one that the Minister for Transport and City Services is working hard to make even better. I understand that weekend journeys are up 10 per cent in Tuggeranong, in my electorate, when you compare June 2019 to June 2018. There has been an increase in the rapid services for residents in Tuggeranong and the Lanyon Valley. Working families have a quicker transit to the city, Woden and Belconnen town centres, with more frequent rapid services.

I have heard from bus drivers that feedback from riders is that these new services have shortened journeys, leaving more time with the family. More generally, the network is now simpler and easier to understand, starts earlier and finishes later on weekdays, and there are now fewer changes needed to get to the city and other town centres.

The government also has options for those south siders with mobility impairments. These services range from flexible bus services, community transport providers and a taxi voucher scheme as well. While there have been good changes, Minister Steel is working to further improve services for south siders. I look forward to working with him. It is very clear that we have here a minister who believes in public transport and backs our bus drivers, unlike those opposite.

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (3.49): I am pleased to contribute to today's discussion on the importance of a well-connected and practical bus network for Canberra's outer suburban areas. As a member for Yerrabi, I have the privilege of representing Canberrans who live in some of the ACT's northernmost suburbs. For these people, it is important that they are well connected to their surrounding communities and the city's major centres.

Through this government's well-integrated public transport network, residents in Taylor, Moncrieff, Bonner, Forde and Throsby are all able to access reliable bus and light rail services which help them move around our city. Network 19 has delivered to the newer suburbs of Taylor, Moncrieff and Throsby a dedicated bus service for the first time which will provide residents with the convenient and reliable public transport service that they need.

For people living right across Gungahlin, our new bus network has made it even easier to travel from their homes to the Gungahlin town centre, as well as connecting onto routes travelling to Belconnen. The new network sees bi-directional loops operating in every suburb to ensure that people can travel around the region more frequently and more reliably. Further to the new bus routes and timetables that are operating across Gungahlin, this government is investing in the public transport infrastructure that our growing population needs.

Through the 2019-20 budget the ACT government will open a new park-and-ride facility at Well Station Drive. This park-and-ride will make it easier for people in my electorate to connect to the light rail. Residents of Forde, Throsby, Harrison and Franklin are particularly better off as a result of this commitment. From the conversations I have had with people in these suburbs, there is no doubt that the new park-and-ride facility will be well utilised by the local community.

Our government is continuing to build a well-integrated public transport network that is accessible by everyone in Gungahlin and right across the city. We will continue to invest in Canberra's public transport through renewing the ACTION bus fleet, upgrading interchanges and stops, building light rail stage 2, delivering park-and-ride facilities across the city, hiring more bus drivers and ensuring that services are reliable and convenient.

Canberrans can trust that the Barr government will continue to deliver a reliable, accessible and convenient integrated public transport network because we value the ACT's essential services. As our city grows, we are committed to delivering the public service that Canberrans need.

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (3.52): I thank Mr Parton for proposing this MPI, because it goes to the heart of this government's heartless and ill-planned new transport system. I have spoken about it before. Public transport is important for older Canberrans who have lost their drivers licence or can travel only a limited distance. The debate on the south side hydrotherapy pool is an example illustrating how important public transport is for Canberrans.

Discussion concluded.

Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Transport Canberra—bus network

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (3.53): I suspect that those opposite may be growing tired of hearing from the Canberra Liberals about the importance of a well-connected and practical bus network for Canberra's outer suburbs, but I stand to assure them that those who live in these suburbs have not grown tired of this topic. Whenever I hold a

mobile office anywhere in Belconnen, meet with residents in their homes or even just bump into them at the local shops, I can be quite certain that I will hear about the woeful state of this government's transport network. Ordinary Canberrans who have been left high and dry by network 19 are not going to stop talking about it until they have a public transport system that genuinely gets them where they need to go in a reasonable amount of time.

We who live in my electorate of Ginninderra tend to be quite practical people. We can be told that we have more buses more often or that we are better connected, but we tend to see right through flimsy slogans that do not reflect our day-to-day lived experience. Belconnen residents know firsthand that they have fewer bus transport options that take longer than the previous network, and no minister or false assurances are going to convince them otherwise.

I remind this Assembly that I tabled a petition in May that was signed by 1,180 ACT residents about their bus services. I feel confident that many Belconnen residents who work hard in non-office based employment would happily sign a petition this month expressing disgust that promised weekend bus services have been randomly cut, leaving them unable to get to their jobs, with no warning.

In all cases, the residents who speak with me just want simple answers. Why did this government feel compelled to stuff the bus network up so badly? Was it because they do not care about the hardworking families who live in places like west Belconnen? Or was it just sheer incompetence? Can we actually build trams without destroying reliable bus networks in our outer suburbs?

As I have said before in this chamber, people are not stupid. They know what a trip to work or to school or to visit family or the local shops looked like just six months ago and they know what it looks like now. Maybe those opposite think that with just a bit more time people will forget. But they will not. Five, six, seven days each week they are reminded that this government is stealing an hour or more of their precious time that should be spent with their families, friends or hobbies instead.

Every time the Liberals talk about the bus services we hear background noise from the government, yelling, "Do you catch a bus?" or "How about you catch a bus?" When did we stoop so low and think that one needs to actively participate in something to have a discussion about it?

If that is their childish judgement, let me remind them that they brought forward a motion on disposable nappies. Does the proposer have to have a baby to change nappies? Has she ever changed a nappy? Does that make them inadequate to talk about nappies? Based on their childish background noise, it might. But let me assure the Assembly that one does not have to actively participate in something to actually be talking about it. To suggest otherwise is a very poor judgement.

Yesterday we spoke about the vegan diet. Not all of us in this chamber are vegans, but it did not stop us talking about it. In this chamber we represent and are a voice of the people of Canberra from all walks of life—bus rider or not, nappy changer or not, vegan or not. I catch a bus. My husband catches a bus every work day. My five

children catch a bus every school day to and from school. We do not need to actively participate in a topic to actually be discussing it in this very chamber. That is all I have to say.

Schools—Book Week

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (3.57): I want to take the chance to highlight some of the awesome things that have been happening in ACT public schools this week during Book Week, led by dedicated teachers and other staff who serve the ACT’s children in public schools every week.

The students at Chapman Primary School were treated to a bonanza of book-related events throughout August. This week, the school hosted Trent Maxwell, a Bondi Rescue lifeguard and author of the children’s *Maxi* series, who was a huge hit with the students. Next the staff and students enjoyed their fantastic Book Week themed assembly, where everyone dressed up as their favourite book characters. On Monday, the school launched its Lil Street Library, an initiative involving members of the community and student representative council promoting a love of literature for all.

On Tuesday, Lyneham Primary School hosted a Book Week “book tasting” event for their year 1/2 class. The classroom was set up as a restaurant, ready for students to enjoy the book tasting experience, complete with literary meals, a maitre d’ and reserved seating. Students were given time to read the books and make notes on their menus about each book. They also noted which books they would come back to and try again next time.

At Giralang, a whole-of-school assembly for Book Week was held on Wednesday, as well as costumes being worn throughout the day. People were dressed up as Things from *The Cat in the Hat*; rainbow bears; a dummy; an astronaut; a wizard; and Gumby. Forgetting that Things One and Two exist, Giralang Primary School also had teachers dressed up as Things One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven and Eight.

Red Hill primary tomorrow will have a book-themed assembly and will be doing their annual P&C walkathon in their Book Week costumes. It will be quite the sight for local residents.

I am always amazed at the lengths that the teachers in our public schools go to to make sure that our young people learn in extra special ways. Book Week can be such a happy and entertaining event for everybody involved, even if sometimes it puts some challenges on parents who have to come up with Book Week costumes out of nothing.

Building—quality

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (4.00): I stand today in the adjournment debate to respond to some advice that I received from Mr Ramsay in yesterday’s question time.

I got some media advice from Mr Ramsay yesterday. When you consider what a strong media performer Mr Ramsay is—how immensely comfortable he is in front of the microphone or the camera and that uncanny ability he has to connect with people via electronic media, to connect with the masses—it is no surprise that Mr Ramsay is dishing out media advice to me. In all seriousness, getting media advice from Mr Ramsay is like getting advice on how to cook the perfect steak from Ms Le Couteur.

Let us get to exactly what Mr Ramsay said yesterday in the chamber and get an understanding of the implication that he was making. His comments came after an ABC radio interview in which he point blank refused to answer the question of whether the government is in any way responsible for the building quality crisis in the ACT. As is Mr Ramsay's way, he just refused to answer the question. The answer bore no relationship whatsoever to the actual question. "Mr Ramsay is it Tuesday?" "In response to the question, let me say that the political situation in Nicaragua has ..." It had no relationship whatsoever to the question. He just refused. He was asked on a number of occasions and he refused to answer.

When I came to the microphone, I offered to answer the question on his behalf—which I thought was quite gracious, to be honest—and indicated that the government had to take some ownership of the crisis because of the many years of poor enforcement and regulations.

Mr Ramsay was, I am assuming, referring to that exchange in the chamber yesterday. Mr Ramsay said yesterday:

... Mr Parton wants to take responsibility for the problem.

He then linked the problem to a decision made sometime last century by the Carnell government. He went on to say:

... I assume it is the case that Mr Parton expects taxpayers to pick up the tab for the work of dodgy builders, because I would not like to think that Mr Parton is loose and careless with his words when we put him in front of the media.

Interestingly, in the chamber yesterday, my colleague Mrs Dunne immediately rose to her feet to defend me. She brought on a point of order saying that Mr Ramsay had in effect implied that I had a propensity to tell lies. The reality is that what Mr Ramsay alleged was the complete opposite. He alleged the complete opposite. He alleged that I had the propensity to actually answer questions and tell the truth. His message to Canberra yesterday, in his little slap down of me was: "Don't vote for this man because if he's in government, there is a high chance, there is a high likelihood, that he will actually answer questions and tell the truth." That, Madam Assistant Speaker, would be disastrous in the eyes of Mr Ramsay.

If Mr Ramsay regards answering questions and telling the truth as being loose with my words, well, Madam Assistant Speaker, I am happy to take the hit on that one. I would urge those opposite to keep trawling through my social media to lock onto

those instances when I have said things that you guys would never have the courage to say.

After October of next year, we may well discover that the Canberra Liberals do not just talk the talk; we will walk the walk as well.

Multicultural affairs—BAPS

MR GUPTA (Yerrabi) (4.03): Today I am delighted to inform the Assembly about the Bocha-sanwasi Akshar Purushottam Sanstha organisation, commonly known as BAPS, and the wonderful work they have done for our Canberra community. BAPS is a global group that for over 225 years has promoted harmony between individuals, within families and among diverse communities. For more than 20 years they have held the highest status given by the United Nations to non-government organisations, granting them the ability to participate in UN humanitarian work.

Their goal of collective spiritual progress is led by their spiritual leader, His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj. Mahant Swami Maharaj now presides as the guru and spiritual guide to countless devotees, spreading his virtues of austerity, self-control, devotion, humility and service. As part of its values, BAPS congregations around the world are inspired to undertake seva or selfless service for the community. I am glad to inform the Assembly that we have some members of BAPS present today in the gallery.

Since 1984 BAPS has expanded across numerous Australian communities. Currently, they have Hindu mandirs across major Australian cities, such as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. They also have several centres throughout cities and regional areas, including Canberra. As a proud Hindu, I care about making Australia a more accepting and diverse culture. That is why I am so proud of the work that BAPS have done to unite Australian communities. Since their establishment they have not only contributed to Australia's faith community but they have given selfless service to the broader Australian society.

ACT Labor shares the belief that we should support those that need help the most. That is why I would like to congratulate BAPS on their excellent work last year in raising \$15,000 for the drought relief effort to help our Australian farmers.

As members of the Assembly know, Canberra has a diverse and vibrant multicultural community. Both sides of politics are aware of BAPS' presence and activities in Canberra over the years and have all attended and presented at BAPS' weekly congregation events, with children's language and cultural classes at Ngunnawal Primary School.

The Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Sport and Recreation, Ms Berry, launched and attended one of BAPS' annual children's sports days. The BAPS children still fondly remember her personally running alongside and encouraging them in the young children's sack races.

Members will be aware that BAPS is oriented to strengthening individuals, families and communities. As part of this BAPS has been an engaged contributor, fostering harmonious multicultural and interfaith relations. I would like to show gratitude to members of the BAPS congregation in Canberra for the wonderful achievements they have accomplished in our local community. For example, in March this year, BAPS took part in the first interfaith forum at the Royal Canberra Show, honouring the work of our local farmers.

I am particularly delighted with the dedicated work BAPS has done in my own electorate of Yerrabi. In July BAPS Canberra organised a walkathon with the theme of “building a better community, one step at a time”. More than 95 people, aged between two and 75 years, participated in the walk. This event raised \$7,800 to support the Canberra Hospital Foundation.

This foundation supports the Canberra Hospital and Health Services to achieve its vision of providing a caring, world-class health and healing service for patients. I was privileged enough to attend this wonderful event with Ms Judy Ford, the donor program manager of the Canberra Hospital Foundation, and other dedicated members of BAPS. Despite being a rough, cold and windy day, all of the participants came together to demonstrate a true spirit of community and a desire to give back. Having experienced the positivity and community engagement provided by this event, I hope that it will become a regular event for the Gungahlin community.

BAPS Canberra regularly promotes open and engaging discussions of faith. Just last week I had the honour of speaking at an evening of spiritual discourse at the Australian National University. This event was led by Sadhu Bhadreshdas, one of the most learned swami of BAPS and an outstanding scholar in Sanskrit. I would like to acknowledge the contribution he has made to Hindu philosophy. *(Extension of time granted.)*

In conclusion, for many years now I have attended and enjoyed BAPS events. They have always been large, colourful and joyful occasions, and my family and I have always been warmly welcomed. The BAPS members are known for their discipline, dedication, hard work, commitment to a productive life and their spirit of volunteerism and selfless service.

I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank those from the BAPS community who have joined us today. I also wish to extend my gratitude to His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj for his selfless service and leadership of BAPS. I am proud of the work that BAPS have done in our community and look forward to working with them in the future to ensure that these brilliant contributions continue in the Canberra community.

Wear it Purple Day Organ donation

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (4.09): On Friday, 30 August, I am urging Canberrans to “clash their fashion” for two very important reasons. Wear it Purple Day is a day of

both celebration and solidarity. In light of next Friday not being a sitting day, I am very proud to wear purple and rainbow in this place today. I know that you like a pop of colour, too, Madam Assistant Speaker Cody.

Wear it Purple Day highlights the need to support the LGBTIQ+ community in the face of negative attitudes that unfortunately still permeate our society today. The Wear it Purple campaign began with the goal of drawing the public's attention to the appalling issue that is the bullying and harassment of LGBTIQ+ young people in Australia, and it has now become a movement right across the world. It is vital to take a stand against bullying, homophobia and transphobia wherever they arise. A gesture as simple as wearing a certain colour can have a valuable impact, and together we can make a powerful display of support next week.

Also one of the most generous contributions we can make is giving the gift of life. Just one organ donor has the potential to give life to 10 or more people, yet 1,500 Australians are currently stuck on a waiting list to receive a transplant. Well over 10,000 people are on dialysis and would have their lives transformed by receiving a kidney transplant.

While the majority of Australians have expressed a wish to have their organs and tissues donated when they die, not all families are aware of their loved ones' wishes. This is where Jersey Day, also on 30 August, comes in, to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation and, importantly, encourage more people to have conversations with their families and their loved ones about their preferences.

Madam Assistant Speaker, as you know, this is not the first time I have spoken in this chamber about organ and tissue donation, the invaluable work of DonateLife or constituents of mine who have left a legacy in giving in the most tragic of circumstances. These may be difficult conversations to have, but they are so very important, because it is our next of kin who need to consent to the donation of our organs and tissues. They need to know our wishes.

Organ donation does not take away the pain of loss, but by giving this gift of life at least some truly life-changing gifts can come from tragedy. I encourage everyone in this place to start a conversation about organ and tissue donation with their families and friends. I encourage everyone to not only consider donning a jersey next Friday to raise awareness of this important cause but also to have a splash of purple with it, too—clashing the fashion for a very important reason or two.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 4.13 pm until Tuesday, 17 September, at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Employment—agent licensing (Question No 2585)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Business and Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 2 August 2019:

- (1) How many employment agents are currently licensed in the ACT.
- (2) What is the current cost of an employment agent license.
- (3) Will the cost identified in part (2) be (a) increased or (b) decreased in 2019-20; if so, by how much.
- (4) What is the current process for license compliance checking for companies undertaking employment agent activities.
- (5) How many checks for license compliance have been undertaken on employment agencies in the ACT during (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19 and (c) to date.

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

- (1) As at 16 August 2019, there are 248 licensed employment agents in the ACT.
- (2) The fees payable for an employment agent are outlined in the *Agents (Fees) Determination 2019* (DI2019-123). This information is available on the Legislation register.
- (3) There will be no further fee increases in 2019-20.
- (4) Access Canberra licenses and regulates employment agents through the *Agents Act 2003*. A letter is sent to the employment agent to advise when the renewal of the licence is due. If the employment agent has not applied to renew their licence by the due date, another letter will be issued to advise that the licence has lapsed. Should there be concerns that an agent is working unlicensed, Access Canberra will investigate.

Access Canberra undertakes proactive compliance activities applying a risk-based approach. Resources are targeted to where the risks of harm, unsafe practices or misconduct are the greatest. Employment agents are considered to be low risk based upon historical data.

- (5) (a) Nil compliance checks identified for 2017-18.
(b) Nil compliance checks identified for 2018-19.
(c) Nil compliance checks identified for 2019 to date.

Education—vocational (Question No 2586)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Tertiary Education, upon notice, on 2 August 2019:

- (1) How many students enrolled at ACT High Schools were enrolled in industry pathway courses at CIT in (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19 and (c) to date.
- (2) Which courses was each student identified in part (1) enrolled, by course name.
- (3) How much ACT Government funding was provided for each student identified in part (1).

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

- (1) Please find below total number of ACT High School students enrolled in the Industry Pathway Course at CIT in:
 - a) 2017-18:**
Nil. The Industry Pathways Course had not yet commenced.
 - b) 2018-19:**
78 ACT High School students were enrolled in the Industry Pathway Course at CIT.
 - c) To date:**
78 ACT High School students are enrolled in Industry Pathway Course at CIT.
- (2) All students are enrolled in the *Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways*, which is the only course offered as part of the Industry Pathways Course.
- (3) Please find below total amount of ACT Government funding which was provided for each student identified in (1):
 - a) 2017-18:**
Nil. The Industry Pathways Course had not yet commenced.
 - b) 2018-19:**
78 students were approved for Skilled Capital funding of up to \$2770 per student (or up to \$3270 for students living with a disability/ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students).
 - c) To date:**
As at 5 August 2019, CIT has claimed an average of \$545.00 per student for 53 students (actual amounts per student range from \$162.14 to \$972.84).

This program provides students with the flexibility to complete the program at their own pace. Funding is provided to CIT on completion of each unit of competency.

Light rail—project delivery report (Question No 2596)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 2 August 2019:

In relation to the City to Gungahlin Light Rail Project Delivery Report, Table 6 – Project Benefits (a) when will the modelling become available for (i) road traffic congestion, (ii)

carbon emissions, (iii) active travel, (iv) employment through economic growth and development stimulated by Light Rail, (b) can the Minister provide the modelling used to support the claim that “business and commercial growth” is “on-track” and (c) does the Government intend to make public the modelling when it does become available.

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

- (a) and (c): Data in relation to road traffic congestion, carbon emissions, active travel and employment through economic growth and development stimulated by Light Rail will become available from the next ABS Census which will be conducted in August 2021. This information will be public information.
- (b) Section 5.2 of the Project Delivery Report sets out the sites where significant urban renewal has commenced, and in some cases been completed, since 2016. From November 2016 to March 2019, the value of development approvals granted along Northbourne Avenue exceeded \$394m.

Government—pedal boats (Question No 2604)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 2 August 2019 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) What was the (a) process, (b) timeline and (c) cost or revenue, associated with the National Capital Authority taking possession of pedal boats owned by the ACT Government.
- (2) How many pedal boats were provided to the National Capital Authority.
- (3) How many pedal boats were not able to be provided or were in too poor condition to be provided to the National Capital Authority.
- (4) Why did the ACT Government not take steps to dispose, sell, otherwise make use of the pedal boats in some way similar to the National Capital Authority or make the pedal boats available to the public.
- (5) What was the value of the pedal boats provided to the National Capital Authority.
- (6) What was the total number of months the pedal boats have been owned and unused by the ACT Government.
- (7) What is the breakdown of assets associated with the purchase of the pedal boat business the ACT Government still holds, and what is the value of those assets.

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

- (1 (a) The National Capital Authority (NCA) contacted ACT Property Group (ACTPG) in April 2019 expressing their interest in securing the pedal boats whilst they were exploring the possibility of featuring the boats in November’s Design Canberra Festival.

- (b) The timeframe spanned a period of almost three months from the initial enquiry in April until the transfer of the boats occurred in late June 2019.
 - (c) NCA acquired the boats at nil cost due to the dated and poor condition of the craft and the need to relocate the boats to a new site from the existing boatshed. There was an undertaking by the NCA the boats would be examined by a specialist engineer and if salvageable, repairs and upgrade works would be carried-out and remaining craft potentially used as a static display.
- (2) 17 boats were transferred to the NCA.
 - (3) All pedal boats were provided.
 - (4) The pedal boats were in poor condition. They were considered to have no financial value. They have been stored at West basin since late 2015 pending future plans for the redevelopment of West Basin.
 - (5) Nil Value.
 - (6) 42 Months.
 - (7) The government did not purchase the pedal boat business. ACTPG have stored the end of life unmaintained assets pending disposal when the site is redeveloped. The condition of these items varied and many are dated and of little value.
-

**Asbestos—home owners
(Question No 2606)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety, upon notice, on 2 August 2019:

- (1) How many Mr Fluffy home owners do not currently have a Worksafe management plan.
- (2) What is the cost of a Worksafe management plan for a Mr Fluffy home, and how often does a management plan need to be reviewed, revised or renewed.
- (3) What processes are in place if a Mr Fluffy owner cannot afford a management plan.
- (4) What enforcement procedures and actions are available to the ACT Government against Mr Fluffy home owners without management plans, including penalties and prosecution.
- (5) Has the ACT Government threatened Mr Fluffy owners without management plans with enforcement action.
- (6) What enforcement actions has the ACT Government taken against Mr Fluffy owners to date, including value of any penalties and prosecutions.
- (7) What enforcement actions is the ACT Government planning to take against Mr Fluffy owners, and what deadlines are attached.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) As of 5 August 2019, a total of nine premises do not have a current Asbestos Management Plan.
- (2) The cost of engaging a Licensed Asbestos Assessor to inspect, prepare and provide an Asbestos Management Plan is dependent on the contract between the home owner and the assessor. The initial report usually incurs a higher cost and is lower for ongoing inspections or an update of an Asbestos Management Plan. Asbestos Management Plans are required to be updated every two years. It is understood that the cost of an Asbestos Management Plan varies between approximately \$300 and \$1,500.
- (3) There have been no requests for financial assistance to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate or WorkSafe ACT. Homeowners experiencing significant financial hardship can approach the Asbestos Response Taskforce to seek a partial release of funds from their Relocation Assistance Grant (RAG) equal to the cost of obtaining an Asbestos Contamination Report for their affected property. That amount will be deducted from the final RAG package payment.
- (4) WorkSafe ACT has jurisdictional power to enforce compliance under section 342 the *Dangerous Substance Regulations 2004* (the Regulation) which requires homeowners to obtain an Asbestos Management Plan. Section 342 of the Regulation has no penalty provisions. WorkSafe ACT has the option to issue an Improvement Notice under section 100 of the *Dangerous Substance Act 2004* (the Act) to assist with compliance. Failure to comply with the requirements of an Improvement Notice may potentially be referred for prosecution under section 107 of the Act. The maximum penalty for contravening the requirements of an Improvement Notice under section 107 of the Act is 100 penalty units (\$15,000.00).
- (5) As is outlined in the response to QTON E19-372 from the Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20, WorkSafe ACT sent correspondence to non-compliant homeowners of loose fill affected properties outlining the requirements of the legislation to obtain an Asbestos Management Plan through a licensed asbestos assessor and further regulatory action that could be taken.
- (6) To date ACT Government has not undertaken any enforcement or compliance actions against Mr Fluffy owners. WorkSafe ACT has forwarded a total of six engagement letters to non-compliant homeowners informing them of the requirements to obtain an Asbestos Management Plan and encouraging them to do so.
- (7) WorkSafe ACT has informed non-compliant homeowners to comply with the Regs or an Improvement Notice under section 100 of the Act may be forthcoming. WorkSafe ACT is still engaging with homeowners to encourage them to obtain an Asbestos Management Plan. The issue of Improvement Notices to households that continue to be non-compliant will be undertaken on a case-by-case basis.

**Sport—Manuka Oval
(Question No 2609)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Tourism and Special Events, upon notice, on 2 August 2019 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) How many game days occurred at Manuka Oval for each of the previous five financial years up to the completion of the Manuka Oval media centre broken down by sport.
- (2) Since the completion of the media centre at Manuka Oval to date, how many game days have occurred broken down by sport and financial year.
- (3) Since the completion of the media centre at Manuka Oval, how many times has the media centre been used, and (a) what events or sports fixtures have made use of the media centre, (b) who made use of the media centre, (c) what are the dates of the events or fixtures, (d) what costs were associated with the use and (e) what revenue was associated with the use.
- (4) Further to part (1), how many times is the media centre scheduled to be used, and (a) what events or sports fixtures will make use of the media centre, (b) who will make use of the media centre, (c) what are the dates of the events or fixtures, (d) what costs are expected to be associated with the use and (e) what revenue is expected to be associated with the use.
- (5) What upcoming sport events at Manuka Oval are scheduled to be televised (a) nationally and (b) internationally.
- (6) With the ACT Government's investment in international cricket in Canberra, why are no games in the upcoming Men's Twenty20 World Cup scheduled to be played at Manuka Oval.
- (7) Further to part (6), did the ACT Government bid for games for the Men's Twenty20 World Cup.
- (8) What cricket games did the ACT Government bid for during (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-19 and (c) any other future years.
- (9) What negotiations with different sporting bodies are underway to secure additional events at Manuka Oval in 2019-20.
- (10) What is the breakdown of costs for hiring Manuka Oval, including associated costs such as security, for (a) elite sports, (b) semi-professional sports, (c) community sports, (d) events and (e) any other relevant category.
- (11) For each of the last five financial years to date, how many days has Manuka Oval been used for (a) elite sports, (b) semi-professional sports, (c) community sports, (d) events and (e) any other relevant category.
- (12) For each of the previous five financial years to date, what is the breakdown of revenue received from Manuka Oval broken down by sport.
- (13) For each of the previous five financial years to date, what is the breakdown of revenue received from Manuka Oval broken down by (a) elite sports, (b) semi-professional sports, (c) community sports, (d) events and (e) any other relevant category.

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

Q1 Game days by sport pre 19 December 2018

| | AFL | Cricket |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2014-15 | 10 days / 18 matches | 30 days / 26 matches |
| 2015-16 | 12 days / 27 matches | 17 days / 13 matches |
| 2016-17 | 14 days / 31 matches | 31 days / 24 matches |
| 2017-18 | 22 days / 60 matches | 18 days / 14 matches |
| 2018-19 | 7 days / 19 matches | 13 days / 8 matches |

Q2 Game days by sport post 19 December 2018

| | AFL | Cricket |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2018-19 | 11 days / 16 matches | 8 days / 4 matches |
| 2019-20 (July only) | 3 days / 7 matches | nil |

Q3 The media centre has been used 29 times since its completion on 19 December 2018 until the end of July 2019.

- a) AFL; Cricket and corporate and private functions.
- b) AFL/GWS Giants; Cricket Australia; Cricket NSW; corporate, government and private clients.
- c) Please see below for the dates the Media centre has been in use since its completion on 19 December 2019.

| Dates used | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| 21/12/2018 | 01/04/2019 | 13/06/2019 |
| 01/02/2019 | 08/04/2019 | 14/06/2019 |
| 02/02/2019 | 12/04/2019 | 20/06/2019 |
| 03/02/2019 | 16/04/2019 | 22/06/2019 |
| 04/02/2019 | 20/04/2019 | 26/06/2019 |
| 09/02/2019 | 02/05/2019 | 17/07/2019 |
| 18/02/2019 | 04/05/2019 | 23/07/2019 |
| 21/02/2019 | 31/05/2019 | 25/07/2019 |
| 08/03/2019 | 06/06/2019 | 29/07/2019 |
| 15/03/2019 | 07/06/2019 | TOTAL: 29 days |

- d) This will vary dependent on what areas were used and is commercial in confidence as part of the contracts with the various clients.
- e) This will vary dependent on what areas were used and is commercial in confidence as part of the contracts with various clients. Standard venue hire rates for the media centre range from \$120 per day for small studio boxes to \$585 per day for the largest function area (press conference room and media lobby).

Q4 There are currently 19 days of events booked and confirmed for the remainder of the 2019-20 financial year. It is anticipated that this number will increase as additional events are booked.

- a) AFL; Cricket and corporate and private functions.
- b) AFL/GWS Giants; Cricket Australia; Cricket NSW; corporate, government and private clients.

- c) Please see below for a list of dates for use for current confirmed bookings in the Media Centre from 1 August 2019 until the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

| Bookings | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 08/08/2019 | 05/11/2019 |
| 09/08/2019 | 28/11/2019 |
| 12/08/2019 | 29/11/2019 |
| 13/08/2019 | 31/01/2020 |
| 14/08/2019 | 01/02/2020 |
| 21/08/2019 | 02/02/2020 |
| 22/08/2019 | 26/02/2020 |
| 30/08/2019 | 27/02/2020 |
| 30/09/2019 | 28/02/2020 |
| 24/10/2019 | |

- d) This will vary dependent on use and function type.
- e) Standard venue hire rates for the media centre range from \$120 per day for small studio boxes to \$585 per day for the largest function area (press conference room and media lobby).

Q5 –

The following events will be televised

- a) Nationally
- AFL GWS Giants v Hawthorn – 9 August 2019
- b) Internationally
- Australia v Pakistan (Men's T20) – 5 November 2019
 - India v England (women's) – 31 January 2020
 - Australia v England (women's) – 1 February 2020
 - Australia v India (women's) – 2 February 2020
 - ICC Women's T20 World Cup – England v Qualifier 2 26th February 2020
 - ICC Women's T20 World Cup – West Indies v Pakistan. 26th February 2020
 - ICC Women's T20 World Cup – Australia v Qualifier 1. 27th February 2020
 - ICC Women's T20 World Cup – South Africa v Qualifier 2. 28th February 2020
 - ICC Women's T20 World Cup – England v Pakistan. 26th February 2020

Q6 –

The cost associated with securing content for both the Men's and Women's T20 World Cup tournaments was cost prohibitive, so a decision was made to bid for matches as part of the Women's tournament only. The ACT Government made a commitment during the 2016 election to increase support for professional women's sport, with Canberra's participation in the Women's T20 World Cup in 2020 complementing other efforts that the ACT Government has made to bring world-class women's sporting events to the nation's capital.

The ACT Government has already demonstrated a strong commitment to men's international cricket content through hosting matches as part of the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2015, One Day International (ODI) fixtures, and through securing Canberra's inaugural first Test Match in 2019.

Q7 –

No. As per the response under Question 6, the ACT Government did not bid for matches as part of the Men's T20 World Cup in 2020.

Q8 –

Canberra's five group matches as part of the Women's T20 World Cup in February 2020 are the only cricket matches secured through a bid process that will be staged during the designated timeframe in Question 8.

Q9 –

Negotiations are currently underway with Cricket Australia and the AFL to secure additional event content at Manuka Oval in 2019-20.

Q10 –

- a) The hire rates for Manuka Oval for elite level sports is dependent upon the individual Venue Hire Agreement and commercial negotiations. Venue Hire Agreements are commercial in confidence.
- b) Semi-professional AFL and Cricket are charged at the following rates:
 - a. \$176 per hour for senior matches
 - b. \$88 per hour for junior matches
- c) See (b)
- d) See 4a
- e) Not applicable

Q11 Game days by sporting level or function

| | Elite Level Sporting Events | Semi-professional sport events | Community sport events | All other events and functions | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 10 days / 10 matches | 30 days / 24 matches | 3 days / 5 matches | 33 (only 2015 data available) | 76 days / 39 matches |
| 2015-16 | 9 days / 8 matches | 20 days / 15 matches | 7 days / 9 matches | 73 | 109 days / 31 matches |
| 2016-17 | 9 days / 8 matches | 24 days / 15 matches | 21 days / 36 matches | 66 | 120 days / 59 matches |
| 2017-18 | 12 days / 9 matches | 18 days / 12 matches | 21 days / 49 matches | 63 | 114 days / 70 matches |
| 2018-19 (until 19 Dec 2018) | 3 days / 3 matches | 13 days / 7 matches | 6 days / 16 matches | 48 | 70 days / 26 matches |

Q12 – Elite level sports is dependent upon the individual Venue Hire Agreement and commercial negotiations. Venue Hire Agreements are commercial in confidence

Q13 –

- a) See question 10a response

b) & c) Semi-professional and community sport revenue (combined as same rate)

| | Revenue |
|---------|---------|
| 2014-15 | \$2,709 |
| 2015-16 | \$6,141 |
| 2016-17 | \$2,072 |
| 2017-18 | \$8,590 |
| 2018-19 | \$8,992 |

d) Event Revenue

| | Revenue |
|---------|----------|
| 2014-15 | \$20,641 |
| 2015-16 | \$30,846 |
| 2016-17 | \$38,099 |
| 2017-18 | \$44,515 |
| 2018-19 | \$67,065 |

e) Not Applicable

Taxation—rates (Question No 2615)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 2 August 2019:

- (1) Further to the Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20 question on notice No 154, what is the exact number of rateable properties broken down by (a) houses, (b) units, (c) rural properties, (d) commercial properties and (e) other standalone residential properties.
- (2) Further to the Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20 question on notice No 154, what rateable properties are included under “other standalone residential properties” and what is (a) the definition for each type of other rateable property and (b) the breakdown of the number of other rateable properties by category.
- (3) Further to the Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20 question on notice No 154, if Treasury does not forecast the growth in rateable properties, how does Treasury model or factor in population growth and revenue increases, such as the increased number of residential dwellings for rates revenue.
- (4) Further to part (3), if Treasury does not forecast growth in rateable properties, how did Treasury calculate the percentage of rates revenue that is attributable to new residential properties in Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20 question on notice No 156.
- (5) Further to Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20 question on notice No 156, why do changes in average unimproved values or value of properties not increase the total revenue take.
- (6) Further to Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20 questions on notice Nos 154 and 156, why does the 2019-20 Budget Paper 3 state on page 231, “Increases in general rates revenue are mainly due to the ACT tax reform program, as well as growth in the number and value of new properties” if Treasury does not model or forecast these figures and values do not increase the total revenue take.

- (7) Further to part 6, can the Treasurer advise in (a) dollar figures and (c) percentage, what proportion of the increase in residential rates for (i) houses and (ii) units in each financial year since tax reform to date is attributable to (A) tax reform, (B) growth in the number of properties and (c) value of new properties.

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

- (1) The total number of rateable properties as at April 2019 was:
 - a) 112,878 houses (note this is an estimate only, derived from the total number of standalone residential properties);
 - b) 52,011 residential properties that are unit titled;
 - c) 173 rural properties;
 - d) 6,328 commercial properties;
 - e) 1,587 other standalone residential properties.
- (2) Other standalone residential properties are residential properties that are not unit titled and are not included in the above estimate of houses. This can include residential blocks currently being developed, some community and social housing, and some retirement villages.

There are no further defined categories for rating purposes. The definition of the types of rateable properties (residential units, residential standalone blocks, commercial units, commercial standalone blocks, and rural blocks) is set out in the *Rates Act 2004*.

- (3) Treasury estimates the additional total rates revenue raised from new residential properties in each year rather than the individual drivers of rates revenue.
- (4) As noted above, Treasury does not estimate individual drivers of rates revenue as part of its rates revenue estimates. Therefore, it is not necessary to forecast growth in rateable properties to estimate the percentage of rates revenue that is attributable to new properties.
- (5) Property average unimproved values (AUV) changes for existing properties do not impact residential rates revenue as residential rates revenue is set for a given financial year to achieve the target average increase in rates (either the target average increase under the tax reform program or the increase in the Wage Price Index prior to tax reform). The marginal rating factors are then set to achieve the target average increase in rates, which are then applied to property AUVs. Property AUVs for the budget year are used to determine how much each individual property contributes to the total rates base.
- (6) Treasury estimates total residential rates revenue as the total revenue based on last year's AUVs and tax rates, increased by an announced percentage. AUV changes for established properties do not affect this estimate. Changes in AUVs affect the distribution of rates collected across properties.

Treasury also estimates a small amount of additional revenue in total for new properties. The actual amount of revenue received from new properties depends on the number of new properties, their value, and the length of time each individual property is rateable.

- (7) The ACT Government has established the Tax Reform Advisory Group to undertake a detailed analysis of tax reform and its effects across the community and economy since 2011. These matters are currently being examined by the Advisory Group as part of their broader analysis. As this task requires detailed analysis of historic data sets and would duplicate work currently underway, the answer to this question will be provided as part of the Advisory Group's published analysis when it is complete.

Cabinet—transparency (Question No 2616)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 2 August 2019:

- (1) Broken down by each month since the commencement of the Freedom of Information Act 2016 to date, what is the total number of cabinet decision summaries that have been withheld.
- (2) Further to part (1), for each cabinet decision summary that has been withheld, what is the (a) name and reference number of the cabinet brief or decision withheld, (b) date of the cabinet meeting and (c) date the reason for withholding access was published.
- (3) What dates were each day of cabinet summary decisions published online since the commencement of the Freedom of Information Act 2016 to date.

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

- (1) Nine Cabinet decision summaries have been withheld since the commencement of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act) on 1 January 2018:

April 2018 – 1

June 2018 – 1

July 2018 – 1

August 2018 – 1

September 2018 – 2

February 2019 – 1

March 2019 – 1

April 2019 - 1

- (2) The following Statements of Reasons for withholding access have been published on the Open Access Decision summary website since the commencement of the Act on 1 January 2018:

Where a determination has been made under the Act that disclosure is contrary to the public interest, the decision not to release is considered to extend to the title of the Cabinet item unless otherwise specified.

| Minute number (a) | Cabinet Date (b) | Publication date (c) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 16/502/BUD * | 9 April 2018 | 23 November 2018 |
| 18/359/CAB | 14 June 2018 | 24 September 2018 |
| 18/545/CAB | 24 July 2018 | 28 September 2018 |

| Minute number (a) | Cabinet Date (b) | Publication date (c) |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 18/575/CAB | 31 August 2018 | 23 November 2018 |
| 17/279/CAB | 17 September 2018 | 23 November 2018 |
| 18/579/CAB | 27 September 2018 | 23 November 2018 |
| 19/039/CAB | 5 February 2019 | 19 March 2019 |
| 19/034/CAB | 12 March 2019 | 6 May 2019 |
| 18/648/CAB | 1 April 2019 | 14 June 2019 |

* The title of this Cabinet Submission is Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment; the decision to withhold access was only extended to its Triple Bottom Line Assessment.

- (3) Dates of publication of Cabinet Decision summaries since the commencement of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* are at Attachment A.

The FOI Act does not stipulate a timeframe for the publication of information under the Open Access Information Scheme and the timing of the publication of each Cabinet decision requires its own considerations.

Attachment A

| Cabinet decision summary | Date published |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Week of 30 January 2018 | 12 May 2018 |
| Week of 5 February 2018 | 12 May 2018 |
| Week of 12 February 2018 | 12 May 2018 |
| Week of 19 February 2018 | 12 May 2018 |
| Week of 5 March 2018 | 17 May 2018 |
| Week of 12 March 2018 | 17 May 2018 |
| Week of 19 March 2018 | 4 June 2018 |
| Week of 26 March 2018 | 4 June 2018 |
| Week of 2 April 2018 | 4 June 2018 |
| Week of 9 April 2018 | 4 June 2018 |
| Week of 30 April 2018 | 4 June 2018 |
| Week of 7 May 2018 | 3 July 2018 |
| Week of 14 May 2018 | 3 July 2018 |
| Week of 21 May 2018 | 3 July 2018 |
| Week of 28 May 2018 | 11 July 2018 |
| Week of 4 June 2018 | 11 July 2018 |
| Week of 11 June 2018 | 11 July 2018 |
| Week of 2 July 2018 | 29 August 2018 |
| Week of 23 July 2018 | 31 August 2018 |
| Week of 30 July 2018 | 29 August 2018 |
| Week of 6 August 2018 | 31 August 2018 |
| Week of 13 August 2018 | 28 September 2018 |
| Week of 20 August 2018 | 28 September 2018 |
| Week of 27 August 2018 | 28 September 2018 |

| Cabinet decision summary | Date published |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Week of 10 September 2018 | 2 November 2018 |
| Week of 17 September 2018 | 2 November 2018 |
| Week of 27 September 2018 | 23 November 2018 |
| Week of 15 October 2018 | 23 November 2018 |
| Week of 22 October 2018 | 23 November 2018 |
| Week of 29 October 2018 | 17 December 2018 |
| Week of 12 November 2018 | 17 December 2018 |
| Week of 19 November 2018 | 17 December 2018 |
| Week of 26 November 2018 | 20 February 2019 |
| Week of 3 December 2018 | 20 February 2019 |
| Week of 10 December 2018 | 20 February 2019 |
| Week of 17 December 2018 | 20 February 2019 |
| Week of 4 February 2019 | 18 March 2019 |
| Week of 11 February 2019 | 18 March 2019 |
| Week of 18 February 2019 | 1 May 2019 |
| Week of 25 February 2019 | 1 May 2019 |
| Week of 4 March 2019 | 4 May 2019 |
| Week of 11 March 2019 | 6 May 2019 |
| Week of 18 March 2019 | 6 May 2019 |
| Week of 25 March 2019 | 6 May 2019 |
| Week of 1 April 2019 | 12 June 2019 |
| Week of 8 April 2019 | 12 June 2019 |
| Week of 29 April 2019 | 12 June 2019 |
| Week of 6 May 2019 | 12 June 2019 |

Chief Minister's Charitable Fund—Hands Across Canberra (Question No 2617)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 2 August 2019:

- (1) What governance and transparency arrangements are in place with the ACT Government to monitor the activities, disbursements and administration of the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund through Hands Across Canberra.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the disbursements made by Hands Across Canberra for each financial since its commencement to date, including (a) entity receiving disbursement, (b) amount disbursed to each entity and (c) reason for disbursement or activity funded.
- (3) Further to part (2), what was the total amount of funding not disbursed during the 2018-19 financial year, and how has it been managed.
- (4) What is the target expense to disbursement ratio for Hands Across Canberra, and what is the actual ratio each financial year since its commencement to date.

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

- (1) The Chief Minister's Charitable Fund is a public company limited by guarantee, registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and governed by an independent board. The Chief Minister's Charitable Fund Ltd is governed by a funding deed that imposes requirements with respect to annual and financial reporting, business planning and the use or investment of funds. The funding deed also specifies that the Territory must receive copies of board papers; provides for a Territory representative to attend all CMCF Board meetings as an observer; and provides a mechanism for the Territory to terminate the funding at any time and seek reimbursement of unspent monies if any management issues arise.
 - (2) The recipients for the first round of grants by the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund were announced on 3 July 2019. A total of \$408,756 was awarded to 29 community projects across the ACT region. They are: AIDS Action Council and A Gender Agenda (*LGBTIQ community - retrofit a space for a community clinic*, \$4,500); AIDS Action Council of the ACT (*Innovative employment project*, \$30,000); Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT (*Arawang Emergency Relief Hub Set Up*, \$4,856); Canberra Yacht Club (*Buoyed Up*, \$10,000); Canberra Community Law (*Women in Prison Legal Empowerment Sessions*, \$15,000); Canberra PCYC (*Canberra PCYC Youth Engagement Program*, \$25,000); CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn (*Addressing homelessness in the ACT - Pilot Project*, \$20,000); Construction Charitable Works (*Construction Charitable Works Case Management and Site Talks*, \$7,500); CREATE Foundation (*Connecting for Change*, \$10,000); GetAboutAble Pty Ltd (*Accessible Canberra*, \$17,000); Global Sisters (*Building Financial Resilience in Disadvantaged Women*, \$10,000); Marathon Health (*All Hands on Deck*, \$5,000); Marymead (*Access Days Project*, \$15,000); Mental Illness Education ACT Inc (*Mental Health 101 – Youth – Digital Program Exemplar*, \$15,000); OzHarvest (*OzHarvest Canberra Food Rescue*, \$10,000); Parentline ACT Inc. (*Parenting Advice for Vulnerable Parents from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background*, \$4,900 and *Parenting Outreach Advice at Paint and Plays*, \$5,000); People with Disabilities ACT (*Addressing barriers to employment for people with disabilities*, \$20,000); Post and Ante Natal Depression Support and Information Inc (*PANDSI Specialised Care Pathways Project*, \$10,000); Raw Potential Canberra - YouthCARE Canberra Limited (*Mobile outreach service*, \$20,000); Rebus Theatre Inc (*Acting Out*, \$15,000); Technology for Ageing and Disability ACT (*Outreach Mobility Service*, \$15,000); TransMasc via A Gender Agenda (*TransMasc Workshop Series*, \$5,000); UnitingCare Kippax (*UCK - Ginninderry Social Enterprise Hub*, \$35,000); VOCAL ACT (*Volunteers Supporting Victims of Crime*, \$5,000); Volunteering and Contact ACT (*Connections Program - youth focus*, \$25,000); Warehouse Circus Inc. (*Jump Start*, \$5,000); Yeddung Mura Aboriginal Corporation; (*Dhurrawang Reintegration Program*, \$25,000); YWCA Canberra (*A-Z Work Skills Pilot Program*, \$20,000).
 - (3) Funds not allocated for the grants program (per part 2 of the response) or for the establishment and running of the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund (per part 4 of the response) are invested to ensure the perpetuity of the Funds.
 - (4) The funding deed does not include a target ratio, but specifies that administrative expenses (which includes all amounts paid out of the Fund other than for charitable purposes) are limited to \$125,000 per annum, with an additional \$100,000 allocated for the first year of operation (to establish governance arrangements, systems, procedures and engagement strategy).
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**Government—land sales
(Question No 2628)**

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 2 August 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Urban Renewal*):

- (1) What soil testing and remediation works were conducted by the ACT Government on the former Red Hill Flats site prior to its sale for redevelopment.
- (2) Were any harmful substances found in the course of the soil testing; if so, what.
- (3) What soil remediation works were conducted on the site prior to the sale.
- (4) Has work stopped on the construction due to the discovery of harmful substances on the site; if so, (a) what substances were discovered and (b) who is responsible for remediating the land to make ready for development.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) In preparing the site for sale a full range of due diligence was undertaken including environmental soil testing. As the ACT Government had oversight of the demolition of all structures on the site, soil testing was also undertaken during and after the completion of demolition on site. Any areas of environmental concern identified as part of the environmental testing were remediated.
- (2) The environmental soil testing discovered fragments of bonded Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) associated with filling, buried services and road and building construction.
- (3) All areas of environmental concern identified as part of the environmental testing were remediated in line with accepted environmental standards and subsequently endorsed by the Environment Protection Authority.
- (4) Construction on the site was stopped when ACM was discovered. (a) Fragments of ACM (b) The ACT Government and Stockland take matters concerning health and safety very seriously and are working together to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

Questions without notice taken on notice

ACT Health—radiotherapy

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Parton on Tuesday, 30 July 2019*):

- (1) Wait times for radiation therapy for the treatment of cancer are influenced by a number of factors.

100 per cent of patients requiring emergency radiation therapy receive that treatment within one day. ACT is the highest performing jurisdiction against this indicator.

There has been a five per cent increase in demand for radiation therapy.

100 patients per day are receiving radiation treatment at Canberra Hospital. This is despite one machine being decommissioned as part of the significant upgrade and replacement program. This represents a 25 per cent improvement in throughput achieved by improvements to treatment planning, patient scheduling and extending operating hours to 7pm.

Canberra Health Services is currently spending \$11 million replacing two linear accelerators, the treatment planning system and updating the physical space to ensure the latest technology and most efficient services are provided.

When all four machines are operational by mid-2020, wait times will return to within national benchmarks.

- (2) There is no evidence to suggest outcomes have been impacted by longer wait times. Patients are triaged to ensure those who will benefit most from early treatment are treated first.

Transport Canberra—south side bus services

Mr Steel (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mrs Kikkert on Wednesday, 31 July 2019*):

On school days, there are 21 morning and two afternoon southbound R4 services that terminate at Woden Interchange.

On weekdays during school holidays, there are 13 morning and two afternoon southbound R4 services that terminate at Woden Interchange.

On weekends and public holidays, no southbound R4 services terminate at Woden Interchange.

In relation to your question about signs on buses, I am advised that some drivers have been displaying a sign within the vehicle to assist customers who may not be reading the bus destination sign which is clearly marked 'Woden'. Transport Canberra is working on options to make this clearer for customers.

Transport Canberra—south side bus services

Mr Steel (*in reply to a supplementary question by Miss C Burch on Wednesday, 31 July 2019*):

The R4 is running as planned, which includes some services only running between Belconnen and Woden where demand is highest.

Transport Canberra is working on options to make this clearer for customers.

Transport Canberra—south side bus services

Mr Steel (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Parton on Wednesday, 31 July 2019*):

Please refer to the attached response to question on notice from the recent Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20.

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

Transport Canberra—patronage

Mr Steel (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Le Couteur on Thursday, 1 August 2019*):

Transport Canberra is taking steps to provide real-time information for passengers. This includes provision of real-time data on the Transport Canberra Journey Planner.

Hospitals—emergency waiting times

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Tuesday, 13 August 2019*):

In 2018-19, Triage Category 1 Seen on Time Percentage in Emergency Department of the Canberra Hospital is 100 per cent.