



DEBATES

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

6 March 2003

Thursday, 6 March 2003

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Thursday, 6 March 2003

The Assembly met at 10.30 am

MR SPEAKER (Mr Berry) took the chair at 10.30 am and asked members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

Charitable Collections Bill 2003

Mr Wood, pursuant to notice, presented the bill and its explanatory statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Heritage and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.32): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I bring to the Assembly the Charitable Collections Bill 2003. In October 1999, Allen Consulting Group undertook a national competition policy review of the Collections Act 1959. The review made 14 recommendations for legislative reform, 11 of which have been implemented in this bill. Three recommendations were rejected on the basis of drafting rules. For example, in the ACT the minister does not need the power to delegate a function to another person, because that is already covered by the Legislation Act 2001.

The objectives of this bill are to:

- promote proper management and administration of collections for charitable purposes;
- ensure proper record keeping and auditing of accounts in relation to collections; and
- ensure that the public has access to information relating to collections.

A collection is where a person solicits or receives money or other benefits because the activity or enterprise that the person represents includes a charitable purpose. All collections in the ACT will need a licence, whether they are carried out in person or by post, telephone or fax.

A licence must be refused if the collection does not include a charitable purpose or if someone other than from a charity is collecting without the charity's agreement. This is in contrast to the current Collections Act 1959, where a licence may be refused if expenses are unreasonably high or the money is not spent in the ACT.

The bill ensures that collection details are given to potential donors. For example, it will be compulsory for each person taking part in the collection to display a complying identifying tag and display the required information in an approved way. This will allow potential donors to make a decision about the authenticity of the collection and whether they want to contribute.

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Collection licences will be issued for up to five years. This will reduce administration costs when compared to the current system, where licences are generally issued for each collection. All licence holders will be required to lodge reports on an annual basis and when their licence ends. The new system streamlines reporting, allowing organisations that run several collections in a year to submit one report.

The Charitable Collections Bill 2003 is largely consistent with the New South Wales Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, which will be beneficial to organisations that collect in both New South Wales and the ACT. The bill provides for greater flexibility, equity and accountability of collections conducted in the ACT.

From today, the government will allow at least 10 sitting days for members to become familiar with this bill before it is debated. My department will contact the organisations that have held a collection licence in the past year to invite them to comment on the bill. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Planning and Environment—Standing Committee Statement pursuant to standing order 246A

MRS DUNNE (10.37): Pursuant to standing order 246A, the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment has resolved that I make the following statement concerning the inquiry into renewable energy and sustainability referred to the committee on 11 April 2002.

The committee has been asked to inquire into and report on options for renewable energy strategies for the ACT with particular reference to the feasibility of options for increasing the proportion of renewable energy consumed in the ACT using existing or emerging technologies, such as solar, wind, mini-hydro, biomass and geothermal, from facilities in the ACT region.

In addition to specific technologies, the committee has been asked to report on:

- the feasibility of renewable energy sources providing the territory's energy needs;
- the appropriateness of setting targets for renewable energy use; and
- any other strategies to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels in the ACT.

The committee is currently considering matters that will become the subject of a series of reports to the Assembly relating to recommendations for renewable and sustainable energy strategies in the ACT. The committee is hopeful that these recommendations will be accepted and will encourage the ACT to use sustainable energy resources. One of the committee's first initiatives relates to the long-term use of photovoltaic cells to generate energy from sunlight.

The Commonwealth government, through the Australian Greenhouse Office, funds a \$31 million Photovoltaic Rebate Program, known as the PVRP. The program provides financial assistance to owner occupied households whose properties are not connected to the electricity grid and who install stand-alone power systems incorporating renewable

energy components. The PVRP is also applicable for installation on grid-connected households.

The rebate, which is not means tested, is available on a one rebate per property/principal place of residence basis to applicants who satisfy the conditions for both new systems and upgrades to existing systems. Those applicants are eligible for 75 per cent of the cost of the renewable energy and related components of a remote power supply system and \$5 per peak watt of new photovoltaic cells, or solar panels, capped at \$7,500. This amount is reduced to \$2.50 per peak watt of new installed photovoltaic cells for existing systems, capped at \$2,500.

The rebate does not apply to investment properties; weekenders and holiday properties; caravans, mobile homes and boats; non-owner occupied caretaker and staff residences; or power supplied for business purposes. However, the committee believes that this program could return significant benefit to Canberra residents and be a continuing effective source of renewable energy in the ACT.

The committee understands that there is a strong possibility that the Commonwealth government will be terminating this program in its forthcoming 2003-04 budget. The committee feels that such a program should be retained as part of the renewable energy action agenda. At its meeting on 21 February 2003, the committee agreed that we request the federal government to retain the photovoltaic rebate in the 2003-04 budget. The committee believes that such communication should be on a government-to-government basis.

On 3 March the committee determined that I, as chair, should make a statement to the Assembly on this matter, pursuant to standing order 246A, and then seek leave to move a motion requesting that the ACT Minister for the Environment write to the federal government, specifically the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, and the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Mr Ian McFarlane, seeking agreement that the Photovoltaic Rebate Program be retained in the 2003-04 Commonwealth government budget.

I seek leave to move a motion concerning the Photovoltaic Rebate Program.

Leave granted.

MRS DUNNE: I move:

That this Assembly requests the Minister for Environment to write to the Federal Government, specifically the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, seeking their support for the Photovoltaic Rebate Program being retained in the 2003-2004 Commonwealth Budget.

I do not feel that I need to speak further to the motion, except to say that this is an important element in a wide-ranging suite of issues that should be addressed in terms of renewable energy. I have already signalled to the Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment that we would be making the statement today and would encourage the house to agree to the motion.

MR STANHOPE (Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Community Affairs and Minister for the Environment) (10.42): Mr Speaker, this motion raises an important issue in relation to the federal government's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and this government is happy to support it.

Photovoltaic systems generate electricity directly from the sun with no greenhouse gas emissions. They can be used as stand-alone systems with battery back-up in remote areas, or as grid-connected systems in urban areas. Photovoltaic systems are a commendable development in the use of alternative energy sources for electricity generation.

However, a number of issues have been recognised at this stage in relation to them—namely, the industry is still in a developmental phase and economies of scale are not in place. Consequently, PVs are expensive, there is a long cost recovery period and installations are generally undertaken on environmental rather than economic grounds. A rebate scheme is biased towards the upper socio-economic group in urban areas because of the cost involved and, in cost-benefit terms, the national Photovoltaic Rebate Program is an expensive greenhouse gas reduction measure.

Having said that, and noting that PVs are expensive—I think Mrs Dunne averred this—there is a relatively long cost recovery period. It costs between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to install a domestic PV system, and it takes approximately 25 years to pay back the PV system through energy savings.

While the attractions are therefore limited in urban situations in economic terms it can be a sound proposition in remote rural areas where a grid connection can involve a similar cost. PV systems are attractive on environmental grounds, as they generate no greenhouse gas emissions when operating in solar mode.

In the year 2000 the Commonwealth initiated a four-year national Photovoltaic Rebate Program to subsidise the cost of installing PV systems in homes and community-use buildings. The program offers a rebate of up to \$7,500 for householders and up to \$10,000 for community-use buildings. It is to be noted that the ACT government and the Master Builders Association are signatories to an agreement with the Commonwealth to administer the national Photovoltaic Rebate Program here in the ACT.

Participation in the program has been low in the ACT, with only 21 installations to date, including the Campbell High School. In other states there has been more scope for the installation of off-grid systems in rural areas, and the uptake has been much higher.

As Mrs Dunne indicated, the Commonwealth advised in February 2003 that the budget for the program is under stress and that a monthly cap of \$7,500 has been placed on subsidies to the ACT. Of course, a cap at \$7,500 would allow for one domestic installation subsidy per month, but that equates to the current demand for the rebate scheme here in the ACT in any event.

Abandonment of the national Photovoltaic Rebate Program by the Commonwealth would, however, be a serious and retrograde step. The Commonwealth has a very important leadership role to advance Australia's fledgling solar energy industry. Our

abundance of sunshine gives us a natural advantage, and the economic and environmental benefits are potentially huge.

The Photovoltaic Rebate Program is an expensive measure for the greenhouse gas reductions obtained. However, the stimulation it provides to the Australian PV industry is very important for its further development. In fact, it is vital to the further development of the industry, which has the potential to create thousands of new jobs and provide export dollars, as well as having an impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

For all those reasons, the government is happy to support this motion, and I am more than happy to write to the federal government in the terms of the motion, as moved by Mrs Dunne, to ensure that funding for the program is retained in 2003-04.

MS TUCKER (10.46): The Greens will also be supporting this motion. It is one way of addressing the lack of pricing signals that currently exists in Australia in terms of activities that impact on the environment—in this case, energy sources.

It was a terrible and critical wasted opportunity that the federal government brought in the goods and services tax at the time that it did, when we had the opportunity to look at how we could use economic instruments such as the tax system to have an impact on economic activity in terms of its impact on the environment.

Because we saw that critical failure of the federal government and its supporters at the time, we now have to look very seriously at questions of rebates, so that we can get renewable energy supported. Of course, if full costing were done of the dirty energy sources, they would be extremely expensive.

But as the way our system works at the moment is so unrelated to full costing or environmental or social impact, it is obviously cheaper to use the most polluting sources of energy. So, the rebates are a sort of catch-up. It is important to assist in some way to get the renewable energy systems and sources used in our country. In fact, it is an absolute fundamental responsibility that we do that. I support this motion.

MS DUNDAS (10.48): I am glad that the Assembly has deemed it right to support this motion today. I know it has come on in a rather rushed way, but the committee decided that this was a matter of urgency. The federal budget is being developed now, and it is important that we remind the federal government of the need for environmental measures to be part of their budget process.

There is much work being done in the areas of renewable energy and sustainability, and there are great cost implications attached to those because of the new technologies. Also, there is an unwillingness at the heart of governments and industry to truly look at the future impact of what they are doing and see the long-term benefits of transferring to more environmentally sustainable forms of production.

Hopefully, by accepting this motion today we will make quite clear to the federal government that we are committed to a sustainable future and that the rebate program for photovoltaic cells is just one part of that. We will continue to work to put forward ideas and come up with solutions as to how industry operates at the moment—and how the

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ACT operates at the moment—until we have progressed further in renewable energy and sustainability.

Motion (by **Mrs Dunne**) agreed to.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Government response to report No 4

MR QUINLAN (Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism and Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming) (10.49): Mr Speaker, in the interests of getting the ducks in a row, I now present the following paper:

Public Accounts—Committee—Report No. 4—*Appropriation Bill 2002-2003*
(No 2) (presented 4 March 2003—Government response.

I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

When the standing committee's report was brought down, I thanked the committee for the expeditious way they conducted their hearing and put together their report. I would just make a couple of comments.

Recommendation No 2, which asks that quarterly financial statements for the next five quarters include, as a discrete item, expenditures related to bushfires and the amounts recouped from other sources. That might not be that easy, but it will be necessary for insurance purposes—for claiming against the national disaster recovery arrangements—to keep separate costs, anyway.

The government will certainly commit, if not to showing the items as discrete items in the expenditures, to providing the information on what costs have been incurred as a direct result of the bushfires and, of course, what moneys can be recouped via the various avenues that are available to us.

Recommendation 3 is that the government bring forward a statement on the risk management strategies adopted in agencies such as the Emergency Services Bureau and the hospitals. Of course, it will be necessary for us to review our risk management strategies and to put them together in a very cohesive manner if we want to be insured beyond this financial year. Quite clearly, a major task faces the ACT in replacing the insurance cover so that it stands us in good stead.

I have a concern at the emergence of 20-20 hindsight that was so evident yesterday, as the opposition sought to tread the fine line between making politics out of the bushfire, appearing concerned and wanting to just examine things for the use of the future.

It must be frustrating for the opposition to find itself in the position, where it had been in government for seven years and this government has been in place for less than one, to have to be so careful in examining how structures and procedures were put together. I am happy to say that there is a danger for the opposition of being seen as trying to make

political capital out of the bushfires. Frankly, from a purely political point of view, I hope you keep doing it, because I think you are on a loser.

I thank the committee for their support for the appropriation bill and the expeditious way they were able to carry out what was a reasonably broad-ranging hearing on a bill that had some fairly obvious lines in it, but nevertheless needed the process. I fully believe in the estimates process. Thank you to the committee.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Tucker**) adjourned to a later hour.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Appropriation Bill 2002-2003 (No 2)

[Cognate paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report No 4—Appropriation Bill 2002-2003 (No 2) (*presented 4 March 2003*)—Government response]

Debate resumed from 20 February 2003 on motion by **Mr Quinlan**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR SMYTH (Leader of the Opposition) (10.55): Mr Speaker, the opposition understands that public expenditure is necessary to cope with the effects of the bushfires on people and property as a result of the disastrous day in January. There is no question about that, no matter how much the Chief Minister tries to misconstrue and misrepresent the position of the opposition.

Our concern is about the way in which the government is handling the recovery process. The government's inability is already reflected in its poor setting-up of the inquiry. All it has done so far is put people offside by denying them legal protection—which I now understand they are going to reverse—if they come forward with information that may be critical of what was done, or what was not done, in the period leading up to the fires, during the fires and immediately afterwards.

All the government has succeeded in doing is to make itself look secretive, defensive and angry at people who dare to question it. No wonder the people of Canberra feel surprised and short-changed; no wonder they are starting to mistrust this Chief Minister.

The government is seeking the approval of the Assembly to spend some \$17.3 million but has not been able to inform the Assembly about the source of those funds. It wants to spend but does not know where the money is coming from. That reminds us of the old adage: Labor can't manage money.

During the PAC hearings, we asked the government how the appropriation bill was to be funded, but the government did not know. As the PAC report says, when the government was asked if it had examined alternatives for funding the bushfire emergency, it appeared that such an exercise had not been carried out. As the report says:

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The committee is surprised that no exercise seems to have been undertaken to identify areas where expenditure might have been deferred or existing programs delayed or reduced in scope.

If this government had any idea of how to manage its finances, it would already have informed the Assembly how the \$17.3 million is to be funded. Will the government be drawing down its cash reserves? Will it be from additional borrowings? Will there be a new tax and, if so, on whom and how much? These questions should already have been explained by the government if it had any idea of what it was doing.

To make matters worse, the government is not interested in putting in place any performance measures, so how will we know if the purposes of spending the \$17.3 million have been achieved? We can have no confidence in this government.

But the money does need to be spent, and an important part of the recovery process is to ensure that the activities of the government—both the ongoing activities and those directly related to recovery from the bushfires—are able to continue and be properly funded. That is the purpose of this bill.

The opposition supports the bill as an effective first response to funding all the activities associated with the bushfires—to the extent that we can estimate some costs at this point. Members will recall that the Public Accounts Committee conducted an inquiry into this bill and that the outcome of the inquiry was that we recommended that the bill be passed. I thank the minister for his quick response to the bill.

I am pleased that recommendation 2 has been accepted. I understand the difficulties that there will be in pulling together the various elements that try and give us a bottom line cost on the fires, and we look forward to the government's efforts to make that occur.

The government might have missed the point in its response to recommendation 3. It is about the day-to-day risk management, as well as disaster risk management, inside the various departments. Under the Insurance Authority Act, the Insurance Authority is charged with providing advice on risk management to the departments. I would urge the departments to take up that advice, as the authority is very capable of providing it.

The opposition has no particular issue with the estimates of the expenditure that are included in the bill, although we will be keeping a watching brief on all the expenditure and related matters from this point. We will also be considering very carefully the responses the PAC has received to date, and is yet to receive, to the questions that have been asked of departments and agencies. If there is a requirement to delve further into any matters, we will certainly do that.

We must acknowledge as well that, while this bill seeks to appropriate more than \$17 million to pay for various of the costs incurred in responding to the disaster, there will be recoveries of costs from other sources. These two flows of funds need to be considered together.

It is still relatively early days in determining the extent of recoveries from such sources as the federal government's natural disaster relief arrangements and the insurance

policies that the ACT has in place. I am optimistic that, given goodwill—the Treasurer spoke about the prevailing goodwill to date yesterday—discussions on these matters and a proper understanding of the nature of the disaster and its consequences, we as a territory will achieve a fair outcome in terms of recoveries.

I would emphasise in this context, however, that care needs to be given to identifying potential sources of recovery of costs. I would suggest that there is some confusion to this point about the potential for recouping costs under the natural disaster relief arrangements. There has been much focus on the application of a formula that prescribes the quantum of funds to which the ACT may be entitled. But there has been virtually no consideration of the provision under which costs associated with “other acts of relief and restoration” might be recovered.

In addition, I believe there are options that can be explored with the New South Wales government, in particular, with respect to collaboration on understanding what happened before, during and after the disaster and on appropriate arrangements for sharing the costs associated with the bushfires. But I remain to be convinced that there is a need for a specific policy response to raise additional revenue to cover the costs of the disaster—that is, a fire tax. But that is a matter that I am sure we will all keep an eye on.

The ACT has experienced the greatest disaster imaginable in recent weeks and we, as a community, are still reeling—and will be for some time—from this event. This appropriation bill is one demonstration of the way in which the community as a whole, in this case through its government, is responding to the disaster.

While the opposition supports this bill, I do have some concerns that the bushfire crisis will become a kind of catch-all clause for unfortunate budget circumstances. As we all know, the December quarterly reports forecast a significant operating loss for this financial year. This was before the fires of 18 January.

As the bushfires cannot be blamed for the downturn in the economy, the Treasurer has returned to his old stand-by, superannuation. However, that excuse is also wearing thin. I understand that Treasury has embarked on a less aggressive superannuation strategy, but the loss in asset value is continuing despite that.

Therefore, it is pretty clear that the Treasurer will need a new scapegoat for his mismanagement of the territory accounts. By hook or by crook, regardless of the NDRA and the Prime Minister’s commitment, and regardless of possibly the best insurance policy ever held, I think the bushfires will end up being the economic villain. I thank Mr Quinlan for his advice earlier about being very careful in treading the thin political line. Perhaps he should listen to his own advice about the potential way in which the bushfire crisis is being used—with the economy.

The possibility of a fire levy has again been raised in the *Canberra Times* today. I put the house on notice that the only reason for a fire levy to be introduced by the government is to cover a budget with a gaping hole in it. That would be a gaping hole caused by the government’s mismanagement, not by the fire crisis of January.

The government’s attempts to use the bushfire tragedy to cover its economic mismanagement is really beyond the pale. It is exploitation of the worst kind. How can

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we have faith in the recovery and the government if the government is going to exploit the fires to conceal its own mismanagement?

The appropriation bill is an appropriate first step. I am thankful that the Treasurer will detail over time how the bottom line of the impact of the fires will be determined, and we look forward to seeing those progress reports.

MR SPEAKER: I remind members that the debate is a cognate debate in relation to the bill before the house and the motion that the Assembly take note of the paper tabled by Mr Quinlan, which was a government response to the estimates committee report.

MS DUNDAS (11.04): The ACT Democrats will be supporting this appropriation bill. We have been informed that the expenditure under this appropriation bill represents the items identified to date that are unlikely to be recoverable under our insurance policies, although part of this expenditure will be recoverable through the national disaster relief arrangements. I accept the government's assertion that they will try to recover as much as possible from the Commonwealth.

At this point, I would like to make a brief comment on how the situation relating to the bushfires has progressed through this Assembly. I have always been keen to use this chamber as a forum for constructive debate to move the community forward in a cohesive way and one in which the diverse views of the community can be put forward and debated openly, in the spirit of goodwill.

I recognise that the government has been under a lot of pressure recently. The bushfire disaster struck us hard and fast and shook everybody to the core. I recognise that some very good work has been done through the government and through the public service in the ACT, and they have worked extremely well to bring together this first appropriation bill and the first stages of the disaster relief program.

But we need to remember that this is a forum for constructive debate. I am disappointed that the government sees this Assembly as just criticising them; that is not my aim at all. I hope that, with the support for this appropriation bill today and further discussion of the inquiries, we can allay the government's fears that we are trying to bring them down. We are just trying to work together constructively as we deal with the aftermath of January 18.

I note that the Public Accounts Committee, in their report to this Assembly, has commended the government for preparing a supplementary appropriation, rather than using Treasurer's Advance. The committee also suggested that the government should have sought to cut existing programs to cover the unforeseen costs. On both accounts I cannot agree with the committee.

The Treasurer's Advance is meant to cover unforeseen expenditure, and the cost of the bushfires would seem to fall squarely into this category. I agree that it would not have been prudent to completely exhaust the Treasurer's Advance four months from the end of the financial year, but I think that at least some of this expenditure we are debating today could have been drawn from the advance.

It concerns me that the government might fully expend the remainder of the advance on other items that are actually clearly foreseen—we have had the debate on the multi-unit fire safety upgrades. There are also concerns about the rest of the Treasurer's Advance being expended in this financial year, which was part of those debates.

It is important that the government is aware of that and that, if further issues arise—and we know that further amounts of expenditure will be needed to meet the cost of the bushfires to this community—Treasurer's Advance should be expended in the year that it is drawn down on. I think it would have been most appropriate to stick to planned expenditure under the budget and minimise the impact on the budget bottom line by drawing non-recoverable expenditure from the Treasurer's Advance. I note that \$250,000 is allocated under this bill for the non-urban strategic development study. I find it odd that such a large sum of money is required, considering that a spatial plan for Canberra is already well under way and that there is a pool of money sitting in PALM working on that.

But of greater concern is the fact that the community appear to be a bit confused as to which inquiry or review they should approach to give the evidence that they have. The large overlap between the coronial inquiry and other government inquiries has confused people. The community have now also been confused about the status of the spatial plan since the non-urban strategic study was announced, and it would be helpful if we had a greater explanation of how these different processes will interact.

I also endorse the comments of the Public Accounts Committee relating to the cost of the McLeod inquiry. It does seem odd that Mr McLeod was not consulted on the likely scope of his inquiry before an estimate was made of the likely cost of the exercise. I hope that the size of the allocation does not limit Mr McLeod's ability to conduct a full and effective investigation in the time that he has.

I will conclude by touching on the longer term impacts of the fires. I am told that the impact of a natural disaster such as the one we have experienced is usually reflected in at least three budgets following the event. In terms of capital losses, I have no doubt that this will be true. But I hope that the government keeps in mind that the psychological impact of the fires may go on much longer for some people and that spending on publicly funded counselling and other support services may need to be higher for more than just three years.

Our community mental health resources were already overstretched before these fires, and we will need to see a significant budget funding increase for these services that lasts well beyond the initial response phase that is covered by the supplementary appropriation bill, if our community is able to heal from the events of January 18.

MR CORBELL (Minister for Health and Minister for Planning) (11.11): Mr Speaker, as I have not had an opportunity previously, I would like to outline in a little more detail the requirements that have driven the government to undertake this appropriation and also the specific issues relating to my portfolio responsibilities of health, planning and transport.

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In health, planning and transport a significant level of activity has occurred as a result of the fires. It is difficult to fully explain the extent of that to people outside the government process, but I can assure members that the response to the 18 January event is wide ranging and consumes an enormous amount of activity, time and energy right across the ACT government service.

That is as one would expect, given the magnitude of the event, with over 500 homes destroyed and with the social and environmental impacts as well as impacts on other physical infrastructure. It is a significant event that is bringing out the best in the ACT service but is also putting additional demands on it. That means additional resources are needed.

Part of the reason I want to contribute to this debate is the assertion from Mr Smyth that people cannot have confidence in the response and in the recovery process. I want to refute that strongly because all the evidence is to the contrary.

Tomorrow we will see the first concrete board for the first rebuild of a house. Seven weeks after the events of 18 January, the first house is on its way to being rebuilt tomorrow. That is a strong indicator of the co-ordination and the streamlining of processes that the government has put in place to enable the physical recovery to occur in a timely way. It points to the capacity of the ACT government service and the leadership the government has given in bringing together the structures needed to deliver those outcomes.

Let me highlight the planning side of things, where a series of exercises have had to come into effect. But first I would like to highlight the extent of the task because it is significant. The most recent advice is that there are a total of 513 totally destroyed or uninhabitable properties in both the urban and the rural areas. An additional 133 properties have been assessed as having damage to the main dwelling or to outbuildings, including garages and sheds.

Those are the most recent figures. This information has been difficult to get accurate, particularly in rural areas. The addressing of rural areas has been recorded differently on each occasion of inspection, and we are going to have to address that issue in and of itself.

Building, electrical and plumbing control inspectors have been centrally involved in assessing the level of damage, and the complete assessment now indicates 513 dwellings totally destroyed or uninhabitable and a further 133 assessed as having damage to the main dwelling or to outbuildings.

That is a very significant level of damage, and I know members fully appreciate that. But the response has been a significant one as well, and the streamlining of processes has been very wide ranging. The reason I highlight this is that I want to put a lie to the assertion from the opposition that we need to create a whole new bureaucratic structure to address the issue of bushfire recovery, which is the intent of the bill Mrs Dunne tabled yesterday.

PALM have done an enormous amount of work in education, in the provision of information and in the streamlining of the application process. In relation to the provision of information, PALM has established a design advisory service operating out of the community recovery centre in Lyons.

That service has been so popular that its hours have had to be extended and it is now operating throughout the week, as well as on weekends. It is a free service, by appointment. People who have lost their homes can come to the service and get information on the technical requirements they need to be conscious of in rebuilding and the design issues that they might like to take account of, particularly energy efficiency and water efficiency measures.

The design advisory service is staffed both by the qualified technical staff from PALM—in the building, electrical and plumbing control area as well as the people on the development approval side of things—and by a qualified architect, who has very kindly been supplied on a roster basis by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The service has been very successful.

In addition to that, the government has issued for free over 800 sets of building plans—plans of houses that have been destroyed. We hold all building plans here in the ACT, and they are normally required for a fee. They have been issued free of charge to anyone who has lost their home, and that has also been a significant response.

In addition to that, there has been a streamlining of the development application process. There are three categories that members should be conscious of. The first is where people are seeking to rebuild largely in accordance with previously approved plans. The second is where they are seeking to rebuild without significant addition to the building height, the number of dwellings or the total floor area—that is to give that flexibility. The third is for a redevelopment beyond the scope of that previous category—for example, if people are building a substantially larger dwelling, are building on significantly larger floor space or want to build more than one dwelling. The planning approval process has been put in place to address each of these categories.

For category 1—that is, rebuilding essentially in line with the previously approved plans—no development application is required. We have waived the requirement for a DA, which means that people can now progress straight to the building plan stage and get on with rebuilding. That is a significant streamlining of the process for people there.

In relation to category 2—that is, rebuilding with some, but not major, modification—public consultation processes have been waived unless people are building closer to side or rear boundaries than where the house previously stood. Where there is no detrimental impact because there is no impingement on the setbacks, public consultation has been waived. That is a significant streamlining of process.

Also, rather than have the high quality sustainable design process as a mandatory process, it has been more advisory and guidance based to try and get better outcomes, while still streamlining the process. That has been done in relation to category 2 dwellings.

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For category 3, where people are wanting to rebuild on a much larger basis or want more than one dwelling, the normal requirements would continue to apply. That is about protecting community and neighbourhood amenity as well as making sure we get a good process for what is essentially an entirely new and different dwelling or building.

Those issues have been substantially addressed in the streamlining of that process. The response of PALM staff in the development management and territory planning branches and in building, electrical and plumbing control has been outstanding.

There has also been a significant waiving of fees, which has meant that a whole series of costs have essentially been taken out of the equation when it comes to reconstruction. I have set the fee level at zero for a series of development and building approval fees. There are nil fees for any costs relating to the planning approval and certification requirements, including the fee for a development application, the building levy, hydraulic fees, plan registrations, access to house plans, survey data and relevant certificates, such as the certificate of occupancy.

All of those fees have been waived for people seeking to rebuild—a saving of about \$1,500 on fees. That is not insignificant when you look at the cost of demolition, which might not always be fully included in the insurance policy. It is certainly important in the context of having money to buy all the other things you will need for replacing contents.

So, there has been a significant response in that regard as well. The assertion that we can have no confidence in this recovery process is, quite frankly without foundation. Further, staff resourcing in PALM has been improved, There is clearly going to be more work coming in: an additional 500 applications are coming in.

It is worth pointing out that the median turnaround time for approval of a single dwelling in the ACT is one to two days, so the development approval time is not the most time-consuming process when it comes to the rebuild. What is more time consuming is getting the demolition in, getting all the rubble carted away and simply doing the design—people working out what it is they want to build.

The actual approval time is good, but to address that further the government has sought and is receiving assistance from PlanningNSW. Planning NSW have offered staff and other resources to assist with development approval. That is of some assistance to us, although people from PlanningNSW do not always have the relevant knowledge of our Land Act and our building regulations, which is needed. Nevertheless, where possible we are taking that assistance into account.

Further, there are the broader strategic issues that Planning and Land Management are having to address. These are already being addressed through the spatial plan and the identification of potential areas for future urban growth, but there are also the urban interface issues and the management of non-urban land.

I would like to respond to the comments Ms Dundas made in this regard, when she highlighted her view that there is confusion between the role of the non-urban land study and the spatial plan work. It is a straightforward process, and I am happy to explain it.

Non-urban land is land outside the parts of the territory that have been potentially identified for future metropolitan growth—basically, areas where the city is not going to be. These areas were never anticipated to be studied in any detail as a result of the spatial planning process. They are in rural areas, they are in plantation areas and they were not anticipated to be part of the spatial planning process.

The process the Chief Minister has commissioned, whereby we will have a non-urban land study that looks at future uses—not in a development sense but in a future land use sense—of, say, plantation areas outside the immediate metropolitan area, rural lands, other reserve type lands and river corridors, and so on. Those are the terms of reference outlined in that study. That is the purpose of that piece of work, and it is now needed, given that that amount of land has been severely ravaged by the recent fire events.

The spatial plan will look at the potential metropolitan growth of the city—the physical aspect of how the city will grow. Obviously, that includes consideration of areas such as Stromlo. Stromlo will be considered in the context of the spatial plan, and PALM will also have management of the urban interface because that is essentially a metropolitan issue. That work will be done through PALM as well. The distinction is very clear.

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to significantly change the way our city grows and develops in the future because of this fire event. (*Extension of time granted*). So, PALM will also be addressing the urban interface issues. These are very complex issues, and I do not think anyone could have anticipated the magnitude of the task before 18 January.

But the opportunity is there now for a once in a lifetime reassessment of the potential future use of this land. The decisions we take in the next 6 to 12 months will have an impact for the next 30 to 50 years, at a minimum, particularly on the potential alternative use of pine plantations, the re-establishment, if at all, of a pine plantation industry in the ACT and its establishment as an alternative to urban forest as part of the redevelopment of areas like Stromlo. These are all issues that have very long-term time frames.

The government has put the framework in place to address these issues. We are not going to be knee-jerk, and we are not going to be shallow in our assessment of these matters. They are complex, they are detailed and they will be done in a timely way. So the suggestion that the government does not have a strategy for responding to this and that people can have no confidence in the recovery—which is the assertion from Mr Smyth—is simply false.

I will now turn to some of the other issues in planning, in particular, bushfire-prone areas. There has been a lot of discussion of the assessment of bushfire-prone areas. It is important to note that the declaration of a bushfire-prone area does not mean the creation of new building standards; it means that the requirement for a higher level of building standard, as agreed under the Building Code of Australia, comes into effect for those suburbs.

A variety of graduations of the building standards are required, depending on the level of risk that is assessed. It is certainly possible for us to declare bushfire-prone areas in the

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ACT. The issue is whether or not that will in itself mean our suburbs are safer. The issue that has to be addressed is: will it make our suburbs safer?

The initial assessment has indicated, certainly to me, that a declaration of bushfire-prone areas in and of itself will not do a lot to make our suburbs safer in the short to medium term. What will determine that is how we manage the urban interface—the land around our suburbs—what sort of plantings occur there and what sort of land management practices are in place in the area of land immediately adjacent to our suburbs. I think that is well worth the consideration, and it is the work the government is doing now.

Dr Phil Cheney, one of Australia's leading bushfire experts, in a recent *Catalyst* program on the ABC about the bushfire event, highlighted that the setback from the forest areas adjacent to Warragamba Avenue in Duffy to the houses was more than the Australian standard. So the level of separation was more than the existing standard. We need to keep these issues in mind and to be even more cautious than we have been to date. These are matters that PALM will manage through its examination of bushfire-prone areas.

I will now turn to the response of ACT Health, both from a public hospital perspective and from a mental health perspective, which is the ongoing challenge thrust in our faces. In the immediate response, Canberra Hospital had 312 presentations and 69 admissions over the period 18 January to 27 January.

That does not include the small number of patients that had to be transferred to Sydney because of the serious nature of their injuries, particularly burns. The mother and daughter in Concorde Hospital are in a serious but stable condition in the intensive care unit, and the burns patient in the Royal North Shore Hospital is also in a satisfactory condition. The extent of their injuries has been serious, but they are all recovering well.

The pressure on the Canberra Hospital was significant. They initiated their disaster response planning, and the disaster response planning worked well—even with the very serious issues they were faced with. Loss of power to non-essential equipment occurred at the peak of the emergency, and the computer system also failed at a crucial time during the emergency, so records management had to be managed manually.

Even with that, the Canberra Hospital performed outstandingly. It had its highest ever level of activity in accident and emergency during the bushfire crisis, and its response was very good.

But that puts pressure on other parts of the health system that have to be taken account of in the budget. It meant, for instance, that 11 people had to be deferred from the elective surgery waiting list in response to the disaster. Everyone appreciates that people in a disaster have priority, but that has an impact on other parts of our system and has to be taken account of in the financing. That is one of the issues addressed in the appropriation bill today.

There was a range of other serious public health issues. The most immediate and ongoing impact has been on the Health Protection Service in Holder. The Health Protection Service lost a significant part of its laboratories—

MR SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

MR CORBELL: I will conclude my comments on that point, Mr Speaker, and continue in the detail stage.

MR SPEAKER: Before I call Mr Stefaniak, I would like to welcome students and teachers from Sacred Heart Primary School, Pearce.

MR STEFANIAK (11.34): Mr Speaker, I turn firstly to one of my portfolio areas that naturally was required to have some money spent—and that is Justice and Community Safety. I note that the supplementary appropriation to the Department of Justice and Community Safety provides for close on \$2 million—\$1.933 million as a government payment of output. That is made up of \$1.783 million immediate response to the January bushfires for such things as the operational costs associated with plant hire, consumables, overtime and helicopter hire. That is in addition to the \$1 million Treasurer's advance.

MR SPEAKER: Mr Stefaniak, order! Order, members! We are having some difficulty with the sound system. It is important to keep the conversation right down, and for members to speak into the microphone. I understand some repairs are being attempted as we speak, and more work will be conducted over the lunchtime period. For the moment, please speak up and speak into the microphone—and would other members keep their conversations down.

MR STEFANIAK: Thank you, Mr Speaker—I hope that was recorded.

MR SPEAKER: That means you, Mr Quinlan.

MR STEFANIAK: The other part was the bushfire inquest—an initial payment of \$.15 million. I think yesterday the Chief Minister said that could be anywhere between \$1 million and \$2 million. When one looks at several other large inquests, that is probably an accurate summation—and this will obviously cost more. Those are quite logical amounts, to my mind.

Ms Dundas and my colleague, Mr Smyth, have made some very good points in relation to the Treasurer's advance. The Treasurer's advance is there, of course, for unforeseen emergencies. I think that, in this instance, some of this appropriation could quite properly have been spent from the Treasurer's advance.

I take Ms Dundas's point that you need to be prudent—that you need to keep some moneys there—and that is true. I think that, to start with, the Treasurer's advance for this financial year was some \$21 million, which is 1 per cent of the total ACT budget.

I note that, as at 24 January, we still have half. With some amounts being spent immediately after the bushfires, we have some \$17.1 million remaining. As it is now March, we have only four months left. I believe the Treasurer could have been prudent in keeping, as at 24 January, say \$10 million in the Treasurer's advance, but expending some more moneys from that. That would be an extra \$7 million, by my suggestion, for the obvious one-offs that are needed and appropriated in this bill.

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My colleague, Mr Smyth, who is our shadow Treasurer, has made a number of points regarding moneys that will be available to the territory, as a result of this dreadful disaster, from other sources. I refer to moneys available from the Commonwealth and moneys that will come from our insurance policy which the previous government prudently went into. This means a lesser burden for the taxpayers of the territory. Indeed, I think I recall a figure being bandied about that it could well be that we are up for about \$20 million expenditure, in what we have to do. It may be a little more than that, but it may not necessarily be quite as big a disaster, financially, as the government would have us believe.

I am delighted to hear that the recovery is going so well. The opposition has been very supportive of the magnificent efforts of the Canberra community, which continue with various fundraisers—one of which some of us are going to tonight—and which will continue, to assist the bushfire victims.

MR SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr Stefaniak. Members, could I have some order in the gallery, please? Mr Hargreaves.

MR STEFANIAK: As I was saying, it may not necessarily be the financial disaster the government would have us believe. It would certainly be wrong for the government to hide behind this disaster any incompetence, or inability on its part to manage a budget and use this as an excuse to bring down some sort of horror budget—or not do the task they are elected to do.

It is most important that they look very closely at their budget process now—that budget is to be brought down in May, which is not too far into the distant future—and not use this as a means of putting off decisions they should make.

There are some very important decisions facing this territory. The issue of a Canberra jail is one issue the government seems to be using this crisis as a way of avoiding is. I do not think it is right for us to put that off—into the never, never, if, basket. I believe it is something that needs addressing.

There are a number of other important issues that will need addressing in this budget which I do not think it is right to put off. I would urge the Treasurer not to try to hide behind this as some sort of excuse, but to exhaust all means to ensure that the government lives up to the expectations on which it was elected.

One thing that worries me, and which worries the opposition, is talk of a fire levy or a fire tax. If that is not necessary, I believe it would be a very bad step for the government to take. Those things, in a fairly delicate economy like that of Canberra, can have an adverse affect on a number of areas. They can have an adverse affect on business. Anything that slows down business slows down investment, and makes it very hard to find employment opportunities. Employment opportunities decrease and the number of unemployed increases. So I think the treasurer needs to be very careful of taking any steps that will affect the economy of this territory in an adverse way.

With those remarks, Mr Speaker, the opposition, as my colleague Mr Smyth has said, will be supporting this appropriation bill. However, we will be closely monitoring what

money is spent and exactly what happens as far as the Treasurer getting moneys, which are available to the ACT through various sources, for this disaster is concerned.

MR SPEAKER: Members, I again call for order in the gallery. Mrs Cross and Mrs Burke, we are having difficulty with the sound recording system. It would be helpful if you maintain some order in the gallery.

MS TUCKER (11.41): I will quickly comment on the government's response to the Public Accounts Committee report. It seems to me to be a reasonable response from the government. I agree with Mr Smyth that, in recommendation 3, the government response does not actually address the point we were making. My concern is that it has not been responded to. This has been raised with me by members of the community, including professionals—that is the question of how well the hospital, in particular, can cope with an emergency.

I understand Mr Quinlan's response—that you cannot have extra money every single year, in case something happens. Whilst that is a sensible response, I think it is reasonable to ask, "How does the hospital cope in an emergency? Have you done an assessment of that?" I am sure that will happen in the inquiries. I am hoping that, in the McLeod inquiry in particular, there will be submissions put in about that. The concern that has been raised with me by a couple of people is that there was really no fat there at all, and that that was a problem. Anyway, we can see what comes out of the inquiry on that.

The Greens will be supporting this appropriation—and I think it is good that it was in the form of an appropriation. The Treasurer's advance was used for some expenses, but it is a good, transparent, way to deal with the extra money that has been spent as a result of the fires.

On the revenue side, the opposition has made much about this being an excuse for government to cover poor management of the territory's finances. I would not take that position at this point in time. It is unclear as to what revenue we will be getting from insurance. There are ways in which we can monitor how the government spends funds, through the budget process and estimates. We will be able to keep track, as we always do, of what is happening in that area.

In response to a question raised by Ms Dundas about the committee's report, she was concerned that we were suggesting services should be cut. That certainly was not my intention in the questioning. Maybe that is not quite clear in the report—I am not sure. It says here that the committee was interested to discover when the government had examined alternatives to funding the emergency through an additional appropriation.

My sense of the questioning there was basically that we were interested to know the government's processes in dealing with this situation and looking at the money available. The report also says, "The committee is surprised that no exercise seems to have been undertaken to identify areas where expenditure might have been deferred, existing programs delayed, or reduced in scope." I understand Ms Dundas's concern, because it does sound as if we are saying "Cut programs." Personally, I was more interested in the process that occurred within government—to see how we would deal financially with the impact of the fire.

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Mr Corbell, in his comments, raised a couple of issues on which I wish to comment. He talked about the proclamation of bushfire-prone areas not necessarily being helpful, and said that the assessment he had been given so far was that they would not be. He quoted CSIRO scientist, Mr Chaney. I am aware that the Bushfire Council and the task group which looked at these issues made that recommendation. I am certainly open to hearing from Mr Corbell that that work has now been overtaken by other considerations of the questions—but I would like to see the work. If Mr Corbell is saying that those recommendations are not good any more, and that he has information to show why that is the case, then I am interested to see that work. I understood that those recommendations were informed by experts in the field.

That is all I wanted to make comment on at this point in time. We support the bill. We will see what happens with revenue that comes from insurance.

I will make one further comment. There appear to be mixed messages going to the community about what the impact of the fires will be on the finances of the territory. Mr Corbell can refute this if he so wishes. I was at a meeting on the weekend with the Save the Ridge group, which had raised the question of the financial impact of the fires with regard to building the road.

Apparently, Mr Corbell said at the time that this would be revenue neutral, but that is not what we are hearing now. This appropriation was allocated because insurance would not be covering everything. We know that—according to the government. So it will not be revenue neutral. We need to get clarity on what is being said to the community about the financial impact of these fires.

MR STANHOPE: (Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Community Affairs and Minister for the Environment) (11.47): I thank members of the Assembly for their support of this bill, their recognition of the steps the government has taken, and the appropriateness of those steps in responding to the major crisis which beset the community—a crisis which behoves us all to work collaboratively and not to forget that 500 Canberra families lost their homes, and essentially everything they owned, and that four Canberra families lost a loved one. The government has sought, from the outset, to respond to the pressing need—and it is a pressing need that continues.

That is the context in which we need to undertake this debate—that there are 500 families still grieving enormously around their losses; there are 500 families that require the continuing absolute and full support of this government and this community. We are providing that support. I sometimes think that, in the context of some of the debate we have had in this place over the past few days, people are already forgetting the fact that there are 500 families who are depending very much on this community taking these issues around their circumstances and around the recovery of the ACT forward, to ensure a full and absolute recovery. That is uppermost in our minds, and it is what drives all of our decisions in relation to this.

Turning to the expenditures in this additional appropriation bill and portfolios for which I am responsible, the major one is around the establishment and operations of a bushfire recovery taskforce. I note, from legislation introduced yesterday by the Liberal Party, that the Liberal Party would wish to see that taskforce dismissed, or sacked, and replaced

with a statutory authority. I believe it is a fairly significant reflection on Sandy Hollway, Rob De Castella, Terry Snow, and Maureen Caine that the Liberal Party do not think they are up to it and would like to see them essentially sacked and a statutory authority brought in to replace them. That is a real concern, but an issue over and above the discussion of these estimates, of course.

Mr Stefaniak: I believe the proposal was that they be the statutory authority.

MR STANHOPE: They are not available to be the statutory authority—the proposal is that they be sacked. It is a major concern that the Liberal Party thinks that Sandy Hollway, Terry Snow, Rob De Castella and Maureen Caine should be sacked and the taskforce disbanded. That is a major concern to me and is very reflective of the attitude the Liberal Party has taken generally to issues around the measures which have been put in place to respond to the bushfires.

The politics are emerging pretty savagely and sharply now. There is absolute determination to undermine the McLeod inquiry. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition was already claiming that Ron McLeod was engaged in a whitewash. Now we have the Liberal Party wanting to sack Sandy Hollway, Terry Snow, Rob De Castella and Maureen Caine from the taskforce, and have them replaced with something else.

It is getting a bit low down and personal over there. I guess that is reflected in almost everything coming from the Liberals these days. It is all about politics and positioning, and nothing to do with recovery—and I regret that. I regret the fact that they have felt the need to get that personal, to shoot those sharp slings and arrows, undermining Mr McLeod. Fancy suggesting that Ron McLeod, the immediate past ombudsman—a person of unparalleled integrity, capacity and professionalism—is engaged in a whitewash!

Mr Stefaniak: No-one is suggesting that, except you. That is nonsense.

Mrs Burke: That is atrocious, Chief Minister—retract that right now!

MR SPEAKER: Order, members!

MR STANHOPE: Look at yesterday's *Hansard*. That is what your leader said—that he is engaged in a whitewash.

Mr Quinlan: Greg didn't agree.

MR STANHOPE: That's right. Of all of you, the only one prepared to disown that claim was Mr Cornwell—the only one with integrity. He jumped up and said, "Look, he is not talking for me. I am not prepared to suggest that he is engaged in a whitewash."

We now have the next stage in the attack—the next stage in the petty politics. Let's sack the taskforce! They are not up to the job! In the context of this appropriation bill, the work of the taskforce is very significant.

Mr Stefaniak: I think you will find that the taskforce becomes the authority. Get your facts right.

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MR STANHOPE: No, you want to sack them. It is a matter of grave concern that you are prepared to be that personal, just for your own petty political purposes.

As I say, the majority of the funding relevant to my portfolio is the establishment and operation of the taskforce. Despite the views of the Liberals, the taskforce is operating extremely well—it has been wonderfully successful. It has enormous support within the community. From all the feedback I get, the taskforce is widely regarded as having done a sterling job, and it continues to do so. I speak not just in the context of the people who form the taskforce, but for all the supporting staff—the ACT public servants who are very much part and parcel of it.

As I have said before, and will say again, the great unsung heroes in relation to this catastrophe, and our recovery from it, have been the members of the ACT public service. The ACT public service has been magnificent in its response to the bushfires. They are now, and will probably continue to be, the unsung heroes of the bushfire recovery.

I want to acknowledge the enormous effort the ACT public service is applying in the recovery effort. Their performance has been outstanding. They are performing over and above the call of duty, or the demands of duty, to the point where a significant number of them have worked themselves so hard and so long that the strain and stress of the exercise is visible on their faces and in their bodies. I do not know how we are going to respond to that. It is a growing issue that so many of our public servants are working very hard. For the past six weeks, they have driven themselves to a point where they are potentially endangering their health.

We are seeking to respond to that issue. We are providing significant support to our public servants across the board. We are mindful of the fact that many of our public servants lost their homes, but are nevertheless dealing with the joint issues. I do not have an exact number, but around 100 of the destroyed homes were owned by ACT public servants. They are all at work. So there is a whole group of our own workers dealing with the devastation and loss but nevertheless continuing to work, in many instances, on the response to the bushfires. That is an outstanding effort by our public servants. I applaud them for that, and will continue to do so.

One issue covered in the appropriation bill is communications. One of the issues raised with the government, and with the taskforce in particular, over the past few weeks has been the need for us to ensure that the lines of communication are open—that all of the people affected by the bushfire are aware of what the government response is, what the community response has been, what services are available and what the future is.

We are very mindful of the need for communication to be as full as possible, complete and open. We need to ensure that everybody affected by the fire, and everybody who responded to the fire, is fully aware of all the initiatives being pursued, in order that there be no misunderstanding or confusion around the available support—and the government's response to the broad range of issues that we are pursuing.

The range of issues is broad and the issues are deeply complex. We have touched on that in this debate, to some extent. The complexity of some of the insurance and reinsurance

issues is enormous, in the context of book value or replacement value—and whether or not we have sufficient land, for instance, in relation to housing.

This is an issue Mr Wood has been assiduously pursuing. Some of the issues in relation to the replacement of public housing stock and land are enormously complex. In relation to some of the issues, there is no fast response concerning our capacity to go out and rebuild the 80 or 81 public houses which were destroyed. We are grappling with those issues.

In relation to other issues, there is one issue the government has been required to respond to quickly. This is an illustration that goes with the need for this appropriation bill, and cuts across some of the doubters in relation to the need for, or the appropriateness of, this response. In relation to, say, rural fencing, perhaps hundreds of kilometres of rural fencing has been destroyed, and we are responsible for some of the roadside fences. In some of our rural areas, we have had a problem with roving stock. That is one of the issues which has made it difficult for us to open some of the rural roads.

The insurance issues in relation to parts of that will not be resolved for some time. What do we do? Do we sit back and wait until we have clarified the nature of the insurance, the extent of the claim and the amount of the reimbursement, or do we help rural leaseholders rebuild the fences, get the stock back off the roads—allow the roads to be opened, allow life to return to some normality, allow those rural leaseholders to get on with their business? These are the difficult issues we face.

That is a good example of some of the issues we have faced in relation to some of the funding requirements. It is not black and white. There are some pre-emptive decisions that need to be taken but, nevertheless, we are very conscious of process.

My colleagues have covered-off issues of relevance to their portfolios. However, there are other issues for which we have sought appropriation, which I know members have expressed no issue with, but which are nevertheless important. It is vital that we have them there. Illustrated are issues around, for instance, the clean-up. To the extent that my colleague, Mr Quinlan, has been saying, “You know, we think it is around \$20 million, but it could go up”, there is every real expectation that it will go up.

At the end of the day, when we are through the initial process, I think that one of the areas where we will find we have not covered-off the extent of the costs we are going to face will be around issues of clean-up and regeneration. I have driven, as have most members of the Assembly, to many of our rural roads. At Tidbinbilla, there are significant numbers of roadside trees which have been killed—essentially introduced species.

If one drives to the Cotter or Uriarra, there are dead trees now, trees that will not recover—most of the introduced trees. The radiata that were along our road fringes, which were very much part of the amenity of our rural roads, are now dead. Some of them are very big trees, which will be costly to remove.

I do not believe we have factored in any of those costs. These are second order issues that we will deal with when we can. We have undertaken a process of making our roads safe—removing dangerous trees to ensure that the roads are safe to drive on. There are

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hundreds, if not thousands, of trees that we can choose to leave there dead for years to come. Either these will become a hazard in the future or we will embark on a thorough and proper clean-up of all our roads, parks and amenities. There will be significant costs attached to that.

If we choose to replace those dead trees, which is my determination, there will be significant costs involved. We cannot plant in this financial year—we could not prepare the ground. We will have to plant in the next financial year and the financial year after that. I am suggesting we will be incurring costs relevant to this fire for years to come. They are costs that are not incorporated in this appropriation bill or in Mr Quinlan's estimates for the future likely cost to this community of this fire. We will be bearing costs for years to come.

If one is to visit the Cotter or Uriarra Crossing, there is a real concern within Environment ACT that the casuarinas that are a feature of the Murrumbidgee may not come back to life. It may be that every casuarina between the water treatment plant and Kambah Pool is dead. That is an enormous loss that we do not yet know about and cannot factor in.

We cannot just leave those trees there. The Cotter, Uriarra Settlement and Kambah Pool are major recreational resources for this community. What if we have to clean out the entire growth of casuarinas from Casuarina Sands? There are hundreds of casuarinas at Casuarina Sands, a major picnic and recreation spot for the people of the ACT. It may be that not a single one of those trees has survived, so there is enormous potential cost downstream.

I will conclude on that remark. I thank members for their contributions. I hope the Liberal Party will stop its determination to vilify people such as Mr McLeod with outrageous claims of whitewashing, and that they will not seek to undermine the integrity of the work the government is doing, which has been widely applauded by the community.

MS GALLAGHER (Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, Minister for Women and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.02): I rise to talk about the appropriation bill in relation to the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services. I repeat the comments made by the Chief Minister and Mr Corbell, about the immediate and swift response by government agencies in taking on the additional work required to be performed by the public service to meet the issues facing us post-18 January. Certainly those from my department, which staffed the evacuation centres, were at the Winchester Centre, assisting the call line, from 18 January onwards. The additional workload was significant to the running of the department. The role the public service played in meeting the needs of the community should be recognised and commended.

In relation to the appropriation bill, the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services is seeking \$2.68 million as a government payment for output. This amount is made up of financial assistance grants, emergency assistance, emergency short-term accommodation, evacuation and recovery centres, and repairs and maintenance.

The department will also receive \$1 million from the Treasurer's advance towards funding the financial relief grants. As members would know, the relief grants program

provides \$5,000 for all households who are owner occupiers and renters in the ACT, where their homes are assessed as uninhabitable. A further \$5,000 per household is available for those who did not have household contents insurance.

The appropriation amount for the relief grants is based on the information about applications and likely expenditure available at that time. It is based on around 700 applications, of which 550 will be eligible for either the first or second grant. Of course, the assessment process is continuing, so it is not possible to be precise about the amounts at this time.

Also, as members would know, the Chief Minister recently announced an external review process for unsuccessful applicants. This may result in more applications being assessed as eligible. It is estimated there will be around 100 applications for the second \$5,000, for those people without contents insurance.

The appropriation includes the costs associated with the \$75 per person per day grant, which is provided for under the community recovery sub-plan. The purpose of this payment was to assist the people who presented at the evacuation centres with immediate, pressing, needs for food and clothing. That assistance was provided from 19 to 23 January.

There were 1,452 applications received for immediate emergency assistance and, in total, payments of \$138,000 were made. Some applications included more than one applicant. A further \$7,245 was provided for food and supplies. The appropriation includes \$204,000 for evacuation and recovery centres, for the set-up and running costs of the recovery centre to mid-February, when that responsibility was transferred from the Department of Education to the recovery taskforce secretariat in the Chief Minister's Department. Those costs include employee overtime and costs to host some of the community recovery events.

Again, the reaction of the public service in creating the recovery centre, which opened six days after the bushfires, was most impressive. The costs of set-up included furniture and fittings, employee overtime and allowances, office facilities, building and grounds, and the purchase of food and grocery supplies. The appropriation includes \$45,000 for additional clean-up and repairs—maintenance costs not covered by insurance for those schools affected by the bushfires.

As of 3 March, \$2,550 of this had been spent. This primarily related to the costs associated with Duffy Primary School for the removal of burnt trees to make the grounds safe, the erection of a fence around the Uriarra community centre, which the Department of Education still has responsibility for, and also for the burial of dead animals at the Birrigai outdoor school.

In relation to Birrigai, a representative committee has been formed to plan the relocation of the former Birrigai functions as a temporary measure. This committee consists of representatives from the AEU, the ACT Council of P&Cs, Birrigai Outdoor Education Centre, principals associations, and the Catholic Education office.

The starting date for the relocated Birrigai functions is estimated to be around the beginning of term 3, 2003. This time has been allowed to ensure that all relevant aspects

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have been identified and addressed—such as safety issues for students—and to enable all of the necessary negotiations, planning of educational activities, and organisational arrangements to be finalised.

Schools have already been using the Eagles Rest Outdoor Education Centre at Wee Jasper. This facility will continue to be used by schools. Eagles Rest offers a range of outdoor activities suitable mainly for secondary students.

Mr Speaker, the bill does not contain any money for redundancies in education. This relates primarily to a media release by Mr Pratt, in which he asserted that 32 of the 35 staff at Birrigai have been let go. I would like to correct that error.

For the record, there were 12 permanent staff at Birrigai, all of whom have been redeployed within the department. The principal and one full-time officer have also been allocated to working on the proposal for future outdoor education options in relation to the longer-term planning for Birrigai. There were some casual staff. These people are now available for other relief work.

There is a significant disparity between 12 and 35. I think it is important that we correct the error in Mr Pratt's media release. The staff were never let go. This bill makes no provision for their redundancy, as they are working within the Department of Education.

MR QUINLAN (Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism and Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming) (12.09), in reply: I would like to close the debate. I think the debate has been useful inasmuch as it has added a few more dimensions to the magnitude of the task that has been faced and is being addressed not just by this government, but by this Assembly.

As to whether the bushfire has been used as an excuse, let me clarify that point. I have said a number of times, in this place and outside of this place, that I expected the bill to be \$20 million-plus in the long run. I have explained consistently that we do have problems with our superannuation. As far as that being described as an old standby goes, just because we had problems with our superannuation three months ago, two months ago, one month ago and now—and it has been repeated each time—I do not think ranks it as an old standby. It is a fact. I am very happy to debate the impact on the bottom line, provided we do not descend into misinformation and parroting. Mr Smyth used to parrot what Mr Humphries would put out as misinformation.

I will give an apology to Mr Smyth, based on what I picked up today. I did think he was being, at best, disingenuous, if not dishonest, but now I think he just doesn't know—from elements of what he said, in terms of mixing up what an appropriation bill is about and getting the sanction of the Assembly for particular expenditures versus the actual funding, the finding of funds and the cash management associated with that.

Mrs Dunne: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I think I heard Mr Quinlan say that Mr Smyth was at best disingenuous and at worst dishonest. I would like him to withdraw the word "dishonest".

MR SPEAKER: Withdraw that, Mr Quinlan.

MR QUINLAN: I seek your guidance, Mr Speaker. I said “I had thought that Mr Smyth was dishonest...”

Mrs Dunne: I still want the word withdrawn.

MR SPEAKER: I think that is a clear imputation.

MR QUINLAN: I am happy to withdraw.

MR SPEAKER: I think you should withdraw it.

MR QUINLAN: I will withdraw that, but it is advice. Yes, okay—that is fine. As I said, Mr Smyth did persistently, both in and out of this place, parrot some clear misinformation that was repeated again and again by Mr Humphries and has been repeated by other members.

Mrs Dunne: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I think “parroting misinformation” tends to give the same implication.

MR SPEAKER: I do not agree with that. If “misinformation” were ruled out in this place, we could close down—you know what I mean. I think that is taking it a bit too far. Mr Quinlan has withdrawn an imputation—I think that is as far as we need to go on this one.

MR QUINLAN: There is no doubt that there was a conscious, deliberate process of misinformation.

Mrs Dunne: Come on! Mr Speaker, on a point of order, we have just gone over this. You have said that saying someone is dishonest is inappropriate language. To say “consciously and deliberately parrot misinformation and then repeat that” Is just a fancy way of saying he is telling lies. I want it withdrawn.

MR SPEAKER: I have ruled, Mrs Dunne, and I am not going to alter my ruling.

MR QUINLAN: In a more general sense, there is a simple solution: do not parrot misinformation, and then we will not have to address the problem.

Otherwise, let me advise the Assembly that there are four methods of funding the cost of these bushfires. They are: insurance, which carries with it the requirement to pay excess; the natural disaster recovery arrangements; the Prime Minister’s promised generosity—the commitments he made shortly after the bushfires—and, unfortunately, taxpayers’ funds.

To clarify another point, from time to time there has been reference to an amount of money in reserve within the insurance authority. There is something in the order of \$60 million worth of accumulated reserve in that authority. At the same time, we have actuarial advice that commits virtually all of that \$60 million to other pending claims. So, in fact, those funds are not available to address this problem. I hope that clarifies it. It is something I had to go and check on.

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Overall, Mr Speaker, I thank members for their support of the bill.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

MR SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order, Mrs Dunne?

MRS DUNNE (12.16): It is not a point of order. I seek your guidance, Mr Speaker. I contemplated making a statement under standing order 46. I will do that and then seek your guidance. I wanted to respond to the misrepresentation in the Chief Minister's speech about the bushfire authority bill.

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, you had the opportunity to speak in the debate.

MRS DUNNE: It was not about the debate, it was about a misrepresentation of what I said.

MR SPEAKER: It was open to you to speak in the debate—it was perfectly open. If you want to make a statement under standing order 46, you can seek leave to do so, now or later.

MRS DUNNE: I seek leave to do so now.

Leave granted.

MR SPEAKER: I remind you that standing order 46 is for making statements of a personal nature—it is not to debate the issue.

MRS DUNNE: I know that, Mr Speaker. In the debate today, the Chief Minister said that I wanted to sack the bushfire taskforce.

MR SPEAKER: That is not what the Chief Minister said. I was listening closely.

MRS DUNNE: I was listening closely, as well. The Chief Minister said—we might have to go back and check the *Hansard*—words to the effect that I wanted to sack the bushfire taskforce because I thought they were not up to the task. I would like to read from yesterday's draft *Hansard* as to what I did, in fact, say.

The Chief Minister said, "We are all well aware of the expertise in the Bushfire Taskforce. I have previously congratulated the government on assembling such skill and such talent in such short time, and the skill and talent extends not just to the taskforce members but to the staff that support them. And I can think of no better person than Sandy Hollway to head up this taskforce. But this taskforce is merely an advisory body.

What this bill proposes to do is to give it power, real power, it will empower Mr Hollway and his organisation not just to advise but to act.”

Mr Quinlan: If this is a personal explanation, do you think Mrs Dunne could just advise the house that she has been misrepresented, and that will do—other than have a complete debate?

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne has my leave to comment on a matter of a personal nature, and she is referring to it in a personal context.

MRS DUNNE: At no stage have I said—here or anywhere else—that the bushfire taskforce is not up to the job and that they should be sacked. On the contrary, I have been laudatory in my praise of the calibre of the bushfire taskforce. What Mr Stanhope said here today was a clear misrepresentation of what was said, and he should withdraw it.

MR SPEAKER: Order! You are not to debate the issue. You can speak to it in a personal context. You had the opportunity to debate it and you decided against it. Have you anything further to say?

MRS DUNNE: No, Mr Speaker.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Government response to report No 4

Motion (by **Mrs Dunne**) agreed to:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

Hawkers Bill 2002

Debate resumed from 12 December 2002, on motion by **Mr Wood:**

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR CORNWELL (12.20): The proposed amendments to the Hawkers Bill arose from a study by the Allen Consulting Group. That study was commissioned by the Department of Urban Services to review, under the national competition policy, the Hawkers Act of 1936.

As far as the amendments are concerned, the national competition policy review recommended that there be greater flexibility for hawkers—that is by removing character references, minimum age requirements and the number of people hired.

One could argue that, in 2003, these are probably archaic rules and regulations. Nevertheless, it did not give open slather. It allowed that hawkers still cannot operate within 180 metres of a shop. Any exemption allowed for that is a disallowable instrument for this Assembly’s attention. Also pedestrian safety and parking will still not be compromised. That is the situation in the existing legislation.

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The opposition has no objections to this legislation, Mr Speaker. I am a little concerned. I understand that the amendments to the bill which the government will shortly be moving, which, I hasten to add, we have no objection to, were apparently not flagged at the administration and procedures meeting held earlier this week. I just mention that to the minister. The opposition will be supporting the legislation.

MS DUNDAS (12.22): The Hawkers Bill removes a range of unnecessary restrictions placed on mobile street sellers. Considering that the original Act was established in 1936, it is not a surprise that some of its provisions are antiquated. I am in favour of removing the good character requirements, except where they are strictly necessary. I have to wonder whether every ACT government bureaucrat would be satisfied that I am of good character. I would rather they were not given the opportunity to decide.

The removal of the minimum age requirement is a change I naturally support. It would be unfortunate to stifle the enterprising spirit of a young person with the idea of making money from street selling through unnecessary legislative restrictions. I support the retention of the restriction of hawking within 180 metres of a shop. I believe a shop owner would be justifiably upset if a hawker were able to sell the same goods for a cheaper price by occupying public space rent-free.

I am less convinced of the need to retain a licensing system for hawkers, particularly as this continues an administrative burden on the ACT government. However, that is not a major flaw and I am sure the ACT government is well up to maintaining it. I note that the government will be moving some amendments, which are sensible. I will be supporting the amendments and the bill.

MRS CROSS (12.23): As other members have mentioned, this bill addresses some administrative compliance with the national competition policy. Indeed, Minister Wood, in the tabled presentation speech, refers to the fact that the Department of Urban Services commissioned the Allen Consulting Group to undertake a national competition policy review of the Hawkers Act 1936.

The essence of this bill is focused on the appropriate allocation of public space for hawking, taking into account the impacts on third persons. In other words, Mr Speaker, this bill seeks to balance the competing rights of persons conducting a business against the right of the public using their entitlement to public space to go about their business unimpeded.

This bill is supported by hawkers themselves. It will be greatly appreciated by the general public, who wish to go about their daily business with a minimum of fuss and annoyance. The new licensing regulations this bill introduces replaces the permit needed under the Hawkers Act 1936. That makes for a fairer and far more equitable licensing system. They also increase competition, and hence consumer benefits, because there are no longer character restrictions or minimum age requirements for hawkers seeking a licence.

I note also that scrutiny report No 24 of 2003 makes some interesting observations, especially as it relates to section 42, whereby the chief executive may appoint any person to be an authorised officer for the act. The committee quite properly suggests that some

limitations be placed on this power, and makes the suggestion that perhaps there be a minimum requirement that the person whom the chief executive appoints at least be a public servant.

Mr Speaker, I am interested to hear from the government what their views are of the scrutiny committee's recommendation. I think officers who inevitably may have power to affect people's livelihoods should not only be properly and duly authorised, but also qualified in that regard. I look with interest to what the minister will contribute to this aspect of the debate, and will therefore be giving my qualified support to this bill.

MS TUCKER (12.25): The ACT Greens will be supporting this bill, which more or less recasts the existing regulations covering hawkers, in a more transparent manner, whilst surrendering the consumer protection function of the previous act—the ACT and Commonwealth consumer protection laws. This bill is another product of the competition policy review process. It had its genesis in the review of the Hawkers and Collections Acts, which was completed in April 2000.

Since then, there has been considerable consultation with the established hawkers in Canberra, and with businesses, resulting in the bill before us. One of the key features of the recommendations of the review in the subsequent bill is that it does not attempt to cover protections and regulations governed by other Acts. So issues of employment safety and consumer protection revert to police, WorkCover and so on.

There are two key recommendations of the review which the government has not adopted. One of those recommendations was to drop the 180-metre exclusion zone which militates against hawkers setting up outside shops for more than 30 minutes. I do not know how long Urban Services anguished over this one. Perhaps not at all, but it is certainly a pragmatic and non-controversial position that seems to have the agreement of the existing hawkers and businesses.

If we had chosen to abandon that, we might be facing a deal more hostility, for no good result. I am pleased, however, that the process of applying for exemptions to this exclusion zone is simple—that the minister, in making a decision to grant or reject an application, needs to make those reasons public, and that any exemption would be disallowable in the Assembly, so we have transparency and a simple process.

The review also recommended that this bill have coverage of the sale of goods, but not services. This bill does in fact incorporate services, and so technically will govern windscreen cleaners at traffic lights. Of course, while most windscreen cleaners are in a place for more than 30 minutes at a time, if there were an attempt to get them to take out standing licenses, they could adjust their behaviour to something approaching 30 minutes at any particular location.

The real elements of control, with regard to safety and so on, will remain in the hands of the police. I understand from government officers that there is no intention, at this stage, to make any changes to their present arrangements.

We raised some concerns about political and social activists selling badges and carrying on other street-based activity. The prompt response from the department, in itemising the

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provisions in the bill, which made it clear that such activities would not be restricted by this bill, was reassuring.

Finally, I note that some of the scrutiny concerns have been addressed through government amendments, and will keep a watching brief on the others.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Heritage and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (12.28): I thank members for their general support. What Ms Tucker says is right. We want flexibility and freedom for people to do what they want to do—carry on the practices of other times—and that will continue. The procedures for managing these things have been simplified to some degree, and are now much better.

Obviously there is capacity to keep a watch, as Ms Tucker says she will, on what goes on. We are able to use the regulations, if necessary, to tighten things up, but we will see what happens.

Mrs Cross, your concern is one that is in our minds. I believe the amendment we are proposing will cover that. However, we will keep a check on it, see how it goes and watch carefully. I commend this bill, which is about to be agreed.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Detail stage

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Heritage and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (12.30): I ask leave to move amendments 1, 2 and 3 circulated in my name together [*see schedule 1 at page 689*].

Leave granted.

MR WOOD: I table the explanatory memorandum and I now move amendments 1, 2 and 3 circulated in my name together. They cover the aspects Mrs Cross, and other people who responded to the Scrutiny of Bills report, was talking about.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as a whole, as amended, agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 12.31 to 2.32 pm.

Questions without notice

Bushfires

MR SMYTH: Mr Speaker, my question is to the Chief Minister, Mr Stanhope. Chief Minister, in response to a question from Mr Pratt on 19 February, 2003, you referred to the sources on the ABC's AM program who were critical of the efforts of your government in fighting the bushfires as "gutless wonders". Mr Patrick Bennett wrote a letter of 20 February 2003, published on the Canberra Times website, stating that he was aware of five tankers from the Bombala bushfire brigade being put on alert at 9.30 am on 18 January, but never having been called up. Indeed, Mrs Burke referred to a caller on 2CC, who was aware of 11 units from Tallaganda having been turned back on the day. Are these people gutless, faceless wonders—or ordinary people seeking a reasonable explanation of what happened on 18 January?

MR SPEAKER: Order, members!

MR STANHOPE: Mr Speaker, it certainly is the case that I responded with strong language to an ABC AM story, which essentially contained a number of allegations—at this stage, they have to be regarded as allegations—about the handling by ACT services of the bushfires which beset us in January.

I am always open to acknowledging that I think we all sometimes say and do things which, perhaps on quiet reflection, in those moments when we reflect on ourselves and on the health of our souls, we might have done better. Perhaps my language was a little intemperate, and perhaps there were aspects of it which were to be regretted.

Having said that, I don't resile from my comments. I made them in genuine anger. It was an expression of anger at a range of allegations which I think we all know were a reflection on the professionalism and identity of identifiable members of the Emergency Services Bureau and those who led the response to the fires in Canberra. There can be no other explanation or understanding of the allegations floated on that day and which are being pursued in this place by the Liberal Party than that this is an attempt to suggest that members of the Emergency Services Bureau and the fire services in some way failed in their duty.

Let's not beat about the bush. Let's not pretend that asking questions such as that around: was this brigade turned back? If it was turned back, who turned it back and, in light of the disaster which befell us, on what basis did they turn it back? The suggestion is that identifiable members of the Emergency Services Bureau and our fire service in some way failed in their duty.

We have two inquiries in place in the ACT, to allow us to get to the bottom of these issues. Why aren't you prepared to allow those processes to continue? Why aren't you prepared to allow the McLeod inquiry to run, free of allegations that it is a whitewash; free of a determination to undermine it and to defame its head? I have yesterday's *Hansard* here. Yesterday, Mr Smyth said that the McLeod inquiry was a whitewash.

Mr Smyth: No, I haven't defamed it—you have twisted it. You are always twisting!

MR STANHOPE: You said it was a whitewash. You suggested that its head, Ron McLeod—the immediate past Commonwealth ombudsman—was prepared to be a party

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to a whitewash. You are proceeding along the same line today in relation to these questions from unnamed sources about decisions which may or may not have been taken.

I cannot say whether or not the allegations you make in your question, the allegations you made in the speech on your motion yesterday the allegations or suggestions Mr Cornwell made in relation to aircraft are true. I do not know.

Mr Smyth: When are we going to find out?

MR STANHOPE: We are going to find out through the McLeod inquiry and through a coronial inquest, both of which are currently running.

For the sake of completeness, rather than restrict ourselves to the example Mr Smyth raises in his question, I might go to the full list of questions he asked yesterday in his speech. I quote Mr Smyth. He said, “Why were the Harden units turned back? What happened to the Yass units? Why was there a convoy siting outside Hall? Why were the Bombala units, when they were offered late in the day, not accepted? Why were Batemans Bay units turned back when they got to the roundabout as they were coming up the Clyde?”

Mr Cornwell asked about fixed-wing aircraft from Jindabyne to Lithgow not being accepted, and local fixed-wing aircraft not being used. These are all vague assertions—a vague list of questions with no relevant details. We can do nothing about them because they raise concerns about the capacity of those who managed or directed the firefighting effort in the ACT. That is what they are designed to do, and that is what they do.

As I said, I have no idea what the answer to these queries might be. If any of the instances mentioned were really the product of mistakes or poor decisions, then they should be investigated properly. More importantly, we must learn how to avoid similar mistakes in the future, if mistakes were made, and quickly apply any lessons to be learned from the experience. We are committed to that. We are committed to full accountability, as are the Emergency Services Bureau. They want a full review of their performance, in order that they may learn the lessons they need to learn.

As I said yesterday, if Mr Smyth or Mr Cornwell think these questions are worthy of investigation, then I believe it is important that they take their information to Mr McLeod or to the Australian Federal Police, who are investigating these issues on behalf of the coroner, and that Mr Smyth makes a sworn statement in relation to these matters to the Australian Federal Police, so that can form part of the Australian Federal Police investigation for the purpose of the coroner’s brief.

There must be some information, some basis upon which they make these allegations which are so hurtful to the reputations of senior members of the Emergency Services Bureau. I cannot believe that the Liberal Party—the Leader of the Opposition—would stand up in this place and make allegations which are hurtful to the reputations of senior ACT public servants and do it on the basis of gossip, innuendo or a whim. There must be some basis to his information.

He needs to take that to the Australian Federal Police so they can fully investigate these matters. He needs to do it early, to save the coroner the trouble of subpoenaing him and

Mr Cornwell, so they can be examined before the coronial inquest, and so they can be cross-examined fully on the basis of the allegations they are making here today.

MR STEFANIAK: On a point of order, Mr Speaker—standing order 42. The Chief Minister is addressing the gallery and not yourself, as Speaker.

MR STANHOPE: The public, hearing about these references, is led to believe, on the basis of this flimsy, unsupported assertion, that our emergency services managers mismanaged their responsibilities. I believe it is critical that all members adopt a responsible attitude and bring any genuine concern they have in relation to any of these issues to the authorities. They can then be investigated and this unnecessary damage and hurt to senior members of the ACT public service can be avoided.

In relation to the specific questions asked yesterday by Mr Cornwell and Mr Smyth, I have sought advice from the Emergency Services Bureau. I asked them whether they could respond to any of the assertions.

I am advised by the Emergency Services Bureau that all resources relevant to the firefighting operations which were offered to the ACT's chief fire control officer, Mr Lucas-Smith, were accepted. I am further advised that tasking decisions made in relation to the New South Wales unit referred to by Mr Smyth—let's go back to them—Harden, Yass, Hall, Bombala and Batemans Bay, which are all in New South Wales—appear not to have been referred to or to have involved the ACT bushfire coordination centre at Curtin. The relevant decisions, if any were taken in relation to any of those brigades, would probably have been taken by the NSW Rural Fire Service. I say "probably" advisedly, because Mr Smyth has provided no details, in the course of his assertions and allegations. So it is impossible to say safely—or make any assumptions about the matters he mentioned.

There is no statement of when, by whom or where. There is nothing to substantiate these allegations. They are made on the basis of innuendo or gossip. Somebody's mother spoke to her next-door neighbour, who mentioned it to the butcher, who told a customer. The customer's son rang his mother and his mother told her son, who happened to mention it to an ABC journalist on the AM show. Was that the basis of this? We need a bit more than that!

I have also arranged for my department to approach Mr Koperberg—the Commissioner of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service. Mr Koperberg has said that, if Mr Smyth would like to provide him with the details of his allegations, then he is more than happy to investigate them, accepting that all of the units are New South Wales units. Mr Koperberg is waiting beside his fax machine for a fax from Mr Smyth and Mr Cornwell, so he can investigate these matters.

It would be convenient if Mr Smyth and Mr Cornwell would provide a copy of that fax to this Assembly, to the Australian Federal Police, assisting the ACT coroner, and to Mr McLeod. We look forward to copies of that fax this afternoon. It is a classic case of put up or shut up, and stop defaming hard-working, determined, professional ACT public servants.

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Mr Stefaniak: I have a point of order, Mr Speaker—in fact, two points of order: standing order 42, again, and—it is a quarter to three—standing order 118, which says that the answer should be concise.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, answers should be concise and compliant with the subject, and I am sure that the Chief Minister knows that and that he will direct his comments through the chair.

MR STANHOPE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I will do that. In response to Mr Stefaniak's point of order on conciseness, let me say that the Liberal Party here is intent on destroying reputations forever and would seek to deny me five minutes to seek to protect those reputations. That says a lot about its regard for the ACT public service and for those who put their lives on the line for us. You would begrudge me five minutes to put some context to your baseless allegations.

The issues about aircraft are also vague and difficult to respond to. That is the view of the Emergency Services Bureau. For example, I am advised that the Chief Fire Control Officer was aware of the availability for hire of fixed-wing aircraft located in Canberra, but they were not water-bombing aircraft or capable and, because of the visibility problems caused by smoke, could not be used for observation purposes on 18 January. Squirrel helicopters, in any event, had been provided by the Navy for observation purposes on that day.

Once again—I am advised—it is possible that the New South Wales Rural Fire Service made decisions in relation to other aircraft located in that state. If the Rural Fire Service is to be asked to inquire into these matters, more information will be required. Once again, Mr Koperberg will stand by his fax machine waiting this afternoon for the source of all of Mr Cornwell's information on decisions taken in relation to fixed-wing aircraft on the ground. Mr Cornwell, once again, the Assembly will be very pleased to receive a copy of your fax and all the information it contains.

In conclusion, the raising of vague, anecdote-based assertions of this kind does little to advance the public interest or assist the community to understand what occurred through January. I urge those opposite to bring to the attention of the coroner or Mr McLeod the concerns that they believe should be investigated.

As I have said before, there is a significant difference between the pursuit of the truth and the pursuit of scapegoats. I have used the Salem example in relation to this. On one day somebody shouted "Witch!", and 126 members of Salem were named as witches. Twenty-six were prosecuted and nine were hanged for what we know these days was a bad bout of food poisoning.

MR SMYTH: Mr Speaker, I fully intend to take anything the public bring to me to the attention of the authorities in the appropriate time. In the interest of Mr Stanhope, I seek leave to table the letter of Patrick Bennett, who is not anonymous. He is a real person who has raised interesting questions.

Leave granted.

MR SMYTH: My supplementary question is: Chief Minister, why does your government support a judicial inquiry into the trial of convicted murderer David Eastman but is not prepared to give the McLeod inquiry into the worst natural disaster this territory has ever faced the ability to do its job properly?

MR STANHOPE: I think the McLeod inquiry is an excellent inquiry. I do not think, like the Liberal Party, that the McLeod inquiry is a whitewash. I certainly do not think that the head of the inquiry, Ron McLeod, would lower himself to engage in a whitewash. That is just another scurrilous defamation. If you don't like what is happening, if you think the politics are a bit crook—

MR SPEAKER: Order, members!

MR STANHOPE: Play the man; don't play the issue. Go straight for McLeod. McLeod would engage in a whitewash. Bring down one of those ACT citizens of the highest integrity.

Mr Corbell: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Mr Pratt has consistently interjected on the Chief Minister for the duration—and he has now interjected on me again. Mr Pratt has consistently interjected throughout the Chief Minister's answer. You have warned him on number of occasions, and he is still doing it. I would ask you to take the appropriate action, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Mr Pratt, Mr Corbell has my leave to stand and make the point of order. Don't intervene, or you won't get the chance to do it too many more times. I want you to maintain order.

MR STANHOPE: Mr Speaker, I think the McLeod inquiry is appropriate in the circumstances. It is a short, administrative inquiry. Agreement has now been given to provide protection against defamation for those wishing to make submissions or appear before the McLeod inquiry. That is a consensus position we have now arrived at.

I still have some issues on this but, for the sake of taking it forward, depoliticising the issue and allowing the McLeod inquiry to operate in an environment where the inquiry and its outcomes will have the confidence of the community, we will cooperate with Mr Stefaniak and ensure that those who wish to appeal or make submissions are protected from defamation.

The other point to made is: let's not forget the judicial inquiry that is currently running. There is a full-blown judicial inquiry currently in operation in the ACT, assisted by 10 members of the Australian Federal Police, after whom senior counsel will be employed and on which the coroner, Maria Doogan, is already working. It is a major inquiry, which will take at least two years and cost us between \$1 million and \$2 million. We will leave no stone unturned in the pursuit of information on the fire—every aspect of it.

Mr Smyth invited me to talk about David Eastman. If I were to do justice to the reasons why we have taken the attitude and the position we have in relation to David Eastman, it would take me another half and hour, and I do not know whether the Assembly would

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actually give me that indulgence. But Mr Smyth has asked me about the Eastman matter. It is an incredibly complex issue, one which Mr Stefaniak understands but I am not sure that any of his colleagues do.

What is the suggestion here—that David Eastman, because he is in jail for murdering Mr Winchester, has no rights under the law? Is it that, because Mr Eastman is a murderer, we have abandoned the rule of law in relation to him? Is this the assertion—that David Eastman has no right to pursue the legal avenues available to him, as they are available to every other citizen? What is being suggested in the question?

Mr Corbell: Mr Speaker, the opposition is continually interjecting on the Chief Minister. Mrs Dunne and Mr Smyth, in particular, have consistently ignored your rulings for order, and I would ask you to take the appropriate action.

MR SPEAKER: Chief Minister, it might help if you addressed your comments to the chair. It will certainly help if the members opposite could contain themselves until they get a chance to ask their own questions. Otherwise, they will put me in a position where I might have to use my authority to maintain order in the house, which might deny representation to the people you have been elected to represent.

MR STANHOPE: I will conclude. I am just concerned that, in the throwaway line on the Eastman inquiry—in itself a difficult, complex and vexed issue—I will not be able to do justice to the reasons why the ACT government has pursued the course it has. This is a very important matter, a matter going to the rights of David Eastman to pursue avenues through the courts and according to the rule of law. The rule of law—one of the great strengths of this liberal democracy; one of the great strengths of Australia—for some reason does not apply to some citizens.

David Eastman is thrown into the mix as dispensable. Why would the government pursue a certain position in relation to David Eastman, a position arrived at as a result of the operation of the law, and not provide two judicial inquiries in the ACT and the bushfire?

Mr Smyth: You didn't ask for a judicial inquiry.

MR STANHOPE: We asked for two judicial inquiries on the bushfire but are not prepared to support David Eastman!

Mr Smyth: I rise on a point of order. I would like to apologise for interjecting; it is simply that the minister refuses to answer the question. It wasn't a condemnation of the Eastman inquiry. It was asking why Mr Eastman gets an inquiry and why there isn't a judicial inquiry into the bushfire tragedy. He should answer the question.

MR SPEAKER: Mr Smyth, the minister did not refuse to answer the question. The fact that you do not like the answer is not something I have any control over, and it is not something I ought to have any control over. It is up to ministers to respond. If you don't like their answers, you have ways and means to deal with that with the orderly proceedings in this place. But you do not deal with it by way of interjection.

MR STANHOPE: I will conclude. We have not refused to appoint a judicial inquiry into the bushfire. There is one in operation. It is in operation today. It has applied to pick the most enormous resources.

Mr Smyth: Yet again, Mr Stanhope perpetuates the notion that we are calling for a second judicial inquiry. We are not.

MR SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. It is an attempt to debate the issue, and I am not going to tolerate too much more of that. Will you conclude, Mr Stanhope?

MR STANHOPE: I would have concluded by now, if I had been allowed. We have not refused to establish a judicial inquiry. There is one, and there are very good reasons why the government has pursued the position it has in relation to David Eastman. I stand by them and am happy to explain them on a more appropriate occasion.

Select Committee on the Status of Women in the ACT

MRS CROSS: My question is to Ms Gallagher in her capacity as the Minister for Women. Minister, on 21 November 2002 the Select Committee on the Status of Women in the ACT tabled its report to the Assembly. Minister, the government's response to this report was due on 4 March this year. Given the significance of International Women's Day, would you please update the chamber on the status of the government's response?

MS GALLAGHER: I know there is a lot of interest in the government's response. Certainly, the work of the committee was extensive. It took a year to put that report together and it took a lot of effort by my committee colleagues, Ms Dundas and Mrs Cross, as well as by the committee secretary, David Skinner. We did table the report on 21 November and there were 59 recommendations in that report, which were very wide ranging. The recommendations have required responses from almost every agency in the public service. Those responses have been coordinated by the Office for Women.

It is the practice of governments to table responses within three months of the tabling of reports. As you say, Mrs Cross, that report does require a response this sitting week. I acknowledge that it would have been great to table the response this week, considering its relevance to, and in light of, International Women's Day on Saturday. However, it simply was not possible.

There were three reasons: timing—it was tabled on 21 November, which meant that it cut into the Christmas-New Year break; the bushfires—many of the staff of the Office for Women in the Chief Minister's Department were required to perform other duties throughout most of January; and the third reason is that the Office for Women has had to coordinate responses from most agencies. I wrote to the Speaker alerting him to the delay last week, I think, saying that we would not be able to meet this deadline. My discussions with the Office for Women lead me to believe that the work is well under way.

We are not delaying it, but what we do want to ensure is that we provide a considered response. It is more important to table a response, even if we could not meet the

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deadline, rather than table one now that may not have been able to take all issues into consideration. They are the reasons.

MRS CROSS: I thank the minister for her answer. Minister, can you advise the chamber when you think the government's response may be tabled?

MS GALLAGHER: The intention is to table it in the April sitting.

Budget

MR STEFANIAK: My question is to the Treasurer, Mr Quinlan. On *WIN News* last night, the Chief Minister described the budgetary situation of the ACT government as "pretty crook". Some people might say that this is due largely to Labor's fiscal mismanagement, as Labor inherited a surplus budget from the Canberra Liberals. Minister, what is the shortfall that the ACT government is facing in preparing next year's budget?

MR QUINLAN: I thank Mr Stefaniak for the question. I guess the description by the Chief Minister—"pretty crook"—is fairly accurate. Mr Stefaniak talks about what we inherited. What we inherited was also pretty crook.

Mr Pratt: A damn sight better than a \$344 million deficit.

MR QUINLAN: Which Carnell produced, apparently. Do your homework, son. The point is that the budget is suffering from a turndown in the investment market, superannuation. We had a little bit of argy-bargy this morning about its being now the hoary chestnut or something like that. As to previous budgets in which the ACT has done reasonably well at the end of the year, the result at the end of last year had very little to do with the actual budget itself, if you would like to compare the original budget and the numbers that came out.

There was certainly a very high return from conveyancing, which propped it up. There was the beginning of the slide in terms of investment. But I suppose the major feature of the budget that operated through last financial year was that there were so many elements of the budget and the forward budgets that should have been there and weren't. The classic—I carry this list with me—was the nurses' dispute, a protracted dispute. Offers were made, so the high tide or the low tide mark was already set, but it was not budgeted for.

Part of the reason that we are pretty crook is that our budget this year is, in fact, meeting the cost of that nurses' dispute and meeting the cost of bringing nursing wages up to a national standard, which just did not appear in the budgets that you guys presented. That means that those budgets were deficient. We will try to avoid those other words that we fought over this morning. You would have to say on any benchmark that the last Liberal budget brought forward did not reflect the true picture of the ACT. It did not reflect the disaster that you had set up with the Totalcare quarry. It did not include the losses that were made by the car race that you ran but were shoved into the following year.

Mr Corbell: Less than CPI.

MR QUINLAN: Yes. There is a whole list of items that actually go to the conclusion that, as I said very politely, the budgets that we inherited were entirely deficient. They did not include stuff that you made promises to do—the medical school, NICTA. Yes, they were in that; they were going to do that. They did not include it. Nowadays, we have a more honest budget.

MR STEFANIAK: I have a supplementary question. Treasurer, are we heading down a slippery slope towards the \$344 million deficit which was the legacy of the Follett Labor government with your honest budget?

MR QUINLAN: I have gotten away with this one before, Mr Speaker, but stop me if the rules have changed. Anybody who says that Labor delivered a \$344 million deficit is a liar.

Mr Smyth: Mr Speaker, perhaps you might like to rule on that. The implication is that members are lying. I think that the minister should withdraw that.

MR SPEAKER: I think that should be withdrawn, Mr Quinlan. Opposition members are saying that \$344 million was the number. That is not parliamentary language and I would like it to be withdrawn.

MR QUINLAN: I withdraw. I have actually gotten away with it a couple of times before in this house, so why not give it a crack?

MR SPEAKER: I will be more alert next time.

Mr Stefaniak: Try something different, Ted.

MR QUINLAN: How about something more contemporary—parroting misinformation? To repeat a little history for the benefit of the newer members of the opposition, and I notice that Mr Pratt parrots misinformation regularly—

Mrs Dunne: I take a point of order, Mr Speaker. If we are repeating history, aren't we being tedious and repetitive?

MR QUINLAN: I am not getting tired.

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, it depends on the favoured history which is being repeated. I call Mr Quinlan to wind up, I suspect.

MR QUINLAN: Might I say, in referring to history for the benefit of new members of the house—in particular, Mr Pratt, who does parrot misinformation—that there was a process of accounting for 1995-96 that produced as a bottom line a deficit of \$344 million. That included abnormal items of some \$90 million which were not to do with operations. But, of more interest to Mr Pratt, it was the middle year of the first Carnell government that produced that recorded result. I don't know how thick you are, but I hope that it gets through to you that in 1995-96—

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Mr Stefaniak: I take a point of order. I think he had better withdraw “thick”. That is unparliamentary and somewhat insulting.

MR QUINLAN: I withdraw. Dense.

MR SPEAKER: What is unparliamentary and what has to be tested against the usual rule of what is couth is not something that I can make a judgment on. If people choose language which other people might not like, sometimes it is something I cannot do much about; nor should I interfere with the choice of language of all members. I would ask members to be careful about the language they use, lest they should cause offence and cross the line insofar as parliamentary behaviour is concerned.

MR QUINLAN: I replace the word “dense” with “obtuse”. Mr Pratt, let me repeat so that it gets through, the middle year of the Carnell government. Got it?

Mr Pratt: You keep rewriting history, Treasurer.

MR QUINLAN: Read the financial statements. I make a commitment, Mr Speaker, to send to Mr Pratt’s office a copy of the financial statements in question.

Canberra Women’s Classic Tennis Tournament

MR SPEAKER: I call Mr Hargreaves.

Mr Pratt: Keep on rewriting history, Ted.

MR HARGREAVES: You had better go and have a Bex, Mr Pratt, and lie down for a while.

Mr Pratt: I am fine, thanks.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Hargreaves, just ask the question.

MR HARGREAVES: I will. My question is to the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming—I might say the only sport minister ever from this place to get a gold medal at the Masters Games.

Mr Stefaniak: I got one, too, John.

MR HARGREAVES: Yes, but you bought yours; Ted earned his.

Mr Stefaniak: No, 1997, and I have the injury to prove it, Sunshine.

MR HARGREAVES: You got it out of a Weeties packet.

Mr Stefaniak: No, over-35 social rugby, mate—32-nil in the grand final.

MR SPEAKER: Order, members! This is getting a little bit chaotic. Mr Hargreaves, address your question through the chair.

MR HARGREAVES: Mr Speaker, I ask, through you, whether the minister can advise the Assembly of the government's position in relation to the future of the Canberra Women's Classic Tennis Tournament.

MR QUINLAN: I thank Mr Hargreaves for the question. While I am on my feet may I recognise that Mr Stefaniak and his team, the Bilbies, won the social rugby. I think there were several events that finished with a boat race.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I think there is a rule about being concise and confining your response to the subject matter.

MR QUINLAN: Mr Speaker, I was just trying to clarify something. The Canberra Women's Classic is underwritten by Tennis Australia, and I believe that Tennis Australia incurred a loss of some \$40,000 this year. Tennis Australia are reviewing their programs for the 2003-04 budget preparation and will obviously include the Canberra Women's Classic as part of that review.

Tennis Australia and Tennis ACT are due to sit down on 13 March to go through the question of the viability and/or the presentation of next years Canberra Women's Classic. During the course of the last Canberra Women's Classic, Geoff Pollard of Tennis Australia said that he thought government should put more money into the classic. I think that was in large part a throwaway line which very quickly segued into a headline. But I have to say that at this point in time there has been no request by Tennis Australia or Tennis ACT for additional funding.

It is now a matter of record that the ACT taxpayer has made a huge investment in the tennis facility out at Lyneham. There has been capital funding of \$1½ million for clay courts to attract two events—the Canberra International and the Australian Clay Court Championships, which were to commence in 2002. The Australian Clay Court Championships has not materialised or eventuated yet—in Canberra at least. However, the capital works were funded and included clay courts, Rebound Ace courts and a 1,500-seat stadium. It is also the case that CTEC has provided \$70,000, as agreed with Tennis Australia, over three years to assist the promotion and marketing of that tournament.

The government hopes to continue with that event, but it needs to be said that at this point in time, even though there has been some publicity, we have not been approached. Like we do with any case, we will accept the approach on its face value when it is received.

I would also like to point out in relation to tennis more generally that the government does provide triennial support for ACT tennis at \$42,000 a year; considerable capital support for local tennis clubs amounting to \$45,000 over a couple of years; and over \$30,000 in cash and services to the ACT Academy of Sport tennis program. So I think the government is providing quite considerable support to tennis. We await a sensible approach from Tennis Australia.

MR QUINLAN: Mr Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Can the Minister then

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confirm that the government will continue to provide financial support to the tournament?

MR QUINLAN: I have to say that—

Mrs Dunne: A point of order, Mr Speaker. I wish to seek your guidance. Is this a request for an announcement of policy?

MR SPEAKER: I did not see it as that. Could you repeat your question, Mr Hargreaves.

MR HARGREAVES: I certainly will, Mr Speaker. Can the Minister confirm that the government will continue to provide financial support to the tournament?

MR SPEAKER: It has been supported up to this point, so I would not have thought it is an announcement of executive policy.

MR QUINLAN: Certainly we want to sit down with Tennis Australia and talk about the Canberra Women's Classic. It started off with a couple of profile names being associated with it. Unfortunately, the big drawcard for the first year, Mary Pierce, lost in the first round. It then continued to the point where it was described as an emerging players tournament.

I think the tournament has been fortunate in as much as successive winners of that tournament have gone on to elevate themselves in world rankings. But if it is to receive substantial assistance then we would be expecting a world-class event. We would be expecting Tennis Australia to make an effort to bring drawcards here to Canberra. We would hope that amongst those drawcards there would be younger Australians so that the tournament itself will attract better crowds than has been the case. The crowds improved this year but there was still plenty of room in the grandstand in the finals.

Bushfires—submissions to inquiries

MS TUCKER: My question is to Mr Quinlan and it is in regard to the capacity of the firefighters to make submissions to the coronial or McLeod inquiries. Mr Quinlan, you may recall that, at a public accounts committee hearing, I did ask whether or not individual firefighters would be able to put their own submissions directly into the coronial process at the McLeod inquiry. Mr Tim Keady took the question and he said, and I quote, "It was the case that firefighters could put individual submissions."

I asked the question, "Can you confirm that the firefighters have been directed to not put in individual submissions to the Coronial process?" Mr Keady said,

No, and in fact—well unless something has occurred that I know nothing of, firstly I know nothing of the kind, secondly, I would regard it as being completely inappropriate for any such direction to be given.

I checked that he was also talking about the coronial process and not just the McLeod inquiry, and he said,

The Coronial process is a judicial process, they've advertised for submissions, anybody who feels—including the firefighters—who feels that they've got something relevant to say to either inquiry is quite free to approach them and to provide information of things relevant.

I want to draw to your attention an email that has come into my possession from the main brigades liaison officer, for the fire service, for the coronial inquiry. I quote:

In preparation for the investigation, it would be appropriate for all persons who had involvement in the Bushfires for the period 8/1/03-19/1/03 to start getting their notes, recollections and any documents in order. Please remember that I will be the ONLY conduit for Brigade staff for communications with the Coronial Investigation Team (CIT) and relevant all information must be forwarded thru me.

I am obviously concerned to see this. I imagine you will be, too. I ask you to respond to that.

MR QUINLAN: I will certainly take the question but I am no longer the minister for emergency services. Mr Wood has that role.

Ms Tucker: Who is the minister? Mr Wood? I do not mind if Mr Wood answers.

MR QUINLAN: Either way. I picked up on the question better than Mr Wood did because it was being directed to me and because I was at the PAC meeting where Mr Keady made those statements. I would agree with what Mr Keady said then. I think he used the words that he "would be very, very concerned" if there had been some prohibition on that. I think this is a very serious matter that warrants a studied response.

I do not know exactly the manner in which that particular email was circulated. Certainly, if you were part of the brigade management, you would want to be asking everybody to let you know what is going in there. However, whether that implies that an individual is inhibited about saying anything else, individually or not, is another question. I think we should take that on notice and get back to you on that, because it is quite a serious matter. Will you table that?

MS TUCKER: Yes. I am happy to table that. I seek leave to table it.

Leave granted.

MS TUCKER: I appreciate your looking into this matter. If this is the case, and I am saying that it is the case, will you guarantee, or will Mr Wood guarantee, that you will correspond with all firefighters to let them know that they do have the right to make individual submissions to either of the inquiries?

MR QUINLAN: Can we just take that question on notice, work it through, and then come back and provide a decent answer to it?

Student protests

MRS BURKE: My question is to the Minister for Education. Minister, did you give

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your approval for students, including many wearing school uniforms, to take part in political protest marches during school time?

MS GALLAGHER: No, I did not. However, we need to recognise that young people's participation in demonstrations is an important part of their growing up. The view I took was that it was a family matter that should have been discussed with their parents. There are measures in place, if parents approve of students being absent from school, to forward a note to the school, to approve that absence from school. From a legal point of view it would be impossible and actually negligent for the department to have given broad approval, saying, "All right, you can go."

We have obligations to students while they are inside the school gate during school hours. The demonstration was at lunchtime, which does encompass those hours. We should not and did not do it. However, having said that, I do acknowledge that the right to demonstrate, particularly in a time of such international uncertainty, is really important, particularly for our growing teenagers and adolescents, and it was quite proper for those students to attend, if they had their parents' approval.

MRS BURKE: I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister for her response to my question. I do not doubt for one minute that students have a right to protest. Minister, what action have you taken to ensure that teachers and schools are not actually fostering such action and are taking steps to ensure that students are at school, where they should be under the Education Act?

MS GALLAGHER: As I said, the teachers have acted appropriately. If the students were not at school and attended the protest yesterday, it was done with their parents' approval and not with the approval of the education department.

Bushfires

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Chief Minister. Yesterday, in response to a question, you said, Chief Minister, that you had not been briefed on aspects of the fires on 18 January under the control of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service. Given that this was a crucial part of the firefighting effort and that you were the responsible minister at the time, wasn't it remiss of you not to have been briefed? Why weren't you briefed? Did you seek a briefing; if not, why not?

MR STANHOPE: Mr Speaker, I may have misled the Assembly yesterday. Yes, Mr Speaker, I was told that there was a dirty great bushfire burning in New South Wales, called the McIntyres Hut fire, and I was told that arrangements had been made for the New South Wales Rural Fire Service to be responsible for the fighting and containing of that fire. I was told that. I regret it if I have inadvertently misled the Assembly in relation to my claim that I had not been briefed. What I meant was that I had not been briefed on why, if or whether the Batemans Bay fire brigade had been turned back at the top of the Clyde Mountain.

I discovered today, in the briefing I received today from the Emergency Services Bureau, that they have at this stage no formal recollection or memory of having ever had any contact with the Batemans Bay fire brigade, but they think that maybe the New South Wales Rural Fire Service did, because the Batemans Bay fire brigade is a New South

Wales fire brigade. So if anybody, the suggestion is, turned the Batemans Bay fire brigade back, it was probably their controllers. That is the view, but we do not know, we cannot be certain about that, because nobody can give us any information about this allegation.

Yes, Mr Speaker, I was briefed about the McIntyres Hut fire at the time of the emergency and I regret my inadvertent misleading of the Assembly in relation to that.

Domestic assistance services

MS DUNDAS: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services. Minister, I understand that domestic assistance services such as home help have had their waiting lists closed for 12 months, so unmet need has been growing more acute and there are a growing number of people unable to access this service. What is the government doing to address this crisis so that the elderly and disabled are able to stay in their family homes?

MR WOOD: There are number of community organisations out there who find their budgets under stress. I have to say, regretfully, that this is the case every year. I can remember in opposition making a comment of the same order—whether about that one or some other community service who do such a good job out there, who rely on government funds and whom the government relies on with those funds to deliver a good service. It is usually a tight squeeze and this government attends to that by way of budgetary consideration, which is well under way at this stage.

MS DUNDAS: I ask a supplementary question. Minister, given that the waiting lists were closed 12 months ago, this is an issue that has been on the books for over a year now. What is being done to address this issue now, and why wasn't it addressed earlier?

MR WOOD: Ms Dundas, there are other bodies and agencies helping people with disability. Other ministers can go through areas in their various departments where it is claimed—and it is usually a fairly reasonable claim—that there is unmet need. There are a whole range of these claims. We look to them and we fund them as well as we can.

In some areas of the last budget my agencies did extremely well. I was very proud of what the government could do in regard to the respective disability services. But if I had to, I would say to you, “Gee, we have a lot we could do yet.” We are constantly attending to these matters. We provided extra funding last year in respite, in mental health and in a range of many other areas. We work hard to provide assistance for these groups. It is as simple as that and it is as complex as that because there is always a limited supply of money.

Bushfires—compensation claim

MR PRATT: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, given your statements placing complete responsibility on the New South Wales Rural Fire Service for the fire that crashed into Duffy, will you claim compensation from the New South Wales government for the damage caused by its fire?

MR STANHOPE: I honestly do not believe that I have said that.

Mr Cornwell: Neither do we.

MR STANHOPE: Mr Pratt just said it. I will have to have a look at yesterday's *Hansard* in relation to that. What I said was that, at the time of the fires, which broke out on 8 January, there were four fires that concerned the ACT: one burning in New South Wales and three burning in the ACT. There were four lightning strikes. They were part of pattern of lightning strikes that essentially ran from Bathurst all the way to Melbourne. I think they started somewhere between—I cannot quite remember—50 and 80 fires. They were almost in a direct line.

When one looks at the spray of lightning strikes, it is a very interesting physical phenomenon. They caused a band of fires over a thousand or more kilometres long. Unfortunately, as we now know to our enormous cost, four of those fires affected our region. One of them, the McIntyres Hut fire, caught in New South Wales, just across our border. The other struck in the ACT. They were major fires.

Arrangements were made early in the first week for New South Wales to assist us in addressing the fires. At some stage—and I do not know when—in the week after 8 February, following meetings and consultations between ACT Emergency Services and the New South Wales Rural Fire Service, it was agreed that the New South Wales Rural Fire Service would accept all responsibility for fighting the McIntyres Hut fire and that the ACT authorities would accept responsibility for fighting the other fires.

There was a division of labour and that was essentially the division. I would have to take advice from the bureau on the fine detail of that, but that is as it has been broadly described to me. New South Wales accepted that they would devote their personnel to that fire, excepting that other New South Wales personnel may have been applied to the New South Wales fires. However, I do not believe that, after that decision was made, any ACT personnel were devoted to the McIntyres Hut one but, once again, that is my broad understanding.

We had a circumstance in which New South Wales fought the McIntyres Hut fire, the ACT and other services—because we have to be mindful that other services also eventually came to our assistance, essentially from Queensland—fought the other fires.

In the event, as I explained yesterday, all of the fires got away on 17 and 18 January with devastating and tragic consequences. The point I made yesterday in relation to Mr Cornwell's question about why we did not apply certain resources available in New South Wales to the fires, was that the resources were not ours. I did not know what the resources were. At this stage I still do not know, because Mr Cornwell has not provided the detail of exactly who owned the resources, or under whose control they were. They were New South Wales based resources.

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service was fighting the McIntyres Hut fire, and the New South Wales Rural Fire Service apparently did not apply those resources for whatever reason to the McIntyres Hut fire. I was making the very good point that the

allegation that Mr Cornwell and the Liberal Party were making, of course, if taken to its logical conclusion, is that the New South Wales Rural Fire Service was in some way derelict.

I am not suggesting that. I have never suggested it. I have suggested from the outset that this fire was an act of nature of such ferocious force, a holocaust, that on the day nobody could stand in its way, and I will stand by that forever. It was a holocaust, a force of nature of such power that it was simply greater than us. It was simply greater than us and our capacity to stand in its way.

We should have regard to some of the information that is now available, particularly through the ABC program of last Thursday. The suggestion of CSIRO scientists is that the windstorm that accompanied the firestorm reached speeds of between 250 and 300 kilometres per hour. Nobody could have stood in the way of the windstorm, let alone the firestorm that accompanied it. We can see that from the devastating impact on Chapman, in particular, and Kambah of the wind. We can see it particularly starkly in relation to the trail of enormous destruction that the wind left through the Pierces Creek settlement in particular. A swathe of trees simply snapped off at the base over an enormous distance.

To suggest that we should in some way hold New South Wales culpable, that Mr Pratt in his question assumes that we should in some way believe or find New South Wales guilty of some breach of duty, some negligence, some recklessness, is quite appalling. It is an appalling suggestion. It is interesting that, not content with suggesting that Ron McLeod is involved in a whitewash, not contenting with wanting to sack Terry Snow and Sandy—

Mrs Burke: I take a point of order, Mr Speaker, under standing order 55, which relates to imputations. Please, Chief Minister, do not keep referring to the opposition as referring to the inquiry as a whitewash.

MR SPEAKER: I do not think that you have a point of order there. That is not a point of order, Mrs Burke.

Mrs Dunne: I take a point of order under standing order 55. The Chief Minister has continued to make the imputation that I have said that we should sack the bushfire task force. We had that discussion in here this morning, Mr Speaker. It was never said. I ask for the Chief Minister to withdraw it.

Mr Corbell: On the point of order, Mr Speaker: there is no substance to the point of order. If Mrs Dunne believes that she has been misrepresented, there are forms of the house that allow her to address that matter, but it is not a point of order for question time.

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, it is open to you to seek leave of me to make a personal explanation. I will check the *Hansard*, but I did not hear the Chief Minister mention your name. I will check the *Hansard* in that respect, but I do not think that the point of order is relevant at this stage.

MR STANHOPE: I will conclude, Mr Speaker. Not content with impugning Ron McLeod and suggesting that he would engage in a whitewash, not content with

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suggesting that Sandy Hollway, Terry Snow, Robert de Castella and Maureen Kane should be sacked and replaced—

Mr Stefaniak: Who said that?

MR STANHOPE: I think Terry Snow thinks it, Mr Speaker.

Mr Smyth: Just because you are saying it doesn't make it right.

MR STANHOPE: Terry Snow has just put out a press release, I understand. I have not seen it, but I think that it says something to the effect that he does not think that he should be sacked. I have not said it. I think that he is doing an absolutely wonderful job. I think Terry Snow is doing an absolutely wonderful job.

Mr Pratt: Coached by you, Chief Minister.

MR STANHOPE: I coached Terry Snow! Look, mate, I am the Chief Minister and all that, but when it comes to a distribution of power between me and Terry Snow, I think I wilt somewhat. Me telling Terry Snow anything! Terry Snow is doing an absolutely fantastic job, as is Sandy Hollway, as is Robert de Castella, as is Maureen Kane. None of them deserves to be sacked.

Mr Smyth: You are the only one saying it.

MR STANHOPE: Why did Terry Snow put out a press release?

Mrs Dunne: Because you put him up to it.

MR SPEAKER: Order, members!

MR STANHOPE: Mrs Dunne says that I put him up to it. I put Terry Snow up to putting out a press release! How absolutely insulting is that?

MR SPEAKER: Chief Minister, address your comments through the chair.

MR STANHOPE: I have lost my train of thought.

Mr Pratt: Will you seek compensation?

MR STANHOPE: Not content with those outrageous slurs on wonderful citizens of the ACT, the suggestion now is that we should sue New South Wales. Where will this nonsense end?

MR PRATT: I have a supplementary question. Chief Minister, are you not claiming compensation from New South Wales because you are trying to protect Bob Carr in the lead-up to a state election? Who is playing politics now, Chief Minister?

MR STANHOPE: Tell me whom Bob Carr needs protecting from?

Bushfires—McLeod inquiry

MR CORNWELL: My question is to the Chief Minister. Yesterday in this Assembly you stated that the required outcome of the McLeod inquiry was—and I quote from page 17 of the uncorrected proof *Hansard*—“providing a thorough examination of the preparation for and response to the January bushfires in time for the lessons learnt to be incorporated into the planning and preparation for the next fire season”.

Also yesterday Mr Corbell stated, as recorded at page 30 of *Hansard*, that the McLeod inquiry would be “conducted in a way which is complementary to but will not conflict with nor seek to duplicate the work of the coroner”.

Chief Minister, how can Mr McLeod conduct a thorough examination of the preparation for, and response to, the Canberra bushfires without duplicating some of the work of the coroner?

MR STANHOPE: If the McLeod inquiry was constituted under the Inquiries Act, the chances of it conflicting would be exponentially greater, hundreds of times greater. That is what I have been saying from the outset. Why would you want two judicial inquiries running in tandem on the same issue? If you wanted to generate conflict, the way to do it would be to have two judicial inquiries running together. That is one of the reasons that we chose the administrative inquiry process. We wanted to avoid conflict. This is the best way of doing it, mindful of the fact that we did need a good, quick, cold, hard look at all aspects of the fire. We wanted to do it through an administrative process.

We are doubling up on that with the judicial process. We have an administrative process; we have a judicial process. They are not mutually exclusive. They are running together; they are running in tandem; they are running side by side.

The McLeod inquiry will be completed in four months. I do not believe the coronial process will be finished before Christmas next year. I do not believe we will be in a position to implement the recommendations of the coronial inquest before the bushfire season 2005. I think that is unacceptable. It is unacceptable to the people of the ACT that they should have to wait over two years for answers to some of the fundamental questions that have to be answered in relation to this disaster.

We will get the fastest and most comprehensive answers to a range of questions which are of real relevance to our capacity to protect ourselves before the next bushfire season through an administrative inquiry headed by a person of undoubted integrity, enormous capacity and experience, backed up by one of the most experienced firefighters in the country. That is what we have done. It is a good process.

The only danger faced by the inquiry now is the enormous damage which has been done to it by the Liberal Party impugning the integrity of McLeod by saying that he would engage in a whitewash; that he does not have any honour; that he is a man without honour; that he would engage in some tawdry whitewash. What an outrageous suggestion, what an outrageous slur on a leading Canberran—that he would engage in a whitewash.

Mr Stefaniak: I take a point of order. I would invoke standing order 55. The Chief Minister is imputing improper motives. He is making personal reflections on all members of the opposition. He is wrong.

MR SPEAKER: There is no point of order, Mr Stefaniak. I have no control over what ministers say, and neither should I. As I have explained before, it is open to you to take action in accordance with the standing orders of this place if you are dissatisfied with the response to a question. Ministers are entitled to answer questions, provided they are concise and deal with the subject matter. I think the Chief Minister has been doing that. You might say that the answer is not short enough and it is therefore not concise. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder when it comes to an interpretation of “concise”. “Concise”, for the most part, means a full answer, as short as possible, to a particular issue, but it is in the hands of the minister responsible. It is open to me to terminate the response to a question if I think the minister is not addressing the question.

MR STANHOPE: In the interests of conciseness, I conclude, Mr Speaker.

MR CORNWELL: I ask a supplementary question. You have explained that Mr McLeod’s inquiry is to finish in June, yet the coronial inquiry will probably run until 2005. Does that alone—never mind Mr Corbell’s contradiction of your comments—undermine Mr McLeod’s ability to do his job? If you are going to have two inquiries running, one to finish in June and one to finish in 2005, how can you possibly not have some duplication?

MR STANHOPE: We will not, Mr Speaker.

Child care

MS MacDONALD: My question is to the minister for education, Ms Gallagher. It is related to the report *Childcare Workforce Planning Project—2002: Working with the Foundation of Australia*, issued last week by the minister. Can the minister advise the Assembly of the current situation and of the challenges confronting the child-care industry in the ACT?

MS GALLAGHER: I acknowledge Ms MacDonald’s continuing interest in, and support for, services to families and child care. The report I released last week regarding the ACT child-care industry examined work force issues amongst licensed children’s services in the ACT last year and made several recommendations, mainly focusing on training, recruitment and retention of staff.

Of particular concern is the inability of the sector to attract diploma-qualified staff. The report found that the number of students undertaking diploma level study in child care is in steady decline. Also, staff turnover in the sector is worryingly high, particularly for unqualified positions, which currently have a turnover of about 40 per cent, but qualified positions also have a turnover of about 30 per cent.

These turnovers are hardly surprising when you look at the rates of pay for staff in child care. The untrained rate starts at \$5.78 an hour. If you run a child-care room as a child-care worker level 4, with two years qualifying and two years work experience, the

maximum you can earn is just over \$30,000. Naturally we are not able to retain people in positions where we need them.

In light of International Women's Day and issues affecting women, it is important to note that 97 per cent of those in the child-care work force in the ACT are women.

The declining number of students undertaking studies in child care impacts significantly on new staff entering the sector. Of those staff who do complete the diploma, many are choosing to further their education in other early childhood areas, such as preschool or primary school teaching, where the pay, conditions and status are much higher than in child care.

Clearly, training and experience need to be better recognised in the work that is being performed and the qualifications awarded. I note that the LHMU have lodged proposed amendments to the child-care award with the Industrial Relations Commission. Their proposal includes significant salary increases and improved conditions for staff employed under the award. The LHMU expect to have their claims heard early this year. This government strongly endorses the union's position.

It does, however, raise an issue that I am concerned about, which is who should pay for the wage increases. This is something we need to watch. At the moment parents are required to pay for any wage increases through raising fees. In some areas in Canberra, increases in fees can be met through parents' capacity to pay, but there are certainly areas in Canberra where parents do not have additional income to pay for raised fees. Fees for long day care currently sit between \$200 and \$300 a week. They are a significant impact on the average weekly take-home pay. The LHMU have sought Commonwealth funding for these wage rises. I will watch the outcome of that with interest.

The important thing about this report is that it gives the ACT government, the union and the child-care sector critical information to assist us to prepare and provide a response to these issues.

MS MacDONALD: Can the minister inform the Assembly of the recent measures undertaken by the ACT and Commonwealth governments with respect to child care?

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, I can. The Stanhope government has recently embarked on a number of initiatives in this area. Last week I was pleased to turn the first sod to commence construction of the new Gungahlin early childhood centre, which will improve access to child care in that region. It is due to open in October this year. It is an investment of \$2.3 million and will provide 90 child-care places for children in the years prior to school. The building of the Gungahlin childhood centre confirms this government's commitment to expand child-care infrastructure in the ACT, with a particular focus in the Gungahlin area.

Plans for the early childhood centre also incorporate two meeting rooms that will be available for hire. The incorporation of the meeting space will provide an opportunity for the Gungahlin early childhood centre to be the focus of a range of services for children and their families in the Gungahlin community.

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In addition—and this will please every member of the Assembly—\$950,000 is allocated to expand existing child-care centres across Canberra. Six services have been selected for expansion. These services are located in Charnwood, Kaleen, Civic, Curtin and—of particular interest to you, Ms MacDonald—Greenway and Conder.

I would like to acknowledge the importance of access to early childhood services for families and the significant contribution this experience makes to the lives and education of the young people who attend.

The Commonwealth government's discussion paper acknowledges that across Australia 56 per cent of preschool-aged children use long day care, 17 per cent use family day care and 2 per cent use occasional care. With these numbers of children requiring care, we cannot ignore the workplace issues which are impacting on the child-care industry.

On the subject of actions of the Commonwealth, it is noteworthy that since 1997 the Commonwealth has removed operational subsidies from child-care centres, which has seen the decline of many community-based centres in low socioeconomic areas. Some commentators say that reductions in funding have seen an \$800 per child decrease over that time. Australia now spends 0.1 per cent of GDP on early educational care, ranking Australia, astonishingly, 26 out of 28 in the OECD. The unmet demand for child-care places nationally stands at around 50,000.

On a more positive note, recently the federal Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Mr Larry Anthony, released his consultation paper *Towards the Development of a National Agenda for Early Childhood*. Whilst we welcome this report, it should be noted that the report does not directly address or raise work force planning issues. However, I understand that the minister is hosting a think tank in April to discuss issues around work force planning, I have forwarded a copy of this report to his office as part of informing that debate, and we look forward to taking part in that national process.

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

Paper

Mr Stanhope presented the following paper:

National Environment Protection Council Annual Report and financial statements, including the Australian National Audit Office Report, for 2001-2002.

National taxation equivalents regime—memorandum of understanding Paper and statement by minister

MR QUINLAN (Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism and Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

National Taxation Equivalents Regime—Memorandum of understanding.

I ask leave to make a short statement.

Leave granted.

MR QUINLAN: I table the national tax equivalents regime memorandum of understanding and manual. The national tax equivalents regime formally came into existence through a memorandum of understanding which was signed in 2001 by all state and territory and Commonwealth under-treasurers. It probably should have been tabled a bit earlier.

The regime is guided by national competition policy. Under the principle of competitive neutrality, government business entities are subject to the same taxes and regulatory regimes as their private sector competitors. In the 1990s each state and territory government established its own tax equivalent regimes, including an income tax equivalent regime. The tax equivalent regimes only apply to government-owned business entities.

The regime was established to replace state-based income tax regimes with a coordinated Australia-wide regime. The Australian Tax Office administers the NTER.

The memorandum put into effect the decision of the intergovernmental agreement on the reform of Commonwealth/state financial relations of 1999, which covers various aspects of taxation, including the intention to set up a national tax equivalent regime. That agreement is a schedule to the Financial Relations Agreement Act 2000 in the ACT.

The manual which I am also tabling here today was developed to lay down the procedures for administration of the NTER scheme, including the procedures for changing the list of nominated government businesses subject to the regime. The manual is a working document of state and territory treasuries. It is subject to change over time to improve the administration of the scheme and is revised to take into account changes to the schedules.

I am tabling these documents in preparation for debate of the Taxation (Government Business Enterprises) Bill 2002, which I have developed to consolidate the application of tax equivalents (both income and territory taxes) to ACT government business entities and which is due for debate next week.

Subordinate legislation Papers

Mr Wood presented the following papers:

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64 –

Building Act –

Building (Bushfire Emergency) Regulations 2003 – Subordinate Law SL2003-5
(LR, 7 February 2003).

Building (Fees) (Bushfire Emergency) Determination 2003 – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-17 (LR, 14 February 2003).

Environment Protection Act – Environment Protection Declaration of non-application of section 48 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-14 (LR, 13 February 2003).

Food Act – Food Act 2001 – Fees – Determination 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-8 (LR, 13 February 2003).

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act – Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (Reference for Investigation) Determination 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-19 (LR, 20 February 2003).

Land (Planning and Environment) Act –

Land (Planning and Environment) (Bushfire Emergency) Regulations 2003 – Subordinate Law SL2003-4 (LR, 7 February 2003).

Land (Planning and Environment) (Bushfire Emergency) Amendment Regulations 2003 (No 1) – Subordinate Law SL2003-7 (LR, 20 February 2003).

Land (Planning and Environment) (Fees) (Bushfire Emergency) Determination 2003 – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-18 (LR, 14 February 2003).

Occupational Health and Safety Act – Occupational Health and Safety (Fees) Revocation and Determination 2003 – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-23 (LR, 27 February 2003).

Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board Act – Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board Appointments 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-21 (LR, 25 February 2003).

Poisons Act – Poisons Act 1933 – Fees – Determination 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-11 (LR, 13 February 2003).

Poisons and Drugs Act – Poisons and Drugs Act 1978 – Fees – Determination 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-12 (LR, 13 February 2003).

Public Place Names Act –

Public Place Names 2003, No 5 – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-13 (LR, 27 February 2003).

Public Place Names 2003, No 1 (Street Nomenclature – Dunlop – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-24 (LR, 27 February 2003).

Public Place Names 2003, No 3 (Street Nomenclature – Gungahlin – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-25 (LR, 27 February 2003).

Public Sector Management Act – Public Sector Management Amendment Standards 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-7 (LR, 7 February 2003).

Race and Sports Bookmaking Act – Race and Sports Bookmaking – Determination – Security Guarantee Minimum Amount 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-22 (LR, 27 February 2003).

Smoke-free Areas (Enclosed Public Places) Act – Smoke-free Areas (Enclosed Public Places) Act 1994 – Fees – Determination 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-9 (LR, 13 February 2003).

Supreme Court Act – Supreme Court Amendment Rules 2003 (No 1) – Subordinate Law SL2003-6 (LR, 18 February 2003).

Tobacco Act – Tobacco Act (Fees) – Determination 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-10 (LR, 13 February 2003).

Utilities Act –

Utilities (Repeal of Disallowable Instrument) 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-15 (LR, 17 February 2003).

Utilities (Non-franchise electricity customers) Declaration 2003 (No 1) – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-20 (LR, 28 February 2003).

Water and Sewerage Act – Water and Sewerage (Fees) (Bushfire Emergency) Determination 2003 – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-16 (LR, 14 February 2003).

Questions without notice

Ambulance dispatch system

MR WOOD: On Tuesday Mrs Dunne asked me a question about an ambulance dispatch system. I deferred the question as I was unaware of anything specific to ambulances. However, I well know the position of the proposed computer-aided dispatch system, CADS, as one of my first task as minister for emergency services was to secure funding for CADS. CADS covers all emergency services—not just ambulance but urban fire brigade, bushfire brigade and emergency services.

The tender evaluation process has now been completed, and the authorised delegate has approved the evaluation committee's recommendation for the preferred tenderer, Fujitsu Australia. Contract negotiations are currently in progress with Fujitsu. We expect a contract to be formalised in late March or early April. We hope that the new CADS will be operational in September or October 2003.

I was asked whether this system would be compatible with, and directly connected to, the police system. Mr Smyth will be interested to know that it will not be. There will be no direct contact between the ESB system and the police. There are processes in place for communication between them, but it will not be direct. There is a further issue—the proposed upgrade to radio communication systems in the ESB.

ActewAGL—greenhouse gas information

MR QUINLAN: I took on notice a question from Ms Dundas yesterday regarding the progress being made to put greenhouse gas emissions information on electricity bills. The answer to the member's question is as follows.

In June of last year I wrote to ActewAGL requesting that greenhouse gas emission information be included on customer electricity bills. I am advised that ActewAGL has been working with the ICRC to have these arrangements put in place. The ICRC has advised that greenhouse gas reporting requirements will become mandatory on electricity consumer bills when the updated version of the Utilities Act 2000 customer protection code comes into effect.

This mandatory requirement will come into effect no later than 30 June 2003. This will require not only ActewAGL but also any other licensed electricity retailer to provide

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information relating to greenhouse gas emissions on consumer bills. The greenhouse gas emission information will be based on a national greenhouse coefficient factor.

Bus tender

MR CORBELL: In question time yesterday Mrs Dunne asked me a question about the bus tender being conducted by ACTION. I have the following information for Mrs Dunne.

Approval to proceed to a select tender was granted by the chief executive of ACTION (Mr Guy Thurston), deputy chief executive (Mr Peter Walsh) and the ACTION manager of engineering services (Mr John Fisher). This approval was based on a two-year process of identification of suitable buses that were available on existing government contracts. It is the same process the previous government embarked upon in deciding to procure buses for the SSTS scheme. The process and the tender arrangements have been endorsed by ACT Procurement Solutions, the ACT Government Solicitor's Office and the ACT Procurement Board.

Personal explanation

MR SMYTH (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement under standing order 46.

MR SPEAKER: Leave is granted, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Yesterday Mr Quinlan pointed out that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the appropriation bill had misquoted him. Upon checking, I find that that is correct. The misquotation was a transcription error in drafting the report. There was no intention on the part of the committee to misrepresent the Treasurer. On behalf of the committee and for myself, I apologise to the Treasurer for that mistake.

Chief Minister

MR SMYTH (Leader of the Opposition): I seek leave to move a motion censuring the Chief Minister.

Leave not granted.

Suspension of standing and temporary orders

MR SMYTH (Leader of the Opposition) (4.01): I move:

That so much of the standing and temporary orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Smyth moving a motion of censure of the Chief Minister.

Mr Speaker, several times over the last couple of days, particularly in question time today and during debates today, the Chief Minister has constantly and deliberately misrepresented me and the position of the opposition. He has done it on two issues. The first is Mr McLeod and our views on him. The second is what Mr Stanhope sees as an

attempt to sack the board of the bushfire recovery task force. In neither case is what the Chief Minister said true.

Mr Corbell: Mr Speaker, I take a point of order. Mr Smyth should know he cannot speak to the substantive motion he is seeking to move but can speak only to the proposition that standing orders be suspended.

MR SPEAKER: At the same time, Mr Smyth has to give some inkling as to why he wants to suspend the standing orders. It is a limited debate. Mr Smyth. You should keep to the reasons why you need the standing orders to be suspended.

MR SMYTH: Mr Speaker, I am aware of that and will endeavour to do so, although, as you point out, there is some crossover when you have to explain what you are concerned about.

We believe that this deliberate misrepresentation is a political ploy. When challenged to produce the evidence that we have said these things, the Chief Minister has been unable to do so. Upon request through points of order throughout yesterday and today that he stop doing it, Mr Speaker, you quite rightly pointed out that one of the forms open to members was to move suspension of standing orders or to censure the Chief Minister to stop him from continuing in this practice. I am taking you up on that suggestion.

It is very important that when members make statements in this place they are accurate. We doubt the accuracy of what is being said about what we have said. The way that what we said is being portrayed is a continued and deliberate misrepresentation of the Liberal Party, in particular of Mrs Dunne and of me, and things that we have said. For that reason, we think it is appropriate to censure the Chief Minister.

MRS DUNNE (4.03): I support the motion, Mr Speaker. We need to suspend standing orders to put an end to the propensity of the Chief Minister in this place and elsewhere in the public arena to completely misrepresent the position of the opposition. We have taken points of order on this, and we have used standing order 46 to make personal explanations, but this does not stop the Chief Minister from deliberately and with malice misrepresenting the views of the opposition, causing discord in the community and causing discord, discontent and unhappiness amongst people who are working very hard in the community to get the community back on the ground.

If anyone is politicising this process, it is the Chief Minister, who has repeatedly said here and elsewhere that I wish to sack Sandy Hollway, Terry Snow, Robert de Castella and Maureen Cane. This is not the case. As evidence of this, Mr Speaker, I seek leave to table a transcript of a conversation between myself and Mike Jeffreys on radio 2CC, beginning at 7.11 this morning.

Leave granted.

MRS DUNNE: I table the following paper:

Reconstruction Authority—Transcript of Vicki Dunne's radio interview with Mike Jeffreys on Thursday, 6 March 2003.

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There has been a constant barrage from this Chief Minister because he is discomfited by the fact that people have concerns about how this process is being handled. His only way of doing anything in this place is to come in with a low attack and misrepresent the views of people who are trying to get things done.

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, you are debating the issue. I think you should stick to the reasons why you want standing orders suspended.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Heritage and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (4.05): Moving a censure motion is a serious issue that needs to be facilitated where it is appropriate. On what I have heard and on the debate over the last week or two, the government sees no grounds for such a motion.

There is no paperwork before us. There is no list of details of what this censure might be about. While we regard facilitation where appropriate important, in this circumstance absolutely no case has been demonstrated, and the government will not be supporting the suspension of standing orders.

MS TUCKER (4.06): I have walked in a bit late on this, but I have picked up that you want to suspend standing orders to censure the Chief Minister for misrepresenting the Liberals. I am not prepared to debate this now. If you want to debate it, I am not going to support it, because I will have to read through reams of exceedingly tedious *Hansard*. As I sit here in this chamber all the time—maybe it is a skill I have learnt as a mother—I shut out unnecessary and tedious noise. I do not listen to a lot of the crap that goes on, so I will have to read every single bit of *Hansard* to work out whether or not there has been a misrepresentation. I am not going to have time to do that now. I have more important things to do anyway, so I will not support the motion.

MR SPEAKER: And you are usually a stickler for using parliamentary language.

MS TUCKER: Was I unparliamentary? Is “crap” unparliamentary? I was being restrained. I will withdraw it if it offends people. I withdraw “crap”.

MR SPEAKER: Whether or not it is appropriate is for somebody else to judge, but it is unparliamentary.

MS TUCKER: If someone is offended, please stand up and say so and I will withdraw it.

MR SPEAKER: It is not a question of whether anybody is offended.

MR STEFANIAK (4.07): Mr Speaker, it is terribly important in this place that members do not consistently say something that is blatantly wrong and blatantly inaccurate.

Mr Quinlan: How long ago did you say something blatantly inaccurate, Bill?

MR STEFANIAK: Blatantly misleading as well. It has caused angst already in the community. We have heard already that one member of the task force, Mr Snow, has

taken what the Chief Minister has said at face value and is concerned. Between 11.49 and about 11.52 this morning the Chief Minister consistently said that the Liberal opposition, Mrs Dunne in particular, wanted to sack the team of Sandy Hollway, Terry Snow, Rob De Castella and Maureen Cane. He kept repeating that.

He also kept making imputations in relation to the opposition undermining the McLeod inquiry, alleging that we claim that Rod McLeod is engaged on a whitewash. The opposition has said that that is blatantly wrong. One very good reason for having this censure motion is what Mrs Dunne said yesterday in introducing her bill:

We are all well aware of the expertise in the bushfire task force. I have previously congratulated the government on assembling such skill and such talent in such short time. The skill and talent extend not just to the task force members but to the staff that support them. I can think of no better person than Sandy Hollway to head up this task force.

That quite clearly praises the task force and says that that body should become the authority in the bill Mrs Dunne introduced.

Mr Corbell: Your bill gets rid of the task force.

MR STEFANIAK: It does not. It appoints those people. Yet the Chief Minister has consistently said today that we want to sack the task force. That is misleading in the extreme and worthy of censure. That is why the Liberal Party wants to move a censure motion. It is crucially important that people be as accurate as they can and not deliberately mislead. The Chief Minister has misled not just once or twice. He has done it on a number of occasions today.

MRS BURKE (4.09): As a relative newcomer to this place, I found the Chief Minister's outburst this morning, as now, extraordinary. I thought you were a man of a bit more decency than that, Chief Minister. It is as clear as the nose on your face, Chief Minister, that the Liberals have never said that they want to sack Sandy Hollway, Terry Snow, Maureen Cane or Robert de Castella. Chief Minister, I think it is rude and offensive that you would say such scurrilous things. You sit there laughing now.

Mr Stanhope : I do.

MRS BURKE: You do. You have answered my question. For the Chief Minister to say what he has said this morning is misleading in the extreme. I find it in bad taste. It does a disservice to our profession, Chief Minister. It may be naive of me, but I have always felt that, whatever else goes on in this place, misleading this house is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. I believe that the Chief Minister did mislead this house this morning and should therefore be censured for his misrepresentations.

MRS CROSS (4.11): I am not going to support a censure motion against the Chief Minister. It is absolutely hypocritical of the opposition to accuse the Chief Minister of hypocrisy and of double standards.

Mr Stefaniak: Comrade.

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MRS CROSS: No, Bill, not comrade. You have the temerity to sit there and accuse the Chief Minister of misleading the Assembly. You are the experts at misleading the Assembly. For you to waste this chamber's time on a censure motion against the Chief Minister, when we have more important business to conduct, is devious. You are a hypocrite. I do not support this.

MR CORNWELL (4.12): I had a look at the *Hansard* of yesterday's question time. Mr Stanhope mentioned the word "whitewash" four times on one page. He said:

Mr McLeod is somebody who the Liberal Party thinks can be bought off in some way—that he is prepared to cop a whitewash.

I took a point of order and objected as a member of the Liberal Party because an attack on the party is an attack on individual members. Mr Stanhope accused me of not supporting my leader when I made the point that each individual in this party could have stood up and demanded an apology for that statement. They did not get it. It was then directed at the leader of the Liberal Party and not other members. There has been no attempt—

Mr Hargreaves: I take a point of order, Mr Speaker. I believe Mr Cornwell is anticipating debate.

MR SPEAKER: There is some crossover, but I would ask the member to be explicit about the reasons for wanting to suspend standing orders.

MR CORNWELL: I understand entirely. I am simply showing why there should be a suspension of standing orders to allow this matter to be thoroughly thrashed out. The word "whitewash" appears on four occasions on one page alone. There has been a failure to accept that Liberals other than me feel that they have been maligned by this comment. Certainly the opportunity should be allowed for the leader of the Liberal Party to protect himself from these slurs. The independent Labor member over there, Mrs Cross, laughs, but I believe there is justification for the suspension of standing orders so that the matter can be debated in full.

MR QUINLAN (Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism and Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming) (4.13): I can relate to what Ms Tucker said. I too switch off on some of the crap that occurs in this place. But one man's crap might be—

MR SPEAKER: Order, Mr Quinlan! You can withdraw that too.

MR QUINLAN: Okay, I do. I do not usually like to get into these debates, but the blinding hypocrisy of this lot today is gobsmacking.

Mrs Cross: Hypocrites.

MR SPEAKER: Order! "Hypocrite" has been ruled out in this place time and time again. I would ask you to withdraw it, Mr Quinlan. I would also ask Mrs Cross to withdraw it.

MR QUINLAN: Okay. How does “double standards” go?

MR SPEAKER: Let us withdraw “hypocrite” first.

MR QUINLAN: I withdraw it.

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Cross, would you withdraw your reference to hypocrisy?

Mrs Cross: I withdraw the reference to hypocrisy. The sentiment remains.

MR SPEAKER: You have to withdraw it in an unqualified way, I am sorry to say.

Mrs Cross: I withdraw it, Mr Speaker.

MR QUINLAN: Today at question time, Mr Stefaniak, who has already been on his feet in mock outrage, referred to the hoary \$344 million. He knows that is not true.

Mrs Dunne: I take a point of order, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Mr Quinlan, that is irrelevant.

Mrs Dunne: It is irrelevant. He is attempting to filibuster to take up time.

MR SPEAKER: I understand the point of order, and so does Mr Quinlan.

MR QUINLAN: Let me recall, Mr Speaker, that during the last Assembly the standard defence of Mrs Carnell and Mr Humphries, whenever they were under attack, was to draw in the name of a public servant or two.

MR SPEAKER: Order! With the time being 4.15 pm, the allotted time for this debate has expired.

Question put:

That the motion (**Mr Smyth’s**) be agreed to.

The Assembly divided—

Ayes 7

Noes 10

Mrs Burke
Mr Cornwell
Ms Dundas
Mrs Dunne
Mr Pratt

Mr Smyth
Mr Stefaniak

Mr Berry
Mr Corbell
Mrs Cross
Ms Gallagher
Mr Hargreaves

Ms MacDonald
Mr Quinlan
Mr Stanhope
Ms Tucker
Mr Wood

Question so resolved in the negative.

International Women's Day Discussion of matter of public importance

MR SPEAKER: I have received letters from Ms Dundas and Ms MacDonald proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, I have determined by lot that the matter proposed by Ms MacDonald be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The importance of International Women's Day.

MS MacDONALD (4.18): I appreciate this opportunity to speak about International Women's Day, an important day for the whole community to reflect on the status of women in our society. Since the inception of International Women's Day early last century, women's issues have been subject to many ebbs and flows on the political agenda. Over the years these issues have included pay equity, the right to vote, the rights of indigenous women, peace, child care, access to education, and reproductive health. All of these issues, except for the right to vote, continue to be major topics of debate and concern for women.

What has winning the right to vote meant to women contributing to political decision-making, indeed decision-making at all levels in the Australian community? One hundred years ago most Australian women won the right to vote in federal elections. At the same time they won the right to stand for election. I say "most", because indigenous women did not win the same rights for another 60 years.

Australia was undoubtedly a pioneer of women's political rights. At the time the only other country where women could vote was New Zealand. Across the Tasman, however, women did not have the right to stand for election. They did not receive that right until 1919.

Although women here in Australia have had that right since 1902, it was another 41 years until the first women were elected to the federal parliament. That occurred in 1943, when Dame Enid Lyons was elected to the House of Representatives as the federal member for the Tasmanian seat of Darwin, which has since been renamed Braddon, and Dame Dorothy Tangney was elected as a senator for Western Australia. This was an important milestone for Australian politics, although it was somewhat belated.

Of all the Western democracies, Australia had the greatest time lag between being eligible to stand for election to the national parliament and actually being elected to it. It is important to remember that, although women were able to vote and stand for election in the federal parliament in 1902, in many states they did not enjoy a corresponding right to vote for state elections or to sit in their state parliaments.

At the time of federation women could vote in only two states: South Australia and Western Australia. To date no indigenous woman has been elected to the federal parliament. The first Aboriginal woman elected to a state parliament was Labor's Carol Martin, who took her seat in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly in 2000. We in the Labor Party were all very pleased.

The ACT has the honour of claiming the first Australian female head of government. Rosemary Follett was elected Chief Minister in 1989. Currently in Australia the only female head of government is Clare Martin in the Northern Territory, and only 28 per cent of our parliamentary representatives are women.

In 2000 just 10 per cent of the directors of Australia's top 500 private companies were women. I find that figure more concerning than the lack of representation in our parliaments. We are addressing the issue in our parliaments.

On national government boards and committees, 33.9 per cent of representatives are women, and at the state and territory level, excluding the ACT, the percentage of women on government boards and committees ranges from 25 per cent to 38 per cent. This government is committed to increasing the representation of women in government and public office.

Our current Legislative Assembly in the ACT has an unprecedented seven women members, more than in any of the four Assemblies elected before it, and a huge increase from the Fourth Assembly, when unfortunately we had only two women in this place. I am pleased to see that Ms Tucker, one of those women, is still here.

At present 49 per cent of members of ACT government boards and committees are women. That is by far the highest rate of participation in Australia. This government is actively working to achieve our target of 50 per cent representation of women. Earlier today Ms Dundas, Ms Gallagher and I were at a lunch on women in vocational education and training. Kerry Arabina was talking about being delighted with Jon Stanhope's leadership in making sure that we have that level of representation of women on our government boards.

Those who are elected to government are there to represent the views and needs of those who elected them. To achieve this, it is imperative that elected representatives reflect, and are inclusive of, the whole community.

The Stanhope government has provided the Canberra Capitals women's basketball team with \$100,000, which is equal to the funding received by both the Brumbies and the Raiders. The Capitals have won three grand finals in the past four years. I know that you, Mr Deputy Speaker, were at the Capitals grand final victory only a couple of weeks ago, as were I and many others in this place. It was a delight to us all to see the Canberra Capitals, led by Lucillie Bailie, bring home the cup yet again.

The government also provides assistance, not to the same extent but certainly at a fairly high level, to other women's teams such as the Canberra Eclipse, our local women's soccer team in the national competition. I was happy to attend a few of their functions last year, and I wish them all the best this year. They did not do as well last year as they had done the year before, but hopefully they will be coming back this year.

Women make up just over half of the population. It is vital that they be encouraged and supported to participate and contribute at all levels of the community, and in particular as part of decision-making bodies. The leadership of any organisation or group is enhanced

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by a diversity of styles and approaches. This applies to issues of governance. Any system dominated by a narrow spectrum of the community will always be limited in the extent to which the full range of interests and perspectives can be represented and progressed.

I do not know where I first heard it, but I remember hearing that concrete ramps were not put into footpaths until women started getting themselves elected to local councils. They realised it was an issue. They had a problem pushing their prams around. Once they were elected to councils, they started to do something about it. Of course that had flow-on effects for other people in the community as well, not least those people confined to wheelchairs.

Across Australia, and to a lesser extent in the ACT, we are not capitalising on the potential benefits of the input and contributions of a diverse range of people, particularly women. Here in the ACT we should be proud of the level of participation of women in decision-making bodies and of the significant benefits to our community resulting from this. I hope all of the speeches here today will reflect that.

International Women's Day provides us with an opportunity to recognise the contributions of women in their roles as decision-makers in our community. It is also an opportunity for all of us to commit to continuing to lead the way towards a society in which all decision-making bodies at all levels are inclusive of, and truly reflect, the full diversity of our community.

MS DUNDAS (4.26): Mr Deputy Speaker, I am glad that Ms MacDonald has raised this matter of public importance today. I had also prepared a matter of public importance which was similar, but not exactly the same, as Ms MacDonald's, and I am glad that there is a number of us who are keen to discuss the importance of women today, especially as International Women's Day is to be held this Saturday.

I must say that I am very proud that this Assembly, with the election of Ms Burke, now has the highest proportion of women members of any parliament in Australia. That is definitely something to be very proud of. We also have the first female Minister for Women in the ACT since the resignation of Kate Carnell, and I congratulate Ms Gallagher on her appointment. I am aware of her commitment to women's issues, and I hope that she receives the support she deserves in furthering the position of women here in Canberra.

Women have been essential to the creation and progression of human civilisations since the dawn of time, but throughout thousands of years of development women have always been treated as junior partners at best, and at worst they have been mere slaves and subjugated by the will of men.

International Women's Day is a time for women and men to come together to celebrate the achievement of women, as well as work together to work for the equality of women, locally and around the world. International Women's Day provides a spotlight on the continuing violence, poverty and discrimination that women suffer and provides a space for government, business and the community to collectively find solutions to the problems that women face.

I have been reading an American book entitled *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future*, which starts off in a very interesting way by posing the question: "Imagine that for a day it is still 1970 and women only have the rights that they had then". It is interesting to look back and see how far we have progressed in 30 years. Of course, it is an American book, but I think our experiences are quite similar. Babies born in 1970 are automatically given their father's name; if no father is listed, "illegitimate" is likely to be typed on the birth certificate. There are virtually no child-care centres, so all pre-school children are in the hands of their mothers, a babysitter, or an expensive nursery school.

In elementary school, girls cannot play little league, and almost all of the teachers are female. In a few states it may be against the law for a male to teach grades lower than the sixth on the basis that it is unnatural or that men cannot be trusted with young children. In junior high, which is the equivalent of our high school, girls probably take home economics, boys take shop or small engine repair. Boys who want to learn how to cook or sew on a button are out of luck, as are the girls who want to learn how to fix a car.

Judy Blume's books are just beginning to be published. The principal is usually a man. Girls have physical education class and play hardcourt basketball but not soccer, track or cross-country, nor do they have any varsity sports teams. The only prestigious physical activity for girls is cheer leading or being a drum majorette. Most girls do not take calculus or physics. They plan the dances and they decorate the gym.

If a woman is not a Mrs she is a Miss. A woman without make-up and hairdo is as suspect as a man with them. Without a male escort, she may be refused service in a restaurant or a bar, and a woman alone is hard pressed to find a landlord who will rent her an apartment. After all, she will probably be leaving to get married soon, and if she is not, the landlord does not want to deal with a potential brothel. The book goes on to list other problems.

I was talking to my mother quite recently about these issues and she raised the point that back in the 1970s when she was working and was the main source of income for my family, as my father was student at the time, she had huge problems trying to sign a lease, even though she was the one with the income. That was a struggle that she faced then. I am glad to see that things have progressed in the last 30 years and I pose the question: has feminism changed our lives? Was it necessary? After 30 years of feminism, the world we inhabit barely resembles the world we were born into, and there is still a lot left to do.

Here in the ACT, the status of women is better than that of most women living in other parts of the world today. Third World women are 30 times more likely to die during childbirth and most are unable to access contraception or other means of controlling their reproductive systems. Millions of women do not have access to clean water or sanitation. Millions more live in dire poverty and many of these are sole parents who are unable to adequately feed their families. Millions of women around the world suffer the physical and psychological trauma of domestic violence, which remains massively under reported and is often condoned by women's communities or cultures around the world.

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Women make up nearly half of the world's 35 million adults living with HIV/AIDS, which has reached extreme levels in sub-Saharan Africa where entire communities are infected with the disease and do not have any access to effective protection or treatment. There are very disturbing reports coming out that men in that community believe that the way to cure AIDS is to have sex with a virgin—which, of course, just transmits this disease throughout the population at rampant rates and has a huge impact on the women who live there.

Women make up nearly two-thirds of the world's illiterate people and many homeless women have children that they are responsible for whilst most homeless men do not have that responsibility. Women earn less than 40 per cent of the income of men across the globe and control less than 10 per cent of the world's wealth. I could go on and on but I do think that what I have just said answers the question that feminism is still necessary.

International Women's Day means we have a chance to look at both the global plight of women as well as local issues here in the ACT. I particularly wish to again bring to the attention of this Assembly the report of the Select Committee on the Status of Women in the ACT which took a year to compile. The document provides a way for this government to address women's issues. However, political will and government resources are needed if the recommendations are to be implemented. I know that all 59 recommendations, stretching across areas of health and education to violence against women and broader strategic directions, are being carefully considered by the government.

I would also like members to note that this month of March is in fact Women's History Month, and this presents a chance for all Australian women to learn more about their part in the building of Australia. Women's History Month is about women, the present and the past, and also about the future. Its main aim is to help us appreciate women's contribution to history. The rich historical contribution women make often goes unknown and unacknowledged.

Throughout March there are activities that bring together experts from government and academia, business and the community, to help us explore our history, and most of this information can be accessed on the Women's History Month website. We are told that "Each time a girl opens a book and reads a womanless history, she learns that she is worth less".

International Women's Day is a chance for all of us to reflect on the rights and status of women in Canberra and around the globe. However, women suffer inequity every day of the year. I call on members to keep the rights and needs of women in mind throughout the rest of the year—as they know I do because I am quite proud to wear the label of feminist.

Just as women's experience is diverse, so is the feminist experience. To quote again from this book:

There is never one feminist issue that dwarfs all others, there will never be one platform for action that all women agree upon. But that doesn't mean that feminism

is confused. What it does mean is that feminism is as various as the women it represents. What weaves a feminist movement together is consciousness of inequities and a commitment to changing them.

We women, especially we feminists, are still trying to become what we believe in. So get equal pay for comparable work, down with the virgin/whore complex, know your body the way you know your Judy Blume books. Fight for the right to love whom you choose. In all things fight for equality. You could take less but why suffer.

MRS BURKE (4.35): I would like to congratulate Ms MacDonald for bringing forward International Women's Day for discussion today as a matter of public importance. "International Women's Day," to quote the Training and Adult Education office, "offers women throughout the world the opportunity to join together to celebrate their achievements. It is an opportunity to reaffirm their goals." It offers the opportunity to ultimately improve the status of women, and areas such as pay conditions and political rights would be included in these objectives.

I would like to thank the many women who have supported the many events that have been held this week and are due to be held continually throughout the week, to celebrate women not only in Canberra but also around the globe. As a strong supporter of women succeeding on their merits, I particularly commend the activities of the IWD movement.

I was pleased to see that Training and Adult Education have recognised the role of men in working towards a better world for women and girls. I think this is indicative of the fact that we need their support. Indeed, on a lighter note, let us not forget that had it not been for men, I would not be here today talking about this matter. So possibly—Mr Cornwell will laugh at this—we may see the day when we have an international men's day, too, to celebrate the efforts of their helping women.

Women since 1911 have been working extremely hard—and probably before then, too, but it became more of an issue around that time—to make a woman's lot a happier and more fulfilling one. Ms Dundas is not alone in describing what used to happen. It is not that long ago that women really suffered and struggled in their striving for equality, and they are still working to achieve that end.

I was interested to hear our excellent commander of operations of the AFP, Mandy Newton, say how buoyed—and there is no pun intended—she had been by the enormous support offered to her by her male colleagues. We have come a long way since the early 1900s. We still have a long way to go to ensure that other women around the world enjoy better rates of pay, better living conditions, and are better able to secure political rights.

I believe that with world travel becoming increasingly available to more people, and with the ever-increasing advancements in technology, we will see greater achievements in such areas as reconciliation, freedom from violence, and responsible environmental management.

Again, it is tremendous to know that IWD is an occasion where men and women join together to make a better world for women. We in the Western modern world do not know how blessed we are. We enjoy living in a democracy where the freedom of the individual is accepted.

Mr Speaker, I am delighted to have been involved in many of the activities organised for International Women's Day.

MR PRATT (4.38): Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to welcome discussion of this matter of public importance and congratulate Ms MacDonald for having brought it on. The importance of International Women's Day, of course, is without question.

I would like to reflect for just a moment on the role of women in troubled Third World countries that I have been to. I certainly will not drag the Iraqi war into this discussion today by focusing per se on the Iraqi Kurdish widows issues that I have talked about before—I will talk about the case loads of other women that I have worked with around the world.

To give this subject, I suppose, a bit more international flavour, I will talk generally about the role of women in conflict zones around the world where I have had the great privilege to work and to see communities do marvellous things to try and come to grips with chaos. I talk about Yemeni, Jordanian, Sudanese, Hutu, Tutsi, Bosnian and Kosova women whom I have seen living in extremely difficult circumstances. I will say this: all of the case loads of all of those women groups around the world have something in common—they were a catalyst in their communities for resolving conflict. So whilst they were mightily suppressed in their dreadful patriarchal societies, they were in fact the cement in keeping the remnants of their societies together. I would like to raise that as an issue that we should commemorate today as we celebrate International Women's Day.

I will conclude by saying that in those same dreadful places—in dusty, muddy, cold, hot, jungly and deserty places—the most effective international aid program officers I had working with me were women. They just happened to bring with them that extra touch of finesse in tense environments. So I reflect on those issues as we today mark International Women's Day.

MS TUCKER (4.40): In speaking on this matter of public importance today I would like to highlight the impact of war on women and the important role of women in obtaining a peaceful resolution of conflict and the avoidance of war. But first, I will quickly cover the history of the International Women's Day.

The idea of an international women's day first arose at the beginning of the 20th century, which in the industrialised world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population growth and radical ideologies. In accordance with the declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first national women's day was observed across the United States on 28 February 1909. In 1910 the Socialist International established a women's day, international in character, to honour the movement for women's rights and to assist in achieving universal suffrage for women.

From these early beginnings we now have International Women's Day on 8 March each year, which is marked by women's groups around the world. It marks a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development, and there is still a struggle for equality, justice, peace and development in very many countries around the world.

The issues of war and peace have always played a prominent role in the observance of International Women's Day. As part of the peace movement brewing on the eve of World War I, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day in February 1913. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March 1914, women held rallies either to protest at the war or to express solidarity with their sisters. In February 1917, with two million Russian soldiers dead, Russian women held a strike for "bread and peace".

As it now appears certain that the United States is determined to invade Iraq, with or without the approval of the UN, it is sobering to note that, according to the Medical Association for Prevention of War, a US-led attack on Iraq is likely to result in between 48,000 and 260,000 deaths during the first three months of combat. Civilian victims, mostly women and children, outnumber casualties among combatants. In addition, women often become carers for injured combatants, and find themselves unexpectedly cast as a sole parent, manager of the household, and caretakers of elderly relatives.

Parties to a conflict often rape women with impunity, sometimes using systematic rape as a tactic of terrorism. The impact of violence against women and violations of their human rights in such situations is experienced by women of all ages, who suffer displacement, loss of home and property.

Oxfam has stated that approximately 80 per cent of today's civilian casualties are women, while the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has estimated that 80 per cent of all refugees and internally displaced people worldwide are women and children. Women in unstable, disruptive conflict and post-conflict situations are at risk from multiple forms of violence and are often deliberate targets in conflict. It is obvious that the impact of war on women is very severe and also falls disproportionately heavily on them.

Fortunately, Mr Speaker, women are not simply passive victims and are actively working towards maintaining and achieving peace, not only in Iraq but worldwide. It is particularly interesting to note that in January this year some 25 women members of the US House of Representatives refused to participate in the vote to give President Bush war powers, and in fact walked out of the Congress and took up residence on the White House lawn.

Across the world, women are working towards visions of peace and security as community leaders, social organisers, farmers, workers, et cetera. They are doing so in the face of overwhelming challenges against their significance role in peace building and reconciliation processes.

On several occasions I have joined a group of women in Canberra called the Women in Black. For a whole sitting week of the federal parliament I stood with them, and I must say I found it very interesting to see the reactions of the people who drove by. There were some incredibly arrogant and rude people in cars—mainly men, I have to say—who made their point pretty clearly through gestures of their fingers or swearing or yelling out of their car window. But what I found so interesting was the fact that so many people, both men and women, were incredibly supportive of this group of women from Canberra dressed in black who were standing in a dignified and silent protest.

The activities which women are involved in around the world include pro-active peace building initiatives through cross-community liaison; participating in peace processes at local, national, regional and international levels; involvement in reconstruction, demobilisation, disarmament and development programs; involvement in lobbying and demonstrating activities to promote peace; and coping strategies concentrating on day-to-day basic needs and bringing communities together.

The importance of International Women's Day is that it provides a focus to highlight both the role of women in peace building and also the terrible impact of war on humanity and women in particular. It gives me great pleasure to support this matter of public importance.

MS GALLAGHER (Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, Minister for Women and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.46): I would also like to thank Ms MacDonald for bringing International Women's Day to the attention of the Assembly. I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak today about the significance of International Women's Day—a day to reflect on the status of women.

International Women's Day is celebrated each year throughout the world. On this day people of all cultures and all generations celebrate the gains that women have made. Although cultural and social priorities are constantly changing around the world, women have always been on the front line working for peace, human rights and improved living conditions. This year women around the world, while celebrating their achievements, are still fighting for the elimination of discrimination and for gender equity. At the same time they are calling for help and support for those women who do not yet have access to the same opportunities. Importantly for all of us at this time, women across the world are calling for peace.

International Women's Day inspires commitment to meet the future challenges that women face in making further progress towards achieving equality, and we all know that there is still much more to be done. It is not just women but the whole community that need to make this commitment, and governments must take a leadership role in this process.

I would like to focus my comments today on the issues surrounding violence against women, and violence against women in the ACT. As members would know, last year I chaired the Select Committee on the Status of Women in the ACT. The committee's report found, rather disappointingly, that the single biggest issue in 2002 affecting women in the ACT was violence. I think it is a real shame that that is the case. This is not an issue just in the ACT—it is happening nationally and internationally. Every government website you go contains plans that have been put in place to address violence against women.

The Office for Women is currently preparing a whole-of-government policy framework, to be released soon and tabled in the Assembly, which will look at how we can address the issue of violence and safety for women in the ACT. This framework is incredibly important as women's experiences and understanding of violence are often different to those of men.

Women are more likely to experience violence from a current or previous partner than from a stranger or acquaintance, and that violence is often part of a repeated pattern of abuse over many years rather than an isolated incident. In a submission to the Select Committee on the Status of Women in the ACT, the Chief Police Officer of the ACT noted that women and girls account for 45 per cent of victims of crimes against the person; and they comprise 43 per cent of the victims of assault and 86 per cent of the victims of sexual assault.

A large portion of crimes committed against women and girls are perpetrated by someone known to them. Close to half of all assaults against females were perpetrated by offenders known to the victim, and of the 119 sexual assaults against females during 2001, 75 were committed by an offender known to the victim. However, crimes against the person constitute only a small portion of the total number of crimes reported in the ACT, and that is important to remember as well.

That violence still remains one of the most serious issues facing women across the world is both disappointing and a major concern. It is these women we need to reach. We can never take our eye off the ball while there are any women who are isolated, disadvantaged and need our support.

Tomorrow I am hosting two forums looking at addressing issues of violence for women in our community, and I hope to see as many members as possible attend these forums. The areas to be covered at will include: children and domestic violence; women across the lifespan; indigenous family violence; working with men; and collaborative approaches.

Whilst improving the quality of life for women is very much a responsibility of government, we recognise that the entire community has a role to play if we are to move forward. An example of working with the community is the Office of Women working in partnership with women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop an indigenous women's action plan. As a result of this process, the Ngunnawal Country Indigenous Women's Circle has been formed. The circle is a working group with flexible membership and open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in the ACT and surrounding regions. The Office of Women is supporting the circle to develop their action plan and to form links with other programs across government and across the community.

With International Women's Day only a few days away, it is appropriate to reflect on the vital role that the achievements and contributions of women play in making our ACT community a better place for all of us. Too often the contributions of women do not receive adequate recognition. In the recent Australian honours, women received only 33 per cent of the total nominations and only 34 per cent of the honours awarded.

The ACT International Women's Day Awards will be presented tomorrow. These awards will provide an opportunity for the community to celebrate and highlight the often invisible and taken-for-granted achievements and contributions of our local women. They also serve to encourage the community to think about nominating women in formal recognition of their efforts and achievements.

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This year, as well as presenting awards to a number of women whose outstanding achievements have enriched the lives of others in our community, we will also be presenting a new community award. This award recognises that, in order to enhance the status of women, we need to work together as a community. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge people or organisations that may have contributed to improving access to services to women, developed family friendly work practices or worked in some way to encourage more women to participate in an aspect of community life. Those celebrations are on tomorrow evening and I look forward to seeing members attend them.

MRS DUNNE (4.52): On the day before the eve of International Women's Day, I rise to pay tribute to most of the women across the world and across Canberra for whom International Women's Day is just another day and the celebrations will go unnoticed.

I am always concerned that things like International Women's Day are designed to make middle-class women, like us, feel warm and fuzzy. I am concerned that we do not actually carry our efforts beyond International Women's Day to address the real needs of people across the world. I am also concerned that we have preconceived ideas about the sorts of things women should be doing in regard to International Women's Day.

We should remember, Mr Deputy Speaker, that most of the women in the world will mark International Women's Day by doing what they do every other day—carrying water, grinding millet, looking for sticks to make fire to make bread for their family if they are lucky enough to find the grain or to find the water. For most of the women of the world, International Women's Day will be another day of poverty.

For most women in Canberra it will be another day of getting up, cooking breakfast, making sandwiches, running people around and looking after people. Most of them are doing many things that we, in this place, do not have the time or the inclination to do—running meals-on-wheels, running community organisations, and going to school to listen to my children read because I do not do it.

These are the people that we should pay tribute to—the people who are not at the forefront, who are not at the barricades, who probably do not even know that it is International Women's Day; and probably, if you told them, would not particularly care because they are getting on with their lives and making a difference in their world. These are the people that we need to pay tribute to. We should not be here telling them they should be doing something better or something worse.

Those of us especially of the First World who, because of our actions or inactions, consign many people to poverty, should be doing what we can. We should be going beyond International Women's Day and ensuring that every day is a day for these women and for their children, husbands, fathers and brothers. This is a day when we take stock, but we must do more than take stock because otherwise it will be just a meaningless gesture that we go through every year. We go to a breakfast and we feel smug about ourselves, when most of the people in the world will wake up on Saturday morning to no breakfast.

Mr Pratt talked about people across the world in transit in refugee stations whose husbands, fathers and brothers have been killed in genocides, wars and atrocities. We should not be politicising these people: we should be working to make their lives better, not just on Saturday but every day.

MRS CROSS (4.55): Mr Deputy Speaker, it is interesting—it is a bit like the multicultural SBS/ABC thing yesterday—how the major parties are represented on this issue, given that it is so important.

I want to congratulate Ms MacDonald for bringing this MPI forward. I think what you have done is great, Ms MacDonald. The history of International Women's Day is rather fascinating and enlightening. The first International Women's Day was held on 19 March 1911 in Germany, Austria and Denmark. This date was chosen by German women because on that day the Prussian king, who was facing an uprising, promised many reforms. Amongst them was one which would give women the right to vote.

Russian revolutionary and feminist, Alexandra Kollontai, who was in Germany at the time of the first International Women's Day, wrote with great excitement of that day:

... exceeded all expectations. It was one seething, trembling sea of women. Men stayed at home with their children, and their wives, the captive housewives, went to the meetings.

I wonder who would look at this chamber now and see the women here assembled as a “trembling sea of women”?

Mr Hargreaves: What, both of them?

MRS CROSS: I know. It is riveting, isn't it. At least we have got Ms Gallagher in the gallery.

Alas, as far as representation goes, the federal parliament has nothing more than a trickle of women through its hallowed hallways. Since those early days, International Women's Day has gone through highs and a number of lows, but it remains a day that centres on pushing women's issues onto the political agenda.

On the 50th anniversary of International Women's Day in 1960, over 720 delegates from 73 countries met at a conference in Copenhagen. The conference adopted a general declaration of support for the political, economic and social rights of women.

During the International Year of Women in 1975 the United Nations gave official recognition to International Women's Day, and the day was adopted by many countries which had not heard, or known, of International Women's Day.

In Cuba, where International Women's Day—and I know Mr Hargreaves is very excited about Cuba—was already recognised by the government, 1975 was chosen to announce a campaign which went against deeply entrenched macho practices and attitudes. The campaign list included a change in the marriage code which made housework the

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responsibility of women and men. Perhaps Australia could learn a lesson or two from Cuba in this regard.

Here in Australia, our first recognition of International Women's Day took place in the form of a rally in Sydney's domain in 1928. Organised by the Militant Women's Movement—one I know that Mr Cornwell admires with great affection—it called for equal pay for equal work, an eight-hour working day, a basic wage for the unemployed and annual holidays on full pay.

The struggle of the suffragettes is not over. Although we have come a long way, there is really still a long way to go. It has only been a relatively short period of time since you, Mr Speaker, with a little help from me, helped wipe clean the smear of the criminal sanctions attributed to a woman's right to choose in the ACT.

The fight has been a long one, and I do not use the word "fight" lightly. In 1903, nine years after women in South Australia had won the vote, Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia formed the Women's Social and Political Union. The union became known as the suffragettes, and they were prepared to use violence to achieve their aims.

In 1905 the suffragettes created a stir when Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney interrupted a political meeting in Manchester to ask two Liberal politicians, who just happened to be Winston Churchill and Sir Edward Grey, if they believed women should have the right to vote. Neither man replied. As a result, the two women got out a banner, which carried the words "Votes for Women", and shouted at the two politicians to answer their questions.

Pankhurst and Kenney were promptly thrown out of the meeting and arrested for causing an obstruction. Remarkably, both women refused to pay the fine, preferring instead to go to prison to highlight the injustice of the system as it was then. Emmeline Pankhurst later wrote in her autobiography that:

This was the beginning of a campaign the like of which was never known in England, or for that matter in any other country ... we interrupted a great many meetings ... and we were violently thrown out and insulted. Often we were painfully bruised and hurt.

The suffragettes refused to bow to violence.

At 5pm, in accordance with standing order 34, the debate was interrupted. The motion for the adjournment of the Assembly having been put and negatived, the debate was resumed.

MRS CROSS: They burned down churches as the Church of England was against what they wanted; they vandalised Oxford Street, apparently breaking all the windows in this famous street; they chained themselves to Buckingham Palace because the royal family was seen to be against women having the right to vote; they hired boats, sailed up the Thames and shouted abuse through loudhailers at parliament as it sat. Others refused to pay their taxes. Politicians were attacked when they went to work and their homes were firebombed. Golf courses were vandalised.

Mr Speaker, I did not mean this to be a speech simply about the women's liberation movement, but during the celebration of the 92nd International Women's Day on Saturday it is fitting that we remember our heritage and history as women. It is because of those women that we are here continuing the struggle today—and we know that it has been a struggle.

Mr Speaker, there is still a long way to go. The report of the Select Committee on the Status of Women in the ACT published last year by this Assembly is a comprehensive analysis of the issues facing and confronting us within the nation's capital. It is, from my perspective, compelling reading. Whether it is the decriminalisation of abortion, the provision of universal and publicly funded maternity leave, the prohibition of pregnancy discrimination or even the simple right to breastfeed a child in a legislative chamber, the women of Australia and the world are still not equal to our male counterparts.

Mr Speaker, this is an auspicious occasion and I would like to wish my fellow women MLAs and the women of the Australian Capital Territory a very happy International Women's Day.

MR SPEAKER: The discussion is concluded.

Cemeteries and Crematoria Bill 2002 (No 2)

Debate resumed from 12 December 2002, on motion by **Mr Wood:**

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR CORNWELL (5.03): Mr Speaker, the cemeteries and crematoria legislation has had a rather long and chequered history. We now have before us bill No 2, which is a revamp of earlier legislation.

Mr Wood: Yes, your legislation, Mr Cornwell.

MR CORNWELL: Indeed, which also now takes into account issues raised by the Greens.

Mr Wood: Like what?

MR CORNWELL: I will explain. What began as a relatively simple update of existing legislation has been altered, and I will quickly identify a few things. Perpetual tenure of graves has been withdrawn if the right of burial is not used within 60 years. This is a similar law to that in New South Wales and I think it is a sensible idea. It would seem to me that people should not have grave plots in perpetuity on the grounds that, whilst we may be a wide, brown land, we do not have a great deal of land within our cities to allocate to an increasing number of cemeteries where grave plots can be reserved in perpetuity.

Of course, elsewhere in the world there are other means of doing this. The nature of the soil in New Orleans, for example, precludes people from being buried under the ground.

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People are buried in above-ground graves. Within one year and one day of having been buried the grave can be opened and the body, which presumably because of the weather is reduced to bones, can be pushed back into a stone coffin, and then the grave is available for somebody else to occupy. Incidentally, I did not bother to find out what would happen if somebody else in the family died prior to that one year and a day. But it just goes to show that there are alternatives around the world for this type of thing. All cemeteries have something in common, and that is the problem of finding burial plots. Certainly, plots are getting scarcer in our larger cities.

The second point is important. Some foetuses formerly treated as clinical waste may now, if it is the parent's wish, be buried or cremated. The definition in the legislation relating to foetuses has not been changed but there is now a personal choice and I think this is certainly a step in the right direction. Parents who prefer to have certain foetuses buried or cremated may now do so.

The Cemeteries Board composition has been increased to a minimum of four members, although I note with some concern, Mr Minister—and I am sure you are not running away because I want to raise this—that the maximum number is 12. Minister, I would be a bit concerned if I thought we were going to have up to 12 members on a cemeteries board. However, I note that the appointed board is now a disallowable instrument, so the Assembly itself can keep an eye on it.

I am not sure, but I understand that as a result of an amendment that was encouraged by the Greens, the number of board members was increased from three to four to allow for representation of both the general community and religious denominations. I am not sure that an increase from three to four would necessarily cover that, though I do fear that a full complement of 12 might be in a position to do so. It is not something, as I say, that I would welcome and I trust we can keep it to a minimum of four members.

The decision of the Chief Health Officer to exhume is no longer a disallowable instrument. I do not have any great problem with that, and I understand Ms Dundas may have something further to say about this. Lastly, there are a number of minor improvements to the current act.

I am disappointed, as are my Liberal colleagues, that we have not yet moved into the area of private cemeteries. This is not covered in the current legislation, though I do note—and I think my reading is correct—that the opportunity is there for the minister to introduce them if he so wishes. Obviously this is something that can be taken into account at some future time. If there is an increased need, if we see that there is a requirement out there, then perhaps the minister of the day can look at it. But certainly the absence in this legislation of a provision for private cemeteries is not a justification for us to oppose the legislation in any way.

The minister might, however, explain to me why I received an explanatory statement yesterday with a note saying that a revised bill would be tabled tomorrow. In examining this new explanatory statement, I could find nothing different from what was in the original explanatory statement that I received when the bill was first introduced. So the minister might explain if there is anything in the new explanatory statement that I should have noted.

With those few comments, Mr Speaker, the Liberal opposition is happy to support the legislation.

MR SPEAKER: Members, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Mr Michael Moore, a former member of the Assembly. Welcome Mr Moore.

MS DUNDAS (5.11): Mr Speaker, I rise today to restate the opposition of the Democrats to this bill. The bill follows the national competition policy review of the Cemeteries Act and the Cremation Act, and as the Democrats have done since the mid 1990s, we wish to reject national competition policy as it applies to cemeteries. The Australian Democrats believe in competition but we are opponents of the current national competition policy. We do accept that there is a need for a national competition policy but the current policy is not the way to go.

As has been stated earlier, the public interest test needs to be applied to opening the cemetery market to privatisation and competition. The national competition policy has a public interest test that has been dominated by economic assessment ahead of the harder to measure intangible attributes in the social and environmental areas. In this area of cemeteries you have to take into account cultural and religious sensibilities, and since 1999 there has been some debate leading up to what is now I think the third reincarnation of this bill.

Perpetual tenure has been the most controversial part of this piece of legislation, and while in other jurisdictions there is variety in the market, here in the ACT the minister has decided to set up a one product market—that of tenure for perpetuity—and I do have concerns about this aspect of the legislation as well.

I am pleased to note, however, that the new bill before us takes into account my concerns regarding the Chief Health Officer's decisions to exhume a body. It also fixes a few minor and technical areas in the first bill. Whilst the changes do make this law better, the problems that rest at the heart of this bill cannot be fixed by amendments in this house, and hence I continue to oppose it.

MS TUCKER (5.12): The ACT Greens will be supporting this bill, which, in essence, is a redrawn version of the cemeteries and crematoria bill of last year. A couple of taxation issues have been cleared up and a number of amendments first proposed by my office have been incorporated, and I thank the minister for his cooperative approach.

The bill essentially modernises the regulatory regime that covers cemeteries and crematoria in the ACT. It provides a framework for trusts to provide perpetual care for burial sites. Key concerns we had in this bill's previous incarnation were: that it did not provide for burial in perpetuity and so conceivably opened the door to two classes of burial system; that the Cemeteries Board did not specifically include religious or cultural representatives; and that publicly owned cemeteries and crematoria could be sold to private operators without specific Assembly oversight.

The original bill arguably implied perpetual tenure for graves, but it certainly was not explicit. There could still have been some ongoing incentive for limited and perpetual tenure to reflect financial rather than personal or religious preferences. This current bill

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makes explicit that burials are to be permanent—that is, the right of burial forever—and ensures that the two classes of citizen concept cannot be extended to the maintenance of plots.

It has been suggested that in the somewhat distant future we may find ourselves suffering from a shortage of land suitable for burials. Given the growing trend towards cremation and the significantly less land that is necessary even at crematoria, this is unlikely to confront us in the short term. If we are, however, to consider more flexible burial regimes then it would be appropriate to consider the matter more closely, perhaps through a committee, before amending the act.

The notion of a cemeteries board in the previous bill put the focus squarely on financial management. While that is undoubtedly essential, it also seems desirable that some positions be reserved for community and religious representation. Given that there are quite a range of religions with divergent views on burial and a growing number of non-religious yet spiritually-minded people in our society, reserving four of the maximum of 12 positions on the board for such representatives—who may simultaneously be accountants and gardeners, of course—is a reasonable result.

At the early stage of the debate we were also seeking to amend the previous bill to ensure that public cemeteries and any public crematoria remained in public hands. We have agreed with government that the Assembly should have notice and oversight of any proposed disallowable transfer of ownership.

Finally, I note that the government has picked up on key concerns of the Scrutiny of Bills Committee report and I commend it for those adjustments.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Heritage and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.15): Mr Speaker, this is all a bit overwhelming but I think we are there.

Ms Tucker: It has been a while, hasn't it. Ros doesn't like it but we are going to get there.

MR WOOD: Ms Tucker, it has been quite a while.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Wood, do you have a revised EM that you wish to table?

MR WOOD: Yes. I table the revised explanatory statement and the amendments that have been circulated.

I have been trying to think of the right line. We had some smart lines from Mr Cornwell and others last year; we had a couple of goes at this.

Mr Cornwell: A long time a-dying.

MR WOOD: Yes. This bill has aged somewhat but now we are almost there.

I note the automatic position of the Democrats—that they will decline to support the bill. I think in my next speech I might leave out any reference to the national competition policy—maybe I will get your support on that basis. We just will not acknowledge that it happened.

I thank members for their support and we will now move to the dissection of this bill in the detail stage consideration.

Question resolved in the affirmative

Bill agreed to in principle.

Detail stage

Clauses 1 to 10, by leave, taken together and agreed to.

Clause 11.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Heritage and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.17): I move amendment No 1 circulated in my name [*see schedule 2 at page 689*]. An explanatory statement has been circulated.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 56, by leave, taken together and agreed to.

New clause 56A.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Heritage and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.18): Mr Speaker, I move amendment No 2 circulated in my name, which inserts new clause 56A [*see schedule 2 at page 689*].

New clause 56A agreed to.

Remainder of bill, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Inquiries Act

Board of Inquiry into Disability Services—government response

Debate resumed from 26 September 2002, on motion by **Mr Wood**:

That the Assembly takes note of the papers.

MRS BURKE (5.19): The opposition welcomes the government's response to the Gallop report. It is a thorough and considered response to the serious issues raised. The reforms and subsequent amendments to the Disability Services Act 1991 (ACT) (DSA) will see Canberrans with a disability have more choice in their lives to assist them to truly become full and contributing members of the ACT community.

Mr Speaker, the intent of the reforms is to create a system which is responsive to and respectful of the needs and aspirations of people with a disability. It is worthy of note that, according to the latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report dated 28 February 2003, there are an estimated 39,000 people aged under 65 in the ACT with a disability, and some 10,500 with a severe or profound core activity restriction.

These figures can be expected to increase in future years. Whilst we are broadly supportive, we do have a concern about the points of difference between the government's response and the Disability Reform Group's response, particularly as they relate to the complaints function, statutory powers of the head of Disability ACT, parity of funding to the non-government sector and the term of appointment of the Community Advocate.

Of these, perhaps the most problematic is the issue of parity of funding. While this may sound reasonable enough, the practicalities of it are difficult. We had an example of one of the complicating factors—the SACS award—during debate last year. I also have a concern about whether there will be enough money budgeted for the government's response.

In estimates hearings it was pretty clear that, for this year at least, the new department would have to make do on current funds. I will be interested to see if the government will fully fund its commitments in this response in the next budget. Despite what the government would have us believe, the Liberal government had a strong record of achievement with regard to disability services. The Canberra Liberals increased funding for the disability sector from \$25.45 million in 1997-98 to \$36.31 million in 2001-02. This equates to an average of just over 10 per cent per annum over a four-year period—well above increases in CPI.

In 1997-98, funding was \$25.45 million; in 1998-99, it was \$26.23 million; in 1999-2000, \$29.90 million; in 2000-01, it was \$33.61 million; and in 2001-02, it was \$36.31 million. The total growth over four years was 42.7 per cent.

The 2001-02 budget saw the Canberra Liberals allocate extra funding of \$2.25 million to disability services; there was \$2 million in additional service funding and \$250,000 for the disability service improvement scheme, to offer independent advice on client satisfaction and quality of services provided to people with a disability.

Areas where we allocated resources to address unmet need included post-school options, additional therapy services for children with a disability, and a range of respite for aged

carers of people with a disability, along with projects like “access to the city”. That looks at issues such as physical access, adaptable housing and an information hot desk. It sees a number of agencies working with the disability sector to improve access to government services and facilities and businesses, and more adaptable housing in the ACT.

Mr Speaker, the Canberra Liberals also reduced the administrative overheads for the sector. However, we note that they are still above the national average, so more work needs to be done in this area. The Report on Government Services 2002—Disabilities found that, over the period 1995 to 2001, the ACT, along with the Northern Territory, has led the way with regard to the provision of accommodation support services outside institutional settings for people with a disability.

Community-based accommodation, support and care are considered to provide better opportunities for people with a disability, enabling them to live as valued and participating members of society. According to the Report on Government Services 2002, the ACT figure for community-based accommodation, or in-home support, was 100 per cent, compared with 73 per cent nationally. Again, I welcome this report and look forward to the many agreed recommendations being followed through and implemented as a matter of urgency.

MS TUCKER (5.24): Despite concerns about an overly legalistic and adversarial approach, and the fact that there was a lack of procedural fairness in the treatment of some public servants, most agree that the Gallop inquiry went some way towards uncovering system failures in disability service delivery. Of course, an observer could justifiably point out that system failures have been identified before and there has been little change.

I first became aware of these issues when, in 1997, I chaired an inquiry into the Commonwealth-State Disability Agreement. Serious system failures were brought to the attention of that committee, many of which were eventually investigated by the health complaints commissioner. There were new policies and procedures introduced, new consultative forums set up and many glossy brochures produced, which told us how well things were going, but still the complaints kept coming in.

In 2001, the deaths of three people with a disability living in government group homes created a situation where there was enough political and community concern to initiate a full and independent inquiry. I developed the terms of reference for this, in consultation with many people who had experience of the current system—whether as clients, carers, workers or academics—as well as with experts from elsewhere.

The interesting thing in this exercise was to find how much agreement there was about what needed to be looked at in such an inquiry. This government has an opportunity to put in place a reform of the system which will ensure that people with a disability in the ACT can access high quality services.

The inquiry raised important questions about governance, accountability in a managerial system and the role of the minister, public servants and service providers. I will not go into detail about those issues now. The main point of this debate is to comment on the government’s response so far to the system failures highlighted by the Gallop inquiry. The government acknowledged that there was need for serious reform, which is a good

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start. It is obviously easier for a new government which does not feel it has to protect its past performance. That is why it is important to get it right now—before that tendency could affect the response.

By setting up the Disability Reform Group, the government has, to its credit, given considerable freedom and responsibility to community members. There appears to be a tendency for governments to be afraid of doing this. While I understand there may be some political risks in it, there is the potential for significant benefit for the community, as well as the government, because there is experience and expertise in the community which is not necessarily available in the public service.

I encourage the government to continue to give the community the opportunity to contribute in the way that it did through the Disability Reform Group. I realise that that has now been closed down, and there is a new structure in place. I will talk to that later. However, if there is a willingness to allow that sort of input from community representatives, the confidence of the community in the accountability of the government and the public service is increased.

In the responses of the government and the Disability Reform Group to the Gallop recommendations, I notice there is a lot of agreement. However, the government did not agree to the sections of recommendations 4 or 11 which dealt with particular public servants, including a requirement that they not continue in their present duties, giving Supreme Court findings on procedural fairness as the reason. The Disability Reform Group did not comment, as the executive officers are no longer in those positions.

Recommendation 11—that there should be a separate board for ACT Health and the Community Care Board to manage the disability program—was not agreed to by the Disability Reform Group or the government, although both were supportive of a rearrangement. That included a role for the Disability Reform Group in advising the head of Disability ACT.

There was also some difference in response from the government to the Gallop report on work force issues. Recommendation 18 section (iii)—in particular the question of development of a sector-wide accreditation process for people working in Ageing and Disability Services.

The government supported the current training regime, based on competencies. The Disability Reform Group's response was general to recommendation 18, accepting the need for significant issues to be addressed through development of a work force issues strategy. This is a very important issue and the government needs to ensure this work progresses. People working in the area need to be supported and valued. Professional development is part of this, as is the culture of management.

The Disability Reform Group comments that it is important to invest in people with passion and commitment. These are often the people who, if the culture is not supportive and the service is not respected and resourced properly, will leave.

It is important in this debate to note recommendations 7(iv) and 26. Recommendation 26 deals with external auditing and 7(iv) deals with the introduction of new regulatory and inspection arrangements to review and monitor services for people with a disability.

The Disability Reform Group had a clear view that there must be external auditing, which is extended to include the quality of services provided and compliance with legislation and standards. The DRG recommended that, in order to receive funding, service providers must demonstrate their capacity to provide responsible care; relate appropriately to service users and their families; provide services that support people in the community, based on best practice principles; assure people of the common sense necessities of home life; provide feasible safeguards for health, safety and physical security; manage administration, financial and legal obligations; and protect people from abuse, mistreatment, and neglect.

At recommendation 7(iv), the DRG recommended that external auditing of all disability services should be conducted by the proposed disability services improvement agency while responsibility for internal auditing of government-funded services would lie with Disability ACT.

The proposal for the disability services improvement agency is summarised at the end of the Disability Reform Group response to the Gallop recommendations. A full paper was produced, entitled “Consumer protection, complaints and appeals, service improvement, service monitoring, and advocacy in disability services”—by Roger West, August 2002. That is an important document for anyone interested in the whole question of the report to read.

It is in this area that I have the main concerns about the government response. The proposed independent disability services improvement agency is an essential requirement if we are to ensure the wellbeing and dignity of people with a disability. Previous attempts to monitor services have been inadequate—complaints mechanisms have been associated with a defensive, even punitive, response from the provider. It is very important to have complaints mechanisms situated in the context of service improvement.

Apart from the importance of complaints mechanisms being independent and accountable, and seen to be so, complaints need to be received as information which is welcomed and integrated into development of improved policies and programs—in other words, the culture of a learning organisation rather than a defensive one. This change will benefit providers and people using the services.

The question of how outcomes are assessed is also relevant. Outcomes must be determined in light of whether outcomes for individuals are achieved and sustained, not just outcomes related to safety and so on. The government, in its response to recommendation 28, acknowledges that the Disability Reform Group is stronger on the matter and says it will consider the matter further in the standards development project. This is again a critical issue for ensuring that services are, in fact, what people want and need.

Good access mechanisms are also very important in improving individual outcomes—a one-stop shop, or something like it, where a person can be helped to find what suits. This has always been a problem, and brokerage is not necessarily the way to do it. It needs to be about standing beside people, rather than doing for people. As I understand it, in other states there are local area coordinators who do this work. Perhaps the ACT is not big

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enough for this, but we can develop our own model. The importance of this approach cannot be underestimated. I look forward to seeing a positive commitment from the government to progress the work.

The discussion of service monitoring and complaints mechanisms has resulted in the government initiating a broad review of complaints mechanisms in the ACT, covering all community services. This is very welcome and long overdue. With some of them there are duplications, jurisdictional conflicts, serious gaps, and questionable effectiveness of.

While I do welcome this review, and have been raising the need for it for some time, I have had to raise concerns about the lack of consultation in development of the terms of reference. The government did open up the process considerably, and I commend it for that. I have also raised concerns about the process of selecting a consultant to do the work. It is regrettable that the government has refused to allow community membership on the selection panel. If the community is not happy with the consultancy, a very important opportunity for collaborative work to occur will be lost.

Obviously people were not happy with the imposition of Justice Gallop to run the independent inquiry. Concerns were expressed that a person was needed who would not rely on a legalistic process—and those concerns were shown to be well founded.

As I said before, the bureaucracy and government do not need to be afraid of community input. It will improve the process and outcomes for everyone. It is about collaboration and genuine dialogue. I understand there will be a community reference panel to work with the consultant, but I would like confirmation of this fact—today if possible—from Minister Wood. (*Extension of time granted.*)

Another very important thing that has come out of this whole process is the acknowledgement that the group home model should be seen as only one option and that there should be different options tried and evaluated. If we are to see innovation and new service models developed, there has to be ongoing funding and support for new models to be tried. The allocation of \$350,000 over three years will allow some of this work to occur. As I understand it, it is envisaged that the money will support small projects for individuals.

It is not clear whether there will be opportunities for organisations to try new approaches, which would be good. It is a positive move by government to have any support for innovation, though, as the public service is often risk averse. The amount allocated is very small, however, and I hope to see greater funding in the future for this important work.

Related to this is the role of non-government providers and, in particular, the need to fully fund them for care of clients. Fair pricing is essential if people with a disability are to have choice.

The situation arises where a provider is not able to continue support of a client when their needs become higher. The person's life is then disrupted. They have to go to the disability program, where the cost is much higher than if they had stayed where they were but were reasonably funded. As I understand it, Bill Wood did commit to funding

the non-government providers properly but then said it would cost too much. The point is, costs could be less than those of the disability program.

I would like to briefly remind the government of the Education Committee report, No 3, of the last Assembly—educational services for students with a disability. If we want to ensure people with a disability are as independent as possible as adults, the support therapy and education they receive as they grow is critical. As I am sure the government is well aware, recently there has been more disturbing evidence regarding the lack of support when it comes to therapy for children with a disability.

The final point I make is that the Disability Reform Group has been wound up. I urge the government, when they decide exactly how this more fragmented system is to work, to keep an eye on it and make sure the community is comfortable with how it works. I know people are open-minded about it. Some people are concerned, and others are thinking it might work. I think it would be good if the government kept in touch with the community as to how it is working. I appreciate the fact that they gave the Disability Reform Group that freedom and independence. It did a lot to inspire confidence in the community.

MS DUNDAS (5.37): It is six months since the government response to the Gallop inquiry was tabled in this chamber. What has happened in the past six months? As Ms Tucker has indicated, the Disability Reform Group was wrapped up and the new Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services has been running for almost a year. However, there are many things on which we are still waiting for more information.

The government response included in it the reform and action strategy for disability services in the ACT 2002-2005, entitled *Steps to Reform*. Within that was an example of the reform activities in draft form. I have searched my memory and I do not believe the Assembly has seen a non-draft form of these key reform activities. It would be good to have that information, to be able to keep track as the department and the sector move through these key step of reform—to see that we are keeping pace with the timetable that has been set.

We are still waiting on a number of key issues. One of the key recommendations the government agreed to pick up, in its own way, was the establishment of a disability services commissioner, to have oversight of service standards. We are still awaiting the outcome of the review the government initiated into all statutory bodies, complaints commissioners and the like in the ACT. I assume that is why we are still waiting for the establishment of a disability services commissioner.

We are still waiting for the amendments to the Disability Services Act which, I note from the government's response to the Gallop report, we should expect within this month. Hopefully, they will be clear and responsive to what the community is calling for, and to what is indicated in the Gallop inquiry needs reform.

As to other key areas on which we need more information, the government strongly supported the need for liaison between government agencies, and the need for a whole-of-government approach to working with people with a disability. They agreed to set up a memorandum of understanding across the departments. These agreements will be in

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place by December 2003, which is still a fair while off. It will then be at least two years since the Gallop report was tabled, and a long time since the government response was tabled.

I recognise that it takes a while to get these things in place, but the Gallop inquiry went on for a time and these issues have been around for a number of years. It is important for the community to be confident that the government is moving to make the things it agrees to a reality—that we do have a whole-of-government approach today in working with people with disabilities—that they do not have their needs marginalised in one area but working across the service.

We will also await the 2003-04 budget for the implementation of a number of the key recommendations from the Gallop report and the government response. The government response acknowledged that a number of recommendations will be considered in the budget context.

We, in this place, all acknowledge that there have been some significant events impacting on the budget since the government put down its response to the Gallop report. However, within those constraints, we need to remember that this is a sector that has been crying out for support for a number of years now—and their needs will not go away just because we had bushfires. Their needs need to be addressed, if we are to move into a future where we do not suffer the problems that led to the Gallop inquiry in the first place.

I would like to touch on the issue of early intervention programs and strategies for children with disabilities. That was one of the first issues I raised in this chamber, and one I am still keen to see progression on.

In the past financial year, the government allocated money to expand services for children with autism in the ACT. I understand there has been much work on a new program for allocation of resources to children with disabilities in schools. There have been a number of concerns about that process, which unfortunately flagged to the community that maybe things were not progressing in the way they should—in that those concerns were not being addressed.

I acknowledge that the government has stated it has a strong commitment to this area. Thankfully, its response includes the word “agreed” a number of times. That is always positive to see after such a long inquiry, but we do need the confidence that these words are being turned into action. Six months later, we have not seen—or that not I recall—a six-month implementation report, and we are still awaiting a whole lot of information that the government flagged in its response.

The key test put down by Justice Gallop was the need to engage people living with a disability in the services they require, and elect to use, and to integrate them with the general community. That is still the key goal the government and this Assembly must have in working on the area of disability reform.

I await more information and call for concrete action to progress the area of disability reform in the ACT.

MR WOOD: (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Heritage and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.45), in reply: I close the debate, and I close a period of time in this Assembly when we have fiercely—not today—debated these issues. I find remarkable the circumstances in which I stand right now.

Those of us who are here will know what I mean. This has been one of the most significant issues before the Assembly in recent times. In fact, Mr Berry, Mr Speaker and I are the only ones who will remember some of that fierce early debate, when the benches here and the gallery were filled. The interest was intense.

We wrap up that debate today, and I cannot say the interest is intense. I do not know whether to be sad about that or to congratulate the government, the department and all those who work in it, for the fact of this acceptance today. It suggests to me that what has been happening in the period has been totally accepted by the community, although there are one or two issues remaining. Ms Tucker has mentioned one of those. I would judge that it indicates the success of the process. We were not all happy with the way Gallop handled it, but I believe that what we consequently did was sound. I think that has been shown today.

Perhaps I will get some comment on this. Of the coroner's inquiries into those three deaths, I think there is still one to be reported upon. These things take time, don't they? Ms Dundas was a bit cynical about what has been happening.

Ms Dundas: I was seeking more information.

MR WOOD: I suppose it is your job to be cynical, Ms Dundas, and it is my job to be optimistic. Let me tell you some of what has been happening.

After the tabling, in September, of *Steps to Reform*, we developed a very significant strategy. In our first budget, there was \$2.5 million in extra expenditure. We have been moving forward. We have made significant progress on delivering improved disability services—working in partnership with people with disabilities, their families, carers and supporting community organisations.

You are right—that is essential. It is very important. We have moved quickly to progress the range of initiatives outlined in our response. We have established an innovation fund, designed to encourage families and others to apply for funding between \$5,000 and \$25,000 to explore initiatives that will result in sustained improvements for people with disabilities.

That was advertised late last year and there has been a great level of interest. There have been two public information sessions and a panel has been formed for evaluation purposes. We expect to allocate those funds in a month or so. We have established five joint community and government working groups to assist Disability ACT, and we will soon appoint a community advisory body. That will be the replacement for both the Disability Reform Group and the advisory council. The groups we have established include housing and tenancy; legislative reform, quality and standards; access; eligibility;

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funding; and work force issues. They have been meeting regularly since they were established last year.

The establishment of these groups I think is a great achievement. I think Ms Tucker mentioned keeping that communication going with people of expertise in the community. There are very few examples of such extensive and direct community participation anywhere. There are more than 70 people participating in those working groups. Importantly, we intend to provide relevant training in the policy development process. Project management skills will be provided to members to build the capacity of the groups to contribute effectively to their tasks.

We have recently allocated \$1 million in additional funding to 22 individuals with a disability with high and complex needs. That will allow them to access support services they require from the community organisation of their choice. That represents, as everybody wanted as an outcome of the report, the deliberate movement towards a more person-centred approach to the support of people with a disability.

The Disability Advisory Council and the DRG completed their terms at the end of February. In their place a new community advisory body is being established that will incorporate the responsibility of both those organisations. People with a disability and their families will be strongly represented on that body, along with community representatives. It is not going to be easy to pick that group. There are many people of great skill that I would like to put on it. We have more people to pick from than we have places for.

Access to disability information, support and services in the ACT is one of our key initiatives. In December last year, Disability ACT and the DRG held a public forum titled "Finding Your Way", to discuss access issues and options. Visiting speakers from Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory discussed their experiences. Attendees were provided with other information outlining successful access initiatives in countries around the world. It is a very important theme we are pushing—access, variety and flexibility. The forum was convened as an education and information session—better to inform the public, as well as the government. Further community consultations will be held later this year.

With regard to the review of community advocacy and statutory oversight agencies, a public forum facilitated by ACTCOSS was held late last year to discuss the terms of reference. I would say this remains one of the issues of interest in the community. That forum was well attended and gave good feedback. Following the selection of suitably qualified consultants, the review will be publicly announced and community participation encouraged.

Ms Tucker asked if we were going to have a community reference panel. No, we will not, but part of the requirements for that consultant was to consult extensively with the community. So I believe there will be no problem in that area.

Disability ACT is also instituting a number of organisational improvements to enhance the quality and standard of direct support services—what we are doing internally. These will seek to strengthen relationships with families by developing partnerships and improving communication processes; to develop flexible support arrangements to better

accommodate the needs of each individual; to create a stable and skilled work force through improved recruitment, training, supervision and support of staff; to enhance the level of participation of families and staff; and to enable a capacity for localised decision making and a more responsive and adaptive service. These themes we have taken seriously.

Our work force planning group will be exploring strategies to improve the recruitment, retention and training of support staff. In line with my commitment to the Assembly in September, the positions of executive director and director in Disability ACT were advertised in every major metropolitan newspaper across the country. I am pleased to report that these positions have been filled and the appointees—Miss Lois Ford as executive director, and Ms Roslyn Hayes as director—have commenced in their positions.

There is another important matter. The establishment of single therapy services was one of the recommendations of the review of therapy services for children with a disability. We will be proceeding with such a service and, within two months, will be establishing a reference group to guide its development. This follows the convening of a working party in community consultations on the merit of integrating the currently separated child and adult therapy services.

Mr Speaker, we have not shied away from our responsibilities. We are providing the leadership and vision required to deliver substantial reform. A joint community and government framework is now in place, to build on the achievements of the Disability Reform Group and further advance the reform process. (*Extension of time granted*). The comprehensive, systematic, strategy of action outlined in our response to the board of inquiry will remain a top priority for the Labor government. As I said at the time, the government is committed to engaging people with disabilities, their families, carers, and representative groups, in the process of reform.

We are working in close consultation with the disability sector to implement the initiatives already announced and to pursue the further substantial reforms mapped out in our action strategy. We have embarked on a complex task. However, working together, we will achieve our goal of building an integrated quality service system that is accessible, transparent, flexible and responsive to need.

On 1 April—Ms Dundas, you are just a little ahead of us—I look forward to presenting the Assembly with a detailed six-month progress report on the government's response to the board of inquiry. It is there—it is on track. Everything, I believe, is on track.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 5.56 pm until Tuesday 11 March 2003 at 10.30 am.

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Schedules of amendments

Schedule 1

Hawkers Bill 2002

Amendments circulated by Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

1

Clause 40 (1) (c)

Page 26, line 6—

omit

a person

substitute

a public servant

2

Clause 40 (2)

Page 26, line 7—

omit

a person

substitute

a public servant

3

Dictionary, note 2

Page 33 line 6—

insert

public servant

Schedule 2

Cemeteries and Crematoria Bill 2002 (No 2)

Amendments circulated by Minister for Urban Services, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

1

Clause 11 (1)

Page 8, line 10—

omit clause 11 (1), substitute

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person—
 - (a) becomes the operator of a cemetery or crematorium; and
 - (b) does not, within 1 month after the day the person becomes operator, open a trust account (a *perpetual care fund*) with an authorised deposit-taking institution (*ADI*) under a title that includes the name of the cemetery or crematorium and the words ‘perpetual care fund’ for the cemetery or crematorium.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

- (1A) The operator of a cemetery or crematorium commits an offence if the operator does not maintain a perpetual care fund for the cemetery or crematorium.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

2

Proposed new clause 56A

Page 31, line 16—

insert

56A Perpetual care fund offence

- (1) This section applies to a person who is the operator of a cemetery or crematorium if the person operated the cemetery or crematorium immediately before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) Section 11 (1) (Perpetual care funds) applies to the person as if the person became the operator on the commencement of section 11 (1).

Answers to questions

Day care respite services—Dickson and Narrabundah (Question No 374)

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Health:

Further to your advice on 21 August 2002 that a study was being conducted into the Dickson and Narrabundah day care respite services, and your further undertaking (*Hansard* 20 November 2002) to see what could be provided of that study to interested parties, including myself:

- (1) Could you please advise when a copy of the study can be made available;
- (2) If no copy can be made available, why not.

Mr Corbell: The answer to the member's question is:

- (1) Copies of the *Review of the Aged Day Care Centre Program* were delivered to the offices of all MLAs during the December 2002 sitting period.
- (2) A copy of the report has been lodged with the Chamber Support Office.

School drug education (Question No 382)

Mr Pratt: Asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 19 February 2003:

In relation to school drug education:

- (1) What mechanisms are in place for the identification of students at risk of drug abuse.
- (2) What departmental discipline procedures are in place for drug offenders.
- (3) What is the relationship between the department, schools and the police when it comes to drug control in schools.
- (4) What rehabilitation programs for students at risk of drug abuse does the department subscribe to.
- (5) What is the make-up of department teaching teams.
- (6) Does the department draw on experts to assist with the implementation of programs.
- (7) Is there a procedure in place for consultation and education of parents of students at risk of drug abuse.

Ms Gallagher: Thank you for your questions. The answers to Mr Pratt's questions are:

The ACT Government vision for Canberra includes protecting the vulnerable and supporting those in need and to this end supports the Education and Training key outcomes to enhance the resilience and optimism of our children and youth.

(1) Identification of students at risk of drug abuse.

Growing up in a modern urban community may expose students to the risk of drug use. The Principles for School Drug Education support the notion of classroom teachers being best placed to provide drug education, a supportive environment and refer students to school counsellors where appropriate. The Drug Education Framework for ACT Government Schools outlines risk reduction strategies within a whole school approach to school drug education.

(2) Departmental procedures for drug offenders

Policies and procedures for dealing with drug related incidents in ACT government schools are consistent with the National Framework for Protocols for Managing the Possession, Use and/or Distribution of Illicit Drugs in Schools. Individual School Drug Policies publicly describe the school ethos in relation to the use of drugs by students, staff and the school community. Current policies reflect harm minimisation, drug use prevention strategies and intervention strategies. Workshops are conducted by the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services (DEYFS) drug education officer to support schools in the development of school drug policies. Forty schools were supported to develop and review individual school drug education policies in 2002.

(3) The AFP and the department

The AFP and the department meet regularly to discuss school drug issues including criminal matters arising from student illicit drug use. The AFP and the department are currently working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that outlines the roles and responsibilities of either party concerned with drug prevention, use and control in schools.

(4) Rehabilitation programs

As indicated in the Drug Education Framework for ACT Government Schools, any response to incidents involving inappropriate use of drugs is made in the best interests of students, staff and others involved. The response takes into account the nature of the circumstances of the incident and the personal background of the student. Students who come into contact with law enforcement, particularly around early stages of drug use are diverted from the court system to the ACT Policing Illicit Drug Diversion Program. Assessment and access to education and/or treatment (through ACT Community Care Alcohol and Drug Program and ReLink) are provided for the person at risk.

(5) Departmental teaching approach

Eighty-five ACT schools (65 government and 20 non government) have formed School Health Committees to address drug and health related issues in their school communities. These committees include principals, teachers, parents, students and representation from the community and community agencies.

Professional development workshops are designed and conducted for School Health Committees Current up to date drug information and partnership opportunities between schools and community agencies are included in the workshops. A panel of experts from agencies supporting school drug education programs are a key feature of workshops. Examples of workshops include:

- Becoming a Health Promoting School
- Managing a School Health Committee
- School Health Committee two-day training
- Developing a School Drug Policy

(6) Expertise from outside schools

Partnerships with outside agencies and schools are formed to ensure the effective delivery of drug education in schools. Collaboration between the education, health, law enforcement and criminal justice sectors is critical to the success of school drug education in the ACT.

Local School-Community Drug Summits bring together school staff, parents, students and community members. The aim of the summits is to strengthen community engagement in addressing drug related student well being. Community agencies assist through the delivery of professional knowledge at the summits. Some of these agencies include:

- ACT Community Care Alcohol and Drug Program
- Directions ACT
- The Salvation Army
- Life Education ACT
- ACT Cancer Council
- Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
- Australian Federal Police

Twenty-two funded local school-community drug summits were held in 2002. Many schools are holding unfunded summits in 2003, demonstrating a degree of sustainability.

(7) Parent involvement

Parents are represented at the territory level on the National School Drug Education Strategy (NSDES) Coordinating Committee. Parents also play an important role on School Health Committees. There has been an increase in parent involvement in school drug education since the commencement of the local school community drug summits program.

**Students at risk
(Question No 383)**

Mr Pratt: Asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 19 February 2003:

In relation to programs existing within schools targeting children at risk, specifically:

- (1) What program/s are currently implemented in schools;
- (2) What is the structure of the program/s implemented in schools;
- (3) What are the department's guidelines governing decisions of separation of children at risk;
- (4) What teacher support programs are in place for schools, particularly those which are identified as having a high percentage of children at risk.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

(1) & (2) ACT government schools are responsible for implementing programs and strategies to address the needs of students in their community who are at risk of not achieving satisfactory outcomes from education and training. The *Student Support Action Plan 2002-2004* provides the framework for schools to develop these programs. In addition to the *Action Plan*, a paper titled *The Inclusivity Challenge Within Reach of Us All*, has been issued to promote discussion on how each school can provide quality educational outcomes for all students.

The *Student Support Action Plan* has three major goals:

- supporting and caring for students
- providing relevant and challenging learning
- engaging with parents, carers and the community in education

Within these goals there are clear actions to be undertaken by schools and central office to achieve specific outcomes. All schools are developing strategies to:

- manage and assist students whose behaviour places them and others at risk
- modify school practices and structures to support flexible learning
- ensure literacy and numeracy skill development is core business for all learning areas at all stages of schooling.

Central office is:

- providing behaviour management consultancy services to support schools with programs and strategies for teaching and managing students who are experiencing behavioural, emotional or social problems.
- supporting teacher professional learning in child and adolescent development and behaviour
- providing appropriate training in whole school approaches to issues such as flexibility of teaching practice, behaviour management and gender equity and inclusivity

Three examples of specific programs and their structures are:

The *Ginninderra Alternative Program (GAP)* at Ginninderra District High School. GAP is a flexible educational program for 15-18 year old students with issues such as learning difficulties or difficult family circumstances and who have not completed their year 10 certificates.

The *Flex* program at Calwell High School. Twelve students are involved in this offline program. The program is for students who are not successfully engaging in mainstream programs and focuses on three functional key learning areas and pre-vocational courses.

The *Northside and Southside High School Student Support Centres* provide short term intervention for students who are experiencing significant difficulties in engaging in education programs. These centres are located at Belconnen and Tuggeranong Youth Centres and provide more flexible, supportive environments. Programs aim at developing personal and social skills, such as anger management, conflict resolution and communication skills as well as an educational focus on literacy, numeracy and IT skills. Referrals to the centre are initiated by schools.

(3) Students who are experiencing behavioural, emotional, educational or social problems of such a serious nature that they require intensive intervention are able to be withdrawn from their school and placed in specialist programs. The aim of these programs is to encourage and support behaviour change in students and to improve their capacity to manage their behaviour in mainstream schools. The department has a referral process in place that provides procedural guidelines for schools seeking to withdraw a student from their mainstream programs. Extensive consultation is required with parents or carers, the school counsellor, and any other agencies or professionals involved in the welfare of the student.

(4) As outlined in (1) and (2) above, professional learning is a priority to assist teachers in managing students at risk. Teachers are supported to attend a range of professional development activities including workshops, seminars and conferences.

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**Inquiry into ACT Education Funding
(Question No 384)**

Mr Pratt: Asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 19 February 2002:

To provide a full and detailed cost breakdown of the Inquiry into ACT Education Funding including:

1. Travel costs incurred by Ms Connors;
2. Travel costs incurred by anyone commissioned for the inquiry by Ms Connors;
3. Accommodation costs incurred by Ms Connors;
4. Accommodation costs incurred by anyone commissioned for the inquiry by Ms Connors;
5. All administrative costs for the Inquiry, including costs incurred by the department in the deployment of staff to Ms Connors;
6. The expense of printing and publishing the report;
7. The cost of consultants contracted by Ms Connors for the report;
8. The cost of obtaining data information for the report;
9. All other expenses incurred for the completion of the report;
10. Whether the expense of the report came within the budgeted \$250,000.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

The cost of the Inquiry into ACT Education Funding was \$276,000 (excluding GST) including a \$70,000 fee for Ms Connors' services.

With reference to the particular sub cost categories identified by Mr Pratt I provide the following information:

1. Travel costs incurred by Ms Connors - \$1,721.
2. Travel costs incurred by anyone commissioned for the inquiry by Ms Connors - \$2,246.
3. Accommodation costs incurred by Ms Connors - \$175. Ms Connors arranged her own accommodation and only incidental costs were incurred.
4. Accommodation costs incurred by anyone commissioned for the Inquiry by Ms Connors – nil. Consultants met their own accommodation costs as part of their consultancy fees.

5. All administrative costs for the Inquiry, including costs incurred by the department in the deployment of staff to Ms Connors - \$2,801. The department provided secretariat support to the Inquiry. A number of departmental staff provided assistance to Ms Connors from time to time. There are no specific records of the hours spent by departmental officers in undertaking these tasks.
 6. The expense of printing and publishing the report - \$12,563.
 7. The cost of consultants contracted by Ms Connors for the report - \$183,010.
 8. The cost of obtaining data and information for the report. Consultants undertook research and provided data for the report. The cost of this item is included in (7) above. Department data and information was provided as requested – refer (5) above.
 9. All other expenses incurred for the completion of the report (including reference material and advertising) - \$3,487.
 10. The cost of the Inquiry into ACT Education Funding was \$276,000 (excluding GST).
-

**Fire prevention programs in schools
(Question No 385)**

Mr Pratt: Asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 19 February 2003:

Could you provide detailed information on the history of fire prevention programs in schools for the last 10 years, specifically:

- (a) What is the history of fire prevention programs in schools;
- (b) Has the department commissioned the design of any fire prevention programs;
- (c) How many schools received the current program in 2002;
- (d) What is the nature/duration of fire prevention training;
- (e) Who presents the training;
- (f) Is the training compulsory;
- (g) What year groups/ages levels is the training directed at;
- (h) Does it entail safety procedure awareness;
- (i) Does any element of it encompass arson;
- (j) Does the program teach students about the environmental behaviour of fires.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (a) The ACT Fire Brigade Fire Education program commenced in 1998. The program was sourced from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, who are acknowledged for the original development, and then modified for local content.
 - (b) The department has not commissioned the design of any additional fire prevention programs.
 - (c) All ACT Government primary schools participated in the program in 2002.
 - (d) There are five parts to the one hour program. They are:
 - Good fires/Bad Fires – What makes them different
 - Firefighters are your friends
 - Stop, Drop and Roll – what to do if your clothes catch on fire
 - Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go – what to do if you are in a smoke filled area
 - 000 Emergency – the concept of the 000 emergency phone call is explained.
 - (e) The ACT Fire Brigade presents the training.
 - (f) The training is not compulsory.
 - (g) The fire safety program is delivered to all kindergarten students and some year 1 students.
 - (h) The focus of the fire education program is to encourage the children involved to gain a greater respect for fire by education and awareness, and to understand the consequences of the misuse of fire.
- It should also be noted that *A Critical Incident Planning for Schools Policy* was published in 1997 and reviewed in November 1999. Principals have the responsibility for preparation, training, practice drills and procedures in the event of an emergency, including fires. Under the policy schools are required to undertake emergency evacuation drills at least twice a year.
- (i) The ACT Fire Brigade as part of its fire prevention strategy began, in May 1999, its Juvenile Fire Awareness and Intervention Program. This program delivers tailored fire awareness sessions to children between the ages of 3 to 16 who are already exhibiting dangerous firelighting behaviours.
 - (j) No, the environmental behaviour of fires is not part of the program.

**Public housing
(Question No 390)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice, on 19 February 2003:

In relation to the public housing waiting list:

- (1) How many residents are currently on the public housing waiting list;

- (2) How many residents are currently on the priority public housing waiting list;
- (3) How many sole parents are currently on the priority public housing waiting list;
- (4) How many sole parents are currently on the priority public housing waiting list who have three or more children;
- (5) What is the average time that a resident is on: (a) the waiting list and (b) the priority list;
- (6) Has the average time for people on the waiting list improved in the last (a) 3, (b) 6, (c) 9 and (d) 12 months and could figures be provided;
- (7) What is the average time to move someone from public housing accommodation who does not have suitable accommodation (eg: has only a three bedroom home but has five children with another on the way and one of those children has to sleep in the kitchen area in a cot);
- (8) What measures, if any, has the government implemented to reduce waiting list times and allow for accommodation transfers.

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

- (1) 3467
- (2) 891
- (3) 361
- (4) 78
- (5) (a) standard allocation list – 315 days; (b) 114 days
- (6) (a) yes; the bushfire response will have impacted on the figures for the last quarter; (b) yes; (c) yes; (d) yes;.

	Average number of days on waiting list	
	Standard allocation	Early allocation
1 Mar-31 May 02	378	140
1 Jun-31 Aug 02	339	129
1 Sep-30 Nov 02	315	96
1 Dec 02-28 Feb 03	153	81

- (7) The average waiting time depends on the tenant's priority (currently 153 days for standard allocation or 81 days for early allocation). Tenants might be in accommodation that is less than their entitlement because they accepted such housing because of a critical need and with an intention to transfer, or their circumstances might have changed since their tenancy began.
- (8) The Government has implemented several measures for reducing waiting list times. Average turnaround times on vacated properties have been reduced from 49 days for the year 2000/01 down to 31 days for the six months July-December 2002. Newer properties have been purchased in areas where people want to live. Most importantly, unlike the previous government with its policy of reducing the number of public housing properties, this Government is increasing its stock. If the bushfires had not occurred our projected stock holdings at 30 June 2003 would have been 46 properties more than when this Government took over office in December 2001.

Legislative Assembly—member entitlements (Question No 392)

Mr Cornwell asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 20 February 2003:

Further to your reply to Question on Notice 343 in relation to the ACT Remuneration Tribunal Determination No 108 that elected Assembly non-Executive Members are entitled to a vehicle equivalent to "a Zone 2 Executive in the ACT Public Service" (recommended retail price \$43,731) and that Zone 2 Executives have three salary levels namely: (a) Level 2.4 - \$125,633; (b) Level 2.5 - \$135,173; (c) Level 2.6 - \$157,780:

- (1) What basic salary does a non-Executive Member of the Assembly earn per annum;
- (2) What superannuation amount would a Zone 2 Executive be entitled to at a, b and c above, after (a) 3, (b) 6, (c) 9, (d) 12, and (e) 15 years of service;
- (3) What equivalent superannuation amount would an elected non-Executive Member of the Assembly be entitled to after (a) 3, (b) 6, (c) 9, (d) 12, and (e) 15 years of service.

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

- (1) An elected non-Executive Member of the Legislative Assembly currently receives a basic salary of \$81,750 pa, as set by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal in Determination 102.
- (2) There are various factors impacting on the superannuation amount for Zone 2 Executives. If the Executive is a member of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) or Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), or has a deferred benefit in one of these schemes, the employer contributions must go to that scheme. In other cases, the Executive may choose to direct contributions to the PSS or any other fund, provided that the fund complies with all relevant superannuation requirements of taxation legislation.

The basis of benefit estimations for CSS, PSS and other funds differ markedly. The following estimates assume that the Executive commenced and remained at the same Executive level for the total period of their employment.

In relation to the CSS, calculations have not been provided as the scheme has been closed to new members for 13 years. In addition, the CSS is extremely complicated and is geared towards pension-based benefits.

Estimated Superannuation Accrual for Zone 2 Executives:

PSS

	(a) Year 3	(b) Year 6	(c) Year 9	(d) Year 12	(e) Year 15
(a) Level 2.4	\$81,951	\$181,722	\$302,217	\$446,765	\$619,170
(b) Level 2.5	\$88,174	\$195,521	\$325,166	\$480,690	\$666,187
(c) Level 2.6	\$102,921	\$228,221	\$379,549	\$561,083	\$777,604

Other Funds (16% employer contribution)

	(a) Year 3	(b) Year 6	(c) Year 9	(d) Year 12	(e) Year 15
(a) Level 2.4	\$76,299	\$168,944	\$280,560	\$414,149	\$573,138
(b) Level 2.5	\$82,093	\$181,772	\$301,864	\$445,597	\$616,659
(c) Level 2.6	\$95,823	\$212,173	\$352,349	\$520,121	\$719,792

(3) The equivalent superannuation estimates for a non-Executive Member of the Assembly are as follows:

	(a) Year 3	(b) Year 6	(c) Year 9	(d) Year 12	(e) Year 15
MLA	\$76,188	\$168,942	\$280,964	\$415,347	\$575,628

Notes:

The calculations above are based on the following assumptions:

- Executives and Members commencing at current salary levels and cashing out their benefits on leaving the Service or Assembly after 3, 6, 9, 12, or 15 years;
- Executive or Member contribution of 5% for the total period.
- annual salary increase of 3.5% and an investment earning rate of 6% per annum ; and
- inclusion of assessed taxation payments on contributions and investments earnings.

**Telecommunications services—Gungahlin
(Question No 395)**

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 20 February 2003:

In relation to telecommunication services in Gungahlin, the Chief Minister has stated that Telstra has recognised Gungahlin is an area of priority need and concerns about broadband coverage and mobile phone coverage would be addressed (press statement 19.02.03):

- (1) Has Telstra given a timeframe of when the issue will be addressed, if so can it be provided, if not, will the Government contact Telstra and ask for such a timeframe to be provided;
- (2) Has Telstra indicated how it will address the problems, if not will you contact Telstra to find out and present details to the Assembly;
- (3) Will the Government bear any cost of Telstra's efforts to improve telecommunications in Gungahlin, if so are there any preliminary figures, and if you are not aware will you contact Telstra to find out and present details to the Assembly;
- (4) Will businesses or residential areas be addressed first, and if this information has not been communicated will you contact Telstra to find out and present details to the Assembly;
- (5) Will the issue of mobile coverage and broadband be addressed simultaneously, or will one be addressed before the other, and if so which one will be addressed first, and if you are not aware will you contact Telstra to find out and present details to the Assembly;

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

- (1) Telstra has indicated that it anticipates rollout of broadband to commence in Gungahlin from the second half of 2003. There is agreement between telecommunications carriers for a coordinated approach to improve mobile phone services in Gungahlin. New infrastructure is expected to commence being installed from March 2003.
- (2) Telstra is trialing the introduction of a 'mini' ADSL device (MiniMux) which provides the same ADSL features as Telstra's existing broadband technology. In respect of mobile phones, in the long term, four or possibly five new mobile telecommunications towers will be required to service Gungahlin. These facilities may need to be supplemented by additional infrastructure.
- (3) Modifications to the Telstra network will be funded by Telstra. Other carriers will fund their own infrastructure.

- (4) Telstra's MiniMux will provide broadband access for both residential and business customers. The mobile phone service will provide access for both residential and business customers.
 - (5) The mobile phone coverage and broadband issues are being addressed simultaneously.
-

**ACT Housing—upgrades
(Question No 399)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice, on 4 March 2003.

In relation to public housing complex upgrades:

- (1) An amount of \$1.1 million has been announced to upgrade Windeyer Court in Watson, can you provide a breakdown of the areas of improvements this allocation will cover;
- (2) In a Canberra Times article on 26 February 2003 (page 10) it says this work is part of a 10 year program to upgrade ACT Housing flats. What was the first year this program commenced;
- (3) Can you provide details of which ACT Housing properties have been upgraded as part of the program;
- (4) Can you provide details of how much each upgrade has cost to date;
- (5) Can you provide details of how many properties are still to be upgraded under this program and the associated costs.

Mr Wood: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The works at Windeyer Court will cover improvement to the flats following major landscaping works conducted in the late 1990s. These will include refurbished kitchens and bathrooms, floor coverings and paint.
- (2) The program commenced in the 2000-01 financial year with works to address safety and security works at Reid and Jerilderie Courts and other minor works at a range of other complexes totalling \$394,000. The program has now been supplemented with this Government's injection of a further \$10m for fire safety works in 2002-2004.
- (3) In the two financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03, major improvements works have taken place at Stuart Flats, Fraser Court, Kanangra Court Allawah Court, Bega Court and Jerilderie Court.
Other works have also been undertaken at Ambara Court, Gowrie Court, Corryton Gardens, Illawarra Court, Boolimbah Court, Malahide Gardens, and Dryaaba Court. In addition there has been some initial expenditure to scope the impending works on both Windeyer Court and the Northbourne Flats complexes.

(4) Costs have been as follows:

- Stuart Flats (\$1.2436m to date) for fire safety, fencing and other security measures, and rewiring;
- Fraser Court (\$0.438m to date) for landscaping and documentation for major works including fire safety;
- Kanangra Court (\$1.12m to date) for hydraulics, landscaping, security and fire safety;
- Allawah Court (\$1.269m) for landscaping, security, fencing and external paint;
- Bega Court (\$1.239m) for landscaping, security, fencing and external paint;
- Jerilderie Court (\$0.705m) for external works and roof repairs;
- \$0.542m on the other complexes; and
- \$0.103m on the scoping works for the Northbourne Flats and Windeyer Court complexes.

(5) No. Decisions are being made on a case by case basis progressively depending on the level of works required for each complex, their cost, the views of the tenants and the cost-effectiveness of the works.

**ACT Housing—security audits
(Question No 400)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice on 4 March 2003.

In relation to the security of public housing stock for tenants:

- (1) Is there a regular security audit undertaken in public housing, checking security of things like doors, windows, fire hydrants etc, if not, why not;
- (2) How regularly do such audits take place and, if such audits do not take place, will the government consider implementing regular security audits on public housing stock;
- (3) If tenants have concerns about security where should they turn to for assistance, in particular regarding (a) broken door locks (b) insecure windows (c) poor complex lighting and, (d) fire hydrants.

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Annually.
- (3) ACT Housing's maintenance Call Centre on 6207 1500. Matters affecting security such as broken door locks, blown lights in public areas, broken windows and fire hydrants will all be addressed promptly following assessment by Call Centre staff.

**Child care industry
(Question No 401)**

Mrs Burke: Asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 4 March 2003:

In relation to Inquiry into Workforce Issues in the ACT Child Care Industry:

- (1) How much did this case study cost.
- (2) Where did the funds for this case study come from (ie: within existing Department budget).
- (3) What percentage of the material in this report is (a) new information; (b) information the Department already had and, (c) the terms of reference re-written or paraphrased.
- (4) What steps will the Government now take to deal with the concerns raised in the report.
- (5) When will the Government act on any recommendations provided in the report.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mrs Burke's question is:

- (1) Total funding of \$26,116 was provided to Community and Health Works to deliver the project.
- (2) Funds were allocated from within the existing budget of the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services.
- (3) Approximately 94% of the data contained in the report is new information. This data was collected through a comprehensive survey of children's services providers and staff. The information was then collated and analysed, providing the basis of the report.

The data held by the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services represents approximately 4% of the data contained in the report.

The remaining 2% of data is drawn from information on employment trends, projected employment growth and research on the early years.

The report addresses the terms of reference and provides quantitative data in response to the terms of reference. The terms of reference have not been re-written or paraphrased.

- (4) Children's Services, Department of Education, Youth and Family Services, will consult with licensed children's services and other relevant stakeholders in relation to the recommendations of the report.

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Following this consultation, the Government will identify the recommendations that can be progressed at a local level and develop strategies to assist with this process. This will be a collaborative approach between the Government and stakeholders. It is anticipated the consultation will occur in early April 2003.

A number of recommendations focus on training for children's services staff. I have been informed that Community and Health Works are negotiating with Training and Adult Education in relation to the delivery of a cadetship for staff undertaking the Diploma in Community Services (Children's Services).

(5) The recommendations that are identified as being able to be progressed at a local level will be acted upon as soon as possible. Where possible, this will occur during 2003.

The Government has forwarded a copy of the report to the Hon Larry Anthony MP, Minister for Children's and Youth Affairs, as recommended in the report. The Minister has convened a think tank on the issues of workforce planning in children's services and the report has been provided to assist inform the work of the think tank.

Paid parking in Belconnen and Tuggeranong (Question No 403)

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to paid parking in Belconnen and Tuggeranong,

- (1) Where is the Government up to with plans for paid parking in Belconnen and Tuggeranong;
- (2) Has a decision been made on which method of paid parking will be implemented;
- (3) When will residents in (a) Belconnen and (b) Tuggeranong begin paying for parking;
- (4) Can a detailed list of the areas that will be subject to paid parking in (a) Belconnen and (b) Tuggeranong be provided;
- (5) How much money has been expended on this project to date.

Mr Wood: The answers to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The consultation process for this project has now been completed. Detailed implementation drawings are currently being finalised. A Request for Tender for the purchase and installation of parking machines is expected to be advertised on 29 March 2003.
- (2) Ticket (voucher) machines will be used as the method of payment for parking fees.

- (3) It is anticipated that pay parking will be introduced into Belconnen from July 2003 and in Tuggeranong from September 2003.
 - (4) Maps that show the location of pay parking at the Belconnen and Tuggeranong Town Centres are currently being finalised. These maps are broadly similar, but have been refined, from the draft maps released as part of the consultation process. It is proposed to make the maps available on the ACT Government web site before pay parking commences.
 - (5) \$46,785.02
-

**Dumas Street, McKellar
(Question No 404)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to a commitment by the Chief Minister to undertake a risk assessment of Dumas Street, McKellar:

- (1) On Chief Minister talkback on 21 February 2003 Mr Stanhope told a caller that he would ensure that the Department of Urban Services would undertake a risk assessment on Dumas St in McKellar, has any work been started on this risk assessment, if so, could you provide details, if not why not;
- (2) When do you expect this risk assessment to be completed;
- (3) Are there any estimates how much this risk assessment will cost and where will any funding for the assessment come from (ie: within DUS budget or elsewhere);
- (4) Have any options been presented to you by the Department of Urban Services for reducing the traffic hazard for local residents in Dumas Street;
- (5) How much would it cost to (a) put up signs reducing the speed limit, or (b) construct speed humps in Dumas Street;
- (6) How many complaints has the Government received about a traffic hazard in Dumas Street;
- (7) If it is found that work is needed in eliminating a traffic hazard in Dumas Street, will the Government commit to that project as part of the Capital Works program in the 2003-04 Budget.

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Mr Wood: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) Yes, Roads ACT has completed the assessment of safety and residential amenity of Dumas Street in McKellar using the Department's Traffic Warrants System.
- (2) The assessment is already completed.
- (3) This work was undertaken as part of normal Roads ACT business within current budget allocations.
- (4) Dumas Street carries a daily traffic of 2400 vehicles. The results of a recent speed survey indicate that 85% of vehicles travel at a speed of 68km/h or less. Two injury and 12 property damage crashes occurred in the last five year period on Dumas Street. Using the warrants system Dumas Street was ranked at number 84 out of 210 similar streets in the ACT, in relation to priority for traffic management measures. Based on these results Roads ACT has no immediate plans for traffic management measures on Dumas Street.
- (5) There has not been many complaints about traffic hazards in Dumas Street
- (6) The assessment identified that the need and priority for any works on Dumas Street is low.

**Canberra Institute of Technology—heating
(Question No 405)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Minister for Education, upon notice, on 4 March 2003:

In relation to the heating of classrooms at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT):

- (1) Is it correct that the CIT heats classrooms on its campuses during normal business hours but does not heat classrooms for night time classes?
- (2) If yes, why?
- (3) Could you please detail the cost of heating for the last 12 months of each CIT campus?

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Stefaniak's question is:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

(3) The Institute buildings are heated by electricity and natural gas. The total expenditure for electricity and gas for calendar year 2002 follows:

Campus	Electricity Cost	Gas Cost
Bruce	\$375,931.00	\$106,288.00
Fyshwick	\$122,040.00	\$ 29,994.00
Reid	\$435,179.00	\$ 82,682.00
Southside	\$140,716.00	\$ 28,152.00
Weston	\$ 40,719.00	\$ 34,566.00
Total Cost - Calendar Year 2002	\$1,114,585.00	\$281,682.00

It should be noted that the heating component cannot be excised from the above costs and the costs for electricity and gas include hot water, lighting, reverse cycle air-conditioning, computers and ancillary equipment.

Relocation of Sport and Recreation ACT (Question No 406)

Mr Stefaniak asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice, on 4 March 2003:

In relation to relocating Sport and Recreation ACT from Tuggeranong to Civic:

1. How much did it cost to relocate Sport and Recreation ACT;
2. Will Sport and Recreation ACT's new location save the government money? If so, how much. If not, why not and why move;
3. How much was the lease/rent at Homeworld and can you provide comparative figures for the lease/rent at the Nara Centre;
4. Has Sport and Recreation ACT lost any employees that weren't content with the office relocation. If so, is this having any impact on the working capabilities of Sport and Recreation ACT.

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

1. The total cost for the relocation of Sport and Recreation ACT was \$20,500.
2. With regard to rental savings, the answer is yes. Sport and Recreation ACT was absorbed into existing accommodation in the CMD portfolio. CMD now pays less rent as it occupies less accommodation space (a reduction of 463.42m²) equating to savings of \$121,879 per annum for rent and approximately \$18,536 per annum for outgoings.

It is also expected that there will be savings in efficiencies. From a client perspective, locating Sport and Recreation ACT in Civic where many of its key clients and partners – Sports House, Canberra Stadium, Manuka Oval, Lyneham Sports Precinct and its own elite sporting arm – ACT Academy of Sport – are all either centrally based or located in the north of Canberra is more efficient. This move closer to clients has also allowed Sport and Recreation ACT to downsize its car fleet from five to three vehicles – a further saving of approximately \$27,000 per year.

3. Rent at Homeworld was \$263 per square metre per annum. In comparison, rent at Canberra Nara Centre is \$255 per square metre per annum.
4. There has been no loss of employees at any stage due to the agency relocation from Tuggeranong to Civic. Therefore there has been no effect on the working capabilities of the agency except those positive ones outlined previously.

**ACT Housing—rental arrears and evictions
(Question No 407)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to ACT Housing rental arrears and evictions:

- (1) How many families were evicted for non payment of rent in (a) 2001-02 and (b) 2002-03 to 31 December 2002;
- (2) What was the total amount due by these families in each of these years;

How many children of these families were taken into care by Family Services in the years at (1) above.

Mr Wood: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) (a) 118 and (b) 50;
 - (2) (a) \$193,546.73 and (b) \$66,352.92;
 - (3) This is information that ACT Housing does not have and could not discover or divulge due to the *Privacy Act 1988* and the *Children and Young People Act 1999*.
-

**Dalrymple/Goyder Streets intersection
(Question No 408)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to the new Dalrymple/Goyder Streets, Narrabundah intersection:

- (1) When two vehicles are travelling in intersecting directions, if one is facing a Give Way sign and the other a Stop sign, who has right of way;
- (2) Does a Give Way sign mean give way to all traffic or only traffic from one direction;
- (3) Has any legal advice been received concerning the legal position of a vehicle facing a Give Way sign proceeding if there is other traffic waiting at the intersection;
- (4) Does the legal advice indicate whether it is illegal to proceed at (3) above, what is the position given the signage at this intersection;
- (5) What was the traffic volume at this intersection in (a) 1999-2000, (b) 2000-01 and (c) 2001-02 for (i) weekdays during school terms (ii) weekdays during school holidays and (iii) weekends.
- (6) What are the traffic accident statistics for the same periods in (i), (ii) and (iii) at (5) above;
- (7) Has any analysis been conducted as to why motorists use (a) Dalrymple and (b) Goyder Streets, and if so, what were the findings.

Mr Wood: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) The new intersection arrangement at Dalrymple/Goyder Streets in Narrabundah is a curved Tee in accordance with the Australian Road Rules. I am advised that the vehicle facing the Stop sign should give way to a vehicle facing the Give Way sign.
- (2) Under this arrangement the vehicle at the Give Way sign must give way to traffic travelling up Goyder Street, and if necessary stop to avoid a collision.
- (3) Legal advice has been received from the Australian Federal regarding the intersection arrangements.
- (4) Under this arrangement the vehicle at the Give Way sign must give way to traffic travelling up Goyder Street, and if necessary stop to avoid a collision.
- (5) As this is a minor intersection the availability of traffic volume data is limited. The available data for traffic passing through the intersection is as follows: 1995 - In school term Weekdays - 10750 vehicles per day - Weekend - 8550 vehicles per day 2001 - 2002 In school term Weekdays - 10700

- (6) Accidents at the intersection between 1999-2001 are as follows in school term weekdays - 6 property damage in school holidays weekdays - Nil weekends - 1 property damage
- (7) Analysis of traffic impacts in Narrabundah and Red Hill was undertaken through the Goyder Street Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Study from August 2000 to April 2001. This study focused primarily on Goyder Street, however public consultation also covered Dalrymple Street. A master plan of traffic management improvements was one of the outputs of this study, which included extensive public consultation.

Recent analysis on why people use Dalrymple Street has not been undertaken. Analysis on why people use Goyder Street was undertaken as part of the Goyder Street LATM Study. A number plate study found that 40-50% of traffic along Goyder Street is attributed to non-stopping through traffic. The source of the through traffic was found to be "rat runners" (that is traffic using local streets as short cut in preference to main roads) from Hindmarsh Drive to Jerrabomberra Avenue and vice versa and to a lesser extent from Mugga Lane to Jerrabomberra Avenue

ACT Housing—stock (Question No 410)

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to the ACT Housing Business Case:

- (1) Has a final version of the *ACT Housing Business Case – Proposal for Capital Works Funding for Replacement Stock and Fire Safety Improvements for Large Multi Unit Sites*, been prepared or released;
- (2) If not, why not and when will the Government release its program for Public Housing stock in the Territory, if so, could a copy please be attached in the response to this question;
- (3) Can you confirm or rule out if the following stock is still scheduled for withdrawal as stated in the *ACT Housing Business Case – Proposal for Capital Works Funding for Replacement Stock and Fire Safety Improvements for Large Multi Unit Sites*;
- (a) 2002-03: Owen Flats, De Burgh Maisonettes, Lyneham Flats and Currong Apartments;
 - (b) 2003-04: Gowrie court;
 - (c) 2004-05: Kanangra Court;
 - (d) 2005-06: Stuart Flats;
 - (e) 2007-08: Northbourne, Turner;
 - (f) 2009 to 10: Northbourne, Braddon;
 - (g) 2010 to 11: Allawah Court;
 - (h) 2011 to 12: Bega Court.

(4) The draft document also says: *'The Dickson properties, Dickson Flats (21 units) and Karuah Maisonettes (30 units), are in similar condition to the Lyneham properties and while not listed above should also be vacated and sold as soon as possible.'* What is the status on the Dickson properties;

(5) The draft document says: *'Lyneham Flats, Dickson Flats and Kanangra Court all comprise bedsit units. This type of accommodation is no longer considered appropriate for public housing.'* Will these properties be withdrawn for that reason, if not, why not, if so, when;

(6) Will any future new public housing stock comprise bedsit units;

(7) Has any property been earmarked for possible new public housing stock in Canberra;

(8) Will there be any new public housing stock (a) established or (b) planned for in Canberra before the October 2004 election.

Mr Wood: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) No.

(2) The document was prepared as one of a series of drafts in the context of early Budget negotiations for the 2002-03 Budget, and not proceeded with.

(3) As stated in (2) the document referred to was a draft and has no status.

(4) See above.

(5) See above.

(6) No.

(7) It is not ACT Housing policy to reveal the site specific details of where it purchases. Since coming to Government, 214 properties have been acquired for public rental housing.

(8) Yes.

**Consultants—use
(Question No 412)**

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 5 March 2003:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

(1) What was the (a) name of the consultant; (b) address of the consultant (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.

(2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

Mr Stanhope : The answers to the Member's questions are as follows:

Policy Group

Name of Consultant	Address of Consultant	Cost to 5/Mar/2003	Service Provided	Was a report prepared and, if so, where may copies be obtained?
ACTCOSS	Jamieson House 43 Constitution Ave Reid	\$27,500	Mapping services for the disadvantaged & those in poverty in the ACT that do not receive any ACT Government funding	Yes. Not as yet released
ACTCOSS	Jamieson House 43 Constitution Ave Reid	\$2,200	Mapping services for the disadvantaged & those in poverty in the ACT that do not receive any ACT Government funding – additional statistical analysis	Yes. Not as yet released
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	6A Traeger Crt, Fern Hill Park, Bruce	\$38,025	Need for and provision of human services	Yes. AIHW website
NATSEM, University of Canberra	170 Haydon Drive, Bruce	\$39,600	Locating poverty in the ACT	Yes NATSEM website
Australian Institute of Criminology	74 Leichhardt Street, Griffith	\$10,000	What works in reducing young people's involvement in crime	Yes Not as yet released

Public Sector Management and Labour Policy Group (PSM&LPG)

Name of Consultant	Address of Consultant	Cost to 5/Mar/2003	Service Provided	Was a report prepared and, if so, where may copies be obtained?
Taylor Fry Consulting Actuaries	Level 6, 52 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000	\$25,920	Integration of whole-of-government organisational structures to Premium Devolution Model	No
Taylor Fry Consulting Actuaries	Level 6, 52 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000	\$23,819	Review of selected parameters of Premium Devolution Model	Yes. Technical report not released to the public.
Marshall Consulting	PO Box 2130 Kambah Village ACT 2902	\$12,500	Review and provide advice on a classification and remuneration structure for staff of the ACT Legislative Assembly.	Yes. Reports have been prepared and are being used as part of the consultation process with Members and Staff. Reports would be more widely available at the end of that process.
Price Waterhouse Coopers	GPO Box 447 Canberra City ACT 2601	\$33,750	Review of ACT Public Service Salary Packaging Arrangements.	Yes. Available from PSM & LPG
Moz Consulting	GPO Box 1276 Canberra ACT 2600	\$6,000	Facilitation of Review of Public Sector Management Act Focus Groups for ACT Public Service Executives, managers & staff.	No. Outcome reflected in the Review of the Public Sector Management Act discussion papers http://www.psm.act.gov.au/commissioner.htm

Public Sector Management and Labour Policy Group (PSM&LPG) (Continued)

Name of Consultant	Address of Consultant	Cost to 5/Mar/2003	Service Provided	Was a report prepared and, if so, where may copies be obtained?
Piazza Consulting	PO Box 735 Belconnen ACT 2616	\$24,570	Retirement Intentions Survey	Yes Available from PSM&LPG. http://www.psm.act.gov.au/documents/FinalReportV10.pdf
Alchemy Management Solutions	167 Castleton Crescent GOWRIE ACT 2904	\$9,600	Report on the functional documentation for the Human Resources System Solution Replacement Project.	Yes. Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current pre-procurement status, the report has not been released.
Opticon Australia	Level 7, 14 Moore Street Canberra ACT 2600	\$7,440	Report on non-functional technical and implementation requirements for the Human Resources System Solution replacement project.	Yes. Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current pre-procurement status, the report has not been released.

Corporate Services

Name of Consultant	Address of Consultant	Cost to 5/Mar/2003	Service Provided	Was a report prepared and, if so, where may copies be obtained?
Wilson Strategic Management	PO Box 209 Curtin ACT 2605	\$17,121	Department of Treasury Staff Training and Development Program	No Development of a report was not applicable to this consultancy

P Harris	3 Faven Circle Griffith ACT 2603	\$19,166	To project manage the development of Economic White Paper	Yes, outcome reflected in Building Canberra's Economy discussion paper. Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism
The Public Affairs Recruitment Company	PO Box 655 Woden ACT 2606	\$7,153	Public affairs services during bushfire emergency	No
Cordiner King & Co Pty Ltd	Level 44 Rialto 525 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000	\$96,161	Executive recruitment services for the position of Chief Executive, Department of Treasury.	No

ACTIM

Name of Consultant	Address of Consultant	Cost to 5/Mar/2003	Service Provided	Was a report prepared and, if so, where may copies be obtained?
David Bailey	Bailey Consulting Group Pty Ltd PO Box 2526 Tuggeranong ACT 2900	\$53,480.67	Provision of staff to assist with Business Case assessments	No
Wizard Information Services	15 Barry Drive, Turner	\$30,881	Assistance with development of the ACTIM Intranet site	No
Acumen Alliance	15 Moore St, Canberra	\$37,374.20	Review of InTACTs response to Email Incident	Yes – contact ken.douglas@ac t.gov.au
META	Unit 2, Ground Floor 3 Geelong Street, Fyshwick	\$24,750	Provision of IT Advisory Services for WhoG	No

Gartner	65 Canberra Ave, Griffith	\$57,500	Benchmarking IT services provided by INTACT	Not yet completed
Bayley & Assoc	49-51 Colbee Crt, Phillip	\$7,000	Business Case Training	No
Tsa Group	1 Hall St, Lyneham	\$7,700	WhoG Intranet Portal Report	Yes – contact kerrya.webb@act.gov.au
PriceWaterhouseCoopers	64 Northbourne Ave, Canberra	\$15,000	Evaluation e-Services program	Yes, Relevant ACTIM File
Opticon/Corporate Network Solutions	Level 7, 14 Moore Street, Canberra	\$24,480	Produce Directory Services Strategy Report	Yes, Relevant ACTIM File

Bushfire Taskforce Secretariat

Name of Consultant	Address of Consultant	Cost to 5/Mar/2003	Service Provided	Was a report prepared and, if so, where may copies be obtained?
Bovis Lend Lease Pty Ltd	Level 5, St George Centre, 60 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra	\$250,000	Project management of the bushfire demolition process	N/A
Market Attitude Research Services Pty Ltd	PO Box 214, Miranda, NSW	\$17,435	Survey of Householders impacted by January 2003 bushfires	Yes: available from Bushfire Taskforce Secretariat – Community Support Group

Consultants—use (Question No 413)

Mr Smyth asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 5 March 2003:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

- (1) What was the (a) name of the consultant (b) address of the consultant (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.
- (2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

Mr Stanhope : The answer to the member's question is attached. It should be noted that consultancies costing less than \$5,000 have not been included.

Name	Address	Cost	Service Provided	Report Y/N	Where may copies of report be obtained
Professional Careers Australia	Level 3, 40 Marcus Clarke Street Canberra ACT 2601	\$6975	Recruitment services for temporary staff	N	
Careers Unlimited Pty Ltd	17-21 University Avenue Canberra City ACT 2601	\$5658	Recruitment services for temporary staff	N	
Elkera Pty Ltd	PO Box 5280 Chatswood NSW 1515	\$27574	Public Access to Legislation Project PAL Stage 2B and 3.1	N	
Yellow Edge	U16a/16 National Circuit Barton ACT 2600	\$5425	Planning Day	N	
Insight Business Solutions	73 Doyle Terrace Chapman ACT 2611	\$109,725	Transition Plan Projects	Y	Business Services, Policy & Regulatory Division
Issues Deliberation Australia	PO Box 19 Glenelg SA 5045	\$54000	Deliberative Poll on a Bill of Rights for the ACT	Y	Business Services, Policy & Regulatory Division
Bytetime Corporation Pty Ltd	PO Box 559 Mitchell ACT 2911	\$14624	Procurement Consultancy Services	Y	Copy of tender documents can be obtained from Business Services, Policy & Regulatory Division
Australian Institute of Criminology	GPO Box 2944 Canberra ACT 2601	\$50,000	Research into ACT Recidivist Offenders		Not yet completed
Keith Akesson	66 Rivett St Hackett ACT 2602	\$19680	Oracle Upgrade	N	
Scott Murray and Associates	79 Zig Zag Lane, Crows Nest NSW 2065	\$5500	Gungahlin Lakes Country Club - 10th Hole Safety Report	Y	Office of the Commissioner for Land and Planning
Ceridwen Management	PO Box 48 Dickson ACT 2602	\$9654.54	Data analysis for EEO climate survey and development of equity and diversity plan for JACS.	Equity & Diversity Plan	Human Resource Management
Yellow Edge Consulting	PO Box 4190 Kingston ACT 2604	\$29700	Human Resource advice & services to ACT Courts - implementation of McFeat Review recommendations	N	
Asgard Capital Management	PO Box 2166 Clovelly NSW 2031	\$6360.5	Industrial relations advice for EBA	N	

Rengain	Edward St. Brisbane Qld 4000	\$70040.45	ACT Prison Project: Project planning & management, financial consulting, legal services etc.		Not yet completed
Dr. Sandi Plummer	Walden Ridge, PO Box 26 Gundaroo NSW 2620	\$8263.65	To provide professional supervision to facilitators of the Cognitive Behavioural Program delivered in the community and PDC for men and women.	N	
Hall McMaster & Associates	Picton Ave, Christchurch, NZ.	\$9716.49	Violent Offences Program modified to suit Australian circumstances and training provided for staff	Y	Naomi Buick, Rehab Programs Unit, Symonston.
Consultecon (Mark Harrison)	Aranda ACT 2614	\$17500	Cost Benefit Analysis for the ACT Prison Project		Not yet completed
John Walker	Eaglemont, Victoria 3084	\$11250	Review of prisoner number projections	Y	Eddie Issa, Projects and Facilities Unit, Eclipse House, Canberra City.
Deakin University: School of Psychology - Forensic Psychology Program	221 Burwood Hwy, Burwood, Victoria 3125	\$6336	Evaluation of 2001/02 Cognitive Skills Program	Y	Megan Peel, Rehabilitation Programs Unit, Symonston.

**Consultants—use
(Question No 416)**

Mr Smyth: To ask the Treasurer: In relation to consultants used to date this year:

- (1) What was the (a) name of the consultant; (b) address of the consultant; (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.
- (2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

- (1) Refer to Attachment A for the Treasury in the respective columns for (a) name of the consultant, (b) address of the consultant, (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.

(2) Refer to Attachment A in the column headed "Report" for particulars of the consultants' reports and, if appropriate, where copies of reports may be obtained.

Central Financing and Superannuation Units

Attachment A

Name of Consultant	Address	Cost (1/7/02 to 5/3/03)	Service	Report
Frontier Investment Consulting	Casselden Place Level 10, 2 Lonsdale Street Melbourne VIC 3000	\$149,256.25	Investment Consultants. Engaged to provide ongoing investment advisory services for the Superannuation and General Government investments. Contracted for 5 year term that commenced in May 2001.	Monthly investment performance reports are provided by the consultant. In addition, reports are provided on specific issues as and when required. Investment advisory information is available from the Finance and Investment Group.
Towers Perrin	Level 10, 101 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000	\$55,581.90	Actuaries and Superannuation Consultants. Engaged to provide actuarial advice for the Territory Superannuation Liabilities.	A copy of the 2002-03 review of the accruing Territory superannuation liabilities has been completed and is available from the Finance and Investment Group.
Barrington Corporate Finance	Level 17 Australia Square 264 George Street Sydney NSW 2000	\$56,100.00	Was engaged to undertake a review of the Territory's motor vehicle fleet financing facility.	A copy of the report considering the options available for financing the Territory's motor vehicle fleet has been completed and is available from the Finance and Investment Group.

Macquarie Risk Advisory Services (MRAS)	No.1 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000	\$17,600.00	Risk management Consultants. Engaged to provide ongoing debt and risk management advisory services for the Territory's borrowing liabilities. Contracted for 3 year term that commenced in November 2002.	MRAS provides monthly debt portfolio reports. In addition, reports are provided on specific issues as and when required. Debt and risk management advisory information is available from FIG.
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ACT Insurance Authority

Name of Consultant	Address	Cost (1/7/02 to 5/3/03)	Service	Report
Marsh P/L	Marsh P/L ACN 004 651 512 Level 20, 60 Margaret Street, Sydney NSW	\$990,000 over 5 years	Insurance broking and risk management services	Reports produced by Marsh are available from the office of the ACT Insurance Authority
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Pricewaterhouse Coopers ABN 52 780 433 757 201 Sussex Street, Sydney, New South Wales	Approx. \$950,000	Specialist claims and insurance advisory services in relation to January 2003 bushfire claim settlement	No reports produced at this stage

GBE Management Branch

Name of Consultant	Address	Cost (1/7/02 to 5/3/03)	Service	Report
Ray L. Davis	12 Moore Street, Canberra ACT 2601	As the consultancy has not been completed, the exact cost cannot be provided. The consultancy is budgeted to cost \$16,500.	Provision of commercial property advice to an inter-departmental working party considering future options for the Australian International Hotel School.	The consultancies being conducted for the inter-departmental working party by Ray L. Davis and WalterTurnbull are still ongoing, therefore any reports have not been finalised.
WalterTurnbull	19-23 Moore Street, Turner ACT 2601	As the consultancy has not been completed, the exact cost cannot be provided. The consultancy is budgeted to cost \$26,500.	Provision of financial advice to an inter-departmental working party considering future options for the Australian International Hotel School.	
WalterTurnbull	19-23 Moore Street, Turner ACT 2601	As the consultancy has not been completed, the exact cost cannot be provided. The consultancy is budgeted to cost \$19,808.	Development of a structured database of quantitative, time series information covering selected Government Business Enterprises.	A report will not be prepared as part of the WalterTurnbull consultancy commissioned to prepare a structure database.

Revenue Management Branch

Name of Consultant	Address	Cost (1/7/02 to 5/3/03)	Service	Report
Aussoft	395 Canterbury Road Vermont Vic 3133	\$67,958	Provision of services and consultancy with regards to the rates system	No reports are available because all the contractors and/or consultants provide services related to routine operations within Revenue Management Branch. E.g. IT consultants helped to draft scope and design specifications of IT system that form basis of tender documents.
Isidore IT Pty Ltd	PO Box 76 Deakin West ACT 2600	\$18,600	Consulting services regarding the STAX project	
Think Plan Perform Pty Ltd	Po Box 3045 Canberra ACT 2601	\$55,071	Provision of consulting services regarding the STAX system	
Cognos Pty Ltd	Po Box 328 Crows Nest NSW 1585	\$5,600	Cognos installation and consulting	
Jade Direct Aust Pt	Level 12 468 St Kilda Road Melbourne Vic 3004	\$137,540	Support for STAX system	

InTACT

Name of Consultant	Address	Cost (1/7/02 to 5/3/03)	Service	Report
ACT Procurement Solutions	PO BOX 818, DICKSON, ACT, 2602	16,098.35	Enterprise Server Supply	
ACT Procurement Solutions	PO BOX 818, DICKSON, ACT, 2602	16,098.35	Enterprise Server Supply	

ACT Procurement Solutions	PO BOX 818, DICKSON, ACT, 2602	9,183.40	Replacement of InTACTs Major Strategic Partnership Arrangement	
ACT Procurement Solutions	PO BOX 818, DICKSON, ACT, 2602	14,871.52	Replacement of InTACTs Major Strategic Partnership Arrangement	
ACT Procurement Solutions	PO BOX 818, DICKSON, ACT, 2602	15,375.59	Replacement of InTACTs Major Strategic Partnership Arrangement	
ACT Procurement Solutions	PO BOX 818, DICKSON, ACT, 2602	39,430.51	Replacement of InTACTs Major Strategic Partnership Arrangement	
Coolong Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	28-35 Ainslie Avenue, CANBERRA, ACT	10,506.00	Professional Services - RFP Preparation	
Coolong Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	28-35 Ainslie Avenue, CANBERRA, ACT	10,506.00	Professional Services - RFP Preparation	
D'Arcy Consulting	PO BOX 370, MAWSON, ACT, 2607	7,181.82	Implementation of Personal Efficiency Program	
D'Arcy Consulting	PO BOX 370, MAWSON, ACT, 2607	7,181.82	Implementation of Personal Efficiency Program	
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	GPO BOX 823, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601	10,220.00	435545003/LO Business Plan	
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	GPO BOX 823, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601	10,220.00	435545003/LO Business Plan	
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	GPO BOX 823, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601	13,500.00	Business Continuity Plan Analysis	
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	GPO BOX 823, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601	13,500.00	Business Continuity Plan Analysis	

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	GPO BOX 823, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601	8,000.00	Financial Audit	
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	GPO BOX 823, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601	8,000.00	Financial Audit	
Dimension Data Australia	32 LONSDALE STREET, BRADDON, ACT, 2612	11,431.25	Project Management Provided by Steve Horswell	
Dimension Data Australia	32 LONSDALE STREET, BRADDON, ACT, 2612	12,942.50	Project Management Provided by Steve Horswell	
Dimension Data Australia	32 LONSDALE STREET, BRADDON, ACT, 2612	24,373.75	Project Management Provided by Steve Horswell	
EMC Global Holdings	LEVEL 6, 60 MILLER STREET, NORTH SYDNEY, NSW, 2059	89,500.00	ESN Implementation	
EMC Global Holdings	LEVEL 6, 60 MILLER STREET, NORTH SYDNEY, NSW, 2059	89,500.00	ESN Implementation - Milestone 2	
EMC Global Holdings	LEVEL 6, 60 MILLER STREET, NORTH SYDNEY, NSW, 2059	179,000.00	Implementation services for connection of Enterprise Servers to SAN	
Evalua Pty Limited	7/51 Tennant Street, FYSHWICK, ACT	15,000.00	Professional Services - Tender Evaluation	
Evalua Pty Limited	7/51 Tennant Street, FYSHWICK, ACT	15,000.00	Professional Services - Tender Evaluation	
Fulton Technology Pty Ltd	25 Manuka Circle, MANUKA, ACT, 2603	10,181.82	Enhancing CMS Nov02	

Fulton Technology Pty Ltd	25 Manuka Circle, MANUKA, ACT, 2603	10,181.82	Enhancing CMS Nov02	
Gibson Quai	LEVEL 11, 80 MOUNT STREET, NORTH SYDNEY, NSW, 2060	18,730.00	Independent Verification of Fibre Cable Network Costing	

Corporate Services

Name of Consultant	Address	Cost (1/7/02 to 5/3/03)	Service	Report
Spherion Recruitment Solution Pty Ltd	Level 1, 243 Northbourne Ave Lyneham ACT 2602	\$23,045.12	Executive recruitment for the position of General Manager of InTACT	

Financial and Budgetary Management

Name of Consultant	Address	Cost (1/7/02 to 5/3/03)	Service	Report
Mr Will Laurie	Bellewarra Investments, 5 Torres Street Red Hill 2603	\$27,400.	Chair the Commission of Audit (Stage 2).	The Commission of Audit Report (No. 2) on the State of the Territory's Finances, ACT Forests, ACTION and Australian International Hotel School was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 12 December2002.
Access Economic Pty Ltd	Level 1, 39 Brisbane Avenue, Barton ACT 2600	\$43,500 (not paid as yet).	To develop a long term fiscal model, and to provide training on its use, maintenance and update	In relation to long term fiscal modelling, no formal report was required. Preliminary model has been delivered which is being tested.

Kerry Hudson and Associates	PO Box 1120 Golden Grove Village SA 5125	\$17,000	To assess of the overall frameworks in place for prioritisation and management of Capital Works across differing agencies	In relation to the report of Kerry Hudson and Associates, this work is still in progress.
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**Consultants—use
(Question No 417)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

1. What was the
 - a) Name of the consultant;
 - b) Address of the consultant;
 - c) Cost of the consultancy;
 - d) Service provided by the consultant

2. Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

Mr Quinlan: The answer to the member's question is:

Name of the consultant	Address	Cost (inc GST)	Service provided	Report Pre-prepared	Where obtained
ACT Council of Social Service	PO Box 195 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608	\$11,000	Input into the Economic White Paper on the community sector	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
Allen Consulting Group	15 London Circuit CANBERRA ACT 2600	\$74,500	Input into the Economic White Paper on Ageing Population Industries	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
KLA Australia	PO Box 4672 KINGSTON ACT 2604	\$10,000	Input into the Economic White Paper on Centrelink expenditure	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT

Advance Consulting & Evaluation	PO Box 629 QUEAN-BEYAN NSW 2620	\$68,512	Input into the Economic White Paper on Commercialisation of Research	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
ACIL Consulting	103-105 Northbourne Avenue CANBERRA ACT 2600	\$48,000	Input into the Economic White Paper on Defence Industries	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
Environmental Research and Information Consortium	PO Box 236 LYNEHAM ACT 2602	\$73,000	Input into the Economic White Paper on Economic Catchment for the ACT and Freight Transport	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
University of Canberra - The Centre for Labour Market Research	Centre for Labour Market Research University of Canberra	\$40,820	Input into the Economic White Paper on Education Exports	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
Advance Consulting & Evaluation	PO Box 629 QUEAN-BEYAN NSW 2620	\$49,928	Input into the Economic White Paper on Environmental Management	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
Allen Consulting Group	15 London Circuit CANBERRA ACT 2600	\$62,000	Input into the Economic White Paper on New Technologies	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
Strategic Economic Solutions	42 Gardiner Street DOWNER ACT 2602	\$12,660	Input into the Economic White Paper on Personal Services	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT
Allen Consulting Group	15 London Circuit CANBERRA ACT 2600	\$16,500	Communication Document for the Economic White Paper	Yes	The report is the Discussion Paper which was released in March 2003
ACIL Consulting	103-105 Northbourne Avenue CANBERRA ACT 2600	\$37,800	Input into the Economic White Paper on Land used under softwoods	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT

Keable Ferguson Pty Limited	38 Fitzhardinge Crescent EVATT ACT 2617	\$5,500	Editorial advice on the Defence Industries report	No	Only editorial advice provided
mjaMatchpoint	PO Box 138 Cabarita Beach BOGANGAR NSW 2488	\$49,000	Review of government involvement in tourism	Yes	Upon request from BusinessACT

**Consultants—use
(Question No 419)**

Mr Smyth: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

- (1) What was the (a) name of the consultant; (b) address of the consultant (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.
- (2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

- 1(a) **TMP Worldwide Eresourcing**
- 1(b) Level 6, 54 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT 2601
- 1(c) \$70,356 (includes GST)
- 1(d) Executive recruitment for three senior positions in Disability ACT
- 2 Yes. The report is not available for public release as it concerns private details of the applicants.

- 1(a) **Morgan Disney & Associates**
- 1(b) PO Box 3068, Manuka ACT 2603
- 1(c) \$49,000 (includes GST)
- 1(d) Organisational change workshops "Building our Department"
- 2 Yes. The report is not available for public release as it is a confidential internal document.

All amounts from here onwards do not include GST.

- 1(a) **RPR Consulting Pty Ltd**
1(b) 2/4 Thesiger Court, Deakin ACT 2600
1(c) \$40,650
1(d) Community Consultation for the Disability Reform Group
2 Final report received 29 August 2002. The report can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.
- 1(a) **Anne Cross**
1(b) 43 Ewart Street, Paddington QLD 4064
1(c) \$62,500 plus disbursements
1(d) Provision of Expert advice to the Disability Reform Group and to Disability ACT.
2 Final report received 10 September 2002 and can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.
- 1(a) **Anne Cross**
1(b) 43 Ewart Street, Paddington QLD 4064
1(c) \$23,950
1(d) Provision of advice and training to Disability ACT, the sector, and to individual families.
2 Reports due by 30 June 2003.
- 1(a) **Ms Jaquie Ford, (Bushjack)**
1(b) 99 Gibraltar Street, Bungendore NSW 2621
1(c) \$11,176
1(d) Work with 2 families to develop a viable support plan.
2 Final report received on 11 December 2002. The report is not available for public release as it concerns private details relating to the lives of 2 families.
- 1(a) **Westwood Spice - Human Services Consultants**
1(b) 65 Darling Street, Balmain NSW 2041
1(c) \$11200
1(d) Provide advice to the Disability Reform Group, as to the principles of a good complaints system in the form of a paper and verbal advice.
2 Final report received July 2002 and can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

- 1(a) **Didactic Enterprises**
1(b) 4 Dietrich Place, Chisholm ACT 2905
1(c) \$4,400
1(d) Conducting focus groups and producing report into Quality in Disability Services for the Disability Advisory Council (DAC). NOTE the DAC is jointly funded by the ACT Government and the Commonwealth.
2 Final report received June 2002 and can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

- 1(a) **GAPP Consulting**
(b) PO Box 208, Ainslie ACT 2602
(c) \$16,364
(d) Assistance in drafting the final report of Affordable Housing Taskforce.
2 Yes, the final report was released in December 2002 and can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

- 1(a) **Hill PDA**
(b) GPO Box 2748, Sydney NSW 2001
(c) \$26,829
(d) Provide advice to the Affordable Housing Taskforce on the role of land and planning mechanisms in providing affordable housing.
2 Yes, the report can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

- 1(a) **NATSEM**
(b) University of Canberra, Bruce ACT 2601
(c) \$48,021
(d) Provide advice to the Affordable Housing Taskforce on measuring the levels of unaffordable housing in the ACT
2 Yes, the report can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

- 1(a) **Foulsham & Munday Pty Ltd**
(b) 29 Barwon Street, Kaleen ACT 2615
(c) \$5,590
(d) Contracted to provide editing services for the final report of the Affordable Housing Taskforce. - No specific report produced.
2 No

- 1(a) **Potato Point Pty Ltd (Housing Mix Analysis)**
(b) 31 Railway Street, Petersham NSW 2049
(c) \$8,500
(d) Contracted to provide the Affordable Housing Taskforce with advice on the appropriate mix of housing assistance in the ACT
2 Yes, the report can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

- 1(a) **KLA (Indigenous viability study)**
 - (b) PO Box 4672, Kingston ACT 2604
 - (c) \$60,000
 - (d) The consultant conducted research, carried out community consultations to ascertain Indigenous needs and wishes in terms of housing and housing-related services, and developed a series of housing models to investigate the financial viability of an Indigenous housing provider model.
- 2 The consultants delivered a draft report in February 2003, and a final report is expected to be delivered by 31 March 2003. The report can be obtained by contacting Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

- 1(a) **PRL Consultancy: Hill PDA**
 - (b) GPO Box 2748, Sydney NSW 2001
 - (c) \$13,903
 - (d) Hill PDA were contracted to undertake a financial analysis of leasing verses purchasing for residential property in the ACT. This project was engaged as part of an ongoing review of the Private Rental Leasing Scheme (PRL). The draft report titled "Financial Analysis of Leasing verses Purchasing for Residential Property in the ACT" has been received by Housing Policy and Planning unit of the Department.
- 2 No – the final draft is currently being considered by the Department.

- 1(a) **NATSEM (CSHA options modelling)**
 - (b) University of Canberra, Bruce ACT 2601
 - (c) \$30,137
 - (d) Modelling of CSHA funding options
- 2 No written report – modelling results. Confidential to Government.

- 1(a) **Tania Parkes Consulting**
 - (b) 51 Denny Street, Latham ACT 2615
 - (c) \$8,580
 - (d) Consultation for the development of boarding house programs in Chapman and Gungahlin.
- 2 No.

**Consultants—use
(Question No 420)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Urban Services:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

(1) What was the (a) name of the consultant; (b) address of the consultant (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.

(2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

Mr Wood: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) The attached table indicates consultancies engaged by the Department of Urban Services from 1 July 2002 to date.

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
ARRB	500 Burwood Highway, Vermont South Victoria 3133	\$90,000.00 This Financial Year \$29760.00	Effectiveness of Speed Cameras in the ACT Evaluation of 50km/h Residential Speed Limit Trial	Yes	Road Transport Road Safety Unit
Hughes Trueman	Unit 7, Cooleman Offices Brierly Street Weston ACT 2611	\$100,025.00 This Financial Year \$42531.84	Pay Parking – Belconnen & Tuggeranong	Yes – 1st report No. 2 & 3 to come	Road Transport Driver, Vehicle and Parking Policy
Steer Davies Gleave	S1103, 530 Lt Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000	\$140,000.00 This Financial Year \$22303.00	Evaluate Road Ready Program	Yes	Road Transport Road Safety Unit
W F Donovan	4 Moroak Street Hawker ACT 2614	\$5700.00	Tender Board for Road Ready	No	N/A
Brian Dooley & Assoc	12 Rooney Place Isaacs ACT 2607	\$6024.00	TISC & CIT updated teacher and Student resources – Road Ready	No	N/A

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
GDP Consultancy	PO Box 848 Mulgrave Vic 3170	\$79,900.00 This Financial Year \$44549.49	Evaluation of the Inexperienced Solo Drive – Road Ready Plus	Final report not due until October 2003	N/A
Freebott Pty Ltd	PO Box 219 Lyneham ACT 2602	\$23788.00	Road Ready Plus	No	N/A
Wayne Smith & Assoc	PO Box 320 Gladesville NSW 1675	\$10281.75	Read Ready Plus (Freebott) Review	Yes	Road Transport Road Safety Unit
Sinclair Knight Merz	100 Christie Street St Leonards NSW 1590	\$5095.00	Trips Replacement Project	Yes	CSI Rego.act
CQS Australia	Suite 1, 88- 90 Macquarie Street				
Dubbo NSW 2830	\$15,000	Provision of Quality Assurance System Development and Training Services	No	N/A	
SGS International Certifier Services Pty Ltd	Locked Bag 44				
Alexandria NSW 1435	\$10,000	Provision of Quality assurance Certifier Services	Yes	Quality Manager	
City Management Level 6 Macarthur House.					

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Mercer Human Resource Consulting Pty Ltd	123 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000	\$4,275	Value assessment and classification of three senior executive roles within DUS	Yes	City Management Executive Support
Ron Black Management Consultants	PO Box 230 Curtin ACT 2605	\$10,500	Assist in the revision of tender process for City Management procurement of works and services	Report is required when consultancy is complete in March 2003	City Management Executive Support
GHD Management Engineering Environment	PO Box 36 Belconnen ACT	\$1,000	Public Lighting Guidelines	Yes	City Management
SMEC Australia P/L	PO Box 1654 Fyshwick ACT	\$7,110	Construction Specification	Yes	City Management
Acumen Alliance	PO Box 1880 Canberra	\$3,780	Traffic Signals Tender Probity Audit	Yes	Roads ACT – Policy Planning & Co-Ordination
Eastcliffe P/L	91 Rivett St, Hackett ACT	\$10,833	Maintenance Contracts – Traffic Signals	Yes	Roads ACT – Policy Planning & Co-Ordination
RD Gossip P/L	2 Lawry Pl Macquarie ACT	\$3,562	O'Connor Pricing Traffic Infrastructure Improvement	Yes	Roads ACT – Policy Planning & Co-Ordination

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
ACT Procurement Solutions	PO Box 818 Dickson	\$24,181	Ginninderra Dam Augmentation	Construction Drawing for Tender	Roads ACT – Policy Planning & Co-ordination
Bill Guy & Partners	6B Thesiger Court Deakin ACT	\$15,022	Corin Rd Batter Stabilisation	Project File	Roads ACT – Asset Maintenance
Geopave	12 Lakeside Dr, Burwood Vic	\$2,100	Brindabella Road Landslip	No. Project Cancelled	
Pavement Management Services	PO Box 220 Oatlands NSW	\$65,654	Asset Inventory/ Condition Data Collection LTPP Survey; Network Visual & Asset Survey of 568km Mobilisation & Traffic Control	Yes	Roads ACT – Asset Maintenance
SMEC Australia P/L	PO Box 1654 Fyshwick ACT	\$47,113	ACT Bridges Inspection Program; Monitoring of Bridges 5240 Tharwa Drive Condor	Yes	Roads ACT – Asset Maintenance
WP Brown	PO Box 4 Lyneham ACT	\$5,827	Superintendency of Alterations to Bridge 3139	Project File	Roads ACT

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
SMEC Australia P/L	PO Box 1654 Fyshwick ACT	\$12,877	Bridge Assessment - heavy vehicle permit	Yes	Roads ACT – Asset Use
RD Gossip	2 Lawry Pl Macquarie ACT	\$27,606	Investigations Design & Documentation of Minor New Works Projects	Yes	Roads ACT – Asset Use
Roads of Traffic Authority NSW	PO Box 3035 Parramatta, NSW	\$5,000	Heavy Vehicles Permit Review For ACT	Yes	Roads ACT – Asset Use
Unisearch LTD/ ADFA	ADFA	\$1,900	Noise Monitoring	Yes	Roads ACT – Asset Use
Datacol	PO Box 170 Civic Square ACT	\$35,074	MID Block Traffic Survey	No. Supply of data only.	Roads ACT – Asset Use
Flexible Drain Clear Service	8-10 Palmer Court Mount Waverley VIC	\$2,909	Survey	No. Supply of data only	Roads ACT – Asset Creation
RD Gossip	2 Lawry Pl Macquarie ACT	\$22,520	Adhoc engineering advice; Budgen Ave Noise traffic; Flemington Rd on road cycling; Signs in heritage precincts	Yes	Roads ACT – Asset Creation

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Meritec	L7, 140 Queen St, Melbourne VIC	\$102,000	Preparation of Procurement Documents for IAMS	Yes	Roads ACT – Asset Information
JP Management Consulting	Suite 902, 492 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VICTORIA. 3004	\$110,000	Preparation of Business Case for ACT Forests	Yes	Still being prepared – available late April.
Eastcliff Pty Ltd	91 Rivett St Hackett	Final costs not yet available - \$8 800 to date.	Contract Advice	Yes	Internal Document
W P Brown & Partners	15 Hall St Lyneham	Final costs not yet available - \$5 300 to date	Contract Advice	Yes	Internal Document
Clayton UTZ	Canberra House, 40 Marcus Clarke Street, Civic	\$3 500	Contract Advice	No	N/A
URS Australia	Level 1, 7-11 Barry Drive, Turner, ACT	\$45 000	Review of the No Waste Strategy	Yes	Internal Document
C4ES	PO Box 3049 Grose Vale NSW	\$13 800	Impacts of Implementing CDL in the ACT	Yes	ACT NOWaste, website www.act.gov.au/nowaste
Wright Corporate Strategies	PO Box 176 Crows Nest, NSW	\$6 000	Landfill Establishment Costs	Yes	Internal Document

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Kenney Lin & Associates	7 Robertson Street Curtin	\$8 400	Updating Cost of Waste to landfill	No	N/A
Gould League of Australia	Melbourne, Victoria	\$12 600	ACT Waste Wise Schools Program	No	N/A
Effective People	PO Box 3907 Weston Creek	\$3 000	Review of ACT NOWaste Structure	Yes	Internal Document
Bill Guy & Partners	1st Floor, 68 Thesiger Court, DEAKIN ACT 2600	\$28 000	Design and Construction Management Services to establish Bushfire damaged demolition waste disposal sites	No	N/A
Coffey Geosciences Pty Ltd	16 Mildura Street FYSHWICK ACT 2609	\$15 000	Geo-technical investigations of proposed bushfire damaged demolition waste disposal sites	Yes	Internal Document

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
IV&V Australia	Suite 3 385 Pacific hwy Crows Nest NSW 2065	\$44,000 (expected)	Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) of project status and progress.	Not yet. Only engaged on 4 March 2003	Not yet due.

Courage Partners Pty Ltd	15 Torrens Street BRADDON ACT	\$54,230	A study of the library and information needs of older people, from which could be developed a draft Older People's Library Services Strategy. The Study involved extensive research and broad consultation with stakeholders through a range of media including workshops, a survey and in depth interviews.	Yes	Library Older Persons Strategy (LOPS) report completed Based on the Report's findings a draft Strategy is being prepared for Government's consideration. The Report will be available at libraries and on the Internet once the Strategy has been endorsed.
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Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
K M Corke & Associates	KM Corke and Associates PO Box 3 Braddon ACT	\$11,000	The Presentation of ACT Legislation	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information
Libraries Alive	42 Waller Crescent, Campbell, ACT 2612	\$27,879	Kippax Library and Belconnen Region Services Study	Yes	Report available at: www.act.gov.au/ actinfo/library/ kippaxbelc/

Stuartfield House	PO Box 3510 MANUKA ACT 2603	\$10,725 \$2,681	Development of ACT Government Disposal Schedules. Development of Guidelines to Standard 2: Appraisal.	Yes	Territory Records Office
Collins, Caddaye	37 Canberra Avenue, Forrest, ACT 2603	\$16,720	Detailed Design Study of Kippax Group Centre	Work in progress	
Opticon Australia	Level 7, 14 Moore Street, Canberra PO Box 974, Civic Square ACT 2608	\$64 000	Delivery of report with recommendations on Simplifying the Telephone Entry Processes for DUS	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Opticon Australia	L7 14 Moore St, City ACT 2600	\$42,064	Development of the cost benefit analysis for a jobs online facility	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information
Xamax	58 Sidaway St, Chapman ACT 2611	\$5,850	Assist with development of information architecture for ACT Gov portal	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information
IBM GSA	8 Brisbane Ave Barton ACT 2600	\$25,829	Advice on the Canberra Connect Development Program	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information

KLA Australia	10 Kennedy St, Kingston	\$4,500	Review of CS&I corporate structure	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information
Opticon Australia	L7 14 Moore St City ACT 2600	\$30,360	Development of the Functional Specification and tender documents for the delivery of a jobs online facility	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
SMS Consulting	60 Marcus Clarke St Canberra City	\$72,000	Investigation and development of the business case for an online bookings and reservations facility	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information
SMS Consulting	60 Marcus Clarke St Canberra City	\$13,000	Investigation into the technical environment of the Meta Wizdom, web hosting arrangements	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information
SMS Consulting	60 Marcus Clarke St Canberra City	\$6,600	Assist with evaluation of whole of government online search facility tenders	No	N/A

TSA Consulting Gp	1 Hall St Lyneham	\$86,045	Development of the business and functional requirements for the ACT Government web portal	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information
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Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy Excluding GST	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Meta Group Australia	171 Clarence St Sydney	\$46,300	An investigation into the ACT government technical environment to enable delivery of online services	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information
Provenance Consulting Services	Suite 3, Level 1 15 Wentworth Ave, Sydney	\$7,266	Records management advisory services	Yes	Available from Customer Services & Information

**Consultants—use
(Question No 421)**

Mr Smyth asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 5 March 2003:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

- (1) What was the (a) name of the consultant (b) address of the consultant (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.
- (2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

Mr Wood: The answer to the member's question is attached. It should be noted that consultancies costing less than \$5,000 have not been included.

Name	Address	Cost	Service Provided	Report Y/N	Where may copies of report be obtained
Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd	38 Thesiger Court Deakin ACT	\$42614	Feasibility Study - Environmental Issues		Not yet completed
GHD Pty Ltd	PO Box 36 Belconnen ACT 2616	\$58953	Feasibility Study -HQ Upgrade and Hume Helipad		Not yet completed
Effective People Pty Ltd	PO Box 3907 Weston Creek ACT 2611	\$6850	Counselling Services	N	
APS Commission	"Edmund Barton Building, Barton ACT"	\$17090.91	ACT Fire Brigade (ACTFB) Joint Selection Committee to consider application	N	
Alchemy	"PO Box 255, Canberra ACT 2601"	\$8949	ACTFB Review management structure and workshops		Not yet completed
CIT Solutions Pty Ltd	PO Boc 226 Jamison ACT 2614	\$6245	ACTFB Workplace Assessor	N	
Lisa Castles & Associates	PO Box 271 Woden ACT 2606	\$5850	SES OH&S Consultancy	N	
Asgard Capital Management	PO Box 2166 Clovelly NSW 2031	\$5332.5	Industrial Relations matters - ESB	N	
Resolution Consulting	"47 Banfield Street, Downer, ACT 2602"	\$12160	ACTESB Budget Consultancy	Y	V. Bray - ESB

**Consultants—use
(Question No 422) (Supplementary answer)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Arts and Heritage, upon notice:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

- (1) What was the (a) name of the consultant; (b) address of the consultant (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.
- (2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

- (1) The attached table indicates consultancies over \$5000 engaged by the Heritage Unit, Environment ACT from 1 July 2002 to date.

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Eric Martin and Associates	68 Jardine St Kingston	\$6500	Heritage Assessment of Oaks Estate	Yes	Available from (Heritage Unit) Environment ACT
HBO+EMTB	Canberra	\$52,000	Glass Centre options study, investigation of site and design options for glass centre in Powerhouse precinct	Yes	artsACT
Positive Solutions	Queensland	\$41,000	Glass Centre Business Plan	Draft	Final will be available from artsACT
GHD Pty Ltd	59 Cameron Avenue, Belconnen	\$22,000	Facilities Condition Assessments	Yes	artsACT
AEC Consulting	Kambah	\$4,500	Electrical audit – arts facilities	Yes	artsACT
GHD Pty Ltd	-	\$9,000	Design study ArtSound	Yes	artsACT
Anthony Cooper and Associates	Thesinger Court Deakin	\$15,000	Design study relocation Megalo	Yes	artsACT

**Consultants—use
(Question No 424)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

(1) What was the (a) name of the consultant; (b) address of the consultant (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.

(2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

(1) The attached table indicates the consultants engaged under the Minister for Planning's portfolio from 1 July 2002 to date.

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Ansary Consultants	PO Box 61 Gungahlin ACT 2912	2,040.00	Yarralumla Brickworks Chimney – Structural Engineering Design Review	Yes	Land Group
Bream Investments	33 Willoughby Street Kirribilli NSW 2061	Not complete	Provide advice to the Gold Creek Country Club & Harcourt Hill at their Board Meetings.	No	N/A
Bunning & Madden	66 Kennedy St Kingston ACT 2604	19,495.00	Site Analysis 6/87 Belconnen	Yes	Land Group
Colin Stewart	PO Box 3469 Manuka ACT 2603	5,228.64	5/16 Greenway Development Investigation s	Yes	Land Group
David Richardson	PO Box 99 Belconnen ACT 2616	Not complete	Environment Planning Services for Estates Unit - PALM	No	N/A
Environment & Earth Sciences	The Coal Loader Balls Head Drive Waverton NSW 2060	18,645.00	Watson ACT Geological Study	Yes	Land Group

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
GHD Pty Ltd	59 Cameron Offices Belconnen ACT 2617	Not Complete	Bruce Retirement Complex Planning Study	Yes	Land Group
Hamilton Planning Study	11 King St Bungendore NSW 2621	1,500.00	Feasibility Report of Compressed Natural Gas Facility adjacent to Belconnen Bus Depot	Yes	Land Group
Harris Hobbs	16 Robe St Deakin ACT 2600	Not Complete	Forde Tree Study	Yes	Land Group
Phillips Fox	54 Marcus Clarke St Canberra ACT 2601	1,550.00	Legal advice re Lawson Defence Land.	Yes	Land Group
Rawlinsons	Level 1, Cooyong Centre Braddon ACT 2612	Not Complete	Land Group Development Model	Yes	Land Group
Purdon Associates	Southern Cross House 3/9 McKay St Turner ACT 2612	Not Complete	Planning Study: 22/36 Banks North Watson Residential Estate	Yes	Land Group

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Rochford Telfer Group Pty ltd	Unit 11, 285 Canberra Avenue Fyshwick ACT 2609	6,800.00	Dunlop 4 Estates Tree Survey	Yes	Land Group

Sinclair Knight Mertz	125 Bull St Newcastle West NSW 2302	Not Complete	Forde Residential Estate	Yes	Land Group
SMEC	Gladstone St Fyshwick ACT 2609	Not Complete	Planning Studies: 6/157 Belconnen town Centre Condor 4 Residential Estate	Yes	Land Group
VFC Pivotal	Level 1, Scala House Braddon ACT 2612	Not Complete	Provide professional knowledge and Input to the Development of Land Management Account for the whole of Government information on costs contributing to generation of Territory Land Sales Revenue	Yes	Not publicly available

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
WP Brown & Partners	PO Box 4 Lyneham ACT 2602	Not Complete	Dunlop 4 East & West Estate Planning Study North McKellar Residential Estate Planning Study	Yes	Land Group

Wilde & Woolard	28 Eyre Street Kingston ACT 2604	9,500.00	Yarralumla Brickworks Site – Financial Analysis	Yes	Land Group
Assist Pty Limited	Deakin Act	172.50	Oracle Services	No	N/A
Blake Dawson Waldron	Canberra ACT	551.60	Labour Dispute	No	N/A
Bruce Wright & Associates	Kingston ACT	1,418.18	Preparation Of Public Transport Futures Feasibility Study	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Bull & Bear	Canberra ACT	4,500.00	Finance And Administra- tion Review	Yes	Action Corporate Finance
Bull & Bear	Canberra ACT	10,500.00	Marketing Consulting	No	

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
C3plus Pty Ltd	Ashburton Vic	88,418.33	Evaluation Of Tenders Bus Communica- tions System	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Dept Treasury And Infrac	Canberra ACT	25,603.62	Tender Evaluation Services	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Effective People P/L	Weston Creek ACT	1,725.00	Review Of Executive Team	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Ernst & Young	Canberra ACT	6,661.41	Advice On Accounting Policy On Fixed Asset Valuation	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Evalua Pty Ltd	Fyshwick ACT	945.00	Tender Evaluation Bus Communica- tions System	No	N/A

F & A Wehrmann Consulting	Carlingford NSW	6,358.80	Advice On Replacement Bus Purchases	No	N/A
Fleet Strategies Pty Ltd	Kippax ACT	34,450.00	Services Provided On Installation Of Fleet Management System	No	N/A
Hba Consulting	Manuka ACT	450.00	Workplace Relations Consulting	No	N/A
Indec Consulting	Canberra ACT	32,243.14	Efficient Cost Framework Report, Irc & Commission Of Audit Meetings	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Irisbus Australia Pty Ltd	Laverton Vic	2,300.00	Examination Of Spare Parts Policy	No	N/A

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Ndy Management Pty Limited	Canberra ACT	500.00	Tender Documents Mechanical & Fire Services Belconnen Depot	Yes	Action Belconnen Office
Omnibus Sales & Service P	Brisbane Qld	813.34	Valuation Of Midi Buses	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Parsons Brinckerhoff	Rhodes NSW	4,520.00	Canberra's Public Transport Future Report	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Reid Cathy	Kambah ACT	625.00	Public Relations Consultancy	No	N/A

Richard Filewood & Associates	Medowie NSW	32,318.37	Consulting Advice On Bus Purchases	No	N/A
Robert Walters Pty Ltd	Canberra ACT	1,000.00		No	N/A
Stratecheck Management	West Perth WA	6,296.76	HR Report On Staff Reliability	Yes	Action Corporate Office
Write People	Chisholm ACT	1,800.00		Yes	ACTION Corporate Office
Artcraft Research	40/47 Neridah Street Chatswood NSW	\$36,000.00	Final Report of the Research Study Among Occupants of Dual Occupancies and Adjacent Dwellings	Yes	Available on the PALM website
Artcraft Research	40/47 Neridah Street Chatswood NSW	\$44,100.00	Community Consultation for the Canberra Spatial Plan: Community Surveys	Yes	Available on request

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Australian Asset Management P/L	5 Marrakai Street Hawker ACT	\$8,181.82 \$3,318.18	Structural Engineer for Fire Damaged Homes	Yes	Not Available Publicly
Bill Guy & Partners Pty Limited	1st Floor, 6B Thesiger Court, Deakin	Not complete	Review of Infrastructure Planning for Sullivans Creek Catchment (North Canberra)	Draft report due mid March	N/A

Bob Callaghan Consulting	73 Sidaway Street Chapman ACT	\$23,100.00	Rural & Compliance Legislation	N/A	N/A
DPM Solutions P/L	PO Box 201 Fyshwick ACT	Not Complete	Communication & Work for the Canberra Spatial Plan	No	N/A
Dr Jaky Troy	12 Reuther Place Flynn ACT	\$4,585.97	Research into Womens' Names for Future Commemoration	Yes	N/A
Forbes Mason & Associates		\$12,573.00	Community Consultation for the Canberra Spatial Plan	Yes	Available on request
Foulsham & Munday	PO Box 233 Jamison ACT	Not complete	Strategic Communications and Media Services	N/A	N/A
Kellog Brown & Root Pty Ltd	GPO Box 2702 Adelaide SA	Not complete	Public Transport Futures Feasibility Study	Yes - Stage 1 complete	Available on request

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Kla Australia P/L	PO Box 4672 KINGSTON ACT	Not complete	Financial and Strategic Assistance to Planning and Land Development Taskforce	N/A	N/A
Kla Australia P/L	PO Box 4672 KINGSTON ACT	Not complete	Review of Concessional leases in the ACT	Underway	N/A

Leigh Cupitt & Associates	20 Franklin Street Manuka	Not complete	Conduct a Community Facilities Needs Assessment	Draft report stage	N/A
Macroplan Pty Ltd	107-109 Flinders La Melbourne VIC	\$15,000.00	Facilitate Workshop "Green offsets"	No	N/A
Maunsells Pty Ltd	38 Thesiger Court Deakin	\$17,500.00	Traffic & Parking Consultancy for City West Master Plan	2 reports prepared	Available on request
Orima Research	65-67 Constitution Ave Campbell ACT	\$25,250.00	Conduct 2002 PALM Customer Survey	Yes	Internal Document
Orima Research	PO Box 67 Lyneham ACT	\$22,000.00	Conduct A Client survey part of review of the high quality sustainable design program	Yes	Internal Document
Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia Pty Limited	Locked Bag 248 Rhodes NSW	Not complete	Public Transport Advice on Bus Options for Belconnen Town Centre	Advice provided as required No report prepared	N/A

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
SDE Consulting	146 Lambrigg Street Farrer ACT	\$5,454.54	Review ACTEW's Dam Surveillance Report – to indicate if the compliance with the dam safety code had been met.	Yes	N/A

Secretariat Australia P/L	PO Box 4226 Manuka ACT	\$1,990.00	Knowledge Management Project	Yes	N/A
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Limited	99 Northbourne Avenue Turner ACT	Not complete	Costing of Passenger Transport in the ACT	1st draft prepared	Available on request
Smec Australia	PO Box 1654 Fyshwick	Not complete	Draft Interim ACT Design Guidelines for Sustainable Urban Water Management – based on information that is currently in the public domain.	Preliminary draft report for internal use	N/A
Smec Australia	PO Box 1654 Fyshwick	Not complete	Part Sec 34 Narrabundah Planning Study	Draft report being finalised prior to submission to government	N/A
University of Western Sydney: Dr Gleeson	GPO Box 5233BB Melbourne Vic	\$14,600.00	Independent Urban Planner for Planning & Land Management Authority Task Force	N/A	N/A

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of Consultancy	Service provided by consultant	Was report Prepared by consultant	If report prepared, where can copies be obtained.
Yellow Edge Pty Ltd	PO Box 4190 Kingston ACT	\$20,000.00	Review ACTLIC Organisational Structure	Yes	N/A

**Consultants—use
(Question No 425)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Education, Youth & Family Services.

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

- (1) What was the (a) name of the consultant; (b) address of the consultant; (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultant.
- (2) Was a report prepared by the consultants, if so, where may copies be obtained.

Ms Gallagher: In relation to consultants and contractors used by the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services up to 28 February 2003, that are over \$5,000 and \$15,000 in value respectively the:

- (1) (a) name of the consultant/contractor; (b) address of the consultancy/contractor; (c) cost of the consultancy/contractor and (d) service provided by the consultant/contractor; and
- (2) whether a report was prepared by the consultants/contractors, and if so, where may copies be obtained;

is provided at Attachment A.

Please note Attachment A includes financially and physically incomplete activities.

Attachment A

Contractors \$15,000	Purpose	St	Suburb	State	Report prepared ?	Available Where?	YTD Expend as at FEB 03
ACER	ACT Scaling Test Year 12	Private Bag 55	Camberwell	VIC	N/a		181,818.20
Acumen Alliance	Develop Chief Executive Instructions	15 Moore St	Canberra	ACT	Yes	DEYFS	29,880.00
Alliance Consulting Group	Project Support for Inquiry into ACT Education Funding	60 Marcus Clark St	Canberra	ACT	No		23,120.00
BMA Consulting	Identify patterns of implementation, leverage and opportunities of Training Packages in the ACT.	PO Box 245	Deakin West	ACT	No		25,583.56
FJC Technologies	Maintenance of AVMS Database	12 Scoble Place	Mawson	ACT	No		141,953.75

IQ Implementing Quality	Provision of Quality Audit Services	PO Box 150	Greenwood	WA	No		23,981.19
John Grant & Associates	Assist in the preparation of the ACT response to the Commonwealth Review of Higher Education	38 Anbalindum St	Hawker	ACT	No		17,400.00
New South Global Educational Testing Centre	Provision of Assessment Program 2001-2002	University of NSW	Sydney	NSW	No		29,240.91
Prowess Development	Develop Flexible Information Systems for Community Groups.	4/104 Phillip St	Balmain	NSW	No		39,918.18
Quality Assurance	QETO audit costs	286 Sussex St	Sydney	NSW	No		16,611.80
Stephen Saunders Consulting	Review of ACT Industry Advisory Arrangements	33 Dumaresq St	Dickson	ACT	Yes	DEYFS	37,545.45
IMP Worldwide	Provision of Professional Officer during recruitment process.	PO Box N826	Grosvenor Place	NSW	No		52,491.06
Whiteghost Ink Communications	Provide workflow information on core business activities in VET	33 Northwest Arm Road	GyMEA	NSW	No		24,763.64
Total as 28-Feb-03							644,307.74

Contractors \$5000	Purpose	St	Suburb	State	Report prepared ?	Available Where?	YTD Expend as at FEB 03
Better Enterprises	Review of Indigenous Foster Care	PO Box 31	Yarralumla	ACT	In Progress		27,272.73
Cize Enterprises	Research support for Inquiry in ACT Education Funding	19a Banner St	O'Connor	ACT	No		17,200.00

6 March 2003

Diana Banks Consulting	Research and Support for Inquiry into ACT Education Funding	PO Box 50	Flinders	VIC	No		76,000.00
Education & Training Newsletter Aust	Information resource for Inquiry into ACT Education Funding	19/100 Queensberry St	Carlton	VIC	Yes	DEYFS	5,500.00
Eleonora DeMichele	Preparation of evaluation report Family Services "Risk Assessment Guide"	23 Maida Street	Lilyfield	NSW	Yes	DEYFS	6,800.00
Lyndsay Connors	Head Inquiry into ACT Education Funding		Sydney	NSW	Yes	DEYFS	44,478.00
Macquarie Research	Research support for Inquiry into ACT Education Funding	BD Building University	Macquarie	NSW	Yes	DEYFS	17,000.00
Mary J Hyndman	Development of submission to the Inquiry into the rights, interests and well being of children & young people.	113 McCarthy Road	Hall	NSW	Yes	DEYFS	7,680.00
Monash University	Research for Inquiry into ACT Education Funding	PO Box 3X	Monash University	VIC	Yes	DEYFS	12,000.00
Nucleas Consulting Group	Review of Provision of Counselling Services in ACT Government Schools and Colleges.	10 Fletcher St	Essington	VIC	Yes	DEYFS	21,727.27
University of Canberra	Research for Inquiry into ACT Education Funding		Bruce	ACT	Yes	DEYFS	10,000.00

University of Newcastle	Evaluation of alternate behaviour services	University Drive	Callaghan	NSW	Yes	DEYFS	15,000.00
Total as 28-Feb-03							262,158.00

**Consultants—use
(Question No 427)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Industrial Relations, upon notice, on 5 March 2003:

In relation to consultants used to date this financial year:

- (1) What was the (a) name of the consultant; (b) address of the consultant (c) cost of the consultancy and (d) service provided by the consultants.
- (2) Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

ACT WorkCover

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GSA exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Communication Concepts P/L	PO Box 75 Hall ACT 2618	\$15,750	Planning and facilitating the ACT OH&S Prevention Awards.	No.
Communication Concepts P/L	PO Box 75 Hall ACT 2618	\$8,875	Development of an Operational Governance Framework.	No. The framework was incorporated into the ACT WorkCover 2002-04 Strategic Plan.
Intelligent Outcomes Group	PO Box 100 Yarralumla ACT 2600	\$35,827	Provision of Threat Risk Assessments and security advice related to ACT WorkCover operations.	Yes. A Threat and Risk Assessment has been prepared. However, for security reasons, the report will not be available for public release.

KM Corke & Associates	PO Box 3 Braddon ACT 2612	\$6,000	Preparation of Report on Possible Legislation Designs for ACT WorkCover legislation.	Yes. Internal Report available from the OH&S Commissioner
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Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GSA exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Ken Begg & Associates	2 Lamington Street Deakin ACT 2600	\$6,000	Media related services.	No.
National Promotions Aust P/L	86 Wentworth Avenue Kingston ACT 2604	\$20,880	Marketing and education campaign management services.	No.
Norton White	L8 28 University House Canberra City ACT 2601	\$87,328	Legal advice.	No.
Roar Creative	PO Box 892 Fyshwick ACT 2609	\$15,321	Design of annual report and various educational material.	No.

Chief Minister's Department

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GSA exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Terry Brosnan Consulting	PO Box 2166 Clovelly NSW 2031	\$63,742	Employment Paper (1) and Template Agreement (2).	Yes. Public Sector Management and Labour Policy Group, Chief Minister's Department.

Turallo Consulting Pty Ltd	PO Box 2785 Canberra ACT 2601	\$8,652	Provision of industrial relations advice.	No
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**Solar hot water rebate scheme
(Question No 428)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Environment, upon notice:

In relation to the Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme.

- (1) How many Canberrans have taken up the Government's offer to install/purchase solar hot water heaters receiving the Government rebate between \$700-\$1,000 per household;
- (2) How does the process of rebate work for Canberrans who purchase a solar hot water heater;
- (3) How much has this scheme cost the Government in total so far, that is in rebates, advertising of the scheme and any other associated costs;
- (4) Have more people purchased solar hot water heaters this financial year than was budgeted for in 2002-03;
- (5) What will happen if there are more people purchasing solar hot water heaters than what has been budgeted for in rebates ie: will some people miss out on a rebate;
- (6) How many extra employees, if any, were needed in the Department of Urban Services to process these rebates.

Mr Stanhope : The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) 310 households have taken up the Government rebate on installing solar hot water heaters.
- (2) When an accredited solar hot water system is installed in a Canberra residence, the retailer or manufacturer may pass on the Government rebate at point of sale and subsequently claim the relevant rebate. Alternatively, the purchaser may claim the rebate direct.
- (3) Implementation of the Solar Hot Water Heater Rebate Scheme has incurred costs of \$245,252 to date.
- (4) No. In 2002-03, uptake of solar hot water rebates has been less than that budgeted for on a pro rata basis.

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- (5) The budget for the Solar Hot Water Heater Rebate Scheme is monitored regularly. Currently projected expenditure is within budget. Should projected expenditure exceed the available budget, implementation details will be reviewed. Options that would be examined include an increase in budget, an amendment to the rebate structure, deferring rebate payments or terminating the Scheme. Meeting all rebate entitlements is a fundamental goal of the program.
- (6) No extra employees were needed to administer the Solar Hot Water Heater Rebate Scheme.

**Ministerial travel
(Question No 430)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice:

In relation to the Ministerial Travel Report July to September 2002:

- (1) What was the program of the Australian Liquor Ministers Conference held in Sydney from 15 – 18 August 2002;
- (2) What other business did the Minister and his accompanying staff conduct while in Sydney for this meeting;
- (3) It is usual for a Ministerial Council meeting to last 2.5 days;

Mr Quinlan: The answers to the member's questions are as follow:

- (1) See conference agenda at Attachment A.
- (2) At the invitation of the New South Wales Minister for Racing and Gaming, I attended a thoroughbred race meeting. During this meeting, I held discussions with the Minister and officials concerning issues of joint interest surrounding ACT and NSW racing industries.
- (3) Possibly.

Attachment A

AUSTRALIAN LIQUOR MINISTER'S CONFERENCE AGENDA

**Friday 16 August 2002
9.30 am – 3.30 pm**

**NSW Trade & Investment Centre
Level 44 Grosvenor Place
225 George Street, Sydney
Telephone: 9228 3111 Fax: 9228 3626**

- 9.30 am 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 9.45 am 2. National Competition Policy Reviews of Australian Liquor Laws
- 2.1 Latest position in jurisdictions
 - 2.2 Implementation/giving effect to requirements (Vic, WA)
- 10.15 am Morning Tea
- 10.30 am 3. Underage Drinking
- 3.1 Consistency of underage drinking laws between jurisdictions (Vic)
 - 3.2 NSW Birth Card (NSW)
 - 3.3 "Remote" liquor sales (Internet, mail order, telephone, facsimile) (NSW)
- 11.45 am 4. Regulatory and Miscellaneous Issues
- 4.1 National collection of liquor sales data (WA, Vic)
 - 4.2 Taxation of wine (particularly cask wine) (WA)
 - 4.3 Decision of NSW Court of Appeal in South Tweeds Head Rugby League Football Club v Cole (Tas)
 - 4.4 Misuse of Drugs Act and consequential amendments to the Liquor Act (NT)
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 1.30 pm 5. Liquor Harm Minimisation
- 5.1 Indigenous Liquor Licensing Issues in Queensland (Qld)
 - 5.2 Mutual recognition of responsible service of alcohol training (Vic)
 - 5.3 Mandatory responsible service of alcohol training (NSW)
 - 5.4 The harmonisation of what constitutes responsible and irresponsible serving practices and promotions in the context of responsible service of liquor (ACT)
 - 5.5 Assessment of progress with relevant areas of 2001-2004 National Alcohol Strategy (Vic)
- 2.45 pm 6. Other Items and General Discussion
- 6.1 Procedures for future meetings
 - 6.2 Date for next meeting
 - 6.3 General discussion
- 3.30 pm Close
-

**Sports loan interest subsidy scheme
(Question No 434)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice, on 6 March 2003:

In relation to the Sports Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme (SLISS):

1. Which organisations received SLISS funding in (a) 2001-02 and (b) 2002-03;
2. How much money was allocated to each organisation and for what purpose.

Mr Quinlan: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1(a) Four organisations received SLISS funding in 2001-02; ACT Touch Association, Basketball Canberra, Southern Canberra Gymnastics and The Hockey Centre, although it should be noted that The Hockey Centre received assistance for three separate projects.

(b) In 2002-03, two organisations have received SLISS funding; ACT Touch Association and The Hockey Centre although again it should be noted that The Hockey Centre received assistance for three separate projects.

2.

SLISS allocations 2001-02 and 2002-03

Organisation	2001-02	2002-03*	Purpose
ACT Touch Assoc.	\$2,300	\$1,500	Association Headquarters at Deakin West Playing Fields
Basketball Canberra	\$813	-	Construct Indoor Facility
Southern Canberra Gymnastics	\$938	-	Construction of Gymnasium at Erindale
The Hockey Centre	\$11,344	\$8,594	Construction of Gym, Offices and Grandstand at Lynham.
The Hockey Centre	\$5,526	\$2,126	Construction of wet surface pitch at Lyneham
The Hockey Centre	\$24,806	\$21,657	Development of Tuggeranong Hockey Centre at Greenway

*As funding is allocated quarterly, amounts represent allocation for all of 2002-03.

**Confiscated Asset Trust Fund
(Question No 435)**

Ms Dundas asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 6 March 2003:

- (1) What was (a) the total value of the Confiscated Asset Trust Fund and (b) the crime prevention or community safety initiatives paid for by revenue from the Confiscated Asset Trust Fund for the following financial years:

- (a) 2001-2002;
- (b) 2000-2001;
- (c) 1999-2000;
- (d) 1998-1999;
- (e) 1997-1998;
- (f) 1996-1997;

- (2) What was the total cost of the running of the Confiscated Asset Trust Fund during the financial year 2001-2002;
- (3) Will the Attorney-General ensure that these programs are listed separately in the Annual Report of the Department of Justice and Community Safety for the financial year 2002-2003 and in future years.

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

- (1) The distribution of funds from the Confiscated Assets Trust Fund are made under criteria set out in section 36(2) of the *Proceeds of Crime Act 1991*. As Attorney-General I may apply the balance towards:
- (a) the administration of the Act;
 - (b) the enforcement of the laws of the Territory;
 - (c) criminal justice activities;
 - (d) crime prevention;
 - (e) assistance to the victims of crime;
 - (f) the prevention of drug abuse;
 - (g) rehabilitation of drug users;
 - (h) any other prescribed purpose.

A distribution need not occur in a financial year.

- (a) The Public Trustee for the ACT advises for the years, in respect of which information is requested, that the following amounts were forfeited to the Confiscated Assets Trust Fund:

Year ended 30/6/02	\$44,617.04
Year ended 30/6/01	\$94,584.93
Year ended 30/6/00	\$35,563.94
Year ended 30/6/99	\$178,718.31
Year ended 30/6/98	\$30,146.28
Year ended 30/6/97	\$4,143.25

- (b) The following organisations or projects have received funding from the Confiscated Assets Trust Fund.

Year	Organisation/project	Amount distributed
2001-2002		No distribution made
2000-2001	Civic Safety Camera System (part funded)	\$127,635.00

1999-2000	VOCAL Funding	\$25,000.00
	AFP Tyre Deflation Devices	\$24,979.00
	Conference on Domestic Violence Prevention	\$5,000.00
	National Motor Vehicle Theft Project.	\$14,678.00
1998-1999	VOCAL Funding	\$27,530.00
1997-1998	VOCAL Funding	\$10,905.00
1996-1997	Victims of Crime Co-ordinator Council on the Ageing (ACT)	\$5,300.00
	Community Information and Referral Service	\$4,500.00
	Project Saul	\$11,331.00
	Assisting Drug Dependants Inc	\$5,000.00
	Vietnamese Women's Community	\$25,169.00
		\$10,000.00

- (2) The Public Trustee has responsibility for administering the Proceeds of Crime Act 1991. Under the Act and the regulations, the Trustee may charge the forfeited funds a fee of \$500 and generally \$75 per hour an officer spends administering the Act. Fees taken in the year ended 30/6/02 were \$1,323.25.
- (3) The Public Trustee provides details on the funds paid to the Confiscated Assets Trust Fund in its Annual Report.

Details on crime prevention or community safety initiatives funded by the Confiscated Assets Trust Fund will be advised in future Department of Justice and Community Safety Annual Reports, if a distribution is made in that year.

ACT Public Service (Question No 436)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Women, upon notice, on 6 March 2003:

In relation to the number of females compared to males currently employed in the ACT Public Service at the:

- a) SES level;
- b) Senior Officer Grade A level;
- c) Senior Officer Grade B level; and
- d) Senior Officer Grade C level.

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

The numbers as at the end of February 2003 are:

	Female	Male	Total
Chief Executive and Executives	41	78	119
Senior Officer A	80	173	253
Senior Officer B	121	170	291
Senior Officer C	437	361	798
Total	679	782	1461

They exclude senior lecturers, teachers and nurses, LAMS, medical practitioners, prosecutors and statutory office holders.

These numbers are based only on those staff paid through the PERSPECT HRMS and exclude staff employed by:

- ACT Legislative Assembly
- ACTEW
- ACTION
- ACTTAB
- Australian International Hotel School
- Calvary Hospital
- CIT Solutions
- Cultural Facilities Corporation
- EPIC
- Legal Aid
- Totalcare

Where it is obvious due to the non-Senior Officer classification title as to which level the classification fits, the classification has been counted at that level. However, where it is not so clear the Senior Officer equivalency indicator set up by the HRMS Unit, which is based on the top of the range salary (eg Manager1), has been relied on.

Detailed information of staff levels at 30 June 2002 is available in the State of the Service Report. The Report is available on the Public Sector Management website www.psm.act.gov/commissioner.

Anthony Rolfe Avenue extension (Question No 437)

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In the response to Question on Notice number 387, it was stated that there was a delay in the completion date of the Anthony Rolfe Avenue extension due to an old growth high value tree and that major re-design work had to be undertaken so the tree could be preserved:

- (1) How much did this major re-design work cost the government;

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- (2) Will that cost take this project over budget;
- (3) Could you please provide me with copies of the old plans and new plans to highlight what changes will take place with construction;
- (4) Why was the position of the tree not taken into account in the original design of the project.

Mr Wood: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) The re-design option to retain the old growth tree cost \$25,000.
- (2) The re-design cost will not take the project over budget.
- (3) I will provide you with copies of the old and new plans.
- (4) The location of the tree was taken into account in the original design. As the tree was on the alignment of one carriageway its removal was initially considered appropriate.

[Plans attached to the reply were lodged with the Chamber Support Office.]

Government buildings (Question No 439)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to government buildings.

- (1) How many buildings are currently:
 - (a) totally vacant and why;
 - (b) partially vacant and why;
- (2) Can you provide details as to how long those buildings in (a) and (b) above have been unoccupied;
- (3) Can you provide details on when buildings in (a) and (b) above will be available to be fully and profitably utilised;
- (4) How much is the government currently losing on rental return of these buildings (please provide figures per building) based on the current commercial rental rates per square metre.

Mr Wood: The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:

- (1)(a) Five government owned buildings are currently vacant.
- former Narrabundah Preschool – under offer to a tenant.
 - 19 Cooina Court Kingston – under offer to a tenant.
 - Gold Creek Homestead – not habitable.
 - Uriarra Plague Locust Depot – vacant due to infrastructure limitations and planning issues. Partly damaged by the bushfire.
 - Health Promotions Building – building to be demolished.
- (b) Two government buildings are partially vacant.
- Callam Offices has 1,330 square metres of vacant space. This area is currently being used to accommodate agencies while they are rationalising and refurbishing office space.
 - Mount Rogers Community Centre (multi tenanted building) 200 square metres vacant due to tenant vacating.
- (2)
- Callam Offices – the 1,330 square metres would be vacant this financial year for a combined period of four months approximately. As the area is used for churn space, agencies occupy the area or a portion of it for a number of months before moving back to refurbished offices or relocating.
 - former Narrabundah Preschool – property was transferred to Property in October 2002.
 - 19 Cooina Court Kingston – two months.
 - Mount Rogers Community Centre - 200 square metres for two months.
 - Gold Creek Homestead - n/a.
 - Uriarra Plague Locust Depot – four years approximately.
 - Health Promotions Building – vacant since November 2002.
- (3)
- Callam Offices the 1,330 square metres will be permanently occupied by government agencies within six months.
 - former Narrabundah Preschool – waiting on acceptance of offer.
 - 19 Cooina Court Kingston – waiting on acceptance of offer.
 - Mount Rogers Community Centre – currently negotiating with prospective tenants.
 - Gold Creek Homestead – further consultation with the public on proposed uses for the block.
 - Uriarra Plague Locust Depot – dependent on the future planning intentions for the area.
 - Health Promotions Building – n/a.

(4)

Callam Offices monthly rental forgone is \$27,708.
former Narrabundah Preschool - \$675 per month.
19 Cooina Court Kingston - \$823 per month.
Mount Rogers Community Centre - \$1,000.00 per month.
Gold Creek Homestead – n/a.
Uriarra Plague Locust Depot – n/a.
Health Promotions Building – n/a.

**Payroll tax
(Question No 440)**

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice:

In relation to payroll tax:

- (1) How many businesses in the ACT currently pay payroll tax;
- (2) How many people do those businesses employ;
- (3) Have any of those business moved to the ACT from interstate;
- (4) For businesses paying payroll tax, how many pay:
 - (a) \$0 to \$19,999;
 - (b) \$20,000 to \$49,999;
 - (c) \$50,000 to \$99,999;
 - (d) \$100,000 to \$199,999;
 - (e) \$200,000 to \$499,999;
 - (f) \$500,000 to \$1,000,000;
 - (g) more than \$1million but less than \$2 million;
 - (h) more than \$2 million but less than \$5 million;
 - (i) more than \$5 million but less than \$10 million; and
 - (j) more than \$10 million.

Mr Quinlan: The answers to the member's questions are as follow:

- (1) 1943 businesses currently pay payroll tax in the ACT.
- (2) (3) Full information is not available from the payroll tax database. As payroll tax is a self assessed tax, businesses who pay payroll tax are not required to provide information on their tax returns related to the number of people they employ and to advise whether or not they have moved from interstate.
- (4) See schedule A attached.

Schedule A

Payroll Tax paid in 2001-02	Estimated number of businesses
\$0 to \$19,999	1149
\$20,000 to \$49,999	320
\$50,000 to \$99,999	190
\$100,000 to \$199,999	135
\$200,000 to \$499,999	92
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000	37
More than \$1M but less than \$2M	12
More than \$2M but less than \$5M	8
More than \$5M but less than \$10M	0
More than \$10M	1
TOTAL	1943

Note: This estimate is an extrapolation on 95% of businesses that have complete data set.

Emergency Services—response times (Question No 442)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 March 2003:

- (1) What is the most recent data available that lists response times of (a) urban fire brigades and (b) ambulances and can that data listing response times be provided as part of this response;
- (2) Is there a response time standard, if so, what is it, if not, why not;
- (3) Can you provide the response time figures for 1(a) and (b) above for each month from November 2001 to February 2003;
- (4) Of the figures provided in paragraph 3 are there any response times that don't meet the standard (if there is a standard) or the Government's approval.

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

- (1) The most recent data available that lists response times of the ACT Fire Brigade and ACT Ambulance Services is February 2003 and is listed at Attachment 1.
- (2) Yes, there is a response time standard which is included in the data titled "month target". It should be noted that the 18th January 2003 bushfires are treated as one event due to the scale and individual responses were not captured. The aggregate annual performance measures are published by the Productivity Commission Report on Government Services which is produced as a public document each January and is accessible at www.pc.gov.au/gsp.

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- (3) The listing of the response times is attached for 1(a) and (b) above for each month from November 2001 to February 2003;
- (4) The response times are regularly analysed. The months that are under or over the target are due to the location of the incident, the location of the response vehicle at the time of incident and the number and type of incident that requires an emergency response.

ATTACHMENT 1

**ACT Fire Brigade
2001-2002**

	Target/Month	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Timeliness 4.2 Response													
Fire Service 50 percentile (minutes)	8					5	6	5	5	6	5	5	6
Fire Service 90 percentile (minutes)	10					10	10	11	10	10	10	10	11
Other Service 50 percentile (minutes)	8					6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Other Service 90 percentile (minutes)	10					10	10	11	10	10	11	10	11

**ACT Fire Brigade
2002-2003**

	Target/Month	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Timeliness 4.2 Response													
Fire Service 50 percentile (minutes)	8	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	6				
Fire Service 90 percentile (minutes)	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11				
Other Service 50 percentile (minutes)	8	6	6	6	6	7	6	7	6				
Other Service 90 percentile (minutes)	10	11	11	11	11	10	11	16	13				

**ACT Ambulance Service
2001-2002**

	Target/Mo	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Timeliness 4.2 Response													
Ambulance Emergencies 50 percentile (minutes)	8					7.5	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.4
Ambulance Emergencies 90 percentile (minutes)	12.5					11.9	12.4	11.8	12.2	12.4	12.8	13.0	12.2

**ACT Ambulance Service
2002-2003**

	Target/Mo	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Timeliness 4.2 Response													
Ambulance Emergencies 50 percentile (minutes)	8	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.5	7.7				
Ambulance Emergencies 90 percentile (minutes)	12.5	12.5	13.2	12.5	12.5	12.6	12.9	11.8	11.8				

**High school development program
(Question No 443)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice:

In relation to the High School Development Plan:

- (1) Has the \$500,000 allocated for the High School Development program this financial year been expended and if not, why not;
- (2) Who are the members of the high school resources team;

- (3) Are there any education programs that have been developed for high schools that could be provided in response to this question to show the work to date of the high school resources team;
- (4) What are the main areas of assistance that the high school resources team has developed plans for.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

Allocation of Funds

- (1) No, the \$500,000 allocated to the program has not been fully expended as the financial year is not yet over. The amount has been partially expended to date. Remaining funds will be spent on supporting a suite of significant school based change management programs. All funds will be expended within the financial year.

Team Members

- (2) The members of the high school resources team are:
 - a deputy principal who leads the team;
 - three executive teachers.

Education Programs to Date

- (3) The resources team is providing a teacher professional learning program in innovative curriculum and pedagogy for ACT Government high schools. Provision of these courses to teachers, will facilitate systemic changes in learning and teaching in high schools. During this financial year, over one hundred and fifty teachers will have participated in this training program.

All nineteen ACT public high schools are being supported by the resources team in the development and implementation of a year 9 exhibitions program for approximately 90% of our year 9 students.

Within the vocational learning component of the high school program a pilot Certificate 1 in Information Technology will be implemented in six ACT government high schools this year.

Main Areas of Assistance

- (4) The main areas of assistance that the high school resources team is developing plans for are:
 - i. Organisational and Cultural Change
Supporting schools to build a capacity for continuous improvement through school based organisational and cultural change initiatives.
 - ii. Curriculum and Pedagogy
Assisting schools to develop and implement innovative curriculum and pedagogy that prepares students for lifelong learning.

iii. Middle Schooling (yrs 5-8)

Assisting schools to develop structures and processes that address the specific needs of students in the middle years of schooling.

iv. Vocational Learning

Supporting schools to develop and deliver vocational learning programs into ACT Government high schools.

Consultation on these plans is occurring through Coordinating Committees established by the High School Development Program Reference Group. The Coordinating Committees have been composed to represent all stakeholders. Students, teachers, parents and members of the broader ACT community are represented on the committees. The consultation plans will be reviewed by the reference group prior to implementation.

**Schools—information technology upgrade
(Question No 444)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 11 March 2003:

In relation to schools' information technology capacity upgrade:

- (1) How much funding, as part of the 2002-03 Budget, has been expended from the expenses line and the capital works line for the current financial year;
- (2) Can an explanation be provided for any funds still not expended to date;
- (3) Will any fund be rolled over into the next financial year;
- (4) How much government schools' infrastructure has been upgraded this financial year and can the relevant schools be listed with a breakdown of funding and if not, why not;
- (5) Has the work to date allowed for faster access to networks like the internet and intranet.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) Of the \$473,000 recurrent and capital funding provided in the 2002-03 Budget, \$145,000 has been spent to date to purchase and build proxy servers.
- (2) The department is working to identify the most cost effective solutions for implementing the activities identified under the technology capacity upgrade program which is a three year program.
- (3) Yes

- (4) The information technology upgrade program is not based upon a per school allocation but takes a system wide approach to enhancing infrastructure in an effective and equitable manner, and there are a number of components to the program. One of these is the delivery of proxy servers to schools of which 96 (94 schools) have been installed with the rest due to be completed shortly. Work is progressing to identify suitable switches for schools and an order will be placed within the next few weeks. Switch installations will commence in 2002-03. New school administration servers have been specified and it is expected that installation will commence during May 2003, and be completed within two – three months.
- (5) Yes. There are currently TransACT links to 31 sites. The schools with TransACT installed have noticed a considerable improvement in intranet and internet access speeds. The proxy servers will provide both faster access and reduced costs to schools, in addition to improved security through their firewall functionality. The new switches and servers will also provide for improvement in performance to teaching and administrative staff desktops.
-

**Police force—response times
(Question No 446)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 March 2003

- (1) What is the most recent data available that lists police response times and can that data listing police response times be provided as part of this response.
- (2) Are there response time standards, if so, what are they and if not, why not.
- (3) Can you provide the police response time figures for each month from November 2001 to February 2003 and could these figures be broken down into:
- a) vehicle accidents;
 - b) domestic violence;
 - c) burglary/theft calls;
 - d) noise disturbances; and
 - e) other.
- (4) Of the figures provided in paragraph 3 are there any response times that do not meet the standard (if there is a standard) or the Government's approval.

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

- (1) The most recent data available that lists police response times is as at February 2003. Please see table at Attachment B.

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(2) Yes. Before 1 July 2002 ACT Policing operated with a three tiered approach to priority response with the following response time standards:

- Priority one incidents that comprised of situations which presented immediate danger to life or property, had a target response time of eight minutes.
- Priority two incidents that comprised of situations where there was no immediate danger to safety or property, but where police attendance was required immediately had a target response time of 20 minutes.
- Priority three incidents that comprised of situations requiring police action but which were not time critical had a target response time within 24 hours.

Since 1 July 2002 ACT Policing has operated with a four-tiered response model with alternative targets.

- Priority one incidents – life threatening or time critical situations (target response time within 8 minutes – 60%, alternative target response time within 20 minutes – 90%);
- Priority two incidents – situations where the information provided indicates that time is important but not critical (target response time within 20 minutes – 60%, alternative target response time within 30 minutes – 95%);
- Priority three incidents - situations where there is no immediate danger to safety and property but where police attendance is needed without undue delay (target response time within two hours – 60%, alternative target response time within three hours – 95%); and
- Priority four incidents - situations requiring police attendance but where time is not important (target response time within 24 hours – 95%).

(3) Police response time figures dating before January 2002 is not able to be supplied. The percentage of police responses that achieved the target response times has been provided from January 2003 to February 2003.

- a) Data is at Attachment B.
- b) This information cannot be provided by the Police Realtime Online Management Information System due to the current recording system not having a separate incident code for domestic violence.
- c) Data is at Attachment B.
- d) Data is at Attachment B. Owing to the recording system response time figures for disturbances and noise complaints have been provided separately.
- e) Data is at Attachment B.

(4) Yes. Refer to Attachment B.

ATTACHMENT B

Note: n.a. stands for not applicable due to nil records reported.

Burglary		Priority One		Priority Two		Priority Three		Priority Four	
		No. of records	% within 8 mins	No. of records	% within 20 mins	No. of records	% within 24 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours
Month									
Jan-02	0	n.a.	1	0%	386	98%			
Feb-02	1	n.a.	2	0%	373	96%			
Mar-02	1	100%	3	33%	415	98%			
Apr-02	1	100%	2	100%	448	95%			
May-02	1	0%	2	50%	580	97%			
Jun-02	0	n.a.	3	33%	565	97%			
	No. of records	% within 8 mins	% within 12 mins	% within 20 mins	% within 30 mins	% within 2 hours	% within 3 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours
Jul-02	1	100%	100%	n.a.	n.a.	78%	88%	37	89%
Aug-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	100%	100%	77%	89%	42	78%
Sep-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	100%	100%	78%	90%	45	84%
Oct-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	100%	100%	83%	92%	42	80%
Nov-02	1	0%	100%	0%	100%	80%	90%	38	94%
Dec-02	1	0%	100%	n.a.	n.a.	87%	93%	32	81%
Jan-03	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	86%	92%	26	88%
Feb-03	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	81%	91%	34	73%

Source: Computer aided dispatch (CAD) systems as at 21 March 2003.

Disturbances												
Month	Priority One		Priority Two		Priority Three		Priority Four		No. of records	% within 24 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours
	No. of records	% within 8 mins	No. of records	% within 20 mins	No. of records	% within 24 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours				
Jan-02	9	55%	608	82%	5	100%	2	100%	2	100%	2	100%
Feb-02	13	53%	556	82%	6	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%
Mar-02	5	80%	595	84%	6	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%
Apr-02	6	50%	478	83%	4	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%
May-02	6	50%	509	82%	5	100%	2	100%	2	100%	2	100%
Jun-02	1	0%	486	85%	3	33%	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.
Jul-02	6	50%	471	88%	3	100%	3	100%	3	100%	3	100%
Aug-02	3	33%	505	85%	4	100%	4	100%	4	100%	4	100%
Sep-02	2	100%	523	88%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%
Oct-02	0	n.a.	525	89%	3	100%	3	100%	3	100%	3	100%
Nov-02	1	100%	594	86%	4	75%	4	75%	4	100%	4	100%
Dec-02	3	33%	641	84%	2	100%	2	100%	2	100%	2	100%
Jan-03	5	60%	578	87%	4	75%	4	75%	4	100%	4	100%
Feb-03	1	0%	552	84%	10	100%	10	100%	10	100%	10	100%

Source: Computer aided dispatch (CAD) systems as at 21 March 2003.

Collisions												
Month	Priority One			Priority Two			Priority Three			Priority Four		
	No. of records	% within 8 mins	% within 12 mins	No. of records	% within 20 mins	% within 30 mins	No. of records	% within 2 hours	% within 3 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours	% within 24 hours
Jan-02	0	n.a.		46	78%		130	99%		0	n.a.	
Feb-02	0	n.a.		64	85%		176	100%		0	n.a.	
Mar-02	0	n.a.		82	76%		190	99%		0	n.a.	
Apr-02	1	0%		51	82%		183	100%		1	100%	
May-02	0	n.a.		67	79%		188	100%		0	n.a.	
Jun-02	0	n.a.		54	79%		185	100%		0	n.a.	
Jul-02	1	100%	100%	73	83%	95%	173	100%	100%	0	n.a.	
Aug-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	70	87%	92%	188	99%	99%	0	n.a.	
Sep-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	66	84%	100%	182	100%	100%	0	n.a.	
Oct-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	74	85%	97%	173	99%	100%	1	100%	
Nov-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	63	82%	93%	166	100%	100%	0	n.a.	
Dec-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	50	74%	84%	136	98%	98%	0	n.a.	
Jan-03	0	n.a.	n.a.	58	86%	94%	141	98%	99%	0	n.a.	
Feb-03	0	n.a.	n.a.	76	84%	94%	174	99%	99%	1	100%	

Source: Computer aided dispatch (CAD) systems as at 21 March 2003.

Noise Complaints												
Month	Priority One			Priority Two			Priority Three			Priority Four		
	No. of records	% within 8 mins	% within 12 mins	No. of records	% within 20 mins	% within 30 mins	No. of records	% within 24 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours
Jan-02	0	n.a.		0	n.a.		247	100%				
Feb-02	0	n.a.		0	n.a.		127	100%				
Mar-02	0	n.a.		1	100%		162	100%				
Apr-02	0	n.a.		0	n.a.		116	100%				
May-02	0	n.a.		0	n.a.		68	100%				
Jun-02	0	n.a.		0	n.a.		68	100%				
Jul-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	100%
Aug-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	100%
Sep-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	100%
Oct-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	1	0%	100%	107	100%	100%
Nov-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	175	100%	100%
Dec-02	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	2	50%	50%	209	100%	100%
Jan-03	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	160	100%	100%
Feb-03	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	172	100%	100%

Source: Computer aided dispatch (CAD) systems as at 21 March 2003.

Theft												
Month	Priority One		Priority Two		Priority Three			Priority Four				
	No. of records	% within 8 mins	No. of records	% within 20 mins	No. of records	% within 2 hours	% within 3 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours	No. of records	% within 24 hours	
Jan-02	0	n.a.	10	30%	188	95%		37	64%			
Feb-02	0	n.a.	27	37%	186	95%		40	72%			
Mar-02	0	n.a.	30	50%	208	90%		44	77%			
Apr-02	0	n.a.	26	50%	214	91%		48	66%			
May-02	0	n.a.	35	51%	233	91%		33	81%			
Jun-02	0	n.a.	17	47%	231	95%		28	78%			
Jul-02	0	n.a.	11	54%	226	82%	86%	37	64%			
Aug-02	0	n.a.	16	25%	207	81%	88%	40	72%			
Sep-02	0	n.a.	17	58%	197	85%	89%	44	77%			
Oct-02	0	n.a.	13	53%	229	87%	92%	48	66%			
Nov-02	0	n.a.	18	55%	203	81%	86%	33	81%			
Dec-02	0	n.a.	5	60%	202	86%	89%	28	78%			
Jan-03	0	n.a.	10	50%	156	86%	92%	18	88%			
Feb-03	0	n.a.	13	69%	185	89%	92%	36	77%			

Source: Computer aided dispatch (CAD) systems as at 21 March 2003.

**Tourism—visitor numbers
(Question No 447)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, upon notice, on 11 March 2003.

1. What has been the impact of (a) visitor/tourist numbers and (b) income to the ACT in (i) 2001-02 (ii) to date in 2002-03 (iii) specifically since 11 September 2001 and (iv) the 12 months prior to 11 September 2001.
2. What percentage of visitors in (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) above were (a) international visitors, (b) NSW visitors, (c) Victorian visitors and (d) other Australian jurisdiction visitors (excluding NSW and Victoria).
3. Is there any data to show what were the top ten sites visited by tourists in (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

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

1. (a) The impact of visitor numbers to the ACT

Category	2001-2002	Since September 11, 2001 (Year ending September 11, 2002)	12 months prior to September 11	To date in 2002-2003
Domestic Overnight	2,088,000	1,992,000	2,072,000	N/A
Domestic Day	1,994,000	2,013,000	1,673,000	N/A
Total (Domestic)	4,082,000	4,005,000	3,745,000	N/A
International	184,000 (4.1% of total visitors to the ACT)	180,000 (4.1% of total visitors to the ACT)	N/A*	N/A
Total Domestic and International (international based on limited data)	4,266,000	4,185,000	3,745,000 (does not include international visitors)	N/A

*There has been a break in available data from the International Visitors Survey due to problems in the processing of passenger data cards by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. The Bureau Tourism Research (BTR) relies on this data to weight the IVS sample survey in order to derive estimates of total travel.

- The most current domestic and international figures to come from BTR are for the year ending September 2002. Therefore we are not able to provide data for 2002-03.

1.(b) Income

Since tourism is not a traditional industry, in that, it is composed of several industries, there are few resources that can provide income details for all tourism related activities as a whole. Accommodation takings provide the most accurate indicator, but this is insufficient when considering the tourism industry as a whole. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has attempted to produce an account for the tourism 'industry' called the Tourism Satellite Account, but this has only been conducted at the national level for 2000-01.

As a consequence, data on tourism income, outside of the accommodation sector, is not available and therefore a complete evaluation of income in the tourism industry is not possible.

2. What percentage of visitors in (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) above were (a) international visitors, (b) NSW visitors, (c) Victorian visitors and (d) other Australian jurisdiction visitors (excluding NSW and Victoria).

Percentage of overnight and domestic visitors to the ACT by State /Territory of residence

State/Territory of Residence	2001-2002	Since September 11, 2001 (year ending September 2002)	12 months prior to September 11 2001	To date in 2002-2003
New South Wales	68.5%	73.7%	67.5%	N/A
Victoria	17.4%	10.4%	12.0%	N/A
Rest of Australia	14.1%	15.9%	20.5%	N/A

3. Is there any data to show what were the top ten sites visited by tourists in (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Accurate figures are not currently available as to the top ten sites visited by tourists. The International Visitors Survey currently examines a select group of attractions and the National Visitors Survey and will adopt this approach in 2003. CTEC is examining the viability of working with the attractions sector in the ACT to facilitate attraction sector door counts and form an attractions barometer which may also help this issue in the future.

**Board of Inquiry into Disability Services
(Question No 449)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to Disability Services and details about the recommendations made in the Gallop Report:

- (1) Which of the recommendations have been implemented and what funding has been allocated to those recommendations;
- (2) Which of the recommendations are yet to be implemented;
- (3) Which of the recommendations will not be implemented;
- (4) What benefits have recommendations implemented brought to disability services and how are such benefits being evaluated;
- (5) What is the status of the development of the *Quality Framework*;
- (6) Will the *Quality Framework* be released in June 2003;
- (7) What is the status of the *stock audit* and can details be provided.

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

A progress report providing an update on the implementation of the Government Response to the Recommendations of the Board of Inquiry into Disability Services is due to be presented in the Assembly on 1 April 2003. This report will provide detailed information answering the questions.

**Triple S, FM
(Question No 450)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice, on 11 March 2003:

In relation to Triple S, FM:

1. Was Government support offered to Triple S FM before its closure last year;
2. If so, what support was offered, if not why not.

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

1. Yes.

2. A \$150,000 Treasurer's advance was provided in June 2002 to assist the station to re-brand itself as a "sports specific" broadcaster.
-

**Legislative Assembly—committee teleconferencing
(Question No 451)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Speaker, upon notice:

Since the inception of the Assembly Committee telephone hook-up in September 2002, so that quorums could be formed and discussions take place without all committee members being physically present:

- (a) How often up to 28 February 2003 has the telephone hook-up been used and by which Committee(s);
- (b) What has been the cost; and
- (c) Who is responsible for payment of this cost.

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

- (a) The telephone hook up permitted by sessional order 230A (which was adopted by the Assembly on 28 August 2002) has been utilised on two occasions, namely:
 - (i) 4 September 2002 by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for a duration of 13 minutes and 54 seconds
 - (ii) 7 November 2002 by the Standing Committee on Education for a duration of 50 minutes and 32 seconds
 - (b) The overall cost to the Assembly of the two phone calls were as follows
 - (i) Australia to Namibia - \$23.62
 - (ii) Australia to USA - \$14.60
 - (c) The Legislative Assembly Secretariat budget is responsible for the cost of these calls.
-

**Disability services
(Question No 452)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to peak body funding for disability services:

- (1) Can you provide a list of all peak bodies that receive
 - (a) funding and
 - (b) the purpose of the funding
 - (c) the services provided through this funding
 - (d) the number of years the body has received funding
 - (e) if that body has received funding for the last five years has that funding increased or decreased, each year, over that time;
- (2) How does the government evaluate the service provision of these peak bodies;
- (3) Can the government quantify in dollars and or time the workload of these peak bodies that would otherwise be a workload felt by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

Mr Wood: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1)
 - (a) This information is publicly available and is contained in the ACT Department of Health and Community Care Annual Report.
 - (b) People with disabilities are enabled to achieve a lifestyle in line with their personal goals, their rights as citizens and the standard of living available to the community in general.
 - (c) Provide for the flow of information between government, the disability sector and the broader community both through representation of the views of the sector to government and the Canberra community, and the dissemination of information to disability service providers.
 - (d) This information is publicly available and can be found in the relevant Annual Reports.
 - (e) This information is publicly available and can be found in the relevant Annual Reports.
- (2) The Government uses the contract acquittal process to evaluate the service provision of peak bodies.
- (3) No. The data required to make such an analysis is not collected.

**Laptops for teachers program
(Question No 453)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 11 March 2003:

In relation to the Laptops for Teachers Program as part of the 2002-03 Budget:

- (1) How many (a) desktop and (b) laptop computers have been distributed/allocated to teachers to date;

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- (2) What type of (a) computers (ie: Pentium PC's, Apple Macs) and (b) storage capability, do the desktop and laptop computers have that have been allocated as part of this program;
- (3) How much of the \$420,000 allocated for this financial year for this program has been expended to date;
- (4) Are teachers being given access to the intranet via their laptop computers, if not, why not;
- (5) Are teachers being given access to the internet via a Department of Education or school login from their laptop computers, if not, why not;
- (6) In addition to the laptops, are teachers given any facilities like printers to use while working from home on laptops;
- (7) Has the Department addressed the issue of no insurance cover and the lack of a repair/maintenance support package, if so, what are the details, if not, why not.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) To date 2819 teaching computers have been purchased by schools, of these 580 are laptop computers.
- (2) The desktop computers supplied are
 - ACER
 - TodayTech Pentium 4

Both brands of computers have 20Gb storage capacities.

The laptops are TodayTech Pentium 3 computers with 10Gb storage.

- (3) To date \$241,000 has been spent.
- (4) The laptops have built-in network and modem cards that enable the computers to be remotely connected to the school network, and inDECS. Teachers are able to access CSN remotely if their school has granted them remote access through CSN. Access to the intranet (inDECS) from home, whether from a personal or departmental computer has been available since mid 2001.
- (5) Yes, see response to question 4.
- (6) Printers are not provided to teachers using laptop computers from their homes or locations other than their school. The cost would be prohibitive and it would be quite a bulky load for teachers to be regularly transporting between their school and home.

- (7) Regarding insurance, schools have been provided with an opportunity to obtain quotes for insurance through the company that arranged the finance for the program. Schools are not required to obtain insurance – this is a school decision.

The Computers for Teaching contracts provide for a three year onsite maintenance arrangement. Suppliers provide a four hour response time to reported problems and are required to fix the problem by the next working day.

Horse Park Drive (Question No 454)

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to Horse Park Drive, Gungahlin:

- (1) Is work on Horse Park Drive proceeding as scheduled and what is the scheduled completion date;
- (2) Have there been any delays in construction of the road since construction work first started;
- (3) Can the Minister confirm that the plans for Horse Park Drive are sound and will not need any redesign due to old growth trees in the area;
- (4) How much money has been expended to date on Horse Park Drive;
- (5) Can the Minister explain why the total value of the project is not equal to the current year and prior year's funding in Budget Paper No 3, Page 203.

Mr Wood: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) The original estimated completion date was June 2003 but completion is now expected in November 2003.
- (2) The construction contract was awarded on 28 February 2003 and there have been no construction delays.
- (3) The design was developed to maximise tree retention. No redesign is required.
- (4) \$0.35 million has been expended to the end of February 2003.
- (5) Budget paper 4 which covers the detailed funding information for the capital works projects identifies the correct total value for this project on page 192. The total value of \$7.0 million being made up of the current year's funding of \$6,739 million and prior years expenditure of \$0.261 million.

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**Business grants
(Question No 455)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, upon notice, on 11 March 2003:

In relation to business grants:

- (1) How many business grants have been allocated to date this financial year;
- (2) Is this number up or down on (a) 2001-02 and (b) 2000-01;
- (3) Can the Minister provide details of (a) the names of businesses who have received grants (b) how much each business received and (c) what was the purpose for the grant;
- (4) Are there still funds available for grants in this financial year, if so how much, if not, has it all been allocated or how much is left over;
- (5) How many businesses have applied for grants this year and of that number how many have been successful;
- (6) Of those who have been unsuccessful can their details be provided and the reason for their failure not to receive a grant.

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

In relation to business grants:

- (1) Eighty eight (88) business grants have been allocated to date this financial year;
- (2) This number is (a) up on seventy one (71) in 2001-02 and (b) up on sixty four (64) in 2000-01;
- (3) Details of (a) the names of businesses who have received (b) how much each business received and (c) what the purpose for the grant was, are at *Attachment A*;
- (4) There is \$1,766,182.00 available for grants in this financial year.
- (5) One hundred and fifty two (152) businesses have applied for grants this year and of these eighty eight (88) have been successful;
- (6) Of those who have been unsuccessful their details cannot be provided as the *Privacy Act 1998 (Cth)* prevents the disclosure of "personal information" held by the Office of Business & Tourism. Access to this information would need to be made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*, which could be duly dealt with under that legislation. The reasons for their failure to receive a grant vary from the application not meeting the criteria to not being eligible to apply.

**Details of Grants
(1 July 2002 – 11 March 2003)**

(a) Name of Business	(b) How much each business received	(c) Purpose of the grant
1. ABE Services Pty Ltd	\$52,000.00	Commercialisation
2. Acorn Training Services Pty Limited	\$3,500	Marketing Plan
3. Advance Consulting & Evaluation	\$1,218	Market Entry Facilitation
4. AGS Group Pty Limited	\$2,000	QA Certification
5. APIR Systems Ltd	\$90,000.00	Commercialisation
6. Argus Home Security Solutions	\$3,500	Strategic Marketing Plan
7. Argus Solutions	\$80,000.00	Commercialisation
8. ASF Limited	\$50,000.00	Industry Development
9. Beyond Business Connections	\$100,000.00	Commercialisation
10. CIC Secure	\$15,000	Market Development Manager
11. Coles Redfern & Associates	\$7,000	Strategic Business Plan
12. Curtain Call (ACT) Pty Ltd	\$1,500	Business Coaching
13. Custom Timber Industries	\$50,000.00	Proof of Concept
14. Department of Chemistry, ANU	\$50,000.00	Proof of Concept
15. Department of Forestry, School of Resources, Environment & Society, ANU	\$70,000.00	Commercialisation
16. Diadex Flooring Systems	\$1,500	Action Implementation Coaching Program
17. DPM Consulting	\$10,000	Business Product Re-design
18. Dreamcatcher Tourism & Leisure Pty Ltd	\$50,000.00	Commercialisation
19. Ebanc Trade Canberra	\$5,000	Business Plan
20. Emax Engineering Pty Ltd	\$49,000.00	Proof of Concept
21. Enviro Insulator Services	\$1,500	Strategic Business Plan Strategic Market Plan
22. e-timesheetz.com Asia Pacific	\$50,000.00	Commercialisation
23. Fum-Aer Australia Pty Ltd	\$1,500	Business Plan

24. Furnishings Industry Software	\$30,000.00	Proof of Concept
25. GP Medical Home and Healthcare Equipment and Living Centre	\$3,500	Business Plan
26. GPSports Systems	\$50,000.00	Commercialisation
27. Hardie Design Pty Ltd, T/AS		
Perform Information Design Solutions	\$7,000	Business Diagnostic
28. Hatrix Pty Ltd	\$80,000.00	Commercialisation
29. Herm Fine Frames Pty Limited	\$7,000	Strategic Plan
30. Herm Fine Frames Pty Limited	\$1,000	Group Business Planning Program
31. High Traffic Imagery Billboards	\$50,000.00	Commercialisation
32. ICT Systems Pty Ltd	\$100,000.00	Commercialisation
33. Infinite Consulting Pty Ltd	\$7,000	Strategic Business Plan
34. Intology Ltd	\$85,000.00	Commercialisation
35. Kandream Digital Studios	\$7,000	Marketing Plan for mobile design studio
36. Kinetic Performance Technology	\$50,000.00	Proof of Concept
37. Kiwi Cookies	\$1,500	Fast Track (Business Coaching)
38. Kokonut Pacific Pty Ltd	\$10,000	Market Entry Facilitation
39. Kolings Design	\$1,000	Business Planning Session
40. Leigh Wilmott	\$40,000.00	Proof of Concept
41. LEM Education	\$15,000	Market Development Manager's Salary
42. Liquid Design	\$1,500	Fast Track Business Review
43. Living Bathrooms	\$3,500	Strategic Business Plan
44. MINCHEM	\$7,000	Strategic Business Plan
45. Minx Jewellery	\$3,500	Strategic Business Plan
46. My Virtual Accountant	\$25,000.00	Commercialisation
47. National Zoo and Aquarium	\$3,500	Strategic Marketing Plan
48. NATSEM Pty Ltd	\$40,000.00	Proof of Concept
49. Neame Consultancy Pty Ltd	\$3,500	Strategic Marketing Plan
50. Newton Pty Ltd	\$50,000.00	Commercialisation
51. Nexus Software Solutions	\$100,000.00	Commercialisation

52. Oallbay Pty Ltd T/AS Amazing Clean Canberra	\$3,500	Business Expansion Plan
53. PASS – Primary After School Sports	\$7,000	Business Expansion Plan
54. Prometheus Information	\$7,000	Strategic Business Plan
55. Prometheus Information Pty Ltd	\$52,000.00	Commercialisation
56. Protocom Development Systems	\$50,000.00	Proof of Concept
57. Purchase Plus Pty Ltd	\$85,000.00	Commercialisation
58. Real Fun Pty Ltd	\$4,000	Business Plan
59. Recruitment Systems Pty Limited	\$5,000	Business Diagnostic Report
60. Recruitment Systems Pty Ltd	\$50,000.00	Proof of Concept
61. Remedial Therapy Centre		
	\$1,500	Fast Track (Business Coaching)
62. Research School of Biological Sciences, ANU	\$48,500.00	Proof of Concept
63. Research School of Chemistry, ANU	\$50,000.00	Proof of Concept
64. Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering, ANU	\$25,000.00	Proof of Concept
65. Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering, ANU (BushLAN)	\$40,000.00	Proof of Concept
66. Ringwood Superabrasives Pty Ltd	\$100,000.00	Commercialisation
67. RPO Pty Ltd	\$100,000.00	Commercialisation
68. RTS – Recruitment Technology Solutions Pty Ltd	\$1,500	Strategic Business Plan
69. Sentinel Pty Ltd	\$98,000.00	Commercialisation
70. Silicon Rose	\$10,000	Market Development Manager
71. SmartOne Card System	\$50,000.00	Commercialisation
72. Soccer Canberra	\$7,000	Business Plan for Kanga Cup
73. Softlaw Corporation Ltd	\$100,000.00	Commercialisation
74. Software Improvements Pty Ltd	\$20,000.00	Proof of Concept

75. Southside Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Centre	\$1,100	Change Management
76. Techrescue	\$2,000	Strategic Market Plan
77. The Couch Design Studio	\$10,000	Change Management Program
78. The Distillery	\$80,000.00	Commercialisation
79. The Green & Green Group Pty Limited	\$4,500	Business Expansion Plan
80. The Westbourne Group Pty Ltd	\$3,500	Strategic Business Plan
81. Thermofix Australia Pty Ltd	\$3,500	Strategic Business Plan
82. Throne Accessories Pty Ltd	\$3,500	Strategic Marketing Plan
83. TIOTON Pty Limited	\$10,000	Product Redesign
84. Vish Corporation Ltd	\$40,000.00	Commercialisation
85. Wayne Crumblin	\$85,000.00	Commercialisation
86. Web Active Corporation	\$4,000	Complex Strategic Development
87. WetPC Pty Ltd	\$85,000.00	Commercialisation
88. Zzini	\$10,000	Market Entry Facilitation

**Manuka Oval
(Question No 456)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice, on 11 March 2003:

In relation to Manuka Oval:

1. What financial and/ or other benefits will the government gain from the Kangaroos agreement to hold home games at Manuka Oval for the 2003 AFL season;
2. Has there been any change to the agreement with the Kangaroos since it was first signed off in 2000;
3. How much does it cost to prepare the Oval for a Kangaroos match at Manuka Oval;
4. Does the government recover these costs;
5. For how many more years have the Kangaroos signed up to use Manuka Oval for some home games
6. Does the Club still provide junior development programs. If so, how many hours of junior development does this equate to over a year. If not, why not.

7. Why is the operating subsidy for Manuka Oval nearly halved (\$90,000 compared to \$162,000 in 2002-2003) in the 2003-4, 2004-5 and 2005-6 out years.

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

1. The Kangaroos agreement does not identify specific benefits to be gained by the Territory through this arrangement. However, one can envisage that the Territory will continue to gain direct financial benefits from tourists as was the case in the first two years.

From the perspective of the sport, the benefits of the promotion of the code in the ACT are more evident. In 2002, 2748 children aged 16 and under registered to play junior Australian Football in the ACT, an increase of 10% since 1999. The greatest increase has occurred solely in the junior AUSKICK program (a modified skill development program aimed at boys and girls under 8 years) growing from 689 participants in 1999 to over 1100 in 2002. It is envisaged that this growth will continue in 2003.

2. There has been no change to the agreement since it was first signed off in 2000. Negotiations have commenced for a further three year agreement (2004-2006) to host Kangaroo home games at Manuka Oval but are yet to be finalised.
3. The advice provided by the Manuka Oval Management Company, managers of Manuka Oval, indicates that the cost of preparing the facility (not just the playing surface) for a Kangaroos game is \$15,000.

As the maintenance of the playing surface is undertaken by ACT Cricket for an agreed monthly sum of \$13750 it is not possible to extrapolate the precise cost of any one major event, particularly if it should fall at the time of change over from summer to winter sports or vice versa.

4. No. Under the current Kangaroos agreement, there is a hire fee of \$1 for use of Manuka Oval.
5. None as advised above.
6. As evidenced in the response to Question 1, it is clear that the Kangaroos provide junior development programs in the ACT. It is understood that players are made available for school visits and Auskick clinics regularly throughout the year. As the current agreement holds no contractual obligation upon the Kangaroos to undertake junior development programs, no data has been sought from, or provided by, the Kangaroos on this matter.
7. The operating subsidy for Manuka Oval is \$312,000 in 2002/3 and \$240,000 in the out years of 2003/4, 2004/5 and 2005/6. This consists of a base level of \$150,000 (provided within the Sport and Recreation ACT budget) and the additional funds as you have highlighted.

These allocations were provided in accordance with the Business Plan submitted by the Manuka Oval Management Company in December 2001 identifying an operating subsidy far in excess of the \$150,000 would be required. According to the Business Plan an additional \$162,000 in 2002/3 and \$90,000 in 2003/4 and 2004/5 would be required to meet the government's obligation under the agreement. It is understood that the reason for the sought funding drop in the out years is due to alternative revenue streams becoming available at that time.

Detainees and remandees (Question No 458)

Mr Smyth asked the Attorney General, upon notice, on 11 March 2003.

In relation to the number of detainees and remandees in the ACT:

- (1) Can the Minister provide figures showing the number of remandees at (a) Belconnen Remand Centre, (b) Quamby and (c) the Temporary Remand Centre at Symonston, for each month from November 2002 to February 2003;
- (2) How many prisoners have been transferred interstate each month from November 2002 to February 2003;
- (3) What has been the cost each month from November 2002 to February 2003 of transporting prisoners interstate;
- (4) What has been the cost each month from November 2002 to February 2003 of transporting detainees in the ACT;
- (5) What was the monthly cost of holding prisoners interstate for November and December 2002 and January and February 2003;
- (6) What is the operational cost to date of the Temporary Remand Centre at Symonston and how many staff are currently employed to work there;
- (7) On how many occasions between 1 November 2002 and 28 February 2003 have the cells at the Court House been used to house remandees overnight.

Mr Stanhope : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1)
 - a) For each month from 1 November 2002 to 28 February 2003, the average daily number of remandees accommodated at the Belconnen Remand Centre was:
 - **69** in November 2002
 - **56** in December 2002
 - **51** in January 2003
 - **53** in February 2003

b) For the same period of time the average daily number of remandees accommodated at Quamby was:

- 3 in November 2002
- 2 in December 2002
- 3 in January 2003
- 8 in February 2003

c) For the same period of time the average daily number of remandees accommodated at the Symonston Temporary Remand Centre was:

- 13 in November 2002
- 15 in December 2002
- 16 in January 2003
- 19 in February 2003

(2)

In the four-month period from November 2002 to February 2003, in total 41 sentenced prisoners were transferred interstate. The number of sentenced prisoners transferred interstate in each month was:

- 13 in November 2002 (8 non-indigenous males, 3 indigenous males, 2 non-indigenous females)
- 16 in December 2002 (13 non-indigenous males, 3 indigenous males)
- 2 in January 2003 (both non-indigenous males)
- 10 in February 2003 (all non-indigenous males)

In addition, 3 remandees were transferred interstate prior to the opening of the Symonston Temporary Remand Centre on 14 November 2002. All three were non-indigenous males. No remandees have been transferred to NSW since then.

(3)

The cost of transporting prisoners **interstate** in the four-month period from November 2002 to February 2003 was:

- \$ 12,327 in November 2002 (between 1 November and 18 November 2002, 27 remandees were transported to and from NSW prisons. This practice ended when the Symonston Temporary Remand Centre was opened.)
- \$ 6,495 in December 2002
- \$ 3,858 in January 2003
- \$ 6,505 in February 2003

(4)

The cost of transporting detainees **in the ACT** in the four-month period from November 2002 to February 2003 was:

6 March 2003

- \$ 7,835 in November 2002
- \$ 6,665 in December 2002
- \$ 6,865 in January 2003
- \$ 6,663 in February 2003

(5)

The monthly cost of holding prisoners interstate for November and December 2002 and January and February 2003 was:

- \$ 658,347 in November 2002
- \$ 727,504 in December 2002
- \$ 710,397 in January 2003
- \$ 625,279 in February 2003

(6)

The operational cost to date of the Symonston Temporary Remand Centre has been \$ 859,593. It should be noted that the Symonston Temporary Remand Centre has only been fully operational since 14 November 2002.

The number of staff currently employed there to provide a 7 days a week/24 hours a day service is 26. This figure includes 25 custodial officers and one administrative staff.

(7)

Between 1 November 2002 and 28 February 2003 there were **no occasions** on which the court cells were used to house remandees overnight. However, on the night of 18 January 2003 the Court cells were used to house 11 juvenile offenders who were evacuated from Quamby because of the bushfires.

Women's grant program (Question No 459)

Mr Stefaniak asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice, on 12/3/03:

In relation to the Women's Grant Program:

1. Is the \$60, 000 allocated to the Women's Grant Program this financial year more or less than the previous financial year;
2. How much money has been allocated to this program each year for the last 5 years;
3. How much money was allocated in total to women's sport in the
(a) 2002-03 budget (b) 2001-02 budget (c) 2000-01 budget
(d) 1999-00 budget (e) 1998-99 budget.

Mr Quinlan: The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:

- 1 The \$60, 000 allocated to the Women's Grant Program is more than for the previous financial year.
- 2 A nominal allocation of \$40,000 each year was provided to Womensport and Recreation ACT for the delivery of programs, including the Women's Grant Program.

The following table outlines the amount allocated by Womensport and Recreation ACT for the Women's Grant Program during the past five calendar years:

Calendar Year	Amount
2002	\$22,240 (unaudited)
2001	\$22,614
2000	\$16,370
1999	\$21,512
1998	\$11, 924

- Womensport and Recreation ACT operates on a calendar year.
- 3 I am not prepared to authorise the use of the very considerable resources that would be involved in providing the detailed information required to answer the Member's question. The question is open to various interpretations, any of which would require detailed data extraction.

There is no definitive response to this question based upon current data. Sport and Recreation ACT would need to conduct a comprehensive audit to provide data relating to not only the direct funding of **women's sporting organisations**, but also the funding of programs for **women's participation in sport**. If such an audit was conducted the following may skew the data outcomes:

- SRGP funding is not provided on the basis that it must be utilised proportionally for a particular gender, nor a specific target group.
- The majority of sport and recreation organisations in the ACT are not gender biased thus provide participation opportunities for both sexes.
- Most traditional sports have progressed toward the amalgamation of gender-based organisations (eg. hockey, lawn bowls) to increase efficiency, share resources and provide a common strategic direction for the activity for all participants.
- Projects allocated under the SRGP that target women may not be at the exclusion of all other participants.

In respect to the National League Team Program however, the levels of funding have been reviewed in 2002 with the view to providing greater equity in funding to women's sport. This has resulted in women's sporting teams receiving a 13% increase in funding from the National League Team Program for the 2002-03 financial year. This increase has included the introduction of the Canberra Eclipse (women's soccer) into the program and an increased level of support for the Canberra Capitals (women's basketball), equivalent to that of the Canberra Raiders and the ACT Brumbies.

6 March 2003

**Bruce Stadium—big screen
(Question No 460)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice, on 12 March 2003:

In relation to the big screen at Bruce Stadium:

1. What are the costs associated with the big screen at Bruce Stadium and could you provide a detailed list?
2. Can the big screen be hired offsite and, if so, what is the hiring and transport costs associated with offsite hiring?
3. How many times has the big screen been used/hired offsite (a) to date this financial year and (b) in 2001-02?
4. How many times have maintenance works been carried out on the big screen and what has been the cost each time?
5. Has the big screen ever been replaced due to faults or problems with an older one, if so, how many times has it been replaced and at what cost?

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

1. The costs associated with the Video Replay Board (VRB) are as follows:
 - a. The original finance lease is from Feb 2000 to Feb 2005 (zero residual) at \$46,473 per month (principal and interest);
 - b. The extended finance lease for new components to increase the service size is from Feb 2003 to Feb 2005 (zero residual) at \$19,074 per month (principal and interest);
 - c. Total costs are \$65,547 per month.
2. The VRB can be hired offsite. The transport and hiring costs are not fixed and depend on a number of variables:
 - a. Duration of hire;
 - b. Location of hire;
 - c. Type of structure/frames for screen/s required;
 - d. Size of screen/s.

3. Hiring details are as follows:

- a. 2002-03: 6 (to date)
- b. 2001-02: 9

4. As the VRB is under warranty, preventative maintenance - mainly cleaning - has been carried out at no cost.

5. No.

**Age cards
(Question No 461)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Attorney General, upon notice, on 12 March 2003:

In relation to proof of age cards:

1. How many cards were issued in (a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 2002;
2. How many cards were issued to (a) males and (b) females in (a), (b) (c) above;
3. How many cards were issued at a (a) concessional rate and (b) full rate;
4. Has there been any action against young people in relation to false or fraudulent cards and if so (a) how many in total and (b) how many of these have been finalised in court.

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

1. The total number of cards issued in 2000 was 2,084, in 2001 was 2,332 and in 2002 was 2,614.
2. Of the total cards issued in 2000, 883 were issued to males and 1,201 were issued to females, in 2001, 1,004 were issued to males and 1,328 were issued to females, and in 2002, 1,281 were issued to males and 1,333 were issued to females.
3. Of the total cards issued in 2000, 1,823 were issued at concessional rates and 261 at the full rate. In 2001, 1,905 were issued at concessional rates and 427 at the full rate. In 2002, 2,027 were issued at concessional rates and 587 at the full rate.
4. Since the proof of age card was first introduced in 1995 a total of 252 false or fraudulent applications have been detected. Over the period 2000 to 2002 a total of 10 false applications have been detected. The reduction in the number of false applications is as a result of tighter issuing procedures whereby applicants need to collect their cards from the Office of Fair Trading after further checks are made on the application.

Of the total number of false applications detected, 175 have proceeded to having the matter heard in court. Since 2000, all 10 false applications have proceeded to having the matter heard in court.

**Rubbish collection
(Question No 462)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to rubbish collection:

- (1) On how many occasions to date this financial year has rubbish collection not occurred on the day it was scheduled across Canberra and can the figures be provided on a suburb by suburb basis;
- (2) On how many occasions to date this financial year has recycling bin collection not occurred on the day it was scheduled across Canberra and can the figures be provided on a suburb by suburb basis;
- (3) On how many times this financial year has (a) rubbish collection and (b) recycling collection not occurred on a Friday and collection takes place on a Saturday where staffing penalty rates are incurred;
- (4) Has Saturday collection, where it would normally take place on Friday, cost the government any additional funds;
- (5) On Wednesday 5 March recycling collection in Amaroo, and possibly in other Gungahlin suburbs, did not take place until the Thursday, why was this the case;
- (6) Have the contractors breached the terms and conditions of contract by failing to collect rubbish on the days scheduled;
- (7) Are there ongoing problems in regards to wages for waste collectors, if so, when will these be resolved.

Mr Wood: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) One occasion in the suburbs of Barton, Calwell, Chisholm, Deakin, Fadden, Farrer, Forrest, Fyshwick, Garran, Gilmore, Gowrie, Griffith, Harman, Hughes, Isaacs, Kingston, Macarthur, Mawson, Monash, Narrabundah, Oakes Estate, O'Malley, Phillip, Red Hill, Richardson, Swinger Hill, Theodore and Oxley.
- (2) 140 occasions. All suburbs have been missed at different times.
- (3) (a) One. (b) Twenty nine.
- (4) No.

- (5) The collection was a day late due to driver absenteeism.
- (6) No – provided missed collections are completed by the following working day.
- (7) This is an issue between the contractors and their employees. However, current collection contracts finish in late April 2003 and the new contract should overcome existing problems with service delivery.
-

**ACTTAB staff numbers
(Question No 463)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Treasurer:

Further to the Treasurer's answer to Question on notice number 377 that all of ACTTAB's 35 permanent and 32 casual staff will be relocated to Gungahlin:

- a) Why are these numbers, at 67, down from the 144 staff quoted by you(a) in your newsletter to Gungahlin residents 'Delivering for Gungahlin' late last year;
- b) Was the balance of 77 staff sacked, and if not why was the 144 staff figure originally quoted.

Note: (a) The newsletter referred to was distributed by the Planning Minister, Mr Corbell.

Mr Quinlan: The answers to the Members' questions are as follows:

- a) The Government was advised by ACTTAB that the number of staff employed at the Dickson Head office was 144, and comprised 33 permanent staff and 111 casual staff. These figures were used by Mr Corbell as the basis for his newsletter.

ACTTAB now advises that the figure for casual staff previously advised included all casual staff employed by ACTTAB across Canberra, not just those at the Dickson Head Office.

The figures I included in my response to Question on Notice 377, which includes 32 casual staff at the Head Office, have been confirmed by ACTTAB as being correct.

- b) As above
-

**Disabled persons—service station access
(Question No 464)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to disabled access at service stations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of how many service stations in Canberra still provide personal service to customers rather than self serve, if so how many stations and where are they located;
- (2) Is the Minister aware that disabled residents who are able to drive vehicles find it difficult to fuel their cars as the vehicle is meant to be turned off upon pulling up at a bowser but disabled drivers need to leave the car running to get access to their wheelchairs;
- (3) Would the government consider undertaking a feasibility study to look at the potential of providing disabled access lanes in fuel stations;
- (4) If such a study found the concept to be feasible would the government look at working with the broader community in implementing such a program?

Mr Wood: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. In March 2003, ACT Community Care identified sixteen service stations that provide driveway service to customers. Eight stated they provide full driveway service and another eight stated that they provide driveway service if a customer sounded their horn on arrival or booked a suitable time with the station prior to visiting. The list of service stations that offer driveway service can be found on local ABC Radio's website, or alternatively the Independent Living Centre, ACT Community Care can be contacted for a copy.
2. Disability ACT acknowledges that there are some difficulties for wheelchair users in accessing the bowsers at petrol stations. Leaving the engine running however could place both the customer and the operator of the petrol station in danger. As prescribed by requirements under the Dangerous Goods Act 1984, ACT service station operators are regulated in the storage and use of dangerous goods, including petrol. The regulation references a number of standards and codes of practice that provide specific details, which must be complied with in order to meet minimum safety standards. Under the Australian Standard AS1940: The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids, customers must stop their engine while filling their vehicle with petrol, in order to meet minimum safety standards. Operators must also display adequate signage instructing customers to this effect.
3. The Government will not be undertaking a feasibility study to look at the potential of providing disabled access lanes in fuel stations. All drivers are not permitted to leave the engine of their vehicle running in the driveway at service stations, as it is illegal.

4. The Government is already working with the community to identify ways to make community business more accessible to people with disabilities in the ACT. The Access City Reference Group consists of representatives from community and government bodies, and the group has the task of identifying community access problems that people with a disability experience and ways to address these problems. Disability ACT funds a community organisation to conduct an information and referral service for use by the community to identify access problems in the ACT. This hotline can be used to refer concerns people may have with accessing private businesses, including service stations.
-

**Parking—Civic
(Question No 465)**

Ms Dundas asked the Minister for Urban Services:

In relation to parking in Civic:

- (1) How many pay parking car spaces are in Civic that raise revenue for the ACT Government;
- (2) What was the total revenue taken for pay parking in Civic in financial year:
 - (a) 2001 – 2002; and
 - (b) 2000 – 2001.
- (3) How many parking spaces are owned by businesses within Civic;
- (4) Are there any taxes paid by businesses in regard to parking spaces in Civic;
- (5) What was the total revenue taken for business owned parking in Civic in financial year:
 - (a) 2001 – 2001;
 - (b) 2000 – 2001.

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

- (1) The area of Civic consists of City, Reid, Braddon and Turner. Figures from the 2001 ACT Parking Survey are as follows.

Ticket parking spaces	6,258
Parking meter spaces	759
Total ACT Government pay parking spaces	7,017

- (2) (a) Financial Year 2001 – 2002

Parking meter revenue	\$750,031.90
Ticket parking revenue	\$4,485,535.10
Total	\$5,235,567.00

6 March 2003

(b) Financial Year 2000 - 2001

Parking meter revenue	\$617,671.15
Ticket parking revenue	\$4,502,871.75
Total	\$5,120,541.90

(3) A figure obtained from the 2001 ACT Parking Survey is as follows:

Total business parking spaces	12,190
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This includes both privately owned car parks open to the public and private tenant parking.

(4) There are no specific ACT Government taxes paid by businesses for parking spaces.

(5) The ACT Government does not have access to revenue figures for business owned parking.

**Disabled persons—swimming facilities
(Question No 466)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice:

In relation to facilities for disabled facilities at Canberra Swimming pools:

- (1) Which government owned and private swimming centres have hoist facilities for disabled bathers;
- (2) Which centres in Canberra offer hydrotherapy services for disabled bathers;
- (3) Does the government plan to develop any more hydrotherapy pools in Canberra in the current term of office;
- (4) Does the government plan to equip any other swimming centres with hoists for disabled bathers;
- (5) Has the government received any requests from the department or constituents for improved facilities for disabled bathers;

Mr Wood, answering as the Minister responsible for these matters:

The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) Hoist facilities are provided at Civic, Dickson, Manuka and Tuggeranong, which are managed under contract to the Department of Urban Services. The Active Leisure Centre at Erindale, managed under contract to the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services, also has hoist facilities. As far as can be determined, no private centres currently have these facilities.

- (2) Hydrotherapy services are a specialised operation and they are generally only offered within purpose built centres, where they include features such as higher water temperatures than at recreational pools. These include Koomarri Special School at O'Connor, Cranleigh Special School at Holt and Malkara Special School at Garran.
 - (3) The new Belconnen Pool is to include a specialised hydrotherapy pool. No other pools of this kind are envisaged.
 - (4) All ACT Government managed recreational pools are equipped with hoists.
 - (5) There has been one approach in relation to the possibility of a disabled hoist at the Gold Creek country Club pool for an individual in May 2002. My department is unaware of any other requests.
-

War protest by school students (Question No 467)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 12 March 2003:

In relation to the student war protest on Wednesday, 5 March 2003:

- (1) How many ACT school students were involved in the war protest on 5 March;
- (2) How many ACT school students provided notes to schools allowing them permission from their parents to leave school grounds;
- (3) Did all students who attended the protest return to their schools;
- (4) Were any students injured during the protest;
- (5) Were any teachers sent with students to chaperone during the protest, if so how many and from which schools.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) School records indicate that two hundred and thirty seven (237) ACT government school students were absent from school to attend the war protest on 5 March 2003.
- (2) All two hundred and thirty seven (237) ACT government school students provided notes to schools giving parental permission to leave school grounds.
- (3) The majority of the two hundred and thirty seven (237) students who attended the protest did not return to their schools. One secondary college indicated that students who had classes after the protest did return to college.

(4) None of the two hundred and thirty seven (237) students who attended the protest were injured during the protest.

(5) No teachers were sent with students to chaperone during the protest.

**Workplace injuries
(Question No 469)**

Mr Pratt asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 12 March 2003:

In relation to injuries in the workplace:

- (1) How many ACT Public Service staff have been injured in the workplace (a) each month to date this financial year, (b) each month in 2001-02 and (c) each month in 2000-01;
- (2) Have there been any deaths in the ACT Public Service while staff are in the workplace (a) to date this financial year, (b) in 2001-02 and (c) 2000-01;
- (3) Have any Departments raised concerns about Occupational Health and Safety issues (a) to date this financial year or (b) in 2001-02, if so, can you list those concerns and advise what the government is doing to address them.

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

- (1) How many ACT Public Service staff have been injured in the workplace (a) each month to date this financial year, (b) each month in 2001-02 and (c) each month in 2000-01;

The answer to the Member's question is set out in the attached table titled 'ACT Public Service, Incident Reports and Workers' Compensation Claims, 2000-01 to 2002-03 (as of 28 February 2003)'.

- (2) Have there been any deaths in the ACT Public Service while staff are in the workplace (a) to date this financial year, (b) in 2001-02 and (c) 2000-01;
 - (a) No.
 - (b) No, there have been no deaths of ACT Public Service staff in the workplace. During 2001-02, an employee of ACTEW Corporation died in a workplace accident.
 - (c) No.
- (3) Have any Departments raised concerns about Occupational Health and Safety issues (a) to date this financial year or (b) in 2001-02, if so, can you list those concerns and advise what the government is doing to address them.

My Department is not aware of any specific concerns raised formally about occupational health and safety issues. However, all agencies and unions are involved in a Service-wide consultation forum in which agencies can raise and discuss issues and concerns in relation to occupational health and safety. The Occupational Health, Safety and Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (OHSRAC) meets on a quarterly basis and representatives of all ACT Public Service agencies and unions represented in their workplaces are invited to attend. OHSRAC is chaired by the public sector employer representative on the Occupational Health and Safety Council. The Occupational Health and Safety Commissioner attends the meetings.

In August 2002, the Government initiated the ACT Public Sector Injury Prevention and Management Project. The Project provides a structured consultative platform on which sustainable injury prevention and management strategies can be established. The aim is to improve workplace safety, injury management and return-to-work outcomes, target 'hot spots', ensure that best practice methods are adopted across the ACT public sector and to reduce the financial and human costs of workplace injuries and illness for the ACT public sector workforce.

In February 2003, the Chief Minister launched the 'Leadership and Commitment' strategy. The strategy consists of information and guidance materials to assist senior managers, supervisors and employees understand and fulfil their injury prevention and management responsibilities. Work on additional strategies is in train including the implementation of safety management systems in ACT Public Service workplaces.

A performance-based methodology for allocating the ACT public sector's workers' compensation premium was implemented in 2001-02. Agencies are provided with detailed information on claim frequency and costs with their annual premium notifications. The information can be drawn on to address particular workplace prevention and injury management trends.

Attachment A

ACT Public Service, Incident Reports and Workers' Compensation Claims, 2000-01 to 2002-03 (as of 28 February 2003)¹

Financial Year	Month	No. Incident Reports ²	No. Claims Lodged ³	No. Claims Accepted
2000-01	July 2000	241	59	59
	August 2000	269	70	70
	September 2000	166	45	45
	October 2000	245	70	70
	November 2000	259	77	77
	December 2000	158	39	39
	January 2001	174	54	53
	February 2001	284	80	76
	March 2001	256	64	64
	April 2001	205	62	61
	May 2001	282	78	78
	June 2001	271	68	68
	<i>Sub-total 2000-01</i>		<i>2,810</i>	<i>766</i>

2001-02	July 2001	209	54	54
	August 2001	289	64	64
	September 2001	219	58	57
	October 2001	198	55	55
	November 2001	230	64	64
	December 2001	204	47	47
	January 2002	134	39	38
	February 2002	307	89	88
	March 2002	265	67	66
	April 2002	205	59	59
	May 2002	258	71	69
	June 2002	193	72	72
<i>Sub-total 2001-0 2</i>		<i>2, 711</i>	<i>739</i>	<i>733</i>
2002-03	July 2002	184	67	65
	August 2002	255	74	74
	September 2002	210	49	47
	October 2002	193	62	61
	November 2002	192	57	54
	December 2002	141	45	40
	January 2003	141	23	22
	February 2003	106	9	6
<i>Sub-total 2002-03 to date</i>		<i>1,422</i>	<i>386</i>	<i>369</i>
Total 2001-02 to 2002-03 to date		6,943	1,891	1,862

¹ Data do not include ACTEW, ACTTAB, the University of Canberra, the Gungahlin Development Authority, the Legal Aid Commission (ACT), or the Australian International Hotel School. These entities are not subject to the application of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 (section 5 Application).

² Incidents include accidents, injuries, disease, hazardous situations, dangerous occurrences and deaths including when travelling to and from work.

³ Includes claims which are pending.

Teacher retention rates (Question No 471)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice:

- 1) How many government school teachers and principals have been lost to the ACT due to retirement in the calendar years of (a) 2002, (b) 2001, (c) 2000 (d) 1999 and (e) 1998;
- 2) How many non-government school teachers and principals have been lost to the ACT due to retirement in the calendar years of (a) 2002, (b) 2001, (c) 2000 (d) 1999 and (e) 1998;

- 3) What is the number of teachers and principals lost to government schools in (a) 2002, (b) 2001, (c) 2000 (d) 1999 and (e) 1998, in total, besides retirement what are the other reasons for staff leaving the system;
- 4) What is the number of teachers and principals lost to non-government schools in (a) 2002, (b) 2001, (c) 2000 (d) 1999 and (e) 1998, in total, besides retirement what are the other reasons for staff leaving the system;
- 5) Will any government schools lose teachers or principals during this calendar year or at the end of this calendar year due to retirement, if yes, how many at this stage have you received notification for;
- 6) Will any non-government schools lose teachers or principals during this calendar year or at the end of this calendar year due to retirement, if yes, how many at this stage have you received notification for;
- 7) What is the government doing to recruit new teachers and principals to cover numbers lost to retirement;
- 8) How is the government monitoring the number of teachers and principals approaching retirement.

Ms Gallagher: The answers to Mr Pratt's questions are:

- 1) The reason for separating from the ACT'S is recorded within broad categories. If a reason for separating is not provided, the separation is recorded as a resignation. Also for some ACT government employees, as with Commonwealth employees, there is a financial incentive for members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CBS) to retire immediately prior to their 55th birthday. Separations for this reason are recorded as a resignation rather than as a retirement. Only separations over age 55 years where the reason is stated as retirement are recorded as retirements. Consequently it is not possible to provide data to the level of accuracy requested.

This table shows the separations from all teaching classifications of permanent teachers and principals for the period 1998 to 2003 (1 March):

		Retirements	Resignation	Other Reason
1998	Principal	4	4	2
	Teachers	53	94	26
1999	Principal	6	2	2
	Teachers	89	99	25
2000	Principal	6	5	0
	Teachers	75	95	23
2001	Principal	5	7	2
	Teachers	75	153	10
2002	Principal	3	5	0
	Teachers	57	160	5
2003 (to 1 March)	Principal	4	1	0
	Teachers	21	60	0

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Given the age profile of the principal cohort, it is reasonable to assume that the bulk of the resignations are for pre age 55 years retirement. For similar reasons a sizeable percentage, although not as high as for the principals, of the other teachers' resignations would be for the same reason.

The figures for 2003 (to March 1) are included as the department bases its workforce planning on school years and these separations would be included on the 2002 school year figures. Recruitment to these vacancies would have occurred in the latter part of 2002.

As a number of teachers who retire or resign pre 55 years register for casual work, they are not entirely lost to the department as teachers.

- 2) The department does not have this information for non-government schools.
- 3) The figures are included in the table in the response to 1) above. The reasons, other than retirement, that principals and teachers separate from the department include seeking/accepting other employment, death, ill health and disciplinary matters.
- 4) The department does not have this information for non-government schools.
- 5) Based on the age statistics and previous trends, it is expected that the retirement figures for 2003 will be higher than for 2002. This means that the majority of schools expect to lose teaching staff through retirement. All schools experience staff turnover each year due to transfer and promotion as well as through separations.

At this point, one principal has notified an intention to retire/resign during Term 2. Others will notify their intentions at an appropriate time. Seven teachers have indicated that they will retire/resign at the end of Term 1. Generally teachers try to time the date for leaving their school around the end of term or end of school. However, through the use of accrued leave, the actual separation date may be later than this time. The majority of separations are timed for the end of the school year.

- 6) The department does not have this information for non-government schools.
- 7) Currently all principal vacancies are advertised in the national press. In recent years, external applicants have been selected to fill nine principal vacancies in ACT Government schools.

The department is focusing resources from the Professional Learning Fund and other funds on leadership development programs to ensure that sufficient of its current staff have the skills to take on a principal role.

Each year the department conducts an extensive teacher recruitment campaign. This involves presentation at over thirty teacher training institutions and national advertising. In 2002, over 1500 applications were received and processed.

Recently a small unit dedicated to the management of teacher recruitment has been established. The responsibilities of this unit include: marketing of the ACT government education system in the teacher training institutions; sharpening the focus of the teacher recruitment program to better target areas of need; building stronger links with the teacher training institutions; and, establishing training programs to skill current teachers in teaching in other areas.

- 8) The department maintains a range of statistics including age details and previous separations, which assist in monitoring retirements. Teachers and principals were included in the *Whole of Government Retirement Intentions Survey*. The data from this research and internal reporting is used to develop teacher recruitment and marketing strategies.

Bushfires—McLeod inquiry (Question No 472)

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister, upon notice:

In relation to the McLeod Bushfire Inquiry:

- (1) On ABC Radio on Friday 7 March it was reported that the NSW Inquiry (first hearing was on Queanbeyan that day) once completed would hand all documents over to the ACT Coronial Inquest and the McLeod Inquiry. It was then implied that meant that the McLeod Inquiry did not have to go into great detail in regards to the NSW issues if that was the case. The problem is that the NSW Inquiry will not return to Queanbeyan until August or September, this is at least two months after the due date of the McLeod Inquiry. Can you rule the implication on ABC radio as true or false;
- (2) Can you confirm if Mr McLeod is closely looking at all the details in relation to the NSW fires which made their way to the ACT border and eventually joined with ACT fires to create the January 18 firestorm.

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

- 1) The implication as aired on ABC radio on Friday 7 March is false.
- 2) It is the role of the ACT Coronial inquiry to examine and report on the cause, origin and circumstances of the bushfires and any other broader issues determined by the coroner to be relevant. The NSW and ACT Coroners will be working together over the course of the inquiries to examine the events leading up to the January bushfires. It is a matter for the ACT Coroner to determine how her inquiry will take into account the issues relating to the fires that began in NSW.

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The McLeod Inquiry is examining the preparation for and the operational response to the fires by the ACT Emergency Services Bureau and other departments and agencies, and is identifying the lessons to be learnt, prior to the next fire season. I expect that Mr McLeod will address the coordination and cooperative arrangements with interstate agencies including the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as part of that process.

My colleague, Mr Bill Wood MLA, in his capacity as Minister for Police and Emergency Services, has recently written to the NSW Minister for Emergency Services to draw attention to the Inquiry and to seek the participation and cooperation of the NSW RFS.

Community Information Technology Access Plan (Question No 473)

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 12 March 2003:

In relation to the Community Information Technology Access Plan:

- (1) From wherein the budget did \$1.4m come to fund the Community IT Access Plan;
- (2) Does the Government have a timetable to achieve its goal of closing the digital divide in the ACT by 2006, if so, please detail, if not, why not;
- (3) Can the Minister break down the \$1.4m into the components it will be spent on, if so, please provide details, if not, why not.

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

- (1) Digital Divide funding was initially allocated in the 2001-02 budget, 'Budget Paper No.4, p.31 Redressing the Digital Divide'. This level of funding was revised in the 2002-03 budget as part of the 'Changes to Appropriation – Departmental, Government Payment for Outputs'.

Current budget allocations are \$724,000 in 2002-03; \$505,000 in 2003-04; and \$201,000 in 2004-05.

- (2) The Government's timetable to achieve its goal of closing the digital divide is incorporated in the fourteen initiatives of the Community IT Access Plan. The Government aims to close the digital divide over three years from 2002-03 to 2004-05 through the implementation of these initiatives and through ongoing consultation with the Community IT Access Group.
 - (3) The allocation of digital divide funds to each of the fourteen initiatives is also detailed in the Community IT Access Plan.
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**ACT Public Service—statistics
(Question No 477)**

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 13 March 2003:

In relation to the ACT Public Service:

- (1) How many public servants have voluntarily left the ACT Public Service (a) to date this financial year, (b) in 2001-02;
- (2) How many public servants have been offered redundancies in the ACT Public Service (a) to date this financial year, (b) in 2001-02;
- (3) What was the number of ACT Public Servants for (a) the current day this financial year, (b) 2002-02, (c) 2000-01, (d) 1999-2000;
- (4) How many additional Executives have been employed in the ACT Public Service from the number of employees as at June 30 2001 (a) to date this financial year, (b) in 2001-02;
- (5) What was the total number of Executives in the ACT Public Service for (a) the current day this financial year, (b) 2001-02, (c) 2000-01, (d) 1999-2000.

Mr Stanhope : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The number of public servants who have voluntarily left the ACT Public Service – (a) to date this financial year – 1052; and (b) in 2001-02 – 1701. This includes permanent and temporary staff who have left the Service through resignation, retirement, voluntary redundancy or transfer or promotion to the Australian Public Service. These figures are drawn from the PERSPECT HR system, which does not cover all agencies. As noted on page 5 of the Commissioner for Public Administration's State of the Service Report for 2001-02, this system covers (on 30 June 2002 figures) approximately 93% of the public service (ie those employed under the Public Sector Management Act 1994). The Commissioner's report provides details on separations in Chapter 8. The tables in that chapter relate only to permanent staff paid through the PESPECT system.
- (2) Based on compilation of figures from ACT Public Service agencies, the number of public servants who have been offered redundancies in the ACT Public Service (a) to date this financial year – 48; and (b) in 2001-02 – 121.
- (3) The number of ACT Public Servants for (a) the current day this financial year – 14,839, (b) 2001-02 – 14,433, (c) 2000-01 – 13,716, (d) 1999-2000 – 13,375. These figures are drawn from the PERSPECT HR system which does not cover all Public Service staff. At 30 June 2002, there was 16247 staff in the ACT Public Service (including ACTION staff). Updated service-wide figures will be incorporated into the 2002-03 State of the Service Report.

- (4) The number of additional Executives employed (on either long-term or short-term contracts) in the ACT Public Service from the number of employees as at June 30 2001 (a) to date this financial year – 14, (b) in 2001-02 – 5. The increase of 9 for this financial year is in part a result of the temporary reassignment of 1 Chief Executive and 6 Executives to the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce and backfilling arrangements in agencies.
 - (5) The total number of Executives in the ACT Public Service for (a) the current day this financial year – 119, (b) 2001-02 - 110, (c) 2000-01 - 105, (d) 1999-2000 – 89.
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**ACT Forests—bushfire losses
(Question No 478)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to information management:

- (1) Given that *The Australian Financial Review* reported on 7 February 2003 that ACT Forests kept a back-up set of data in a fireproof safe in its Duffy office, and that office was burnt in the fires, was any documentation able to be saved?
- (2) If documentation was destroyed, why did a fireproof safe also burn in the 18 January firestorm?
- (3) What percentage of documentation was lost in the Duffy ACT Forests office?
- (4) What percentage of the documentation lost can be retrieved from back up sources?
- (5) Are there any concerns about information that cannot be retrieved in regards to the (a) day to day functioning of ACT Forests (b) future planning (c) other?
- (6) What is the Government doing to protect invaluable information against any future natural disasters?

Mr Wood: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) None of ACT Forests' documents that were located in the Duffy office were saved.
- (2) Fireproof safes are designed to withstand an external temperature of 1000 degrees Celsius for one hour with the contents of the safe not exceeding 170 degrees Celsius. The fire proof safe in ACT Forests' Duffy office had a 5 millimetre wide by 30 millimetre long crack on the top corner caused by the fire intensity. The crack was sufficient for the contents in the fireproof safe to be destroyed. Such cracks can occur in high intensity structure fires. It is estimated that external temperatures exceeded 3000 degrees Celsius around the ACT Forests' office during the firestorm.

- (3) 100 percent of the documents located at ACT Forests' the Duffy office was lost in the fires.
- (4) Providing a precise percentage is difficult but it may be as high as 50% as some of ACT Forests' records were located offsite. The harvesting computer system was not burnt as it is located at the Hume weighbridge. This is where the information to invoice the mills for the purchase of logs is stored. A copy of ACT Forests' mapping data (October 2002) that supports the GIS system was stored offsite. ACT Forests had a copy of its financial position to December 31 2002 and its June 30 financial statements and working papers stored offsite.

ACT Forests has managed to obtain copies of other relevant documents from its customers and other government agency files. These documents have helped in the ongoing management of ACT Forests.

- (5) (a) The Government is always concerned about any loss of information. The circumstances that caused ACT Forests' information to be burnt is unfortunate. There have been some short term problems caused by this loss of information in the day to day running of ACT Forests. However, thanks to the dedication of ACT Forests' staff in handling this disaster most of these problems have been overcome.

A more serious issue is the loss of 10,500 hectares of pine plantation. The Government is carefully addressing this serious issue in an objective and scientific approach through its non urban land use review. ACT Forests is tackling the salvage and clean up of the burnt areas in its usual professional and efficient way.

- (b) Most of the critical information that will help with the future planning of ACT Forests was not destroyed by the fires.
- (c) Part of ACT Forests' insurance claim will be used to create new systems that will improve the efficient management of ACT Forests.
- (6) InTACT has been given the responsibility of managing ACT Forests' information. The backup systems it has in place should avoid a repeat of the situation in January. The main reason why ACT Forests was unable to use InTACT before the fires was the difficulty in providing a data link of sufficient capability to allow data storage on InTACT servers.

**Environment—report
(Question No 483)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Environment, upon notice:

In relation to the 2003 State of the Environment Report:

- (1) How much funding has been expended to date on the 2003 State of the Environment Report;

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- (2) Can the Minister advise how much work has been completed on this report to date;
- (3) How many people have been employed, if any, to date for research and compilation of this report;
- (4) How much of the Budget allocation will be used on wages for those involved in preparing the report or will this be covered from within the Department of Urban Services Budget;
- (5) Is funding granted each year for this project in anticipation of the triennial report, if so, why is there no out year funding in the 2004-05 financial year;
- (6) Can you advise when the Report will be released given the due date of the period ending 30 June 2003.

Mr Stanhope : The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) Expenditure on the Report to the end of February 2003 is estimated at \$24,789. This is made up of salaries (including only salaries on-costs) of the part-time Commissioner and the two full-time staff members; plus work done in 2002 by the Commissioner's technical consultant and the cost of a workshop. An invoice has not yet been received for work that has been done in 2003 by the Commissioner's technical consultant.
- (2) The structure of and processes for the Report have been intensively reviewed within the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment. This involved a consultative process with expert practitioners and ACT Government agencies in November 2002. The Indicators used for the 2000 State of the Environment Report had been refined during 2001-02 for use in the 2003 Report.

Meetings have been held with relevant Agency heads and other officers to discuss the structure of the report and data availability. A timeline and work program have been prepared, including a schedule for Reference group meetings. Science writers have been identified for the Themes-Issues-Indicators and work has commenced on data collection for those Indicators where data may be obtained before 30 June 2003.

The Commissioner reports substantial benefit from the use of *SoE Author* in the work done on the ACT's 2003 State of the Environment report to date, and that such benefit will continue. (*SoE Author* is a template for State of the Environment reporting that was created in 1998-99 by the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment through the Australian Capital Regional Leaders' Forum and aided by a Commonwealth grant. It was first used for the 2000 State of the Environment Report for the Australian Capital Region.)

- (3) Employees of the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment are the part-time Commissioner, a full-time Manager (SOGB) and a full-time Administrative/Project Officer (ASO5). To date, two contracts have also been let for preparation of the 2003 report. One contract is for the technical consultant referred to in question 1 above, the other for science writing for the Theme of Atmosphere.

- (4) The intensive work on preparing the Report will occur from March to December 2003. In that time a minimum of 80% of the salaries of the Commissioner and of the two full-time staff members in the Commissioner's office will be spent on preparing the Report. 80% of salaries amounts to \$143,400 (not taking into account any proposed EBA adjustments or any on-costs other than for salaries). Estimated salary expenditure on the Report for the Commissioner and his staff to the end of February 2003 is \$18,247.

A temporary officer will also be appointed from May to December at an estimated cost of \$30,000 (also not taking into account any proposed EBA adjustments or any on-costs other than for salaries).

Total salaries for preparing the Report are estimated at \$191,647.

The Office of the Commissioner for the Environment is funded as an Expense on Behalf of the Territory, and as such, is not covered from within the Urban Services budget.

- (5) Funding is provided each year in the budget for the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment to cover the estimated costs of operations for that year. Since his first year of operations in 1993-94, the Commissioner has been provided with increased recurrent funding to meet the additional costs incurred in those years involving report preparation. An allocation of \$125,000 was provided in the 2002-03 Budget and \$125,000 is included in the 2003-04 forward estimates for preparation of the 2003 State of the Environment Report. As 2004-05 is not a reporting year the forward estimates provide for a lower level of operating costs in that year. The published forward estimates for 2005-06 include a provision for reporting costs expected to be incurred in that year.
- (6) Disallowable Instrument DI2002-170 made under section 19(5) of the *Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993* identifies the reporting period for the 2003 ACT State of the Environment Report as being from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2003, and the reporting day for this Report as being 31 December 2003. The Commissioner must submit his report to the Minister for the Environment by the reporting day. The Minister must table that Report or its recommendations in the Legislative Assembly within 15 sitting days of receipt from the Commissioner.

The Commissioner believes that all aspects are on track for completion and delivery to me as Minister by the required date.

**Environment—expenditure
(Question No 485)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Environment, upon notice:

In relation to funding for nature conservation:

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- (1) Can the Minister advise how much of the \$500,000 allocated this financial year for nature conservation has been expended;
- (2) Can a detailed list be provided of where money has been expended to date and for what purpose;
- (3) If there is money still unexpended from this program how will the remainder be spent this financial year;
- (4) Will there be a change of focus for the expenditure of any left over funds following the January bushfires;
- (5) Will there be a change of focus for this spending in the future (ie: out year funding) following the January bushfires.

Mr Stanhope : The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) Expenditure on the Government's Nature Conservation Initiative in the current financial year amounts to approximately \$288,000 to 28 February 2003.
 - (2) Funds have been expended to date on the following components of the three year program announced by the Minister for Urban Services in his statement to the Assembly on 6 June 2002 – "A Sustainable Bush Capital in the New Millenium".
 - Additional staff and equipment for park management, community relations and essential conservation activities;
 - The development of a computer based natural resource information management system;
 - Reviewing conservation priorities and management directions for conservation efforts including the Action Plan for threatened grassy box woodlands;
 - Improved support for community volunteer groups involved in environmental activities; and
 - Enhanced education and information programs for the community.
 - (3) The funds unexpended to date will be expended over the remaining months of the current financial year in accordance with the original objectives of the Government as outlined in the statement to the Assembly by the Minister for Urban Services.
 - (4) The funds provided in the current year are part of a total commitment to provide \$1.5 million over three years. Consequently, at this point of the program there are no funds considered to be left over. Despite the disastrous bushfires the Government remains committed to nature conservation as outlined in the statement "A Sustainable Bush Capital in the New Millenium"
 - (5) Overall, the focus of spending over the three years of the program will not be changed by the January bushfires.
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**Environment Protection Authority—complaints
(Question No 486)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Environment, upon notice:

In relation to the enforcement of noise pollution regulations:

- (1) How many complaints were received by the Environment Management Authority to date this financial year;
- (2) Have any warnings have been issued by the Environment Management Authority to date this financial year, if so how many and for what reasons;
- (3) How many complaints were received by the Environment Management Authority in (a) 2001-02 (b) 2000-01;
- (4) Were any warnings issued by the Environment Management Authority in (a) 2001-02 (b) 2000-01;
- (5) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the reason for the complaint (a) to date this financial year (b) in 2001-02 (c) in 2000-01;
- (6) Can the Minister list how many complaints were received by suburb;
- (7) Have there been any court actions against noise polluters (a) to date this financial year (b) in 2001-02 (c) in 2000-01.

Mr Stanhope : The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) The Environment Protection Authority has received 219 noise related complaints to date this financial year.
- (2) Yes. The Environment Protection Authority has issued 57 written warnings related to noise pollution to date this financial year.
 - 32 for excessive noise from amplified music, home stereos or radios
 - 13 for excessive noise from air-conditioners or heat pumps
 - 5 for excessive noise from building works
 - 3 for excessive noise from swimming pool pumps
 - 1 for excessive noise from car repairs
 - 1 for excessive noise from power tools
 - 1 for excessive noise from leaf blowers
 - 1 for excessive noise from wind chimes
- (3) Environment Protection Authority received:
 - a) 343 noise related complaints in 2001 – 2002; and
 - b) 484 noise related complaints in 2000 – 2001

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(4) The Environment Management Authority issued

- a) 63 written warnings related to noise pollution in 2001-2002; and
- b) 36 written warnings related to noise pollution in 2000-2001

(5) No. Noise complaints received by Environment ACT are not categorised by the particular source of noise pollution.

(6) Yes. Environment ACT does record alleged noise polluters by suburb.

(7) No. There has been no court actions against noise polluters to date this financial year; or

- a) in 2001-2002; or
- b) in 2000-2001

Noise Complaints by Suburb 2000/01

(13 records)

AINSLIE (10 records)

AMAROO (4 records)

ARANDA (2 records)

BANKS (5 records)

BARTON (5 records)

BELCONNEN (11 records)

BONYTHON (3 records)

BRADDON (8 records)

BRUCE (4 records)

CALWELL (3 records)

CAMPBELL (6 records)

CANBERRA CITY (1 record)

CHAPMAN (1 record)

CHARNWOOD (7 records)

CHIFLEY (1 record)

CHISHOLM (9 records)

CITY (1 record)

City Walk (1 record)

CIVIC (13 records)

CONDER (6 records)

COOK (5 records)

CURTIN (6 records)

DEAKIN (2 records)

DICKSON (3 records)

DOWNER (5 records)

DUFFY (4 records)

DUNLOP (11 records)

EVATT (5 records)

MANUKA (7 records)

MAWSON (8 records)

FADDEN (1 record)

FARRER (8 records)

FISHER (4 records)

FLYNN (4 records)

FORREST (5 records)

GARRAN (4 records)

Garren (1 record)

GILMORE (8 records)

GIRALANG (5 records)

GORDON (6 records)

GOWRIE (4 records)

GREENWAY (3 records)

GRIFFITH (21 records)

HALL (1 record)

HAWKER (1 record)

HIGGINS (2 records)

HOLDER (2 records)

HOLT (12 records)

ISAACS (1 record)

ISABELLA PLAINS (6 records)

KALEEN (13 records)

KAMBAH (23 records)

KINGSTON (12 records)

LATHAM (7 records)

LYNEHAM (4 records)

LYONS (3 records)

MACARTHUR (1 record)

MACGREGOR (8 records)

MACQUARIE (4 records)

RICHARDSON (4 records)

RIVETT (5 records)

MELBA (3 records)
MONASH (3 records)
NARRABUNDAH (11 records)
Ngunawal (1 record)
NGUNNAWAL (14 records)
NICHOLLS (11 records)
O'CONNOR (13 records)
OAKS ESTATE (1 record)
OXLEY (5 records)
PALMERSTON (7 records)
PEARCE (1 record)
PHILLIP (4 records)
QUEANBEYAN (1 record)
RED HILL (3 records)
REID (6 records)

SCULLIN (8 records)
SPENCE (2 records)
STIRLING (1 record)
SWINGER HILL (1 record)
SYMONSTON (2 records)
THEODORE (1 record)
TORRENS (1 record)
TURNER (2 records)
WANNIASSA (4 records)
WARAMANGA (5 records)
WATSON (3 records)
WESTON (7 records)
WODEN TOWN CENT (1 record)
YARRALUMLA (9 records)

Noise Complaints by Suburb 2001/02

(9 records)
AINSLIE (14 records)
AMAROO (3 records)
ARANDA (5 records)
BANKS (8 records)
BARTON (2 records)
BELCONNEN (5 records)
BONYTHON (1 record)
BRADDON (19 records)
BRUCE (2 records)
CALWELL (3 records)
CANBERRA CITY (1 record)
CHAPMAN (2 records)
CHARNWOOD (7 records)
CHIFLEY (3 records)
CHISHOLM (10 records)
CITY (1 record)
CIVIC (7 records)
CONDER (3 records)
COOK (1 record)
CURTIN (2 records)
DEAKIN (2 records)
DICKSON (3 records)
DOWNER (6 records)
DUFFY (6 records)
DUNLOP (11 records)
FARRER (3 records)
FLOREY (4 records)
FLYNN (2 records)
FORREST (4 records)

GARRAN (4 records)
GILMORE (4 records)
GIRALANG (9 records)
GORDON (2 records)
GOWRIE (3 records)
GRIFFITH (7 records)
HACKETT (1 record)
HAWKER (2 records)
HIGGINS (1 record)
HOLDER (4 records)
HOLT (4 records)
HUGHES (3 records)
ISAACS (2 records)
ISABELLA PLAINS (2 records)
KALEEN (7 records)
KAMBAH (20 records)
KINGSTON (6 records)
LATHAM (5 records)
LYNEHAM (S records)
LYONS (1 record)
MACARTHUR (2 records)
MACGREGOR (4 records)
MACQUARIE (1 record)
MAWSON (4 records)
MCKELLAR (2 records)
MONASH (2 records)
NARRABUNDAH (5 records)
NGUNNAWAL (6 records)
NICHOLLS (4 records)

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O'CONNOR (5 records)
OAKS ESTATE (1 record)
OXLEY (2 records)
PAGE (1 record)
PALMERSTON (2 records)
PEARCE (7 records)
PHILLIP (1 record)
QUEANBEYAN (2 records)
RED HILL (1 record)
REID (11 records)
RICHARDSON (2 records)

Noise Complaints by Suburb 2002/03

(5 records)
AINSLIE (3 records)
AMAROO (1 record)
ARANDA (1 record)
BANKS (2 records)
BELCONNEN (6 records)
BRADDON (2 records)
BRUCE (5 records)
CALWELL (2 records)
CANBERRA CITY (2 records)
CHAPMAN (7 records)
CHARNWOOD (6 records)
CHIFLEY (2 records)
CHISHOLM (3 records)
CIVIC (9 records)
CONDER (4 records)
COOK (3 records)
CURTIN (2 records)
DICKSON (1 record)
DOWNER (3 records)
DUFFY (7 records)
DUNLOP (2 records)
EVATT (3 records)
FADDEN (3 records)
FARRER (2 records)
FLOREY (3 records)
FLYNN (3 records)
FORREST (4 records)
FRASER (1 record)
GILMORE (2 records)
GIRALANG (1 record)
GORDON (2 records)
GREENWAY (1 record)
GRIFFITH (1 record)
HACKETT (2 records)

RIVETT (1 record)
SCULLIN (4 records)
STIRLING (1 record)
THEODORE (4 records)
TURNER (5 records)
WANNIASSA (7 records)
WARAMANGA (2 records)
WATSON (6 records)
WEETANGERA (1 record)
WESTON (4 records)
YARRALUMLA (2 records)

HIGGINS (3 records)
HOLDER (1 record)
HOLT (7 records)
HUGHES (2 records)
ISAACS (1 record)
KALEEN (5 records)
KAMBAH (6 records)
KINGSTON (1 record)
LATHAM (2 records)
LYNEHAM (6 records)
LYONS (5 records)
MACGREGOR (1 record)
MACQUARIE (2 records)
MANUKA (1 record)
MAWSON (2 records)
MCKELLAR (1 record)
Melba (3 records)
MONASH (4 records)
NARRABUNDAH (1 record)
NGUNNAWAL (6 records)
NICHOLLS (3 records)
Nichols (1 record)
O'CONNOR (6 records)
OXLEY (1 record)
PAGE (1 record)
PALMERSTON (1 record)
Parkes (1 record)
PEARCE (1 record)
PHILLIP (1 record)
QUEANBEYAN (1 record)
Red Hill (2 records)
REID (2 records)
RIVETT (1 record)
SCULLIN (2 records)
STIRLING (2 records)

SWINGER HILL (1 record)
TURNER (8 records)
WANNIASSA (3 records)
WARAMANGA (1 record)

WATSON (6 records)
WESTON (6 records)
YARRALUMLA (2 records)

**Youth Legal Referral Service
(Question No 488)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Attorney General, upon notice, on 13 March 2003:

In relation to the Youth Legal Service:

- (1) How many requests for assistance has the Youth Legal Referral Service received in its first month of operation?
- (2) In what percentage of requests has the service been able to (a) assist, (b) not assist, (c) cases are still in progress?
- (3) Can the Minister provide any details about what are the five most talked about issues of youth who use the service?
- (4) What were the running costs of the service in the first month?
- (5) How many staff are employed to work at the service?

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

- (1) In its first month of operation, the Youth Legal Referral Service received 17 requests for assistance.
- (2) The service was able to assist in 100% of those cases.
- (3) The five most talked about issue of youth who use the service are:
 - traffic issues including fines and insurance;
 - employment issues including contracts and harassment issues;
 - domestic relationship issues involving parents, siblings and own children;
 - housing and tenancy issues; and
 - socials security issues.
- (4) In its first month Legal Aid spent \$1800 on rent and other overheads and \$1200 on solicitor time. Clayton Utz solicitors' costs are being absorbed by the firm and the law students work is voluntary.
- (5) The service uses four ANU law students and a solicitor from Clayton Utz and Legal Aid every day.

**Sportsgrounds—upgrades
(Question No 489)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice:

In relation to sportsgrounds:

(1) Can the Minister provide a detailed list of :

- (a) sportsgrounds that have been upgraded under the \$1 million allocated to the sportsground/facilities management program;
- (b) what the allocation was for;
- (c) how much the allocation was.

(2) Has the Government received any requests to bring more low maintenance ovals back to full maintenance, if so, are any ovals being considered and can you list which ones.

Mr Wood answering as the Minister responsible for these matters. The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

(1) In the sportsground improvement program for 2002/03, funded for an amount of \$1 million through the Government's Capital Works Program, the following works are programmed and are now at varying stages of approval and construction. Approximate costs of each job within the project are also supplied.

(a)	(b)	(c)
Aranda district playing fields	refurbishment of existing pavilion plus addition of new canteen	\$76,000
Chapman Oval	new toilet/canteen/storage facility	\$155,000
Cook Oval	new canteen/storage facility	\$112,000
Garran Oval	installation of automatic irrigation system	\$115,000
Reid Oval	refurbishment of existing pavilion	\$53,000
Forestry Oval, Yarralumla	new toilet/canteen/storage facility	\$166,000
Calwell District Playing Fields	installation of new training lights	\$75,000
Kippax district playing fields, Holt		
-Oztag fields	installation of new training lights	\$55,000
-Australian Rules Fields	installation of new training lights	\$74,000
Reid Oval	installation of new training lights	\$70,000
Note: Lighting costs are pre-tender estimates as works are not yet completed.		
Remaining costs associated with design, documentation and supervision		\$49,000

(2) No further restoration of low maintenance ovals is envisaged at present. No requests for such an initiative have been received by the Government.

**War protest by school students
(Question No 491)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 13 March 2003

- (1) What was the cost to ACT Policing of overseeing the student war protest on Wednesday 5 March;
- (2) How many ACT Australian Federal Police (AFP) Officers were involved in the security arrangements for the protest;
- (3) Were any officers injured during the protest;
- (4) Was any force needed by police during the protest;
- (5) How much of an impact will this protest have on the ACT AFP budget.

Mr Wood: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) \$1,011.98.
 - (2) 12.
 - (3) No.
 - (4) No.
 - (5) The protest will have no significant impact on the ACT AFP budget.
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**Multicultural centre
(Question No 492)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Community Affairs, upon notice, on 13 March 2003:

In relation to the development of a Multicultural Centre:

- 1) Where is the Government up to with plans to establish a Multicultural Centre in Canberra;
- 2) Are any detailed plans available in relation to the Government's plans for a Multicultural Centre in Canberra;
- 3) Are there any ideas circulating as to where the Government would build or house a Multicultural Centre.

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Mr Stanhope : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) An investigation has been undertaken of the need and financing options for a Multicultural Centre.
 - 2) The Government has not yet had an opportunity to consider the matter in detail.
 - 3) See response (2) above.
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