



DEBATES

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

14 September 1993

Tuesday, 14 September 1993

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MADAM SPEAKER (Ms McRae) took the chair at 2.30 pm and read the prayer.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND TEMPORARY ORDERS

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

That so much of the standing and temporary orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (1) any business before the Assembly at 3.00 pm this day being interrupted to allow the Treasurer to be called on forthwith to present the Appropriation Bill 1993-94;
- (2) debate on any motion before the Assembly at that time of interruption being adjourned until the question - "That debate on the Appropriation Bill 1993-94 be adjourned and the resumption of the debate be made an order of the day for the next day of sitting" is agreed;
- (3) at 3.00 pm on Thursday, 16 September 1993, the order of the day for resumption of debate on the question "That the Appropriation Bill 1993-94 be agreed to in principle" being called on notwithstanding any business before the Assembly, and that the time limit on the speech of the Leader of the Opposition be equivalent to the time taken by the Treasurer in moving the motion "That the Bill be agreed to in principle"; and
- (4) debate on any motion before the Assembly at that time being adjourned until a later hour that day.

AUTHORITY TO RECORD AND BROADCAST PROCEEDINGS

Motion (by **Mr Berry**), by leave, agreed to:

That the Assembly authorises:

- (1) the recording on video tape without sound by television networks of proceedings during the presentation of the Appropriation Bill 1993-94 today, Tuesday, 14 September 1993, and the Leader of the Opposition's speech and subsequent debate on the question "That the Bill be agreed to in principle" on Thursday, 16 September 1993;

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- (2) the use by any television station of any part of the recorded proceedings in subsequent news, current affairs and documentary programs and not for the purposes of satire or ridicule; and
- (3) the taking of still photographs during the presentation of the Appropriation Bill 1993-94 today and the Leader of the Opposition's speech on the resumption of the debate on Thursday, 16 September 1993, and subsequent debate on the question "That the Bill be agreed to in principle" and the use of such photographs in the print media generally.

PAPER

MR HUMPHRIES: Madam Speaker, I seek leave to present a petition which does not conform with standing orders as it does not address the Assembly.

Leave granted.

MR HUMPHRIES: Thank you, members. I present an out-of-order petition from 14 residents of Macarthur Park Estate in Tuggeranong requesting a review of the streetscape plan.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Hospice

MRS CARNELL: My question is to Mr Berry, the Minister for Health. Is the Minister aware that a major ACT developer has stated that Building C at Calvary Hospital could be converted to a 14-bed hospice for under \$1m? Given this information, has the Minister investigated the possibility of a joint venture with the private sector, taking into account that this could save the ACT ratepayers over \$2m?

MR BERRY: The statement that has been made is not one that I am immediately familiar with; but, Madam Speaker, the decision has been made. If Mrs Carnell wants to proceed down the path of providing a smaller hospice than would be provided by the Government, she is not going to be able to do it because the Government has already made a decision about building a bigger and better one on a better site. This was a very important promise made to the community of the ACT and, as Mrs Carnell would know, the procedure of going through elections in a democracy is part of consultation with the community. As part of our commitment to this community, we are going to deliver the promise that we made to them when we went before the people at the last election. The key promise that we made in relation to a hospice was that it would be on the Acton site. We have announced the position in relation to the hospice and we intend to continue with it.

MRS CARNELL: I have a supplementary question. Could the Minister please tell the Assembly how much more a hospice on the Acton site will cost than a hospice adjacent to Calvary Hospital, in recurrent terms?

MR BERRY: We have allowed \$3m to build the hospice at Acton.

Mrs Carnell: That is capital. I asked about recurrent.

MR BERRY: I have said in this place before that we can expect that in the early stages of the use of that hospice the recurrent costs would be slightly higher, but as more health facilities go on that site they will - - -

Mrs Carnell: When will the health facilities happen?

Mr Humphries: How much higher?

MR BERRY: The position will improve. Be patient and ask one question at a time. You will get one answer at a time. In relation to the hospice, I have said over and over again that, if you want to undo the provision of a valued service to the community, behave like the Liberals. They are just spoilers and wreckers. They want to create the impression that there is something - - -

Mr Humphries: That is Keating's line. Take lessons from Paul Keating. God, he is desperate!

MR BERRY: And it is a good one because it relates to the Liberals. There is nothing different; they are out of the same mould. We intend to continue with our commitment. The community expects us to continue with our commitment to provide them with first-class facilities. We are not going down the path, as is suggested by Mrs Carnell, of some second-class hospice. We are going to provide a first-class facility which is much needed by the community and which has been endorsed by many people. We are not going to politicise it any longer; we are just going to get on with it and ignore the Liberals.

ACTTAB Board

MR LAMONT: My question is also directed to the Deputy Chief Minister but in his capacity as Minister for Sport. The opposition spokesman on sport recently claimed on ABC radio that the ACT racing industry, which provides over 80 per cent of the turnover to the TAB, is without any representation on the ACTTAB board. Is this true?

MR BERRY: It is not the first time that the Opposition has said something that is untrue, and Mr De Domenico is very good at it. He is very good at saying things that are untrue. I recently appointed the new ACTTAB board. All members are appointed consistent with the requirements of the Betting (Totalizator Administration) Act, which specifies that board members should have appropriate qualifications and experience having regard to the functions of the board. Between them, all of them, they provide a good blend of knowledge and experience in all three racing codes. You would know that Mr Phillip Neck has had a long association with the horse and bloodstock industry. He provides a significant representation.

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Mrs Carnell: He is the chief executive. He is not on the board.

MR BERRY: Mrs Carnell said, "He is not on the board". Wrong again! Go out to the community and tell a few more big ones. Read the legislation. In company with Mr Neck are Ms Rhyll Scales and Ms Lesley Piko.

Mr De Domenico: What experience has she got?

MR BERRY: She has a great deal of experience in accountancy, Mr De Domenico. Your leader sticks her head down because she is ashamed of you. Ms Piko has a great deal of experience - so much experience that the former Alliance Government appointed her to a board.

Mr De Domenico: In fact, she was on the board of the Chamber of Commerce with Mrs Carnell.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Mr Berry has the floor.

MR BERRY: She ought to be ashamed of you. They all bring extensive experience in contributing to the operations of ACTTAB through board membership. I have mentioned Mr Phillip Neck. He has been an owner and a breeder of racehorses. This is just to demonstrate that what you tell people out there in the community is untrue and people ought not believe you. He was an administrator of the Oak Bank Race Club in South Australia, where he was also chairman for 10 years. He knows a bit about race clubs. Mr Neck has held the position of chief executive of ACTTAB for the past two-and-a-half years. I would say that Mr Neck knows his way around a racetrack and knows his way around the TAB industry.

Ms Rhyll Scales was a member of the previous board, so she knows a bit about the board. Ms Scales brings to the board a vast amount of experience as a past public servant and a professional woman in the business field. Are you critical of that appointment? Ms Scales is a very keen racing person. She brings more racing experience to the board. So again it demonstrates that you tell porkies out there in the community.

Mr Humphries: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker.

MR BERRY: I withdraw that. You do not tell the truth out there in the community. That is demonstrated by what I have put before the Assembly here today. Ms Scales is highly respected by all members of the racing fraternity. Ms Piko, as I mentioned, brings to the board expertise in the accountancy field, with a background not only in the public service but also in private practice, providing the board with a blend of racing and professional business experience.

Mr Athol Williams, one whom you criticised, was appointed a director of the previous ACTTAB Ltd board in July 1991 - so he knows a bit about the TAB - and has acted as the chairperson of that board. Very clearly, he understands the workings of the board. He has brought his experience to the new board which he also chairs. Mr Williams has extensive experience in the racing industry, having been a board member and vice-president of the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club and a board member of Canberra and District Racing and Sporting Broadcasters Ltd. He was the Greyhound Racing Club's chief steward until his appointment to the ACTTAB Ltd board.

Ms Follett: I do not think they knew that.

Mr De Domenico: No; we knew all that.

MR BERRY: If you know all these things, do not try to tear people down. We have seen the antics that you have got up to here in the last few weeks when you have ripped into people in the community. Just lay off, because these people are genuinely doing something for the people of the ACT and they do not need to be hounded by the likes of you lot.

Mr George Wason was also a director of the previous ACTTAB Ltd board from 23 January 1992. Mr Wason brings financial and management experience from various other appointments on boards, such as the Building and Construction Long Service Leave Board and the Canberra Tradesmen's Union Clubs - a group of very successful clubs. So he knows his way about business, Mr De Domenico. His experience as secretary of the ACT branch of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union also brings organisational and negotiation skills to the board. His experience and qualifications are suitable for the position. How dare you lot criticise people who are involved in this board in the interests of the people of the ACT. Let us not forget the appointment of Mrs Carnell to the Health Board by Mr Humphries.

Mrs Carnell: I was not even a member of the Liberal Party.

MR BERRY: You were still a Liberal. This is not jobs for the boys; this is looking after Liberals. And they need looking after; there is no question about that. What about Mr De Domenico? Was he on the Multicultural Advisory Council? Yes. So he needed looking after. I accept that Mr De Domenico and Mrs Carnell needed looking after; they are Liberals. We did not criticise those appointments. They were appointments of the day and they were obviously made by the Ministers involved on the basis of their expectations of these people. We were prepared to sit back and not attack people who were putting their shoulders to the wheel. I am not going to sit down and let people like Mr De Domenico attack fair-minded community people who are doing their bit for the ACT. Next time you are out in the community make sure that you tell them the truth.

Racing Industry

MR DE DOMENICO: Madam Speaker, my question without notice is to the Minister for Sport, Mr Berry. Is the Minister aware of the campaign being waged by sections of the ACT Racing Club committee to unseat the current chairman of the ACT Racing Club and former chairman of the TAB and in so doing to frustrate the club's efforts to achieve status as a full member of the Australian Conference of Principal Racing Clubs? I further ask the Minister: What are the implications of this move for the health and well-being of the Racing Club in the ACT, for the continuing growth of employment in the racing industry in the ACT, and for the continuing flow of revenue from the racing industry to the Government?

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MR BERRY: First of all, I do not interfere.

Mrs Carnell: Since when?

MR BERRY: I do not interfere since forever in the internal affairs of the Racing Club, and I will not. When it comes to the establishment of principal club status in the ACT, the Labor Party has long had the policy that we will support clubs which choose to seek statehood for themselves here in the ACT instead of being connected with New South Wales clubs and so on. As long as the ACT Racing Club chooses to pursue that course and to achieve principal club status, this Government will support them. The club has put to us the view that they want principal club status. I have made representations in various places around this country in order that that can be achieved. I will continue to do that while ever the racing club wants me to.

Lawn Cemeteries

MS SZUTY: Madam Speaker, my question without notice is to the Minister for Urban Services, Mr Connolly. It refers to recent media reports about the Cemeteries Trust requiring people to remove excess tributes from the graves of relatives. My question to the Minister is: Is he happy with the approach taken by the Cemeteries Trust with regard to this matter, given that the trust is dealing with people at various stages of the grieving process?

MR CONNOLLY: I thank Ms Szuty for the question. This has had considerable media coverage which would suggest that the Cemeteries Trust is somehow acting in an uncaring manner. I would suggest that that is not in fact the case. The Canberra Public Cemeteries Trust has requested families to remove some of the excess articles in the garden grave area, the garden plot area. That is an area of the cemetery where the intention is to have a lawn feel with small plaques, and this is a clear condition of the lease. That is not the traditional cemetery, which is a plot marked off and which may have elaborate headstones or whatever the family wishes. If people choose to have that style of burial, that is fine; they can do that. But, if they choose to go into the lawn cemetery area, they agree, in the lease that is issued, to comply with the rules that apply in that area. Those rules are to keep the feeling of a lawn with a small brass plaque. The trust does provide suitable vases in the flower wall. The intention is to keep them there. Families are notified of those restrictions at the time of bereavement and when they order the inscription for the plaque and so forth.

It has become common practice for some families to decorate graves with additional articles, and the trust policy is, and has been, to overlook this practice for a certain period after the burial, to assist in the grieving process; in effect, to waive the rules which families have agreed to abide by for a period, acknowledging that the period immediately after the loss is particularly stressful. However, from time to time the trust does endeavour to tidy up the lawn cemetery area, and that is often at the request of other families who, having chosen to go into the lawn cemetery area and made the conscious decision to opt for the lawn cemetery for their loved one rather than a conventional style of cemetery, want that lawn cemetery feeling to be preserved. As a result, the trust has approached a number of families who, for periods in excess of six months after the bereavement, have continued to place large quantities of flowers on the lawn area.

The trust is carrying out such a clean-up at the moment and has asked some families to clean up excess articles by early October. Families have been advised that if that does not occur the trust may clean it up themselves. I would expect that there would be a level of sensitivity in the one-to-one relationships with the families. I expect that my public servants act in that manner. If members hear to the contrary, please let me know and we will address it in the ordinary process. But this is a longstanding rule. It is designed to keep the lawn feel for those families who specifically wanted that lawn area and to prevent the lawn area becoming like the more conventional area of the cemetery, and families are aware of that when they sign the lease for the lawn area.

Flags - Distribution

MR CORNWELL: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, I refer to your letter of 20 July to all members about the availability of ACT flags and I note your comment therein. I quote:

Arrangements have been put in place for the future distribution of ACT flags, so that community organisations may deal with ACTGS agencies they have direct contact with - eg the ACT Office of Sport and Recreation will provide flags on request to ACT sporting organisations.

My question, Chief Minister, is this: If these sporting or, for that matter, cultural or community organisations apply for a flag through a member of the Opposition or an independent member, will the flag be provided to that opposition or independent member for presentation to the organisation, or will it be presented only by a Minister or government member? In other words, Chief Minister, is the Government using, or proposing to use, the distribution of flags for political purposes?

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, I thank Mr Cornwell for the question. May I say, first of all, Madam Speaker, that the flags have proved tremendously popular. We have had a large number of requests for them. All of the organisations to whom I have given flags have expressed their intense approval of the fact that this Territory now has its own flag. They believe that it will identify them appropriately and make them even more proud of this Territory when they are travelling or when they have visiting teams or visiting organisations. The flag, as a symbol of unity and pride in this Territory, has been a great success. Of course, all members of the Assembly were part of that process, so it is a tribute to everybody that it is such a success.

Madam Speaker, I have put in place arrangements for people to apply for flags, if they wish to, through ACT Government Service agencies and, particularly in the case of sport, that often occurs; but I am quite happy to entertain any other request for a flag. As yet, I have not received any from members of the Assembly. It seems to me that, if organisations have a particular preference, then it is up to them to express that preference, and I will certainly consider any such request that is made to me. It is my intention that the new flag of the Territory fly wherever it is possible for it to fly throughout the Territory - I have had any number of comments on how attractive it looks flying - and also that as many as possible of our community have access to that flag so that it becomes well known and it becomes another loved symbol of this community.

Kick Boxing

MR STEVENSON: My question is to Mr Berry. The Boxing Control Act became law only about four months ago. I believe that there was a serious flaw in it. Because of this and the Minister's failure to pass regulations necessary for the operation of the law, we had a situation in July where, under duress from the Supreme Court, the Minister had to pass a special regulation to authorise a kick boxing tournament. What did it cost the public purse to pay for the costs, and have the organisers of the tournament been reimbursed for any costs that they were obliged to pay for our inaction?

MR BERRY: In relation to the details about which you inquire, I do not have them at my fingertips. I can say in relation to that matter that there was much ado about a fundraising effort for a young person in town who requires a transplant. It was of interest to note later on that the money had not been provided. The organisers who used that young person as a basis for the kick boxing event and to draw some support for it did not bother coughing up the money afterwards. It was very interesting to see that the event was not that popular. The matter did end up before the courts and subsequently more work will be required to deal with the issue. But it comes back to that particular bout. It was a bout that was conducted with my approval, most reluctantly.

Mr Cornwell: Grudgingly, yes.

MR BERRY: Well, most reluctantly. The bout went ahead without proper regulations.

Mr Humphries: That was your fault.

MR BERRY: The organiser intended to defy them anyway. That person has been organising unregulated events in the ACT for some time. I do not know about you lot, but I saw that event with some concern because, like the AMA, I am a bit concerned about boxing and kick boxing and
- - -

Mr Humphries: That was not what the Assembly decided, however, was it?

MR BERRY: The Assembly has to wear what it decides, I suppose. The decision has been made in relation to kick boxing and I will provide a proper regulatory base to ensure that that occurs. Further work is required in relation to the legislation because it was a back-of-the-envelope amendment that was made with haste and did not consider all of the consequences. Subsequently we have had to repair the situation. I will find the details that you seek.

Smoke Detectors

MRS GRASSBY: My question is directed to the Minister for Urban Services. The ACT Fire Brigade has recently advertised about a program of free installation of smoke detectors in Canberra houses. Can the Minister advise the Assembly on this program and what effect it is having?

MR CONNOLLY: I thank Mrs Grassby for the question. Members would recall that we discussed this in private members business last sittings and the Assembly noted that this was a good concept. I can now give some details in terms of numbers. To date some 1,260 smoke detectors have been installed by the Fire Brigade as a result of this free installation policy. They were purchased by individuals in the various stores around Canberra and installed by the brigade gratis. A further 108 are on the list to be installed in private homes, and 210 are on a separate list that has been worked up for installation in aged persons units as a separate exercise. So, Madam Speaker, very shortly we will have installed some 1,500 smoke detectors in a quite short period of time. The Fire Brigade is so pleased with this program that it will continue it until further notice. We hope that even more people will take part in that exercise.

Supply and Tender Agency

MR WESTENDE: Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Chief Minister. In the 1992-93 ACT budget it was stated that a Supply and Tender Agency would be established to assist local business to take full advantage of the opportunities to competitively supply goods and services to the Government. However, to date, many private sector companies have not even been given the opportunity to tender. My question to the Chief Minister is: How many staff have been allocated? What is the cost to the community of running such an agency?

MS FOLLETT: Madam Speaker, the Supply and Tender Agency falls within the portfolio responsibilities of Mr Connolly, so I will refer the question to him.

MR CONNOLLY: Madam Speaker, I will get a detailed answer, in terms of precisely what has been spent and how, to Mr Westende as soon as possible.

Furniture Store - Acton Peninsula

MR KAINE: I would like to direct a question to Mr Connolly, the Minister for Urban Services. Is it the Government's intention that the ACT government furniture store will be transferred from its site in Fyshwick to a site on the Acton Peninsula?

MR CONNOLLY: Mr Kaine raises an interesting question. There was a view that we need not continue with a furniture store; but, on mature reflection in the Minister's office, the view now is that we will continue with a furniture store and develop more concrete policies for recycling of furniture within the ACT Government. It may well appear that we are perhaps throwing out furniture that need not be thrown out and purchasing new furniture when we could be making good use of existing ACT government owned furniture. The ACT furniture store for some years now has occupied rented premises at Fyshwick which have a quite considerable annual rent component. That lease expires this year, or was to expire, and the intention is that we will vacate those leased premises and move the furniture store in the interim to government owned premises, and premises have been identified at Acton.

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Consistent with the policy of the Government of getting out of rented accommodation and using government owned accommodation, we are proposing an interim move at least to a site at Acton. The whole future of the ACT furniture store is under review at the moment with a view towards implementing a fairly active recycling policy for government owned furniture.

MR KAINÉ: I have a supplementary question, Madam Speaker. Mr Connolly, does this mean that the Government has abandoned its objectives for the Acton Peninsula and is now going to turn it into an industrial site?

MR CONNOLLY: No. That is a good cheap political point, but it is merely a debating point. I was careful in my answer to refer to the interim nature of that. The fact is that we have facilities at Acton which are currently on a care and maintenance warehousing basis. We have used them for the last 12 months - I think, unbeknown to the Opposition, or you would have taken the political point - for the Fire Brigade that was previously housed at Ainslie. It is a temporary purpose only.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Mr Connolly, it is three o'clock; so I must interrupt you in line with the motion that was passed earlier in the day.

APPROPRIATION BILL 1993-94

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister and Treasurer) (3.00): Madam Speaker, I present the Appropriation Bill 1993-94.

Title read by Clerk.

MS FOLLETT: I move:

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

The 1993-94 ACT budget has been framed in the hardest circumstances to face the Territory in the short history of self-government. This year the Territory faces the biggest cut in Commonwealth funding in the history of Commonwealth-State financial relations. The difficulty of the Government's task, and the pace of change forced upon us, are highlighted by the fact that the next largest cut was the one we faced last year.

This budget has been tough work to put together, but the Government has been determined that it will not be too tough on the people of Canberra. Rather, we have been tough on the cost of government and the need to streamline government operations. This Government has made it clear that we will pursue a consistent strategy to deal with the inevitable loss of Commonwealth support. I outlined the basic elements of that strategy in June last year, reiterating them in the last budget, and again in June this year.

We are convinced that, to avoid massive disruption, substantial budget change can occur only over time and with the cooperation and understanding of the whole community. In the last budget, the Government put in place the major initiatives of its 1992 election platform. At the same time, we commenced our strategy of efficiencies in the overall operation of government, together with a careful program of revenue increases and selected savings measures. There should be no major surprises in this year's budget.

This budget continues and builds upon our strategy with further small revenue increases and targeted savings measures. It will also put in place measures for future years to help create a sustainable financial future for the Territory. The budget restrains government spending to an increase that is less than the consumer price index. Our own-source recurrent revenues will grow only in pace with the ACT economy. A recurrent budget surplus and provisions from previous years mean that we will have minimum borrowing requirements. We have met the challenge imposed by the Commonwealth with a budget that is fair, that tackles the hard questions of government spending, and that provides extra support to the most disadvantaged in our community.

Several measures in this budget increase assistance to the growing numbers of long-term unemployed. Concessions are being retargeted to provide greater assistance to those who need it most. Other initiatives respond to the needs of women, children and youth, and mentally dysfunctional people. The aspirations and concerns of Aboriginal Canberrans in this International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples are also recognised.

The expanding business community in Canberra is the engine that generates the future jobs needed to sustain our growth. Our programs support and encourage that growth. Capital works essential to the development of our community and the maintenance of public assets will be sustained at high levels. These works, and those of the Commonwealth Government and private industry, will continue to sustain the large work force in Canberra's building industry. This is a responsible budget which both continues and reasserts our strategic approach to the long-term financial challenge facing the Territory. At the same time, it reflects the Government's commitment to social justice in our community.

The Government has not prepared this budget in isolation. We have been careful to listen to the community. The Government received a number of well-prepared budget submissions on many topics. I also met personally with key organisations while the budget was being formulated. Less formally, members of the Government also receive feedback through the many letters we receive and during the meetings and frequent public events we attend. The Wastewatch Hotline also provided input to our budget deliberations. The Government has paid a good deal of attention to these community barometers.

Madam Speaker, 1992-93 was a year of strong economic growth in the ACT. Gross state product, a measure of the value of all goods and services produced in the Territory, increased by 4 per cent in real terms, while the national economy remained sluggish with only 2.5 per cent growth. This was a very pleasing performance and somewhat stronger than we expected at the time of the last budget. With some of the major growth contributors now passing their peak, we are forecasting a reduction in the real growth rate to 3 per cent in 1993-94.

The Territory has been shielded from the worst of the national recession by our strong public employment base. Retail trade, which is the major component of private spending, grew by 4.9 per cent in the year in real terms, or more than twice as fast as for Australia as a whole. Spending on housing was also very strong in the ACT, with finance approved for housing growing by a huge 42 per cent. However, housing activity moves in big swings, and we must expect that in 1993-94 it will be lower than the unsustainably high levels of last year.

These high levels of activity create jobs. In 1992-93, some 6,500 more people had jobs than in the previous year. That was a 4.4 per cent increase, compared with only a 0.2 per cent increase throughout Australia. Despite this, and because our population was increasing at an above average pace and more people were looking for jobs, the number of unemployed people actually rose. Employment growth in 1993-94 is likely to be below last year's, at a little under 3 per cent. This is a frustrating prospect and demonstrates only too clearly that getting our unemployed, especially those unemployed for long periods, back to work is a slow process. Carefully targeted assistance measures are provided in the budget to tackle the problem. The private sector now employs more than half of Canberra's work force, and the budget encourages the continued expansion of private business.

Tourism continues to perform very strongly. Visitor numbers topped one-and-a-half million in the most recent annual figures. This represents a staggering 26 per cent increase. The Canberra visitors survey estimates that these visitors spent \$500m and supported employment of some 8,000 Canberrans. The Territory is also attracting new industries which can exploit the government market and the high level and standard of education and institutional research carried out here. High-tech industries such as information technology and telecommunications, although still small, have consolidated in Canberra. These developments spell out the future for our economy, and that is recognised in the Government's programs.

The ACT's population continues to grow faster than that of all States except Queensland. The annual rate of increase for the last two years has been about 1.7 per cent per annum and a similar figure is expected this year. Within that growth, the age profile is changing in a way that places demands on future government services. For 1993-94 it is predicted that the main work force age group will grow by nearly 3 per cent, while the number of aged people will grow by nearly 4 per cent. At the same time, the main school age group is expected to remain about steady in 1993-94. The changing economic and demographic scene in Canberra offers opportunities and imposes demands on government programs, on their overall size and on their focus. This budget is able to capitalise on the growth but also pursues the restructuring needed to accommodate future demands.

The 1992-93 budget was the first in the Government's three-year strategy. It set out to fulfil the goals of that strategy by protecting the services and standards delivered to the community, achieving cost reductions in important program areas, maintaining the revenue effort without imposing significant burdens on taxpayers, and avoiding unwarranted borrowings. The outcome of the 1992-93 budget met these aims handsomely. An overall deficit of \$64m estimated at budget time last year was held to only \$1.5m. A strong recurrent surplus of \$59m funded nearly all the capital deficit, thus removing the need to borrow. Total debt was reduced by \$22.3m during the year. The ACT has the lowest net public debt of any State or Territory, measured both in per capita and in absolute terms.

The budget outcome resulted partly from stronger than expected revenues. Expenditures were lower than estimated. A major part of this was the result of expenditures deferred to this year but, importantly, the capacity to fund those expenditures has also been preserved into this year.

The Government's responsible approach to financial management, borrowings and debt played a significant role in securing a AA-plus long-term credit rating for the second year in a row and has assisted the Government in framing the 1993-94 budget.

Madam Speaker, 1992-93 brought dramatic changes in the financial relationship with the Commonwealth and the other States. The Grants Commission's five-yearly review of relativities resulted in a reassessment of the ACT's standard expenditure and revenue capacity. The commission's recommendations were adopted by the Commonwealth in the July Premiers Conference and resulted in a reduction in our general revenue grants from \$387m in 1992-93 to \$309m, including special revenue assistance of \$40m. The new relativities have meant that the eventual level of funding we can expect from the Commonwealth is even lower than was anticipated at this time last year. As a result, an accelerated pace of budget adjustment has been imposed upon this Territory.

The 1993-94 budget has successfully balanced the social, economic and environmental needs of the ACT within the shrinking funding position we face. Despite the massive cut in Commonwealth general revenue grants this year, the Government has produced a recurrent budget with an estimated surplus of \$12.8m. This recurrent surplus, combined with previous years' provisions, means that some \$56m of the Territory's capital deficit of \$90m will be funded internally, with only \$34.4m, or less than 40 per cent, expected to be met through borrowing. In contrast, the Liberal Alliance Government borrowed \$67.4m in 1990-91 to pay for their budget.

Madam Speaker, our borrowing program is responsible, it is sustainable, and it is underwritten by essential and productive public investment and budget restructuring measures. The relatively low level of borrowing in this budget is an important achievement in the face of the unprecedented adjustment task. It will help us to retain the strong credit rating we have earned and save us money in the future. Within the responsible financing position established for 1993-94, the budget pays its way by providing \$31.6m for future superannuation costs. This decision, and the low level of borrowing, will help to avoid handing future taxpayers a large bill to pay for today's services.

Notwithstanding the continuing fall in Commonwealth payments included in the forward estimates, the projected deficits decline slowly from the level of this year, but the borrowing requirement becomes significantly greater. Reflecting our strategic approach, the work force restructuring and program reviews announced in this budget will help future budgets to take a measured approach to this issue.

An essential part of the overall budget strategy is to maintain our revenue effort. The reduction in Commonwealth grants places the ACT into the harsh world of paying its way, according to the Grants Commission's assessment of ACT finances. In meeting these reductions in our grants, this Government intends to avoid the social dislocation caused by widespread cuts in essential programs or massive staff lay-offs which have befallen some States. The alternative, which our strategy adopts, is to keep up our own revenue effort and to pare back on expenditures.

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Total Territory based revenues are estimated to grow, after adjusting for new Medicare arrangements, by 2.6 per cent in this budget. This outcome is the result partly of continuing moderate strength in the ACT's economy, partly of a number of unusual effects, such as the once-only nature of last year's casino premium, and partly of budgetary measures which I will spell out later. Budget expenditures, corrected for technical adjustments, will rise by only 2.6 per cent. This is significantly less than the forecast rise in consumer prices. It represents a fall in government spending of 1.6 per cent in real per capita terms.

Funding for new initiatives has been contained to sensible and affordable proportions. Only the most necessary social programs, replacement or acquisition of essential equipment, and restructuring initiatives have been funded. We embarked last year on a number of savings initiatives, in particular in ACTION, and required most government agencies to find 2 per cent efficiency gains, with additional savings of 2 per cent this year and next. The continuation of our expenditure containment strategy will see significant savings measures taken in health, education, and fire and emergency services. Other services, namely, pensioner concessions and services provided by the Housing Trust, have been retargeted in order to maximise benefits to those most in need.

Madam Speaker, I turn now to the specific measures contained in the 1993-94 budget. Recurrent revenues raised from the Territory's own sources are estimated to rise by 6.1 per cent in 1993-94 to offset in part the fall in Commonwealth-source revenue. As I mentioned earlier, this increase is in line with real growth in the Territory economy. The major boost to revenue this year is the new setting for general rates and land tax announced in June. The increase in rates was designed to raise revenue from this important source by just 5 per cent, or about 2 per cent above the CPI. The only instance of a lower increase since self-government was a 4 per cent rise in 1991-92. The consistent and moderate approach by this Government contrasts sharply with the massive 16.1 per cent rates increase under the Liberal Alliance Government.

Of course, owning a valuable asset like a home does not always mean that the cash to pay the rates is easy to find. Accordingly, we will make the rates deferment provisions for pensioners more attractive and raise public awareness of assistance measures. I also announce today reductions in the penalty rate for late payment of rates or land tax from 20 per cent to 17 per cent, and in the interest on deferred rates from 12 per cent to 9 per cent. These rates are based on market rates and, for late payments, a penalty of 8 per cent. They will be adjusted in future to follow changing market rates. The Australian Taxation Office has adopted a similar arrangement, and other States are looking at parallel models. The graduation in the land tax scales introduced in June will raise \$7m, principally from larger businesses.

A further revenue measure introduced in this budget is intended to maintain the real value of our revenue base. From 1 November the fuel franchise fee, which has been frozen for the last three years, will be restored in real terms to the same level as in New South Wales, and it will be indexed in the future. The fee will rise by approximately 0.5c per litre and will raise \$700,000 in 1993-94, or about \$1m in a full year. The level of petrol prices in the ACT is a matter of considerable concern to the community and the Government, especially after the increases

announced in the Federal budget, but there is no evidence that the freezing of the ACT franchise fee since 1990 has encouraged any containment of consumer prices. To counter the lack of competition in the local market, the Government is taking immediate action to reduce Canberra's petrol prices by encouraging independents into the local market. We are confident that our current negotiations with an independent operator will shortly result in new competition.

The Government is determined that our business enterprises should be efficient providers of essential services to our community. The ACT is an active participant in the national move to establish benchmarks for efficiency of government business enterprises. ACTEW is our largest such enterprise and has been improving its efficiency and adjusting its charges to reflect more closely the real costs of electricity and water. It is important during this time that a clear and financially sound basis is used to assess the dividend from ACTEW to the budget. A dividend based on substitute payments for Commonwealth taxes and one-half of after-tax profits has been determined, yielding \$24.5m in 1993-94 compared to \$19.5m last year. A small number of properties have been identified as surplus to Territory needs. Their sale is estimated to raise an extra \$11m above the regular land development program in 1993-94.

I turn now to our social justice goals. In our present hard times, governments should give special consideration to those who have been hit hardest by the recession. This Government is determined that, despite our harsh treatment by the Commonwealth, we will continue our commitment to social justice in our community. Reducing unemployment is the Government's highest priority. To this end, the budget provides an employment package costing around \$1.5m in each of 1993-94 and 1994-95. It is shaped to provide training and employment services to identified disadvantaged groups within the ACT labour market.

The Jobskills program will continue to fund training positions for the long-term unemployed. New funding will provide 100 places in 1993-94 and 85 places in 1994-95. A new program, Youth Joblink, will provide up to 150 work placements for 15- to 19-year-olds in the private sector with the assistance of Commonwealth Government wage subsidies. Both the ACT Chamber of Commerce and the Commonwealth Employment Service have agreed to participate actively in the delivery of this program.

Unemployed Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders will benefit from the establishment of a new specialist employment team. This team will work with Aboriginal communities, relevant Commonwealth agencies and the ACT Government to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' participation in existing employment programs. Other groups will benefit from the labour market initiatives. For older people who have been retrenched or are otherwise unemployed, a program called "A New Future in Small Business" will provide training in the establishment of a small business. The tradeswomen on the move scheme will be expanded into further non-traditional career areas for young women.

Madam Speaker, concessions expenditures are a significant part of the ACT budget, costing around \$16m this financial year. In 1991 the Government invited public comment on a review of the concessions system and proposed a number of principles for reform. Arising from this review and the comments we have received, I am pleased to announce a package of reforms which seeks to focus concessions expenditure on those in greatest need. From 1 October 1993

electricity concessions will be extended to all holders of health care cards, including people in receipt of Newstart, Jobsearch and training allowances. To reflect the realities of our climate, the existing winter electricity concession period will be extended to include the June and November billing periods. This extension will assist the elderly and young families, who often spend much of their time at home during the colder months. The Government will commence discussions with AGL about the scope for further gas concessions.

To assist in funding these new concessions, the existing 50 per cent rates concession to pensioners will be limited to \$300 per annum from 1 July 1994. This will bring the ACT into line with practices in other States, but will remain one of the most generous rates concessions in the country. At the same time, new provisions will be introduced which will allow concessional rates to be deferred, thereby assisting ratepayers with substantial assets but low incomes. The Government will also introduce legislation to limit the diesel fuel franchise exemption to home heating use by holders of health care cards and pensioner health benefit cards. Concessions for motor vehicle registration by pensioners and beneficiaries will be limited to one car, trailer and caravan per recipient. The anomalous registration concessions for farmers and the clergy will be abolished. We will seek full compensation from the Commonwealth for the revenue lost in free registration and licences for diplomats.

The needs of women will continue to receive the Government's attention. The budget provides the first of three years' funding for a community awareness program to eliminate violence against women and children. A halfway house will be established for women with alcohol- and drug-related problems. The budget will provide a shelter for homeless men and associated support services close to the city centre.

The needs of our children have not been overlooked. In this budget, a number of initiatives are aimed at responding to these needs. The community has shown increasing concern at the growing number of reported incidents where children are severely injured as the result of abuse. The Government is determined to take positive action. This budget expands our capacity to assist children at risk of abuse. It will permit better assessments of the circumstances of abused children and the provision of those assessments to the legal system. Within the education system, our efforts to integrate children with special needs into mainstream schools will be stepped up. A program to promote awareness of Aboriginal culture will also be undertaken in ACT schools, together with pilot projects in Aboriginal languages. Our capacity to assist people with mental dysfunction or severe behavioural problems will be upgraded with the establishment of an after-hours crisis service and an acute behaviour management unit.

The well-being of ACT residents is dependent to an important degree on public services. One of those areas is public safety and the perceptions of safety. Canberra is a safe city, but that can lead to complacency. This budget makes provision for a community safety strategy aimed at preventing crime and developing a safer Canberra. Community projects, including a safety house system, will be key components of the strategy. The Quamby youth centre will be completed through this budget and will provide modern secure accommodation for young offenders.

Under the national child care strategy, 300 new outside-school-hours care places will be jointly funded with the Commonwealth on a year round basis, thereby increasing the number of vacation care places. A further 55 long-day care places will be provided in Tuggeranong. The budget provides funding for youth services and the new youth resource centre to be built at Tuggeranong. The immunisation programs for children will be expanded. There will be a catch-up program for infants who did not qualify for HIB vaccine. A new measles, mumps and rubella vaccine will be available for all Year 6 schoolchildren.

Madam Speaker, business will continue to receive our support to expand and create jobs in the ACT. In 1992-93 we achieved some important outcomes in stimulating business development in Canberra. Besides the opening of the interim casino, support was provided to a number of high-tech and research firms. The Canberra investment promotion program, which I launched earlier this year, will market the ACT as an attractive place to do business, and we must continue to provide a conducive environment for business expansion.

The tourism industry provides a strong stimulus to jobs growth in Canberra and it will continue to receive the generous support of government. The ACT Tourism Development Unit set up in last year's budget played an important role in increasing visitor numbers by assisting in the staging of major events. Accordingly, the Government has decided to provide further funding to the development unit this year. Further funding will also be provided to assist industry to locate or to expand here where relocation would not otherwise occur and the interests of the Territory will be clearly served. The Government will follow the principle that a system should be open and transparent so that the community can judge the benefits.

A wide-ranging capital works program amounting to \$118.8m is funded by this budget. In addition, this year the ACT Housing Trust will spend \$27.5m on capital works and ACTEW \$42.3m. An amount of \$7.5m will also be spent on refurbishing the Kurrajong Hotel to become the international hotel school. In total, this work amounts to almost \$200m of ACT public sector capital works expenditure, which will support about 3,000 jobs. The size of this program, whilst slightly smaller than last year, has been carefully framed in the light of the expanded Commonwealth public works recently announced for Canberra. Together, this public sector activity is expected to underwrite an increase in building and employment in the Territory in 1993-94.

The budget funded works cover widespread aspects of Canberra's cultural and economic fabric. I will outline only some of the key works approved for commencement in this budget. An Aboriginal keeping place and cultural centre will be established at a cost of \$2.5m in recognition of the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The budget funds further development of parks, reserves and public areas. New works to provide infrastructure in Gungahlin will be commenced, totalling \$7m, with a further amount of nearly \$10m on development in West Belconnen, Tuggeranong and other areas. Sports facilities totalling \$2.9m will be built, involving district playing fields in South Tuggeranong, a Canberra softball centre at Hawker, and new facilities at Boomanulla Oval.

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New child-care centres will be built in Tuggeranong and Weston Creek at a cost of \$1.2m. Improvements to public transport infrastructure will cost \$3.75m. Nearly \$22m has been approved for the building of a preschool and primary school in Gungahlin, the Lanyon High School, and refurbishing present school facilities. Works totalling \$12m for an upgrade to the Playhouse and for a cultural and heritage centre are planned through funds made available from the casino premium.

Madam Speaker, in 1993-94 the Housing Trust will provide 1,800 new public housing allocations to families and single people on the rental waiting list and rent relief to 2,000 families or individuals renting on the private market. We continue to target assistance to those most in need. In 1993-94 the proportion of public tenants entitled to rental rebate assistance is expected to increase to 85 per cent. As the cost of rental rebates increases, the Government has been conscious of the need to ensure that the income from rents remains sufficient to meet the costs of managing the stock of rental properties. Our response includes reducing Housing Trust administration costs and improvements such as better arrears management and shorter vacancy turnaround times.

The Government has also reached the conclusion that an increase in rent contributions by public tenants is unavoidable. In 1993-94 the base rent level will be increased from 20 to 21 per cent of gross household income, with a sliding scale increasing with household income to a cap of 24 per cent. The base level will increase again to 22 per cent in 1994-95 and the cap to 25 per cent. Steps have also been taken to contain the growth in expenditure on private rent relief and to complement this assistance with support provided by the Commonwealth. Existing recipients will not suffer any reduction in assistance as a result of these changes.

The construction program will provide 131 new dwelling commencements this year and 173 completions for rental housing. This will be supplemented by the construction of 50 houses for direct sale to public tenants and applicants on the home loan waiting list. The budget also introduces new home loan programs aimed at providing more ownership opportunities to existing public tenants, low income earners and first home buyers.

Madam Speaker, the protection of our physical environment for future generations is a high priority for this Government. Following public consultation, the Government will introduce endangered species legislation into the Assembly. Work will commence on a Territory-wide flora and fauna conservation strategy. A scientific advisory committee will be established to advise on the conservation of species and ecological communities. Our national parks and nature reserves are invaluable natural assets. We will develop a marketing strategy, in consultation with all interested parties, designed to maximise the potential for ecotourism in harmony with protection of the environment and water catchment areas. Development of walking trails in the Ororral Valley has been included in the capital works program.

As a step to meeting the 1996 international standards for the use of ozone depleting chemicals, three large government air-conditioning chillers which use CFCs will be replaced. Following successful trials in three suburbs, we will bring forward a waste management strategy addressing the Territory's future garbage collection and recycling operation. To encourage maximum use

of recycling rather than tips, the Government will examine the prospect of charging tip fees for all users after introduction of the new arrangements. In addition, 1993-94 will see the release of a draft ACT environment strategy and the first report of the Commissioner for the Environment on the state of the ACT's environment.

The provision of quality health services is a major priority for the Government. Over recent years public health services have increased dramatically, with hospital admissions increasing by 5.3 per cent in 1992-93 alone. People receiving day-only care increased by 9.3 per cent. Considerable strides were made during the year to modernise the ramshackle financial system that characterised the health portfolio at the time of self-government. This will be continued in 1993-94 with the development of case-mix costing information.

In 1993-94 the Government will aim to maintain hospital services at last year's activity levels. Funding is being provided for some expansion and growth in community health and public health services. The hospital redevelopment project has passed the halfway mark, with over \$100m being expended to date against the overall budget of \$172m. The new diagnostic and treatment building, a major element of the redevelopment, will be commissioned in February 1994. With the progressive completion of the hospital redevelopment project, there is potential for further efficiency returns within the new facilities. Health services will be examined to identify areas where efficiencies can be made to continue bringing services more into line with national standards and national benchmarks. As part of this process, savings of \$3m will be made in the health budget during 1993-94. The base funding level from which the savings will come includes provision for a projected further decline in private patient services in public hospitals.

Madam Speaker, the nature and delivery of education is changing. Social, environmental, technological and economic pressures are fuelling these changes. In order to deal with the challenges of educational reform, we will embark on wide-ranging community consultations to develop a long-term strategy for the future of ACT education. This process has already commenced with the release of a public discussion paper prepared by the Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Education. My colleague the Minister for Education will be making further announcements on this process over the next few weeks.

In forming our long-term budget strategy, we will also examine the Auditor-General's report on the performance of the government schooling program, which is to be tabled shortly. In our present situation, where the Commonwealth's \$25m transitional funding for education is being phased out over the next four years, education cannot be quarantined from the need to reduce outlays. The \$3.5m reduction for education contained in the budget is consistent with the effort expected of other programs.

However, in achieving these savings, the Government has been mindful of its commitment to social justice and of the need to protect schools to the greatest possible extent. The budget respects teachers' working conditions and maintains the quality of education. An important initiative in pursuit of excellence in our schools is a trial of national profiles as part of the national curriculum initiatives. These profiles provide a basis for better reporting of student achievement in ACT government schools.

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With respect to funding for non-government schools, the Government will break the nexus that set the level of ACT government funding at 50 per cent of the Commonwealth's level. In future years, territorial funding will be adjusted in line with comparable government school costs.

The major provider of vocational education and training services, the Canberra Institute of Technology, will maintain its course offerings and education loads at similar levels to past years. Capital assistance of \$12m is to be provided in 1993-94 to the institute to establish an international hotel school at the Hotel Kurrajong site. Over the next three years, \$16.9m will be provided for this purpose in the form of a repayable interest-bearing advance. The Government expects that, in conjunction with an international academic partner, the school will be recognised internationally and become a centre of excellence, together with the School of Tourism and Hospitality, in an industry which is very important to the ACT.

In the 1992 budget I announced a program of efficiencies in ACTION which will save the ACT \$10m per annum by 1994-95. These measures are being achieved on schedule, to the credit of the ACTION staff and management. We expect that significant changes in ACTION's operations will occur over the next two years. In particular, a move to a more flexible work force will allow peak period and peak seasonal services to be delivered at lower cost.

As I outlined at budget time last year, most agencies are required to find cumulative savings of 2 per cent for each of three years. This is the second year of that strategy, and agencies have plans in place to save \$5.2m in 1993-94. The establishment of a combined Fire and Emergency Service is bearing fruit. Co-location of the communications network of the service with the ACT Ambulance Service at North Curtin School, which is funded in this budget, will produce savings in future years. The Fire and Emergency Service is also implementing a three-year management plan which will result in a total saving of 3 per cent, or \$316,000, in 1993-94. The efficiency of services to government such as survey and mapping, asset management and ACT Fleet, will be increased. It is not sensible in these tight financial times to pay more for our own service provision than we need to.

Members of the Assembly will be aware of the pressure applied to all State and Commonwealth budgets to reduce costs and to be as efficient as possible. We are taking positive steps in education, health and other areas to improve efficiency. The people of the ACT expect efficient operations. The financing situation facing the ACT requires similar strategies to be pursued in future years. We cannot wait to put in place processes which will provide a source of savings for future years.

In this budget, the Government has taken the opportunity to consider the shape and size of the ACT Government Service. While we remain firmly opposed to forced redundancies, we know that there are many staff who would welcome an opportunity to start a new career or to retire from the paid work force. In light of the unavoidable need to make substantial running cost reductions, we have decided to introduce immediately a voluntary separation scheme.

The Government believes that there is scope for substantial change by providing those who wish to leave with the opportunity to do so. Managers will be asked to examine each application critically and to ensure that the ACT Government Service does not lose essential or required skills or abilities. As a result, some who seek to leave will have to be refused, in the broader interests of the ACT community.

The voluntary separation scheme will facilitate a very broad review of the activities of the ACT Government Service, and at the end we will have a leaner and more efficient public service. The scheme will operate under the provisions of the redeployment, retirement and redundancy awards. The precise nature and magnitude of savings will need to be gauged as staff numbers taking up the offer become apparent and new modes of service delivery are worked out. The cost of the redundancy packages will be repaid to the budget within one or two years through reduced and more efficient activity. The savings we will find beyond the cost of redundancies will contribute to the continuing reduction in expenditures required of the Territory's budget. The budget includes \$17m to fund separation payments to those who accept voluntary separation through the general offer or as a result of restructuring. This is about twice what was actually spent on redundancies in 1992-93.

In last year's budget speech I outlined initiatives in support of our continuing drive for increased efficiency in the public sector. This budget builds upon the already significant momentum that has been achieved. A program of efficiency reviews will occur throughout 1993-94, resulting in savings in future years. The program is aimed at capturing available economies of scale, ensuring the adoption of best practice across all services, rationalising services wherever practical, extending multiskilling of staff, and redirecting resources towards higher priority activities in accordance with the needs of the ACT community. The major outcome from the program will be a shift of resources from internal public sector activities to better service to the ACT community.

The efficiency review program will involve the entire ACT Government Service. Some reviews to be considered early will lead to better services to the community. An example of this is the consolidation of the business support activities currently undertaken in several locations. Other reviews of public service activities will offer efficiency gains through co-location of functions and extended multiskilling. Examples include further consolidation of municipal-type services, improved support for land servicing activities, rationalisation of ACT government workshop facilities, integration of water monitoring functions, and streamlining of top structures in key portfolio areas. These are just a few examples of the integrated and rigorous review of public sector efficiency we will undertake through 1993-94.

The process of expenditure restraint needs to continue. A number of programs will be examined over coming years against national benchmark costs and the most effective delivery of government objectives. The focus of this activity in 1993-94 will be on public housing and health. Others will follow in future years. In the health program, we will build on the important efficiency measures already introduced and advanced in this budget. Health managers and Treasury, assisted by views from outside government, will examine the reforms under way in other States to tackle the ever increasing pressures on health costs. Such an exercise

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provides an opportunity to establish benchmarks, models of best practice, and an ongoing program of evaluating efficiency and effectiveness. In this way, we can maintain the momentum to reduce costs towards those in comparable facilities elsewhere. This is particularly important with the growing proportion of our health services provided to interstate residents and reimbursed at standard costs.

As I indicated earlier, the housing program is undergoing a careful restructuring of its programs to take account of changing economic circumstances. A joint review involving the Treasury, the Housing Trust and external expertise will be conducted in 1993-94. From this process, the Government will be able to consider alternative policy options for implementation in 1994-95 and subsequent years.

Madam Speaker, members of the Assembly and the community at large are conscious of the harsh financial environment facing the ACT this year and over the next four or so years. The Government has faced and met the challenge of shaping a budget that confronts this adjustment, without neglecting essential support to our community. In our first budget this term we implemented a large part of our election platform. Now is the time to consolidate our achievements and to tackle the challenges lying ahead.

This budget will place the ACT firmly on a medium-term path of restructuring to accommodate our adjustment to State-type financing. The savings announced in the budget will have a lasting impact. Those measures, together with the important initiatives involving restructuring of the ACT Government Service, lay the foundation for further savings in subsequent budgets. The limited new spending measures are focused on pursuing our top priority objectives of social justice, the environment and jobs from economic strength. The funding burden placed on our community in this and future generations has been contained. Only modest new revenue measures have been imposed. Borrowing has been kept low and is justified by investment and restructuring. Future superannuation liabilities are being provided for.

The quality of life in the ACT is enviable and Canberra residents do not want to lose it. Our economy is strong, our environment clean and our city increasingly vibrant. Canberrans expect high-quality essential services, delivered as efficiently as possible and targeted where they are most needed. This is what Canberrans will receive from the 1993-94 budget. I commend the budget to the Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I present the explanatory memorandum to this Bill, together with the following associated budget papers:

Budget Speech 1993-94 (Budget Paper No. 1).

Budget Overview 1993-94 (Budget Paper No. 2).

Capital Works 1993-94 (Budget Paper No. 4).

Environmental Budget Statement 1993-94 (Supplementary Budget Information Paper No. 2).

Program Information and Estimates 1993-94 (Budget Paper No. 3).

Women's Budget Statement 1993-94 (Supplementary Budget Information Paper No. 1).

Youth Budget Statement 1993-94 (Supplementary Budget Information Paper No. 3).

1993-94 Budget -

Media statements, dated 14 September 1993.

Protecting Canberra's future - pamphlet.

Towards a Social Justice Budget Statement - booklet.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Kaine**) adjourned.

PAPERS

MADAM SPEAKER: I present, for the information of members, a report provided to me from Mr Tony De Domenico, MLA, on his study trip to the National Conference, Australian Hotels Association, Queensland, which he undertook from 8 to 12 August 1993.

MR CONNOLLY (Attorney-General, Minister for Housing and Community Services and Minister for Urban Services): Madam Speaker, for the information of members, I present volume 1 of the ACT Department of Urban Services annual report 1992-93, together with audited unitary financial statements for the department, and annual reports for the Fire Brigade, the Inspector of Dangerous Goods, the Architects Board of the ACT, the Canberra Public Cemeteries Trust, and the Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board. My departmental secretary, I think, won the prize.

I also present the annual management report for the Department of Housing and Community Services and the Attorney-General's Department, together with annual management reports of the administration of the Credit Act, administration of the Sale of Motor Vehicles Act, the Children's Services Council, the Community Law Reform Committee, Guardianship and Management of Property Tribunal, Office of the Community Advocate, operations of the Freedom of Information Act, and the Parole Board.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION Electoral Distribution and Annual Report

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister and Treasurer) (3.50): Madam Speaker, for the information of members, I present the report on the distribution of the Australian Capital Territory into electorates for the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to sections 46 and 47 of the Electoral Act 1992. I also present the Australian Capital Territory Electoral Commission annual report 1992-93, pursuant to section 9 of the Electoral Act 1992. I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the papers.

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I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the augmented Electoral Commission for a job well done. After full and open consultation with the ACT community, the augmented commission has chosen electorate names and boundaries that will serve the ACT well. The augmented Electoral Commission's completion of the distribution of electorates marks the end of the first stage of the Government's two-stage implementation of the Hare-Clark electoral system. Members will recall that the implementation of the Hare-Clark system was split into two stages to allow the distribution of electorates to proceed without delay while the complex legislation dealing with the electoral processes was being developed. That legislation is in the final stages of being drafted and will be introduced into the Assembly before the end of this year.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION AND COMMENCEMENT PROVISIONS **Papers**

MR BERRY (Deputy Chief Minister): Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 6 of the Subordinate Laws Act 1989, I present subordinate legislation in accordance with the schedule of gazettal notices for determinations, regulations and Supreme Court Rules. I also present notices of commencements of Acts.

The schedule read as follows:

Building Act - Revocation, Adoption and Modification of the Building Code - Determination No. 110 of 1993 (G35, dated 1 September 1993).

Boxing Control Act - Boxing Control Regulations - No. 32 of 1993 (S168, dated 24 August 1993).

Chiropractors Registration Act - Determination of fees - No. 118 of 1993 (S174, dated 30 August 1993).

Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Registration Act - Determination of fees - No. 114 of 1993 (S174, dated 30 August 1993).

Dentists Registration Act - Determination of fees - No. 117 of 1993 (S174, dated 30 August 1993).

Medical Practitioners Act - Determination of fees - No. 111 of 1993 (S174, dated 30 August 1993).

Motor Traffic Act - Motor Traffic Regulations (Amendment) - No. 34 of 1993 (S177, dated 1 September 1993).

Motor Traffic (Alcohol and Drugs) (Amendment) Act (No. 2) - Notice of commencement (1 September 1993) of remaining provisions (S177, dated 1 September 1993).

Motor Traffic (Amendment) Act - Notice of commencement (1 September 1993) of sections 3, 5, 6, 30, 31 and 32 and paragraphs 8(a) and (b) (S177, dated 1 September 1993).

Nurses Act - Determination of fees - No. 112 of 1993 (S174, dated 30 August 1993).

Optometrists Act - Determination of fees - No. 113 of 1993 (S174, dated 30 August 1993).

Pharmacy Act - Determination of fees - No. 116 of 1993 (S174, dated 30 August 1993).

Physiotherapists Registration Act - Physiotherapists Registration Regulations (Amendment) - No. 33 of 1993 (S175, dated 30 August 1993).

Public Place Names Act - Determination No. 119 of 1993 (S176, dated 31 August 1993).

Supreme Court Act - Supreme Court Rules (Amendment) - No. 35 of 1993 (S178, dated 7 September 1993).

Traffic (Amendment) Act - Notice of commencement (1 September 1993) of remaining provisions (S177, dated 1 September 1993).

Veterinary Surgeons Registration Act - Determination of fees - No. 115 of 1993 (S174, dated 30 August 1993).

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK Ministerial Statement

MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport), by leave: I would like to acknowledge an event held last week, from 5 to 12 September, National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Week, and ask members of the Assembly to support the establishment of an ACT Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of severe progressive loss of recent memory and thinking ability of previously well, middle-aged and older persons. I stress that it is a disease of the brain and not part of normal ageing. The disease affects more women than men, occurs in every country, and is being seen increasingly as people live longer and survive diseases which in the past shortened life spans.

Alzheimer's disease falls within the syndrome known as dementia. The World Health Organisation classification of dementia states:

A syndrome due to disease of the brain, usually of a chronic or progressive nature, in which there is impairment of multiple functions, including memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language and judgment.

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Consciousness is not clouded. The cognitive impairments are commonly accompanied by and occasionally preceded by reduction in emotional control, social behaviour or motivation. The dementia syndrome occurs in Alzheimer's disease, in cerebro-vascular disease, and in other conditions affecting the brain. The number of people with dementia in urban societies is estimated to be 5.4 per cent of the population aged 65 and over.

Australian statistics for 1992 indicate that approximately 120,000 Australians suffer from moderate to severe dementia, with the same number suffering early to mild stages of the disease. Projected figures from 1991 to 1996 show an expected increase of nearly 20 per cent in the number of people suffering from the disease. This increase is due in part to better protection rates and medico awareness, and also to better community awareness and understanding of the condition. This growth in the number of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease is well over the expected 13 per cent increase of those aged 65 and over. In the ACT, these figures translate as 5.4 per cent of the about 15,000 persons aged 65 and over. Therefore by 1996 it is anticipated that there will be a further 810 dementia sufferers in the ACT.

Government responsibility for services for sufferers and those who care for them is divided between the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. In 1992 the Commonwealth announced one of the most significant steps in providing a national approach to dementia care - the national action plan for dementia care entitled "Putting the Pieces Together". This plan provides a framework for national goals that include access to quality community care, access to quality residential care, and quality of life. One of the initiatives under the national plan is to increase the knowledge and skills of the carers of people with dementia in carrying out their caring role. The Carers Association of the ACT received funding under the national grants program to establish a model for services providing dementia care.

Public, private and community organisations have responded very positively. Groups and individuals have pooled their skills and expertise to develop "good practice" standards as a benchmark for dementia care in the ACT. The good practice model has been developed to provide a framework for service providers and incorporates criteria that will serve to assist dementia care facilities with guidelines to achieve good practice; illustrate the concept of good practice in dementia care to help professionals and the general community in the ACT and surrounding districts; and evaluate and recognise services that meet the good practice criteria through an assessment process, for example, peer recognition.

A series of education programs and workshops is commencing this month for all service providers. Issues that will be covered include philosophy development, environmental aspects, management strategies, individual assessment, public and professional awareness, appropriate and adequate resources, and formal and objective evaluation and continuity of care.

Last week, 5 to 12 September, provided the opportunity for support groups in the ACT to publicise themselves, and gave carers, particularly those who are caring for sufferers of Alzheimer's disease in their own homes, the opportunity to access these groups. It is extremely important that sufficient recognition is given to those who undertake the day-to-day care of Alzheimer's disease sufferers.

The need to provide constant care and attention is physically and emotionally demanding and can result in carers becoming very isolated from the rest of the community. In turn, these pressures, combined with isolation, can cause health problems for the carers themselves and may result in further concern regarding the ongoing care of the person with Alzheimer's disease. It is important that the community is aware of the toll such care can take on the individual and that support groups and the community as a whole are given every opportunity to let carers know that there is support available for them in their role as carers.

In closing, I would like to mention that a public meeting was held on 4 September, and at that meeting an ACT Alzheimer's Association was established. Therefore, Canberra now has two associations which will provide support and advice for members of the community suffering from Alzheimer's disease and their carers - the new association and the Carers Association of the ACT. I ask members of the Assembly and the ACT community to give their support to these associations. I present a copy of this statement and I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**CONSERVATION, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT -
STANDING COMMITTEE
Discussion Paper on Feral Animals and Invasive Plants**

MR MOORE (3.58): I seek leave to present a discussion paper of the Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment, and to move a motion in relation to that paper.

Leave granted.

MR MOORE: I present a discussion paper of the Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment on feral animals and invasive plants in the ACT. I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as a member of the Conservation, Heritage and Environment Standing Committee of the First Assembly, I moved in that committee, and got non-partisan support, to write a discussion paper on fuelwood heating in the ACT. That was the first time that technique had been used, and I must say that members of the committee found it a very useful way to deal with community discussion. Similarly, the same standing committee, when I became chair, introduced a discussion paper on solar energy and cogeneration of electricity. This is the third discussion paper produced by the Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment. The advantage of discussion papers of this nature is that they set out for the community a concept of the direction in which the committee is headed and the sorts of ideas the committee has in mind, so that the community has an appropriate opportunity to respond rather than just to advise.

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The committee has heard a series of opinions through the submission process and through public hearings. We have now reached the position where we have taken a direction, and we are making very clear to the public what direction we have in mind, giving them the opportunity to indicate to us whether they consider that appropriate. The direction taken by this discussion paper is, first of all, to recognise that the greatest concern, in terms of feral animals and invasive plants, is probably with invasive plants, although we recognise that the much more emotional concerns are those to do with feral animals.

I would like to take, first of all, the issue of invasive plants in the ACT. The discussion paper outlines quite clearly in chapter 4 a range of plants and the concerns we have about their extent and the effects the plants have as pests in the ACT. Some of us would recognise a range of species, such as most cotoneaster species, English hawthorn, firethorn species and pampas grass. We also recognise the impact these will have, not only on Canberra Nature Park and Namadgi National Park but also on agricultural areas, although most of us consider the parks to be the greatest problem and the most difficult areas to control. These plants are of such great concern that the immediate reaction is to say that what we need to do is destroy them, that we should rip them out where they are a problem. A logical and rational look at that, recognising limited resources, would indicate that with some invasive plants, and the same will apply to feral animals, we have to come to a position where we recognise that they are part and parcel of our environment at this stage and try to ensure that none of those plants or feral animals go out of control.

With this in mind, I would like to move on to some of the issues involved with feral animals. The feral animals that have been identified in the report include rabbit, hare and fox, and you will note that it is the fox we have chosen as part of the logo on the front of this report, rather than feral cats, which is what some people thought we would do. The reason we have not chosen cats - and I digress a little - is that that is the area of most concern to the public. People are very close to their cats, and the committee is keen to assure people that we are not about attacking responsible cat ownership. Responsible cat ownership plays an important part in many people's lives. We have just heard a paper from Mr Berry on Alzheimer's disease, and we know that elderly people in particular get a great deal of pleasure from the companionship of cats. The other feral animals we might be concerned with are pigs, goats, black rats, starlings, mynas, blackbirds, feral pigeons, feral ducks and geese, and a much more difficult area to control, feral fish, such as trout, carp and redfin. Each of these issues we have dealt with in the discussion paper to give an indication of how we think they should be handled.

Turning specifically to the emotional area of cat management, I emphasise again that in no way is the committee interested in being seen to attack responsible cat ownership. We have attempted to set out the sorts of issues we feel may assist us in ensuring that we do not have an environmental problem with cats. There has been a great deal of debate in this chamber about dog control, and it is appropriate for us to consider carefully in what way dogs are a threat to people.

In the case of cats, the issue is about the environment much more than it is about people. However, I must say that I have had a phone call since this discussion paper went out about somebody having been attacked quite viciously by a cat. This was an elderly woman who was very worried. I have never experienced this sort of situation myself; that is probably because I open my eyes up when cats are

present and they realise that there is no point in trying to make good friends with this person. The important point is that our estimate of about 30,000 domestic cats in the ACT has been shown in the recent householders survey to be a little conservative. It is more like 40,000 to 45,000 cats, and, if we do an extrapolation from that, even quite conservative estimates indicate that we are talking about in the order of one million birds, mammals and reptiles each year becoming victims to stray domestic and feral cats. So it is an issue that requires some effort and some control on our part.

The committee had the good fortune to visit the Sherbrooke Council in the Dandenongs near Melbourne, where there is a very effective cat management scheme operating. Although it had a few teething problems, the system seemed to work very well. Following that, we have recommended as a point for discussion that such a system could well be applied to the ACT, that is, that all domestic and farm cats be registered, be subject to a registration fee and wear an identification tag. We recognise that some cats simply will not wear collars and tags, and, that being the case, such owners could well consider a system used in Sherbrooke of having a microchip inserted just under the skin of the cat. A relatively inexpensive scanner can be used to get the name, address and any other details of the owners of that cat, and the cat's name as well. The registration fee for whole cats would be significantly higher than it would be for neutered cats, and cats would be confined within the registered address. I think that issue will be an important one for discussion in the community. That has proved quite successful in Sherbrooke, but it will test this community to see whether they are prepared to say that responsible ownership of cats includes containing that cat in the registered address.

Interestingly, the committee received a series of submissions on kangaroos. Kangaroos do not really fit into a broad concept of feral animals, but they certainly are part of an environmental concern about a species that is expanding at a rate that is out of balance with the surrounding species. The discussion paper makes some comments on how we think that ought to be handled.

In all these cases, particularly when we are dealing with feral animals, there is an issue that the animals are doing what is natural. We should in no way be blaming these animals. We ought to be ensuring that, whatever we do, whatever methods we choose to try to keep our environment sustainable and in balance, they should be humane. We ought to ensure that there is an appropriate ethical approach to the destruction of any animal when that is necessary. We do not resile from the fact that that is going to be necessary in some cases.

I extend my thanks, firstly, to the other members of the committee for their work in putting together this discussion paper, and also to the secretary, Bill Symington. I also express our gratitude to the people who made submissions to the Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment and helped to educate us as to the difficulties and problems associated with feral animals and invasive plants throughout the ACT. There is a list of the 28 submissions received and the witnesses who appeared at our public hearing as an attachment to the paper. Mr Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity of being able to present this paper, and I commend it to the Assembly for discussion.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Ellis**) adjourned.

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TOURISM AND A.C.T. PROMOTION - STANDING COMMITTEE
Inquiry - International Airport

MR WESTENDE: I ask for leave to make a statement regarding a new inquiry by the Standing Committee on Tourism and ACT Promotion.

Leave granted.

MR WESTENDE: I wish to inform the Assembly that on 6 September 1993 the Standing Committee on Tourism and ACT Promotion resolved to inquire into and report by the last sitting day in June 1994 on all steps necessary for the ACT Government to create an international airport for the ACT. I invite any member wishing to make a contribution to this inquiry to do so at the appropriate time.

SCRUTINY OF BILLS AND SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION - STANDING COMMITTEE
Report and Statement

MRS GRASSBY: I present report No. 15 of 1993 of the Standing Committee on Scrutiny of Bills and Subordinate Legislation. I ask for leave to make a brief statement on the report.

Leave granted.

MRS GRASSBY: Report No. 15 of 1993 contains the committee's comments on four Bills. This report was circulated out of session on 7 September 1993, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the committee's resolution of appointment. I commend the report to the Assembly.

SOCIAL POLICY - STANDING COMMITTEE
Reference - Mental Welfare Bill Exposure Draft and Crimes (Amendment) Bill Exposure Draft

MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport) (4.13): I seek leave to move a motion to refer the Mental Welfare Bill exposure draft and the Crimes (Amendment) Bill exposure draft to the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

Leave granted.

MR BERRY: I move:

That orders of the day Nos 39 and 40, executive business, relating to the Mental Welfare Bill exposure draft and the Crimes (Amendment) Bill exposure draft, be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy for inquiry and report by 16 December 1993.

This package of legislation arises from the *Balancing Rights* report, which members will recall relates to the delivery of mental welfare services throughout the community - a very important report which was a preliminary to the exposure drafts that were placed on the table by the Labor Government a short time ago.

This is extremely sensitive legislation. It is complex in the sense that it governs the delivery of services in a very difficult area of health service and it has to be dealt with very sensitively. It is also an area where there has to be comprehensive consultation because of those sensitivities. The Government is therefore of the view that that consultation, in keeping with the Government's general philosophy on consultation, is better extended by referring this matter to the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

In relation to the reporting date, I have taken the opportunity to consult with the chair of that committee, Ms Ellis, and I am informed that that would be an appropriate date for the Social Policy Committee to report on this very sensitive matter. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

MR MOORE (4.14): I welcome this motion, Mr Deputy Speaker. I discussed this matter with Mr Connolly the other day, and I have also spoken about it with Mrs Carnell and Ms Szuty. We are all of the opinion that this matter ought follow the process Mr Berry is suggesting.

It was in November 1990 that the *Balancing Rights* report came down. The then chairman, Mr Nick Seddon, presented a series of recommendations that he saw as urgent for reform in the mental health area. In fact, we will be talking about a little over three years by the time this Assembly committee reports. The committee will be working very fast compared to the time the Government has taken to get this far.

Mr Connolly: Yes, but that last step to the summit is easy when you have climbed all the way.

MR MOORE: The statements Mr Connolly made after presenting the draft exposure Bill were very interesting. I must say that I commend him for that process; it is appropriate. But, when some people presented their opinions on the draft exposure Bill, he was rather scathing in his comments, and I have upstairs a press release to that effect.

Mr Connolly: I think they described the Bill as Stalinist, which I described as hysterical.

Mr Humphries: The Minister's response matched it, I think.

MR MOORE: The Minister's response was certainly hysterical.

Mr Lamont: Don't be provocative.

MR MOORE: When have I ever been provocative, Mr Lamont? I think that, finally, the Minister has come around to seeing good sense, and that we now have the opportunity for not only the Bill, but the Bill in its context, that is, the context of *Balancing Rights*, to be discussed and appropriately considered by the standing committee. The committee discussed the issue of the Adoption Bill and managed to deal with it in a very brief timeframe. It made some very positive recommendations that assisted in improving that Bill.

We are trying here to take the work of the Minister and to see how we can improve on it to achieve the best possible mental health system for the community as a whole. Any of us who have read the Bill would realise that a great deal of work has been done already in attempting to implement some of

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the recommendations of *Balancing Rights*. I see from a quick scan of the budget papers that there are areas within the budget that are implementing some of the recommendations from *Balancing Rights*. There is my first comment in this Assembly on the budget, and it is a positive one.

The Social Policy Committee inquiring into this issue thoroughly gives the community an opportunity to know that they have been heard and considered. It is part of tying them into a process, giving them ownership of a process, which Mr Connolly started by making a draft exposure Bill available. I feel very positively that we will get an excellent outcome from this process and a better Bill.

Mr Lamont: You are agreeing, are you?

MR MOORE: I agree. I support it, yes.

MS ELLIS (4.20): As chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Policy, there are a couple of things I want to speak about in terms of the process. Having heard Mr Moore on the radio earlier today, I do not wish in any way to pre-empt the decision by the Social Policy Committee on how it will handle this issue. The decisions on whether there are public hearings, whether submissions will be received and so on will be made by the committee as a whole. I think it is fair to put that on the record.

As with the adoption legislation, which the Social Policy Committee examined late last year and early this year in very quick time, I expect that the committee, for the sake of the people who are awaiting the passage of adequate legislation, will respond in an equally quick fashion. In saying that, and having heard the Minister, when moving this motion, comment on our discussions in relation to the reporting date, I note that it is a very tight timeframe. From now to the end of that timeframe is also the period in which the Assembly, as a committee of the whole, goes through the Estimates Committee process.

From my experience with the Social Policy Committee, I expect that during this new inquiry a great degree of manoeuvrability will be required on the part of committee members in order to meet that date. We have to keep in mind those people who are desperately awaiting this legislation, and work hard to bring this process to an expeditious conclusion. Members of the committee will be hearing from us very soon about a possible timetable of sittings, and I look forward to the very quick conclusion of the issue.

MR HUMPHRIES (4.22): Madam Speaker, we support this motion. We are concerned about the reception the Mental Welfare Bill has had since its tabling. The Deputy Chief Minister is right to describe this as extremely sensitive legislation. I must say that the extremely insensitive reaction of his colleague the Minister for Community Services did not generate any hope on my part that this process will be dealt with as sensitively as it seems to deserve.

You cannot engage in a process of community consultation and then be taken aback when people express their point of view in strong terms. The fact is that people do feel very aggrieved by parts of the process which do not meet their expectations and they do have a strong desire to make sure that what they feel are mistakes on the part of the Government, questions of direction, are addressed properly. In those circumstances, they have the right to make their point of view well known. We saw the extraordinary spectacle of the Minister tabling

a document and inviting members of the public to comment on it, and when they did comment on the document they were roundly attacked by the Minister, who seems to have a "defend the Alamo" approach towards government policy - at all costs prevent any breach of the walls. Anybody caring to criticise the Government must get the bullet between the eyes.

The policy on consultation that the Minister referred to is more a policy, in this case, of running for cover. I think the Social Policy Committee is a good body to which to refer such an issue, but it indicates very clearly that the Government does not feel competent any longer to handle the consultation process which is necessary for this Bill to come forward and desires instead to have the protection of other members of the Assembly taking part in the process of developing the legislation.

Mr Connolly: What? We agree, and now we are being criticised for agreeing to the referral to the committee. Run that one past me again, Gary. I missed that argument.

MR HUMPHRIES: I think Mr Connolly has been working too hard on the budget. The budget process has imposed a strain on Mr Connolly's sense of composure over the last few months.

Mr Cornwell: Having heard the budget, I am not surprised.

MR HUMPHRIES: I quite agree. This motion must result in a much better Bill. Goodness knows, we are capable of producing a much better Bill than the one that has been presented already to the community of Canberra. I look forward, Madam Speaker, to the result of this process and to the fulfilment of the process that was begun with the tabling of the *Balancing Rights* report back in 1990. That is an important part of the process of making sure that we stay in tune with the expectations of our community.

MR CONNOLLY (Attorney-General, Minister for Housing and Community Services and Minister for Urban Services) (4.25): Madam Speaker, I must respond to the criticisms that have been made in this debate by both Mr Humphries and Mr Moore about my comments in relation to a group which was formed for the purpose of opposing this Bill. The group, which had not been formed more than a week or so prior to its release of some fairly inflammatory press releases, described the mental health package as a Stalinist piece of legislation, and I was happily quoted as saying that that was a somewhat hysterical reaction from a group in the community.

What is most disappointing in this exercise is the cheap political gamesmanship that has been engaged in by members of the Opposition. I think Mr Humphries claimed that, because the Government is now agreeing to refer a matter to an Assembly committee, that demonstrates that we are incapable of conducting a process of consultation and therefore we are to be condemned for agreeing to a process which arose as a result of discussions with Mr Moore, who suggested that. It was an extremely clever little political piece of having two bob each way. Very well done, Mr Humphries, but you are really stretching credulity somewhat.

The person whose credibility is most at stake in this process is Mrs Carnell. Mrs Carnell, in the 18 months or so since she has been a member of this place, has been constantly calling on the Government to implement *Balancing Rights* - a bit like the budge: "Implement *Balancing Rights*; implement *Balancing Rights*".

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From time to time, in a supreme effort, the Opposition will put on the notice paper a resolution saying, "Implement *Balancing Rights*". It is very easy to say that, but with no substantive evidence. What we have done, as you will find when you do the work and go through this process, is that we have implemented *Balancing Rights*.

Mrs Carnell: No, you have not.

MR CONNOLLY: When there was the first whiff of grapeshot from a community group, who put out a silly press release saying that this was Stalinist legislation, Mrs Carnell - "Implement *Balancing Rights*; implement *Balancing Rights*" - then said, "This legislation is fundamentally flawed and needs to be scrapped". Mrs Carnell, you are really making yourself look silly to a constituency that knows what it is talking about in this area. This is cheap partisanship at its worst.

Madam Speaker, the matter is to be looked at by a committee. That is a positive process. We look forward to that, and we look forward to members opposite taking on their role on that committee with a degree of open-mindedness, rather than locking themselves into a silly position that the Bill is fundamentally flawed and needs to be scrapped. Mrs Carnell, the more you lock yourself into that position, the more difficult your climb down will be.

MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport) (4.28), in reply: What we have seen this afternoon is the very reason why this consultation process had to be extended. The vultures were hovering about in relation to this legislation. I have said that it is sensitive. I agree with my colleague Mr Connolly that the press releases that were put out in the community were hysterical and were damaging to the approach that had to be taken to improve our mental health legislation. As soon as that hysteria had been whipped up, I expected - and I was right, it seems - that people would leap on the old band wagon. I loved your budgie description for Mrs Carnell: "Implement the *Balancing Rights* report; implement the *Balancing Rights* report". It just goes on and on.

We have the draft legislation on the table. I heard your closed minds at work. You have already decided what the outcome will be.

Mr Humphries: So have your people. They are going to defend the Government's position.

MR BERRY: No. We have put draft legislation on the table for consultation. We care about the services that are provided to people with mental illness. Why, then, do you people try to undermine this? Because you are in it for a political point and you do not care about the community. The Liberal Party are wreckers.

We will continue to pursue the consultation process. For you people to get up here and start complaining about that draft legislation, not having attempted to make one contribution to the debate or have it altered in any respect - - -

Mr Humphries: Who tabled *Balancing Rights* in the first place, Wayne?

MR BERRY: When did they come forward? Have they been to you?

Mr Connolly: No.

MR BERRY: No, they have not been to me either. They have not been anywhere near me saying, "Gee, this legislation is crook". They wanted to see it on the table in a hurry, welcomed the sight of it and thought it was a great idea; but a bit of hysteria is whipped up in the community and suddenly there is a scramble to leap on the band wagon. There are not enough seats on the band wagon. Now you will have your chance. You can all have a say in it. You can all have a bit of ownership of the process. For heaven's sake, keep your minds open, and make sure that you have in your minds the care and attention that has to be given to mentally dysfunctional people, not just yourselves.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

BETTERMENT ARRANGEMENTS **Ministerial Statement**

MR WOOD (Minister for Education and Training, Minister for the Arts and Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning): Madam Speaker, I ask for leave of the Assembly to make a ministerial statement on betterment.

Leave granted.

MR WOOD: Madam Speaker, during the August sittings I advised the Assembly that the review of the current betterment arrangements was nearly finished. The application of betterment had been monitored for some period. In March this year I indicated that I was reviewing the policy. My unstated timetable has been to effect any change before the new Territory Plan becomes operative. While this statement is being made on budget day, it is not related to the budget. Indeed, for the 1993-94 financial year it is not expected that there will be increased revenue as a result of the changes I am announcing.

The review has been completed. After much consideration, the Government has decided to make a number of significant changes to the way betterment is applied. However, before proceeding to detail those changes, I believe that it is important to put the whole issue of betterment into context. It had always been the intention of the founders of the Federation that the system of land ownership in the Australian Capital Territory should be leasehold. In the conferences leading up to the establishment of the Territory, concerns were expressed that speculators should not be allowed to obtain unreasonable profits from ownership of land. Of equal concern was the belief that the cost of creating the capital be offset against the revenue obtained by renting the land.

These sentiments, which were strongly influenced by the then popular theories of the land economist Henry George, were reflected in the subsequent debates that took place in parliament on the establishment of the Territory's leasehold system. The leasehold system has also enabled the governments of the Territory to maintain effective control over the development and the use of land. It would be true to say that the leasehold system envisaged in the early part of this century differs markedly from that which exists now. In what was acknowledged as one

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of the most fundamental changes, Prime Minister Gorton in 1970 did away with the payment of land rent, with the loss of income being made up through increased rates. This decision struck at the heart of the leasehold system with what was, in effect, a decision by that Government to forgo collecting the unearned increment through land rent.

At the same time, a system of betterment was introduced which required lessees to pay for any added value that resulted where a lease was varied. The community thus receives a share of the increased value of the land. The formula that has been used to determine betterment has varied over the years, to the one which now applies in the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991. Since its inception, the system of betterment has had its critics. The recent media debate has highlighted once again its complex nature and the wide-ranging views it raises. Comments have been made about the method by which the values used in calculating betterment have been assessed, with the issue of potential receiving much attention. The other part of the formula, the remission scale, was also criticised, with some commentators claiming that the community should receive the full increase in value when a lease is varied.

Madam Speaker, all these views were taken into account by the Government. However, I must admit to being concerned about the views of those who have come to see betterment as the land rent replacement system which enables the community to receive the increases in land value in the same way that increases in land rent did prior to 1970. Betterment applies only in cases where a lessee seeks a variation to the lease. In the majority of cases, most lessees will not seek a change and therefore will not pay for any unearned increase in the value of the land. As the city grows, land values naturally increase, regardless of whether the land use changes. This is a difference which must be taken into account when considering the arguments put forward that betterment of 100 per cent should be levied on unearned increased land value.

It is important to recognise that by doing away with the land rent in 1970 an important aspect of the leasehold system in the ACT changed. The system has been changing and evolving since that time in response to what were government objectives of the day. There are those who would say that these changes have been ill advised and would suggest a return to the pre-1970s principles in determining the formula for betterment. I cannot accept this. It is incumbent on the Government to use whatever means it has at its disposal to achieve its varied objectives.

While the main purpose of betterment is to return to the community the unearned increase in land value, it may also be seen as a tool of renewal and urban policy. With other legislative and policy initiatives available to the Government, it can assist in reinvigorating the inner suburbs and provide a wider range of housing in those areas. At the same time, the right of the community to a just return on the increase in value through a change in use must be accepted. Having purchased a lease with a bundle of rights, as it were, from the community, if the lessee wishes to increase those rights, it is only appropriate that the community be paid for the increased rights. How much they should pay is the issue at the heart of the matter.

I have attempted to set in context the issues that were considered by government in reaching its decision. To this end, I wish to announce that it is the Government's intention to introduce in the next Assembly sitting changes to the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991 which will change the formula used to calculate betterment to eliminate the potential of lease purpose change from being taken into account when the present value of the lease is being calculated. In other words, the calculation of present value will have to be on the basis that no lease purpose change will occur during the life of the lease. The concerns which have been raised regarding the current situation are justified. Under the current formula, it was possible that the before and after values could converge, especially in areas that had been identified by the market or the Territory Plan as likely redevelopment opportunities. Thus the community's return when the lease purpose clause was changed could be severely eroded. The Government will move to restore this return.

The Government has also decided that there will be no remission for lease purpose changes involving changes from residential to commercial or commercial to higher order commercial. The full 100 per cent rate will now apply in those circumstances. The Government will, however, maintain the existing scale of remissions in respect of changes from residential or commercial to other residential. Given the Government's decision to remove potential value, betterment of 100 per cent imposed with no remission would almost certainly slow urban renewal. The incentive to redevelop would fall. The immediate effect would be a reduction in the total return of betterment. Thus, imposing a goal of a 100 per cent return to the community in respect of residential change could see an overall fall in betterment revenue because of decreased construction levels.

There is a broader concern than revenue returns that needs to be taken into account. The Government has adopted an urban renewal policy and, if 100 per cent betterment were imposed, development associated with urban renewal could become more expensive, at least in the short term. Residential development in greenfield areas would therefore become more attractive, which would act against the objectives of the Government's land program and increase capital costs. Commercial developments were, however, not considered to be consistent with the policies and principles that underlay the decision not to change the remission schedule in the other cases I have referred to already, in particular the need to keep the urban renewal program on track.

These changes will affect all applications to vary leases that are received from 5.00 pm today. In the main, this will affect commercial and residential leases. However, an exception will be made in respect of the Fyshwick area and in the Kingston-Griffith redevelopment area. While leases in Fyshwick have been issued for industrial purposes such as light manufacturing and storage, they have been used for higher order purposes, mainly retailing. The practical effect of this has been recognised and accepted by previous governments, while all efforts have been made to encourage lessees to regularise their leases. In part, the current betterment arrangements have facilitated this, as the valuations for betterment purposes have not involved a significant betterment payment because the illegal use was recognised.

The proposed change to the definition of "present value" will alter this position and could result in substantial betterment payments being required. Lessees will be less inclined to pursue lease variations. I believe that the initiative, which has been supported for some years, should continue; hence the proposed changes will not apply to the Fyshwick area for a period of 12 months.

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This will provide a considerable incentive for lessees in that area to seek to change their lease purposes in that period. In respect of the Kingston-Griffith redevelopment area, policies based on an augmentation fee have applied there for quite some time. Development of the area is nearly complete, and the present policies should remain. The changes I have announced today provide the best possible outcome for the citizens of the ACT, bearing in mind the dramatic and irrevocable change to the leasehold system in 1970. I present a copy of this statement, and I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

MR MOORE (4.43): I would like to make some comments on the statement. I welcome this very significant change in position from the Government. I recognise that it largely meets the expectations I have had and the expectations I wanted to achieve in terms of betterment and in terms of speculation on land in the ACT.

Mr Lamont: You pinched most of our other policies. You may as well pinch that one.

MR MOORE: The reality is that, if they would like to search the *Canberra Times*, they will find at least 10 years ago statements consistent with what I am saying now.

Mr Lamont: That is how long it has been our policy for, Michael.

MR MOORE: I feel very comfortable about welcoming it. Mr Lamont continues to interject along the lines that this has been their policy for that long. In that case, why has it taken so long to implement? The only reason is that people have managed to urge the Government and push the Government until they finally respond and do something positive for the community.

My own view is in accordance with the Bill that is currently on the table in the Assembly; that is, the 100 per cent betterment should apply right across, although I accept the exemptions Mr Wood has identified for Fyshwick and Kingston. The augmentation process, as I recall it, is \$10,000 per unit, and that was a method of recouping some of the costs the community would have lost otherwise. Because the Kingston development is so close to being finished, I think it is appropriate that it be left, as the old cliché goes, as a level playing field for the people there.

Mr Wood indicates that the urban renewal policy might well founder if there were not the profit motive to urge people to continue along this process, not profiting from their building but profiting from speculation on the land.

Mr Lamont: In the short term.

MR MOORE: That is a little irrelevant. The main point is that urban renewal and development ought to take place not because of profit but because there is a good reason for us to have that particular development. The technique that is being used here, I think, is not good enough. However, let me emphasise again that I welcome the statement by the Minister and the fact that he has finally made the decision to take action in this way. Certainly we will support the legislation he will table in due time.

Mr Humphries: Who is "we"?

MR MOORE: I am using the royal plural. I must say that there is a retrospectivity that will apply in one sense, but it is the same retrospectivity that normally applies in any Bill involving money when the Minister announces that something is going to happen as at 5 o'clock today. I am quite happy to support the legislation, which effectively works from 5 o'clock today. The only sorrow I have is that it was not 5 o'clock on a day early in 1989, after the first Follett Government was elected.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 4.47 to 8.00 pm

LITTER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993

Debate resumed from 17 June 1993, on motion by **Mr Connolly:**

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

MR DE DOMENICO (8.01): Madam Speaker, the Litter Act 1977, the principal Act, establishes various littering offences and also provides the method of enforcement. My research did not go back as far as 1977, but I am advised that the person responsible for the setting up of the first Litter Act in 1977 was Mr Kaine when he was a member of a previous house. Take a bow, Mr Kaine. It is no wonder that the Liberal Party will not be opposing the Litter (Amendment) Bill, because it is based on such a fine piece of legislation introduced by Mr Kaine. One wonders whether all pieces of legislation ought to be introduced by Liberals. It would save this Assembly a heck of a lot more time.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for Urban Services, Mr Connolly, for holding up the passage of this Bill until the Liberal Party had an opportunity to complete extensive consultations with the industry on the proposed changes. The Liberal Party conducts consultation as a matter of course - unlike other parties that will not be mentioned but that we know all about - on all the issues before it. We know exactly the amount of consultation undertaken by the Government. All too often, Madam Speaker, there has been limited consultation of a shallow nature - consultation for the sake of being seen to consult, rather than consultation for the sake of listening to the people and businesses that the Government's laws will affect.

Unfortunately, again, all the people we spoke to saw this Bill for the first time when we, the Liberal Party, sent it to them. For this reason I am grateful that the Minister allowed me the time to undertake this meaningful consultative process. I have spoken to and corresponded with all community groups in Canberra that have an interest in this area.

Mr Lamont: Name them.

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MR DE DOMENICO: They were pleased to see this legislation. I will, if you ask me, Mr Lamont; but I will not take on that interjection. Just believe me, Mr Lamont. I have spoken to all groups and corresponded with all community groups in Canberra who are interested, including Corkhill Brothers, Pacific Waste Management, Cleanaway, Miniskips, ACT Tidybags, Tom's Trash Paks, ACT Skip Hire, Economy Tidy Bags, Hygienic Waste and Recycling, Waste Hawk, Capital Waste and Trashpack Service, C and H Waste Disposals, Thompson's Trade Waste, Topcat Trash Packs, Waste Away Commercial Waste Management, Totalcare Industries and Wastepac. These groups were also invited to and attended a discussion forum in my office.

The department has assured me that there will be extra resources allocated to policing these tougher penalties, which all the industry welcomes, by the way, as does the Opposition. I look forward to seeing this occur and the results becoming obvious through a cleaner and tidier Canberra. We have also taken the time to consult with private enterprise waste managers from many of Canberra's main waste management businesses. In general, most people appear to have no problems with this legislation. As I said, it is good legislation based on the 1977 legislation produced by Mr Kaine. However, some people wish to know, for instance, the Government's definition of "waste". Is clean fill on a truck waste and should it be covered? Mr Connolly might want to answer that question.

Other people have problems with the tip fees, which will cost businesses extra every time it rains, as wet rubbish obviously weighs more and therefore costs more to dump. I do not know whether you can adjust to that sort of situation, Mr Connolly, but it is another of those concerns that did come out from the consultation with the people. Another problem exists with ownership. The tip fees mean that rubbish removal now becomes an additional cost on businesses. This will mean that cheaper rubbish disposal methods will be explored. The Government is addressing some of these issues, like dumping, with tougher penalties. But what about dumping in another person's rubbish bin, therefore transferring the cost to someone else? They are the sorts of concerns that have come out from talking to the people. At present there is no solution to the cost and inconvenience of locking rubbish hoppers and bins, which will be borne by the businesses and the customers utilising these services.

In other words, the Government has introduced legislation without perhaps examining fully all the unintended consequences that might occur from time to time. While at present this may be a minor problem, as commercial dumping fees increase - they are set to double as from 1 January 1994 and will no doubt become an environmentally sound way of slugging the business sector and raising revenue in the future - this problem has the capacity to become quite significant. I would also ask the Minister therefore to examine this in the light of the Bill and look at what provisions could be made to ensure that people do not dump their costly rubbish in someone else's bin, therefore transferring the cost of disposal to someone else.

We wish to point out that, now that the commercial sector is paying for the privilege of dumping rubbish, it expects some level of service in return for the taxes that it is paying. In the past there was no such expectation because, as we know, the disposal of rubbish was free. However, now that commercial dumping has become a revenue raising exercise, those operators being slugged expect to see some sort of return for their money. The roads at ACT land fill sites, for example, are seen to be a major problem, especially when trucks must travel over

them many times a day. Operators have complained of major repair and maintenance problems, largely due to the poor state of land fill site roads. Given that there is an excess of material and equipment to grade roads with, it seems fair that the Government provide a reasonable level of service. That is something that the Minister might like to look at.

Madam Speaker, simple, easy to fix complaints included the removal of wash bay facilities for trucks at land fill sites. One operator said that he would not mind paying \$2, or whatever it cost, to wash his truck, but found it slightly offensive that facilities which were once available are no longer on offer, especially now that they are paying \$11 per tonne, soon to go up to \$22 per tonne, to dump rubbish at land fill sites. Another complaint concerned the hopper enclosures being built for new buildings in Canberra. Apparently these are built to government specified regulations which are hopelessly out of date. For example, these hopper enclosure regulations are designed for rear-loading trucks, which have not been used for many years in Canberra. This means that the construction of these hopper enclosures is a waste of time and money because the operators cannot use them.

Another concern that some of the dumpers have come to me with relates to occupational health and safety. Some of the drivers apparently now have to get out of the truck in order to try to dump the rubbish because the hoppers are useless the way they are built. Perhaps the Minister and his department might care to liaise with DELP, or whatever the responsible department is, to make sure that if people have to build these hoppers their construction fits in with modern technology. Another problem being experienced at Canberra's tips since the introduction of tip fees is the waiting time at weighbridges. What happens is that the truck is weighed on entering, it dumps its load and then it must return to the queue to be weighed again empty if it is carrying a different trailer, as many do. The waiting time for trucks is causing major headaches for waste operators, who see it as wasted time - and wasted time is wasted money. The solution is simple, of course - two weighbridges, one at the entrance and one at the exit. I again ask the Minister to examine this problem and to let us know what can be done to minimise the waiting time for operators.

Another problem with tip fees, Madam Speaker, is the effect on recycling. One major waste operator has advised me that it will be removing bottle banks when residential tip fees are introduced. Such an introduction was flagged by the Government this afternoon in the budget papers. If people read the papers very carefully they will find that that is flagged. Very few waste industry people I spoke to denied that across-the-board tip fees are inevitable, even for residential use. That is something that the Government is alluding to; but I think the quicker that happens the better, because it is going to happen eventually anyway. The particular company reports that illegal dumping at recycling - - -

Mr Connolly: Too slow, too slow. I bet that if we introduced them tomorrow you would criticise us. You would put out a press release.

MR DE DOMENICO: No, I would not. I am glad that Mr Connolly brought that matter up. Mr Connolly will recall as far back as, I think, December or January 1992. Who could ever forget that wonderful photograph on the front of the *Canberra Times* of Mr Stefaniak and me. Mr Stefaniak, by the way, was in the bin and I was the one pushing it. It was damn heavy, I can tell you. The amazing launch of the ACT election campaign went to page 13 or 17.

Mr Humphries: Where it belonged.

MR DE DOMENICO: Where it belonged, Mr Humphries. As far back as that the Liberal Party said that we believe that the best way out of this situation is kerb-side recycling and the introduction of big bins as soon as possible, together with tip fees across the board, commercial and residential, of course, with a certain voucher system. That operates, by the way, in every municipality in the country except the ACT. I am glad that Mr Connolly interjected. When you introduce tip fees, Mr Connolly, I can assure you that we will not come out with a press release criticising it.

Across-the-board tip fees have to be looked at also on a social justice basis. One must realise that people who cannot afford cars or who are too old to drive cars or who cannot afford trailers are the very people now subsidising people who can afford cars and trailers. The people who cannot afford cars are employing commercial waste people who obviously pass on the \$11 per tonne - soon to be \$22 per tonne - to their customers. The customers, they tell me, seem to be the aged, the elderly, the infirm and people who cannot afford cars, for various reasons. Giving people vouchers so that the first few trips to the tip are free or subsidised is one solution.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I thank the Minister for the time he gave me to review this Bill. I ask that he look, as a matter of urgency and perhaps even courtesy - I am sure that he will - at some of the problems that the Liberal Party has raised tonight and which were expressed to me from the people who are affected every day by the laws we create and approve in this Assembly. That being said, Madam Speaker, the Liberal Party will be supporting this Bill. It is good legislation, first introduced by Mr Kaine in 1977.

MR CONNOLLY (Attorney-General, Minister for Housing and Community Services and Minister for Urban Services) (8.12), in reply: I thank Mr De Domenico for his support. I must say that I was not aware that Mr Kaine was responsible for the original Litter Act. He is having a good day today. The flag has been praised, and it was his design, and he is getting his Litter Act amended as well; so it has been a good day for him. The proposal announced in the budget papers today is that the Government will be looking at introducing a comprehensive system of kerb-side recycling based on the successful Kaleen trials and that tip fees, if they are to be introduced, will follow that. So it will be the introduction of comprehensive kerb-side recycling followed by tip fees.

There is, I am aware, Mr De Domenico, some disquiet - there always was - within the commercial sector about the introduction of tip fees to replace what was regarded as a free service. Of course, it was never a free service; it was always a substantial cost to the ACT community, and ordinary ratepayers were in fact subsidising business; whereas in other jurisdictions - indeed, just up the road in Goulburn, let alone every other metropolitan area - business learned to live, and has for many years, with the fact that they would have to pay for land fill.

One of our senior officers in the recycling areas, one of the officers who will be charged with the responsibility of steering through the introduction of the ACT-wide kerb-side recycling, recently went with a group of municipal officials from around Australia through Europe to look at recycling methods there.

I would offer to Mr De Domenico or independent members access to the information that he has brought back, including a very informative video showing what is going on through Europe. One of the staggering things there is that the fees for commercial access to tips in Germany work out in real terms at a factor of about 100 on what our fees are. It is a staggeringly high cost. You can make recycling economically viable in Germany and other parts of Europe simply because the cost of dumping is prohibitively high, massively high.

Mr De Domenico: And they are run by the private sector and are more efficient.

MR CONNOLLY: The tips here are run by the Government and we are going to introduce a \$22 fee. In Germany they are efficiently run by the private sector and they charge the equivalent of about a \$2,200 fee. So, no wonder that they are more effective. What you have in Europe is a very conscious government policy to massively increase the cost of land fill - a sensible policy in an area where land fill is a problem. We will not be going to that extreme in the ACT, but we have taken the difficult decision to move to charging tip fees. I am pleased to see that the Opposition is not going to play politics on this one and will support it in the long term.

Mr Berry: Ha, ha!

MR CONNOLLY: Mr Berry is less charitable than I am and suspects that when we introduce tip fees there will be opposition criticism. We will just have to wait and see what happens. This is a consequential measure upon the introduction of commercial fees.

One aspect which Mr De Domenico did not allude to in his speech - I hope that it did come out in his consultations - is that the Government did move very swiftly to address the concern of the building sector that the introduction of commercial tip fees would impose a significant additional cost on Canberra home building and in particular affect entry level first home purchases. As a response to those concerns, the Government has been operating a free service for clean fill and is working with the private sector. In fact, we recently formally issued invitations for tender for clean fill storage points.

Home builders or building companies who have clean fill can deposit it at perhaps a nominal fee and builders who need fill can go and pick it up. We will avoid the situation where all clean fill will have to go through the tips. We will avoid the situation that home builders will have to pay the \$22 and we will also avoid the situation where all the fill is going into the land fill. So we win all round as a result, Mr De Domenico, of some quite intensive negotiations we have had with the relevant industry groups. The suggestion that there has been no consultation or inadequate consultation from the Government, I think, is clearly refuted by the successful way we have introduced that. I thank the Opposition for their support for the legislation.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

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DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993

Debate resumed from 26 August 1993, on motion by **Mr Berry**:

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

MRS CARNELL (Leader of the Opposition) (8.17): Madam Speaker, we certainly should not be here tonight debating this Bill at all. The only reason that we are is the incompetency and bloody-mindedness of the Minister.

Mr Kaine: I presume that that was a compliment, Wayne.

MRS CARNELL: He probably thinks it is. This Bill, Madam Speaker, is before this house today because in the Health (Consequential Provisions) Act 1993, which we debated in this house on 23 February this year, subsection 34(1B) of the Dentists Registration Act was inadvertently repealed.

Mr Berry: A technical oversight.

MRS CARNELL: I am very pleased that the Minister said that. In fact that is exactly what he said in his speech. He said that the impact of this action was a technical oversight. Why was it a technical oversight, Madam Speaker? Think back to 23 February this year in this house. There was a rather interesting debate on that particular Bill. For those who are having a little bit of trouble remembering, that was the Bill that abolished the Board of Health and moved health back under ACT Health's control.

If you remember, the Opposition had severe difficulties with the speed with which the Minister believed the Bill should be debated. In fact the Opposition's request that it not be debated so quickly in itself was debated over a quite long period of time. Mr Humphries brought forward a motion which was debated that day. Mr Humphries's motion was:

That the Assembly notes with concern the indecent haste with which the Government is bringing forward legislation for premature debate after its introduction.

At that stage both Mr Connolly and Mr Berry made some very interesting statements. They claimed that the Opposition's complaining was mere rhetoric; that there was no substance to the debate; that the Opposition really did not know what they were talking about; that the Government had appropriately consulted on these bits of legislation. When I and others in the debate asked why the urgency, why we needed to debate these bits of fairly complicated legislation so quickly, the Minister could not answer us. In fact, even his own ACT Health bureaucrats said that there was not really any rush for this legislation. Certainly, there were no financial requirements for it to go through in February, as it did. As it turned out, as a result of pushing this legislation through as quickly as they did, they made a technical oversight. Inevitably, technical oversights will be made when legislation is rushed through this house, when the drafting is rushed, and when there is not proper consultation with the people it affects.

In this case both Mr Humphries and I commented that we had not had an opportunity to run these pieces of legislation past all of the people that they affected. I am sure that, if we had, the dental therapists would have worked out that they no longer really existed under this Act. Of course, the ramifications of that were alluded to in Mr Berry's tabling speech. The ramifications had the potential to be very dangerous. In fact, it really meant that dental therapists employed by ACT Health, if sued for acts done after 1 March 1993, would not be covered by the Act. In other words, if they did work for a patient between 1 March and now and that patient wanted to sue, that dental therapist or assistant or hygienist would not be covered by any professional indemnity, which would mean that the patient would not be in a position to get their just desserts, I suspect. That is particularly dangerous.

Mr De Domenico: Could they have sued the Government?

MRS CARNELL: I assume that they could have sued the Government. Equally, that would be difficult. Because subsection 34(1B) had been inadvertently deleted from the Act by that Bill that was rushed through by Mr Berry for no good reason, these people really did not exist. Who knows what would have happened. That is the reason that now we are faced with a piece of legislation that has a retrospectivity provision. This Bill is retrospective to the time when Mr Berry raced the Health (Consequential Provisions) Bill through this house.

Mr Kaine: You mean when he stuffed it up.

MRS CARNELL: That is when he stuffed it up. Thank you, Trevor; I need to be a little bit more lucid, obviously. Mr Berry stuffed it up.

Mr Cornwell: He has done that before.

MRS CARNELL: Quite regularly. The Opposition will be supporting this Bill today.

Mr Berry: I am glad that you do not oppose it. We would be here for hours.

MRS CARNELL: This Bill is a good Bill only because it overcomes your stuff-up.

Mrs Grassby: Is that why you are laughing so much? Because you do not really mean a word you are saying?

MRS CARNELL: I do mean every word. The Opposition will be supporting this Bill today, but it never should have been before this house. We would not be wasting this time, money and legislative drafting time if we had not, in the first place, rushed through that legislation.

MR HUMPHRIES (8.23): Madam Speaker, Mrs Carnell has drawn attention to the problem and it has caused some mirth across the other side of the chamber, but the fact of life is that this could have quite serious consequences in other circumstances where legislation has been, as Mr Kaine so eloquently put it, stuffed up. Let me remind members of the Assembly of what occurred on 23 February. This Opposition was extremely concerned about the pace of legislation being forced through the Assembly. Indeed, at one stage in the course of that debate, I said, referring to those opposite:

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What do you think this Assembly is - a sort of sausage factory? The fact is that it is not. This Government treats the processes of democracy with contempt when it brings legislation forward with this short timeframe.

Madam Speaker, we drew attention on that occasion to the possibility of mistakes being made, and what do we have here? Evidence that, in fact, mistakes were made, mistakes that could have been extremely serious.

On that day we did everything we possibly could to indicate that that Bill was being considered prematurely. I took a point of order, Madam Speaker, you will recall, under standing order 172, concerning bringing on a Bill in the same sitting fortnight, and you ruled against me. My colleague Mrs Carnell moved to adjourn the debate. That motion was defeated by eight votes to nine, with Mr Moore voting with the Government. I am pleased to say that Ms Szuty and Mr Stevenson supported the Opposition. I then moved a motion in the Assembly condemning the processes we were undertaking at that time. I moved:

That the Assembly notes with concern the indecent haste with which the Government is bringing forward legislation for premature debate after its introduction.

There was much derision from those opposite about our lack of ability to deal with the legislation in time. Ms Follett interjected:

Stop pumping petrol and read your Bills.

That was a reference to the Federal election campaign.

Mr Kaine: That is good advice for the Chief Minister.

MR HUMPHRIES: It is certainly good advice for the Chief Minister. The question is, Madam Speaker: Why did not the Chief Minister read her own Bills? If she had read her Bills, or Mr Berry had read his Bills, or Mr Connolly had read some of Mr Berry's Bills, maybe they would have picked up this omission, the result of which is that for a period of some months in this Territory dental therapists have been without proper protection, and consequently citizens of the Territory who used their services might have been without proper protection in the course of going about their daily business.

Mr De Domenico: Probably Mr Connolly did read Mr Berry's Bill and let it go through anyway.

MR HUMPHRIES: That could be. Madam Speaker, we find it richly ironic that this Bill is necessary tonight to repair the hole in that Act. We are sitting here tonight, in a sense wasting the resources of the Assembly, undoing the damage which this Government did to its own legislation in its haste last February.

The Scrutiny of Bills Committee has examined this legislation and has identified that in fact it contains an element of retrospectivity. It points out that retrospectivity appears to operate beneficially to individual dental therapists, and that, of course, is quite true. I, however, draw the Assembly's attention to the possibility that, if someone had actually brought an action against a dental therapist between 1 March 1993, which is the date from which this Bill becomes

retrospectively operative, and now, the person who brought that action based on some alleged mistreatment would have their right to that action terminated by the passage of this Bill. I understand that there is no such person; but, if there had been, we would certainly be affecting that person's rights by passing this legislation tonight.

My party has indicated its position on adverse retrospectivity in the past, and I think that even the Government would hesitate to introduce adversely retrospective legislation in this place; but, if you keep pushing Bills through like this, one of these days either you are going to have to do that or you are going to face some loss to the Territory, whether financial or otherwise. I think, Madam Speaker, that this Government has a big lesson to learn in the good management of the democratic processes if it wants to ensure that this kind of thing does not happen again.

MR MOORE (8.28): I thought I would take this opportunity, since we are dealing with the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill, Madam Speaker, to ask just how many dentists deserve to be registered in the ACT. I wonder whether this amendment Bill should have gone much further than just dealing with the therapists and dealt with dentists when we read that there are very few dentists in the Territory who are autoclaving their drills. I think it is a matter of some concern.

Mr Humphries: It is dental therapists, not dentists.

MR MOORE: I recognise that we are talking about dental therapists. I thought I would take the opportunity to point out - - -

Mr Humphries: You might as well talk about your own cavities, Michael.

MR MOORE: The question is appropriately raised. The question is: "Does this amendment go far enough?". Having said that, I recognise that there was an anomaly in the Act that does need to be rectified and this small amendment will do so. I heard Mr Humphries's speech, Madam Speaker, about how we ought not to have passed it in the first place, that we should feel ashamed and so forth.

Mr Humphries: And you feel ashamed.

MR MOORE: I think that if we were to go back and check Mr Humphries's record as a Minister we might find that there were occasions when things were not absolutely perfect in the first place and anomalies were found.

Mr Kaine: It could never have happened.

Mr Humphries: I did not rush them through.

MR MOORE: I hear a cacophony of objections about it, but these things do happen. We should try to avoid them where we possibly can and take the appropriate time where possible. Madam Speaker, having got to this situation, it is appropriate that this anomaly be rectified. At the same time it is a good opportunity to draw members' attention to that article on dental equipment and the spread of HIV. I think it is also important to recognise that there are many other diseases that can be passed through the same system. Part of the responsibility that dentists face is to ensure that they take appropriate universal measures to prevent the spread of all diseases.

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MR BERRY (Minister for Health, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport) (8.31), in reply: The Health (Consequential Provisions) Bill 1993, as I said in my introductory speech, had some technical oversights in it. That Bill boiled down to a raft of amendments which were required as a result of those very embarrassing circumstances when the Liberals worked against the Board of Health, leading to the resignation of the chairman of the board and others on the board. That required some fairly quick action on the part of the Government and, fortunately, we were able to move quickly - fortunately for the health system. As is usual, it is left to the Labor Government to clean up the mess created by the Liberals. It had to be expedited. If you look at pages 394, 395 and 396 of *Hansard* you will see, as an example of that, something like 45 consequential amendments listed there.

It is possible for these sorts of oversights to occur. It is best if they do not occur, of course. What is most important is that when they are seen people move quickly to fix the problem, and that is what we have done. Thank you very much for your support.

Mr Connolly: Generous support.

MR BERRY: It was not very generous. Thank you very much for your support. It is so kind of you. Let this serve also as a reminder to you of your disgraceful behaviour in relation to the Board of Health, which brought about their demise.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (ACT FORESTS TRUST ACCOUNT) BILL 1993

Debate resumed from 19 August 1993, on motion by **Mr Connolly:**

That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

MR KAINE (8.34): Unlike the last Bill, I think I would be most remiss if I did not compliment the Attorney-General on this Bill which some people would take as a classic example of the perfect Bill. To begin with, Madam Speaker, it is elegant in its simplicity. The Bill is very brief. In fact it is just a little over one page. The explanatory memorandum is no longer than the Bill itself and explains in a very concise fashion what it is about. The Minister's tabling speech is even more elegant than the Bill itself. That consisted of five paragraphs, each of one sentence. The Bill is a very simple Bill. On the face of it, what it does is terminate a trust account which is known as the ACT Forestry Trust Account and substitute in its place a new trust account which is called the ACT Forests Trust Account. What could be simpler? As I said, it is almost beautiful in its elegance, and I compliment the Minister.

There is only one problem. Neither the Bill, nor the explanatory memorandum, nor the Minister's tabling speech tells us why.

Mr De Domenico: The press release might have. Was there a press release as well?

MR KAINE: He did not give me one of those, but you may be right; it may have done. On the face of it, on the Bill and the information as presented to the Assembly, the Liberal Party, in opposition, has no reason to oppose this Bill. In fact, I think we support it. I am quite sure, Madam Speaker, that if the Minister can explain to us why he is making this major change in the management of the forestry operations he will get our unqualified support.

Mr De Domenico: Is there anything to do with sexist language and the sex of the trees?

MR KAINE: There is no sex in the forests, as far as I can tell. Madam Speaker, I invite the Minister to explain to us the need for this massive change. I think I can assure him that, given a reasonable explanation, the Liberal Party, in opposition, will support this Bill.

MR CONNOLLY (Attorney-General, Minister for Housing and Community Services and Minister for Urban Services) (8.37), in reply: This Bill certainly is elegant in its simplicity. It is a very short process. The Bill itself does not create the new trust account. What the Bill does is shift money from an old account to a new account. As was said in the presentation speech, the new trust account is established under the Audit Act. True it is that the presentation speech did not go into great reasons why we have created the new trust account, other than to say:

With the passage of time and with self-government, it is considered appropriate to establish a new trust account to reflect the up-to-date arrangements for the ACT forestry operations ...

But I can give a good explanation. Forestry operations are significant in the ACT. We are unique in Australia in that we have commercial forestry operations around the city and, indeed, in the city. If anyone has been driving along Limestone Avenue recently they would have seen that there has been some culling at Haig Park. There are some logs lined up there, or at least there were on the weekend. They may have gone in the last day or so - - -

Mr Kaine: No, they were still there two hours ago.

MR CONNOLLY: They are still there today. So that is something quite unique in Australia - to see commercial forestry within the city. ACT forestry has grown. It is an industry which employs directly about 320 people.

Mr Kaine: They are historic. They are heritage trees, too.

MR CONNOLLY: Yes, that is right. It employs indirectly probably about 650 people. The industry has become more and more integrated with regional forestry operations of New South Wales. Operators who take our product tend to operate on larger and larger scales and increasingly ACT Forests has found it necessary, as part of its commercial operations, to engage in a level of brokerage, for want of a better word, with other logging operators in New South Wales.

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If ACT Forests must supply a user of end logs with a certain quantity and type of logs it may, on a number of occasions, be appropriate for ACT Forests to buy in logs from New South Wales rather than have to cut logs at earlier than their optimum time. So over the passage of the years there has been an ongoing process of operation across State borders.

The old trust account was established by the Commonwealth at some time in the 1950s - no-one can quite find out when. As is, I suspect, the case in a number of situations established in relation to ACT administration in the 1950s, it simply proved impossible to track down the paperwork and find the instruments that established the old trust account under which ACT Forests conducted its operations. Some questions were raised as to whether that document, if it could be found, clearly validated interstate trading operations. As a result of that, we took the decision that we had better set up a trust account under the Audit Act. It made sense to bring it under ACT administration, to make it clearer anyway, and it made sense to have an account that was operating clearly under the Audit Act; but principally it was to clear up possible doubts about State trading operations.

The reason for this legislation, as Mr Kaine indicated in his closing remarks, is that if we did not formally close the old account and move the money across by legislation the normal consequence of closing a trust account is that the money would go into Consolidated Revenue. The result of that would be that ACT Forests would generously donate to Consolidated Revenue their entire operating funds. They would then have to be reappropriated, which would give a quite misleading impression of ACT ratepayer contribution to forestry because in one year you would see an appropriation of the whole amount of the trust fund into ACT Forests. So what this Bill does is quite simply move the money across from the old trust account to the new trust account.

The reason for the new trust account, as stated in the speech, is simply to reflect up-to-date arrangements. There is a bit more to that which goes back to the fact that no-one could locate the documents which set up the old trust account, and that did give rise to certain questions as to whether that validated interstate operations. I suspect, Madam Speaker, that over the coming years we might find a few other occasions when, as a result of odd little things that were created under Commonwealth administration, and documents that have been lost or misplaced or otherwise disposed of, we have to do similar things.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

VIOLENCE - NATIONAL COMMITTEE
Progress Report

Debate resumed from 19 August 1993, on motion by **Mr Berry**:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

MS SZUTY (8.42): Madam Speaker, I find the support and positive response of the Government in this, its second report on the implementation of the recommendations of the "Violence, Directions for Australia" report of 1990, a very encouraging sign that we are indeed tackling violence in our society seriously. Madam Speaker, this is an extremely informative report which covers a wide range of issues concerning violence. I will not address all of them. There are, however, some issues from the first government response which are not carried forward into the second government response, and I would like to comment on and to elicit information on some of these areas.

The Government has noted in both of its progress reports that it supports the evaluation of policies and programs. Yet at recommendation 9, which discusses education for parenthood, the responses discuss programs which have been in place for some time, without giving any indication of what evaluation has occurred or whether the programs meet the criteria set down in the recommendation - that is, education for parenthood. It appears that the programs discussed are about childbirth and the early days of parenting. Midcall, which is extolled in the second paragraph, really only takes a mother through until the time she would have been discharged had she stayed in hospital.

I do recognise that there are other courses available, and I feel that these measures are positive. However, the intention of the original report was for a focus beyond childbirth and for a continuum of education. Community health centres may never see a parent who needs support, as child health clinics keep contact with mothers for only a relatively short period, and then only if they remain in stable accommodation. While the services available are to be commended, perhaps the Government could look further at the recommendation with a view to integrating more parenting material into antenatal classes.

At recommendation 14 the committee addressed institutions which offer health and welfare training in the recognition, treatment and management of victims of violence. In 1991 the ACT Government stated:

A number of non-government organisations and government agencies assist with the provision of such training, but any further enhancement of these services may require the examination of additional resources.

In 1992 we have support for the recommendation, but no advice as to whether there has been any consideration of expanding services, or any investigation of the need for additional resources. If enhancement has not been seen as necessary, that decision should be explained. Perhaps the Chief Minister might do that in her response to this particular debate.

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I congratulate the Government on its expansion of response from 1991 to 1992 with regard to counselling for violent men. The 1992 response recognises that not all violent men end up in the legal system, and not all those that do end up before the courts are given custodial sentences. The move to give some support to the idea of violence counselling is very welcome. I have stated in the past my support for accommodation to be provided for men who are the subject of domestic violence orders. This accommodation would offer some form of intermediary support, a person who could assist with referral to agencies who offer counselling, or with advice on practical matters affecting men where that is appropriate. Moves to defuse tense situations will always assist in lessening, not escalating, violence. Of course, these facilities should not be provided if it means that services for women would be consequently reduced. I do note that in the budget papers tabled earlier today by the Chief Minister there is some provision for accommodation for violent men. I welcome that.

At recommendation 19 the Government, I feel, uses selective reading to answer the proposition that stress identification and management should become an integral part of health promotion programs. The Government, in both responses, talks about including stress identification and management where it is appropriate, in 1991, and discusses specific courses in 1992. Programs which specifically address stress are excellent for people who have identified that they are unable to control their stress levels. However, there are other courses run by health professionals which could benefit from stress management information. I am sure that the Government could find benefits for men, women and young people in the community in introducing the topic of stress identification and management into health promotion programs where appropriate. Many stress management courses are aimed at women, and it is accepted that violence in men is a major societal problem. If the National Committee on Violence has accepted that stress identification and management has a part to play in reducing violence in our communities, by both men and women, then we should be incorporating it into many programs, not limiting it to perhaps those people who identify themselves as having a problem with stress.

At recommendation 29, which deals with evaluation of child abuse intervention programs, the 1991 report discussed the strategic plan being developed for the Family Services Branch. As a supporter of the need for short-, medium- and long-term planning, I was disappointed that there were no details of the strategic plan in the 1992 response. If the strategic plan has been produced, I feel that it would have been a positive move to include that information in the 1992 response of the Government. The 1991 report also discussed the development of reciprocal protocols with non-government organisations to deal with cases of child abuse. I would like to have seen further evidence of these protocols in the latest response, and, if they have not been developed, I would have expected some mention of their still being developed.

Madam Speaker, similarly at recommendation 50, the 1991 response mentions details of adherence to behaviour codes in sport being necessary for acquittal of sports grants, but there is no evidence of the rigorous and independent evaluation supported in the reports. In 1991 the response to recommendation 67 stressed that it was important that the community is made aware of the factual and evidentiary requirements of police before they can successfully prosecute reports of criminal assault in the home. Where is the evidence that this has actually happened? Where is the evaluation? Similarly, there is no evaluation of

the school based policing policy mentioned in 1991, although at recommendation 71 the earlier response states that it is a matter of course. Recommendation 104 in 1991 talked of the ACT seeking a position on the Criminology Research Council. Is this still an objective? Have we achieved membership at this time? At recommendation 116 the Australian Broadcasting Authority was to report on the use of metaphors for violence in sports broadcasting. Is the ACT Government aware of the outcome?

Madam Speaker, I have highlighted those issues where a gap in information exists between the first and second progress reports of the Government. There are other areas where I feel that the response to the report is lacking. The section on education does not draw any comment with regard to measures the Government could use to promote recommendations 31 to 42 to non-government schools. As non-government schools receive some government funding, it may be worth while to at least ascertain which, if any, of these recommendations are part of non-government school policies.

There is also stated support for recommendation 42, which recommends preschool enrichment programs. However, this support does not go on to show any evaluation of subsequent school performance and the effect of the programs on later delinquent behaviour as outlined in the recommendation. I would be pleased to find that such evaluation is in fact occurring but would impress that we, as Assembly members, need to be informed, as does the National Committee on Violence. At recommendation 122 the Government is completely silent on the recommendations on religious organisations, even though these agencies provide counselling services for survivors of violence. I feel that there is an anomaly here. We have supported national standards in service provision for survivors of violence and counselling perpetrators, yet we do not address a fairly crucial aspect - non-government agencies such as these.

Putting criticism and the need for further information aside, I do welcome the very positive response the recommendations have been given in the ACT, and particularly welcome the Weapons Act 1991 as fulfilling most of the recommendations found at recommendations 54 to 58. I am also pleased to have been able to support moves last year to increase powers for police to search for weapons in cases of domestic violence. I am also delighted that the ACT has taken a lead in the use of video links for the use of courts to take evidence, particularly in relation to cases involving children.

Madam Speaker, it is important that we view this and other reports on the issue of violence as part of the solution to the problem of violence in our society. We need to challenge violent attitudes wherever we encounter them, and we need to ensure that education and conflict resolution form an important part of our approach. To conclude, I would like to reiterate the comments earlier in my speech about the Government's addressing of violence issues in its budget which was tabled by the Chief Minister today. They are especially welcome initiatives, and I commend the Government for bringing them forward at this time.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Ellis**) adjourned.

GREENHOUSE STRATEGY Paper

Debate resumed from 19 May 1993, on motion by **Mr Wood**:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

MR WESTENDE (8.52): Madam Speaker, we on this side of the house find no problem with the Minister's speech launching the ACT greenhouse strategy. In fact, we support the Minister's active promotion of an effective greenhouse strategy and the associated initiative to put it into effect. To use the Minister's words:

... it must provide a flexible framework within which issues can be addressed as they arise and, when viewed in the broader context, will lead to a reduced net greenhouse impact on the ACT.

Madam Speaker, we certainly find no problem with the Minister's statement and the Minister's wish regarding the use of energy reduction. The Minister referred to matters where the transport sector needs to improve its efficiency and effectiveness to reduce private car use. In fact, the encouragement of bicycles over motor vehicles is one area where we would have no problem in agreeing wholeheartedly with the Minister.

However, the recent proposed Federal tax increase on leaded petrol does not, I believe, solve the problem, whereas a more effective and efficient public transport system would go some way towards resolving it. Madam Speaker, we believe that the Federal legislation to increase the price of unleaded petrol will have the opposite effect of what was intended. After all, the intent is to remove cars which use leaded petrol off the road. What will happen, however, is that the poorer people who own these older vehicles will find that the trade-in values on their vehicles will be lowered to such an extent that it will be almost impossible for them to use the vehicle as a deposit on a vehicle which uses unleaded petrol. Therefore, instead of solving the problem, the Federal Government has extended it, as the poor will use these vehicles until such time as they literally stop dead in their tracks.

The Minister refers to how we can, in a practical way, utilise solar energy, and this is being further achieved through the development of a five-star energy efficiency rating scheme for houses. There are myriad other ways of reducing energy consumption. One of which I have personal experience is simply painting the interior wall in a factory white. This resulted in a 10 per cent reduction in electricity consumption.

The Minister also makes reference to the current trial of wheeled bins. We have heard today that we are going to have them. May I be so bold as to suggest this to the Minister: As trials have been held in other States and cities throughout Australia, rather than conduct further trials, why do we not implement the policy forthwith? We have heard a bit about that today. The Minister also refers to problems experienced with land fill. I am sure that he is aware that there are private firms in Canberra which have a great deal of experience in land fill management and refuse collection in the ACT and other Australian cities. I believe that this information is readily available from these firms on request.

The Minister talks further about climate changes due to the depletion of the ozone layer. I would, however, caution the Minister about putting too much emphasis on this, as some doubts exist internationally about the strength of these arguments. According to an article in the June issue of the National Geographic Society's journal *Research and Exploration*, temperatures are no warmer than they were in the 1860s and 1870s. The magazine reported that in the Northern Hemisphere summers are now no warmer than in the 1860s and 1870s. This was the conclusion of two British scientists who studied 140 years of temperature records. Those two British scientists came to the same conclusion that I have, and that is that climatic conditions are probably more responsible for the change in warming from time to time than the ozone layer. Another article in the *Research and Exploration* journal suggests that cloudiness is caused by fossil fuel pollution which will gradually diminish. Therefore, people should not become too emotive about the greenhouse effect, as the varied views of atmospheric scientists on global warming show that they are still grappling with major uncertainties in their understanding of its effect.

As I said, we on this side of the house, in general, support the Minister in his efforts in putting the ACT greenhouse strategy together. We look forward to the recently appointed Commissioner for the Environment's first report, which is due in about 10 months' or 12 months' time. We certainly commend the Minister on his efforts in this area. I repeat, Madam Speaker, that we support the Minister's strategy paper presented to the house.

MR MOORE (8.58): I thought I would take a couple of minutes, Madam Speaker, to comment on the very positive things that are presented in the greenhouse strategy and to question some of the issues that have been coming before the public recently in terms of the greenhouse issues and so forth. The particular one I would like to refer to is the Australian Conservation Foundation's statement recently about how the ACT lacked energy efficiency labelling.

I think it is appropriate that the Minister respond to this house in those terms. Energy efficiency labelling is well and truly established in New South Wales under a Liberal government. If such things are important - I think we can all see their significance - then the Minister should, at the very least, adopt that very simple and effective strategy. That is not to take away from the series of suggestions that are contained in this paper that was presented by Mr Wood.

I would also like to draw attention to page 15, where reference is made to current initiatives such as revised regulations to make insulation mandatory in walls and inaccessible areas of all new houses from 3 December 1992. Madam Speaker, you may remember that I tabled in this house some legislation that would have gone a step further than that and made insulation in ceilings compulsory as well. I do not want to reflect on any debate of the Assembly; but, as I recall, it was an area covered by regulation by Mr Wood. Therefore, in the end the issue was dealt with in a different way. The argument there was that appropriate insulation in ceilings as part and parcel of a mortgage would be a much cheaper way of ensuring that first home buyers would be able to make considerable savings after the first two or three years of their home ownership. With those few comments, Madam Speaker, I would like to emphasise that what is contained in this statement is very positive. It will be interesting to see how well the Government goes about implementing it.

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MR WOOD (Minister for Education and Training, Minister for the Arts and Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning) (9.02), in reply: Madam Speaker, I thank members for their positive comments. I think the greenhouse strategy has been favourably received by the two members who spoke and I think that is justifiable in terms of the content of the document. Mr Moore referred to the Australian Conservation Foundation's comments about the labelling of appliances. It is the case that it can be argued that we are a bit slow on this, and I take note of that. I think that in almost everything we are ahead of the field. It is certainly my intention to be so. If we are not, I will take action.

The fact is that we in the ACT have been pacing ourselves, expecting that we will legislate when national standards are available, and that process is working through. A number of the States have not waited for that to happen. In fact, I understand that New South Wales has had legislation for quite some time. From talking to the two or three agencies of the ACT Government that are involved in this, it may be that we will introduce legislation, introduce some of the standards that are available now, since these are incorporated in regulations, and when the national standards become available we will act accordingly. I know what Mr Moore says about insulation. Again, we have to take some account of home buyers. We have had this argument before, have we not? They can adjust their insulation in the ceiling quite readily, whereas they cannot in the walls.

I thank Mr Westende for his comments. He made some points about leaded petrol and I thought he presented a good point that I had not picked up before about people with cars using leaded petrol. I am certainly aware that their value already has depreciated and that certainly is not an encouragement, even if you have the money or are getting close to having the money to trade in on a vehicle using unleaded petrol. I should point out that, when the Federal Minister had her lead summit about a month or six weeks ago, the ACT representative, one of our public servants, made the point that the ACT Government did not support the proposed extra tax on petrol. We believed, in terms of equity, that it was not justifiable, and the Government has not deviated from that point.

I note Mr Westende's words of caution about global warming. It is true that temperature variations are a natural part of the world's climate and they cannot really be assessed in the short term. The fact is that we have to be alert to problems. Since these are very sensible measures in any case, as Mr Westende indicated, it is wise to take those steps. The policy is one of no regrets. They are good measures and it is sensible to take them.

Members will be pleased to know that since I tabled the ACT greenhouse strategy in May, some months ago, there has been progress on a number of initiatives, and I should spell those out to you. For example, the Territory Plan contains a number of requirements with respect to energy matters which will assist the ACT to achieve its greenhouse objectives. Included in the Territory Plan is the requirement for the submission of energy audits.

Mr Lamont: A great document.

MR WOOD: I agree with that. Energy audits with subdivision of land of more than 30 blocks are to be undertaken in accordance with the ACT Planning Authority's energy guidelines. Another Territory Plan requirement is for the submission of energy conservation plans for buildings having a floor area greater than 2,000 square metres, in accordance with the ACT Planning Authority's energy guidelines for buildings. Also under the Territory Plan, as from 1 July 1995 there is a requirement for the submission of an energy efficiency rating statement with all house design and siting applications, with refusal of applications where a four-star rating is not achieved. If some of the States are ahead of us in mandatory requirement for energy efficiency ratings on appliances, we are ahead of the nation in terms of what we require for houses.

The Government has agreed to the implementation of the eco office concept across the ACT Government Service. An eco office network has been established and considerable progress has been made on reducing energy and paper use in government agencies. Winners of the energy efficient house design competition were announced a little while ago and the winning design will be built by Gordon Valley Homes. Mr Westende made some comment about bicycles. We have promised a bicycle strategy and that is in the final stages of development. You should hear about it shortly. Again, the Liberal spokesman mentioned wheeled bins. I do not think it is always the case that you can just transplant experience from somewhere else. The ACT is unique. We have been having these trials. While we should learn from experience elsewhere, I think it is very important to do our own trialling so that we get it exactly right.

There have been a number of other developments. For example, the Government has commenced preparation of amendments to the Air Pollution Act to bring solid fuel heaters within the scope of the Act and to introduce a particular emission standard and associated controls for solid fuel heaters. Madam Speaker, it is important to acknowledge that the initiatives contained in our strategy are not owned, as it were, by any one agency. The key action areas of energy supply and use, transport, waste minimisation and cross-sectoral responses involve all portfolios. My colleagues and their agencies made a significant contribution to the development of this integrated approach. The ACT's limited options in contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions make it imperative that all elements of the ACT Government contribute to achieving this strategy. Madam Speaker, I think we are well on that path. I think our aims are being met and I will continue to report on this matter from time to time.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Assembly adjourned at 9.10 pm

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION**

Question No. 837

Assembly Premises - Security Guard

MR CORNWELL - Asked the Chief Minister upon notice on 17 August 1993:

Is it a fact that a security guard or guards was/were stationed on the fifth floor during business hours at some time during the week commencing Monday, 28 March 1993; if so

- (a) how many security guards were stationed there and over what periods of time was the guard stationed there;
- (b) for what purpose was the guard engaged;
- (c) who approved the engagement of this/these guards;
- (d) which security firm supplied the guard/s;
- (e) what was the cost of engaging the guard/s;
- (f) was the guard engaged even though there is a receptionist at that workstation; if so, why could the duties not be performed by the receptionist; and
- (g) by whose assessment was a security risk determined and what was that risk.

MS FOLLETT - The answer to the Members question is as follows:.

- (a) One guard was stationed for the following periods:

Wednesday 31 March 1993 - 2.30 pm to 6.00 pm

Thursday 1 April 1993 - 8.00 am to 6.00 pm

Friday 2 April 1993 - 8.00 am to 6.00 pm

- (b) The guard was engaged as a precautionary measure in case there was a disturbance related to the negotiations being pursued with the Electrical, Electronic, Plumbing and Allied Workers Union (EPU) over the ACTEW Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.
- (c) The Clerk of the ACT Legislative Assembly and the Assistant Secretary Government Branch, Chief Ministers Department, in consultation with the Chief Ministers Office.

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- (d) Wormald Security ACT, a Division of Wormald Security Australia Pty. Ltd.
- (e) \$505.25 shared equally between the Executive and Program 1 (Support to the ACT Legislative Assembly).
- (f) The receptionist was on duty during part of the period in question. The receptionist is employed to provide reception, not security, services.
- (g) A risk of temporary interference to the efficient functioning of the Executive and Members was assessed by the Clerk of the ACT Legislative Assembly and the Assistant Secretary Government Branch, Chief Ministers Department, in consultation with the Chief Ministers Office.

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION ON NOTICE 851**

Calwell High School - Practice Cricket Wickets

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

- (1) How many practice cricket wickets are located at Calwell High School.
- (2) If no practice wickets are in place, is it intended to install such wickets and, if so, how many and when will they be installed.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) There are no practice cricket wickets located at Calwell High School.
- (2) Subject to funding, consideration will be given in development of the Departments 1993/94 Minor New Works Program, to provision of two practice wickets at Calwell High School by June 1994.

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ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 876

**CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION**

Question No. 876

**Tourism Commission - Staff Vacancies
and Recruitment**

MS CARNELL - Asked the Chief Minister upon notice on 17 August 1993:

In relation to the Commonwealth Gazette (22 April 1993) in which the ACT Tourism Commission advertised an AS03 position and a number of AS02 positions-

- (1) When did these positions become vacant.
- (2) Why were the above positions advertised as being vacant when the employees who had been working in them had been made redundant.
(Notified in the above mentioned Gazette.)
- (3) Why did the Tourism Commission pay six experienced staff to take early retirement and then immediately advertise to fill similar positions in the same small (less than 40) organisation.
- (4) Why did the Tourism Commission deem it not appropriate to re-train staff at an AS02 and AS03 level to perform new duties at the same level?

MS FOLLETT - The answers to the Members questions are as follows:

- (1) Of the three positions advertised one AS02 position became vacant on 2 April 1993 and an AS02 and AS03 position became vacant on 7 April 1993.
- (2) Recruitment action in respect of the AS03 position did not proceed and the position has not been staffed. The two ASO 2 positions were new positions with duty statements reflecting the restructuring of the ACT Tourism Commission and in particular the revised functions for the operation of the Visitor Information Centre. These positions were not nominally filled and were therefore advertised as being vacant

(3) Of the six staff who took voluntary redundancy, three did not work in the area where the AS02 positions were located and did not wish to remain with the Commission. The other staff, although working in the area, did not wish to continue working under the new structure and revised duties at the Visitor Information Centre. They sought voluntary redundancy in the circumstances.

All voluntary redundancy arrangements entered into by the Commission were processed in the normal way by the Staff Placements Task Force. All staff for whom redundancy packages were approved were assessed by the Task Force as unsuitable for redeployment to other positions within the ACT Government Service.

(4) For the reasons I have just mentioned the Commission did not deem it appropriate to retrain staff to perform new duties

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MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION NO 889

Gallery 3 - Manuka

MR CORNWELL: asked the Minister for the Arts - What is the annual rent being paid by Gallery 3 at Manuka?

Mr Wood - the answer to the Members question is as follows:

The Gallery has not yet been handed over to the ACT Government, so sub-lease arrangements between the Canberra Contemporary Art Space and the Government have not been completed.

The rental figure will be based on the standard Government rate for community organisations. Currently, the standard rental is \$90.00 per square metre per annum for rental of surplus Government space. This charge includes electricity, heating and other associated costs.

In the case of stand-alone facilities; such as the Manuka Gallery, where the lessee is responsible for, separately paying its electricity and associated costs, the standard Government rate is adjusted accordingly.

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MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

QUESTION NO 895

**Government Preschools - Average
Per Student Costs**

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

What is the cost to the Government per child for 10.5 hours of pre-school.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

The estimated average cost per student in 1991-92 (latest figures) in ACT government preschools was \$1,950. Preschool students attend on average 40 per cent of full-time hours.

Over 95 per cent of preschool students attend between 10 and 19 hours each week.

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**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION No 900**

Government Schools - Discretionary Grants

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

- (1) What has been the amount of discretionary grants to ACT Government schools in (a) 1992-93; (b) 1991-92; (c) 1990-91 and (d) 1989-90.
- (2) What amount in each year was allocated to (a) primary; (b) high and (c) college sectors of ACT Government education.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) The amount of discretionary grants provided in each year was:

1992-93	\$4,053,969
1991-92	\$3,910,167
1990-91	\$3,898,042
1989-90	\$3,898,344

- (2) In each sector the amount of discretionary grant was:

	Primary	High	College	Other
1992-93	\$1,910,401	\$1,088,190	\$780,764	\$274,614
1991-92	\$1,795,349	\$1,082,118	\$794,080	\$238,620
1990-91	\$1,783,418	\$1,108,077	\$764,400	\$242,147
1989-90	\$1,828,976	\$1,109,199	\$744,744	\$215,425

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**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 902**

Secondary Colleges - Dropout Statistics

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

- (1) How many students dropped out of ACT colleges in (a) 1990; (b) 1991 and (c) 1992.
- (2) What percentage do these students represent of the total number of college students in each of these years.
- (3) What number of these students dropped out in (a) Year 11, and (b) Year 12 in each of these years.
- (4) What effect do these dropouts have upon the education budget.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) The following numbers of students left ACT colleges over the last three years:

1992 The student group in Year 12 in 1992 lost 532 over the period 1991/92

1991 The student group in Year 12 in 1991 lost 348 over the period 1990/91

1990 The student group in Year 12 in 1990 lost 542 over the period 1989/90

- (2) This represents a reduction of the original populations by the following percentages:

1992 10.1 per cent

1991 7.0 per cent

1990 11.3 per cent

- (3) The number of students dropping out in Year 11 and Year 12 are as follows

1992 The student group in Year 12 in 1992 lost 208 in Year 11 and 324 in Year 12

1991 The student group in Year 12 in 1991 lost 137 in Year 11 and 211 in Year 12

1990 The student group in Year 12 in 1990 lost 275 in Year 11 and 267 in Year 12

- (4) Since 1989 the staffing formula for government secondary colleges has reflected the fact that there is a drop off of students during the year.

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**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION No 906**

**Non-Government Schools - Students
with Disabilities**

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

- (1) Does the ACT Government match Commonwealth general recurrent funding for students with disabilities who attend non-government schools and, if not, why not.
- (2) If it does match the Commonwealth general recurrent funding, how much was made available in (a) 1991; (b) 1992 and (c) 1993. -

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) The ACT does not match Commonwealth general recurrent funding for students with disabilities who attend nongovernment schools. Currently students with disabilities receive additional Commonwealth funding for the. difference between the per capita rate for the school the student attends and the funding provided for the highest category school (Category 12).

This has been the policy since the inception of selfgovernment. However, I have instructed my Department to review this policy.

- (2) Not applicable.

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**CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION**

Question No. 915

**Government Service - Secondment of
Officers to ACTCOSS**

MR CORNWELL - Asked the Chief Minister upon notice on 17 August 1993:

- (1) Is it a fact that officers of the ACT Administration have been seconded or attached part-time to the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS); if so, (a) what public service rank do these officers hold; (b) who is paying their salary and (c) for how long are they working with ACTCOSS.
- (2) What is the salary of each officer and why are they working out of ACTCOSS. .

MS FOLLETT - The answer to the Members question is as follows:

- (1) Yes. The first officer was appointed in April 1991, during the Alliance Government, following an initiative taken during my first term in office. The position was established as a result of an agreement between the ACT Government Service and ACTCOSS to improve communication between the Government and the community sector. The position has been occupied since that time by three officers on both a full and part-time basis. Recruitment action is currently underway for a fourth placement.
- (a) The position was initially advertised for officers within the ACT Government Service at the AS05 to Senior Officer Grade C levels. The level of each officer selected was dependent upon the particular skills which were agreed as being of mutual benefit in improving communication between the Government and the community sector, and the level of officers who expressed an interest in the role. .
- (b) The Chief Ministers Department has paid the salary of each project officer.

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- (c) The first two officers placed at ACTCOSS worked there for a period of six months each on a full time basis. The third placement was extended to twelve months to allow the project worker to undertake longer term projects and to ensure greater continuity. This final placement between August 1992 and July 1993 was on a part-time basis. The next placement is also expected to be part-time.
- (2) The successful officers were paid at their substantive or long term acting levels for the period of their placement. In each case to date the officers were paid at the Senior Officer Grade C level.

Officers were based at ACTCOSS to improve communication between the ACT Government and ACTCOSS in recognition of ACTCOSS role as a

- peak community service organisation. The officers were responsible for a number of projects, which were mutually beneficial to the ACT Government and ACTCOSS. This position was also considered a valuable developmental opportunity for officers of the ACT Government Service.

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MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 920**

Teachers - Professional Development

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

In relation to the Ministers reply to question on notice No. 8 on 12 May 1992, can the Minister now advise how much money was allocated for professional development of teachers in the 1991/92 Budget.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

In 1991-92 the Department of Education and Training expended \$2,786,861 on the professional development of teachers.

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MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 921**

Government Schools - Average Per Student Costs

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

In relation to the Ministers reply to question on notice No 7 on 12 May 1992, can the Minister now advise the 1991-92 average cost per student at Government (a) primary schools; (b) high schools and (c) colleges.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

The estimated average cost per student in 1991-92 in ACT government schools is:

- (a) Primary \$4,290 per student
- (b) High \$5,290 per student
- (c) College \$5,730 per student

The change in average costs per student in 1991-92 from previous years results from changes in accounting practices in the ACT Department of Education and Training and changes in the Departments budget base arising out of the establishment of the Corporate Services Bureau.

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**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION**

Question No. 922

**Institute of Technology - Apprentice
Applications and Attendances**

MR CORNWELL: To ask the Minister for Education- -

- (1) How many apprentices, by discipline, attend Canberra Institute of Technology.
- (2) What was the 1993 application list for each of the categories in (1).

MR WOOD: The answer to the members question is as follows:
Apprentices by School attending CIT at end May 1993 are listed below.
(The distribution by discipline is at Attachment A.)
School of Applied Arts and Design 262
School of Applied Science 116
School of Construction Studies 328
School of Electrical and Electronic Studies 178
School of Engineering Studies 232
School of Tourism and Hospitality 202

TOTAL 1318

NOTE: The 1993 attendance will increase through the balance of the year as students enrol, particularly for block release course.

(2) The Institute accepted all applications from apprentices at the start of 1993 and there were no waiting lists. As at May 31 1993 - applications had been received for a further 3 Electrical, 3 Hairdressing, 6 Printing and Graphic Arts, 36 Commercial Cookery, 6 Bakery and 4 Cabinet Making apprentices. Lack of places means these apprentices will commence studies in 1994.

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ATTACHMENT A

TRADE ENROLMENTS BY SCHOOL AND COURSE IN 1993

APPLIED ART AND DESIGN

FD29TA CERTIFICATE IN HAND & MACHINE COMPOSING (NSW 5308) 19
FD31TA CERTIFICATE IN PRINTING MACHINING - TRADE (0378) 9
FD32TA CERTIFICATE IN BOOKBINDING - TRADE (NSW 0377) 10
AG05TA CERTIFICATE IN PRINTING AND PRESS ROOM OPERATIONS 30
PD44AA SIGNWRITING 8
FD30TA CERTIFICATE IN GRAPHIC REPRODUCTION - TRADE (5307) 22
AE17TA CERTIFICATE IN HAIRDRESSING -TRADE 164

APPLIED SCIENCE

BF11TB CERTIFICATE IN TURF MANAGEMENT - TRADE 52
ZE14TA CERTIFICATE IN HORTICULTURE 64

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

QD422AB BRICKLAYING 39
DB111A CERTIFICATE IN CABINET MAKING -- TRADE 28
QF42AA CABINETMAKING TRADE 27
DD11TA CERTIFICATE IN FLAT GLASS - TRADE 6
DB06TA CERTIFICATE IN PLASTERING - TRADE 6
QE42AB CARPENTRY AND JOINERY TRADE 197
PD45AA PAINTING AND DECORATING 25

ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC STUDIES

EC26TA CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRICAL - TRADE 138
ED31TA CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRONIC - TRADE 19
EF10TA CERT IN REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING- TRADE 21

ENGINEERING STUDIES

DD09TA CERTIFICATE IN SHEETMETAL - TRADE 2
WD15TA CERTIFICATE 7N AUTOMOTIVE PAINTING 13
FB08TA CERT IN HEAVY VEHICLE AND PLANT MECHANICS (TRADE) 33
FH09TB CERTIFICATE IN METAL TRADES - FABRICATION (HEAVY) 10
FC23TA CFRT IN AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS (LIGHT VEHICLE)-TRADE 136
FH08TB CERTIFICATE IN METAL TRADES - FABRICATION (LIGHT) 5
FA20TA CERTIFICATE IN PANEL BEATING - TRADE 11
FC24TA CERTIFICATE IN AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICAL - TRAD22

TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY STUDIES

JA25TA CERTIFICATE IN RAKING - TRADE 37
JA20TA CERTIFICATE IN BAKING/PASTRY COOKING - TRADE 6
JB11TA CERTIFICATE IN COMMERCIAL COOKERY (TRADE) 26
JB09TA CERTIFICATE IN COMMERCIAL COOKERY - TRADE 108
JF02TA CERTIFICATE IN BUTCHERY - TRADE 25

TOTAL = 7318

(date of data download = 30/05/93)

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION 930**

Government Schools - Electricity and Water Charges

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

- (1) Are ACT Government schools on commercial not domestic rates for electricity and water; if so, why.
- (2) What is the difference between the two rates and how does this difference compare in an average (a) primary school; (b) high school and (c) college.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) Electricity used at ACT Government schools is charged to the Department at the general rate in accordance with section 12.3 of the ACTEW Schedule of Charges.

Each school is charged the standard amount for the prescribed allowance of water of 350 kilolitres per annum. Excess water to the schools is charged at half of the standard excess water rate. There is a provision in the Water Rates Act of 1959 for registered schools and ecclesiastical establishments to receive this half rate charge.

- (2) The differences in the rates are as follows

Electricity

Domestic Rate First 100 kWh per month 11.84c per kWh
All additional kWh 7.94c per kWh
Minimum charge 70 kWh per month
General Rate First 100 kWh per month 18.48c per kWh
Next 4900 kWh per month 14.56c per kWh
All additional kWh 12.72c per kWh
Minimum charge 70 kWh per month

Water

Standard charge for prescribed quantity (350 kilolitres) \$216.00

Water supplied in excess of prescribed quantity = 59c per kilolitre

Water supplied to a school- in excess of prescribed quantity = 29.5c per kilolitre.

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**CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION**

Question No. 931

Social Policy Committee Report - Government Response

MR CORNWELL - Asked the Chief Minister on notice on 17 August 1993:

When might the Assembly receive the Governments response to the Standing Committee on Social Policys Report "Aged Accommodation and Support Services in the ACT".

MS FOLLETT - The answer to the Members question is as follows:

The Governments response to Report No. 2 of the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Aged Accommodation and Support Services in the ACT will be presented to the Assembly during the 1993, September sitting session.

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**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION NO 933**

School Sport and Physical Education

MR CORNWELL - asked the Minister for Education and Training on notice on 17 August 1993:

What has been the result of undertakings given concerning physical education and sport in schools including (a) ways to provide more primary school teachers with such skills; (b) a review of elite sport in schools, including greater involvement by community organisations and (c) a representative of ACTSPORT joining the Departments Consultative Committee on-Physical Education and Sport.

MR WOOD - The answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

My Department has been particularly active in supporting and raising the profile of physical education and sport in ACT government schools. Progress is being made in relation to all the points raised in your question.

In June this year ACTSPORT was invited to nominate a representative to join the Departments Physical Education and Sport Consultative Committee. Since that time Mr Tony Naar the Executive Director of ACTSPORT has been an active member of the committee.

The work of the committee on developing a strategic plan for the provision of physical education and sport for students in ACT government schools over the next three years is almost complete. The contribution made by Mr Naar and other representatives on the committee from major interest groups in school physical education and sport has been most valuable. My Department has developed cordial relations between school and community sporting organisations.

In relation to the other points you raised, both elite sport and the provision of teacher professional development and training are issues addressed by this committee in developing the strategic plan. Following on from developing the plan, elite sport in schools will be reviewed with the provision of support for participation in interstate representative sport at both primary and secondary levels being considered. My Department will continue to consult and involve key interest groups and community organisations in this process through both the Consultative Committee and the ACT School Sports Council which is responsible for overseeing ACT participation in interstate representative sport

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I anticipate this review will be completed and its decisions announced well before the end of the 1993 school year to enable all necessary planning and preparations to be made for 1994.

Moves have also been made to provide more primary school teachers with professional development and training in physical education and sport. The Physical Education and Sport Curriculum Officer appointed earlier this year has been active in organising such courses for primary teachers. In some instances this has been done in collaboration with AUSSIE SPORT and community sporting organisations. As well extra teacher relief days have been provided to enable teachers to attend the courses offered. Preliminary moves are also under way with tertiary institutions to develop appropriate tertiary accredited units and/or a graduate certificate in Physical Education for practising teachers.

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION
QUESTION 934**

Government Schools - Automatic Flushing Toilets

MR CORNWELL- asked the Minister for Education and Training on
notice on 17 August 1993:

- (1) Is it a fact that all Government school toilets automatically flush every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; if so why.
- (2) If only some schools operate thus, which ones.
- (3) How many such toilets are there in the ACT school system.
- (4) What is the total cost and volume of such -water usage per annum.
- (5) Are there any plans to install timers or otherwise reduce volume and posts.

MR WOOD - the answer to Mr Cornwells question is:

- (1) This is not correct. There are however a number of older schools where cisterns servicing urinals flush . automatically on a continuing cycle. This method of flushing for the urinals was the accepted plumbing practice for many years.
- (2) Generally schools constructed prior to 1987 incorporate this method of urinal flushing.
- (3) There are approximately 450 urinals flushed by the automatic method.
- (4) The volume of water used to flush these urinals is estimated at approximately 580,000 kilolitres per annum. (This estimate is based upon 600 cisterns each with an 11 litre capacity servicing the 450 urinals and flushing on average every 6 minutes)..

The cost of 580,000 kilolitres would be \$171,000 at current excess water rates.

- (5) The Department is calling tenders during September 1993 for the provision of a hygiene service to urinals to overcome current odour problems. Following on from the improvement in hygiene it is planned to commence the progressive installation of controlled flushing systems to replace the automatic urinal flushing-systems in all schools.

In addition the Department has ensured that controlled urinal flushing has been incorporated in schools constructed in recent years.