



DEBATES
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
FIFTH ASSEMBLY
WEEKLY HANSARD

20 NOVEMBER

2003

Thursday, 20 November 2003

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Thursday, 20 November 2003

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.

Petition
Anti-discrimination legislation

The following petition was presented:

By Mr Hargreaves, from 67 residents.

TO THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The petition of certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory draws to the attention of the Assembly that all people are entitled to respect, dignity and the right to participate in society and to receive the protection of the law regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Your petitioners therefore request the Assembly to support the passage of the *Sexuality Discrimination Legislation Amendment Bill 2003* and the *Parentage Bill 2003* to achieve these goals.

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

Electoral Amendment Bill 2003 (No 2)

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

Title read by clerk.

MR STANHOPE (Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Environment and Minister for Community Affairs) (10.32): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Mr Speaker, report No 7 of the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs on changing the term of Assembly members from three years to four years made three recommendations to the Assembly: firstly, the committee recommended that the length of the term of members of the Assembly be extended from three years to four years; secondly, that the Assembly make the decision on extending the length of the term of members of the Assembly by amending the Electoral Act 1992; and thirdly, that specific amendments be made to effect recommendations one and two to ensure an effective disclosure regime for candidates.

Mr Speaker, the government accepts the recommendations of the committee in full. The Electoral Amendment Bill 2003 (No 2) will implement those recommendations. The bill

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will extend the term of the Assembly from three years to four years. This will provide for adequate community participation in the ACT political process, while ensuring that the community benefits from effective government.

A fixed four-year term will provide significant benefits to the community. A fixed term will mean that fewer ACT elections coincide with federal elections, ensuring that local issues receive adequate attention. A fixed four-year term will also generate certainty for business. Disruption to government decision making caused by frequent elections frustrates business investment in the ACT, particularly for those in the community dealing with the planning processes.

A fixed term, Mr Deputy Speaker, will also allow Assembly committees to more effectively study longer term policy issues and trends and monitor the implementation of the recommendations. It will also lead to a saving of \$1.5 million over a 12-year period.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there are significant benefits, as I say, for the ACT community from the adoption of four-year terms. There has been considerable effort to garner community views on the issue. The report of the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs is the fourth report in five years to consider extending the term of the Assembly. The inquiry was advertised in local papers, and letters inviting submissions were sent to over 40 organisations. There was considerable media coverage at the beginning of the inquiry and people were invited to participate. The majority of submissions received by the standing committee concluded that the term of the Assembly should be extended from three years to four years.

The amendments to the Electoral Act will take effect only after the next election in October 2004, dispelling any concerns about a conflict of interest on the part of current members. Members voting on the bill will have to stand side-by-side with other candidates for election in the next Assembly.

The move to a fixed four-year term is consistent with the trend in other jurisdictions. New South Wales has had a fixed four-year term since 1995, South Australia since 2001. This year Victoria has moved to a fixed four-year term. The Western Australian government has introduced a bill proposing a fixed four-year term, and a fixed four-year term has been recommended in the Northern Territory. The electorates in those jurisdictions, Mr Deputy Speaker, are satisfied that fixed four-year terms do not disproportionately impact on voters' sovereignty.

This bill will ensure that the ACT has an effective government that is responsive to the needs of the ACT community, and I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Parentage Bill 2003

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

Title read by clerk.

MR STANHOPE (Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Environment and Minister for Community Affairs) (10.36): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Parentage Bill 2003, along with the Sexuality Discrimination Legislation Amendment Bill 2003, has been developed as part of the government's commitment to reforming areas of ACT legislation that still discriminate on the grounds of sexual preference or gender identity. I announced the substance of these amendments at the same time as the government report to the ACT Legislative Assembly on discrimination and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in the ACT was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 8 May 2003.

The Parentage Bill will put all provisions relating to parentage presumption into a single piece of legislation. The bill incorporates the substance of the Birth (Equality of Status) Act 1988, the Artificial Conception Act 1985 and the Substitute Parent Agreements Act 1985 into one act.

The Parentage Bill 2003 contains amendments to the law in relation to the legal recognition of parenting relationships for the children of same-sex couples. The Parentage Bill will extend current parentage presumptions that arise when a woman conceives a child using assisted reproductive technology, so that the presumptions apply regardless of the gender of the woman's partner. Currently, when a woman who is married or is in a domestic partnership with a man uses assisted reproductive technology to have a baby, her husband or partner can be the legal father of her child. When the woman is not in a relationship with a man or is in a domestic partnership with another woman, the result is that her child has only one legally recognised parent.

The Parentage Bill will rectify that situation by allowing the mother's partner to become the child's second parent. This not only removes discrimination against the same-sex couples, it redresses the legal position of their children. Until now, children who were born into same-sex families were disadvantaged by having only one parent recognised by the law.

These changes will also mean that those children will get legally recognised connections to extended families that children of opposite-sex couples have, such as grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. While many of them already have those connections in a social sense, this bill allows them to be recognised by the law. That recognition can have important implications in relation to inheritance and other property issues.

The second thing that the bill does is amend the parentage orders provisions that are currently in part 3 of the Artificial Conception Act 1985, so that in the very limited circumstances where a parentage order can be sought, following a substitute-parent agreement, the applicants for the order do not have to be a man and a woman.

The third thing that the Parentage Bill does is amend the Adoption Act 1993 to remove the current discriminatory provisions that only allow the court to make an adoption order in favour of heterosexual couples. This will allow the court to consider a wider range of

people as potential adoptive parents. When it comes to adoption, the act clearly states that the paramount consideration in every case is the welfare and interests of the child concerned. This will not change.

The Adoption Act also contains a number of other safeguards that will not be altered, for example:

- the adoptive parents of the child must be resident in the ACT;
- nobody may apply to be placed on the register of persons seeking to adopt a child unless they are persons of good repute and are fit and proper persons to fulfil the responsibilities of parents of a child (including protecting a child's physical and emotional well-being); and
- they must also be suitable persons to adopt the particular child having regard to their ages, education and attitudes to adoption and physical, mental and emotional health particularly insofar as it impacts on capacity to nurture the child; and the welfare and interests of the child will be promoted by the making of the order.

Section 19 of the act sets out the criteria that the Supreme Court must use in making an adoption order, including:

- whether any required consents have been given;
- the wishes of the child where the child is of an age and sufficient understanding to express a wish; and
- whether the welfare and interests of the child will be promoted by the making of the order.

The amendments to the Adoption Act in the Parentage Bill do not alter any of these provisions. The government's view is simply that there is no sustainable reason to automatically exclude a particular group of people, the non-heterosexual group, from being considered against these criteria as potential adoptive parents.

The changes to adoption law, similar to the changes to parentage presumptions, will promote the interests of children who are being brought up by same-sex partners but who, under current law, are prevented from having a legal relationship to the significant adults in their lives. Like most other children, they will be able to have two parents responsible for their care. These changes will mean that, in the unfortunate event for instance of the death of one parent, the children will have another legal parent with legal responsibility for their care.

The bill defines what is meant by the term "parent". A parent of a child is the child's mother, the child's father or another person who is a parent because of the operation of the presumption about parentage. This creates a parent and child relationship between a child and a person who is neither the child's father nor the child's mother. It is designed to accommodate families where the mother of the child is in a domestic partnership with a person who is not a man, in other words, a woman. I regret the expression. However, children can only have two parents at any one time, so the parentage presumptions are not able to operate to give a child three or four parents at once.

These issues generated a great deal of comment during the consultation process. The fact that the law is discriminatory was not in dispute. Where submissions were diametrically opposed in view was on the question of whether this discrimination should continue. The government's view, my view, is that continued discrimination is not sustainable.

Regardless of views on the desirability of same-sex parenting, the reality is that there are many different and diverse family models. The government's view is that we should deal with this reality. Part of that reality is that children of couples who do not fit into the traditional model may not have two legally recognised parents. My view is that this is contrary to the best interests of these children. This bill is designed to address this issue, and I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Sexuality Discrimination Legislation Amendment Bill 2003

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

Title read by clerk.

MR STANHOPE (Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Environment and Minister for Community Affairs) (10.44): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the government has previously stated its commitment to reforming areas of ACT legislation that still discriminate on the grounds of sexual preference or gender identity. These reforms are based on our strong belief that everyone is entitled to respect and dignity and the right to participate in society and receive the full protection of the law regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identification.

On 12 December 2002 I introduced the Legislation (Gay, Lesbian and Transgender) Amendment Bill 2002 as the first stage of this law reform process. That bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 13 March 2003. I announced this second round of amendments at the same time as the government report to the ACT Legislative Assembly on discrimination of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in the ACT was tabled in the Assembly on 8 May.

The main purpose of this bill is to remove discrimination relating to sexuality and relationship status. In this respect the bill is concerned with the right to equality before the law. The bill amends a number of provisions that are currently expressed to apply only in respect of a spouse, which may or may not be defined to include a de facto spouse, so that they apply to the broader category of domestic partner.

For example, the Workers Compensation Act 1951 currently defines "spouse", in relation to an injured or deceased worker, as including a person of the opposite sex to the worker who lives in, or in relation to a deceased worker, lived immediately before the worker's death with the worker as the worker's spouse on a genuine domestic basis,

although not legally married to the worker. This definition is used to determine who are dependants for the purposes of the act, which is critical to the application of section 77, death benefits. On the death of a worker, the dependants of the worker are entitled to compensation under the act.

It is the government's view that it is discriminatory and completely unjustifiable to exclude from this entitlement the same-sex partner of a worker who has died. The bill amends the act to recognise a same-sex partner of a worker on the same basis as a spouse or de facto spouse.

The bill also amends a number of acts that do currently recognise same sex-partners but which use varying mechanisms to do so. Included in this category, for example, are the Administration and Probate Act 1929 and the Duties Act 1999.

Some of the more significant amendments made by the bill are the amendments to the Discrimination Act 1991 to provide additional protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexuality. The amendments in the bill will make it unlawful to vilify a person on the grounds of sexuality, transsexuality or HIV/AIDS status. The bill also creates an offence of serious vilification on the same grounds.

In addition, the bill contains an amendment to the Crimes Act 1900 to address the issue of the availability of the defence of provocation in the case of a non-violent, homosexual advance. The approach taken in the bill to do this is non-discriminatory, in that it is not limited to only a non-violent homosexual advance but to any non-violent sexual advance. The amendment provides that a non-violent sexual advance towards the accused by the deceased is not to be taken by itself to be conduct which could have induced an ordinary person in the position of the accused to have so far lost self-control as to have formed an intent to kill the deceased or to be recklessly indifferent to the probability of causing the deceased's death.

However, such conduct may be taken into account with other conduct of the deceased in deciding whether the act or omission causing death occurred under provocation. This is intended to preserve the availability of provocation where the non-violent sexual advance is an act that follows from a previous history of other provoking conduct. It is not intended to exclude the availability of the defence in cases where, for example, the accused may claim a previous history of violence from the deceased, but the final-straw incident that provoked the accused to kill the deceased consisted only of a non-violent sexual advance.

The bill also repeals sections 18 and 30 of the Public Baths and Public Bathing Act 1956. These sections provide that a person over the age of six may not enter any part of a public bath or public bathing convenience that has been set aside for persons of the opposite sex. While the reason for examining these offence provisions related to how the provisions apply to transgender people, the reason for repealing the offences is simply that they are ineffective and no longer appropriate and the offences intended to be covered are appropriately covered by the Crimes Act.

I have had a number of people write to me—and I am sure many other members of this Assembly will have received similar letters—expressing concern that the government's

legislative reforms are being proposed to accommodate a small minority of the Canberra community. The government is committed to fair, equitable treatment for all people, and that includes people in all sorts of minority groups. I do not accept the argument that we should not seek to attain equitable treatment under the law for people with particular attributes simply because there may not be all that many of them in our community.

This legislation is for all Canberrans. It gives effect to the simple but fundamental principles of equality before the law, and I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 (No 3)

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

Title read by clerk.

MR QUINLAN (Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, and Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming) (10.50): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 (No 3) is an omnibus bill. It amends the Rates and Land Tax Act 1926 to clarify the method of imposing land tax on units. It also amends the Taxation Administration Act 1999 to protect the secrecy of taxpayer information collected under the Taxation (Administration) Act 1987.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Rates and Land Tax Act was originally Commonwealth legislation. In 1987 the Commonwealth introduced land tax in the ACT by amending its Rates Ordinance 1926, which became the Rates and Land Tax Ordinance 1926 within the ACT jurisdiction. With the introduction of self-government on 11 May, this ordinance did become the ACT's Rates and Land Tax Act 1926.

Limited material available from 1987 clearly indicates that the policy intent was to impose land tax on unit plans in accordance with the existing practice of imposing rates on unit plans. That is the practice now used. This practice apportioned the unimproved value of the unit plan in accordance with the unit entitlement of the particular unit before working out the amount of rates to be paid.

Mr Deputy Speaker, from 1 January 1987, this method of calculation was used satisfactorily as long as all the units in the unit plan were liable to land tax. This was the case prior to 1 August 1991, at which time residential land became liable to land tax if it was not the owner's principal place of residence. A further complication was introduced in July 1993 when the charge was changed from a flat percentage to progressive rates of land tax.

Legal advice has indicated that provisions imposing land tax on units may be interpreted differently to the current practice. If land tax was imposed strictly in accordance with the wording of the current provisions, the taxpayer may well be disadvantaged.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, to remove any doubt about interpretation, this bill clarifies the provision to ensure land tax on units is worked out in accordance with the initial policy intention. This bill, therefore, contains amendments to provide a clear, equitable and administratively efficient solution to ensure that current practice and the legislation are in agreement.

These amendments commence from 1 August 1991, the earliest date that the changes to land tax liability may have introduced a lack of clarity in interpretation. This ensures that all past land tax charges on units are unchanged.

Members of the Assembly may be concerned that this is retrospective tax law. However, the proposed measure clarifies how land tax was imposed on units since the introduction in 1987 and does not impose any additional tax burden on taxpayers. If the proposed changes are not supported the tax amount under a different interpretation would be far greater than that imposed by the current practice.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the bill also amends the Taxation Administration Act to ensure that taxpayer information obtained under the 1987 Taxation (Administration) Act is protected. The Government Solicitor's Office has advised that the secrecy provisions contained in the 1987 Taxation (Administration) Act may not have been protected since this act was repealed in March 1999.

The purpose of this amendment, Mr Deputy Speaker, is to protect taxpayer information by precluding disclosure, including freedom of information disclosure, where requests are made after the commencement of this amendment.

Information is only protected if an act is in force. If an act containing secrecy provisions has been repealed, then an FOI application may allow the disclosure of the information obtained under the act. In addition, Mr Deputy Speaker, where there is no transitional provision to continue to protect the secrecy of information, it may have to be disclosed.

This bill provides the necessary transitional provisions to ensure that, although the 1987 Taxation (Administration) Act has been repealed, taxpayer information received under that act will be given the protection of the secrecy provision under the Taxation (Administration) Act.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I commend the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 (No 3) to the Assembly.

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

Building Bill 2003

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

Title read by clerk.

MR CORBELL (Minister for Health and Minister for Planning) (10.55): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to present the Building Bill and legislation associated with it—the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Bill, the Construction Occupations Legislation Amendment Bill and the Magistrates Court (Construction Occupations Infringement Notices) Regulations. This package of legislative reforms represents a significant proposal to improve the regulation of trades in the construction industry.

I tabled exposure drafts of the principal item in this list, the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Bill, and regulations for that bill in June 2003. This was the culmination of a long process of reform that has been under way since 1998, the year when a paper discussed options for moving to a single licensing regime to cover architects, builders, electricians, plumbers, drainers and gasfitters.

Following that discussion paper, a National Competition Policy review of occupational licensing was undertaken in the year 2000. The review did not include consideration of the regulation of architects, as that profession was dealt with under a subsequent Productivity Commission report.

The previous government endorsed most of the recommendations of that review but did not proceed to implement the recommendations. This government has taken the opportunity to consider the relevance of the recommendations, given the time that has passed since the initial review. Industry and community consultation was an important element in developing this reform package.

The government has now endorsed this legislative package as it is clear that the implementation of these will produce substantial improvements in the administration and effectiveness of the licensing regime. This will clearly benefit both licensees and consumers.

The occupational licensing reform set out in the legislation will affect builders, electricians, plumbers, drainers and gasfitters, building surveyors—in other words, building certifiers—and plumbing plan certifiers. The architectural profession has not been included in the present legislation, as consultation with the profession has confirmed that there are particular issues that require consideration through a separate reform process.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would now like to briefly outline the key reforms in the individual pieces of legislation. The Construction Occupations (Licensing) Bill creates a framework for licensing matters common to all occupations. In a jurisdiction the size of the ACT, with a unique structure of governance, we have the opportunity to be innovative when pursuing regulatory reform. Unlike some other jurisdictions, the regulation of the construction occupations is undertaken within the one organisation. This enables us to introduce a single licensing system for the occupations, which has enormous benefits, including administrative streamlining resulting in better customer service to our licensees.

The new legislation will maintain the present levels of qualification as a condition of entry to the licensed occupations and will provide more effective forms of enforcement against licensees who do not work in accordance with approved standards. The government supports, Mr Deputy Speaker, the principle of making occupational licensing consistent across the states and territories, and the qualifications relate, as far as possible, to standard training programs.

The bill also establishes advisory panels to replace the statutory boards that have administrative responsibilities under current legislation. While the current arrangements provide for an Electrical Licensing Board and a Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board, the other trades covered by this bill do not at present have boards. The proposed arrangement provides a consistent approach to the provision of advice and mandatory qualifications for licensed applicants. There can be advisory boards established for each construction occupation or for a combination of occupations. Mr Deputy Speaker, in addition to advice on qualifications for a construction occupation, the advisory boards will also assist in disciplinary proceedings and inquiries and prepare codes of practice for the occupations for which they are responsible.

The bill creates a statutory position of Construction Occupations Registrar, responsible for administering the licensing act and operational legislation. This includes assessing applications for new and renewed licences against prescribed criteria and administering the disciplinary process with assistance, as necessary, from the relevant advisory board. The registrar is also able to appoint deputy registrars for each occupation.

Perhaps the most significant reform contained within this legislative package is the creation of more flexible and effective forms of disciplinary action against delinquent licence holders. This includes a new demerit points system for licensees and the capacity to issue infringement notices under the Magistrates Court Act 1930 against unlicensed persons who do work requiring a licence. The demerit points system will ensure that licensed persons are held accountable for the work that they undertake, by providing an effective sanction against persistent breaches, particularly where that work is not in accordance with approved standards.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the infringement notice system will enable on-the-spot fines to be administered where unlicensed persons are found to be doing work requiring a licence or where licensed persons undertake work not allowed under their licence. The introduction of the demerit points system and of infringement notices addresses significant shortcomings in the present regulatory system.

The occupational licensing legislation includes a new disclosure of insurance provision that requires all licensed construction practitioners to disclose what insurance they hold prior to undertaking any work for a customer. There is no change in requirements for construction practitioners who are building certifiers to hold professional indemnity insurance or for those who are builders to take out insurance each time they do residential building work. The only insurance that is no longer mandatory is the public liability insurance currently required by one occupational group, electrical contractors.

This change implements the recommendation of the National Competition Policy review that this insurance should not be compulsory. However, the new disclosure-of-insurance

provisions allow a customer seeking the services of any construction practitioner to make an informed choice that includes knowledge of whether the practitioner holds insurance.

Mr Deputy Speaker, licensees will now be required to include their name and licence number in any advertisement for the provision of a construction service. In addition, a formal complaints procedure has been included which provides a transparent and equitable approach to dealing with complaints about licensees.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the tabling in June of exposure drafts for the new licensing legislation was followed by an extensive consultation program. In response, we have received written submissions from interested persons, including the principal industry organisations. It was evident that a good deal of effort and analysis went into the submissions. For the most part, the submissions suggested detailed improvements or alternative approaches where aspects of the legislation were not supported.

A number of the changes proposed in the submissions have been accepted and led to changes in the exposure draft that make it better legislation. Many of the submissions also touched on the implementation and ongoing administration of the licensing reforms. One focus was ensuring that the administration of the reform disciplinary process, in particular the demerit points scheme, was fair. The government acknowledged that these are entirely legitimate concerns and will be addressed during the implementation of the reforms.

Mr Deputy Speaker, some key changes to the bill, resulting from the consultation process, include:

- specific requirements for the handling of records of past disciplinary actions;
- addressing widespread industry concerns about potential overlaps between the construction occupations disciplinary process and processes under occupational health and safety legislation.
- in response to industry concern that the number of demerit points possible before disciplinary action was too low, the bill now provides for 15 demerit points over three years instead of the 10 in the exposure draft,
- specifying the qualifications and/or experience required of the Registrar of Construction Occupations; and
- the requirement that the registrar must consult with advisory boards on changes to qualifications for licensed occupations.

Despite these changes, Mr Deputy Speaker, I recognise the keen interest that the industry will have in the operation of a regulatory scheme that, I think it is fair to say, is appreciably tougher than the present arrangements. For this reason, the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Bill 2003 includes a requirement to review the operation of the scheme two years after its commencement.

On balance, Mr Deputy Speaker, the government's assessment was that those industry concerns that were not addressed do not argue against the legislation going ahead. We consider that it is important to move forward now in partnership with industry.

I would now like to turn to the other components of the legislative package. The Magistrates Court (Construction Occupations Infringement Notices) Regulations deal

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with elements of the system of infringement notices for unlicensed people who carry out construction work. I will ask the Attorney-General to make these regulations following passage of the other legislation in this package of reforms.

Legislative reforms include the repeal of the current licensing provisions in the Building Act 1972 and the Electricity Safety Act 1971. The other provisions of these acts are preserved, including those setting standards and approval processes for the work. The Building Act, however, Mr Deputy Speaker is very old legislation that has been repeatedly amended, and the opportunity has been taken to rewrite it in a modern language and address certain issues in its operation.

The Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board Act 1982 deals only with occupational licensing and will be repealed entirely. Standards for the work are already separate from the licensing requirements and appear in the Water and Sewerage Act 2000 and the Gas Safety Act 2000. The Construction Practitioners Registration Act 1998 is also repealed and necessary provisions are transferred to the new Building Act.

Many details of the legislative scheme are intended to be incorporated into regulations. The exposure draft included Construction Occupation (Licensing) Regulations. In the legislation that I am now presenting these regulations can be found as a schedule in the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Bill. This ensures that the regulations commence on the same day that the acts commence and is an administratively efficient way to deal with the initial regulations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the rewriting of the Building Act necessitated the complete rewriting of the Building Regulations. This is also provided for by way of a schedule to the Building Bill.

Given the scale of amendment necessary to the Electricity Safety Regulations, it was considered desirable that these also be completely rewritten. This is provided for in a schedule to the Construction Occupations Legislation Amendment Bill.

Some of the comments on the exposure drafts propose changes not in the licensing system but in the legislation that deals with standards and approval processes for the licensed occupations. While it is important to keep construction occupations licensing reform separate from a back-to-basics review of planning, development and construction, the government has moved to address some of these concerns and has also made other small changes of its own in these areas to improve a more efficient regulatory system.

The most important of these government-initiated changes relate to liquid petroleum gas, plumbing plant certification, the commencement of building work and the issue of stop-work notices by building certifiers. Mr Deputy Speaker, the construction occupations licensing legislation covers both natural gas and liquid petroleum gas.

When it comes to standards and approval processes, the Gas Safety Act deals with natural gas while dangerous goods legislation covers the storage of liquid petroleum gas in cylinders. A regulatory gap remains for liquid petroleum gas installations as a source of energy in buildings. The consequential amendments bill for the construction occupations licensing legislation contains proposals to fill this gap and address an issue that is not on a large scale but does have the potential to affect public safety.

Mr Speaker, plumbing plan certification for commercial development is currently provided for under the Construction Practitioners Registration Act. It is unlawful to construct these works without a certifier's plan approval. Only three persons are registered as plumbing plan certifiers and it is proposed to modify the conflict of interest provisions in the new legislation to allow a wider range of persons to certify plans. The government audits certified plans and is able to identify any failure to comply with the Australian Standards that apply to plumbing work. This maintains the protection of the public interest.

Mr Speaker, for residential building work, it is possible to separately obtain plan approval, have the owner nominate a builder to undertake the work and have the builder provide proof of residential building work insurance before work begins. The new Building Act specifies that all the approval steps must be completed and a commencement of building work notice issued. The builder to be in charge of the work will have to personally indicate that he or she has accepted their appointment to the building job and apply for the commencement notice.

Building certifiers under the current system, Mr Speaker, cannot issue formal building notices that require a builder to stop unlawful work being done or make good a failure to comply with building requirements. Instead the government must issue notices at the request of the building certifier. The new Building Act gives building certifiers the power to enforce compliance on properties for which they are responsible. This empowers certifiers to make an immediate response when problems emerge and is more efficient than the current system.

The opportunity was taken in the rewriting of the Building Act, Mr Speaker, and the amendment of other legislation to address some of the processes that have caused concern over the years or where there is uncertainty about interpretation. Some are minor and some are more substantive. One example is an amendment of the Water and Sewerage Regulations to allow for drainage work awaiting government inspection to be protected from storm damage. Another set of changes addresses uncertainties in the legislation being amended as part of this exercise in the use of stormwater or grey water for toilet flushing and irrigation purposes.

The legislation puts beyond doubt the legitimacy of grey water diversion valves under laundry tubs, the use of grey water hoses and the use of rainwater tanks as an alternative to potable water for toilet flushing. While these matters have only indirect linkages with construction occupation licensing, it was considered that, given the targets that the government's water policy has suggested for the re-use of water and water efficiency generally, it was desirable to address them at this stage.

Mr Speaker, it has been acknowledged by government, industry and community that the present regulatory regime would benefit from significant reform. This was clear from the work done in 1998 and 2000. The need for reform was confirmed in discussions with industry this year and in the written submissions received in connection with the exposure drafts. It has also been confirmed in correspondence from members of the community received over the years.

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Industry has offered to provide publicity and other assistance as appropriate for the implementation of the new scheme. I welcome these offers and look forward to working cooperatively with industry to implement a new system that offers better outcomes for industry and the community.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker: we need a regulatory system that ensures the buildings we live, work and play in are constructed to the highest standards by individuals or companies that have the level of skills necessary to undertake the work. Mr Speaker, I believe that the legislation I am presenting today will meet these needs for the ACT.

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

Construction Occupations (Licensing) Bill 2003

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

Title read by clerk.

MR CORBELL (Minister for Health and Minister for Planning) (11.13): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

As I have already outlined the detail of this legislation in my previous introduction speech, I will make no further comment on it at this stage.

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

Construction Occupations Legislation Amendment Bill 2003

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

Title read by clerk.

MR CORBELL (Minister for Health and Minister for Planning) (11.15): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I again draw members' attention to comments in the introduction speech I made in relation to the substantive bill I tabled in this package.

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

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Report No 4

Mr Speaker presented the following report:

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee—Report No 4—*Inquiry into the role of InTACT as the ACT Legislative Assembly IT service provider*, together with the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

MS DUNDAS (11.16): I seek leave to move a motion authorising the report for publication.

Leave granted.

MS DUNDAS: Mr Speaker, I move:

That the report be authorised for publication.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

MS DUNDAS: I move:

That the report be noted.

Just briefly, I would like to speak to this report as a member of the Admin and Procedure Committee. This inquiry came out of the privileges inquiry in relation to certain incidents in the Assembly. There were a number of inquiries that came out of that privileges report, and this is one of them. This was specifically to look at how InTACT's service provision to the Assembly is run and whether or not we as an Assembly should be happy with that service. It was a detailed examination not only of the current network provision to the Assembly—and we looked at how it compares to other jurisdictions and their own computer network systems—but also how the Assembly compares to the rest of the ACT government in their relationship with InTACT.

The recommendations are, I think, quite clear and call for a greater autonomy here in the Assembly over the governance of our IT service delivery whilst keeping InTACT as that main service provider. Recommendation 1 spells out what it is the committee thinks will be the best course of action to allow the Assembly greater control and to introduce greater security provisions in the provision of IT here in the Assembly.

There were some other questions that were raised through this inquiry that broadened what it was we were originally looking at, and that includes how InTACT manages phones and answering services, the provision of other IT services to the Assembly and how issues in relation to special modifications that the Assembly might need are dealt with by InTACT.

There is a big pro and con debate about being part of a broader network such as InTACT and being part of the ACT government system. But it means that there are problems when we want to customise what it is we get, specifically for the work here in the Assembly versus the rest of what ACT government is doing.

Within that, we also recommend that there should be greater representation of the Assembly in the ACT government decision-making bodies over InTACT and that there

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even be memorandums of understanding brought forth between the Assembly and the responsible government minister about how IT provision to the Assembly works.

I hope that the Assembly takes the time to carefully consider this report and that we can greater streamline how IT provision is provided here in the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Executive business—precedence

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

That executive business be called on forthwith.

Electoral Amendment Bill 2003

Debate resumed from 8 May 2003, on motion by **Mr Wood**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

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

Indigenous education

Debate resumed from 21 August 2003, on motion by **Ms Gallagher**:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

MR SMYTH (Leader of the Opposition) (11.21): These six-monthly reports on indigenous education are important in terms of where the indigenous people of Australia are, particularly those who reside in Canberra. It is important that they are taken seriously and that those of us who are not in the government read them and analyse them to keep up constant pressure to ensure that the standards that affect the indigenous part of our population are built up over a period of time. My colleague Mr Pratt has done that analysis on behalf of the opposition and will now take over and inform us of what he thinks needs to be done.

Mrs Dunne: I'm impressed.

MR PRATT: I am doubly impressed.

Mrs Dunne: And grateful.

MR PRATT (11.22): There are a number of issues I want to raise in response to this report. When in government, my party took initiatives to focus more on enhancing indigenous education in the ACT. We have been pleased to see the present government continue with those programs over the last couple of years and add value to them, which they have done.

The *Services to Indigenous People* action plan for 2002-04, launched on 4 July last year, follows in the spirit of earlier programs. In conceptual terms, at least, we are pleased to see that in place. How well that is working is not easy to tell—granted, it is early days. The next report, to the end of August 2003, will be the marker that will tell this place about the performance of that program in terms of program relevance and program efficiencies, as well as student outcomes.

The report outlines some interesting and pleasing examples of where achievements have been made. The most impressive statistic is that 75 Aboriginal student support and parent awareness groups, ASSPAs, which are funded by the Commonwealth, have been established in ACT schools. This simple statistic tells the community that awareness of the need for schools to engage formally with their own and/or national indigenous students and groups is very high. I congratulate the government and the department for generating this interest. I have seen a couple of these at work at school fetes, for example, and the mutual respect between the ASSPA and the general school body is there to be seen. That is very pleasing.

Because I think the ASSPAs are vital to this country's reconciliation program, I would have liked to see this report go into a lot more detail about how well the ASSPA program has established itself, how it has settled down and whether it has been generally well accepted by the broader student bodies. Yes, the report goes into some detail describing the role of ASSPAs, and it points out the impressive example of Melba High School ASSPA, which I congratulate for its initiatives and creative forays into their school programs. This is only one example.

While we might not expect to see a statistical breakdown of outcomes across the board, I believe the community and this place have a right to know how this initiative is proceeding. Even a broad and bold statement by a departmental officer accepting responsibility for their area and putting their hand on their heart to report on the progress of the ASSPA program might be sufficient.

Referring to this mild criticism of the lack of reporting on schools and committees on page 7, I must say this reflects a general criticism I have about the whole report. I recently made the same criticism of the education annual report to the director at the recent annual report hearings: it is a report that is chock-a-block full of stats, graphs and, I must say, some grandiose statements, but it skates thinly over many issues and challenges facing the ACT education community. I am referring to the annual report. While this report is not in the same league as that one, I worry that it might go that way, and I would ask the minister to guard against that.

The report on page 8 describes indigenous cultural awareness training for executives and managers and reports clearly on some results. But, while it quantifies total trainees as 67, it does not describe what proportion of schools' executives and managers, who need this training, have completed the training or when the remainder of that cohort group are going to be trained. The report rightly gives prominence to this activity, which is essential to the reconciliation process, but it fails to tell us how successfully it is being taken up, and/or it fails to tell us what action to rectify needs to be taken by the department and government, if any.

Again, at page 9, the report happily tells us that indigenous teachers have been recruited and four new teachers placed into ACT schools in 2002. That is pretty pleasing. But we also have a right to know, in this report, what the ACT requirement for indigenous teachers is and what the shortfall now is. The reports should successfully be keeping a running tally on this very important factor and should detail this issue, regardless of where else it is recorded in other reports and departmental documents.

The budget initiative on page 10 deals with another reconciliation in schools issue, which is also very important: indigenous support staff positions. In this area the report repeats the pattern of concern I outlined in the previous paragraph. There is a nice statement there about various stakeholders entering into negotiations and more rounds of discussion and, of course, the inevitable round of union negotiations. But when are we going to cut to the chase? How effective is this program? What is the need for support staff across the ACT? How many short are we across the affected schools, and what does the department propose to do about it?

I believe these reports need to reflect on and analyse where we are at and what steps are being taken to address those weaknesses. It seems that the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students is consistent with the last report, which is a shame, but the department is doing the best it can to address this weakness, performing no less than any other jurisdiction. In fact, the performance of our education department versus those of other jurisdictions in this area is quite pleasing.

The strength of this report is in this area of reporting—the gap in education performance standards between indigenous and non-indigenous students—because it outlines what action is being taken and offers reporting in some detail. That is where the report is pretty useful. And on this subject I will mention the alarming issue, identified later, on page 14, of the accelerated failure rates of indigenous students reaching year 9. The report does not detail the nature of the assistance provided through the high school development program and the indigenous education support program to address this issue. Nor does it qualify its success or failure, whatever the case may be.

I am very interested in this particular area, and I am sure my colleagues in this place, plus the community, are too. This is one of the areas of greatest need with respect to youth at risk in the ACT community. It goes to the heart of how we manage the youth-at-risk issues in the ACT. I would like to see this report focus on the support area for indigenous students from years 6 to 9. These are the vulnerable years. Performance at school, and the retention of these young people at school, is vital for the ACT community. This is one report, amongst the plethora of government reports, that has a major role to play in addressing youth at risk, and it does not do so sufficiently. I implore the minister to take action in this area and ask the department to give us a lot more information about how we are tackling the issues of indigenous youth at risk, particularly from years 6 to 9.

I have raised the fact before that this series of reports has not quantified the take-up rate of indigenous parents in respect of the department's compact for parent involvement in education. We know how important it is for a successful indigenous education program to have the parents fully involved. Mr Pearson and other notable indigenous affairs

speakers have written about this program a number of times in terms of nationwide strategies and its fundamental importance as a strategy. Again, this report does not analyse this—another important benchmark in indigenous education.

The report lays out the conceptual framework of the action plan, and it looks pretty impressive on paper. The principles espoused therein seem to tick all the right boxes. (*Extension of time granted.*) Again, I ask the minister to guard himself against attractive reports, such as this, from departments, which might seem to many in the community to be not much more than statistically endowed salesmanship brochures. While too many reports coming out of government in the last two years have fitted this bill, I trust this one will not, too, go that way. It is a good report but, as I was saying earlier, we want to see more introspection in these reports and we do not want these reports to be simply salesmanship documents. They need to tell us more than that.

The reason I raise this is that I see a range of impressive and mainly useful statistics but, as detailed above in the numerous examples I have given, I see little in the way of bold statements illustrating outcomes, strategies to deal with problems, identification of where the department is failing to achieve certain objectives or solutions proposed for rectifying the weaknesses in the policy encountered.

That worries me; it is a bad sign. Introspection, open and constructive self-criticism and a means of offering positive solution options to the minister so that she can make decisions are healthy corporate values. Surely that is what these reports are supposed to do; otherwise, they simply leave themselves open to be criticised as propaganda sheets.

To be fair to the government, this problem with education reports pre-dates this government. The reports over the last five-odd years are all a bit the same: a bit bland. They do not really dig in or analyse how things are working or not working and then present solutions, or at least recommendations, for ministerial decision making.

Now is the time to tighten up, and I ask the minister to see whether she can get a bit more oomph out of this report as well. I look forward to seeing the next report. Otherwise, I think that this is a useful report. More importantly, I wish all the best to those schools with a significant indigenous program in place, and I call upon the government to do everything possible to support those schools with those programs.

MS DUNDAS (11.35): I will briefly discuss this paper. It is important that the Assembly took the decision they did in May 2000 to have these reports continually tabled in the Assembly so that the issue of how we help indigenous kids in our schools is always on the agenda and so that we have a regular debate on how things are progressing. There are a number of issues we would like to see regular reports on. What has been happening with the reporting mechanism in indigenous education is a good standard, and we should look at expanding it into a number of other areas.

There are a few issues that grab my eye in this sixth report, indicating how things are going and what more needs to be done. On page 11, which talks about absenteeism, the statistics for indigenous students are quite alarming, especially for how they increase from term 1 to term 4. To quote from the report, “In 2002 absenteeism for indigenous students is far greater in term 4 than in term 1.” I would like to add that it is far greater for indigenous students than non-indigenous students. It goes on:

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In term 4 in primary schools 5.8 % of non-indigenous students and 20.4 % of indigenous students were absent from school more than one day a week. In high schools the figures were 18 % and 51.9 % respectively.

Over 50 per cent of indigenous students having high levels of absenteeism is quite concerning; it shows that we cannot look at the children in isolation from their families. We must look at how what is going on in indigenous families impacts on the young people's lives and how they need to take time out from school to cope with other issues that are going on.

Universities have been working to cope with this, and these statistics show we could be doing more work on how to support young people in their return to schools. Once you have a couple of days absent, the issue just snowballs: you start missing out on classes and you start missing information. When you come back you feel you are not keeping up, so what is the point of going? It needs to be caught early on, and more assistance needs to be given to make sure it does not progress to dropping out altogether in years 9 and 10.

Another issue I would like to look at and congratulate the department on is the work that has been going on at Quamby. Young indigenous people make up a greater percentage of the population in our detention centres and at Quamby than they do of the population generally. So I think the work that has been going on with the Hindmarsh School needs to be congratulated. It is good to see that indigenous detainees are participating in vocational learning programs. When they have served their time, they can come back into the community with some qualifications and a greater understanding of how work happens, so that they can participate in the community to a greater degree and, hopefully, have some positive experiences so that they do not end up in a cycle of detention.

Another issue that needs to be looked at, which applies to the entire student cohort but has a greater impact on indigenous families, is the cost of our education system. We know that education in primary school and high school years is, in essence, free. But the cost of extracurricular activities, such as excursions and participating in some curriculum programs, puts an extra burden on families. If they cannot afford to pay for those activities, it leads to the students feeling left out, and that can lead to drop-out.

If we want to keep our kids in schools, we need to look at how we manage that extra demand on parents for money. That needs to be addressed in the upcoming budget, and I hope that it is addressed in the upcoming budget. When we look at how indigenous kids are going in school and how indigenous education is progressing, we also need to look at how education to remove discrimination is working across the community.

If young people are feeling discriminated against outside of school—when they go to the shops, when they try to get part-time jobs, when they try to participate in the broader community—it has an impact on what they do in school and how they participate in the community. So we need to have a broader and more realistic approach to indigenous education, looking at it throughout the community.

We need to know that discrimination is no longer a part of this community and is no longer having an adverse impact. A lot of work needs to be done in that sense. I thank

the minister for again bringing this report so that we can have the debate and can continue to monitor how things are going for indigenous children in our schools.

MS TUCKER (11.41): I will make some comments on this latest report on what is happening for indigenous kids in our schools system. There are some really good examples in this report of what can work. I was interested to see the case study of a young boy whose attendance and work performance at school—or his attendance, at least—was good once he became involved in creating a symbol of the traditional owners at the front of the school and was engaged at that level and respected at that level. He had 100 per cent attendance, and he had a great year at school. You can see examples of positive work occurring within our public schools, and I think that they need to be commended for that.

I am still concerned when I read about the indigenous education compact. When that first came out and I asked about it around Canberra's indigenous peoples, the majority of them did not know what it was and had not heard of it. Some of the chief service providers had also not heard about it. Winnunga had not heard about it. It is very concerning if you have a compact that suggests that it is an agreed compact between indigenous parents and families in the ACT when, in fact, it is not. It is a big ask for there to be any document that represents the view of all indigenous families.

I do not have the compact with me, but I recall the wording. It was something like, "We, the indigenous families of the ACT"—or of Canberra—"commit to understanding that we need to send our kids to school. We have confidence in the ACT department of education." I remember that bit because I remember thinking, "That's not true. How interesting that all the Aboriginal families in Canberra had said that." Then I did some more consultation: many of the Aboriginal families had no idea.

I think that is a problem because we want to connect with Aboriginal families, and you can alienate people by producing a document like that. While I understand that the idea of it was to make that connection, which I support, I do not think it was the right way to do it. It can be quite problematic to have that kind of broad statement, which can alienate people who were not engaged in it to begin with. It had an element of mutual obligation in it, which I also felt uncomfortable with to a degree.

It is more complex than saying, "We will make sure our kids attend school." You cannot get a commitment from people to do something like that unless you have the supports in place for them to be in a position to ensure that their kids go to school. That can be because they are feeling empowered, their kids like the experience and it is working for them, they have a house, they are not homeless and they are not in overcrowded conditions.

Once again, there is an expectation that I think is unrealistic and almost insulting to people in the community. I am not saying that we should not be aiming for a situation where we connect with indigenous peoples and other groups, such as Torres Strait Island people. Pacific Island people are also a minority here, and I know that the minister is interested in them and has been talking to representatives of that community about their situation in the schools as well. But I do not feel comfortable about the way that compact was written or the process which led up to its declaration by the government.

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I commend the overall approach of the government on this, although there are some issues of resourcing. And I commend the government for recognising what I think is one of the important things to say on this issue, which is said in this report: that so much of the government's approach at the moment is tied up in the *Within reach of Us All* strategy. It is claimed to be about inclusive education, but it is really very focused within the schools.

Personally, I do not think that is where the focus was originally intended to be when we started this serious conversation about what it means to have an inclusive system of education in Canberra. It may have come up a long time before this, but I became aware of it when I did the committee inquiry into services for kids at risk, then for the students in the disability inquiry, then for the students at risk of not completing school inquiry and then for the inquiry into the closing of the School Without Walls. That was the other opportunity the committee here had to look at how to deal with kids in our community who do not fit into the mainstream.

What came out of those conversations were the need to have alternatives, the need to recognise that for some kids it won't work in a mainstream school and the need to have other ways of dealing with it. That means you have alternatives. I think it is a tragedy for Canberra that we lost the School Without Walls. Fortunately, we still have the O'Connor Cooperative School, and we have the special program at Dickson College and another one at Canberra College, Eclipse.

There are two alternative programs, and they certainly have some value, but we need to be prepared to provide extra and alternative ways to support students who may not fit in with the mainstream. There was a good example at Gungahlin Youth Centre, which was not re-funded, that engaged kids at risk and provided an alternative setting. Those programs need to be given much more focus than they are getting.

The current paradigm the department of education is working in, and which is described in *Within reach of Us All*, claims the language of inclusivity, saying it is about making our schools great for everyone. Yes, we need to aim for that and it is a good ideal, but we also have to recognise the reality, which is that it does not work and probably never will work for all students.

The question of indigenous education comes into this because different environments and settings can make a huge difference to kids who are dealing with particular social issues. Small schools have been interesting to look at. Even if you have a smaller school you can see much better outcomes for kids who are marginalised, or at risk of being marginalised, within a school system.

At the 40th birthday of the suburb of Watson recently, there were some snapshots of the Watson High School. I can remember, when that was going, that some kids were actually dropping out of SWoW and going to Watson High School. The reason Watson High School worked was that it was very small, which enabled a relationship between the students, the community and teachers that was socially constructive. Under the more economic rationalist approach taken that went, as did SWoW. That is a real disappointment, and I would encourage the government to rethink that and to challenge themselves about what they are doing to really push *Within reach of Us All* into schools.

MS GALLAGHER (Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, Minister for Women and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.50), in reply: I rise to conclude. I thank members for their comments. It is probably one of the first times that I have agreed with everything everybody has said in this chamber during this discussion.

Some of what Ms Tucker said in her comments about the compact, which was a bit before my time, has not been raised with me as a problem from the indigenous community. But I accept what Ms Tucker says, and I will take the time to go back and look at what we are trying to do with the compact and see how we can make it either a better process or a more educated process. I certainly give you that undertaking.

I agree completely with the points raised about alternative education settings: there is currently a gap there. We provide some excellent services, as Ms Tucker said, like the Eclipse program and some very targeted individual assistance within schools, which works for some students. But I also have concerns in this area—for example, about whether the adolescent day program is as inclusive as it should be. It seems to be quite an isolated way of dealing with the students who may not be fitting in at their schools. I have had lengthy discussions with the department about this, which I am not in a position to make any statement about now, but it is very firmly in my mind. I believe we need to support these students in an inclusive way, providing them with alternatives.

I am very impressed with some of the non-government providers—Galilee and also a program done by Youth in the City, which is achieving some very good outcomes. There are issues there about those students getting qualifications, as it is a much more voluntary approach. But it does keep students coming, when they might otherwise have dropped out of schooling. I have visited the service, and it looks like they are going from strength to strength in terms of the outcomes they are achieving for students. I guess there will be more on that to come.

Ms Dundas made some comments about the cost of providing support for the add-ons of education, and that is something I am looking at. In the last budget we had an increase in the School Equity funding, and we are looking at the way to best allocate that funding to the schools, perhaps using some to provide support for students who do not have the cash available to attend excursions or buy equipment. At the moment, school equity funding is delivered in a way that gives the schools a bit of extra money to provide things within the school, but it is not necessarily targeted at any individuals.

Mr Pratt, I agree with you completely that it needs to be more than a salesman's report and that we need to be extremely honest about what is happening for indigenous students. I will look at the comments you made about the information you would like to see included. The origins of the report were a motion by Mr Berry—and supported unanimously by the Assembly, albeit with amendments from the other side—for us to recognise that indigenous students are not achieving the same outcomes as non-indigenous students and to look at why.

In the past couple of months I have visited a couple of schools that have a higher than average level of indigenous students for a government school. I have been very impressed with what they are doing on an individual level to deliver outcomes for

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students. It is very much about individualised and targeted support. In one school, there is a young indigenous male teacher just out of university—a very impressive young man. He has initiated a homework program for the students at that school.

I was talking to him the day after he had started this program, and he was cautious because it was after the first time. The first time he held it, 100 per cent of parents attended to understand how they could support their children through homework and he is running the homework centre. It is early days, but they are some of the things that are happening within individual schools.

Narrabundah's program is excellent. They bring a doctor into the school, they have community services coming into the school and they provide breakfast every morning. Some of the outcomes they are setting there for their students are really impressive as well. It is nice to acknowledge that a lot of emphasis is being placed on this area and there is a lot of commitment from the teachers to the day-to-day handling of issues.

One teacher was talking to me about how a young student had been going really well and how happy they were that he had been at school all the time, and then I was out at the school on maybe week 4 of the term and they said that they had not seen this young person all term. The school had gone to the house daily to try and find him. There was no concern for the young person's safety; it is just that he had not been at school. That is a constant challenge for the schools when they report their outcomes. The absentee rate does not necessarily reflect the effort that goes in to get these students to attend school.

We can always do better there. There has been the employment of the home-school liaison officers, who have increased from two to 11. It is early days but, from all accounts, just having resources going into providing a link between home and school we believe will certainly improve the outcomes for students. The focus of those liaison officers is to address the issues of attendance, engagement and retention of students.

Also this year, four indigenous teacher appointments have been made in the ACT, following a targeted recruitment drive. That is a very small number, but it is great to have those four teachers as part of the team because, as with that young teacher just out of university, the relationship and the rapport they have with students are impressive.

Schools are also now required to develop individual learning plans for indigenous students who need additional learning assistance or have particular needs, strengths and interests. These are put together in consultation with the student, parent and/or carers and the home-school liaison officers. We are looking at partnerships with the schools as communities centre at the University of Canberra to provide additional support in literacy to indigenous students and their families. The schools as communities centre is working closely with Commonwealth, Queensland and Northern Territory governments to improve literacy levels of indigenous students.

There are areas that we need to do better. As I said in the tabling of this report, literacy, numeracy and absentee rates are the main ones, and we are determined to work to improve these results. I do not think there is one answer. We are looking at every way that we can improve the outcomes for these students and encourage them to be part of those decisions.

I look forward to continuing the work in this area, which is of significant interest to me and to the Assembly. I thank members for their support. I will continue to work here for the indigenous community to seek to implement initiatives or programs, with the agreement of the community. The emphasis will have to be on improving indigenous student outcomes in all areas of their learning and educational life. Thank you.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Public housing asset management strategy 2003-2008

Debate resumed from 26 August 2003, on motion by **Mr Wood**

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

MRS BURKE (12.00): I thank Minister Wood for presenting the paper *Public housing asset management strategy 2003-2008*. There are some points I would like to raise with the minister. This is a very comprehensive report. In some areas it seeks to contradict itself and could be a little bit clearer in some of the areas. I will pass through that in a moment. In his tabling speech, the minister said:

This commitment to public housing was reflected in our election promise to maintain public housing stock numbers and implement measures to make public housing more responsive to the needs of its tenants and the community.

I wholeheartedly agree; that is the endeavour of any government. But the statement needs some scrutiny. Notwithstanding the bushfires and the loss of some 80 properties, we must have some concerns also about the loss recently of over 200 apartments at Currong. There is still a concern in my mind, and in that of the broader community, in regard to housing. There is no rebuilding on the former Burnie Court site, and we need to question the housing stock numbers in that regard.

I know that the minister and this government will leap to their feet in righteous indignation, crying "What about the Liberals? What did you do?" Well, Mr Speaker, I think it is time that we started to focus on the issue in this house today. The government has now been in government for two years, and I think that is long enough for any government to stop blaming former governments and to get on with the job. We were answerable when we were in government; this government and this minister are answerable now. I quote again the statement from before:

... measures to make public housing more responsive to the needs of its tenants and the community.

I believe we still live in a day and age when we are process driven, not people focused. That concerns me greatly, and it is an area I am working extremely hard on. I do not dispute that the minister is faced with some difficult decisions, and we have talked about that together in regard to public housing in the territory. I believe that he must first make the decisions and then not resile from them.

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It will take courage, and it will take creative and innovative thinking outside the square to meet the key points of the strategy outlined on page 4 of the document. It details it there. I will leave that for members to read. I do not need to go through that. I might just go through page by page and pick up some of the points. On page 5 of the strategy the government commits to the expansion of the community housing sector, allocating capital funding in the 2003-04 budget to support the growth of the sector.

I have some queries about what is happening to the community housing funding. I am not sure if the recent process fell over. Perhaps the minister can fill me in with some information in regard to 2002-03 funding and what is happening with the funding now for community housing. My information tells me that the process fell over and there may be as much as \$6 million sitting there doing nothing. The minister may like to refute that comment, or otherwise. The report goes on to say:

Community housing presents a housing option which is complementary to public housing, in that it offers a higher level of tenant participation in management while also providing another avenue through which the diverse needs of individuals can be met.

In my short time in this Assembly, I have been looking at the difference in operation between community housing and ACT Housing, and I am not saying that one is better than the other—one seems more cumbersome than the other to operate. But from the statement in the report about meeting the diverse needs of individuals, it seems community housing offers a really big involvement of the tenant—the client. That is very important, and it is a model that should be looked at more in Housing. Maybe the minister has some good comments on that as well.

However, the report—in my mind; this is where I have a challenge—seems to slightly contradict itself when it gets to page 12 and talks of community housing being “a potential threat to the viability of the public housing system”. The report alludes to removing resources and funding from public housing over to the community housing sector. It seems to be a grey area. I am not quite sure whether the minister wants to abolish community housing, whether he would like community housing back in the controlled jurisdiction of ACT Housing or whether it serves a useful purpose in the community. I am fully convinced that it does. I would like his comments on that.

I would have thought that the model used in community housing was an excellent model, some aspects of which might be taken through public housing—for example, greater client participation for better outcomes. Surely, this is a positive approach. The more we get our ACT Housing tenants involved in where they want to live and how they want to live, the more standards will be raised and people will lift themselves to them.

If people can choose the colour scheme for their walls and their blinds—I know it is not always possible, Minister, but we can incrementally move to that—I am sure they will take more pride in the way they look after their homes. Maybe we can eliminate the small number of cases that, disappointingly, we have of houses being trashed. I would like to talk more on that.

ACT Housing will need to continually work towards better policy regarding their allocations and transfers. Looking at the system from where I sit, which is often quite difficult, it seems that there is currently in place a policy of one size fits all for both transferring and allocations. This is proving to be a fairly big struggle in terms of managing the whole transfers and allocations system. I would advocate for a separate policy for transfers and allocations.

As Mr Wood is quite happy for me to stand here doing a lot of his work for him, as he has said before in this place—I guess that is the work of oppositions, and then the outworking of that is that governments can pick it up and run with it—I am happy. If people benefit in the end, that is what we are in this place for: people over process. We need a system that responds to the changing needs of ACT Housing clients. We know that the landscape has changed dramatically and that fewer people are living in more houses. This is obviously impacting on the already difficult situation we have in the ACT.

Moving through the report, I commend the department for their report and the work they are doing. There is some good and interesting information here, off which they will be able to springboard—and are probably doing that now. Looking at dwelling locations, on page 10, the report says:

... the portfolio will need to respond to the changing needs, household structures and growth patterns of the Canberra community.

We have a really shifting, moving community—not so much because people are choosing that directly but because they are being advised more and more to broaden their options of where to live in order, because of the tight squeeze on properties available, to not limit themselves to an area. We see the figures being moved—not falsely, but not showing a true picture of where people would love to live.

I know that the minister will bear out that they have to take a second or third option. Rather than say, “I’d like to live in Woden,” people now have to say, “I’ll live anywhere.” Interestingly, that may have some sway over those figures. It just gives people a better chance to be allocated and given a roof over their heads if they elect to say they will live anywhere. It may not therefore reflect the true demand in an area, and it is because of the squeeze that we have on. We need roofs over people’s heads, and I know the minister will be the first to say, “Yes please—more properties.” Support is very important, but we need roofs over people’s heads.

On page 11 the report looks at unmet need where, and I quote:

... existing accommodation is considered to be not fully appropriate for reasons of size or location.

Further down the page, the report says:

The rate of tenancy turnover in the large multi-unit complexes is higher than the rest of the portfolio.

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I think we need to question why. I am sure that the minister is quite aware, as I am, of why some of these things are happening. People feel that a minority of people around them should be in other types of accommodation, not necessarily in the middle of housing complexes with small children or young adults. I know the minister is aware of that, and I am not going to major on that.

When we see a third of tenants appearing to be inappropriately housed, we have a challenge on our hands. Again, that may be down to this transfers and allocations issue. Many people who have called my office have tried to effect a transfer, with varying success. There are many people who occupy houses they no longer need but who, sadly, in some cases have all but given up trying to effect a change or a move, simply because of paperwork being lost. It is disappointing if that has happened.

I always encourage people to reapply. Some people—the minority; I will give you that—have said they can't be bothered. Maybe it is time we did a full audit of who we have in what houses. How many people are living in dwellings that are too big? That may be something the minister would like to take on board, if it is not currently being done. It is a very timely exercise and should be carried out forthwith.

As I have said, tenancy turnover has a lot to do with people who have a dual diagnosis—people with a mental health problem and drug issues—being housed in inappropriate places. I will talk about that later, and we have talked about that on this side of the house. My idea for that would be the step-down facility. I have had a conversation with the minister about that, and I would love to talk to him more about how we can best give these people an integrated approach to living in a community as well as the opportunity to be rehabilitated fully and to live lives that are compatible with the majority of our community.

On page 12, there is mention of threats to long-term viability. Minister, we have had this little discussion before. You mention again the decline in Commonwealth-state housing funding. Well, you know very well that this is the first time ever that this agreement has been index linked, so I will leave that one there. There is more to say about the GST later.

Looking at the statement made on the last paragraph of page 12 of the report, I am a little confused about where the minister actually stands in regard to community housing. Maybe it is semantics; maybe I misunderstand the interpretation of that statement. But I would like to talk to him about that or hear your comments on that.

Further on in the report we see multiunit sites. The government needs to give a clear strategy for the future of such sites, given its comments on page 13, where it says that several complexes are in high-value locations. Is this foreshadowing change, Minister? This report was written in June 2003. Currong Apartments is mentioned in this report. We then have the debacle on our hands with uncertainty for the tenants. Let's not have a situation where that happens again.

The tenants of Currong Apartments were left wondering. There were rumours in the community. Are we going to be knocked down? Are we going to be rehoused? Are we

going to be refurbished? I am flagging that I would hate to see that happen for other complexes mentioned in this report, such as the Lyneham, Owen and De Burgh flats and Gowrie Court. It is a difficult and delicate matter to handle, Minister. That is why you are the minister. I think you will be able to learn from what happened at Currong and perhaps do things differently this time around. Hindsight is a great gift.

There are many points I could make, and I realise that time is upon me. On page 14 the report looks at condition assessment. I would like to know where that is up to, given that two years down the track we see, and I quote:

In addition, the total facility management contracts entered into in 2001 require a full condition assessment of all properties to be undertaken in the first three years ...

Is the minister able to give us a progress report on that? How are we doing with that? Some very important issues are obviously coming out of that.

I also wanted to look at the heritage issues. (*Extension of time granted.*) On page 15 of the report, we talk about heritage precincts in which the department owns a number of properties. There was some distress, Minister, and you probably got the flak as well when we got rid of some of the weatherboard homes in Kingston. I get quite disappointed about that. I realise that it is perhaps false economy to keep such properties, but I think we had better not get rid of all our history and that we have to keep some of our heritage. In that light, I would like to know which sites and properties are currently under consideration, if that is possible.

On page 16, under 'Response to the challenges', the first paragraph talks about an example of a total facility management concept. Mr Wood, you know as well as I do that we are experiencing many problems with this way of dealing with maintenance to our properties. Do we need to revisit that system? Maybe it is too far away from the government in this instance. Whilst it may not want to be the prime contractor, I just wonder if there is a better way of managing it. I would be really happy to talk to you about that as well. Has it improved the way we manage and do the turnover of maintenance requests, or is it giving the government and opposition of the day more unnecessary flak? That is something we can look at.

I am also concerned about some of the planning issues that will have an impact upon possible stock acquisition. Reading between the lines in talks with you, Minister, I know that you grapple with these on a daily basis. It is a matter of hard lobbying in the caucus to gain some ground. I would ask that you let the people know in a timely manner of the priority sites for assessment and of decisions regarding upgrading or replacement. It has been decided in the case of Currong but not in the cases of the Lyneham, Owen and De Burgh flats and Gowrie Court. We note here that DVP 200 provides existing use rights. I wonder if that is still working and if that is going to be the case.

I wanted to mention the one about the GST. On page 21 it says:

In addition, CSHA funding is reducing due to the efficiency dividend arrangements built into the formula and the withdrawal of funding previously provided for GST compensation – the GST cost increases, however, remain.

Minister, as you well know, the GST was always going to be that one-off GST payment. Now that the GST is coming back to the territory, you will be getting in there to lobby hard. That is right: you are pointing to Mr Quinlan's chair. If he is listening—and I will be rattling his cage, too—we want this money to come back into Housing. That is what it is about here, so I would have to take issue with that statement. Let's not forget that it is index linked for the first time.

I have read this report a number of times, and I find something new each time. That is the nature of this beast. I again thank the minister for the report, and I thank the department for all their hard work. I commend the report to the Assembly.

MS TUCKER (12.19): The Greens welcome this strategy. It has been a notable and noted gap in the management of public housing over many years. I am pleased to see in this strategy an understanding of the asset as not only an amount of money that the market might be prepared to pay for bricks and mortar but also something that provides housing for people who would have difficulty in the private market. This is captured on page 5, in the statement that the government “recognises that the portfolio exists primarily to meet the government's social goals”.

However, I am concerned that this understanding has not flowed through to calculations of the asset yield on the stock. The amount of rental rebate is determined largely by market rent, which is not necessarily driven by changes to the value of the place as a place to live. That tension is reflected in the affordable housing crisis we see at the moment. It is a tension that public and community housing is in the best position to deal with. Although it is difficult, the value of public housing should not be read just as monetary rental returns.

You could look at the amount of rental rebate on the positive side of the balance sheet because it represents the amount of money that vulnerable members of our community do not have to pay in rent, which they would have to if they were in the private market. It is a positive because, to a large extent, it is a measure of preventing absolute poverty and ill health caused by not being able to afford to eat well, heat your house or buy reasonable clothing as well as social outings and interactions, which also keep us healthy. There is more to be said about what a reasonable rent is in terms of allowing people enough money, but I won't say that now.

The Greens are pleased to see the commitment to expanding the stock of social housing. This moves beyond the previous idea that public housing could be transferred to community housing. I hope that the government will change its mind on public housing and will move to increase the stock of this valuable asset. It is very concerning that some maintenance and improvement costs have been met, through diminishing the stock, by the funds from selling off stock.

Again, it is acknowledged on page 6 to be a challenge that there is currently insufficient capital to rejuvenate stock and to maintain numbers. That is a serious crisis, and I am hopeful that the government as a whole can recognise the fundamental importance of adequate stock in addressing many of the social issues that the various studies and plans seek to address. This is reflected in numerous studies and reports. In fact, you can link it

to the debate we have just had on indigenous education. I made the point in that debate that you have to link these things together, if you take a holistic approach. The question of education is obviously related to whether children and students have stable and secure housing.

One of the reasons for the high costs is the age of the stock, but it is important that ACT Housing is empowered to look creatively at ways of keeping the stock and improving it. There are environmental as well as potential financial benefits in reworking and using what is already constructed. Stable, appropriate housing is absolutely essential in preventing and moving out of poverty, finding work, whether paid or unpaid, and developing social and family networks that help us all to get through.

The government has also acknowledged that stable housing is a key foundation of achievement of the government's social objectives. That is on page 4, and I strongly welcome it. I am a bit interested in how these strong foundations will be worked out, given the stated need to balance tenant desire for security of tenure against the need to rejuvenate the asset base. The decision to demolish Currong Apartments is a case in point here. It is not just the tenants' desire for security of tenure; there is also not enough stock to accommodate the people currently living in Currong without pushing the waiting times out even further for other people who need housing.

As the government acknowledges, in a different statement on the same page, security of tenure is not only in the interests of the tenant concerned. The option of stability is a key foundation for societal, community and individual development and simply for having a reasonable life. I would urge the government to find a way to use the value of the stock to expand the available public housing—not just to restructure the portfolio. Most, if not all, of the construction I am aware of is for new older persons units and not for new units appropriate for single people, difficult families or noisy people with difficult personal histories who need extra support.

The restructuring to better meet express needs is an important step. We want people with large or fluid families in appropriately sized and located housing, and we want appropriate housing as much as possible. While the multiunit properties have created problems, they also make it a bit easier for support services to reach people who need it. It is essential that the work of outreach and support to people in their homes be kept up. As there is a shift to a more scattered population of public housing tenants, it might open up serious gaps in the system.

I am also very supportive of the interweaving in this document of environmentally responsible changes to the stock. As we were discussing yesterday in this place, as well as the community benefit in environmentally sensible design and construction, the benefits for tenants in terms of lower water and energy bills are very important. Together with the steps toward supports and reforms announced by the minister earlier this week—which we were very pleased to see and commend the government for and which were also, of course, a result of the government working constructively with and listening to the community sector, including CARE, Shelter, the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre and the Tenants Union—I welcome the overall direction and principles outlined in this document.

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I note that these point very clearly to a need for investment in this really essential aspect of public service. I will remind members, or inform them if they are not aware of it, of the *Affordable Housing in Australia: Pressing Need, Effective Solution* document put together by the Housing Industry Association, the Australian Council of Social Service, the Real Estate Institute, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the National Community Housing Forum, the Urban Development Institute, the Property Council, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the Master Builders Association and the Royal Australian Planning Institute. They recommended, and I quote:

Option 1. A direct government subsidy for private (debt) investment in affordable housing. Governments would raise finance for affordable housing through the issue of a bond with a guaranteed minimum after-tax return. The funds would then be distributed to State housing authorities or other eligible housing providers (e.g. community housing providers) on the condition that they are used to construct affordable rental dwellings. The dwellings would then be owned and managed by State housing authorities or other approved providers. The subsidy could be provided in two ways: via a tax concession, or through a Budget outlay.

On the measures of efficiency and equity and effectiveness, Option 1 rates very highly. This option removes most of the risks perceived by institutional investors by transferring them to the government. Based on the Commonwealth's preference for outlays rather than tax expenditures when providing assistance, a Budget outlay, which can be capped, is the proposed delivery method. Option 1 achieves a high score as it ranks favourably against the majority of assessment criteria.

Obviously, I have been raising this. The Treasurer is not here. He is the person I am speaking to at this point. Hopefully, he is listening upstairs, or his staff can tell him. I am sure he will be fascinated that I have raised this suggestion again. Thank you.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 12.27 to 2.30 pm.

Questions without notice

Code of conduct

MR SMYTH: My question is to the Chief Minister, Mr Stanhope. Minister, after two years, and counting, you have still not developed a code of conduct for your ministers, despite a promise in December 2001 to have it substantially completed by March 2002. In the interim, we have seen this Assembly censure Mr Corbell for not implementing a motion passed on Nettlefold Street, we have had a privileges committee find him guilty of contempt and we have had this Assembly express grave concern this week at his appalling conduct.

Minister, will your ministerial code of conduct—when you eventually complete and publish it—state that ministers have a responsibility to implement decisions of the Assembly where possible and provide for real sanctions for contempt of the Assembly?

MR STANHOPE: The ministerial code of conduct is essentially complete. I anticipate taking it to cabinet within the next couple of weeks. Once cabinet approves it, we will release it.

MR SMYTH: I have a supplementary question. Minister, why has it taken you two years, and counting, to develop a ministerial code of conduct when you promised that it would be substantially completed by March 2002?

MR STANHOPE: The government has been a tad busy over the last couple of years converting the ACT into the most vigorously growing economy in Australia. We have reversed many of the mistakes of the past, we have overcome seven years of incredibly incompetent, dishonest, dissembling—

Mr Smyth: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I reckon I can guess what this one is.

Mr Smyth: You might be wrong. The Chief Minister just accused the last government of being dishonest, and I would like that to be withdrawn. Also, under standing order 118 (b), he is not to debate the issue; he is to answer the issue for himself.

MR SPEAKER: If the word “dishonest” was used, I would like it to be withdrawn, but I think the Chief Minister is entitled to answer the question. As I heard it, you asked him why it has taken him so long, and I think he is trying to respond to that.

MR STANHOPE: I did say that the previous government was dishonest; in aspects of its work it certainly was. It was certainly intellectually dishonest on many occasions.

Mr Stefaniak: Point of order, Mr Speaker. He is just repeating it. It is the same thing.

MR SPEAKER: It is not in relation to members in this place.

MR STANHOPE: I said the government was dishonest.

Mr Stefaniak: On the point of order, I was a member of the government, and Mr Smyth was. I take offence. The government was a limited number of people.

MR SPEAKER: I think it would be easier if you withdrew it, Chief Minister.

MR STANHOPE: I will withdraw because it is the easiest thing to do. I withdraw the suggestion that it was a dishonest government. It was certainly a government that lacked intellectual rigour.

Mr Smyth: Point of order, Mr Speaker. The established form in this place is not to repeat the comment or allegation that has been made; it is to withdraw unequivocally without repetition. If he won't adhere to that standing order, Mr Speaker, you might draw that to his attention.

MR SPEAKER: He withdrew without qualification, Mr Smyth.

MR STANHOPE: I did.

Mr Smyth: Having repeated it.

MR STANHOPE: I made the point that it was a government that lacked intellectual honesty, and it certainly was. There was much to be undone after seven years of Liberal government. We had to undo the enormous damage that was done to the credibility of this place and to public administration in the ACT. We had to undo the enormous damage that was done as a result of fiascos such as the one that surrounded the construction of Bruce Stadium and the many breaches of the law revealed by the Auditor-General in relation to the construction of Bruce Stadium.

These were issues we had to deal with. There has been much repair work to be done over the last two years. We have been extremely busy doing that. As the Treasurer mentioned yesterday, along the way we just happened to have converted the ACT into the jurisdiction with the most powerful economy in Australia. This is reflected in the latest *Business Review Weekly* publication, where it says that the ACT now ranks as the strongest of the jurisdictions in Australia.

Mr Stefaniak: With the dopiest social justice laws.

Mr Smyth: But you haven't issued your wallpaper!

MR SPEAKER: Mr Smyth, if there are any repeats of that, I will be warning you.

MR STANHOPE: As the Treasurer said yesterday, we are a powerful economy, boxing well above our weight in divisions around Australia. We are the jurisdiction with the lowest unemployment rate: 3.8 per cent. That is what we have been working on and reflecting on over the last couple of years. We have also undone the enormous damage done by your lot in health and education. We have converted that \$27 million that you were going to give away, and that you did not think was needed in the education system, into education. We invested it. That is what we have done.

We have dealt with a range of other disasters. We had to deal with the incompetence exposed in relation to the management of the Williamsdale quarry. We had to deal with the incompetence exhibited by your party in relation to your management of Totalcare. We had to make those hard and tough decisions. We dealt with the hotel school, after seven years of absolute incompetence by you in relation to the management of the hotel school. You managed it for seven years and ran it into the ground. It was complete and utter incompetence by your lot.

There were other issues we had to deal with it. There was CanDeliver. Where is CanDeliver? Where did CanDeliver get to? It was another startling success story. How is Impulse travelling these days—the biggest unused, vacant basketball stadium in Australia, the Impulse hanger out at the airport, the great legacy of Brendan Smyth? This is what we have been doing over the last two years and, along the way, we have prepared a ministerial code of conduct.

Tourism funding

MR STEFANIAK: My question is to the Minister for Business and Tourism, Mr Quinlan. Minister, I refer to comments made by Ross MacDiarmid, the CEO of

Australian Capital Tourism, at the launch of the Canberra Women's Classic on 11 November this year. He said:

It's very important for us to start the year with a bit of a bang with Summernats, the Women's Classic and anything else we can do in January because the way it's shaping up the second half of the year is not looking so flash.

The budget shows that you intend to cut funding for tourism from \$16.1 million this year to \$12.3 million in 2004-2005. Minister, why are you proposing to cut the budget for tourism by nearly a quarter in 2004-2005, when Mr MacDiarmid acknowledges that next financial year in "not looking so flash" for the local tourism industry?

MR QUINLAN: Thank you for the question, Mr Stefaniak. Just the other day, I launched our summer campaign and, of course, compared to the spring we have just had and the opportunities that we have made or were available, summer does line up as potentially a slower season. That has happened year in, year out. There will be the Summernats, there will be the Multicultural Festival and there will be the Canberra Women's Classic which, I am very pleased to say, looks like becoming a permanent feature.

A whole raft of other activities will occur in Canberra through the summer period but we do have to sell them. We have put in place a program whereby every Canberran will be provided with, and asked to send to friends, postcards that will encourage visitors to come to Canberra, because of a lot of our visitors come from that sector.

It is quite clear that the restructuring of tourism in the ACT by this government is starting to bear fruit. The seasonal campaigns are working. The accommodation industry was very happy even before we got to Floriade this year. It felt that things were a lot better than they had been for quite some time. I am very happy that what we are doing is working smart in tourism.

When it comes down to talking about why I am going to cut the budget, the \$16 million that you mentioned, Mr Stefaniak, is made up of a \$12 million annual allocation to tourism and the tail end of the money that was allocated by your government to the V8 car race, which I have to say cost a lot more than the \$4 million. I shudder to think, if we carried out a very rigorous accounting exercise, what we would discover it actually did cost in cash and in costs that were not specifically allocated to it but that the city had to bear. That money, which was effectively wasted on a severe error of judgment, was used in that way.

What you see now is tourism flourishing in the ACT. I can assure this house that it will continue to do so.

MR STEFANIAK: Minister, why are you frittering away the gains that we made this year with the Rugby World Cup and the Masters Games by not maintaining tourism funding at an adequate level to properly promote our territory?

Mr Corbell: You did not make the gains, we did.

MR QUINLAN: Yes.

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Mr Stanhope: Just leave it to us, Bill. We have it under control.

MR QUINLAN: That is almost a non-sequitur.

Mr Stanhope: Why don't we do better than we have already done?

MR QUINLAN: We had the World Cup and we had the Masters Games and they were calendar items. I would be very happy to run the World Cup again next year if it was available, but it is not entirely within our province to decide whether we have the World Cup or no. We have now had our second Masters Games and it was a bigger and better Masters Games than the original. I am very pleased about that and very pleased to have put in place rugby celebrations—

Members interjecting—

MR SPEAKER: Order, members of the opposition!

MR QUINLAN: We are very happy to have managed the World Cup rugby to the maximum. I think that Canberra had effectively the highest ticket sales or highest proportion of attendance.

Mr Smyth: It is a good stadium to hold it in.

MR QUINLAN: It is a good stadium. Let me, as an aside, say that I believe that Canberra Stadium is a good stadium. It only takes 25,000 but it is a good stadium. It has some faults, which were identified by the Auditor-General when he said that a lot of the money that was invested in it was invested for the benefit of corporate bodies and not for Joe Public, but that was a sign of the times then. It could actually do a bit better for the punter, rather than the corporates.

However, the problem with the stadium was never the stadium itself; it was the appalling way that the upgrades were handled. We were always very careful to explain to the public, or to anyone who wanted to listen, the difference between the stadium itself and—well, I will not go any further—the way it was done. It is really the way it was done that is—

Mr Stanhope: It is a pity they broke the law.

MR QUINLAN: Yes. That is an event in Canberra's history that will take a long time to be forgotten. Mr Stefaniak, if the World Cup rugby wants to come back next year, we will very happily have it.

Mr Smyth: What are you doing? You are the minister.

MR QUINLAN: Go and talk to the people involved. They are much happier with the way that they are operating now than they were.

Mr Stefaniak: They are concerned, Minister. They are actually bemoaning the events we do not have.

MR SPEAKER: Order!

MR QUINLAN: When I first came into this portfolio of tourism, the longest queue at my door was that of tourism industry representatives and it was a disparate industry. Since that time, we have worked with them, we have restructured CTEC and it is working a lot better now than it was then. Even the AHA, last week—

Opposition members interjecting—

MR SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Mr Quinlan. Mr Smyth, I have drawn to your attention the need to observe order in the place. I said I would warn you and I therefore warn you.

MR QUINLAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will conclude by saying that we are very pleased with the ground that we have made up in tourism after inheriting a shambles.

Homelessness

MR HARGREAVES: My question is to the minister for housing. We have heard much rhetoric from members of the opposition about homelessness, despite the fact that they did nothing about it when they were in government, except sell off much needed stock. In contrast, this government is committed to the improvement of services addressing homelessness and has budgeted \$13.4 million over four years to tackle the causes and effects of homelessness. Minister, can you explain how the first allocation of this money will be spent?

MR WOOD: Yes, I can. Earlier this week, I announced a series of reforms aimed at removing barriers to accessing public housing as well as maintaining sustainable tenancies. These measures address a number of the identified causes of homelessness and have been welcomed by community agencies.

Today, at lunchtime, I launched a new crisis accommodation service at Ainslie Village. It will provide accommodation for up to seven single men experiencing homelessness or at risk of it. This service will increase the ACT's crisis accommodation capacity by extending the range of accommodation options for men. Today, very importantly, I also announced the allocation of \$2.7 million for new services and support for homeless people in the ACT. This funding is the first allocation from the \$13.4 million over four years for which the government has budgeted. It follows the development of a strategy; so the money has been well-targeted.

The government will be substantially boosting funding to the Canberra Emergency Accommodation Service, which is provided on our behalf by Anglicare and Lifeline. More than \$265,000 is to be provided over the financial year for overnight and short-term accommodation for people in crisis, including the provision of on-site vans and motel rooms. The service is based on the 24-hour crisis referral service that ultimately links clients to longer term, secure accommodation.

We will also be providing the Canberra Emergency Accommodation Service—CEAS, as we like to call it—with \$158,625, amounting to \$423,000 over four years, to assist

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couples to access short and long-term accommodation. Currently, there is no accommodation available for homeless couples in the ACT. The CEAS initiative is one of the very good initiatives of this government.

The government is committed to helping people maintain their tenancies. An additional \$80,000 will be provided to fund enhanced outreach services. Such services support people recently homeless or coming out of a crisis service as they settle into a long-term home. Experience suggests that these people are most at risk of losing tenancies in the first three months of occupation and need this extra support.

More than that, a further \$1 million is being allocated to community organisations establishing new services for homeless people. All of these new services will be funded recurrently over the four years of the \$13.4 million budget allocation. As establishment money for these services, the government also will be providing \$70,000 for a service for single men exiting the criminal justice system, \$150,000 for a single men's service, and \$750,000 for five services for homeless families, including services for women with accompanying children.

We are putting our money where our mouth is. These are much needed, excellent services. I will shortly be tendering for a range of services to be funded over the next four years. They will be very significant measures as well.

Police—presence in Manuka

MR PRATT: Mr Speaker, my question, through you, is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Wood. At least 14 burglaries have taken place in Manuka in the past month. A private businesswoman who has had two break-ins in the past months told the *Canberra Times* on 31 October 2003:

There just doesn't seem to be enough visual police—

by that she meant a presence of police—

just walking, driving past, just being there. How can it happen 14 times and there's not a policeman in sight?

As well as the spate of store break-ins in Manuka in the past couple of months, Mr Jan Szpunar, an elderly RSL poppy seller, was abducted from outside the Coles Manuka store and robbed on 3 November 2003. Minister, why have you failed to provide a visible presence in Manuka in recent months so that criminals are not able to operate with impunity?

MR WOOD: Mr Speaker, Mr Pratt has proposed a solution to this—I should send those unused police horses into Manuka at night and that might solve the problem. I notice that Mr Pratt had enough sense not to ask a question about horses.

The issue that Mr Pratt raises is very valid. The aim is for police to be out and to be mobile, and I think police in cars are much better employed than police on horses in this sort of area. The burglary rate is one of concern. I will give you some figures on that, not

necessarily specific to Manuka. The police have become very adept through their intelligence-based practices, through Operation Halite, at targeting and aiming their investigations at key areas. For just over a year now Operation Halite has been targeting people committing property and drug supply offences. It has had many successes, including the reduction of average weekly burglary offences by 25 per cent.

Bear in mind that some recent statistics I saw indicate that the incidence of burglary had peaked just before we came to government. Then they went down. Can I say that there is a little bit of a creep upwards again at the moment because heroin is back on the streets, and that has got probably most to do with these sorts of things. Since Operation Halite began on 28 October last year the average weekly burglary rate has fallen from 142 to 106. So the measures, without horses, are successful.

Of course, the aim of the police and of this government is to reduce that even more. Since the start of January this year the average weekly burglary rate has decreased significantly, and at one point was as low as 57. That has not been maintained but it is being very effectively done. Halite investigators have apprehended 93 offenders since 1 September 2003, with the majority of these being recidivists. This has culminated in an average of 85 reported burglaries per week in the last three weeks.

So what the police are doing is successful. I am well aware—as the police are, of course, more than anybody—that there are incidents in various places. I can say that the police are much alert to that and they will refine their targeting as problems emerge or, indeed, ahead of that in very many circumstances.

MR PRATT: Mr Speaker, I ask a supplementary question. Minister, why should Manuka residents and businesspeople accept your assurances that you are managing police resources effectively when there has been an average of three burglaries per week in the area recently?

MR WOOD: I will go back in time if you like. I could dig out the statistics and find when there were probably more than that. Let me say that three burglaries a week is too many. There is no question about that and we want always to improve the circumstances. But I can tell you that from the material I have, part of which I have given you today, the police are on top of the issues and they are performing very well with the way that they target their resources. They do a good job. If you ask me a question about police horses I will be happy to answer it.

Health action plan

MRS CROSS: My question is to Mr Corbell in his capacity as the Minister for Health. Minister, this morning I received an answer to a question that you took on notice on 23 September this year. I was amazed that, firstly, it had taken you so long to answer it and, secondly, that the answer was incomplete and, obviously, something of a brush-off. Minister, can you explain to the Assembly why it has taken you so long to answer a question on a fundamental issue within your portfolio, namely, your health action plan?

MR CORBELL: I am not familiar with the particular circumstances surrounding the question, but I will take the question on notice and provide an answer to Mrs Cross.

Mrs Dunne: In a month's time and probably partially answered.

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Cross, do you have a supplementary question?

MRS CROSS: Yes, thank you, Mr Speaker. Minister, can you explain the tardiness in your answer? Is it because of your lack of understanding of the health action plan or a reluctance to work on it because the plan was launched by your predecessor?

MR CORBELL: I think that I have answered the first part of the question, Mr Speaker. In relation to the second part, I am sure that Mrs Dunne is quite gleeful in continuing her personal attacks on me, but the bottom line is that this government has launched a comprehensive reform package in relation to health service delivery and health policy in the ACT and the health action plan deals with a whole range of issues which the government is now working to implement.

It is amazing that Mrs Cross would criticise a wide-ranging community consultation process which has led to the evolution of a detailed health policy and criticise the government's preparedness to implement it. Only today I outlined one of the government's key responses to an important issue raised in the health action plan, that is, the issue of continuing the progressing of evidence-based responses to drug problems in our community. I indicated today that, based on a detailed consultation process, the government will move tomorrow at the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy for the introduction of a wide-ranging proposal to trial hydromorphone as an alternative to a heroin trial in the ACT. That is just one example of the government's preparedness to work with the community in introducing evidence-based responses to the health problems that our community faces.

In addition, the government has worked extensively on the key range of other reforms outlined in the health action plan, including the establishment of a new allied health professional adviser, the introduction of a chief nurse for the ACT, \$2 million recurrent in relation to elective surgery—

Mrs Cross: Mr Speaker, I take a point of order on relevance. I asked why the minister took eight weeks to answer a question I put to him on 23 September. He has not answered that question. He is avoiding answering it. My point of order is on relevance in relation to the tardiness.

MR SPEAKER: I think that you asked about some other things as well, Mrs Cross.

MR CORBELL: Mrs Cross also asked whether it demonstrated a lack of interest by me in relation to the plan. I am just refuting that assertion, Mr Speaker. The health action plan also outlines the introduction of new policies in relation to community health. The government is moving ahead with important initiatives to reduce the waiting lists for community dental health services. We have introduced new mental health outreach services for Gungahlin and Tuggeranong. We have moved to continue to support youth health services in the ACT. The government has also moved to provide new services in a whole range of other community health settings.

Mrs Cross: It took you eight weeks to answer a question.

MR CORBELL: Mrs Cross might be fixated on times, but this government is focused on outcomes, on improving health services in the Canberra community, on improving the—

Mrs Cross: You're the process boy. I think that you should give the ministry to Mr Berry.

MR SPEAKER: Order, Mrs Cross! You asked a question. Please let the minister answer it.

Mrs Cross: He is not really answering it, Mr Speaker. It is a diatribe.

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Cross, he is answering the question.

MR CORBELL: Mr Speaker, these issues are all outlined in the health action plan. They are all issues that the community raised with us through the wide-ranging process that my predecessor as Minister for Health, Mr Stanhope, initiated. We are following through and we are delivering. We are delivering in all of these key areas. The government has also worked to improve work force issues in the ACT. That is another important element of the health action plan.

We are improving our capacity to deliver better opportunities for nurses, allied health professionals, doctors and VMOs. Indeed, on VMO issues, another important element of work force planning, as outlined in the health action, is that the VMOs recently agreed, in the first process ever in the history of self-government, to a negotiated outcome that has not involved disruption to our public hospital services. The government's record on health is strong. My commitment, as much as the commitment of my predecessor as Minister for Health, Mr Stanhope, is a strong one. I am very pleased to be in a position, thanks to Mrs Cross, to outline our commitment on those issues today.

Carlaminda Court, Florey

MRS BURKE: Mr Speaker, my question, through you, is to the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Mr Wood. I refer to concerns that residents of Carlaminda Court, an aged persons complex in Florey managed by ACT Housing, have raised with the opposition. There have been at least 31 cases of harassment of residents in the past three months—

Mr Cornwell: How many?

MRS BURKE: Thirty-one, Mr Cornwell, including car theft and threats to residents. That is sourced from page 1 of the *Northside Chronicle* of 4 November 2003. The source of the problem appears to be an ACT Housing property nearby containing young tenants relocated from Charnwood, some of whom are well known to the police. Indeed, I understand that 10 AVOs have been taken out against occupants of the house at various times. Minister, why did you relocate these difficult tenants to a property next door to an aged persons complex without giving proper consideration to whether it was an appropriate situation?

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MR WOOD: I think the question could properly be directed to the minister for police, which I will answer.

Mrs Burke: You can do that as well.

MR WOOD: Yes, but the rhetoric was about a police issue; at the end there was a question about housing. I am well aware of it, both through Mr Stefaniak and others on your side, and through my own agencies, both police and housing. It is a difficult circumstance. Out of respect for privacy issues I should not go into any detail but we certainly know that there are significant problems around a family and around some of the associates of that family. The police have been much engaged in attending to that, with some measure of success because total success is not easy, and that will continue.

Housing officers have been attending, doing what they are able to do in the circumstances to sustain that tenancy in an appropriate way so that it does not impinge on the good enjoyment of the neighbourhood, or whatever the words are in the lease that they are really required to observe. But it does remain a difficulty. I think some of the acute circumstances have passed and I hope they do not return.

But the specific question was: why did we transfer someone into there? It does go back to the system, which I defend as a very fair system. When allocations are made, when a person reaches the top of the priority list, in general they are allocated the next available property. I have thoroughly looked at this system and it ensures equity, you might say, in the way that things are dealt with.

Mr Stefaniak: But you moved them from Charnwood to Florey, Bill. That's the problem.

MR WOOD: Mr Stefaniak does raise a question.

MR SPEAKER: Well, he is not entitled to. It was Mrs Burke's question.

MR WOOD: It is an ongoing problem. ACT Housing and I have recently changed the program just a little for a little more flexibility from the fairly strict way that things were done before. So there is now a little more flexibility in how allocations can be made.

The question remains, however—and it is one for society as much as for ACT Housing: how do you manage not necessarily this family but any family that might in some circumstances be dysfunctional? It is not our intention to say, "Well, you are not entitled to a house. Get out on the street." You tell me: can I provide a house a long way from anywhere? That is not desirable.

So you have raised a problem. Some of the solutions are being attended to as best we can—whether allocations policies as they stand or perhaps a further something. I softened them this week, as you would have noticed in a statement I made here. These are the circumstances, and I think in those circumstances the issue has not been managed with total success and probably never will be. But I believe that both Police and ACT Housing have done what is necessary in the circumstances.

MRS BURKE: Mr Speaker, I ask a supplementary question. Minister, thank you for the response. What are you going to do, now that you know the problem exists, to ensure that these aged persons have this serious problem eased as a matter of urgency?

MR WOOD: You said, “Now that I know the problem exists.” Thanks to quite a few people, I have known for quite a while that the problem exists.

Mr Stefaniak: The bill of rights will make it impossible to do anything.

Mrs Dunne: What about the rest of the community?

MR SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease interjecting.

MR WOOD: I heard an interjection that raises a very fair question.

MR SPEAKER: Don’t take any notice of that either. Just go on with answering the question.

Mrs Burke: I would like to hear your answer, Minister.

MR WOOD: It is a fair question. Actually, I answered your question in the first part of my answer. There is a continuing process going on and, to the extent it is necessary, that will continue.

Weed control

MR CORNWELL: My question is to the minister for the environment, Mr Stanhope. Environment ACT has a management agreement with Horse Farms ACT to manage horse agistment paddocks. The contract with Horse Farms ACT contains a land management agreement, including weed control. On 8 November, about 25 horse owners were forced to clean up the paddocks at Hume because they were overrun by Paterson’s curse. Terry Weston, who participated in the cleanup, said, “The condition of this yard and most of the paddocks around here is a complete and utter disgrace”.

Yet yesterday in response to a question you said:

The government has done what it might in relation to Paterson’s curse, particularly in those horse paddocks which we control.

Minister, why have you failed to enforce the land management agreement with Horse Farms ACT and providing for effective weed control?

MR STANHOPE: I thank the member for the question, following on as it does from Mrs Dunne’s question yesterday about Paterson’s curse. I have to confess that I am not aware of the nature of the contractual arrangements between Environment ACT and Horse Farms ACT in relation to the property that they manage. I am more than happy to have a look at that and to provide the Assembly with details of the management arrangements that are in place in relation to that particular contract.

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I do not have the contract and I have not looked at it. However, I am more than happy to give you the details of that, Mr Cornwell, in relation to the obligations that the contractor has undertaken and the extent to which they have been complied with.

Certainly, I think we need to understand a little about Paterson's curse, and I sought to explain that yesterday. To think that at this stage of the cycle of Paterson's curse that you can, as it arrives, just snap your fingers—as Mr Quinlan signifies—and wish it away or do some sort of Moses act of holding back the waves and the seas is ridiculous. There is no capacity on the part of Environment ACT or the ACT government to wave a wand and wish away the scourge of Paterson's curse this year, which we all admit and acknowledge is particularly bad and far worse than we have experienced in previous years.

It has always been bad and it has always covered the ACT, just as it has always covered almost all of New South Wales and just as it has almost always covered Victoria and South Australia. It is particularly bad this year because of the drought. It is particularly bad because of the bushfires. Certainly, it has represented a real management issue for not just ACT government land management but, indeed, for all lessees throughout the ACT and land owners in New South Wales and Victoria.

We are at the wrong part of the season to control it. It is a complete waste of time, effort and resources to spray it now. It is too late in the season to do that. It can be done earlier. As I understand it, ACT land managers essentially sought to treat those areas that they thought most vulnerable and most important to seek to control earlier in the year. But it is not just a case of going out and spraying the paddock if Paterson's curse is not appearing. It does not work like that. There is no effective method of controlling Paterson's curse other than pulling it out manually. Then it just grows again because seed survives for up to seven years. We are desperately seeking a biological control to deal with Paterson's curse and the scourge of it nationally.

It is a major problem. But to suggest that in some way we had the capacity to hold back Paterson's curse or to control its spread this year is just sheer nonsense. It simply misunderstands the nature of this weed. You simply misunderstand our capacity to control or to stop the spread of it.

Mrs Dunne: Ask the farmers who have been out spraying.

MR STANHOPE: I have looked at the property, Mrs Dunne. I have driven all around the ACT. I have seen rural lessees' properties completely covered from fence to fence with Paterson's curse. I flew to Melbourne last week and what one sees from Canberra to Melbourne is a swathe of purple. There is Paterson's curse over the bottom half of the continent. To suggest that the ACT government in some way was negligent or deficient, or that Environment ACT somehow failed because Paterson's curse appeared in the strength that it has this year is just utter nonsense—just interestingly, as is Mrs Dunne's fetish about declaring it a noxious weed or a pest under the relevant legislation.

What that would do, for no useful purpose, would be to penalise every single rural lessee in the ACT because of the obligations it imposes on them to manage it and the potential

for them to be prosecuted for not dealing with it. I challenge you, Mrs Dunne, to go out and speak to the 80 rural lessees in the ACT and ask them. I would be intrigued if you could find a single one that wants this declared as a pest, because it puts them under the hammer.

MR CORNWELL: I have a supplementary question. Will you please provide me with the full details of the contract with Horse Farms ACT, which contains a land management agreement that includes weed control?

MR STANHOPE: I do not know the nature of the contract. I will have to look it up. I cannot give a yes or no answer to that question. The member wants access to a contract that Environment ACT has entered into with a private sector provider, Horse Farms. Mr Cornwell is happy to seek in this place to crucify Horse Farms for their management. He wants a copy of their contractual arrangement with the ACT.

I do not know what is in the contract. I am more than happy to have a look at it. If there is any commercially sensitive stuff there, I will have to take some advice on that. I imagine there is not, and I would imagine that I would have no difficulty in tabling the contract in the Assembly. But you must understand that I will need to take some advice on that.

I am a bit concerned, Mr Cornwell, about your approach of standing in this place scarifying an upstanding ACT business and damning it in the way that you have. You have absolutely no justification for rubbing an honest, upstanding ACT business in the ground like this. It is a bit similar to your attack on Tuesday, suggesting that the community update we provide to the residents of Weston Creek who lost their homes is nothing but propaganda. It is of the same order. You are getting down and getting grubby in your old age, mate. Calling our support for people who lost their homes, calling our support for people who were injured, calling our support for people who lost loved ones in the fire propaganda and now, in the same week, attacking ACT business people without justification is a bit rich.

Territory Plan—boundaries

MS DUNDAS: My question is to the Minister for Planning, Mr Corbell. Minister, in your media release of 11 November, you stated that the boundaries of the Territory Plan were, “only indicative”.

Mr Corbell: The Spatial Plan.

MS DUNDAS: The press release said the Territory Plan. Can you please inform us what faith members of the community can have in the Territory Plan if the boundaries are only indicative and can be moved on a whim?

MR CORBELL: I refer Ms Dundas to the relevant provisions of the land act—and I am happy to provide a briefing to her on the land act—which include the provision covering the defined land boundary.

Mrs Dunne: You are misleading the people of Canberra again.

MR SPEAKER: Order, Mrs Dunne!

MR CORBELL: This allows for boundaries in the Territory Plan which, at its broadest level, is indicative, to be adjusted in minor ways at a detailed planning level as that detailed planning occurs on the ground. That is what has occurred in relation to the estate in Dunlop, adjacent to Fraser, to which I think Ms Dundas is alluding. However, in relation to that estate, I can make very clear to Ms Dundas, and to all members, that the government has implemented in full the recommendations of the environmental impact statement undertaken for that estate when it was first planned.

MS DUNDAS: Minister, can you please inform us then, if the Territory Plan can be adjusted in minor ways, how far can a development intrude into a mapped area zoned hills, ridges and buffers without breaching the Territory Plan?

MR CORBELL: Again, I refer Ms Dundas to the relevant sections of the land act, where this is explained in some detail. I am happy to provide further detail to Ms Dundas and provide her with a briefing on those provisions of the land act, which are very clear in relation to the details of boundaries between land uses on the Territory Plan.

Graffiti

MS TUCKER: My question is to Mr Wood, I think. It is about graffiti. I will speak loudly and slowly. It is about the debate we had yesterday.

MR SPEAKER: You are not going to reflect on the vote, are you?

MS TUCKER: No reflecting, just questions.

MR SPEAKER: We will see.

MS TUCKER: Some interesting things came out of the debate. It is not a reflection. I can say it was a fine debate.

MR SPEAKER: That is a reflection, too.

MS TUCKER: Yes. I withdraw that. I am interested to understand the role of the graffiti clean-up team. I understand, for example, that it was that team that persuaded a shopkeeper in Kambah who had previously—for 10 years, in fact—been happy with the back wall of the shop being used as a space for graffiti artists to not allow that because it would encourage graffiti. What happened was that the graffiti vandalism increased once that space was removed. I also understand that the Weston Creek skate park was recently painted over.

My question is: what is the role of the graffiti clean-up team? Is it government policy to basically let that team make these decisions? When they do, do they work at all with youth groups, youth workers, and consult with them about what they are doing, considering the hours of work that go into these graffiti art pieces?

MR WOOD: Thank you, Ms Tucker. I did hear all that. I did hear your comments on at least one of those issues, the one about Kambah. I am not so much sure about that background, but bear in mind that problems with graffiti can be reported by citizens. A phone call will have someone look at the problem.

I think I said yesterday that if it is offensive graffiti it can be removed within a day; otherwise, in a short space of time. In that circumstance, if we are talking about the tagging—which is the term I would use—that is how it can happen.

Ms Tucker: No.

MR WOOD: You are talking about the street art, are you? There is a more formal process with the street art by which Urban Services has allocated a range of sites where that street art may occur. I would expect there would be some communication there so that the clean-up team would know, in that circumstance, where there has been agreement for someone to put up their street art. I will clear those lines, for my satisfaction, and explain them to you.

I certainly know, with respect to Weston Creek, if that is the skate park, that there were a considerable number of complaints from people out in the community—I think I had some members contacting me about that as well—whose houses overlooked that. They didn't greatly love that artwork.

Maybe there was a problem there about giving approval for that site. That was the circumstance there. There is a fair point about whether the approval that DUS gives for certain sites is known by the people that might clean up the sites. I will check that through for you.

MR SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Tucker?

MS TUCKER: Yes, thank you. Related to that there is going to be a reduction in available spaces, with the Bunda Street redevelopment.

MR SPEAKER: Is that a question?

MS TUCKER: The question is: as you will be losing some legal spaces, how do you intend to provide more spaces? Do you have a plan?

MR WOOD: The information I have—I think it is correct; I will check it out to make sure I am not misleading anybody here—is that there are a whole lot more sites that have been approved and have been taken up. If people are dead-set keen about this, I would think there are sites that are available.

I think it is an issue that the Canberra community as a whole needs to discuss at some stage, and I think we need a balance between what street artists want to do and maybe what the whole of the Canberra community wants, as much as you can get a view on that. That is extending the answer to your question; it is the making of a statement by the minister, I suppose. At some stage we might need a bit of a community debate about the extent to which street art is able to extend throughout the city.

Chief Minister—ministerial meetings

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Environment, Mr Stanhope. Minister, on 29 August this year you said in a media release:

As the largest urban centre in the Murray Darling Basin, the ACT accepts its responsibility to contribute to improving the health of the river system, despite the sound practices we already have in place.

Minister, despite this you failed to be present at the most important meeting of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council since its formation, leaving the ACT unrepresented while it was taking the crucial decision about the future of Australia's largest river system.

Why did you fail to accept your responsibility to represent the ACT at the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council on 14 November, which made such vital decisions on the future of the river system?

MR STANHOPE: I thank the member for the question. Essentially it is because I cannot be in two places at once. I am not that good. I was in Hobart at a ministerial council meeting of attorneys-general, at a ministerial council meeting of ministers for censorship and at a meeting of corporate affairs ministers. They were also vital meetings. They also discussed a range of incredibly important and vital issues that affect the future of the nation and the future of each of us on a broad range of issues. Many are fundamental to the day-to-day lives of all Australians, including all members of the ACT community.

I would have loved to be with the ministerial council meeting for the Murray Darling Basin, but I could not. I was in Hobart attending three other ministerial council meetings, and I could just not stretch myself across Bass Strait. I could not reach across the strait, Mrs Dunne. A real pity, it was. I was there, doing my best, at three ministerial council meetings. I would have just loved to be able to do them both. I just could not have made it across Bass Strait.

If I had had a Lear jet or something, I suppose I could have ducked across between agenda items. I could have dealt with agenda item 1 down in Hobart, whizzed across for agenda item 2 on the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council, whizzed back to do a couple of items on censorship, whizzed back over again to deal with another item before whizzing back to deal with the ministerial corporations agenda item. That is what I might have done.

Certainly, it is a very important issue in a small jurisdiction—a unicameral parliament—dealing with the range of issues with which we deal. The point that Mrs Dunne raises is a fundamental issue relating to the adequacy of the size of this Assembly. The issue that underlines the matter that Mrs Dunne asks about—other than her desire to score some miserly, petty, little political point about attending ministerial council meetings; some really cheap politics involved in asking, “why can't you be in two places at once?” when you are both the Attorney-General and Minister for Environment—goes to the fact that in a 17 member parliament with five ministers, we are sorely stretched and we have an

impossible job in addressing all the issues that represent as vitally important to the people of the ACT. It is a real shame that the ACT Minister for Environment could not be at a ministerial council meeting on the Murray Darling because the ACT Minister for Environment is also the ACT Attorney-General and had an equally important meeting to attend in Hobart.

Mr Wood: Well, you know the answer.

MR STANHOPE: Yes, it is 25 members and eight ministers.

MRS DUNNE: I have a supplementary question, Mr Speaker. Minister, why did you think the most important issue at SCAG was the issue of whether women barristers could become QCs and judges, because it was the only thing you spoke publicly about? Do you think that women in the ACT will sleep easier knowing that even though their gardens are dead and we have run out of water to wash our clothes, our hair and our children, you would have been doing your utmost to make sure that those few amongst us who are barristers would become QCs or judges?

MR SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Mrs Dunne. I rule the question out. It is not a supplementary question.

Mr Stanhope: It was an absolute disgrace. It was an embarrassing disgrace.

Opposition members interjecting—

MR SPEAKER: Order, members! I call Ms MacDonald.

Mounted Police

MS MacDONALD: My question is to Mr Wood, in his capacity as the minister for police. Minister, there has been some noise today about the decision to disband the mounted police team. Could the minister inform the Assembly of the circumstances surrounding this decision?

MR WOOD: Well, there has certainly been a lot of whinnying from over that side. I have been sitting here waiting for the opposition to ask a question about that. It is the big issue for some people here today, but they were not game to ask a question, so I had to get it via a dorothy dixer.

Mr Smyth: Mr Speaker, I raise a point of order. Questions cannot anticipate answers to questions that have been asked on the notice paper. There are actually a series of questions on the notice paper, if the minister had bothered to consult it, concerning the mounted police. I would suggest that this question is out of order.

MR SPEAKER: I have not seen the question.

MR WOOD: In any event, Mr Speaker, that is not on the notice paper because it has been answered. The answer is probably with Mr Pratt now.

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Mr Pratt: Not according to my understanding, Mr Speaker; the question has not been answered.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I have just had a point of order raised by Mr Smyth and I have undertaken to have a look at the notice paper and see if I can find this question.

MR WOOD: They were too timid to ask the question. It is absolute nonsense that they have been going on with.

MR SPEAKER: We cannot find it on today's notice paper. Minister.

MR WOOD: I will answer the question. In any event, I think we have had rulings here before that you do not necessarily wipe things off because there has been some mention of them elsewhere. The fact is that the decision that I took, such as it was, was an acknowledgment simply of what has been happening for quite some time. The horses have been on agistment for a year. The decision was made earlier that Mr Humphries's indulgence was not working and the horses have been out on pasture for a year at Hall. That is the simple answer. It is my wish, as minister for police—

Mrs Dunne: I raise a point of order, Mr Speaker. The question number is 1050.

MR SPEAKER: Ms MacDonald, could you repeat your question, please?

MS MacDONALD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There has been some noise today about the decision to disband the mounted police team. Could the minister inform the Assembly of the circumstances surrounding this decision?

Mrs Dunne: I raise a point of order, Mr Speaker. Ms MacDonald has asked about the disbanding of the mounted police unit. Mr Pratt's question 1050 asked for details about the productivity report into the viability of the mounted police unit. The viability of the mounted police unit goes directly to whether or not it was disbanded. I would submit that, until there is an answer to this question, Ms MacDonald's question cannot be asked.

MR SPEAKER: That is a frivolous point of order. If you try that one on again, you will be in trouble.

MR WOOD: I can understand why the opposition is very keen for me to be sat down and not to answer this question, because they are in a very difficult circumstance. This indulgence by Mr Humphries when he was police minister some years ago simply has not worked out and it was the responsibility of me, as the police minister, to ask the question: are these horses viable the way they are structured at the moment? The answer came back: "Well, no. They have been on agistment for quite some time—

Members interjecting—

MR WOOD: I did not know they were on agistment when they were put out there. It was not my decision that they go out there.

MR SPEAKER: Order! The minister's time has expired.

MS MacDONALD: I have a supplementary question, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Can he inform the Assembly further as to what led up to the decision?

Mrs Dunne: I raise a point of order, Mr Speaker. This goes straight to the viability. Mr Wood has already touched on the viability of the issue, and this is what the question was about.

MR SPEAKER: I have already ruled on that question, Mrs Dunne.

MR WOOD: Let me also mention the outrageous comments from over the road there. Mr Pratt in a media release said, “This is a major cut to policing in the ACT.” Two horses are on agistment and it is a major cut to policing?

Mrs Burke: Of course it is.

MR WOOD: Well, I had better give you a few lessons about ACT policing. It is a change—it is a minor change and one that some do not like—but to call it a major cut! Mr Humphries himself made the comment, “Mounted police are popular with the public” but he did not take any polling on that. It may be that they are popular; it may be. But it is my job to see that they are effective; that is my job. Mere popularity is insufficient.

Another member over there said, “Look, the people at Hall like these horses. Can you keep them?” That was the only argument I got: the Hall people like these horses. I have not had any arguments here about how they should be kept or why they should be kept. The opposition are simply beyond the point of reason on this issue. I will stand up here and assert that I am responsible. I want to see that, as they are, all the resources of the ACT policing are effectively deployed. Quite simply, I confirmed the decision that, if horses are on agistment there and they have been for a year, there are better things we can do with police resources than that. I am sorry that we get the very inane comments from at least three members of the Liberal Party in the ACT.

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

Legal Affairs—Standing Committee Report No 7—government responses

MR STANHOPE (Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Environment and Minister for Community Affairs) (3.36): Mr Speaker, for the information of members, I present the following paper:

*Legal Affairs—Standing Committee—Report No 7—Changing the term of
Assembly Members from three years to four years—Government response.*

I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Paper

Mr Stanhope presented the following paper:

Legal Aid Act, pursuant to section 8 (3) (a)—Legal Aid (Funding Agreement, Family Law Costs Limitation Guideline)—Direction 2003, dated 5 November 2003, including an explanatory statement and an agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the ACT in relation to the provision of legal assistance.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Paper and statement by minister

MR QUINLAN (Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, and Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming) (3.37): Mr Speaker, for the information of members, I present the following paper:

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—Report No 13 of 2003—Final Report—Water abstraction charge, dated 10 October 2003.

I ask for leave to make a statement in relation to the paper.

Leave granted.

MR QUINLAN: Mr Speaker, I present this ICRC report to the Assembly for the information of members. In May 2003, I issued a reference to the commission to investigate and provide advice to the government on the appropriate level and methodology for calculation of the water abstraction charge pursuant to the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act of 1997. The final report was released by the commission on 10 October 2003.

The government welcomes the commission's report and notes that the current WAC of 10c per kilolitre is not considered sufficient to cover the full economic cost to government of obtaining water. The commission has recommended that the level of the WAC be increased to 20c per kilolitre from 1 January 2004. This is in line with government policy announced in the 2003-2004 budget. The WAC will be increased to 20c per kilolitre from 1 January 2004 and to 25c per kilolitre in 2005-2006.

The objective of the water abstraction charge is to price water in a manner which reflects its true economic cost. Charging the full cost to cover externalities incurred by government, such as catchment management and environmental and scarcity values, is consistent with both the Council of Australian Governments' water reform requirements and the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand guidelines.

I wish to thank the senior commissioner, Mr Paul Baxter, and his fellow commissioners, Ms Robin Creyke and Mr Peter McGhie, and the commission staff for their work on this report.

Papers

Mr Quinlan presented the following papers, which were circulated to members when the Assembly was not sitting:

Financial Management Act—

Pursuant to section 25—Consolidated Annual Financial Statements—2002-2003 Financial Year, dated 29 October 2003.

Pursuant to section 26 (4)—September Quarterly Management Report—Financial quarter and year to date ending 30 September 2003.

Mr Corbell presented the following paper:

Radiation Act, pursuant to section 77—Radiation (Fees) Determination 2003 (No 1)—Disallowable instrument DI2003-247, including an explanatory statement.

Community housing Ministerial statement

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and Minister for Arts and Heritage) (3.40): Mr Speaker, I ask for leave to make a ministerial statement concerning the structure of community housing in Canberra.

Leave granted.

MR WOOD: It is my pleasure, Mr Speaker, to announce the outcome of an extensive review of the structure of Community Housing Canberra Ltd (CHC). This body was established about five years ago as the vehicle for the transfer of 200 properties from public to community housing management. Since its establishment, a total of 209 properties have been transferred to CHC and the company has successfully undertaken the City Edge redevelopment in O'Connor.

CHC provider organisations have also successfully carried out tenancy management activities and have recorded high tenant satisfaction ratings in the national social housing survey. Despite these successes, concerns were expressed that the current company structure was inhibiting CHC's ability to grow and prosper.

The changes announced today will provide greater transparency and accountability. They will allow CHC to continue to utilise innovative private financing mechanisms to expand the community housing sector. The review was undertaken by a steering committee of officials from the Department of Housing, Disability and Community Services, Treasury, the Chief Minister's Department and the Department of Justice and Community Safety. It also included representatives from CHC and the chair of the Housing Advisory Committee.

The steering committee assessed possible corporate structures against a comprehensive set of principles set out by the government and was charged with recommending a

preferred model for the company. The committee concluded that the most appropriate model was one that provided for the community to own and manage housing, asset and property management. It concluded that the retention of CHC's not-for-profit status would improve the potential to increase the supply of community housing through non-government funding and concessions.

The steering committee also concluded that a company limited by guarantee under corporations law was the most appropriate mechanism for delivering the proposed activities of the company, and that it should not be a territory-owned corporation. While the committee considered that CHC's existing status as a company limited by guarantee was appropriate, it concluded that CHC's existing constitution, funding agreement and accountability arrangements did not provide sufficient safeguards to protect the public interest.

Accordingly, the steering committee recommended the following changes to address those issues:

- making the territory a member of the company with special rights that enable it to protect the public interest in the assets invested in the company
- revising the objectives of the company to strengthen the focus on community housing for low income households and alleviating poverty
- requiring certain skills and experience of the directors of the board
- requiring CHC to produce a business plan for all of its activities
- placing limitations on the company's borrowings from private financial institutions, participation in joint ventures and any disposal of assets without the approval of the territory.

CHC currently has long-term leases over 209 properties it manages. While some time ago the value of the properties was transferred off the government's accounts, CHC does not have title over those properties. The government has decided to transfer the ownership of 153 properties with separate titles to CHC. The transfer of these titles will enable CHC to increase the supply of stock for community housing using non-government funding. This approach to expanding the stock of community housing is consistent with the government's policy directions outlined in the community housing framework, as well as meeting the objective of attracting private finance, a condition specified in the 2003 Commonwealth-state housing agreement.

The remaining properties managed by CHC, which do not have separate title, are primarily located in the ACT's large multiunit complexes. It is proposed to continue existing lease arrangements for these properties, pending the development of alternative funding options and the government's consideration of specific multiunit complexes as part of the public housing asset management strategy.

I take this opportunity to remind the Assembly that this government is enthusiastically undertaking the task of developing a comprehensive framework for the development of community housing in the ACT. To support this framework, we have already initiated a number of measures, including:

- providing \$3 million in 2002-03 and a further \$3 million in 2003-04 for the expansion of community housing

- providing \$150,000 per annum for feasibility studies on innovative models of community housing
- allocating \$1.2 million over four years for the development of indigenous community housing options
- consulting on the development of a head leasing program for community housing, which will be operational in 2003-2004
- providing ongoing funding for the peak community housing organisation, CCHOACT.

The development of the community housing framework is a big task that will provide a platform for the long-term growth and prosperity of the sector. The proposed restructuring of CHC is part of this comprehensive framework for the expansion of the community housing sector. Under the new funding arrangement, from July 2004 money will continue to be provided for organisational infrastructure. However, the company will focus on using its existing asset base to leverage additional private finance for community housing, in accordance with an approved business plan.

In announcing these changes, I would stress that the government has undertaken extensive community consultation. The department engaged RPR Consulting to consult with each of the members of CHC, as well as key community stakeholders such as ACTCOSS and ACT Shelter. Participants also identified procedures for clarifying the relationships between CHC and the tenancy management organisations.

The current directors of the company will continue in their roles until a special meeting is held in early 2004 to adopt a new constitution. I would like to take this opportunity to thank present and past directors of CHC for their unwavering commitment to the establishment and growth of CHC and community housing generally in the ACT.

The proposed changes will provide a solid foundation for the expansion of community housing. I look forward to seeing the positive benefits that will flow both to the company and the community housing sector in the ACT.

I present the following paper:

Review of the Structure of Community Housing Canberra Ltd (CHC)—Ministerial Statement, 20 November 2003.

I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

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

Planning system

Discussion of matter of public importance

MR SPEAKER: I have received a letter from Mrs Dunne proposing that a matter of public importance be submitted to the Assembly for discussion, namely:

The state of the planning system in the ACT.

MRS DUNNE (3.48): Mr Speaker, when we met in this Assembly in the early days of December 2001, the planning minister, Mr Corbell, made some very Whitlamesque pronouncements about his strategic whole-of-government approach to planning. He said, “No aspect of long-term planning will be left untouched.” I recall suggesting at the time that we needed to be afraid, very afraid.

Two years on, my predictions have shown that I can be quiet prescient on planning matters. What we have now is a complete litany of failures from this minister, a seething sea of discontent in the community and former allies now turned to enemies. Specifically, we have a new planning system that fulfils all of my worst predictions and then some.

Let’s look at some examples. One that was raised in question time this week was Mr Wason’s inability to get planning approval for student accommodation in Tasman House. The minister thought he was doing the right thing and, in response to this, he said:

The issue with that development is that the development went through the standard process for assessing the development requirements and what specific design issues needed to be addressed—nothing more, nothing less.

We had to address a range of issues, including overshadowing, Mr Speaker. We had to address the issue of overshadowing for a building that had been standing in the one place for 30 years. No wonder this former factional ally is now calling for the head of this minister and threatening his preselection.

Of course, that is not the only example. We have a complete litany of disasters under this minister. St Anne’s convent is being rezoned for aged care but that has been going on for nearly four years now. Retail sites in Gungahlin for Coles, Woolies and Aldi took over two years to be approved. Then we had the debacle of draft variation 200, where only 4 per cent of the community who had anything to say about draft variation 200 were in favour of its implementation. However, Mr Corbell managed to have his own way, with the connivance of the Greens in this place, even though only 4 per cent of the people wanted it. At least you can say he is not concerned with base populism.

We have had the Turner neighbourhood planning debacle, the unconscionable delays over section 56, now section 84, and the Jamison master plan, which took more than four years and is still going on. Even though we have now finalised the Jamison master plan, the owner of the Jamison shopping centre, who wants to make changes to his shopping centre that comply with the master plan, is now required to do a preliminary assessment. Getting that through may take another two years.

This last couple of weeks, we have had both Watson and Hackett residents absolutely up in arms over their neighbourhood planning process. We have lopsided development because we cannot build in Civic and in the town centres what we have at the airport. We have also had yesterday’s admission that this minister’s model for community planning forums, the sons of LAPACs, was a complete failure and that it is back to the drawing board. It must be gall and wormwood to this minister that Mr Humphries’s model for

community consultation and involvement has been so enduring and has stood the test of time. This minister, who was hell-bent on tearing it down, has nothing to replace it with.

There is a long list here but I want to share with the Assembly my personal favourite. This comes from a major national company which attempted to acquire a direct grant of land adjoining a block that it already had. The direct grant of land was for 18 square metres. It took the company three years to acquire land valued at \$2,000 and it cost them \$50,000 in fees and expenses to acquire 18 square metres of land. Is it any wonder that companies think twice before locating in the ACT? Is it any wonder we are beginning to see a flight of capital from the ACT?

The problems we have in planning in the ACT are manifold. The minister here alienates everyone who comes into his path. He makes enemies where he used to have friends. He makes it up as he goes along, and we saw that today in relation to a question in this place from Ms Dundas: he was talking about fudging the Territory Plan. He has broken down all sense of trust in organisations, community groups and people who are interested in and associated with planning.

Trust is a very strong element in any community in which anything is going on that requires people to work together. There is no trust left between former members of LAPACs, people involved in community planning, people involved in business and people involved in the Planning Institute. All of that trust has gone under the supervision of this Minister for Planning.

Then we had the legislation. Since I have been a member in this place, I have been calling on a fairly regular basis for a review of the land act. It has not been forthcoming and, if it is to be forthcoming, it will be a review of the land act done by the planners. The people who, for the last 13 years, have been administering the land act will not have a clear fresh look at what the land act should be. It is as it was with the creation of the new planning authority by the planners themselves: it is putting the kids in charge of building the playground. It will turn out the way the planners want it and not to the benefit of the community.

There are all the problems of the administration of the new system. The new planning regime, not unexpectedly, has taken some time to bed down, but there are areas of particular concern, such as the role of the planning advisory council, the big questions about which development applications it considers, how long it should take to comment, when those comments will be made, whether it adds value to decisions that have to be made, and why a proponent cannot attend the discussions of the Planning and Land Council when it is discussing a relevant development application.

This indicates that there was no provision made for change management as the planning authorities moved from one structure to another. I raised this as an issue during the debate on the planning and land bill and, at the time, the minister and his staff said in a long-winded way that little or nothing had been done about change management.

Then there is the culture of the planning authority—"We have always done it like this. It was good enough for the NCDC days, so it is good enough now." What is worse is the patronising approach—"Don't you worry about that. We are the planners and we know

what is good for you.” That is the type of attitude that has got us into the situation where, at the moment, the Downer and Hackett residents are particularly offended by the process of neighbourhood planning.

There is continual deskilling, low morale and future shock in the planning authorities and, especially in the recent case of the debate over rural leasing, we have seen a complete lack of knowledge of what the law requires. Over this is laid the master plan, Mr Corbell’s “no arm of planning will be left untouched”, his whole-of-government strategic approach. It absorbs a huge amount of time on strategic plans, studies and policy directions, which have diverted staff from the day-to-day business of making decisions on specific projects.

This government has made very much of its integrated strategic whole-of-government planning. We have a spatial plan, an non-urban study, an urban edge study, a water strategy, a social plan and an integrated transport plan. I am not quite sure what it is integrated into, but presumably the minister will eventually reveal all. All that feeds into the grand plan. It does sound like the five-year plan, doesn’t it? It sounds okay in theory sometimes, but it is piecemeal: it comes along in dribs and drabs. We had a draft spatial plan released the other day which made some announcements about future directions, all of them without any reference to our water supply. There may be simply too many moving parts to integrate successfully.

We do not have the resources to enforce it and that could lead down the slippery path of corruption. The system is overengineered.

Mr Corbell: On a point of order: the imputation that the government’s reforms are leading to corruption is highly disorderly. You should ask Mrs Dunne to withdraw, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Did you say that?

MRS DUNNE: I said this could lead down the slippery path to corruption. However, if Mr Corbell is offended, I will withdraw it.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

MRS DUNNE: We have all heard of a belt and braces approach, but I would rather characterise the current planning approach as a belt, braces and boilersuit approach. We have HQSD, we have design review panels, we have a preapplication process and we have development application processes that are so complicated and overlapping that most people do not know what is going on. On top of that, what is the use of having a master plan and complying with it in every respect if you are still subject to challenge at every step of the way because of all these obstacles of HQSD, DAs, PAs and preapplication processes?

This is exacerbated by the fact that there are no limits on appeals and no requirements that a person should have a direct interest in a development. People can get away with holding up all sorts of projects, very cheaply, with frivolous appeals about the quality of the internal walls or the hydrography in the basement.

The trouble is that the whole system is being micromanaged. With this micromanagement approach, you end up in a position where you can no longer see the wood for the trees. Consequently, this is why Mr Hollway's grand vision for the non-urban areas points to a problem that we have to correct, otherwise we will make no progress, which is the culture in the planning system. It is interesting that the Chief Minister has retained responsibility for the implementation of the non-urban planning study, because it seems he simply has no confidence in the current planning system. As Mr Hollway notes, it is no accident that all the ACT wineries are over the border in New South Wales.

Really, what we have in the ACT planning is a control freak culture. I do not know whether the planners are frustrated would-be developers, but they seem to be hostile to ideas that are not theirs. I take, for example, the proposals for a master plan for west Fyshwick to which the planners have shown an intense antipathy from the time that it was originally proposed on the grounds that it would offer more affordable accommodation than that currently being developed. On the other hand, the developers who are actually putting their own money at risk seem to feel, strangely enough, that their ideas should be included in the vision of what they are to build.

The insistence of this government on getting back into the business of property development flies in the face of most governments' approaches to business. In virtually every country in the developed world, there is a move away from state control of things such as land development. In November last year, I described the government's approach as simply old-fashioned state planning on the grand scale, with five-year plans and the like. Twelve months on, what has happened? It has become even worse than I suggested. We have the sorry saga of Harrison stage 1: the first attempt to sell a block of land fell over because of the financial status of the would-be purchaser and, on the second attempt, 11 weeks after the auction and three weeks after the sale should have been settled, the minister came up with six separate excuses for not having sold it.

There are lots of things that have to be done. We have to review the land act and this should be done by people outside the system. It needs to be fixed up and it needs to be fixed up in a hurry. We really do need to streamline planning. There should not be approvals when a master plan already exists and we have to ensure that the PA and DA process is not as onerous as it currently is. We need to do something about third-party appeals. We need to consider deemed approval and do something about vexatious appeals that hold up the process.

I congratulate the minister on his move forward in the area of conciliation and arbitration, but current examples show that more has to be done. A current example is that the developer got to the stage of going to the AAT. Then someone who was appealing against the process was forced to sit down and look at the plans. We discovered then that it was the first time he had ever looked at the plans; he then thought there was nothing wrong with them and withdrew his appeal.

Mr Speaker, it gives me no joy to be a planning Cassandra and to have all my prophesies about what would go wrong with ACTPLA confirmed, but it is important for the future of the ACT. I would rather be wrong. The people of the ACT are beginning to realise the

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extent of these problems and, if the current planning minister is not prepared to address them then, one way or the other, we will get one who will.

MR CORBELL (Minister for Health and Minister for Planning) (4.03): Mr Speaker, I am surprised Mrs Dunne did not blame me for the greenhouse effect and the spread of the AIDS virus, while she was at it, because she blamed for just about everything else.

I want to paint a picture of where the government is going, what it seeks to do and, more importantly, how it values a profession whose commitment is to trying to achieve a better place for people to live in. I want to deal first with professionalism and capacity because, as a city, we need a strong and robust planning system, one that protects the public interest, one that advocates and recognises that communities and societies change and need the capacity to respond to that change in a timely, effective and considered way. That is the job of well-resourced, effective and dedicated planning organisations, working within the context of whole of government.

What we heard from Mrs Dunne was the complete antithesis. What we heard from Mrs Dunne is more of the rhetoric we have heard from the Liberal Party ever since they have been a power in this place and that is that planning is nothing more than a regulatory function that should get out of the way as soon as possible, so that the market can just get on and do whatever it likes.

That is the sort of philosophy that got us to the state we were in in October 2001, with piecemeal ad hoc redevelopment, with no strategic plan for the future growth and development of our city, and with a planning organisation so emasculate that it had had millions and millions of dollars ripped out of it, with no capacity to plan for the future, with no capacity to meet our city's demands in terms of change and development. It would seem that Mrs Dunne would like to go back to those days, to squash our plans, to sit on them and not let them speak, not let them play the important role they have to play in helping to shape the future of our city.

The planning profession is important. It is important because it is about good urban governance and, whether it is planners, landscape architects, architects, or the range of other people engaged in the planning discussion, they have a vital role. This government will always respect and uphold the importance of their role in the context of a whole-of-government approach to good urban governance.

Mr Speaker, the government's commitment and record on planning is a strong one. Planning is a contentious and difficult portfolio; all ministers have discovered that. There will never be agreement and complete consensus on the ways forward for our city. That means there will be debate and the perception of conflict. However, let me outline for the benefit of members, the government's commitments and its record in implementing those.

The government committed to an neighbourhood planning program to give residents and others who invested, lived, worked and played in these suburbs a say in the future planning of that suburb. When I announced the first neighbourhood planning program for six Canberra suburbs last year, Mrs Dunne said it could not be done: "Nine months, no way!" Mr Speaker, we completed the first six neighbourhood plans on time and on budget—an election promise delivered.

Mrs Dunne said an independent ACT Planning and Land Authority would not make any difference, would not deliver any improved changes and she opposed it outright from the beginning—more negativity from the Liberal Party—but it is an election promise delivered.

We abolished the position of the Commissioner for Land and Planning, streamlining the decision-making process by removing that unnecessary step between decision making by the planning agency and review by an independent tribunal—another election promise delivered.

For the first time in 30 years, we initiated the first long-term strategic plan for the future growth and development of our city. We sat down and did, for the first time in 30 years, a complete examination of how our city should grow and develop into the future. We do not want to rely on a plan devised in the 1950s for the community and society of the 1950s: we want to rely on a plan which is relevant to the demands and the needs of our community today and into the future. That is what the draft Canberra Spatial Plan tries to do.

No plan is perfect. All plans will require modification in the future. However, we have set in place a framework which, for the first time, attempts to establish a consolidated city that will help us address the incredible issue of energy use—the impact of energy use on the greenhouse effect—the issue of greater housing choice, and the issue of new places and new opportunities in which Canberrans, now and in the future, can live, work and play. This is work never done by those opposite.

At a neighbourhood and suburban level, we introduced significant reforms to the way development and redevelopment should occur in our neighbourhoods. We implemented the 5 per cent limit on dual and triple occupancy development, as promised during the election. We have protected Canberra's garden city character through variation 200 to the Territory Plan, which makes provisions for increased private open space in backyards, introduces stronger development and plot ratio controls, prohibits dual occupancy development in the majority of most suburbs, and encourages strategic redevelopment around local centres and other key nodes. That is an integrated and strategic approach to improving planning in our city.

We have done more than that, too. We have introduced a new process to completely audit and protect Canberra's open spaces and we are still moving to ensure that, at the next election, there will be a referendum on entrenching Canberra's open spaces against development in the Territory Plan.

Of course, the government has introduced the public land development, an incredibly popular move, a move which has been welcomed by hundreds and hundreds of Canberrans. Canberrans who want the block of their choice and the builder of their choice without being gazumped, without the prices being pushed up through artificial bidding, and without having to accept the house that has already been built on the block. Public land development is about better returns to the community, better choice for the community and better management of our land asset.

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Mr Speaker, the Land Development Agency is running a strong and successful program, one which is strongly supported by the community. I have heard, Mrs Dunne, as I move about the community, that people like the idea of getting land through a ballot. They like the idea of choosing the block of land of their choice.

Mr Speaker, the government has continued on its program of a strategic and overarching approach. For example, we have done significant work in reforming the planning framework for city west, to create a vibrant and attractive precinct linking the city with the Australian National University. We have raised the prospect of connecting this area with the lake and, again, the detailed platform that has been produced in that regard has been welcomed overwhelmingly by the community.

Mr Speaker, the government has also taken an important role in increasing the amount of residential land that is released in the ACT. Despite Mrs Dunne's bleatings, despite Mrs Dunne's criticism to the contrary, Mr Speaker, even organisations like the MBA now recognise that there is sufficient land supply to meet demand in the Canberra community. We have effectively doubled the amount of land available through greenfield and redevelopment activity, compared to that put in place by the opposition when it was in government.

We have done that—and Mrs Dunne will be interested in this, because she might understand the causal link—by investing in the planning authority so it has the capacity to plan for future land release and so that when there is demand for future land, we have the planning done. The real legacy we faced with land release was the failure to fund that capacity in the old Planning and Land Management area so that, when there was demand, the planning had not been completed so that more land could be released, so we had to panic, and try to find the planning, and get it done and get it out.

We have taken a forward planning approach. We are putting land planned and on the shelf so that, when the demand is there, the land can be released without the need for costly and time-consuming planning done in a reactive, rather than a proactive, way. That is the approach and that is the government's record on planning for our city.

We have also emphasised the importance of linking transport with land use and we have not just talked about it in theory. We are starting to make it happen in practice. The government's commitment to remove the zonal bus fare structure and to introduce a flat fare structure has led to an increase of over 9 per cent in adult patronage on ACTION buses and a 4 per cent increase overall. That is the government's commitment and the government's record.

However, that is just the base on which we are now building the integrated transport plan for our city, a plan that will guide the revitalisation and upgrading of our existing bus interchanges and the provision of real time information to provide greater incentives and reliability for new and existing users when they come to use public transport. It will also provide, for the first time since the Liberals cut the program when they were elected in 1995, a detailed and exhaustive examination of light rail and other intertown transport technologies.

Mr Speaker, that is the government's record, that is the work we have done. We have done a comprehensive and overarching analysis of our capacity to plan for our future, to plan for the places where people will need to live, work, play and invest.

What has been the response of the broad community to these initiatives? Mr Speaker, they have been strongly welcomed, although not without debate. My office now receives hardly a complaint on dual occupancy development. I doubt that Mr Smyth could boast the same. The reason for that is that we have put in place a strong framework that people understand. Dual occupancy development occurs in a strategic way around key nodes across our city, not in the ad hoc, haphazard way fostered by the Liberal Party. The government now receives strong endorsement from a range of organisations which we rarely see endorsing Labor government approaches.

For example, the government has received endorsements from the Property Council of Australia, from the Master Builders Association, from the HIA and from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for the significant work we have done in setting in place a strategic framework for the future growth and development of the city. The Property Council of Australia called on you, Mrs Dunne, to show bipartisanship and show leadership in endorsing the need for a strategic planning framework. Unfortunately, you have failed that challenge to date. I encourage you to reconsider your approach on that matter.

The government is still moving forward. We recognise that the land act is a complex, detailed and difficult piece of legislation to administer, and that is why I have already indicated on a number of occasions that we do need to reform it. We need to reform the land act to remove the duplicated and difficult areas which make development difficult in Canberra. That work has already started with the opportunities to apply preliminary assessments across whole sections of the city before land is released so that, when land is released, the private sector investor does not need to do that planning work, adding certainty and timeliness to the process.

In addition, we will also be embarking on a broader and wide-ranging review of the land act and the new chief planning executive, Mr Neil Savery, has already commenced work on the process for achieving that.

The government's record is a strong one. It is a detailed and comprehensive one. We have linked economic development policy with land use and strategic planning objectives, and we are starting to see the results of that investment, an investment in a reskilled and newly emerged planning organisation playing its role in informing public, government and community debate about the future growth and development of our city.

MS DUNDAS (4.19): I will try to be brief considering this is an MPI. I would like to start off by responding to a point that Minister Corbell raised in his speech about the lack of complaints coming through about dual occupancies. I agree that the number of complaints about dual occupancies has dropped considerably, but concerns are still being raised about how dual occupancies are going. I have had extensive contact with a member of the community who has a number of grave concerns about a dual occupancy happening next door to her.

However, her major concern is about how ACTPLA is working against her. She feels that, because she is a member of this community, the government and the bureaucracy should be willing to work with her and not against her on planning ideas. She does not understand why she has to stand up in the AAT and have a government lawyer argue against her when she pays taxes to put this person there. She thinks that there should be another mechanism for working through the issues that are coming through with planning—

Mr Corbell: The authority is the defendant and the decision maker; so it has to defend its decisions.

MS DUNDAS: The minister interjects that they have to defend themselves. This member of the community says that they are not even listening, they are not even willing to work on the issues that are there and come up with another solution. I think that is the key issue with regard to the state of the planning system in the ACT.

I want to talk about public consultation and the willingness of the department to listen to what the community thinks about planning. Yesterday, in a response to the question I asked about community planning forums, which are to replace the local area planning advisory committees or LAPACs, which were shut down in the middle of the year, the minister indicated that he was planning to junk the community planning forums less than two months after their proposed commencement date. I have been receiving a continuous stream of phone calls and correspondence from the community concerned with the minister's disdain for public consultation and the lack of input from local communities about planning and development.

We saw the LAPACs shut down before community planning forums were ready to go, then the composition and duties of the community planning forums were mucked around so that they became just a pale shadow of the LAPACs. The community representatives on the CPFs were all to be appointed by ACTPLA and any elected positions voted for by the community were quickly disposed of. Then we saw the terms of reference for the CPFs restricted so that they could only look at a fraction of the issues that the LAPACs did. Their agendas and meetings were also to be entirely controlled by ACTPLA, so that CPF members would not be able to stray from the script.

After the LAPACs were diluting as far as was possible, the results were really a window dressing forum for the policies of the government, with no real community control or input. Then we saw the call for nominations. Should we be surprised that not many people were interested? Why would anybody want to join a group if they thought it would be a complete waste of time? Who wants to be a puppet for the government? I have even heard concerns expressed by people who were interested in nominating for the community planning forums but found the nomination form very onerous. It called for extensive experience in community and planning work. Of course, the only people who have that experience are people who have been involved in LAPACs. If you want new blood, you have to recognise that you will get new and different ideas and people with different experiences.

However, now it appears that the minister has realised that the CPFs will not work and the idea has been junked, but we still are unclear about what will replace the CPFs or the

LAPACs. In the meantime, planning and development continues apace without sufficient community consultation. Not only does this remove the ability of residents to shape their own communities, but it creates increased conflict with new developments when residents have to resort to statutory and legal means to address their concerns. We no longer have any community consultation. We only have the statutory requirements; so if there's a problem, it has to go through the courts or the tribunals. How is that a good planning process?

After two years looking after planning, the Labor Party has managed to make the community as angry and disillusioned with the government policy as it was under the Liberals and that is saying something.

The community planning forums disaster is mirrored by the neighbourhood planning collapse. The minister says he had them done on time and there is no argument there, but increasingly neighbourhood planning groups are rebelling against the plans they were supposed to help develop, seeing the whole process as a smokescreen which the government uses to impose new planning policies from above. I understand that the community has welcomed none of the recent neighbourhood plans, with the vast bulk of them being opposed by those who engaged in the planning process.

It appears that the whole basis of neighbourhood planning has been undermined by the refusal of the government to engage with the ideas put forward by the community. Instead, it has ridden roughshod over their wishes and come up with a plan that is completely inconsistent with the aims of local communities.

I welcomed the neighbourhood planning idea. I thought it was a good one and a good way of getting people involved in the development of their suburb. I was concerned that it happened in the older suburbs first and not in areas that were crying out for it, such as Gungahlin, but now we are hearing from the community that the neighbourhood planning process was almost a sham, that their community involvement was just ignored.

We still have a number of issues in relation to consultation on which this government has failed. There have been continuous refusals to begin developing a master plan for the Kippax group centre and we are now seeing the conflict that is generated as community members respond to the haphazard development proposals that the lack of coordination has caused. Of course, there is no planning forum in which to consult on these developments since the LAPACs were shut down, so naturally the local community feels completely disenfranchised.

We have also seen the minister's inflexibility in his dealing with the development of the Gungahlin town centre, along with many other issues. This leaves the ACT in a very precarious position. Planning is not just about having lots of experts sitting in a room and developing a bunch of rules that everyone else has to follow. Good planning is about working with local communities to both communicate the trade-offs that governments face, as well as the grassroots ideas, and developing those into a cohesive framework of which residents have some sense of ownership. Good planning comes from the bottom up, not the top down.

However, this government, representing a more informed view of planning than the previous Liberal regime did, is still all about top-down planning. Planning in the ACT is

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still being owned by the minister and taken away from the ACT people. It does not matter whether or not planning is happening in a statutory authority or in a government department, it is still all coming from the top down. It has been taken away from the ACT people, who are increasingly frustrated by the process. All the good ideas in the world are no use unless they are acceptable to the communities that will have to bear the effects for decades to come.

I call on the planning minister to use the demise of the community planning forums—before they began—to develop a broad and participatory approach to planning in the ACT. CPFs have failed precisely because they tried to control and silence members of our community, rather than being cooperative and open minded. It is time to let community members have some control of their planning, so that they can identify the issues that are of most concern to them and comment on them freely, openly and fairly to the government and ACTPLA. It is only with a cooperative planning consultation system that the ACT can move to resolve its current planning conflicts.

MR CORNWELL (4.27): I regret that Mr Corbell has had to leave to go interstate to a meeting, I understand, and he cannot—

Mr Quinlan: A ministerial council.

MR CORNWELL: Indeed, thank you, Mr Quinlan. He cannot hear this debate, though that does not explain why he was out of the chamber for seven minutes during Mrs Dunne's 15-minute address or the beginning of it, at least. I can understand his departure now. I must say I am a little ambivalent about the title of this matter of public importance, "the state of the planning system in the ACT". I would probably have used another word which better described this situation.

Mr Quinlan: I want to hear your view on consultation, Greg.

MR CORNWELL: Thank you. We heard a lot from Mr Corbell. He gave us a throwaway line about how the Liberal Party is quite happy for developers to do whatever they wanted under our regime. He talked about good urban governance under this Labor Party. He also spoke about a commitment; an open space audit; the government taking over the sale of land; transport; and an integrated approach to living, working and playing.

One thing he did not mention was the provision of the facilities for some of the most vulnerable people in our community, and I am, of course, talking about the aged.

Mr Wood: Leave me out of this.

MR CORNWELL: Whatever we may like to talk about regarding planning and the commitments that this government may have, Mr Wood, planning is also people. I see little evidence of that in relation to our vulnerable and our elderly. There has been no greater indictment of this government's poor planning process than the fact that despite repeated promises about facilities being provided, we have seen nothing in the two years that this government has been in office in new facilities for the aged. There has been a lot of talk. Indeed, on 21 July this year, Mr Corbell put out a media release saying that:

The private and non-government sector are responding to the ACT's ageing population with proposals [for]...over 500 independent living units and 300 aged care beds across Canberra.

Four months later, we have seen nothing of those but yesterday, in response to a question without notice in this place, Mr Corbell scaled down that commitment a little. A little? It appears that 145 have been promised and facilitated by the Commonwealth—103 high-care and 42 low-care beds—which is quite a change from the 500 and the 300. We hope that even this lower number of 145 will eventually be built but I have my doubts because, even for these, we have been waiting for such a long period of time.

Again, Mr Corbell went on to tell us all about the facilities that had been promised. He said, in answer to my question yesterday:

The government is continuing to work very closely with all proponents...of new aged care facilities. As the member will be aware, the government has approved grants of land to both the Little Company of Mary at Bruce and Southern Cross Homes in Garran.

The grants of land for the Little Company of Mary at Bruce have been around for over two years. I may be a couple of months out. However, it is at least two years and there is still no sign of any activity on that site.

Indeed, in response in estimates to my colleague, Mrs Dunne, the minister said that consultations were still going on with Calvary Health Care and the Land Development Agency. Calvary has advised that, should the land be available within the time frame of the first quarter of 2004—that indicates that Calvary has no faith at all that it will be available in that time—that it would be able to commence construction of the new facilities in the second half of 2004. We now have three years of waiting for this promised facility. We do not really know when the Southern Cross Homes project in Garran may come on line but I, at least, am not holding my breath.

In addition, Mr Corbell went on to say in reply to me:

In addition, the government is moving to release a site on the shore of Lake Ginninderra for aged care facilities early next year, within this financial year. The government is considering additional sites at Gordon, Greenway and Nicholls for future release.

All of that is fine. Mr Corbell continued:

The government's processes are moving in an effective and timely way. We will always focus on ways to further improve those, but the government has identified both the demand and possible sites and is moving to expedite them.

That is a rich word—expedite. Not as far as I can see. I must have read the wrong English dictionary because I do not see any indication from this government that it is expediting anything in relation to aged care facilities, or the provision of them in this city. If we want to twist the language, we can consider that the only thing they are

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expediting is an unacceptable delay in the provision of these facilities. Not one brick has been laid. Not one foundation has been dug for aged care facilities in Canberra since this Labor government came to office.

However, it is strange that, although they profess to have this commitment to looking after this vulnerable section of our community, they do not do much to encourage it. I have put out a statement about this, and indeed I asked yesterday in my original question why, in an attempt to encourage more development of aged care facilities, you do not offer the same concessions to developers that you offered the developers in the city west project. I still have had no answer to that question. I can only assume, therefore, that the minister—let's be fair to him—is as keen as I am to see these facilities but they are somewhere held up in the planning process.

Minister, you are the Minister for Planning; make the planning process free. Have we gone so far in the restructuring that the minister is so far removed from planning that the planning department is a law unto itself and is in a position to ignore the requests and, I would like to think, entreaties of the minister about the provision of the aged care facilities that we need so much? I do not know, but it does seem to me that a very important log jam has been created either by the minister, the minister's office or the planning process itself.

I am appealing to you, Mr Corbell—even in his absence. The state of the planning system in the ACT, as far as aged care facilities are concerned, is appalling and disgraceful. If the government has any sense of decency, it will act quickly to overcome the problem and free much needed accommodation for this city's most vulnerable.

MR QUINLAN (Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, and Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming) (4.37): It is the stereotypical role of oppositions to raise these MPIs and to raise them in the fashion in which it has been raised today, and who better to do it than Mrs Dunne. It is a normal process and we accept that we will have this political argy-bargy. I am still surprised, from time to time, by the hyperbole that we do get from the other side.

I have to say to Mr Cornwell that I did enjoy his 10 minutes of dissertation on aged care. What that had to do with the real topic or the assault on Mr Corbell, I am not quite sure. Nevertheless, I appreciate Mr Cornwell's concern regarding aged care and his concern about self-funded retirees. I am waiting for him to declare a conflict of interest soon in relation to those topics.

I think it is fair to say that the role of planning minister is probably the most difficult role in this place, although health is also a difficult portfolio. Mr Corbell made the very valid point that no plan is perfect. I would add to that that no plan is going to please everybody.

In carrying out this difficult role, Mr Corbell is to be congratulated. He has shown considerable courage in this place in the pursuit of reform. He has attempted to improve community consultation. We all know how difficult it is to actually consult with the community, to make sure that the people we meet, who do give of their time and become involved in issues, remain representative of the community. It is always a difficult

process and I do congratulate Mr Corbell on his efforts to do that, to create the situation where we are actually dealing with the community.

Obviously, within any community there will be a whole raft of people who do not want to see too great a change. They have chosen their place of residence, their place of abode, and they do not want to see it disrupted. They certainly have considerable rights in that area. However, it is also the case, I have to say, that this town must continue to grow. It is an unfortunate situation we have now where our economy depends on physical growth. If we do not have continuing physical growth at this stage, we will not be generating the revenues that provide the basic services that people in Canberra expect and to which they are entitled.

Outside of the planning portfolio, the government will be working to try to ensure that we do develop an economy that has the capacity to generate revenue without being quite so dependent upon physical growth. There are delimiting parameters on the capacity of this place to continue simply to grow.

I also want to congratulate Mr Corbell on the process of public land development, creating that situation where people can actually buy their own blocks of land. There have been some complaints and, oddly and ironically, complaints from the other side of the house regarding stamp duty and the ultimate cost of taxation as part of the purchase of a home, the ready adoption of the model put out by the HIA, which includes the tax paid by the builder and then the tax paid again by the buyer, because the block of land, in development and in the process of going from bare dirt to being the home of a family, has changed hands several times.

The Liberals have happily grasped on to that and said that it is wrong, that we should do something about it. One of the things that we have done about it is to allow people to buy their own blocks of land and therefore build their homes and eliminate a great portion of the costs of land changing hands. That outcome is a most desirable one and one that this house should be applauding rather than criticising by implication.

Mr Corbell has indicated to this place—and I think it is a very valid point—that, if we are talking about catch-up, he had to go through a planning process to catch up, because there had been a lag. There had been a lag in a number of areas, but particularly in land and planning, that had to be made up. As fate has it, of course, demand goes through the roof exactly when you least want it to happen. Certainly, since this government has come to power, there has been considerable demand for land. It is difficult and it is going to remain a difficult process to manage.

We cannot just, on one hand, put it out in an avalanche, because people have invested in their homes. There has been a lot of discussion in this place about first-home buyers and the cost to them. When there are claims that we ought to increase the flow of land significantly, can we remember that there are many first-home owners who are in their homes now, and who have mortgages that are relative to the current value of their homes? An avalanche of land onto the market is highly likely, Mr Deputy Speaker, to have an impact on home values and an impact on the relationship of those mortgages to the ultimate value of the home.

If that is combined with increases in interest rates—we have already seen half a per cent, and it is not usually the norm for the Reserve Bank to put up interest rates by a half a per cent as it usually does it a quarter at a time, and there is every indication that interest rates will increase again within the foreseeable future, possibly by another a half a per cent—it is going to have a significant impact on the housing market in itself. The simple answers about land supply and about the provision of the land are not always the absolute desirable answers in the longer term. Nothing is never that easy.

Since coming to government, the Stanhope government, through the agency of Mr Corbell, has progressively reformed the delivery of planning in the ACT. It has established new administrative arrangements that have streamlined some of the processes and it is providing strategic planning and a policy platform for sound decision making. A point that has been made to me is that, when the land act was introduced in 1991, there were over 150 amendments to the bill made on the floor of this Assembly. In conjunction with subsequent amendments, they have created an overly complex and unorthodox planning system.

What we have to recognise is that, when we have a government such as we have and a parliamentary process that permits a minority government, we have people who have interest and influence who can actually change the act. We have had many non-government changes to the act.

MS TUCKER (4.47): I will make a brief general comment that, after listening to this debate, I would give credit to the government for some of its initiatives. I support what it has done. Obviously, working with DV 200 and producing a sustainable map for increasing density around facilities and public transport, and for public land development, is a positive step. However, I echo the concerns of other members in this place today who have said that this government's understanding of how to work with the community is seriously flawed, and that there is a loss of confidence on the part of the community.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for the discussion has now expired.

Public housing asset management strategy 2003-2008

Debate resumed.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and Minister for Arts and Heritage) (4.49), in reply: In closing the debate on the strategy I tabled some time ago, I thank both members who contributed to the debate for their contributions. Mrs Burke asked quite a few questions. I will try to deal with all the ones that I have noted.

Community housing began with a great thrust under the former government and I was happy with that. They were going to transfer a very large number of properties, but that fell into a hole for various logical, sensible reasons. Today, I announced how Community Housing Canberra will be restructured. Rather than being the recipient of a massive transfer of government properties, it will be getting title to properties, which is very important for it, and it will work in an entrepreneurial way in many respects as well as in property management.

I think that the contradiction Mrs Burke had in mind—it is probably there in a measure—was that the continued transfer of ACT Housing assets to Community Housing Canberra was reducing ACT Housing’s asset stock. That substantial passing over of assets will not continue under the new process for Community Housing Canberra and I do not think that tension will be there between the two of them. We lump ACT Housing, public housing and community housing into the broad social housing sector and we do like to encourage that social housing sector. We have provided modest amounts—\$3 million in each of the last two years—to encourage community housing, and there may be more in the future as we work through these issues.

I think it was Mrs Burke—maybe it was Ms Tucker—who said that things had been slow to move. Part of that slowness was due to the fact that the bodies that had been successful in getting funds then had for the most part to get land to do something with it, which takes some time to organise. We have kicked off this year’s process a lot faster and I think that we will get through the issues rather more quickly. Certainly, I hope that we will do so. I can see the apparent contradiction. I think that that has been settled. Community housing is an adjunct, a support, to public housing in the social housing sector.

Mrs Burke had a deal to say, understandably, about difficulties with allocations and transfers and a one size fits all policy. In question time she explained how difficult that can be when she referred to the transfer of people to Florey. I know that there is no easy answer. We simply do not have the range of stock to be able to fit people in as we would like. We never will, I suppose. We have a continuing approach of trying to maintain stock. We have to get old stock done up or do something with it. I am on a program of not disposing of it particularly and there is going to be a continuing struggle there for me simply to find enough money to provide the sort of housing that we think is ideal for this day and age. It is not going to be easy to do that.

There was comment that there are people in homes larger than they need. We encourage people to move, but we do not force them. Sometimes we say to someone in a four-bedroom house, “There is a beautiful little new older persons’ unit down the road. Would you like to go there?” I think that that is the way we can move people. There are people who have lived for 30 or 40 years in houses in Yarralumla and other places that are now bigger than they need, but we are not going to say to them that it is time for them to go.

Mrs Burke: I wasn’t meaning that.

MR WOOD: I know that you were not suggesting that. We guarantee them security of tenure and maybe encourage them to move. When I was in opposition I was able on a couple of occasions to negotiate a move along. I remember one house in Ainslie which was in very poor condition and the people in it did not want to go, but they were only too happy to go when they saw a better spot, a newer spot, just up the road that they could manage.

I turn to the reference to the availability of housing in locations in which people actually want to live. That comes back to the other issue of having enough resources to get enough spots. Interestingly, some of the longer waiting lists are for the more distant

areas, but that is not surprising because they do not have the same level of stock as the old north and south. People sometimes say, "If I have to decide, I'd rather be on the shorter waiting list, so I'll adjust my preferences to get on the shorter list." I think that the end result of having a roof over your head is of prime importance.

I noticed your view about a step-down facility, Mrs Burke. As we develop programs in the future, we really do have to do more about people who do not fit comfortably and easily into standard housing. Most of the problems that you and I get come from that sort of area. I will take up your suggestions because, as I look at the future of housing, we will develop something, but it might be a bit more difficult to achieve it.

Mrs Burke: Just speak to the Treasurer.

MR WOOD: We will see what we can do. Turning to multiunit sites, Mrs Burke made some comments about heritage issues. I am also minister for heritage and, as such, I am also interested in the ACT Housing properties that are heritage listed. Some of them are on Northbourne Avenue and they are much in need of having something happen to them. Many of them need maintenance. I do not mind saying—other governments have said it before me—that our maintenance is behind what it should be. That has been a condition since day one of self-government; it is as simple as that. I have not assisted with the maintenance problem, because I have said that I do not want to sell off properties. We are looking at that.

Turning to condition assessment, as our facilities management people make normal visits on request or in routine they are now developing a very strong listing of what every house needs. That will take place over two or three years and in the end we will have an accurate assessment of what each house needs. By doing that, we will be in a better position to make decisions about maintenance and new works, again depending on what the finance can do. I have not responded to absolutely everything you have said, Mrs Burke, but we will come back to some of them in conversation.

Ms Tucker made a very important point, one that not enough people recognise, when she referred to the sentence on page 4 of the document which says that the government recognises that the portfolio exists primarily to meet the government's social goals. That is the case. Sometimes we cannot see the wood for the trees. Sometimes we look at the narrow issue of a house or, indeed, the whole ACT Housing asset and say that we have to deal with it and just attend to that, but actually it is about housing in the community and the need to house our people. Ms Tucker has picked up on what I regard as the prime point of my administration of ACT Housing. It is there to meet our social goals. Those goals are, in fact, listed and fairly well established. I thank her for pointing that out and I do want to emphasise it.

Ms Tucker spoke about the asset yield on stock and I take her point there. (*Extension of time granted.*) In a way, you could look at the amount of rental rebate as being on the positive side of the balance sheet because it represents money that vulnerable members of our community are not having to pay in rent and is keeping them sustainable. That is certainly the case. It goes to the other point I was mentioning before. The rents are currently 25 per cent of income. They are not related to the value of the house; they are related absolutely to income.

Ms Tucker: Market rent.

MR WOOD: Market rent is related to income.

At 5.00 pm, 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.

MR WOOD: People put themselves into that category and then they are hit with the market rent. I think that that is fair. We had debate here at the time of the former government's restructure and Ms Tucker's housing committee work on whether we should require the market renters to move on, to vacate their premises, or whether we should let them stay. We have said that they have to stay. They have security of tenure, going back to those social goals. In fact, moving into the private sector simply takes up stock there anyway. I think that that is a reasonable thing.

A practical point is that less than 20 per cent of the people contribute 45 per cent or more of ACT Housing's income. I have had this debate in other quarters. I still want that money because we are desperately short of money; there is no doubt about that. We pay all rates and taxes; we pay everything. We pay to the Commonwealth government \$7 million or \$8 million a year for an outstanding loan. We pay our way. We pay \$53 million in rental rebates. Every cent we get is precious and that is how we handle that issue.

Mr Quinlan: I'm glad I was here to hear this.

MR WOOD: I am saying it especially for you. I am delighted you stayed. Mr Quinlan and I have had these debates before. I must finish; I will not get another extension. Ms Tucker wants us to find a way to use the value of the stock to expand the availability of public housing. If I could use the \$2.2 billion asset that we have, a wonderful size asset, to leverage—a lovely word—some other money, I would, but I have not come up with a way yet. We do not generate enough money out of our rents and other income to be able to pay off anything we do. We have had all sorts of experts looking at this issue and we have not given up. We will take your advice and keep on with that.

I have to say in conclusion that I think ACT Housing is one of the most difficult areas to manage. It pays its way in every respect in this community. It has inadequate money from its own resources to do all that we would want it to do. That has been the case since the days well before self-government. Once the Commonwealth government stopped providing houses for incoming public servants—it used to provide almost 100 per cent of them, which gradually diminished over the years—once it got out of that market, it has never in the time since self-government put money back into it. We inherited a housing stock that was substantially run down and we have been working assiduously ever since in difficulty to manage that stock. As Ms Tucker says, public housing has to meet our social goals. That is the key to it. We have to see that the money we spend on housing meets the needs of society.

MS DUNDAS (5.04): Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to speak to this motion.

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Leave granted.

MS DUNDAS: I thank members very much for their indulgence. I am sorry for not getting in before the minister was able to respond.

I would like firstly to draw the attention of the house to pages 23 and 24 of the paper, which talks about performance monitoring and evaluation being a key component of the asset management strategy. As this strategy is to last us through to 2008, I hope that this will not be the only time that we will have the strategy being debated in the Assembly. I hope that we will get progress reports.

I know that the minister will be getting monthly reports, as indicated on page 23, but I hope that the Assembly will have an opportunity perhaps once a year to see how the asset management strategy is going and whether the goals set down in the government's plan are being met, because this Assembly, along with the entire community, is strongly committed to public housing.

The Democrats believe that housing is a fundamental right and that health and education hinge on it. The private rental market has never adequately housed our poor, which is why the federal government introduced public housing early last century. The ACT has experienced a steady decline over many years in the number of public dwellings per thousand head of population. Much of this decline has resulted from the unsustainable financial state of ACT Housing. ACT Housing has been forced to cannibalise itself by selling stock to undertake vital upgrades. Unfortunately, that depressing trend continues.

The community expects that public housing will be suitable for ageing and disabled tenants and that it will meet modern standards of environmental sustainability. Little or none of the older stock actually meets these expectations and creating adaptable energy-efficient housing usually costs more than building standard housing to minimum standards.

ACT Housing has been expected to fund new construction largely from the sale of existing stock. Fortunately, they have been able to justify the sale of higher value stock in the inner north and inner south to fund new housing in Tuggeranong and Gungahlin and to a lesser extent in Belconnen, where demand has increased. However, we will reach the end of that road soon and a stronger commitment to ongoing capital injections from the government inevitably will be required if our stock of public housing is not to be run down to nothing.

Although this government is committed to slightly increasing the overall number of public dwellings, but not the number of dwellings per capita, which continues to decline, it has not been quite able to reach its target. Obviously, the January bushfires set back the time line. I will be incredibly disappointed if we are not seeing a positive trend in dwelling numbers by the middle of next year.

I appreciate that the minister has demonstrated far greater commitment to public housing than has previously been the case, and I commend him for that. I know that he understands the fundamental role of public housing in the safety net for low income

people living in our territory. He has just spoken quite eloquently on how public housing is an important part of the social development of our community.

We know that our stock of public housing has declined both in number and quality under successive Labor and Liberal governments. We all have a job to do in this Assembly to keep the issue of public housing on the agenda and to work collaboratively to increase the funding available for public housing, be that through the array of ideas that have been put forward in this debate. I hope, as I said, that we will be able to keep this issue on the agenda and actually progress it between now and 2008 when the asset management strategy will need to be reviewed.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Commonwealth/State/Territory Disability Agreement Ministerial statement

Debate resumed from 26 August 2003, on motion by **Mr Wood**:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

MRS BURKE (5.08): Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the coming into effect of the latest agreement between the Commonwealth, states and territories dealing with the provision of a wide range of disability services. There is no doubt that many negotiations of this type can be protracted, particularly because so many parties are involved, as the minister will probably attest to. Nevertheless, it is gratifying that a positive outcome has been achieved on this occasion.

From the perspective of the ACT, the Commonwealth will provide almost \$39.4 million over five years from July 2002 for the provision of services to people with disabilities. This agreement continues the cooperation between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments in pursuit of a just and inclusive society. The funding that will support the policies, programs and services that are inherent in this agreement is critical to promoting the rights and the equality of opportunity of people with disabilities.

Importantly, the focus of these policies, programs and services is on enhancing the dignity of people with disabilities to reinforce their place within our modern society. There is no question that communities are enriched by the effective inclusion of people with disabilities and that the gifts and capabilities of people with disabilities, including those who have quite profound disabilities that require high levels of support, should be fully recognised and utilised.

An important issue that I want to highlight as we consider the implementation of this agreement is the assistance that is available to the carers of people with disabilities. One of the critical issues facing us as a community at present is the way in which we treat the carers of people with disabilities, the many people who live with this responsibility for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. The commitment of these people is not questioned, but we must recognise the cost of this commitment in terms of the quality of life of these carers.

Another serious matter which has come to the fore recently—one which we should consider in this place—is respite care. I have received, and I am sure that the minister and other members of this place have received, many letters and representations about the level of respite care, particularly about some of the services that may be dropping off. I do understand that an extension to February 2004 has been given for a service such as FaBRiC. That still leads one to question whether there is going to be a gap in service provision to the people who are currently receiving respite care. What is going to happen there? Things are very much up in the air; there is an air of uncertainty.

I do not want to spend a great deal of time on developing this issue now, but I do flag that it is my intention to consider in more detail at a later stage the important role of families and carers in working with people with disabilities as we as a community seek to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities and we seek to extend the contribution that these people can make and, furthermore, want to make within our community.

I look forward to seeing ways in which the ACT government will collaborate with the Commonwealth government and, to the extent that it is necessary, with the New South Wales government in implementing the essence of the disability agreement to full extent over the next five years. I am really pleased that the minister has reached a resolution on the agreement and I thank him for his report.

MS TUCKER (5.12): It sounds as though it has been another rather torturous experience for the minister to get to the point of signing this agreement and the bilateral agreement. It is disappointing, once again, to note the lack of preparedness of the federal government to acknowledge the unmet need in this area and their preparedness to be so miserly with the funding of the states and territories.

This area is one in which we have had many reports, including national reports. We know that people with a disability are vulnerable members of our community. I do not need to say that. Everybody recognises it and they all make the right statements, but when it comes down to it the federal government is not prepared to put money where its mouth is, leaving the ACT and the states in a difficult situation. I note that the results of this agreement have seen an annual growth of 4.39 per cent in funding from the federal government. That is hardly more than the CPI figure. It is not what I would call growth funding. It is an insult when you look at the evidence in terms of unmet need.

The ACT government has an average annual growth projection of 6.84 per cent, so it is doing better than the Commonwealth government. That is the growth figure for the ACT for the term of this agreement. I commend the government for giving more, but it is still not enough, which leaves us in the difficult situation of having to mop up after the federal government. I would still say to this government, given the financial situation in which we find ourselves, that it has a responsibility to pick up on the federal government's lack of commitment to these very vulnerable members of our community by giving a greater allocation yet again.

Mrs Burke spoke about the objectives of the Commonwealth/State/Territory Disability Agreement being great. Yes, they are great. That is why the federal government's actions

are so offensive and insulting and why so many of us are getting tired of hearing the claims on this subject from the federal government, and the state and territory governments to a degree. The federal government has responsibility mainly for employment issues. Just looking at that area and what the federal government has put into it, I do feel that what it has done has not been done well at all. We have had ongoing arguments about this aspect of the support.

Let us look at the other services for which we are responsible. The bilateral agreement spells out exactly the focus of this agreement. It has sections on consultative arrangements, so the parties are talking about how they will communicate. It is interesting to note that there are performance indicators in this bilateral agreement, which is good, but there are no time lines or targets. Some of the performance indicators are actual things—documents or strategies. Obviously, there is a time line and there is a target there and they have to be achieved.

For example, if you look at the bilateral agreement you will see that there are strategies to improve the transition of young people from school to alternative options and one performance indicator is about the development of a system to share data on the number of school students with disabilities within the ACT education system, the number of recipients of DSP who are of school age and the number of school age children registered with Disability ACT. I find it very surprising that we do not already have such a system. I can remember making recommendations on that about six years ago.

Others are about Centrelink and Disability ACT examining and reporting on how existing assessment information and processes can be better applied, which is pretty general, and funding rounds being tailored so that growth funds, when available, are released in parallel and/or when most appropriate for young people exiting a secondary education system. This is an example of what is happening in an area that we know is extremely serious, particularly for those people who find that basically they have to put their lives on hold. They have had the child with a disability at school and then those children get beyond school age and suddenly those people have to quit work, basically.

I acknowledge that the government has done some work on this issue, but I understand that it is still a problem for people, as it is for elderly parents with adult children who have a disability as the parents are becoming unable to care for them. Obviously, they want to see their adult children with a disability supported in a way that they can feel comfortable about. There still needs to be a lot more creative work done in terms of looking at different models of support, rather than just the group homes.

I know that work is being done in that way by the Disability Advisory Council, as it is called now, and I do acknowledge that the government did work cooperatively with the community after the Gallop inquiry, although I am disappointed that, with the Disability Advisory Council, potentially they are not giving that community voice greater independence. If the minister wants to correct me on that, I would be glad to hear it, but my understanding is that that independence is not as great as it was with the Disability Reform Group.

There is a section in this bilateral agreement on long-term strategies to respond to and manage the demand for specialist disability services. It talks about the need to establish

and reform systems to improve demand management over time, which is recognised, and requires the ACT to provide information to the Commonwealth on improvements made in relation to data collection; long-term planning; systems to predict, monitor and manage inflows—all basic stuff, but I still find it very concerning that it has not been done—and strategies for early intervention and prevention.

Let's talk about strategies for early intervention and prevention. Early intervention and prevention comes down to basic questions such as the availability of therapists. We do not have enough therapists. In 1996, we made recommendations about these things and they are now the subject of a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth because they have not been implemented.

I am pleased that the Treasurer is here. I think it is really important that the government seriously consider putting much more money into this area. I totally acknowledge that we do not get proper support from the Commonwealth government, but I just do not think that we can afford, as a community, to continue to neglect this group in our community. For the nine years I have been involved—no doubt, it has been for many more years than that—the things that we are agreeing on in this bilateral agreement have been recommended and should have been implemented.

I have had feedback from the community generally about some of the issues that could be looked at concerning people with a disability, including the portability of services. I saw in one of these agreements reference to greater connectivity or communication between states and territories on services for people with a disability, but it is really difficult for people to move across states and territories in terms of having confidence that they will be able easily to get the support that they had where they were, which is interesting. A siloing is still occurring in each state. I ask the government—the Treasurer in particular—to give this issue serious consideration in the lead-up to the budget.

MS DUNDAS (5.22): I welcome the ACT government's commitment to better funding of disability services and advocacy. As the minister noted when he tabled this agreement, the ACT government has committed to an average annual funding growth of 6.84 per cent for the life of this agreement. On the whole, the agreement is clearly a positive step for the people of the ACT, but I am not convinced that the annual growth in Commonwealth funding of 4.39 per cent will cover the costs related to disability services.

I strongly support the increased focus on transition from school to work through the post-school options program and the focus on the shift from temporary to permanent work for people with disabilities. Until now, there has all too often been a network of support services for young persons until they leave school, but when they leave school there is very little support for them and their families.

Another area that I hope will receive more attention during the life of this agreement is funding for respite carers and for carers of people with disabilities. Carers pay to access respite support, but their contributions relate to their ability to pay and do not cover the cost of the provision of care, so actual government funding is vital.

I am sure that members of this Assembly will be aware of the family-based respite care provider FaBRiC and the fact that they are being forced to cut services in December

because the surplus they had left over from the SACS award implementation funding is about to run out. I understand that next month 31 families will go back onto the waiting list for respite care and by January a total of about 100 Canberra families which have been assessed as in need of respite care will be on a waiting list and in the meantime will have no access to respite support.

I would like to provide an actual example of an affected family. It is of one with a blind two-year-old daughter with severe developmental delay and currently no speech. The family has three other children, aged six years, five years, and five months. The mother has post-natal depression and exhaustion and the father must be away from Canberra for extended periods because of his work, which leaves the mother with very little support. The only support they have been able to access is the three hours of respite care they receive each week through FaBRiC, but they are set to lose this small amount of support next month due to a lack of funds.

That is one family that has approached my office. I am sure members have heard many other tragic stories of families trying to access respite care. In contrast, the disability services that the federal government wholly funds, such as disability employment services, are comparatively well-resourced. The real challenge is in getting the federal and ACT governments to utilise these services to get more people integrated into their work forces.

I think we all understand that disability support is expensive, but we have been informed that the department will be focusing on trying to deliver support to higher needs clients more efficiently to free up resources to support lower needs clients. I understand that it will be quite a challenge to achieve that.

I would like to congratulate the minister on achieving a funding outcome that delivers an increase in Commonwealth funding for disability support over the next four years and again I commend the minister for winning a substantial increase in funding from ACT revenue, but I hope that he will seek to address the acute need for additional respite care for carers in the very near future and that we will see more people with disabilities coming into the work force so that they can earn their own way.

MR WOOD (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minister for Urban Services, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and Minister for Arts and Heritage) (5.26), in reply: I thank members for their contributions. There were several common themes, not surprisingly.

Ms Tucker and Mrs Burke commented that it took a while to reach agreement. I cannot tell you exactly how long, but it took over a year, I think. We had the combined might of six states and two territories lined up against the impregnable fortress of the Commonwealth government and—I say this nicely—Amanda Vanstone. We argued for over a year, as I recall, on the need for more Commonwealth assistance, saying, “Come on, you’re raking in all this GST. How about giving us a bit?” I do not think that we got one concession. In the end, after extensions and arguments, we signed up.

I suppose states and territories always say that the Commonwealth should come to the party more. We provide most of the funds for disability services. The Commonwealth

provides a deal for employment and training; that is their responsibility. I do not have those figures with me. They will provide \$39 million over the period of this agreement compared with our \$188 million. We have increased this money over a period. The former government recognised the need there and in the last year or two of its reign it increased the money it gave. We gave a commitment to provide a substantial increase over the term of this agreement.

Ms Tucker wondered about the Disability Advisory Council. If I understood her correctly, she was saying that it did not have an independent voice or there weren't independent voices there. That is news to me. I hear plenty of strong comment and there is no inhibition on that body in what its members might seek to say. I do not know where that has come from. If Ms Tucker has anything more she would want to add to that, I would be happy to hear it. I might be unhappy to hear it, but I would be happy to take up the issue, because there is no reason why there should not be plenty of loud voices from the group itself and from any individuals within the group. I continue to meet with many people around the disability services area, not just the Disability Advisory Council.

There was quite a deal of comment, understandably, about respite and the carers, and I acknowledge that. FaBRiC, I believe, is not being forced to cut services. There has been no loss of money to them. It is due to the fact that FaBRiC does not have the considerable growth that it sees that it needs. It is not just in that area but in any number of areas. We have been talking to FaBRiC about the way the funds are managed and what they might be doing, but we have not been cutting funds to that body.

A lot has been said about carers and there has been a lot of very proper discussion about the importance of carers in recent times. One of our commitments was to develop a carers policy. There has not been one to date. I can tell you that before the year is out I will be taking a submission to cabinet on a carers policy. We get accused of consulting too much. Maybe that is the case—I do not think that it is—but we established a carers advisory group to take up the notion of developing a policy, to manage that and to take it through and it has been very successful. I am quite happy with the level of discussion and community consultation that we undertook and I think that in due course, before much longer, we will have a good policy.

I should mention some of our objectives and our priorities arising out of this agreement. Of particular importance to the ACT are these: strengthening access to generic services for people with disabilities—use what is there already as much as you can—and strengthening cross-government linkages, which was mentioned by one of the speakers before me, as well as strengthening individuals, families and carers, improving long-term strategies to respond to management demand for specialist disability services and improving accountability, performance reporting and quality.

I am reminded as I give those priorities of the comment by Ms Tucker about the need for therapists. I can say that Mr Quinlan has been quite generous in his funding. He has provided the funds for more therapists. The problem, as Mr Corbell outlined in respect of one thing yesterday, is that try as we might by advertising round Australia and advertising internationally we have difficulty with attracting therapists. There is a problem round Australia and more widely than Australia in finding the speech therapists, for example, that we need. We have been exhausting every avenue to find people who

can assess autistic children or those who are likely to be autistic. We have searched far and wide and diligently and we have had great trouble because they are not there, certainly not there in sufficient numbers to fill what we need.

Since we signed the agreement concerning our obligations, a number of events have flowed through. Disability ACT is developing a strategic planning document for 2003 to 2007 which undertakes, among other reform commitments, to meet our long-term responsibilities under the agreement. We will be releasing that document for comment—again, more consultation—early in 2004.

Negotiations are also progressing with the National Brain Injury Foundation and Hartley Lifecare to assist younger people at risk of entering nursing homes to move to more independent living arrangements. We are looking also at options for young people moving from school to employment. Ms Dundas reminded us of our obligations—with some embarrassment to us, I think—concerning employment opportunities for people with disabilities. We are reinvigorated in exploring options that we can use for that.

We really do want to continue the reform process. We have a new Disability Advisory Council, as has been noted, and I think that it is free to give that frank and fearless advice that we all look for. We have a range of working groups advising Disability ACT on future directions for delivering services. A very large number of people are involved. If you take the Disability Advisory Council and the number of groups underneath it, up to eight, you have a very large number of people who know the area involved in assisting us in this reform process. That level of contact continues, I can certainly assure Ms Tucker.

We are continuing consultation on the role and functions of the position of Disability Services Commissioner. One interesting thing—I do not know that we have said enough about it—is the development of the ACT's access to government strategy, which requires all ACT departments to audit their policies, programs, services and facilities to ensure that people with disabilities are not compromised in the service delivery process. That is very much a departmental thing, but we probably could have done more to spread it out and let people know what we are doing.

The restructure of the individual support services within Disability ACT to realign the ACT government's disability service provider to a person-centred agency is continuing. The funding available through the disability agreement and the national priorities will benefit us in terms of maintaining a focus on the needs of people with disabilities as well as getting on with the job of implementing programs and services to assist them with their needs. We are under way with meeting our obligations under the agreement in good time.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Australia—Iraq relations

MR PRATT (5.36): Mr Speaker, I rise to comment about the meeting at the Canberra Club on 3 November of the Australian-Iraqi Friendship Society. The government sponsored the meeting and the Chief Minister and departmental officers participated in it. I was very interested in attending that forum and I went along to it. As I say, it was called by the government and the AIFS to discuss how the Canberra community might be able to assist Iraq in its hour of need.

Having served in Iraq and having fond memories of Iraqis, Arab and Kurd, I had hoped that the meeting would be useful and would discuss practical ways in which this community might offer assistance. I disagree strongly with this government's actions in seeking to organise a sister city relationship with Baghdad at this time or in the medium term. I think it could be arranged and would be a useful relationship to be considered later in 2004 if and when things settle down. I am on record in this place as having publicly spelt out my reasons.

I believe that his government should be moving now to establish instead a more urgent relationship with Dili. I believe that this government and this community should be focusing all of their energies on doing just that. It takes all of the energies and resources of the community to successfully organise and establish a relationship of this magnitude. I believe that you should focus on these things one at a time.

I think that Mr Stanhope's call for a Baghdad relationship is highly impractical at this time. Any sensible analyst or, indeed, any sensible lay person would attest to that. As I was saying, I think that we can go down that track after July 2004 with an Iraqi provisional government, if the American plans go according to the script. After there is some sort of stability and organisation in the country, we ought to be talking to the society to see what we can crank up in Baghdad. I think that Mr Stanhope's call for a Baghdad relationship is a bit of a cynical political stunt. Whilst it would be useful, I think that he is using that vehicle at this time to pursue other political aims, which is quite disappointing because it does take away from the importance of the idea. Regardless of that, I think that the meeting on 3 November was, in fact, very important because we can still marshal assistance and provide assistance to Iraq before any sister city relationship is organised.

Mr Speaker, I must congratulate the Australian-Iraqi Friendship Society for running what I believe was a very good meeting. I was fairly impressed with the president and his committee and their Iraqi guest speaker, all of whom came to the podium and spoke quite eloquently about the situation in Iraq. They also presented some excellent practical ideas on how Canberran society, our institutions and certainly ACT government departments might be able to undertake collaborative activities in the form of visits when the time is right, even exchanges now, and certainly some activity sponsorships now to assist Iraqi society and its organs of government to get back on their feet.

I was fairly impressed that Mr Stanhope presented himself at that forum and, importantly, that he took with him some departmental officers to participate in that meeting. I congratulate him on taking the effort to do just that, but that is about where the

adulation finishes. As I was saying before, it is a great pity that Mr Stanhope sought to politicise this matter. The speech that he gave on the day was highly emotive, highly divisive for the occasion and had little to do with practical ideas on helping Baghdad. I would implore him to accept that his behaviour was not practical and is not going to help out on these very important issues.

Paterson's curse
Legislative Assembly
Youth culture

MRS DUNNE (5.41): Yesterday, in response to a question about why private land managers seem to be able to make a better job of managing the current Paterson's curse infestation than government land managers, Mr Stanhope said:

I am almost lost for words—

It is a shame that he was not—

That was the greatest load of unmitigated garbage that I have had presented to me as a question.

I would like to pass over the arrogance and focus on the substance, Mr Speaker. I seek leave to table for the information of members a series of photographs of infestations of Paterson's curse on government land.

Leave granted.

MRS DUNNE: I table the following papers:

Patterson's Curse—seven (7) photographs.

Narrabundah Hill, many of the government horse paddocks and land adjoining Dunlop, all managed by the ACT government, are badly infested. Birrigai is an absolute disgrace. Photographs 1 to 4 in that list illustrate some of the affected land. By contrast, private land is relatively free of the weed. Privately-leased land adjoining Narrabundah Hill provides a stark contrast. I refer members to photograph No 5, showing the property abounding Narrabundah Hill where the Paterson's curse line is particularly marked, and photograph No 6, showing the boundary between privately-leased land and land occupied by the Rivers Fire Brigade, to demonstrate the difference in land management practices. Photograph No 7 shows Paterson's curse affected government managed forestry easement through a private lease—a strip of purple in a landscape of green. All of those photographs were taken on 1 November. I invite members to examine the photographs and decide for themselves whether it was an unmitigated load of rubbish, as the government has claimed.

Why has the government failed to address the Paterson's curse issue on ACT government land when private lessees seem to have been much more successful? Today, the Chief Minister spoke about the sea of purple over south-east Australia. In the last couple of weeks I, on separate occasions, have driven to Murrumbateman and to Sydney

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and I have seen very little Paterson's curse. There were patches of it from time to time, but nothing like you would see on Narrabundah Hill or in the Aranda horse paddocks or the Hume horse paddocks. A member of my family flew to Melbourne last week and, while she did say that she did not see a sea of purple, she did say that you can see where the fires have affected most of south-east Australia. If doubt persists in members' minds, I invite them to take the drive that I took on 1 November past the Aranda horse paddocks and Glenloch station, through Coppins Crossing, and down the Cotter Road to Tidbinbilla and Birrigai to see for themselves.

Mr Speaker, it has been an interesting week. I will give my whip's report on it. We met a few highs and had a couple of firsts. We had the first minister—the Chief Minister—gonged off for exceeding the time in answering a question and the first minister found to be in contempt of the Assembly by a privileges committee, including a member of his own party, although the minister was preserved from the consequences of that contempt by his mates and, in particular, the Chief Minister's close friend, Ms Tucker.

There were some high points as well as some low points. I was particularly moved by Ms Tucker's love of the youth culture. I find it very interesting that people of my generation like to talk about the youth culture. I really enjoyed Ms Tucker's analysis of the relationship between graffiti and hip-hop music. You could almost hear the quotations. I closed my eyes and tried to imagine Ms Tucker with a baseball cap on backwards trying to deliver her speech in rap. Maybe we could have had Ms Dundas beat boxing in the background. I suspect that Ms Dundas has heard rap and probably even enjoys it.

In case you are wondering, as a parent of two teenagers and one recently retired teenager and amateur MC I have heard more rap and hip-hop than I ever wanted to hear. If you want to find an issue here that might join members together as we look at the underlying causes of graffiti, hip-hop seems to be one of them, at least from Ms Tucker's exposition. If we are wanting to do something about the underlying causes of graffiti, perhaps we should discuss whether we should be banning hip-hop on this ground and many other grounds.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 5.46 pm until Tuesday, 25 November 2003 at 10.30 am.

Answers to questions

Two storey buildings (Question No 928)

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice:

In relation to two story buildings:

- (1) Why was planning permission given for two story buildings at the following sites when adjacent houses in the street are single story residences:
 - (a) Block 27 Section 11 (56 Banks Street) Yarralumla;
 - (b) Block 7 Section 64 (65 Miller Street) O'Connor;
 - (c) Block 3 Section 30 (23 Ridley Street) Turner;
 - (d) Block 7 Section 29 (29 Froggat Street) Turner.

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

- (1) The Territory Plan permits a maximum height of two storeys for single dwellings in most residential areas. Attics and basements may only be permitted in addition to the two storeys in Core Areas. Building height is restricted to single storey for any dual occupancy housing that does not directly front a public road.

Prior to the introduction of Variation No. 200 – *Residential Land Use Policies, Modifications to Residential Codes and Master Plan Procedures*, in May 2002, attics and basements in addition to two storeys could be considered for all single dwelling developments. In relation to dual occupancy and multi-unit redevelopments if a two storey development was proposed the *Draft Guidelines for Multi-unit Redevelopment Including Dual Occupancy in Residential Areas* required consideration to be given a direct visual relationship to another two storey development. Shortly after the gazettal of Variation No. 200, the guideline was revoked, except for applications already submitted.

In relation to the specific sites in question all approvals relate to single dwellings and approvals for the second storey element were granted prior to the introduction of Variation No. 200. The following matters were taken into consideration when Development Application approval was granted:

- (a) Block 27 Section 11 (56 Banks Street) Yarralumla

The upper floor element is located towards the side boundary that is shared with a pedestrian walkway. Located to the south of the subject block, any overshadowing would occur towards the walkway. In regard to the other side and rear boundaries the spatial separation between the upper floor element and the adjoining blocks would minimise any potential for overlooking.

- (b) Block 7 Section 64 (65 Miller Street) O'Connor

To the northern boundary, windows to the upper floor element are restricted to non-habitable rooms. To the southern boundary, one bedroom window encroaches within the minimum performance measure. As a bedroom is not a main daytime living area and the adjacent lessee did not raise any concerns during the neighbour consultation process, the encroachment was considered acceptable.

A shadow diagram prepared indicated that overshadowing of the adjacent block to the south would occur, however a minimum of 3 hours sunlight either in the morning or afternoon would be retained.

To improve the amenity for the neighbour to the south, a condition of approval was imposed requiring mouldings to help visual break up the extent of blank wall.

(c) Block 3 Section 30 (23 Ridley Street) Turner

The front, side and rear setbacks of the two storey element comply with the relevant performance measures. A shadow diagram prepared indicates the two storey element would generally overshadow the driveway of the adjoining block.

(d) Block 7 Section 29 (29 Froggat Street) Turner

In order to protect the amenity and privacy of the adjoining properties a condition of the approval required upper floor level ensuite, water closet and bath windows to be glazed with an obscure material. There are no windows or balconies from main living areas facing the side boundaries. Adequate spatial separation was provided from the upper floor bedroom windows to the rear boundary.

A shadow diagram indicated that the proposed development would not significantly impact upon the amenity of the adjoining properties.

**Bushfires—reducing risk
(Question No 931/932)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Environment, upon notice:

In relation to the article in the *Community Update* Issue No 31, Thursday 18 September 2003 entitled “Reducing the ACT’s bushfire risk”:

- (1) Please confirm the extent of clear felling in the buffer zone areas in the suburbs listed in paragraph two of the article;
- (2) Please confirm plantations by name, including Oakey Hill, that adjoin private property boundaries presenting a particular threat including Blue Gums;
- (3) Please also advise by plantation the estimated number of trees to be removed and the scheduled dates at which these will be removed;
- (4) Please advise how many of “some trees also need to be removed outside the area to reduce fire risk” in each of the plantations;
- (5) Please confirm how many “new trees will be planted to reflect original open woodland” in each plantation and how long will they take to:
 - (a) grow to maturity;
 - (b) be of benefit to the community;
 - (c) act as noise buffer zones;
 - (d) provide social ambience;

- (e) attract fauna;
 - (f) prevent erosion; and
 - (g) act as wind breaks.
- (6) Please confirm when the new trees in each plantation or each area will be planted;
- (7) How widely disseminated is the *Community Update* and would it cover all 20 areas listed in the article at paragraph two and have residents of these 20 areas been advised of this logging;
- (8) Please advise why, in a media statement issued by Environment ACT on 16 September 2003 entitled "Fuel Reduction Strategies Necessary to Protect Life and Property", Mr John Nicholson is stated as having endorsed the work being undertaken by the ACT in clearing these areas, yet it had been confirmed by an officer from Environment ACT on 18 September that the report by Mr Nicholson is not yet finished, and that Dr Maxine Cooper has not yet sighted the final report.

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) The only intensive clearing will be at Oakey Hill and O'Connor Ridge, (where Blue Gum and Radiata Pine plantations will be removed), together with clearing under major powerlines, the burnt pine plantations, and narrower margins adjacent to rear fences in several suburbs. Thinning and individual tree removal will take place at other locations.
- (2) Fuel reduction works involving Blue Gum plantations will take place at seven locations within Canberra Nature Park: Oakey Hill, Cooleman Ridge, Mt Taylor, Farrer Ridge, O'Connor Ridge, Duntroon Dairy and Red Hill.
- (3) Up to 3000 Blue Gums, the majority of which are dead, are to be removed at Oakey Hill. Of approximately 250 trees adjacent to houses in Lyons, 130 are Blue Gums and are to be removed. The trees to be removed have not been counted elsewhere.

The work at Oakey Hill commenced on Friday 19 September 2003. It is expected that by the end of November 2003 all works will be completed. Delays have been experienced due to wet weather and mechanical breakdown. Work is stopped when the ground is wet to minimise damage to the soil.

The operation will then move to O'Connor Ridge.

The powerline clearance work is now substantially complete, as is the clearance for the perimeter pine plantations. The other areas of clearance are expected to be largely complete by January 2004.

- (4) The area of broad acre blue gum plantings at Oakey hill is approximately 6.5 ha and the number of trees removed was not individually counted for operational reasons. However, an estimate was made on the number of trees removed in the broadacre plantings. This was based on the original trees planted at a spacing of 3.5 by 3.5 metres, giving approximately 800 trees per hectare. Prior to the January fires not all of these trees survived due to fairly shallow soils and there were a large number of gaps and openings in the planted area. The estimate has been revised to take this into account and the final estimate is approximately 1000 mature overstorey trees and 2300 understorey saplings of poor form.

- (5) It is expected that two plants will be established for every tree removed. Environment ACT will be consulting with the community and National Capital Authority to determine the location of the replacement plants. The plantings will need to be within any guidelines that are established by the Urban Edge study and the outcome of the Coronial Inquiry into the bushfires.
- (a) The speed at which newly planted trees reach maturity depends on a wide range of factors, including the species planted, soil, aspect and rainfall. However the absence of the dominant species (such as Blue Gums) will greatly assist the growth of new and existing endemic species.
 - (b) The community will be invited to participate in planning for and establishing the replacement plants and will derive benefit from the trees from this time. The planting of endemic species will eventually provide a self-sustaining and lasting benefit to the community.
 - (c) Trees are not effective as a noise barrier; they provide a visual barrier only.
 - (d) See (b) above.
 - (e) This depends on seasonal conditions and the growth rates of the vegetation.
 - (f) Soil erosion is not expected to be a significant issue at Oakey Hill, as there is significant grass cover in the unburnt areas, as well as substantial numbers of trees remaining. The condition of the area will be continually monitored.
 - (g) Any new trees are not proposed to be established with the purpose of providing a wind break.
- (6) The majority of replacement trees will be established in autumn/winter 2004, or at a later time such as spring 2004 if adequate soil moisture levels are not present in autumn.
- (7) The *Community Update* is produced and distributed by the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce and is primarily distributed to people living in areas affected by the bushfires but is also supplied to all ACT Libraries and Canberra Connect Shopfronts. However in addition to the *Community Update*, residents adjoining areas where work is being undertaken have been advised approximately two weeks prior to the scheduled beginning of fuel reduction work. In addition, community meetings have been held in some areas prior to the commencement of work to inform the community of what work is being done.
- (8) Mr John Nicholson visited Canberra on Tuesday 16 September 2003 and made preliminary verbal assessments based on his physical inspections. Mr Nicholson participated in two interviews with media (ABC Radio and WIN TV) on Tuesday 16 September.

Police and Emergency Services—reports (Question No 936)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 September 2003:

In relation to recent reports:

- (1) How many reports have been prepared by the Emergency Services Bureau and the Department of Justice and Community Safety over the past three months;
- (2) If any reports have been prepared:
 - (a) who were the authors of these reports;
 - (b) how much did each of them cost in consultancy fees, design and printing;
 - (c) where are they available;
 - (d) have any of the reports been implemented.

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

See my response to Question on Notice No. 1004 and the Attorney General's response to Question on Notice No. 996.

**Harrison 1 estate
(Question No 945)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice:

In relation to the failed auction for Harrison 1 Estate:

- (1) What representations, apart from my own, have been made to the Minister, the Gungahlin Development Authority or the Land Development Agency in relation to the return of \$1 million paid as part deposit for the land;
- (2) What progress has been made in resolving the dispute;
- (3) Has the government considered seeking damages from the highest bidder for the failure of the first auction of Harrison 1 Estate;
- (4) Will the Minister publicly release the legal advice given to the Gungahlin Development Authority after the dishonouring of the deposit cheque which formed the basis of their continuing to deal with the highest bidder.

Mr Corbell: The answer to Mrs Dunne's questions are as follows:

- (1) A number of representations have been received on this matter. The nature of these representations is confidential.
 - (2) The Land Development Agency position is that it has no legal obligation to return the deposit and is therefore unable to do so.
 - (3) No.
 - (4) No. The member is referred to previous debate on this issue.
-

**Land transfers
(Question No 946)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice:

In relation to transfer of land in accordance with section 180 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*:

- (1) For the years 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 how many times did the Minister give his consent under section 180 of the Act to approve the sale of land;
- (2) In each case what was the original sale price and at what price did the Minister give approval for the sale.

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

- (1) For the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 my delegate did not give consent to any transfers as I was not the Minister at the time. I can advise, however, that for 2000-2001, different areas of PALM were responsible for processing Minister's consents to transfer but these areas were not required to report the numbers processed. Consequently, the number of consents for this period is not available. However, all Minister's consents are recorded on the individual Territory Lease file for each block transferred under Section 180 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act.

For the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 I advise the following:

- Between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2002 the Minister's consent under Section 180 was granted on 1205 occasions; and
 - Between 1 July 2002 and 30 July 2003 the Minister's consent under Section 180 was granted on 1277 occasions.
- (2) Original and subsequent sale prices of land transfers are not details that are required to be kept. In order to retrieve that information from each individual TL file would involve an enormous amount of time and resources, which would place too onerous a burden on the Authority.

**Multicultural Affairs—reports
(Question No 964)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Community Affairs, upon notice, on 24 September 2003:

In relation to recent reports:

- (1) How many reports have been prepared by the Chief Minister's Department on Multicultural Affairs over the past three months;
- (2) If any reports have been prepared:

- (a) who were the authors of these reports;
- (b) how much did each of them cost in consultancy fees, design and printing;
- (c) where are they available;
- (d) have any of the reports been implemented.

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

No reports have been prepared by the Chief Minister's Department in relation to Multicultural Affairs over this period. Reporting on the activities of the Multicultural and Community Affairs Group to the Chief Minister's Department is included in Chief Minister's Department Annual Report.

Education, Youth and Family Services—reports (Question No 970)

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services on 24 September 2003, upon notice:

In relation to the portfolio under your control:

- (1) How many reports have been prepared by the responsible Department since 1 January 2002;
- (2) Please supply a list detailing the name, author, and date of publication of each report;
- (3) Further to (2), in relation to each report, if applicable, who commissioned such report, when was such report commissioned;
- (4) What was the cost of each report, including consultancy fees, design, printing, and distribution (as applicable);
- (5) Where may a copy of each report be made available;
- (6) In relation to each report, has any report or aspect thereof been implemented; if not, why not; if so, how and when.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mrs Burke's question is:

(1) (2) My department is involved in the preparation of a wide number of reports each year. Reports are prepared for a range of purposes and different actions result.

(3) (4) (5) (6)

Details of any consultancies undertaken by the department are provided in the department's annual report. If there was an area of specific interest, more detailed information could be provided.

**Chief Minister's portfolio—reports
(Question No 971)**

Mrs Burke asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 24 September 2003:

In relation to the portfolio/s under your control:

- (1) How many reports have been prepared by the responsible Department since 1 January 2002;
- (2) Please supply a list detailing the name, author, and date of publication of each report;
- (3) Further to (2), in relation to each report, if applicable, who commissioned such report, when was such report commissioned;
- (4) What was the cost of each report, including consultancy fees, design, printing, and distribution (as applicable);
- (5) Where may a copy of each report be made available;
- (6) In relation to each report, has any report or aspect there of been implemented; if not, why not; if so, how and when.

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

It is not feasible to provide a direct response due to the excessive resources required to collect and collate the appropriate information.

**Police visits to schools
(Question No 976)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 25 September 2003:

In relation to police visits to schools:

- (1) In 2001, 2002 and 2003 how many incidents were reported to the police in ACT schools that were attended by police officers;
- (2) In 2001, 2002 and 2003 how many incidents were reported to the police in ACT schools that were not attended by police officers;
- (3) In 2001, 2002 and 2003 how many ACT schools did police officers visit as part of any crime prevention initiatives and how many times were these schools visited;
- (4) In 2001, 2002 and 2003 where police were called to incidents reported in schools involving violence or vandalism, how many charges were laid and what percentage of the reported incidents resulted in the laying of charges;
- (5) Of the incidents of violence in schools reported to the police, what percentage involved violence by students or outsiders towards teachers.

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

- (1) Table 1 provides relevant figures to answer this question for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003. The figures include all educational institutions in the ACT and their surrounds, which covers school buildings and grounds such as ovals and car parks. The definition of schools includes public and private preschools, special schools, primary and high schools, colleges, as well as the multiple campuses of the Canberra Institute of Technology, the University of Canberra and the Australian National University. There is an estimated 175 government and 43 non-government pre-tertiary educational institutions in the ACT. The incidents recorded have occurred at these various locations across each 24 hour period and include those reported during and outside the school term. Offences related to these incidents may be committed within school facilities as well as against or in the grounds with crimes at schools committed by a range of perpetrators. The majority of offences relate to burglary, theft and property damage and are often related to one event where an offender has broken into a school facility and damaged the building or other property in the pursuit of stealing goods.

Year	Patrol attendance		Total
	No	Yes	
2001	600	1,179	1,779
2002	559	1,155	1,714
01 Jan to 28 Sep 2003	369	756	1,125
Total	1,528	3,090	4,618

Source: PROMIS database as at 29 September 2003

- (2) See my response to question 1 above.
- (3) Figures for 2001 are not readily available. For the period July 2002 to June 2003 the Crime Prevention Team visited class groups of different ages, in total making 141 visits to school classes. From 1 January 2003 to 31 July 2003 Crime Prevention made 111 visits to local schools.
- (4) Table 2 provides information to the first part of this question and Table 3 contains information on the percentage of offences where charges were laid.

Offence type	2001	2002	01 Jan to 28 Sep 2003
Assault causing actual bodily harm	7	7	2
Assault other	38	33	29
Arson	1	3	0
Other property damage	59	22	20

Source: PROMIS database as at 29 September 2003

Table 3: Percentage of selected offences at schools in the ACT involving violence or vandalism resulting in charges - 01 January 2001 to 28 September 2003			
Offence type	2001	2002	01 Jan to 28 Sep 2003
Assault causing actual bodily harm	47%	64%	29%
Assault other	49%	39%	53%
Arson	2%	14%	0%
Other property damage	12%	5%	8%

Source: PROMIS database as at 29 September 2003

- (5) Although ACT Policing may hold this data, it would be time consuming and resource intensive to extract this information. To do so, would require detailed analysis of individual incidents and cases. The Department of Education, Youth and Family Services also does not collect the level of data required to provide a response to this question.

Police capacity (Question No 977)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 25 September 2003:

In relation to police capacity:

- (1) How many police, by rank, are currently on medical restrictions but continue to work;
- (2) Of those police on medical restrictions and who are continuing to work, what are their actual organisational positions within ACT Policing;
- (3) What percentage of patrol police positions are non-active because the police in those positions have been transferred to non-patrol/desk duties due to medical restrictions;
- (4) What steps have been taken to ensure that patrol positions vacated for 14 days or longer due to illness are being filled at the earliest opportunity.

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

- (1) Forty-two sworn members, were on medical restrictions as of 1 October 2003. Given the relatively small numbers involved, it is inappropriate to provide a detailed break down of rank as it may unintentionally lead to officers being identified. The work of members on medical restrictions range from probational constable to sergeant. An additional number of sworn members work in non-operational positions, due to medical restrictions not related to work place injuries.
- (2) The work areas of those on medical restrictions and continuing to work include areas such as North and South District patrols, the Territory Investigations Group, the Operational Monitoring and Intelligence Support and Prosecution and Judicial Support teams, the Specialist Response and Security team, Traffic Operations, Crime Prevention, National AFP, and Learning and Development.
- (3) Zero percentage of patrol police positions are non-active due to medical conditions.

- (4) Patrol staffing establishments are calculated to allow for absences of the type referred to in this question.
-

**Police—deployment to Solomon Islands
(Question No 978)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 25 September 2003:

In relation to ACT Police deployed to the Solomon Islands:

- (1) What level of manpower is the ACT AFP down following the deployment of 42 ACT Policing members to the Solomon Islands;
- (2) Has the deployment of these officers had any extra impact on the ACT police force in terms of workload. If not, how has ACT Policing managed to cover the absence and workload of 42 officers;
- (3) I have received reports that beat police in north and south side have not been able to spend the amount of time they should be dedicating to the beat due to reduced capacity relating to the deployment of officers to the Solomon Islands. Is this correct, if not, why would some officers be concerned that they are not meeting, by half, their dedicated time on the beat.

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

- (1) Because of high levels of staffing due to recruitment earlier in the year, ACT Policing was well able to sustain the deployment of 42 personnel to the Solomons.
 - (2) The total number of personnel providing services to the ACT is within the normal band of staffing fluctuations and ACT Policing management advises that the Solomon Islands deployment is causing minimal disruption to the provision of services.
 - (3) The establishment for North District is 133 positions and that for South District is 106. As at end of September 2003 145 personnel were assigned to North District and 120 to South District. The basis of this question is not borne out by the information provided above.
-

**Bushfires—recovery advertisements
(Question No 989)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 25 September 2003.

In relation to paid announcements and paid advertisements in the local electronic and print media regarding the bushfire recovery process and other matters pertaining to the 18 January 2003 Bushfires:

- (1) How much has the Government spent on such advertisements as of 30 September 2003;

20 November 2003

- (2) Please detail exactly how much has been spent with each particular news agency in relation to the above (i.e. radio stations, The Chronicle, The Canberra Times, television).

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

- (1) Based on invoices processed to 29 September 2003 a total of \$300,046 has been spent on such advertisements.
- (2) This amount comprises:

• Press	\$
The Canberra Times	235,033
The Chronicle	41,926
Valley View	9,818
• Radio**	
FM106.3	1,704
FM104.7	1,688
2CC	355
2CA	355
• Television**	
Southern Cross Ten	2,957
Prime	2,956
Win	3,254

** Relates to the Bushfire Awareness Campaign

Development incentives (Question No 990)

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice:

Regarding the suggested incentives that could be offered to developers in the Draft City West Master Plan as listed in your media release dated 19 September 2003 entitled '*Revitalisation incentives possible to redevelop ageing City buildings*':

- (1) If the once-only waiver of stamp duty for the sale or sublease of residential units individually valued at less than \$350,000 is applied, how will the Government ensure that this waiver will be reflected in the sale price of the unit to the buyer, rather than simply allowing for the developer to make an increased profit from the sale; and
- (2) Similarly, how will the Government ensure that the waiver of development application fees for proposed developments in City West are reflected in the sale price of the development once the project is completed, rather than simply allowing for the developer to make an increased profit from the sale.

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

- (1) Stamp duty is payable at the time of settlement of a property. Hence, the waiver of stamp duty will provide savings to buyers, rather than to developers. Since the stamp duty waiver applies to units valued at less than \$350,000, developers will be encouraged to increase the supply of these units to meet the increased demand from buyers wishing to take advantage of the waiver; and

- (2) The waiver of development application fees for developers encourages industry to focus on the area most in need of redevelopment. The waiver is aimed at providing incentives for developers to assist with comprehensively redeveloping Sections 3 and 5 in City West. The policy does not expressly seek to lower the sale price of developments. It will However, it will provide public benefits in terms of an improved urban environment around the buildings, encourage a greater mix of land uses, and attract long-term residents to the City. These matters will be addressed when the revitalisation incentives policy is determined.

Syringes
(Question No 993)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 25 September 2003:

In relation to syringes:

- (1) Is there any cost associated with a needlestick injury after it is reported, if so, what is that cost;
- (2) How many needles were handed out by the needle exchange in Canberra in (a) 2000-01, (b) 2001-02 and (c) 2002-03;
- (3) How many of these needles were (a) 1ml, (b) 5ml and (c) other;
- (4) What was the cost of handing out syringes through the needle exchange in (a) 2000-01, (b) 2001-02 and (c) 2002-03;
- (5) Have retractable needles even been issued as part of the needle exchange program, if so, how many were issued in (a) 2000-01, (b) 2001-02 and (c) 2002-03;
- (6) What is the average cost of a retractable needle;
- (7) Has the government given consideration to ensuring retractable needles are issued from the needle exchange service, if so, when will you progress a decision in this area, if not, why not;
- (8) Who is contracted to supply the needle exchange service in Canberra;
- (9) What is the cost of (a) a FITPACK of four syringes and (b) a FITPACK of eight syringes;
- (10) What is the average cost annually to the ACT for deposit containers for syringes.

Mr Corbell: The answer to the member's question is:

- (1) There are a variety of costs associated with managing a needlestick injury. All needlestick injury management occurs through the Canberra Hospital. Community members affected by an environmental needlestick receive a Hepatitis B vaccination. In addition, there is a staffing cost of approximately an hour in Accident and Emergency and an hour of counseling time. These costs are variable depending on the level of the employees carrying out the vaccinations and counseling;

- (2) The following numbers of needles and syringes were handed out by the needle and syringe program in Canberra in

- (a) 2000-01 – 618,222
- (b) 2001-02 – 509,031
- (c) 2002-03 – 542,866.

- (3) The following table summarises the barrel capacity and needle gauge of needles and syringes distributed between 2000-01 and 2002-03;

Year	Barrels				Needles			Tips				
	3ml	5ml	10ml	20ml	27g	29g	27g	25g	23g	21g	19g	
					1ml barrel	1 ml barrel						
2000-2001	11,788	2,588	5,059	2,205	550,545	6,388	3,587	1,184	7,807	2,534	8,638	
2001-2002	12,183	4,761	6,922	4,745	421,896	2,496	7,445	19,471	7,890	3,164	7,940	
2002-2003	10,760	4,088	6,911	6,037	458,674	9,011	3,987	1,415	6,784	4,294	7,069	

- (4) The following table summarises the cost of needles and syringes distributed through the needle and syringe program between 2000-01 and 2002-03.

Year	Cost
2000-2001	\$ 79,061.05
2001-2002	\$62,573.01
2002-2003	\$105,827.30

The total costs of running the needle and syringe program, including wages, rental and administration are summarised in the following table.

Year	NSP	Pharmacy Program
2000-2001	\$514,502.00	\$86,638.00
2001-2002	\$571,348.00	\$103,180.00
2002-2003	\$621,663.95	\$119,103.71

- (5) Retractable needles have never been issued as part of the needle exchange program;
- (6) See (5) and (7) – it is unknown what the average price of a retractable needle is. At this time the technology is yet to be piloted within Australia in relation to Needle and Syringe Programs. Currently there is an ACT based company that is able to supply retractable syringes, but it is important to note that this type do not automatically retract after they have been used. The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing will be assessing the suitability and acceptability of retractable needle and syringe technology through pilot studies of the technology. These studies will operate under the Retractable Needle and Syringe Technology Initiative. Pilots will commence in late 2003/early 2004 through participating Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs) (with injecting illicit drug users). The ACT has offered its support in participating in these pilots.
- (7) See (6). The ACT will consider the possible role of retractable needle and syringe technology in needle and syringe programs when the results of the pilot studies are available;
- (8) DIRECTIONS ACT is contracted to supply needle and syringe program services in Canberra;

- (9) (a) a FITPACK of four syringes is available free to clients through primary and secondary needle and syringe program outlets and for a fee of \$2 to clients through the pharmacy program component of the needle and syringe program; and
 (b) a FITPACK of eight syringes is available free to clients through primary and secondary needle and syringe program outlets. This product is not available through the pharmacy program component of the needle and syringe program;
- (10) The following table summarises the annual cost to the ACT for the provision of disposal containers through the needle and syringe program.

Year	20 Litre	35 Litre	7.8 Litre	2.8 Litre	1.4 Litre	0.5 Litre	Waste Bag	Total Bins
2000-2001	\$ 425.00	\$150.00	\$464.00	\$1,779.12	\$2,599.70	\$57,785.60	\$ 4.12	\$63,207.53
2001-2002	\$ 600.00	-	\$376.00	\$1,935.36	\$2,466.45	\$46,218.75	\$0.17	\$51,596.73
2002-2003	\$562.50	-	\$ 96.00	\$2,494.80	\$3,010.77	\$ 55,197.90	-	\$61,361.97

Consultants (Question No 995)

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 25 September 2003:

In relation to consultants use in the 2002-03 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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained,

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

Please note that in relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003 the tables do not include contracts commenced in 2003-04 which have not been finalised or paid for.

Information Management

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST inclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Acumen Alliance	Level 3, 15 Moore Street, Canberra	\$37,374.20	Security Review	Yes. Not available.
Acumen Alliance	Level 3, 15 Moore Street, Canberra	\$10,880.07	IT Security Advice	No

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Meta Group Information Technology & Advisory Services	Unit 2, Ground Floor 3 Geelong Street, Fyshwick	\$12,375.00	Advisory Services for WhoG	No
TSA Group	1 Hall St, Lyneham	\$7,700.00	WhoG Intranet Portal	Yes. Contact kerrya.webb@act.gov.au
Gartner Australasia Ltd	65 Canberra Ave, Griffith	\$63,500.00	IT Benchmarking Services	Yes
CPM Group	10-12 Colbee Court, Phillip ACT	\$42,570.00	Major Projects Management Review	Yes
Pivotal	Level 3, 131 York Street, Sydney	\$8,850.00	Training Services	No
Wizard Information Services	15 Barry Drive, Turner	\$5,500.00	ACTIM Intranet – Search Facilities	No

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST inclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Acumen Alliance	Level 3, 15 Moore Street, Canberra	\$5,015.00	IT Security Advice	No

Corporate

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST inclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
P N Harris	Private residential address - ACT	\$16,170*	To project manage aspects of the Economic White Paper	Yes, a draft Economic White Paper. Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism
Pivotal	Private residential address - ACT	\$9,300	Effective Business Writing training programs	No
G Seberry	Private residential address - ACT	\$9,504	OH&S consultation	No
Robert Peck von Hartel Trethowan	Level 410 Rudd St Canberra City ACT 2601	\$6,600	Architecture services	No
Wilson Strategic Management	PO Box 209CurtinACT 2605	\$18,810	Two Department of Treasury Middle Management training programs (workshop component)	A summary report was prepared. Corporate Services

* Revised figure. Incorrect figure quoted in response to Question on Notice 412 due to error in calculation.

The Public Affairs Recruitment Company entry which was reported in the response to QON 412 of 5 March 2003 was a contracted service and has not been reported as part of this response.

Policy

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Australian Institute of Criminology	74 Leichhardt Street, Griffith	\$10,000	What works in reducing young people's involvement in crime	Yes CMD Website
ACTCOSS	Jamieson House43 Constitution Ave Reid	\$27,500	Consulting about disadvantaged in the ACT	YesCMD Website
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	6A Traeger Crt, Fern Hill Park, Bruce	\$38,025	Need for and provision of human services	YesAIHW website
NATSEM, University of Canberra	170 Haydon Drive, Bruce	\$39,600	Locating poverty in the ACT	YesCMD website
RPR Consulting	2/42 Thesiger Court, Deakin	\$41,470	Funding of NGOs	Yes

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to September 25, 2003:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
SGS Economics and Planning	6th Floor,313 Latrobe Street, Melbourne VIC 3000	\$14,200	Literature search and analysis of role of airports in economy	Draft – not yet available

Industrial Relations Public Sector Management

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST inclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Acumen Alliance (ACT) Pty Limited	15 Moore Street Canberra ACT 2601	\$6,548	Probity adviser services for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released. Yes.
Acumen Alliance (ACT) Pty Limited	15 Moore Street Canberra ACT 2601	\$32,712	Evaluation planning, systems interface and change management services for a Human Resources Management System Replacement Project.	The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.
Alchemy Management Solutions	Private residential address - ACT	\$10,560	Report on the functional documentation for the Human Resources System Solution Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.

Alchemy Management Solutions	Private residential address - ACT	\$41,204	Project management and evaluation phase support services for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.
Evalua Pty Limited	7/51 Tenant Street Fyshwick ACT 2609	\$8,933	Evaluation support services for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	No.
Mallesons, Stephen Jaques	Level 9, St George Centre, Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601	\$5,019	Contract Advice.	No formal report – service provided was in the form of meetings with legal consultant.
Marshall Consulting	PO Box 2130 Kambah Village ACT 2902	\$19,250	Classification Review/Report for Legislative Assembly Members Staff Review.	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.
Marshall Consulting	PO Box 2130 Kambah Village ACT 2902	\$6,188	Classification Advice for Legislative Assembly Members Staff Review.	No.
Mercer HR Consulting	123 Eagle Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000	\$5,445	Job Evaluations.	"In-confidence" reports provided. Reports held on position files, Industrial Relations and Public Sector Management Group.
MoZ Consulting	Private Residential Address - ACT	\$15,290	Conduct Focus Groups and facilitation service for Public Sector Management Act Review, HR Strategy Review and Implementation, Retirement Intentions Survey.	No, although records of the outcomes of meetings were provided to participants for comment.
Opticon Australia	Level 7, 14 Moore Street Canberra ACT 2600	\$14,784\$9,504	Information technology requirement development services for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project. Risk management planning services for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released. Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.
Piazza Consulting	Level 22, George St Sydney NSW	\$27,201	Develop and Conduct Retirement Intentions Survey.	Yes. Chief Minister's Department. www.psm.act.gov.au
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Tower 2 201 Sussex Street Sydney NSW 1171	\$37,125	Salary Packaging Review/ Report.	Yes. Report available from the Industrial Relations & Public Sector Management Group, Chief Minister's Department.

Tactics Consulting Pty Limited	17 Barry Drive Turner ACT 2612	\$5,528	Specifications completeness audit for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.
		\$9,735	Benefits realisation planning services for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.
Taylor Fry Pty Ltd	Level 8, 30 Clarence Street Sydney NSW 2000	\$96,199	Provision of Actuarial Report on Devolution of the Public Sector Workers Compensation Premium.	Yes. Reports have been prepared and were used as part of the consultation process on the implementation of the premium devolution model.
Warren Lee	PO Box 495 Erindale ACT 2903	\$5,180	Industrial Relations advice for Legislative Assembly Members Staff Enterprise Bargaining.	No.
Yellow Edge Pty Ltd	U16a/16 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600	\$5,920	Project documentation and presentation services for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	No.

Consultancies used to date this financial year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST inclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Acumen Alliance (ACT) Pty Limited	15 Moore Street Canberra ACT 2601	\$8,388	Financial analysis and advice for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.
		\$5,376	External review and benchmarking for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.
Cyrene Group Pty Ltd	Private residential address - ACT	\$18,150	Statistical work associated with the preparation of the State of the Service Report.	Statistical data was incorporated in the State of the Service Report.

Opticon Australia	Level 7, 14 Moore Street Canberra ACT 2600	\$47,080	Development of a Data Management Plan for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released
Tactics Consulting Pty Limited	17 Barry Drive Turner ACT 2612	\$9,735	Benefits realisation planning services for a Human Resource Management System Replacement Project.	Yes. The consultant has prepared a report. However, due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the project and its current procurement status, the report has not been released.
Warren Lee	PO Box 495 Erindale ACT 2903	\$6,807 (GST not applicable)	Industrial Relations advice for Legislative Assembly Members Staff Enterprise Bargaining.	No.

Bushfire Recovery

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST inclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Bovis Lend Lease	Level 5/ 60 Marcus Clarke St Canberra City 2601	\$1,081,970	Project management of demolition and clean up after bushfires	No
Mr DA Hollway	Private	\$10,175	Chairman, Study into Non? Urban Bushfire Affected Areas	No
Bovis Lend Lease Pty Ltd	Level 5/ 60 Marcus Clarke St Canberra City 2601	\$240,370	Study into Non? Urban Bushfire Affected Areas	Yes – Non Urban Study options paper No. 1 http://www.bushfire.recovery.act.gov.au/inquiries/index.htm
Mr T Boucher	Private	\$10,790	Provision of services to review activity related to bushfire recovery	No
Mr DA Hollway	Private	\$54,549	Chairman, Bushfire Recovery Taskforce	Yes Various bushfire related reports
Communities@work	245 Cowlshaw St, Tuggeranong 2900	\$33,000	Participation cost, Bushfire Recovery Taskforce	No
DECORP P/L	PO Box 3808, Weston ACT 2611	\$33,000	Participation cost, Bushfire Recovery Taskforce	No
DPM Conferencing Solutions	Level 1/ 96 Barrier St Fyshwick 2609	\$122,700	Public Relations Services and communication services	No
Market Attitude Research Services	Suite 18/ 20 -24 Gibbs St Miranda 2228	\$13,200	Community Focus Groups on the effectiveness of Taskforce communication strategies	No

Mr RN McLeod	Private	\$114,016	Head Inquiry into the operational response to the January 2003 bushfires	Yes – McLeod Report http://www.bushfirerecovery.act.gov.au/inquiries/index.htm
Leading by Example	PO Box 217 Stepney SA 5069	\$112,583	Professional Consultancy for 'McLeod' Inquiry	Yes – McLeod Report http://www.bushfirerecovery.act.gov.au/inquiries/index.htm
Market Attitude Research Services	Suite 18/ 20 -24 Gibbs St Miranda 2228	\$17,435	Housing Survey – residents affected by the January 2003 bushfires	Yes Bushfire Recovery Taskforce, PO Box 158, Canberra 2600
Market Attitude Research Services	Suite 18/ 20 -24 Gibbs St Miranda 2228	\$17,490	Housing Survey - followup	Yes Bushfire Recovery Taskforce, PO Box 158, Canberra 2600
Beyond Success	'Boolgana', Gundaroo NSW 2620	\$14,080	Business counselling and mentoring for fire affected businesses	No
Something Ventured Pty Ltd	Suite 6, 18 Napier Close Deakin ACT 2600	\$24,200	Business counselling and mentoring for fire affected businesses	No

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to September 25, 2003:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST inclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Yellow Edge	Unit 16a/16 National Circuit Barton	\$8,250	Staff service and assessment	No
Relationships Australia Canberra and Region Inc	15 Napier Close Deakin ACT	\$30544 (total contract price GST exclusive)	Counselling services	No
Create Media Pty Ltd	2/23 Wilga St Bondi Beach, NSW	\$44,000 (total contract price)	Communicating and Editorial work – Non-Urban Study options paper	No
Michele R. Hendrie	Private	\$11,082 (GST exclusive)	Prepare Draft Communication Sub-Plan	No
Volunteering ACT	Canberra Labour Club, Community Chambers Chandler St Belconnen	\$9812 (total contract price GST exclusive)	Prepare Volunteering ACT Operational Plan	No
Zoo Communication Pty Ltd	82 Wentworth Avenue Kingston	\$165,000 (total contract price)	Deliver Bushfire Awareness Campaign	No

Consultants (Question No 997)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Environment, upon notice:

In relation to consultants use in the 20 02-03 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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

- (1) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.
- (2) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.
- (3) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Business Unit	Consultant	Description	Approval Date	Actual Expenditure	Report produced	If Yes, where available
Environment ACT ACT Chemicals, Air and Noise Unit	Deverson Scholtens	Assessment of fire damage to trees in reserves	Jun 03	\$23,879	Yes	EACT
Environment ACT ACT Chemicals, Air and Noise Unit	ACT Survey	Heritage survey of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor	Jun 03	\$17,250	No	
Environment ACT ACT Chemicals, Air and Noise Unit	People Dynamics Australia	Post fire employee counselling	Apr 03	\$16,902	No	
Environment ACT ACT Chemicals, Air and Noise Unit	GK Ellery & Associates	Bushfire damage assessment	Jun 03	\$14,825	Yes	EACT
Environment ACT ACT Chemicals, Air and Noise Unit	Rosemarie Willett	Post fire advice on Heritage aspects	Mar 03	\$9,900	No	
Environment ACT ACT Chemicals, Air and Noise Unit	Robert Paton-Archaeology	Heritage survey and report of fire damage to Heritage places	Apr 03	\$7,059	Yes	EACT
Environment ACT ACT Chemicals, Air and Noise Unit	Talk Force Communications	Advice on community involvement on post fire recovery of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve	Jun 03	\$5,000	Yes	EACT
Environment ACT ACT Parks and Conservation	Living With Wildlife	Training staff in safe handling of snakes course	Oct 02	\$5,400	No	
Environment ACT ACT Business Development and Marketing	Janet Mackay and Associates	Development of Recreation Strategy	Mar 03	\$9,750	EACT	EACT
Environment ACT ACT Corporate	People Dynamics	Business systems analysis	May 03	\$12,675	Yes	EACT
Environment ACT ACT Corporate	McLeod Marketing	Tuggeranong Homestead Plan	Jul 02	\$9,000	Yes	EACT
Environment ACT ACT Executive	Veritas Alliance	Staff coaching and consultancy	Jun 02	\$5,450	No	

Environment ACT Executive	Results Consulting	Review of purchaser/provider arrangements in Environment ACT and review of the Environment Protection Authority	Oct 02	\$25,900	Yes	EACT
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Consultants (Question No 998)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Community Affairs, upon notice:

In relation to consultants use in the 2002-03 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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in 1) and 2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained,

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

Chief Minister's Department

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GSTinclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Econtech Pty Ltd	PO Box 4129 Kingston ACT 2604	\$32,637	Analysis of options for the review of concessions, which were generated from stakeholder and agency consultations	Following the Government's considerations of the Econtech work, the consultant's report will be made public.
Ann Jackson-Nakano		\$6,473	Dual Naming Research	Yes, copy will be available at the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Brian Kimmings	2 Barnett Close Queanbeyan NSW 2620	\$14,850	Cultural Centre Business Plan	Documents are available at the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

To date, no consultancies have been completed for 2003-04.

**Consultants
(Question No 1001)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming, upon notice, on 25 September 2003:

In relation to consultants use in the 2003/03 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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year; if so, 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?
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained?

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

- (1) No consultants were used in the 2002/03 financial year.
 - (2) No consultants have been used to date this financial year.
 - (3) Not applicable.
-

**Consultants
(Question No 1002)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to consultants use in the 2002-03 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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

Disability ACT

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GSTexclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Anne Cross	See Telephone Directory	\$14,671	See Annual Report	3 Discussion Papers Copies may be obtained from Disability ACT.
Karen Proctor	See Telephone Directory	\$33,412	See Annual Report	Report direct to individual client.
RPR Consulting	See Telephone Directory	\$33,810	See Annual Report	3 Reports Copies may be obtained from Disability ACT.
The Thomas Wright Institute	See Telephone Directory	\$15,480	See Annual Report	Report direct to individual client.

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GSTexclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Anne Cross	See Telephone Directory	\$5,200	Family consultancy services	No.

Housing Policy and Planning

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Foulsham & Munday	See Telephone Directory	\$5,590	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
GAPP Consulting	See Telephone Directory	\$18,000	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
GAPP Consulting	See Telephone Directory	\$9,000	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
Hill PDA	See Telephone Directory	\$26,829	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
Hill PDA	See Telephone Directory	\$19,153	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
International Liaison	See Telephone Directory	\$14,127	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
KLA	See Telephone Directory	\$9,750	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
KLA	See Telephone Directory	\$63,273	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
NATSEM	See Telephone Directory	\$49,500	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
NATSEM	See Telephone Directory	\$25,000	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
NATSEM	See Telephone Directory	\$30,137	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
Potato Point	See Telephone Directory	\$9,350	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.

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Purdon and Associates	See Telephone Directory	\$68,240	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
Sonic Management	See Telephone Directory	\$6,380	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
Tania Parkes Consulting	See Telephone Directory	\$47,770	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
Tania Parkes Consulting	See Telephone Directory	\$22,115	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.
University of Technology Sydney UTS Centre for Local Government	See Telephone Directory	\$27,430	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing Policy and Planning.

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003:
This information is included in Public Housing's response for the 2003-04 year.

Community Services

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GSTexclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
RPR Consulting	See Telephone Directory	\$8,562	See Annual Report	Yes, Copies may be obtained from Community Services
Morgan Disney and Associates	See Telephone Directory	\$11,426	See Annual Report	No
RPR Consulting	See Telephone Directory	\$11,027	See Annual Report	No

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
KPMG	See Telephone Directory	\$50,022	Facilitation of workshops for the Homeless ness Advisory Group	No

Public Housing

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GSTexclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
ACT Government Solicitor	See Telephone Directory	\$172,716	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section
ACT Procurement Solutions	See Telephone Directory	\$38,530	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
AJ Rhodes	See Telephone Directory	\$44,641	See Annual Report	No
APP Corporation t/a APP Projects Pty Limited	See Telephone Directory	\$140,329	See Annual Report	No

Australian Valuation Office	See Telephone Directory	\$110,190	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Colin Stewart Architects	See Telephone Directory	\$29,755	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	See Telephone Directory	\$28,021	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Egan National Valuers (ACT)	See Telephone Directory	\$55,220	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Freehills	See Telephone Directory	\$33,028	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Freeman Leeson Architects Pty Limited	See Telephone Directory	\$24,734	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Freeman Leeson Architects Pty Limited	See Telephone Directory	\$29,149	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Geoff Driscoll Architects	See Telephone Directory	\$13,393	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
HBO + EMTB Pty Limited	See Telephone Directory	\$34,983	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Kasperek	See Telephone Directory	\$247,500	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
LFA (ACT) Pty Limited	See Telephone Directory	\$71,660	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Logical Applications & Systems Pty Limited	See Telephone Directory	\$162,662	See Annual Report	No
May & Russell Architects Pty Limited	See Telephone Directory	\$20,096	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
McCann & Associates	See Telephone Directory	\$9,790	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Paul Taylor & Associates	See Telephone Directory	\$13,200	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Paul Taylor & Associates	See Telephone Directory	\$33,000	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
PRP Valuers and Consultants	See Telephone Directory	\$25,030	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Purdon Associates	See Telephone Directory	\$29,519	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.

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Ray L Davis & Company	See Telephone Directory	\$43,272	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Renfree and Hanrahan	See Telephone Directory	\$20,200	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
TT Architecture	See Telephone Directory	\$19,246	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003 (Including Housing Policy and Planning Section):

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
APP Corporation Pty Ltd	See Telephone Directory	\$52,051	Strategic Property functions for ACT Housing	No
Colin Stewart Architects	See Telephone Directory	\$24,063	Garran, Hartigan Gardens Architectural Service	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Egan National Valuers (ACT)	See Telephone Directory	\$60,335	Property Valuations and Market Rent Assessments	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Freehills	See Telephone Directory	\$9,015	Probity Advice	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Green & Green Group Pty Ltd	See Telephone Directory	\$18,573	Employment Agency	No
HBO & EMTB	See Telephone Directory	\$12,585	Gungahlin Boarding House	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Kasperek Architects Pty Ltd	See Telephone Directory	\$11,000	Braddon – Turner Architectural Services	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
LFA (ACT) Pty Limited	See Telephone Directory	\$36,800	Design Tanjil Loop and Burnie Court project work	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Logical Applications and Systems Pty Ltd		\$50,341	Project Management for the upgrade of Oracle and IT Support	No
Paul Taylor and Associates Pty Ltd		\$17,600	Asset Management Strategy Consulting	No
Purdon Associates		\$21,750	Currong Apartments Survey	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Stephen Grubits & Associates		\$45,562	Fire Safety Audits	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.
Tania Parkes Consulting		\$8,228	Community Development Projects work	Yes, copies may be obtained from Housing ACT Corporate Finance Section.

Strategic Policy and Organisational Services

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Art Craft Research	See Telephone Directory	\$21,780	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from the Disability, Housing and Community Services website.
Foundation for Effective Markets and Governance	See Telephone Directory	\$11,000	See Annual Report	Yes, the report is currently being considered by Government and is not publicly available.
JAX Media	See Telephone Directory	\$40,810	See Annual Report	No
Morgan Disney	See Telephone Directory	\$48,510	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance Section.
Rosemary Walsh	See Telephone Directory	\$12,000	See Annual Report	Yes, copies may be obtained from Strategic Policy and Organisational Governance Section
TMP Worldwide	See Telephone Directory	\$70,356	See Annual Report	No

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Foundation for Effective Markets and Governance	See Telephone Directory	\$98,750	Conduct of the Review of Statutory Oversight and Community Advocacy Agencies	Yes, the report is currently being considered by Government and is not publicly available.
Beverley Forner Consulting and Business Services	See Telephone Directory	\$16,000	Review of information and access services for the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services	Yes, this document is an internal report and is not publicly available.
The LG info group	See Telephone Directory	\$10,000	Community Facilities Asset Management Strategy	No

Consultants (Question No 1003)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to consultants use in the 2002-03 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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

- (1) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.
- (2) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.
- (3) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Business Unit	Consultant	Description	Actual Expenditure	Report produced	If Yes, where available
City Management ACT NOWaste	Abraxa Management Consulting	Diagnostic review	\$12,100	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	Access Economics Pty Ltd	Advice on composition of landfill charges	\$5,775	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	Bill Guy & Partners	Advice on bush fire disposal site	\$28,430	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	Ernst & Young	Review of contracting processes - Mitchell and Mugga Lane	\$22,880	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	C4ES Pty Ltd	Review of ACT NOWaste Strategy	\$6,875	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	Eastcliff Pty Ltd	Claims advice	\$16,451	Yes	Not available - Legal advice
City Management ACT NOWaste	Gould League of Victoria	Waste Wise Schools program	\$22,551	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	INDEC Pty Ltd	Development of Asset Management Strategy	\$7,920	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	Kenny Lin & Associates	Waste stream costings	\$8,404	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	Manion McCosker	Mediation costs	\$6,000	No	
City Management ACT NOWaste	URS Australia	Review ACT NOWaste Strategy Report	\$7,020	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	WP Brown & Partners Pty Ltd	Engineering advice	\$17,391	Yes	City Management
City Management ACT NOWaste	Wright Corporate Strategy	Landfill establishment and operating costs	\$6,600	Yes	City Management
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Agtech	Regular evaluation of lakes	\$23,700	Yes	City Management and EACT
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	CSIRO	Insect identification services	\$44,933	Yes	City Management and EACT
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	John Wood Consultants	Management plans for enclosed sportsgrounds and swimming pools	\$56,225	Yes	City Management
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Australian National University	Tree management and assessment services	\$30,000	Yes	City Management

City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	National Capital Authority	Lake quality assessment services	\$8,000	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Royal Canberra Golf Club	Westbourne Woods environmental and pest control management	\$9,695	Yes	City Management
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Park Management Systems	Enhancements of the asset and tree management system	\$35,945	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	University of South Australia	Centre for Environment and Recreational Management - Customer satisfaction survey	\$12,820	Yes	City Management
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Market Attitude Research	Customer satisfaction survey	\$29,000	Yes	City Management
City Management - Canberra Urban Parks & Places	M G Lyons Consulting Engineers	Landscape upgrade program	\$11,050	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	The Playground People	Playground safety program	\$11,988	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Rochford Telfer Group	Landscape upgrade program	\$21,890	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Sinclair Knight Merz	City lighting implementation program	\$8,408	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Dorough Briz and Associates	Shopping Centre improvement program	\$8,770	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	DSB Landscape Architects	Shopping Centre improvement program	\$13,515	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Harris Hobbs and Associates	Garran Shopping Centre refurbishment	\$13,750	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Mary Hutchinson	Higgins Shopping Centre Refurbishment forward design	\$9,242	No	
City Management Canberra Urban Parks & Places	Rochford Telfer Group	Deakin Shopping Centre Refurbishment forward design	\$9,242	No	
City Management Executive	CQS Australia	Quality assurance consulting services	\$22,000	No	
City Management Executive	SGS International	Quality assurance certification and report	\$9,076	Yes	City Management
City Management Executive	Ron Black Management	Assistance and advice on purchasing processes	\$15,600	No	
City Management Roads ACT	ARRB	Asset Management Plan - Capital Works	\$43,500	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Bill Guy & Partners Pty Ltd	Corin Road batter stabilisation	\$15,023	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Datacol Research	Traffic surveys	\$43,098	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Eastcliff Pty Ltd	Traffic signals maintenance contract	\$10,833	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Maunsell Australia	Pedestrian Flashing Lights	\$9,900	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Navigate Pty Ltd	Feature Manipulation Engine for Oracle	\$11,369	No	
City Management Roads ACT	Pavement Management Services	Year 4 - Long term pavement performance site testing	\$67,326	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Pavement Management Services	Data update - recalibrate pavement management services	\$21,458	Yes	City Management

City Management Roads ACT	RD Gossip	Investigations, design & documentation of minor new works projects	\$39,984	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	RD Gossip	Provision of engineering advice	\$16,328	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	SMEC Australia Pty Ltd	ACT Bridges inspection program	\$44,393	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	SMEC Australia Pty Ltd	Bridge assessment for heavy vehicle permits	\$15,870	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	SMEC Australia Pty Ltd	Review of construction specification	\$7,110	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Acumen Alliance	Probity Advisor Services	\$9,100	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Norman James Young	ACT Road Resealing Program 2002-03 - Seal Design	\$6,818	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	W P Brown & Partners Pty Ltd	Linemarking Improvements 2002-03 Road Resurfacing Program	\$18,480	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Roads & Traffic Authority (NSW)	Pavement Deflection Testing	\$12,020	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	MG Lyons Pty Ltd	Guide Sign Replacement Program 2002-03	\$11,124	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Coffey Geosciences Pty Ltd	Geotechnical Investigation on 14 Pedestrian Underpasses	\$8,100	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	CMG IT Services	Superintendent Works - Asset Management System External Module	\$10,200	No	
City Management Roads ACT	Bill Guy & Partners	Design of a new outlet valve at Tuggeranong Dam	\$9,090	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Coffey Geosciences Pty Ltd	Environmental Assessment of stockpile at corner of Namatjira & Drakeford Drive	\$7,145	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Coffey Geosciences Pty Ltd	Apollo Road batter stability investigation	\$16,620	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Coffey Geosciences Pty Ltd	Paddy's River road batter stability investigation	\$12,600	Yes	City Management
City Management Roads ACT	Northrop Engineers Pty Ltd	Superintendence - streetlighting maintenance	\$240,912	Yes	City Management
Corporate	Artcraft Research	Customer satisfaction research survey	\$99,254	Yes	Corporate
Corporate	Clayton Utz	Legal advice on employee matters	\$81,104	No	
Corporate	JP Management Consulting	Bushfire re-plantation business case	\$90,000	Yes	ACT Forests
Corporate	Pat Farrelly & Associates	Independent member of DUS Audit Committee	\$5,265	No	
Corporate	Paul Taylor & Associates	Departmental bushfire review	\$20,000	Yes	Confidential
Corporate	Richard Rawson	Bushfire review & debrief	\$5,172	No	
Customer Services & Information	Clayton Utz	Workplace relations advice	\$18,924	No	
Customer Services & Information	Collins, Caddaye Architects	Assistance with Library design services	\$34,110	No	
Customer Services & Information	Courage Partners	Assistance with Library services strategy	\$49,300	No	

Customer Services & Information	Hinesight Development	Advise on the Development of operational support functions for Customer Services and Information	\$22,805	No	
Customer Services & Information	IBM GSA	Assistance with the Establishment of the Canberra Connect Development Program	\$54,025	No	
Customer Services & Information	Information Management Solutions	Territory Records - Guidelines to Standards	\$7,395	Yes	Available at www.territoryrecords.act.gov.au
Customer Services & Information	Intelligent Outcomes	Security audit, threat and risk analysis for new Library System	\$21,100	Yes	Not available - Security Advice
Customer Services & Information	K M Corke & Associates	Public Access to Legislation - Service Improvement Project	\$11,100	No	
Customer Services & Information	Libraries Alive	New library system	\$26,830	No	
Customer Services & Information	Meta Group	Advice on the Technical architecture plan	\$10,258	No	
Customer Services & Information	Opticon Australia	Jobs Online - Cost Benefit Analysis Request for Tender preparation	\$69,673	No	
Customer Services & Information	Opticon Australia	Advice on a simplified DUS telephone entry process model	\$58,313	No	
Customer Services & Information	Opticon Australia	Canberra Connect's Review of Emergency Public Information Support Arrangements	\$40,640	No	
Customer Services & Information	People Dynamics	Training and facilitation services	\$27,675	No	
Customer Services & Information	Provenance Consulting	Records Management	\$30,958	Yes	Customer Services and Information
Customer Services & Information	SMS Consulting Group Ltd	Online Bookings and Reservation Module - Assistance with defining the Business Requirements	\$65,455	No	
Customer Services & Information	SMS Consulting Group Ltd	Assistance with whole of government search facility tender	\$6,000	No	
Customer Services & Information	SMS Consulting Group Ltd	Assistance with evaluation of Meta*Wizdom environment upgrade	\$6,365	No	
Customer Services & Information	Stuartfield House Consulting Group	Assistance with the implementation of the Territory Records Act	\$35,888	No	
Customer Services & Information	TSA Consulting	Assistance with the Development of ACT Government Online Entry Point	\$78,623	No	
Customer Services & Information	Wayne Smith & Associates	Probity Auditing Advice	\$7,591	No	
	Other Consultants	Below the reporting limit	\$15,587		
Policy Coordination Road Transport	ARRB	Progress Report 3 - evaluation of 50 km suburban speed limits	\$29,760	Yes	Final Report on DUS website
Policy Coordination Road Transport	Maunsell Australia	Evaluation of red light camera operations	\$6,964	Yes	Policy Coordination
Policy Coordination Road Transport	Ernst and Young	Review of NRMA ACT compulsory third party insurance	\$22,640	Yes	Commercial-in-Confidence

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Policy Coordination Road Transport	Hughes Trueman	Services in relation to the introduction of pay parking in Belconnen and Tuggeranong	\$78,282	Yes	Policy Coordination
Policy Coordination Road Transport	Steer Davies Gleave	Evaluation of Road Ready program	\$38,133	No	Study still in progress
Policy Coordination Road Transport	W F Donovan	Assistance with the Tender Board for the Road Ready program	\$5,700	No	Technical advice
Policy Coordination Road Transport	Brian Dooley & Associates	Updated teacher and student resources for the Road Ready program	\$6,024	No	Output in the form of revised educational
Policy Coordination Road Transport	GDP Consultancy	Review and upgrade of the Road Ready Plus program	\$55,364	No	Study still in progress
Policy Coordination Road Transport	Wayne Smith & Assoc	Review of the Road Ready Plus program	\$10,282	Yes	Policy Coordination
	Other Consultants	Below the reporting limit	\$18,286		
City Operations	CQS Australia	Quality Assurance Certification Services	\$18,535	No	
City Operations	People Dynamics	Staff Coaching & Counselling	\$12,821	No	
City Operations	Como Service Pty Ltd	Our People project	\$11,600	Yes	City Operations
City Operations	Fulton Technology	Domestic Animal Services Feasibility study	\$6,909	Yes	City Operations
CityScope Services	CQS Australia	Quality Assurance Certification Services	\$16,875	No	
CityScope Services	Safe Working Systems	Assistance with Occupational Health and Safety and quality assurance	\$26,017	No	
ACT Record Services	Freebody Cogent	Pricing & benchmarking review of ACT Record Services functions	\$51,216	Yes	City Operations
Publishing Services	Results Consulting	Assistance with business planning and performance management	\$5,775	Yes	City Operations
City Operations Property	Energy Auctions	Stage 2 - completion of benchmark pricing exercise and assistance with finalisation of electricity contract	\$12,200	Yes	City Operations
	ACIL Consulting Pty Ltd	Analysis and report of electricity prices	\$8,260	Yes	City Operations
	Other Consultants	Below the reporting limit	\$18,654		
ACT Forests	Grant Butler	Forestry operational management database	\$7,000	No	
ACT Forests	Ian Long	Development of a strategy to remove burnt/damaged trees following the January 2003 fires	Approved \$25000 Actual \$17800	Yes	ACT Forests
ACT Forests	URS	Post January 2003 fires log storage feasibility study	\$20,000	Yes	ACT Forests
ACT Forests	Jaakko Poyry	Assistance with the preparation of ACT Forests business case post January 2003 Fires	\$120,000	Yes	ACT Forests or Bushfire Recovery Taskforce

Note: Consultants for ACT Forests have been estimated to the nearest \$1,000 where accurate details could not be recreated due to the loss of records in the January 2003 bushfires.

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Corporate	Len Early Pty Ltd	Independent chair of DUS Audit Committee	nil to date	No	
ACT Forests	Grant Butler	Forestry operational management database	\$528	No	
ACT Forests	Forsci Pty Ltd	Forest Valuation for Insurance Claim and Financial Statements	\$8,095	Yes	ACT Forests
Customer Services & Information	Acumen Alliance	Development of a Whole of Government Call Handling Framework	\$49,700 (estimate)		Work in Progress
Customer Services & Information	Acumen Alliance	Strategic Review of Billing, Payments and Receipting System	\$26,857		Work in Progress
Customer Services & Information	Geometry Pty Ltd	Assistance with the implementation of the GIM Strategy	\$50,000 (estimate)		Work in Progress
Customer Services & Information	Hinesight Development	Advice on the Development of operational support functions for Customer Services and Information	\$10,920	No	
Customer Services & Information	Marloc Engineering & Car Repairs	Vehicle Design and Specifications for Mobile Library	\$6,182		Work in Progress
Customer Services & Information	Opticon Australia	Advice on a simplified DUS telephone entry process Model	\$21,075	No	
Customer Services & Information	Opticon Australia	Jobs Online - Project Management of Procurement and Implementation	\$48,510 (estimate)		Work in Progress
Customer Services & Information	Opticon Australia	Website Useability and Accessibility	\$20,640		Work in Progress
Customer Services & Information	Stuartfield House Consulting Group	Assistance with the implementation of the Territory Records Act	\$12,000 (estimate)		Work in Progress
Customer Services & Information	VFM Consulting	Scoping of Business Requirements - Integrated Customer Support Pilot	\$33,000 (estimate)		Work in Progress
Policy Coordination Road Transport	Hughes Trueman	Services in relation to the introduction of pay parking in Belconnen and Tuggeranong	\$13,959		Work in Progress
City Operations Property	Eric Martin and Associates	Hotel Kurrajong review of Conservation Management Plan and Condition Audit	\$22,150		Work in Progress

**Consultants
(Question No 1004)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 25 September 2003:

In relation to consultants use in the 2002-03 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;

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- (2) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

Consultancies - Emergency Services Bureau (ESB) — (2002-03 financial year)

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost (GST exclusive)	Description of Consultancy	Was a report prepared by the consultants and if so, where may copies be obtained	Area of Agency Managing Consultancy
Access Economics	PO Box E347Kingston ACT 2604	\$ 10,247.27	ESB fleet management review	Yes. Executive Director, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau
Akesson, Robert	66 Rivett Street Hackett ACT 2602	\$ 8,218.18	Fixed asset and stocktake assistance	Yes. Director, Resource Management Unit, JACS; and Finance Manager, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau
Alchemy	PO Box 255 Canberra ACT 2601	\$ 8,949.00	ACTFB review of management structure and workshops	Yes. Fire Commissioner, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau
APS Commission	Edmund Barton Building Barton ACT 2600	\$ 17,090.91	ACTFB Joint Selection Committee to consider applications	Yes. Fire Commissioner, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau
Asgard Capital Management	PO Box 2166 Clovelly NSW 2031	\$ 21,082.50	Consultancy services	Yes. Human Resource Unit, JACS	Emergency Services Bureau
CIT Solutions Pty Ltd	PO Box 226 Jamison ACT 2614	\$ 6,245.00	Workplace assessor services	No	Emergency Services Bureau
Effective People Pty Ltd	PO Box 3907 Weston ACT 2611	\$ 6,850.00	ACTFB professional services	No	Emergency Services Bureau
GHD Pty Ltd	PO Box 36 Belconnen ACT 2616	\$ 94,784.00	Feasibility study - HQ upgrade and Hume helipad	Yes. Capital Works Manager, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau
GHD Pty Ltd	PO Box 36 Belconnen ACT 2616	\$ 8,734.00	ACT AM/FM study review of management contracts/needs	Yes. Capital Works Manager, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau
NSW State Forest	Locked Bag 23 Pennant Hills NSW 2120	\$ 9,980.00	Design of Mt Coree structure and tender documentation preparation	Yes. Capital Works Manager, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau
Lagen Spatial Pty Ltd	PO Box 556 Jannali NSW 2226	\$ 14,400.00	GIS consultancy	Yes. Resource Management Unit, JACS	Emergency Services Bureau
Lisa Castles and Associates	PO Box 27 Woden ACT 2606	\$ 5,850.00	OH&S consultancy	No	Emergency Services Bureau
Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd	38 Thesiger Court Deakin ACT 2600	\$ 79,855.00	Feasibility study - environmental issues	Yes. Capital Works Manager, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau
Rapid Map Global	R&D Park Centre Suite 5, 2 Research Ave Bundoora Vic 3083	\$ 21,017.43	GIS services	No	Emergency Services Bureau
Resolution Consulting	47 Banfield Street Downer ACT 2602	\$12,160.00	Mark Harradine budget consultancy	Yes. Executive Director, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau

**Consultancies - Emergency Services Bureau (ESB) July to September 2003 –
(2003-04 financial year)**

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost (GST exclusive)	Description of Consultancy	Was a report prepared by the consultants and so, where may copies be obtained	Area of Agency Managing Consultancy
Insight Technology (Aust) Pty Ltd	36 Parfitt Crescent Calwell ACT 2905	\$ 15,000.00	Commonwealth fire protection consultancy	Yes. Director, Corporate, ESB	Emergency Services Bureau

**Consultants
(Question No 1005)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Arts and Heritage, upon notice:

In relation to consultants use in the 2002-03 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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be maintained.

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

- (1) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.
- (2) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.
- (3) The response to the QON is contained within the attached excel spreadsheet.

Business Unit	Consultant	Description	Approval Date	Actual Expenditure	Report produced	If Yes, where available
Heritage Unit	Eric Martin And Assoc.	Oaks Estate Heritage assessment	Feb - 02	\$6,075	Yes	EACT
Heritage Unit	Dr Michael Pearson	Gungahlin Historic Places Assessment Consultancy	Nov - 01	\$9,091	Yes	EACT
Heritage Unit	CSIRO	Fossil Site Assessment	Feb - 02	\$5,308	Yes	Confidential
Heritage Unit	Pawsey and Prowse	Review of Heritage Legislation	Aug - 01	\$13,937	No	
Heritage Unit	National Trust Of Australia (ACT)	Conservation Management Plan for Cuppacumbalong Station	Aug - 02	\$8,728	Yes	Heritage Unit
Heritage Unit	National Trust Of Australia (ACT)	Scoping Study of Post WWII urban heritage values	Nov - 02	\$16,364	Yes - draft	Heritage Unit

	Other Consultants	Below the reporting limit	\$12,297	No		
ArtsACT	Ferrier Hodgson	Gorman House Review	Jul - 02	\$10,000	Yes	ArtsACT
ArtsACT	Chubb Fire	Emergency evacuation training for arts facilities	Jul - 02	\$11,800	No	
ArtsACT	AEC Consulting Engineers	Design for air-conditioning installation at Street Theatre	Nov - 02	\$5,000	No	
	Other Consultants	Below the reporting limit	\$1,013	No		

Consultants (Question No 1006)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Health, upon notice:

In relation to consultants use in the 2002-03 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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

Note: Advice provided by the Cabinet Officer requires that where an address of a Consultant is a private residential address only the State needs to be provided.

ACT Health

In relation to Consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Division Name	Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Corporate Services	Anna Lennon	PO Box 645, Canberra City ACT 2608	9,600.00	Restructure of ACT Health portfolio	No - Drafted Legislation Changes
	Colleen Wilson Health Strategies Pty Ltd	"Private Residential Address - NSW"	12,000.00	Environmental Scan - Canberra Medical School	Yes, Capital Planning, Risk & Procurement
	Colleen Wilson Health Strategies Pty Ltd	"Private Residential Address - NSW"	31,850.00	Environmental Scan - Sub & Non Acute Care	Yes, Capital Planning, Risk & Procurement
	Enduring Solutions	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	36,744.32	AHMAC Medical Indemnity	Yes, Policy and Planning * Note this was funded by AHMAC

	Kerry Hudson & Associates	PO Box 1120, Golden Grove Village, SA 5125	36,970.00	Asset Management Framework	Yes, Capital Planning, Risk & Procurement
	MA International	Suit 7A, Lev 5, St George Private Medical Ctr, 1 South Street, KOGARAH NSW 2217	28,000.00	ACT Visiting Medical Officer's	Yes, Deputy Chief Executive Office
	Management Consortium	PO BOX 1033, Hunters Hill NSW 2110	42,500.00	Exec Search for DCEO and Chief Nurse	No - This is a recruitment process
	May & Russell Architects	Unit 5/ 7 Napier Cl Deakin 2600	75,980.00	Karralika Redevelopment Project	Yes, Capital Planning, Risk & Procurement
	Mercer HR Consultancy	65 -67 Constitution Ave, Campbell 2612	15,677.00	Review of Reid Report recommendations	Yes, Human Resource Management Group
	Michael Reid & Associates	6/40 SMITH STREET, Surry Hills NSW 2010	5,329.00	Consultancy Services 19/6	Yes, available on the ACT Health Internet site
	Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Lvl 4/ 64 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City 2601	26,000.00	Prof fees for high level cost estimates	Yes, ED Corporate Services
	Prof Paul Gatenby	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	20,664.38	Medical Advice to Department	No, provides ongoing advise on health matters
	Terry Brosnan Consultancy	PO Box 2166, Clovelly NSW 2031	7,735.00	Visiting Medical Officer's Matters	Yes, Deputy Chief Executive Office
Policy and Planning	Australian Healthcare Associates	2 Phipps Cl, Deakin 2600	45,502.00	HACC National Service Standards Agency Appraisals	Yes, Policy and Planning
	Claire Willington	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	86,000.00	General Practice Advisor	No - GP Clinical advisor
	Enduring Solutions	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	70,000.00	Review of Respite Care Unmet Needs	Yes, Aged & Community Policy
Health Protection Service	Adrian Farrant	PO Box 3958, Manuka ACT 2603	38,310.00	Provision of Professional Services	No - engaged to assist in environmental tasks
	Allen Consulting Group Pty Ltd	GPO Box 418, Canberra 2601	40,181.82	Impact Statement For Proposed Safety Prog.	Yes, Government in Confidence - Health Protection Service
	Deacons	AMP Building, 1 Hobart Pl, Canberra City 2601	9,720.00	Legal Service/Consulting	Yes, Health Protection Service
	Immaculate Software	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	8,425.00	Radition Safety Unit System Enhancement	No, Software Upgrades
	Information Management Solutions P/L	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	12,030.00	File Management Consulting	Yes, Health Protection Service
	Open Office Pty Ltd	14/653 Mountain Highway, Bayswater VIC 3153	100,145.78	Modification of Licencing Database	No, Software Upgrades
	Opticon Australia Pty Ltd	Lvl 7/ 14 Moore St, Canberra 2600	49,195.00	Consultation Consumer Feedback	Yes, Clinical Services Unit - Office of the Chief Health Officer
	Preventive Medicine & Rehabilitation Centre	PO Box 23, Deakin West ACT 2600	5,162.50	Review of Emergency Health Sub Plan	Yes, Office of the Chief Health Officer
	University Of Newcastle	University Drv, Callaghan 2308	20,000.00	Health Inequalities Study	Yes, Preliminary reports with Health Improvement Branch

	Western Sydney Area Health Service	Diversity in Health, Sharing Global Perspectives Conference, PO BOX 265, ANNANDALE NSW 2038	15,050.00	Review Q & S Plan	Yes, Clinical Services Unit - Office of the Chief Health Officer
Mental Health	Alchemy Management Solutions	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	30,657.00	Staff position review	Yes, General Manager's Office Mental Health ACT
	Dr Peter Wurth	Suite 9, 16-18 Malvern Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067	29,162.90	Medical consultancy	No - Provided Clinical services to Patients of Mental Health
	Dr William Glaser	Suite 204 Stanhill, 34 Queens Road, MELBOURNE VIC 3004	15,944.68	Medical consultancy	No - Provided Clinical services to Patients of Mental Health
	Health Management Australia	10 Richardson St, Wollongong 2500	80,000.00	Develop Strategic Plan	Yes, Mental Health ACT website
	NSW Institute of Psychiatry	5 Fleet St, Parramatta 2150	21,735.00	Suicide management training	No - provided training services
	University of Melbourne	University of Melbourne, PARKVILLE VIC 3010	47,306.00	Clinical Supervision training to nurses	No - provided training services
Community Health	Datacol	Suite 14/ 134 Bunda St, Canberra City 2601	35,000.00	ACTCC Customer Survey 2002	Yes, CEQM Administration Area
	Stygron Systems	PO BOX 97, Hall ACT 2618	21,082.00	Database Maintenance	No - software upgrades
The Canberra Hospital	Anthony Cooper Associates	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	7,140.00	Professional Fees: Drafting	No - Provided Drawing services under direction
	AS Consultancy	4/25 Holloway Street, ORMOND VIC 3204	30,444.00	Telephone audit	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure
	Building Controls Management	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	30,000.00	Energy Monitoring	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure
	Cyrene	5/ 19 Ebenezer St, Bonython 2905	7,500.00	Evaluation of Project 2000+	Yes, TCH Human Resource Management
	Di Carlo Potts	Level 4 Henry Lawson Business Centre, Birkenhead Point, Roseby Street, DRUMMOYNE NSW 2047	5,000.00	Drafting & Consultancy Services	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure
	Dr Peter Wurth	Suite 9, 16-18 Malvern Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067	13,020.78	Psychiatrist	No - Provided Clinical services to Patients of Mental Health
	Emerging Leaders Promotions Pty Ltd	PO Box 10188, Adelaide Business Centre, SA 5000	26,946.16	Leaders of Change Consultancy	No - provided training services
	Liftcare	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	6,048.00	Maintenance Advice (Lifts)	No - Lift maintenance advice
	May + Russell Architects	Unit 5/ 7 Napier Cl, Deakin 2600	17,091.00	Architect Fees	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure

	TMP Worldwide Resourcing Ltd	2a/ 18 Bentham St, Yarralumla 2600	33,239.50	Prof. Services for Chief Finance Officer Recruitment	No - recruitment process
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In relation to Consultancies undertaken through a Select Tender Process for the 2002-03 year.

Division Name	Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Policy and Planning	Dr James Blogg	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	7,500.00	Analysis of Needs of Injecting Drug Users in the ACT	Yes, Drug & Alcohol Policy
	Geoff Sims Consulting Pty Ltd	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	15,890.47	Investigation of care type changing in ACT public hospitals and other selected states.	Yes, Health Economics
	Information Management and Clinical Coding Ltd	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	20,668.30	Clinical coding of QE2 medical records, 2000-01 & 2001-02 and a sample audit on coded records	Yes, Data Management
	Purdon Associates Pty Ltd	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	22,962.32	Night Shelter Model Development	Yes, Drug & Alcohol Policy Unit
Community Health	Covance	LOCKED BAG 3888, NORTH RYDE NSW 1670	20,000.00	Bio Statistical Advice	No - Undertook Statistical Survey
	MasTech Pty Ltd - Sylvain Lersch	Royal Life Saving House, Suite 9 26 - 28 Napier Cl, Deakin 2600	121,929.00	CCIS Database Administrator	No, Database Administration
	Morgan Disney & Assoc	Level 1/ Unit 13 Manuka Arc, Manuka 2603	6,363.00	Evaluation EWC and CADAS	Yes, Alcohol & Drug Program Administration Area
The Canberra Hospital	Bill Stone & Associates	PO Box 3063, Belconnen Business Centre, Cnr Rae & Cohen Streets, BELCONNEN ACT 2617	7,800.00	Accommodation Review	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure
	Brian Driver	"Private Residential Address - NSW"	6,036.00	Review Cleaning contract & specifications	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure
	Insight Business Solutions	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	22,400.00	Risk Assessment, process for Patient valuables	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure
	Kerry Hudson & Associates Pty Ltd	PO Box 1120, Golden Grove Village SA 5125	30,699.00	Asset Review Stage 2	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure
	PriceWaterhouse & Associates	Lv 4/64 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City	\$175,691.00	Tax Treatment of Scheme A	Yes, TCH Finance
	Victoria Hospital's Industrial Association	23 Wellington St, St Kilda 3182	\$83,130.28	Project 2000+	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure

ACT Health

In relation to Consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003:

Division Name	Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Corporate Services	Damovo Australia	Locked Bag 6, A'Beckett Street Post Office, MELBOURNE VIC 2006	26,340.00	Preparation of Technical Specifications for ACT Provider/Supplier Database	Yes, Health Information
	Kerry Hudson & Associates	PO Box 1120, Golden Grove Village, SA 5125	7,640.00	Asset Management Implementation Project	Yes, Capital Planning, Risk & Procurement
	May & Russell Architects	Unit 5/ 7 Napier Cl Deakin 2600	31,700.00	Karralika Redevelopment Project	No - Architectural Design services
	University of Ballarat	PO Box 663, BALLARAT VIC 3353	27,601.60	Implementation of Health Information Networking for Secure Email & Messaging Project	No - Software Installation
Policy and Planning	Claire Willington	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	15,460.00	General Practice Advisor	No - GP Clinical advisor
	PALM Consulting Group	PO Box 4187, MANUKA ACT 2603	7,000.00	Prep/Facility DSCC Forums	No- Facilitation Task
Health Protection Service	Opticon Australia Pty Ltd	Lvl 7/ 14 Moore St, Canberra 2600	5,460.00	Consultation Consumer Feedback	Yes, Clinical Services Unit - Office of the Chief Health Officer

Attachment "A"

In relation to Consultancies undertaken through a Select Tender Process for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003:

Division Name	Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consultancy (GST exclusive)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Corporate Services	Cyrene Group	5/19 Ebenezer Street Bonython ACT 2905	16,500.00	Conduct of Impact Study on Manual Handling Project	Yes, Human Resources Management Branch
	Emerging Leaders	PO Box 10188 Adelaide Business Centre SA 5000	35,875.00	Leadership Training Program	No - provided training services
	Enduring Solutions	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	21,450.00	Conduct of Safety & Quality in Mental Health	Yes, Chief Executive Office
	HRA Consulting	PO Box 3629 Manuka ACT 2603	15,000.00	Industrial Relations Service	Yes, Human Resources Management Branch
	KPMG Australia	GPO Box 2291U, MELBOURNE VIC 3001	8,500.00	Preparation of FBT Return for 2002/03	Yes, Financial Management Unit
	Purdon Associates	Southern Cross House, 3/9 McKay Street, TURNER ACT 2612	26,962.32	Night Shelter Model Development	Yes, Alcohol and Drug Policy Unit

	Yellow Edge	Level 2, 16 National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600	12,000.00	Leadership and Integrity Training	No - provided training services
Policy and Planning	Sarah Pritchard	11th Floor, Selbourne Chambers, 174 Phillip Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000	8,000.00	Human Rights Effect ACT	Yes, Policy and Planning Section
Health Protection Service	Adrian Farrant	PO Box 3958, Manuka ACT 2603	12,765.00	Provision of Professional Services	No – Adhoc environmental tasks
	Professor Robyn Penman	"Private Residential Address - NSW"	15,000.00	Editorial work	Yes, Draft with Communications & Marketing then (OCHO)
Mental Health	Dr Peter Wurth	Suite 9, 16-18 Malvern Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067	5,703.73	Medical consultancy	No - Provided Clinical services to Patients of Mental Health
	Dr William F Glaser	Suite 204 Stanhill, 34 Queens Road, MELBOURNE VIC 3004	8,700.00	Medical consultancy	No - Provided Clinical services to Patients of Mental Health
Community Health	Covance	Locked Bag 3888 North Ryde NSW 2113	10,000.00	Biostatistical Support	No - Data manipulation
	Katrina Anderson	PO Box 4000, WESTON ACT 2611	5,400.00	Medical Education	No - provided on going education services
	Matera Consulting Pty Ltd	PO Box 239 Woden ACT 2606	4,207.00	CCR Database Upgrade	No -software upgrades
	Maxwell Consulting	"Private Residential Address - ACT"	8,000.00	Vertical Integration advice	No - Procurement templates
	Stygron Systems	PO BOX 97, Hall ACT 2618	2,320.00	CCR Database Maintenance	No -Software Upgrades
	Wildpeak Pty Ltd	PO Box 111 Belconnen ACT 2616	3,680.00	CCR Database Programming	No -Software Upgrades
The Canberra Hospital	Di Carlo Potts	Level 4 Henry Lawson Business Centre, Birkenhead Point, Roseby Street, DRUMMOYNE NSW 2048	6,223.69	Drafting & Consultancy Services	Yes, TCH Business & Infrastructure

Agencies should also ensure that the responses provided reflect the information which from 1 July 2003 is required to be lodged on the contracts register at the basis website (www.basis.gov.au) for those contracts over \$50,000.

Consultants (Question No 1007)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice:

In relation to consultants use in the 2002-03 financial year:

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- (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) Have any consultants been used to date this financial year, if so, 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;
- (3) Was a report prepared by the consultants in (1) and (2) and, if so, where may copies be obtained.

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

ACT Planning and Land Authority

In relation to consultancies for the 2002-03 year:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consult.(GSTExcl.)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Australian Marketing & Research Services	GPO Box 2290CANNBERRA CITY ACT 2601	\$6,400	Phillip Traders Association – Market Research	Yes, ACTPLA
Artcraft Research	Level 1Suite 17 Manuka Arcade MANUKA ACT 2603	\$30,870	Community Consultation: Community Surveys for the Canberra Spatial Plan	Yes, on ACTPLA web site.
Bill Guy & Partners	6b Thesiger Crt DEAKIN ACT 2600	\$20,596	Lake Ginninderra Dam Probable Maximum Flood Level	Yes, ACTPLA
Bill Guy & Partners	6b Thesiger Crt DEAKIN ACT 2600	\$14,545	Conceptual Design of Retardation Basin in Ginninderra Creek at William Slim Drive	Yes, ACTPLA
Bill Guy & Partners	6b Thesiger Crt DEAKIN ACT 2600	\$123,850	Review of Infrastructure Planning for Sullivans Creek	Yes, ACTPLA
Conference Logistics	21 Kent St DEAKIN ACT 2600	\$12,960	Management and delivery of the Industry and Community Congress for the development of the Canberra Spatial Plan	No
CTG Consulting	71 Grey Street SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101	\$45,000	Geographical Information System Analysis & Mapping Support Services & Associated Training of ACT Land Information Centre Staff	Report prepared and held with Manager of ACT Land Information Centre, ACTPLA
CTG Consulting	71 Grey Street SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101	\$7,560	Geographical Information System Analysis & Mapping Support Services & Associated Training of ACT Land Information Centre Staff	Report prepared and held with Manager of ACT Land Information Centre, ACTPLA

DPM Conferencing	Level 1, 96 Barrier St FYSHWICK ACT 2609	\$10,500	Communication strategy for the Canberra Spatial Plan	Yes, ACTPLA
DPM Consulting	Level 1, 96 Barrier St FYSHWICK ACT 2609	\$21,636	Development of PALM's Template Management System additional features	Report prepared and held with Manager of Info Mgmt Team, ACTPLA
Forbes Mason & Assoc	28 -36 Ainslie Ave CANBERRA ACT 2600	\$23,724	Facilitate community consultation of focus groups, public meetings & community workshops – 'Your Canberra Your Say'	Yes, on ACTPLA website.
Kellog Brown Root Pty Ltd	Level 3 Centenary House 19 National Cct BARTON ACT 2600	\$163,355	Public Transport Futures Feasibility Study	The Draft Report is available through ACTPLA
Hoi Polloi Consultants	18 Bellmore Street ROZELLE NSW 2039	\$64,519	Provision of a development control advisory program	Yes, ACTPLA
KLA Australia	U8/ 10 Kennedy St KINGSTON ACT 2604	\$70,950	Financial and Strategic Assistance for Planning and Land Authority Taskforce	
KLA Australia	U8/ 10 Kennedy St KINGSTON ACT 2604	\$20,000	Review of Concessional leases in the ACT	No
Leigh Cupitt & Assoc	PO Box 3071 MANUKA ACT 2603	\$29,850	Community Needs Assessment Central Canberra & Belconnen	Yes, draft Final Report available from ACTPLA
M{O}Z Consulting	8 Flower Place MELBA ACT 2615	\$22,500	PALM Transition Management Plan	Report prepared and held with Director, Business & Info Services Branch, ACTPLA
Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd	38 Thesiger Crt DEAKIN ACT 2600	\$22,820	Infrastructure for Spatial Planning Scenarios Study	Yes, ACTPLA
Mausell McIntyre	38 Thesiger Crt DEAKIN ACT 2600	\$13,000	Traffic & Parking Study for City West Master Plan	Yes, ACTPLA
MicrogenX Pty Ltd	320 Adelaide Street BRISBANE QLD 4000	\$42,500	Development of a Geographical Information System web based application	Report not required
Parsons Brinckerhoff	Locked Bag 248 RHODES NSW 2138	\$8,894	Public transport advice on bus options	Yes, ACTPLA
Purdon Associates Pty Ltd	9 McKay St TURNER ACT 2612	\$10,080	Preparation of Issues Paper for the strategic plan	
Scott Wilson Nairn Pty Ltd	Unit 4/ 20 Walder St BELCONNEN ACT 2617	\$17,000	Spatial Planning Infrastructure (Roads) preparation of cost estimates	Yes, ACTPLA
SDE Consulting	146 Lambrigg St FRASER ACT 2607	\$5,455	Review ACTEW's Dam Surveillance reports	Yes, ACTPLA Report prepared and held with Manager of Standards, Codes & Leg Team, ACTPLA
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Grnd Floor 214 Northbourne Ave BRADDON ACT 2612	\$40,500	Costing of passenger transport in the ACT	Yes ACTPLA
TT Architecture	Unit 7/ 35 Kennedy St KINGSTON ACT 2604	\$6,250	Legislation review of the Energy Efficiency Ratings (Sale of Premises) Act 1997	No, however consultation program is complete.

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University of Western Sydney	2 Bullecourt Ave MILPERRA ACT 2614	\$13,268	Independent Urban planner for ACT Planning and Land Development Taskforce	
Yellow Edge Pty Ltd	U16a/ 16 National Cct BARTON ACT 2600	\$14,905	Review ACT Land Information Centre organisational structure	Report prepared and held with Manager of ACT Land Information Centre, ACTPLA

In relation to consultancies for the 2003-04 year to 25 September 2003:

Name of Consultant	Address of the Consultant	Cost of the Consult.(GSTExcl.)	Service provided by the Consultants	Was a report prepared by the consultants and, if so, where may copies be obtained
Artcraft Research	Level 1, Suite 17 Manuka Arcade MANUKA ACT 2603	\$49,000	Canberra Spatial Plan – Third Follow-up Survey	Yes, ACTPLA
CSIRO – Forestry and Forest Products	Banks Street YARRALUMLA ACT 2600	\$54,450 ACTPLA Component \$15,950	Development of a post fire survey database, including analysis and interpretation of the results as well as the provision of expert advice	CD available on request from ACTPLA. All relevant Gov't Agencies have been issued with copies.
DPM Conferencing	Level 1, 96 Barrier St Fyshwick 2609	\$15,520	Assist in Implementation of Spatial Plan Communications Strategy	Yes, ACTPLA
Hill PDA	GPO Box 2748 SYDNEY NSW 2001	\$15,000	Act Housing Preferences and House Process	Draft Report prepared.
Maunsell Australia	38 Thesiger Crt Deakin 2600	\$7740	Infrastructure for Spatial Planning Scenarios	Yes, ACTPLA
PeeDee Group	PO Box 3196 MANUKA ACT 2603	\$21215	HQSD technical advice and mentoring role for the Development Application Residential Team	No
Philip Eliason & Associates	9 Gibbs St BARTON ACT 2600	\$15,000	Communication Advice for Sustainable Transport Plan	No
Scott Wilson Nairn	PO Box 3275 BMDC BELCONNEN ACT 2616	\$10,000	Transport Modelling Advice	No
Trillium Holdings	32 Amaroo St REID ACT 2602	\$6659.09	Consultancy on Floorspace in Commercial and Industrial Centres	Yes, ACTPLA
WP Brown & Partners Pty Ltd	15 Hall Street LYNEHAM ACT 2602	\$66345	Casey Concept Plan – engineering Consultancy	Just commenced.
Purdon Associates Pty Limited	9 McKay Street TURNER 2612	\$160,096	Casey Concept Plan – Planning Consultancy	Just commenced
URS Pty Ltd	Level 1, 7-11 Barry Drive TURNER ACT 2612	\$150,000	Urban Edge Review	Report being finalised for distribution to Steering Group members (Gov't Agencies)
Young Consulting Engineers	PO Box 52 YARRALUMLA ACT 2600	\$26,352	North Gungahlin Urban Edge Infrastructure Study	Interim Report only at this stage.

**Drug overdoses
(Question No 1017)**

Ms Dundas asked the Minister for Health, on 21 October 2003, upon notice:

Could the Minister advise of the number of fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses by suburb and by casual drug type for the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and the year to date 2003.

Mr Corbell: The answer to the member's question is provided in the attached tables.

July 2003 to October 2003

Suburb	Ambulance Service responses to suspected overdoses
Acton	*
Ainslie	13
Belconnen	27
Bonython	*
Braddon	22
Bruce	*
Calwell	*
Campbell	*
Charnwood	6
Chisholm	*
City	23
Conder	*
Cook	*
Curtin	*
Dickson	11
Downer	*
Duffy	*
Dunlop	*
Florey	5
Forrest	*
Fraser	*
Fyshwick	*
Garran	*
Gilmore	*
Giralang	*
Gordon	*
Gowrie	*
Greenway	8
Griffith	*
Hackett	*
Hawker	*
Higgins	*
Holt	*
Hughes	*
Isabella Plains	*
Kaleen	7
Kambah	8
Kingston	*
Latham	*
Letchworth	*

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Lyneham	*
Lyons	6
Macarthur	*
Macgregor	*
Macquarie	*
Mawson	*
Mckellar	*
Melba	*
Monash	*
Narrabundah	7
Ngunnawal	*
O'Connor	*
Oxley	*
Page	*
Pearce	*
Phillip	5
Red hill	*
Reid	19
Richardson	*
Scullin	*
Spence	*
Stirling	*
Stromlo forest	*
Theodore	*
Torrens	*
Turner	7
Wanniassa	*
Watson	5
Weston	*
Yarralumla	*
TOTAL Ambulance Responses	285

TOTAL Fatal Overdoses	4
Unable to specify drug types due to privacy reasons	

July 2002 to June 2003

Suburb	Ambulance Service responses to suspected overdoses
Acton	9
Ainslie	15
Amaroo	*
Aranda	*
Banks	7
Barton	*
Belconnen	34
Bonython	*
Braddon	28
Bruce	13
Calwell	10
Campbell	*
Chapman	*
Charnwood	6
Chifley	8
Chisholm	8

City	78
Conder	10
Cook	5
Curtin	6
Deakin	5
Dickson	14
Downer	15
Duffy	11
Dunlop	8
Evatt	11
Fadden	*
Farrer	7
Fisher	*
Florey	12
Flynn	*
Forrest	*
Fraser	*
Fyshwick	*
Garran	*
Gilmore	*
Giralang	7
Gordon	7
Gowrie	*
Greenway	11
Griffith	25
Gungahlin	*
Hackett	10
Hawker	9
Higgins	8
Holder	*
Holt	12
Hughes	*
Isaacs	*
Isabella plains	6
Kaleen	15
Kambah	41
Karabar	*
Kingston	9
Latham	*
Letchworth	*
Lyneham	12
Lyons	13
Macarthur	*
Macgregor	*
Macquarie	*
Majura	*
Mawson	5
Mckellar	*
Melba	7
Monash	11
Narrabundah	19
Ngunnawal	6
Nicholls	*
Oaks estate	*
O'Connor	10
Oxley	5

Page	*
Palmerston	8
Parkes	*
Pearce	5
Phillip	16
Queanbeyan	*
Red hill	8
Reid	22
Richardson	5
Rivett	12
Russell	*
Scullin	8
Spence	*
Stirling	*
Tharwa	*
Theodore	6
Turner	8
Wanniassa	13
Waramanga	5
Watson	7
Weetangera	*
Weston	15
Yarralumla	8
	488

TOTAL Fatal Overdoses	16
5 - Heroin only	
7 - Opioids with some other drug	
4 - unable to specify drug types due to privacy reasons	

July 2001 to June 2002

Suburb	Ambulance Service responses to suspected overdoses
Acton	*
Ainslie	20
Amaroo	5
Aranda	*
Banks	7
Barton	*
Belconnen	26
Bonython	*
Braddon	27
Bruce	11
Calwell	9
Campbell	*
Chapman	*
Charnwood	8
Chifley	*
Chisholm	11
City	61
Conder	*
Cook	7
Curtin	8
Deakin	*

Dickson	14
Downer	5
Duffy	6
Dunlop	*
Duntroun	*
Evatt	9
Fadden	*
Farrer	5
Fisher	7
Florey	7
Flynn	*
Forrest	5
Fyshwick	7
Garran	*
Gilmore	8
Giralang	*
Gordon	11
Greenway	11
Griffith	25
Hackett	*
Hawker	12
Higgins	*
Holder	5
Holt	10
Hughes	*
Isaacs	*
Isabella plains	6
Kaleen	20
Kambah	29
Kingston	9
Latham	*
Lyneham	11
Lyons	7
Macarthur	*
Macgregor	8
Macquarie	10
Mawson	*
Mckellar	*
Melba	*
Michelago	*
Monash	5
Narrabundah	17
Ngunnawal	7
Nicholls	*
O'connor	8
O'malley	*
Oxley	*
Page	14
Palmerston	5
Parkes	*
Pearce	*
Phillip	20
Pialligo	*
Red hill	7
Reid	18
Richardson	8

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Rivett	*
Scullin	5
Spence	5
Stirling	5
Symonston	*
Theodore	*
Turner	*
Wanniassa	11
Waramanga	*
Watson	13
Weetangera	*
Weston	5
Yarralumla	10
	471

TOTAL Fatal Overdoses	11
Unable to specify drug types due to privacy reasons	

July 2000 to June 2001

Suburb	Ambulance Service responses to suspected overdoses
Acton	7
Ainslie	30
Amaroo	*
Aranda	*
Banks	5
Barton	*
Belconnen	31
Bonython	*
Braddon	50
Bruce	19
Calwell	9
Campbell	*
Chapman	*
Charnwood	13
Chifley	*
Chisholm	10
City	92
Conder	7
Cook	*
Curtin	13
Deakin	10
Dickson	16
Downer	*
Duffy	*
Dunlop	*
Evatt	7
Farrer	5
Fisher	*
Florey	13
Flynn	*
Forrest	*
Fraser	*

Fyshwick	8
Garran	11
Gilmore	8
Giralang	*
Gordon	12
Gowrie	*
Greenway	8
Griffith	23
Gungahlin	*
Hackett	*
Hall	*
Hawker	6
Higgins	7
Holder	*
Holt	10
Hughes	7
Isaacs	*
Isabella plains	12
Kaleen	11
Kambah	35
Kingston	12
Latham	5
Lyneham	17
Lyons	54
Macarthur	*
Macgregor	7
Macquarie	10
Mawson	*
Mckellar	*
Melba	*
Mitchell	*
Monash	8
Narrabundah	19
Ngunnawal	13
Nicholls	6
O'connor	16
Oxley	*
Page	11
Palmerston	5
Parkes	*
Pearce	5
Phillip	43
Pialligo	*
Queanbeyan	7
Red hill	9
Reid	21
Richardson	5
Rivett	11
Rural	*
Scullin	6
Spence	5
Stirling	*
Stromlo forest	*
Sutton	*
Symonston	*
Tharwa	*

Theodore	*
Torrens	5
Turner	13
Wanniassa	18
Waramanga	7
Watson	17
Weetangera	*
Wells Station Rd	*
Weston	5
Yarralumla	6
	589

TOTAL Fatal Overdoses	22
9 - Heroin only	
7 - Opioids with some other drug	
6 - unable to specify drug types due to privacy reasons	

* Data for this suburb has been de-identified (cell sizes of 4 or less) and cannot be released for privacy reasons. However, de-identified data is included in the figures for total number of overdoses attended at the conclusion of this table.

Retail electricity market (Question No 1018)

Mr Cornwell asked the Treasurer, upon notice, since the introduction of full retail contestability (FRC) on 1 July 2003:

- (1) Does ActewAGL still have a monopoly upon the ACT electricity market;
- (2) How many other retail electricity suppliers have expressed interest in, and how many have been successful in gaining access to, the ACT retail electricity market;
- (3) What is being done to ensure other retail electricity suppliers gain access to the ACT retail electricity market;
- (4) When is it anticipated there will be a reduction in retail electricity prices for ACT consumers as predicted by FRC's introduction.

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

- (1) ActewAGL has not held monopoly status since competition was first introduced into the commercial component of the ACT electricity market six years ago. The retail component was opened to competition on 1 July 2003.
- (2) There are 13 electricity retailers currently licensed to operate within the ACT electricity market. ActewAGL offers services to residential customers. Other retailers are considering their market position. However, no retailer has yet made a formal offer to ACT residents.
- (3) The Government has removed all unnecessary legislative and regulatory impediments to competitive market access relating to the provision of electricity to ACT residential consumers.

- (4) The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) examined the potential benefits of Full Retail Contestability for Electricity in July 2002. The Commission concluded that a long-term benefit of competition could be a downward pressure on retail prices.

The ICRC Report also discussed the potential for improved quality of services and product innovation.

With no new electricity retailers having yet entered the residential market the degree of competition is, at present, limited. However, anticipated competition has begun to show results. ActewAGL now offers rebates to customers who group their energy and internet access services. Further innovations are expected as new market participants finalise their ACT market offerings.

**Department of Justice and Community Safety—accommodation
(Question No 1019)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 21 October 2003:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Department of Justice and Community Safety proposed to move from GIO House to accommodation in Moore Street;
- (2) Will this move now not take place and have taxpayer funds been wasted as a result;
- (3) If the reply to (2) is affirmative, how much money has been lost and how did the arrangement fail.

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

- (1) The Department of Justice and Community Safety is moving from GIO House to accommodation in 12 and 14 Moore Street on expiry of its current lease, following an approach to the local property market during 2002 and planning and construction of fit out at the new premises over recent months.
- (2) The move is scheduled to take place during December 2003 and January 2004, and prior to the expiry of the current lease at GIO House, which occurs at the end of January 2004.
- (3) Not applicable.

**Heritage tourist tramway
(Question No 1020)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, upon notice, on 21 October 2003.

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In relation to the Federation Line, Canberra's Heritage Tourist Tramway:

- (1) Have negotiations commenced to establish this attraction;
- (2) If so, have the costs of the line, estimated at \$15 million for construction, been considered for Government funding;
- (3) If the reply to (2) is affirmative, would the Government consider a loan rather than a grant to the organisation, otherwise what tangible financial return does the ACT community have upon the investment.

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

- (1) No negotiations have been undertaken in relation to the Federation Line proposal.

Supporters of the Federation Line, and more recently the not-for-profit Federation Line Incorporated, have undertaken studies on the costs for developing the Line, and have explored options for funding it. The proposal's supporters have briefed the Government, and I am advised, previous Governments from the commencement of the proposal in 1999, of the outcome of these studies and the options that have been identified.

- (2) The Government has not considered funding the costs of constructing the Line.
- (3) Not applicable.

Munchausen syndrome by proxy (Question No 1024)

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice on 21 October 2003:

- (1) How many cases of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (MSP) have been identified in the ACT in (a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 2002 and (d) 2003 to date;
- (2) How many children were involved and how many were taken into care in each of the above years;
- (3) What arrangements are in place for natural parents to see such children in care and what is the average duration of a visit and how often on average per week;
- (4) Following revelations in *The Good Weekend* dated 11-12 October 2003 discrediting MSP in several cases overseas, does the Minister intend seeking a review of each of the ACT cases listed at (1) above.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Cornwell's question:

- (1) (a) Nil
(b) Nil

- (c) One case of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (MSP) proceeded to the Children's Court in 2002.
- (d) Nil
- (2) Two children were involved in the 2002 case that proceeded to the Children's Court. Both children were placed on Care and Protection orders.
- (3) This information has not been provided because of confidentiality concerns. Given that only one case has proceeded to the Children's Court, the provision of details outlining current access arrangements is not considered to be in the children's best interest as the children involved may be readily identified.
- (4) Reside as Directed orders were made by the Children's Court for 2 years. The department will undertake a review of the matter closer to the orders' expiry date.

**Domestic Animals Act 2000
(Question No 1025)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

- (1) How many penalty notices or fines have been issued for breaches of the above Act under Section 46 (1) 'the carer of a dog must hygienically dispose of any faeces dropped by the dog in a public place or in a storm water drain or channel (whether on public or private land)' in (a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 2002 and (d) 2003 to date;
- (2) How many penalty notices or fines have been issued for breaches of the above Act under Section 46 (2) 'The carer of a dog must not take a dog into a public place or a storm water drain or channel (whether on public or private land) unless the carer carries equipment suitable for the hygienic disposal of faeces dropped by the dog' in (a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 2002 and (d) 2003 to date;
- (3) How many penalty notices or fines have been issued for breaches under all sections of the above Act in total in (a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 2002 and (d) 2003 to date;
- (4) Have any breaches of the above Act resulted in court action or criminal convictions in the years listed above and if so, how many breaches were there and what was their nature;
- (5) Who is authorised in the ACT to issue penalty notices or fines under the Domestic Animals Act;
- (6) How many inspectors are currently engaged to actively enforce the provisions of the Domestic Animals Act in the ACT.

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

- (1) The Domestic Animals Act 2000 was notified in the Gazette on 21 December 2000.
 - (a) Year 2000 - not applicable to Domestic Animals Act
 - (b) Year 2001 - no infringements issued
 - (c) Year 2002 - no infringements issued
 - (d) Year 2003 - no infringements issued to date

- (2) There were no infringements issued for the section 46(2) for any of the years listed.
- (3) Infringements issued for all breaches of Domestic Animals Act 2000 are as follows:
- | | |
|----------|--|
| (a) 2000 | not applicable to Domestic Animals Act |
| (b) 2001 | 143 |
| (c) 2002 | 101 |
| (d) 2003 | 74 to date |

- (4) Breaches resulting in court action:

There have been 129 breaches of the Act resulting in court action.

Parts of the Domestic Animals Act that have been prosecuted include:

14(1) (a) -	keeping unregistered dog
23 (1) -	keeping dangerous dogs without licence
44 (3) -	dogs in public places without carer
50 (1) -	attacks / harassment by dog
50 (2) -	attacks / harassment by dog
51 (1) -	encouraging dog attack
54 (2) -	failure to produce dog for inspection
110 (1) -	animal nuisance
112 (7) -	contravention of nuisance notice
143 -	hinder and obstruct authorised officers

- (5) Authorised officers under the Domestic Animals Act 2000 in the ACT include staff of Domestic Animal Services, and some rangers of Environment ACT within the Parks and Conservation unit.
- (6) The following are actively involved in enforcing of the Domestic Animals Act 2000:
- Six (6) Rangers covering field related matters
- Four (4) Customer Service Officers dealing with office based compliance
- One (1) Deputy Registrar – investigation of major dog complaints and legal issues
- One (1) Registrar / Manager

**CityScape
(Question No 1026)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to CityScape:

- (1) Have a number of depots closed since January 2003 and if so, where;
- (2) If depots have closed, were jobs lost and if so, how many;

- (3) Has CityScape's budget fallen from \$4 million to \$1.5 million in 2003-04 and if so, why;
- (4) Why has CityScape been downgraded when there is a current need to clean up fire prone areas of the city.

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

- (1) No CityScape depots have closed since January 2003.
 - (2) No CityScape employees have lost their job.
 - (3) CityScape's budget has increased from \$19,721,000 in 2002/03 to \$20,057,000 for 2003/04.
 - (4) CityScape has not been downgraded.
-

**Prisoners—bail refusals
(Question No 1027)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 21 October 2003:

- (1) How many appeals have there been from the 1 January 2003 to 1 October 2003 from the ACT Magistrates Court to the ACT Supreme Court appealing against decisions by the Magistrates Court to refuse bail;
- (2) Please indicate how many of the appeals mentioned above to the Supreme Court were successful (ie the defendant was granted bail).
- (3) Is the Attorney-General able to give details of whether the offender was initially refused bail in the Magistrates Court as a result of having charges pending before that Court. If so, please indicate how many of those matters were appealed to the Supreme Court, and how many of those appealed to that Court were successful.

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

- (1) There have been 70 bail applications before the ACT Supreme Court in the period 1 January 2003 to 1 October 2003. This number comprises matters on committal to the Supreme Court and applications made directly to the Supreme Court. There are no "appeals" from decisions to refuse bail in the Magistrates Court. The process is one of review under the *Bail Act 1992*.
 - (2) 28 applications were successful.
 - (3) It is not possible for the Supreme Court to give details of whether the offender was initially refused bail in the Magistrates Court as a result of having charges pending before that Court.
-

**Currong apartments
(Question No 1028)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to Currong Apartments, Civic:

- (1) What is the current timeframe with respect to the future of Currong Apartments in terms of upgrades, demolition, redevelopment or other, or a combination of these or other options;
- (2) Further to (1), when and how will the residents be notified of such plans;
- (3) Has any correspondence been forwarded recently to current residents at Currong Apartments concerning its future, (if so, please supply a copy of any such correspondence(s));
- (4) Please indicate the current state of occupation at Currong Apartments (please provide a breakdown for each of the blocks in terms of occupied, vacant, and other status (eg presently occupied but to be vacated shortly etc));
- (5) It has been suggested that the three Currong Apartment blocks may be demolished and replaced with structures similar to the Allawah and Bega Court structures. Is there any real likelihood of development along these lines;
- (6) What plans, if any, are in place for temporary relocation of Currong Apartments residents, including a timeframe for such process.

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

- (1) I advised residents on 27 October 2003 that the building will be decommissioned and either sold or redeveloped.
- (2) Each tenant received a personal letter from me which was hand delivered to the tenant by a Housing Manager. Each tenant was invited to attend two meetings on 28 October 2003 followed by regular meetings with the relocation team.
- (3) Please see (1) and (2) above. A copy of my letter and the flyers handed out by Housing ACT are attached.
- (4) As at 4 November 2003, there are 190 tenancies in Currong Apartments together with four tenants temporarily relocated from Northbourne Flats while their apartments are being upgraded.
- (5) No.
- (6) None. The residents will be permanently relocated.

Attachment 1

Mr
Allawah Court
BRADDON ACT 2612

Dear Mr

I am writing to let you know about the ACT Government's decision on the future of the Currong Apartments, which are next to your residence.

Currong will no longer be retained for public housing.

I am aware that this decision may cause some concern about your future as a tenant of Allawah or Bega Court so I am writing to assure you that your tenancy will not be changed, nor the rights and responsibilities you have now.

As you know Allawah and Bega Courts have recently been upgraded and the Government has no intention of disposing of these properties, hence there will be no change.

The Government has not taken this decision lightly. We have carefully considered the views of many of the Currong residents - expressed through a survey in April and May this year - as well as the important issues of safety and the very high cost of addressing the poor condition of the complex.

The building will be sold or redeveloped.

This means that tenants at Currong Apartments will need to be relocated as soon as suitable properties are identified, a process that's expected to take some 12 months.

If you have any questions concerning the decision on the Currong Apartments, or your current tenancy, please contact Enver Haskic at Housing ACT on telephone 6207 5091 (Allawah) or Ian Kyle on 6207 1007 (Bega).

Yours sincerely

Bill Wood MLA
Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services
27 October 2003

Attachment 2

Mr
Currong Apartments
BRADDON ACT 2612

Dear Mr

I am writing to let you know about the ACT Government's decision on the future of the Currong Apartments.

Into the future Currong will no longer be retained for public housing, but you as a tenant will continue to have the same right to public housing as you have now.

20 November 2003

The Government has not taken this decision lightly. We have carefully considered the views of many of the Currong residents - expressed through a survey in April and May this year - as well as the important issues of safety and the very high cost of addressing the poor condition of the complex.

The decision to sell or redevelop Currong means that you and the other tenants at Currong will be relocated to more suitable accommodation - *a process that will take up to 12 months.*

As a tenant, you will be fully consulted on your new housing options. This will include consideration of factors such as where you work, as well as the medical, transport and other services you wish to be near to as any information you gave to the survey is confidential.

The properties available to you will be more modern and have much better facilities than your current residence.

Options will include 58 older persons units that will be constructed and purchased in Braddon and Turner. Housing ACT is also purchasing a further 22 unit complex in Braddon, including units suitable for people with mobility problems. These one and two bedroom properties will be well located to bus routes and community amenities.

For people requiring a city location, larger and upgraded units will be available in Allawah and Bega Courts. If necessary, units in private developments in the inner north will be purchased in existing or new private complexes.

I am fully mindful of the fact that for older residents in particular, relocation will be a significant life event. The relocation process will be carefully managed to ensure the comfort and security of residents is a priority.

Housing ACT will have a dedicated team at Currong Apartments to manage the relocations of tenants to suitable alternative accommodation.

You will have an opportunity to find out more information about the relocation process - and the decision to sell or redevelop Currong - at meetings of tenants.

These will be held at **midday tomorrow Tuesday 28 October and at 5pm tomorrow Tuesday 28 October** in the Boomerang Room.

Beth Krncevic and John Imre from the Housing ACT relocation team will also be available to talk to you at the Currong Apartments during weekdays. Beth and John's office is located in the Guardians' Room on the first floor of B Block, and you are welcome to visit them between 8.30am and 4.30pm.

You can also telephone 6207 1412 to set up an interview time should you wish. I would encourage you to talk to Beth and John about your future housing requirements.

Please note that Housing ACT will meet all of your relocation costs. This includes removalist fees, as well as telephone, heating or power reconnections.

For your information, I have enclosed a copy of the summary of the tenant survey undertaken at Currong. The full survey is available from the relocation team's office.

You have my assurance that the staff at Housing ACT are totally committed to assisting you and your neighbours in every aspect of your move.

Yours sincerely

Bill Wood MLA
Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services
27 October 2003

(Copies of the flyers have been lodged with the Chamber Support Office.)

**ACT Forests headquarters
(Question No 1029)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to the ACT Forests Headquarters:

- (1) Who decided to build the ACT Forests Headquarters in Weston near the Defence College;
- (2) When was it decided to build the ACT Forests Headquarters in Weston near the Defence College;
- (3) What consultation was conducted before this decision was made;
- (4) What planning approvals were necessary before works commenced on the ACT Forests Headquarters;
- (5) When did work commence;
- (6) Why was it decided to build a new ACT Forests Headquarters before it was decided what to do about the ACT Forests business plan;
- (7) When was the Government first approached by the Department of Defence about the suitability of the selected site for the new ACT Forests Headquarters;
- (8) Who decided that ACT Forests Headquarters be moved from the preferred site near the Defence College;
- (9) When was the decision made;
- (10) What will be the cost of the relocation.

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

- (1) A number of sites were investigated by ACT Government Land Agencies and this site became the basis of ACT Forests application for approval.
- (2) June 2003
- (3) Consultation took place with ACTPLA, CSIRO, Weston Creek Community Council and the Australian Defence College.

- (4) A Development Application was lodged on 7 August 2003 and approved on 23 September 2003.
 - (5) 24 September 2003.
 - (6) Regardless of specific decisions regarding the ACT Forests business plan, the land currently managed by ACT Forests will continue to require management. The new headquarters will provide a basis for such a land management function. One of the important roles of ACT Forests is fire fighting through the Forests brigade. It is imperative that the Brigade is housed close to the bushfire risk along the Territory's Western border. The current temporary location in Griffith is not conducive to rapid bushfire response, and relocation should occur as soon as practicable.
 - (7) The Australian Defence College submitted objections during the Development Application process. The objections were considered by ACTPLA.
 - (8) The Government.
 - (9) October 2003.
 - (10) The cost of relocating the site of the ACT Forests Headquarters has not yet been determined.
-

Water—reticulation losses (Question No 1030)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice:

In relation to water supply:

- (1) How much water is lost in the ACT and Queanbeyan due to reticulation loss (ie the amount of water lost in the pipe system between when it is pumped from the water storage and when it is finally used);
- (2) How does this rate of loss compare to other utilities in Australia and overseas.

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

- (1) ACTEW do not operate the Queanbeyan water system and therefore cannot comment in regard to Queanbeyan. ACTEW advises that the current annual real loss in the Canberra system for 2002-03 is 2.96GL.
- (2) ACTEW's rate of loss compares well against other Australian utilities.

In its *WSAAfacts* publication for 2000-01, the Water Services Association (WSAA) included a comparative assessment of system losses by urban water utilities in Australia. This is the latest published comparison report. The ACTEW system water loss for the 2000-01 period was 147.1 ML per 100 km main, or 4.3GL in total, which is 6.6% of the total volume supplied.

This is well below the average rate of loss for utilities of 231.4 ML per 100 km supplied (9.6%), and the third lowest out of 17 water utilities for which data was available.

The reports for each water utility showing the water lost per 100km main and the loss as a percentage of the total volume supplied, by water utilities are provided in the table below.

ACTEW's performance in 2002-03 has improved, with total losses for the period coming to 2.96GL, compared to 4.3GL in 2000-01.

Comparison of system water losses (ML) 2000-0¹

Water Business	System water loss	
	per 100 km main	% of total volume supplied
Water Corporation (WA)	75.3	3.3 %
South East Water Limited	128.2	5.7 %
ACTEW Corporation	147.1	6.8 %
Yarra Valley Water Limited	193.4	8.3 %
Barwon Water	120.1	9.8 %
Brisbane City Council	286.7	10.1 %
Sydney Water Corporation	321.7	10.4 %
Hunter Water Corporation	187.8	10.6 %
Gold Coast Water	279.6	11.5 %
CityWest Water Limited	403.0	11.6 %
SA Water Corporation	289.0	12.8 %
Goulburn Valley Water	290.1	14.5 %
Central Highlands Water	125.6	15.7 %
Power and Water Authority (NT)	513.3	15.7 %
Coliban Water	263.8	18.4 %
Central Gippsland Water	332.9	26.8 %
Gosford City Council	-	-
Weighted Average	231.4	9.6 %

Unit titling applications (Question No 1031)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice:

In relation to unit titling:

- (1) How long did it take to process and approve an application for unit titling as at:
 - (a) 30 June 2001;
 - (b) 30 June 2002;
 - (c) 30 June 2003;
 - (d) 21 October 2003;
- (2) Has there been an increase in the time taken to process applications for unit titling;
- (3) If so, what is the cause of this increase in time;
- (4) If so, what are you going to do to bring down the time taken to process applications for unit titling.

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

20 November 2003

- (1) The time taken to process and approve an application for unit titling as at:
 - (a) 30 June 2001 – an average of 9 weeks;
 - (b) 30 June 2002 – an average of 7 weeks;
 - (c) 30 June 2003 – an average of 9.5 weeks;
 - (d) 21 October 2003 – no applications yet approved.
 - (2) There has been an increase of 2.5 weeks in time taken to process the unit title applications between June 2002 and June 2003;
 - (3) The cause of the increase results from processing twice the number of unit title applications compared to the same time in 2002 i.e. July-Sept 2003 - 31 applications received and July-Sept 2002 - 66 applications received;
 - (4) Recruitment action has been initiated to engage additional staff, however, it will take time for the new staff to have sufficient training to carry out the function efficiently. The industry is also being reminded that processing times can be much quicker if there are no development compliance issues to be dealt with prior to completing unit titling.
-

**Dog attacks
(Question No 1032)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Environment, upon notice:

In relation to wild dog attacks:

- (1) Have there been recorded increases in wild dog attacks on rural lands in the ACT this year;
- (2) If there has been an increase, what strategies have been put in place to address the problem;
- (3) If there has been an increase, what consultation has been conducted with rural lessees to address the problem.

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

- (1) No.
 - (2) N/A.
 - (3) N/A.
-

**Under-age drinking
(Question No 1033)**

Mr Stefaniak asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on Wednesday, 22 October 2003:

In relation to drinking by underage children:

- (1) How many inspectors are employed to enforce the provisions of the liquor licensing laws;
- (2) How many underage persons have been detected on licensed premises in breach of the laws for the period 1 January 2001 to 30 September 2003;
- (3) Of those, how many of these persons:
 - (a) are prosecuted;
 - (b) have been found guilty of an offence;
 - (c) have been fined;
- (4) What action was taken against those persons not prosecuted;
- (5) What action was taken against any accompanying adult who was either supplying alcohol to the young person or permitting the young person to purchase or consume alcohol;
- (6) How many licensees have been prosecuted for offences relating to the sale or supply of alcohol to underage persons;
- (7) What penalties were imposed;
- (8) What action was taken against the young persons involved in these cases.

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

- (1) There are seven inspectors in the Office of Fair Trading who are responsible, as part of their duties, for the enforcement of the underage drinking laws under the *Liquor Act 1975* (the Act). In addition to this all ACT police officers are also inspectors under the Act and can, and do, enforce the provisions of the Act.
- (2) One hundred and eleven underage persons have been detected on licensed premises during the period 1 January 2001 to 30 September 2003.
- (3)
 - (a) Eighteen young people were prosecuted.
 - (b) Twelve cases were proved without conviction. Five young people were placed on a good behaviour bond.
 - (c) One young person was convicted and fined \$75.00 plus court costs.
- (4) The young people were conveyed to the nearest police station or escorted to the nearest police officer. In the presence of a parent or guardian, they were issued with a formal caution as permitted under the Act.
- (5) Five adult individuals were prosecuted in court for supplying alcohol to people under the age of eighteen.
- (6) Forty-six licensees had disciplinary action taken against them before the Liquor Licensing Board and seven licensees have been prosecuted in court.
- (7) In respect of the matters taken before the Liquor Licensing Board three licensees were fined a total \$2,950, and one was reprimanded, for selling liquor to minors; eight

licensees were fined a total of \$3,000 for allowing minors to possess or consume liquor on their premises; and thirty-four licensees were fined a total of \$14,750 for allowing minors entry to a bar-room when not accompanied by a responsible adult.

In respect of the matters taken before the court, five licensees were fined a total of \$1,750, one was found guilty but released without conviction and one was found guilty and released with a severe warning, for selling liquor to minors.

In respect of the adults that were prosecuted for underage related matters two matters were proven without a penalty being entered, one adult was placed on a 12 month good behaviour bond, one adult was convicted and fined \$750, and one adult received a 50 hour community service work order.

- (8) In all of the above cases the minors were either cautioned for their involvement in the offence or were dealt with by the courts.

Relief teaching staff (Question No 1034)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services on 22 October 2003:

In relation to relief teaching staff:

- (1) How many relief teachers registered with the ACT Department of Education, Youth and Family Services have come from interstate for contracts in the ACT;
- (2) Of these relief teachers, how many have been offered extensions of their contracts;
- (3) Of these relief teachers, how many have accepted extensions of their contracts;
- (4) What is the average contract period for relief teachers registered with the ACT Department of Education, Youth and Family Services.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) The department does not have data on the place of origin of teachers registered for relief teaching. However, 118 registered relief teachers have addresses outside the ACT.
 - (2) Relief teaching work is casual work replacing teachers who are attending a professional learning activity or are unexpectedly on short-term leave. The standard contract is for one day. Many relief teachers are offered consecutive daily contracts. The database used for managing relief teachers does not record information on offers of work, only work completed.
 - (3) Depending on their availability, many relief teachers accept consecutive daily contracts, either at the one school or at several schools.
 - (4) The standard contract period for a casual relief teacher is one day.
-

**Non-teaching staff numbers
(Question No 1035)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to staff numbers:

- (1) What is the total number of non-teaching staff employed by the ACT Department of Education, Youth and Family Services;
- (2) How many of the total number of non-teaching staff are permanent;
- (3) How many of the total number of non-teaching staff are on contract;
- (4) How many of the total number of non-teaching staff hold administrative positions;
- (5) How many of the total number of non-teaching staff hold policy related positions.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) – (4) The information concerning staff numbers is detailed in the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services 2002-2003 Annual Report.
- (5) Positions are not flagged as policy positions as such. Most positions at the SOG C level (or equivalent) and above would be involved in policy development and/or implementation to some degree.

**Internet usage in schools
(Question No 1036)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to Internet usage in schools:

- (1) How many primary schools in the ACT use the Internet in class as a research tool;
- (2) How many high schools in the ACT use the Internet in class as a research tool;
- (3) How many primary schools in the ACT allow students general access to the Internet;
- (4) How many high schools in the ACT allow students general access to the Internet;
- (5) Are there any security measures in place to prevent students from accessing inappropriate material on the Internet;
- (6) If so, what are they and do all schools in the ACT who use the Internet in class as a research tool use these security measures;

(7) If not, why not.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) All government primary schools currently use the Internet regularly as a research tool.
- (2) All government high schools currently use the Internet in class as a research tool.
- (3) None. The Internet service provider provides a range of internet safety services including website filtering and blocking of spam email.

Internet access is managed through the provision of a range of filtering categories. Many of these categories are switched on by default, such as "Pornography" and "Sex". Some categories can be changed at the school's discretion. This provides schools with some flexibility as to the type of content their students may access and authority to change these settings has been delegated to principals. No primary schools have changed the default filtering settings.

- (4) None. No high schools have changed the default filtering settings.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The Internet service provider provides a range of security measures aimed at providing a safe and productive online environment for students. These measures are transparent to the student and have no detrimental impact on access times.

Website filtering uses the N2H2 engine, renowned as being one of the best in the world. This service maintains a database of website URLs, known as a 'blacklist', which have been identified as containing inappropriate content. Thus not only are students protected from exposure to websites that contain inappropriate images but also from sites that contain other offensive content, such as racism related material. The software provider updates the database daily.

The type of categories filtered is extensive and all government schools currently filter the following categories: Adults Only, Alcohol, Hate/Discrimination, Gambling, Tasteless/Gross, Illegal, Profanity, Lingerie, Nudity, Pornography, Sex, Murder/Suicide, Violence, Weapons, Drugs and Search Terms.

Highly effective email filtering is also in place and this protects students from receiving offensive, and other inappropriate content from unknown sources (spam). Email being sent by students is also checked for profanity, with any such messages being blocked at the school level.

Schools have the ability to apply additional layers of filtering to individual students if they so wish.

- (7) See response to question 6.
-

**Interest subsidy scheme
(Question No 1037)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS);

- (1) Why is the ISS not being retained;
- (2) What other subsidy schemes or similar are currently in place for non-Government schools in the ACT;
- (3) Is the ISS going to be replaced.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) The government outlined its reasoning on the closure of the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) in its response to the Inquiry into ACT Education Funding 2003.
 - (2) The ACT Government does not provide any other form of subsidy scheme for ACT non government schools. However, other concessions that non government schools may access are detailed in the report of the Inquiry into ACT Education Funding 2003.
 - (3) The Minister has given an undertaking to ACT non government schools that as funds are released from the ISS, they will be made available for other funding requirements in non government schools. The Minister has already sought the advice of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Non Government Schooling in the ACT on how the surplus funds are to be used.
-

**Year 12 students
(Question No 1038)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to year 12 trends:

- (1) What are the four key learning areas for year 12 students in the ACT;
- (2) What percentage of year 12 students are currently participating in the four key learning areas and has this figure changed over the past five school years. If so, please provide details including the figure;
- (3) Have the four key learning areas changed at any time in the past five school years. If so, please provide details;
- (4) How many year 12 students are currently undertaking subjects in science;

- (5) What percentage of year 12 students opted to take vocationally orientated subjects this year rather than traditional key learning areas;
- (6) Has the figure for students undertaking vocationally orientated subjects in year 12 increased over the last five years. Please provide figures for the following school years (a) 1998 (b) 1999 (c) 2000 (d) 2001, (e) 2002 and (f) 2003;
- (7) What are the overall participation rates for year 12 in the ACT for the following school years (a) 1998 (b) 1999 (c) 2000 (d) 2001, (e) 2002 and (f) 2003.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) The four major subject groups in terms of subject enrolments are: English, Mathematics, Science and Behavioural Science/Religion.
- (2) Percentage of year 12 students currently participating in the four major subject areas:

Subject Area	2003	2002	2001	2000
English		100	99.8	100
Mathematics		92.7	93.8	93.8
Science		48.4	47.8	49.2
Behavioural Sc./Religion*		47.3	43.7	41.4

* These areas are as defined in the Year 12 Study Table 10.4. (Religion is a compulsory subject in the Catholic sector.)

Figures for 2003 are not yet available on the same basis as previous years. Figures prior to 2002 were calculated on a different basis to the last three years.

- (3) The four major subject groups have not changed over the last five years.
- (4) There are 1528 year 12 students undertaking a course in Science in 2003.
- (5) There is no data available on students choosing VET subjects rather than traditional subject areas.
- (6) The number of students completing vocational subjects has increased each year since 1998. The table below is the number of students who received a vocational qualification each year. The 2003 figures will be available in February 2004.

2003	
2002	2102
2001	1962
2000	1815
1999	1550
1998	1013

- (7) Participation rates are calculated on an age basis not on a year level. Figures for participation of 15 to 19 year olds in the ACT are provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Approximately two thirds of year 12 students are aged 17 in July.

**Teacher quality practices
(Question No 1039)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, 22 October 2003:

In relation to teacher quality practices:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the work of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) in the United States;
- (2) Is there a similar organisation established in Australia to ensure professional teaching standards across the board, if so, does the ACT participate in any aspect of this board's work. If not, would such a board be a good addition to the education system to ensure teachers are pedagogically competent;
- (3) In the ACT education system how do you currently ensure that teachers are pedagogically competent and does this involve regular checks;
- (4) What else is being done within the ACT education system to recognise teachers who may not be pedagogically competent and help them improve.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) Yes.
 - (2) No. However, the ACT participates on the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs Taskforce on Quality Teaching and Learning that is currently developing national standards.
 - (3) The department has a rigorous teacher selection process for government schools. Applicants are required to address detailed selection criteria concerning teaching practice and pedagogy. A team of trained teaching professionals evaluates the responses; all applicants are interviewed and referee checks, including police checks, are made. This thorough process ensures that the highest quality recruits are available for teaching in government schools. In the first year of teaching, all new teachers are required to complete a detailed assessment process as part of their probation. This includes senior teaching staff observing and providing feedback on teaching skills, lesson preparation, behaviour management and professional learning commitment.
 - (4) All teachers in ACT government schools undertake an annual teacher appraisal called Professional Pathways. Teachers establish goals and priorities linked to system and school development priorities, as well as personal professional goals. Teachers meet three times per year to determine and review their Professional Pathways goals. The professional Pathways process addresses areas of pedagogy needing improvement through structured planning and professional development.
-

**Data Interpretation Service
(Question No 1040)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to the Data Interpretation Service (DIS):

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the new DIS system operated by the Australian Council for Educational Research;
- (2) Is the Minister aware of any costs associated with using the DIS, if so, what are those associated costs;
- (3) Are any government schools using DIS to assist them in monitoring the academic achievements of their students. If so, which schools, if not, why not and will the government consider encouraging schools to use the DIS.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) The Data Interpretation Service (DIS) from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) was demonstrated to department personnel and some principals on 17 October 2003.
- (2) There are costs associated with using the DIS from ACER. ACER would need 17 schools to participate to make it viable for them to provide the service. This would be a school-based cost. If System analysis was also provided there would be a cost to the system for this service. The actual costs depend on the services required.
- (3) At present no government schools in the ACT use DIS.

Schools are encouraged to use data to inform their practice. A number of tools, such as DIS, are currently being investigated with a view to promoting the use of data analysis services in schools.

**Drug Education Project
(Question No 1041)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to the Drug Education Project (DEP):

- (1) Who conducted the evaluation of the critical processes underpinning the DEP for School Communities in the ACT;
- (2) How were the conclusions in the brochure arrived at;
- (3) Were there any goals set that were not achieved, if so, what are they and how will they now be achieved;

- (4) Strategies that worked are listed in the brochure, were there any strategies that did not work, if so, what are they and why did they not work;
- (5) What work is now being done to further drug education in the ACT following the evaluation of the DEP for School Communities in the ACT;
- (6) Have new (a) goals and (b) strategies been set. If so, what are they, if not, why not.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) The evaluation of critical processes underpinning the Drug Education Project (DEP) for School Communities in the ACT was conducted by Bob Reardon as part of course requirements for the Master of Education – Community Health Promotion at the University of Canberra and under the supervision of Richard Broughton, Chair of the Drug Education Project Evaluation Sub-Committee and Dr Katja Mikhailovich, of the University of Canberra.
- (2) The conclusions in the brochure were based on information provided by the five schools that participated in the evaluation.
- (3) The purpose of the evaluation was to examine changes in educational practice among staff and principals in the sample schools on the delivery of drug education. It also aimed to provide a snapshot of the implementation of the federally funded three year project 'The Drug Education Project for School Communities in the ACT'. All the goals were achieved.
- (4) All strategies outlined in the brochure were considered successful by the sample schools.
- (5) A number of programs have been undertaken to further drug education in the ACT:
 - The Commonwealth funded Resilience Education and Drug Information (REDI) resources supporting effective drug education and management in Australian schools were sent to all ACT schools in June 2003. REDI has been designed for upper primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school students. The department will be providing professional development on this package to schools in 2003 and 2004.
 - DEYFS will continue to train schools in the health promoting schools model. There are ninety-six schools (85 government and 11 non government) that have participated in training since 1999.
 - School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) is a program aimed at reducing alcohol related harm to high school students. It is aimed at year 7, year 8 and year 10 students. Training for secondary school teachers on the program is in progress.
 - The Local School Community Drug Summits Manual has been developed by a team of writers, mainly ACT teachers, as a 'how to' manual for involving the whole school community in drug education.
 - There are many school-based initiatives such as those recently held by the Woden/Weston Creek/Telopea Park School /Narrabundah College Cluster, which inform students, parents, teachers and the whole school community on current drug information and strategies to minimise harmful drug use.

- (6) The new ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Strategy is currently being developed by the Alcohol and Other Drugs Taskforce and this will provide support and determine future directions of drug education in ACT schools.

An evaluation of drug education programs in ACT government schools and colleges will be conducted in 2004. Current practices and programs will be evaluated and this will be used to provide advice on future directions and priorities for drug education in schools.

Fireworks (Question No 1043)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Industrial Relations, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to reports of fireworks use:

- (1) How many reports have been received by police and Workcover in relation to the use of fireworks in Canberra this calendar year outside of the allocated days around the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Please provide details of the (a) suburb (b) time and (c) date of the fireworks use that was reported;
- (2) How were each of these reports actioned;
- (3) On how many occasions did police visit the site where the use was reported;
- (4) Where any offenders caught, if so, what penalties were awarded.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Police have received 113 reports in relation to fireworks to 26 October in this calendar year outside of the allocated days around the Queen's Birthday long weekend (6 June 2003-9 June 2003).

ACT WorkCover have received 143 reports in relation to fireworks to 31 October in this calendar year outside of the allocated days around the Queen's Birthday long weekend (6 June 2003-9 June 2003).

Details of the reports of firework use received by police are at Table 1 (by suburb), Table 2 (by time), and Table 3 (by month). Details of the reports of firework use received by ACT WorkCover are at Table 6 (by suburb), Table 7 (by time), and Table 8 (by month).

- (2) Given the number of reports, it would be very resource and time intensive to extract information on each report as analysis of individual cases would be required. Summary information on police attendance is provided in Table 4 and on ACT WorkCover responses in Table 9.
- (3) Of the 113 incidents reported, 70 incidents were attended by police (refer to Table 4).
- (4) Twelve people were apprehended as a result of fireworks incidents. In nine cases, the charge was Dangerous Use of Fireworks (refer to Table 5).

Australian Federal Police (ACT Policing)

Table 1: Reported fireworks incidents (police) by suburb 01 January to 26 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Suburb	Number of reported incidents
Ainslie	2
Amaroo	1
Aranda	1
Banks	2
Bonython	2
Braddon	5
Chifley	1
Chisholm	6
Conder	1
Cotter	1
Dickson	1
Downer	3
Duffy	2
Fadden	1
Fisher	5
Florey	1
Fyshwick	1
Garran	1
Gilmore	1
Giralang	3
Gordon	1
Gowrie	2
Griffith	1
Holder	1
Holt	1
Hume	1
Isabella Plains	4
Kaleen	1
Kambah	6
Latham	1
Lyneham	1
Macarthur	4
Macgregor	2
Macquarie	1
Mawson	1
Monash	3
Narrabundah	2
Ngunnawal	5
Nicholls	1
Oaks Estate	4
Oconnor	1
Oxley	1
Pearce	2
Phillip	3
Reid	2
Richardson	3

Rivett	1
Stirling	
Symonston	2
Theodore	1
Turner	1
Wanniassa	6
Watson	2
Weston	2
Yarralumla	1
Total	113

Source: PROMIS database as at 27 October 2003

note: Queens birthday long weekend excluded (06 June 2003 - 09 June 2003)

Table 2: Reported fireworks incidents (police) by time of the day 01 January to 26 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Time	Number of reported incidents
midnight to 2:59am	14
3:00am to 5:59am	2
6:00am to 8:59am	8
9:00am to midday	13
midday to 2:59pm	13
3:00pm to 5:59pm	13
6:00pm to 8:59pm	18
9:00pm to midnight	32
Total	113

Source: PROMIS database as at 27 October 2003

note: Queens birthday long weekend excluded (06 June 2003 - 09 June 2003)

Table 3: Reported fireworks incidents (police) by month 01 January to 26 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Month	Number of reported incidents
January	10
February	3
March	3
April	10
May	15
June	32
July	10
August	11
September	12
October	7
Total	113

Source: PROMIS database as at 27 October 2003

note: Queens birthday long weekend excluded (06 June 2003 - 09 June 2003)

Table 4: Reported fireworks incidents (police) by patrol attendance 01 January to 26 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Patrol Attendance	Number of reported incidents
Yes	70
No	43
Total	113

Source: PROMIS database as at 27 October 2003

note: Queens birthday long weekend excluded (06 June 2003 - 09 June 2003)

Table 5: Number of people apprehended as a result of fireworks incidents 01 January to 26 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Offence	Number of persons apprehended
A.C.T. Arson	1
A.C.T. Dangerous Use Of Fireworks-General	9
A.C.T. Knowingly Concerned/Act/Directly (Arson)	1
A.C.T. Possess Explosives Contrary Dang.Goods Act	1
Total	12

Source: PROMIS database as at 27 October 2003

note: Queens birthday long weekend excluded (06 June 2003 - 09 June 2003)

ACT WorkCover

Table 6: Reported fireworks incidents (ACT WorkCover) by suburb 01 January to 31 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Suburb	Number of reported incidents
Ainslie	2
Amaroo	1
Banks	4
Belconnen	4
Bonython	2
Braddon	2
Bruce	2
Chapman	1
Charnwood	1
Chisholm	4
Conder	1
Cook	1
Curtin	5
Deakin	1
Dickson	2
Downer	1
Dunlop	1
Emu Ridge	1
Evatt	3
Fisher	3

Florey	6
Flynn	1
Fraser	1
Fyshwick	2
Gilmore	7
Giralang	2
Gordon	5
Greenway	1
Griffith	2
Hall	1
Holder	2
Holt	1
Hughes	1
Kaleen	6
Kambah	6
Latham	1
Lyneham	1
Macarthur	4
Macgregor	1
Macquarie	1
Mawson	2
Monash	1
Narrabundah	4
Ngunnawal	7
Oaks Estate	7
Pearce	1
Richardson	2
Stirling	1
Spence	1
Theodore	5
Torrens	1
Tuggeranong	1
Wanniassa	3
Watson	8
Yarralumla	1
General community	1
Not recorded	3
Total	143

Source: Inspector Records compiled as at 31 October 2003

Note: Queens birthday long weekend excluded (06 June 2003 - 09 June 2003)

Table 7: Reported fireworks incidents (ACT WorkCover) by time of the day 01 January to 31 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Time	Number of reported incidents
midnight to 2:59am	15
3:00am to 5:59am	2
6:00am to 8:59am	2
9:00am to midday	7
midday to 2:59pm	4
3:00pm to 5:59pm	21
6:00pm to 8:59pm	22
9:00pm to midnight	23

No time stated	44
All day	1
Day time	1
Evening	1
Total	143

Source: Inspector Records compiled as at 31 October 2003

note: Queens birthday long weekend excluded (06 June 2003 - 09 June 2003)

Table 8: Reported fireworks incidents (ACT WorkCover) by month 01 January to 31 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Month	Number of reported incidents
January	20
February	7
March	1
April	13
May	16
June	58
July	12
August	5
September	11
October	0
Total	143

Table 9: Reported fireworks incidents (ACT WorkCover) by type of response 01 January to 31 October 2003 (excluding 06-09 June 2003)	
Action by WorkCover	Number of reported incidents
Attended site	14
Seizure	0
Written	3
Verbal caution	1
Phone call	9
No further action	8
Not recorded	105
Police involvement	3
Total	143

Source: Inspector records compiled as at 31 October 2003

note: Queens birthday long weekend excluded (06 June 2003 - 09 June 2003)

Prisoners—interstate sentences (Question No 1044)

Mr Stefaniak asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to prisoners sentenced in ACT courts but serving sentences in interstate prisons as at 1 October 2003:

- (1) What is the total number of prisoners, by type of offence;

- (2) How many ACT prisoners are currently located interstate;
- (3) How many of those ACT prisoners located interstate are:
 - (a) male;
 - (b) female;
 - (c) under the age of 18;
 - (d) under the age of 18 and female; and
 - (e) under the age of 18 and male.
- (4) How many prisoners are held in:
 - (a) maximum security prisons;
 - (b) medium security prisons; and
 - (c) low security prisons;
- (5) Are any prisoners serving sentences in prison farms, if so, how many;
- (6) How many ACT prisoners currently have:
 - (a) less than 12 months to serve;
 - (b) 12 months to 2 years to serve;
 - (c) 2 to 5 years to serve;
 - (d) greater than 5 years to serve;
- (7) How many prisoners are in protective accommodation and:
 - (a) what was their offence;
 - (b) what is the reason for such allocation.

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

- (1) The total number of prisoners sentenced in ACT courts serving their sentences in interstate prisons, as at 1 October 2003 is one hundred and fifteen. The total numbers of interstate prisoners, by type of offence, are as follows:

• Homicide	13
• Assault (non-sexual)	16
• Sexual assault	13
• Other sex offences	4
• Robbery armed	17
• Unlawful entry offences	17
• Fraud	3
• Vehicle theft	1
• Other theft	4
• Justice procedure offences	18
• Weapons offences	1
• Drugs offences	4
• Traffic offences	1
• Other	2
• Unclassified	1
Total	115

- (2) There are 115 ACT prisoners located interstate.

(3) The number of those ACT prisoners who are located interstate are:

(a) male	112
(b) female	3
(c) under the age of 18	1
(d) under the age of 18 and female	0
(e) under the age of 18 and male	1

(4)

The number of ACT interstate prisoners held in:

(a) maximum security prisons	4
(b) medium security prisons	20
(c) low security prisons	91

(5) The total number of prisoners serving sentences in prison farms is nineteen and the breakdown is as follows:

• Brewarrina prison farm	2
• Ivanhoe prison farm	2
• Kirkconnell prison farm	2
• Mannus prison farm	13
Total	19

(6) The number of ACT interstate prisoners who currently have:

(a) less than 12 months to serve	24
(b) 12 months to 2 years to serve	16
(c) 2 to 5 years to serve	47
(d) greater than 5 years to serve	28 (including 5 with life sentences)

(7) The number of ACT interstate prisoners in protective accommodation is one.

- (a) The prisoner's offence was murder.
- (b) The reason for such allocation is that the prisoner is a protected witness who has provided evidence against another prisoner.

Work and family policy (Question No 1045)

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to 'work and family' policy:

- (1) How many private businesses or organisations in the ACT (that you are aware of) have 'work and family' policies in place;
- (2) How many ACT Government Departments and agencies have 'work and family' policies in place;

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- (3) How many 'work and family' policies do each Department and agency have in place;
- (4) The Federal Government recently released figures showing 84% of the Business Council Of Australia's companies offer eight or more work and family policies. Is the ACT figure for 'work and family' policies consistent with this figure or otherwise. Please provide details supporting the response given.

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

- (1) While the ACT Government is aware that many ACT private sector organisations have work and family issues in their industrial awards and agreements there are no reporting requirements for private business that currently provide this data.
 - (2) I can confirm that BusinessACT and Australian Capital Tourism have implemented "work and family" policies. As Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, I am not responsible for public service employment practices, which is the province of the Chief Minister.
 - (3) I can confirm that BusinessACT and Australian Capital Tourism have implemented "work and family" policies. As Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism, I am not responsible for public service employment practices, which is the province of the Chief Minister.
 - (4) The ACT Government does not have the data on work and family arrangements in the ACT private sector to provide a meaningful comparison between the Business Council of Australia figures and ACT private businesses.
-

Work and family policy (Question No 1046)

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Industrial Relations, upon notice, on 22 October 2003:

In relation to 'work and family' policy:

- (1) How many private businesses or organisations in the ACT (that you are aware of) have 'work and family' policies in place;
- (2) How many ACT Government Departments and agencies have 'work and family' policies in place;
- (3) How many 'work and family' policies do each Department and agency have in place;
- (4) The Federal Government recently released figures showing 84% of the Business Council Of Australia's companies offer eight or more work and family policies. Is the ACT figure for 'work and family' policies consistent with this figure or otherwise. Please provide details supporting the response given.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) While the ACT Government is aware that many ACT private sector organisations have work and family issues in their industrial awards and agreements there are no reporting requirements for private business that currently provide this data.

- (2) I can confirm that the Office for Industrial Relations has implemented “work and family” policies. As Minister for Industrial Relations, I am not responsible for public service employment practices, which is the province of the Chief Minister.
 - (3) I can confirm that the Office for Industrial Relations has implemented “work and family” policies. As Minister for Industrial Relations, I am not responsible for public service employment practices, which is the province of the Chief Minister.
 - (4) The ACT Government does not have the data on work and family arrangements in the ACT private sector to provide a meaningful comparison between the Business Council of Australia figures and ACT private businesses.
-

**Lifeline—emergency accommodation
(Question No 1047)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to your response to Question on notice No 888:

- (1) What happened to the 531 persons who phoned the emergency accommodation hotline that were not referred to emergency accommodation by Lifeline;
- (2) What criteria are used to refer persons to emergency accommodation;
- (3) What criteria were used not to refer 531 people;
- (4) From where in the Budget did the \$205 000 annual funding for this project come from;
- (5) From where in the Budget did the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services fund the \$60 000 supplementary funding for the emergency accommodation fund;
- (6) Why, in part (2) of your reply to Question on notice No 888, does the addition of males, females and couples only equal 427 when the number of people actually seeking emergency accommodation in part (4) of the reply is a total of 736;
- (7) What accommodation providers are used by Lifeline to accommodate those referred to emergency accommodation;
- (8) Is there any scope to increase the number of accommodation providers to be able to accommodate more people seeking emergency accommodation, if so, what organisations are available, if not, why not;
- (9) Why is it not a requirement to keep data regarding the average length of time a person who telephones the hotline as been homeless for;
- (10) Will the Minister consider making it a requirement to keep data regarding the average length of time a person who telephones the hotline has been homeless for to get a clearer picture of homeless people in the ACT, if not, why not.

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

- (1) The figure of 531 represents people who might have been seeking emergency accommodation, but not all of these people would have been homeless at that time. The figure includes people who were:
 - Referred for brokerage assistance.
 - Seeking crisis accommodation for the night because their current accommodation posed difficulties, but could remain where they were (ie with friends or family) for a while longer when services had been unable to accommodate them.
 - The figure may include repeat callers as some people may have been counted more than once over the period.
 - The figure may also include people who have been asked to leave a Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) service because they presented a safety risk to other residents.

As to what happened to those callers:

- Callers are offered counselling and an opportunity to discuss their options with trained Lifeline counsellors. They may receive information about a variety of services that may help them with long-term housing and related issues as well as referrals for meals, clothes, legal aid, advocacy and the CEAS fund if that is appropriate.
 - Some callers may choose to remain in their current situation, or may be helped to identify other accommodation options (eg think of friends or family who might support them with accommodation or finances for cheap accommodation options).
 - Lifeline offers an anonymous service, which means that the counsellors do not ask names of callers and do not follow up with callers, so what happens after the call is not determinable.
- (2) The telephone numbers provided indicate people referred by Lifeline CEAS counsellors to available and appropriate ACT and Queanbeyan crisis accommodation services.

The Lifeline counsellors determine which services to refer callers to on the basis of the information provided to them by each organisation.

The callers are given phone numbers to call the service for an assessment interview.

Services make the assessment as to whether they can appropriately support any new client. They do this taking into account the support needs and circumstances of their current residents as well as those of the caller.
 - (3) The same criteria is used to determine potential eligibility and ineligibility for service.
 - (4) Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) base funding.

- (5) In 2003-04 the ACT Government allocated \$13.4 million over four years to respond to homelessness in the ACT. With the endorsement of the Homelessness Advisory Group the government provided additional non-recurrent funds to the CEAS service in acknowledgement of the important role of this service at the current time. Recurrent funds will be allocated through a series of tenders that I will shortly be announcing.
 - (6) The total of 736 people (referred to in Question on Notice 888 part 4) as needing emergency accommodation included children accompanying their parents. The figure outlining the gender breakdown (QON 888 part 2) related only to the gender breakdown of the adult callers (and did not include their children).
 - (7) Lifeline refers people to appropriate SAAP providers. The Anglicare component of the CEAS service identifies alternative options for people in crisis including local motels, caravan parks and units.
 - (8) Increasing the number of providers has a significant cost impact. The government has however, recently allocated an additional \$93,000 (as part of the immediate responses to homelessness) to enable CEAS to pre-lease six more accommodation sites for families over one year.
 - (9) The service is not a data collection source and Lifeline counsellors seek information from callers that is appropriate in assisting them with their crisis at that point in time. It is also worth noting that a percentage of people contacting the hotline do so on behalf of others seeking accommodation, ie family, friends and service providers.
 - (10) As the contracts for this service have recently been updated for its second year, additional and clarifying reporting and data requirements have been included.
-

**Ainslie Village
(Question No 1048)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice:

In relation to Ainslie Village:

- (1) What ACT Government services are currently provided at Ainslie Village;
- (2) Are any additional services planned to be introduced in the near future, and, if so, please specify the nature of such services and the likely timeframe;
- (3) When is the new accommodation at Ainslie Village to be opened;
- (4) Please explain why some workers are apparently being paid while not actively performing any duties;
- (5) Why has the Government chosen to fund, at the same levels, a seven (7) bed unit when a twelve (12) bed unit could be funded.

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

(1) The ACT Government currently funds the following services located at Ainslie Village:

- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (\$1,042,572), provided by Centacare.
- The Blue Door drop-in, food and information service (\$135,028) provided by St Vincent de Paul.
- A transition case manager to assist residents not eligible for SAAP services to access other community services (\$70,000), provided by Murringu.
- Mental Health ACT contracts Centacare (\$247,094) to provide 15 supported accommodation places and four respite beds within the Lodge for males 18 years and above with mental disorders or co-morbid disorders.

(2) The community housing provider peak - Canberra Community Housing ACT (CCHACT) are to be contracted to employ a community housing development worker to assist residents to develop sustainable community based housing options and tenancy arrangements to meet their needs and the operational needs of the Village itself. Recruitment for the worker is expected to commence in the next two weeks.

(3) A crisis accommodation service will be located in a block at the Ainslie Village site. This service will operate independently of Ainslie Village. The crisis service is due to open by the end of November 2003 and will provide emergency accommodation with case management support to seven men. The service will operate from the top floor of M Block, which has eight bedrooms. The eighth bedroom has been converted to an office for support workers.

A Night Shelter is being established by ACT Health in the downstairs of M Block. This service will also operate independently of Ainslie Village.

(4) I am not aware that any workers are being paid but are not working.

(5) The space available for the crisis service has capacity for seven bedrooms. Seven men will be accommodated. One larger room will have two beds in the event that it is appropriate for two men to share a room.

Water restrictions (Question No 1049)

Mr Cornwell asked the Treasurer, upon notice:

In relation to your response of stage 3 of ACT water restrictions:

- (1) What areas are exempt;
- (2) What is the reasoning for the exemptions in (1) above;
- (3) Why are pool installations allowed but not electronically controlled irrigation systems;
- (4) Is it proposed to review existing restrictions, perhaps to modify, and if so, when.

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

- (1) There are no automatic exemptions without conditions under stage 3 water restrictions for business or residents. All exemptions are considered by ACTEW on a case-by-case basis. Some "large users" have negotiated agreements with ACTEW, which allow them to operate outside the restriction scheme. However they must have an overall plan that will decrease water usage by 40%.
- (2) The restrictions scheme has been designed to limit the impact on business and employment in the ACT. If a business can demonstrate that compliance with the restrictions is likely to cause serious disproportionate or unintended financial damage and can demonstrate that they are using water as efficiently as possible, an exemption will be considered. Exemptions to residents are considered on the basis of health reasons, such as where a person is unable to use a trigger hose. In these cases sprinklers may be used on the designated days.
- (3) Prior to the commencement of stage 3 water restrictions, ACTEW held meetings with a number of industry groups. ACTEW did not want to cause unintended financial hardship on any industry group including pool companies. It was also concerned about the health and safety issues relating to water levels in the pool and the potential for damage to the pool's structure. Agreement was subsequently reached to allow exemptions for filling pools. Exemptions must be obtained prior to purchase of a pool and an exemption will only be considered where a pool cover is to be used once the pool is filled.

Electronically controlled irrigations systems cannot be used because of the potential to over-water through lack of moisture or rainfall sensors and a known risk of system failures causing uncontrolled water flows.

- (4) The intention of the restrictions is to achieve a 40% reduction in consumption. ACTEW has initiated a range of measures under Stage 3 to reduce consumption and expect that all these initiatives in combination will contribute to the expected outcome. At this stage ACTEW is not in a position to be certain how successful these initiatives will be because Canberra has never had to implement Stage 3 restrictions before. If ACTEW find during the summer that we have reduced consumption below the target consumption level, ACTEW will be in a position to reassess the restrictions regime.

Mounted police unit (Question No 1050)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 October 2003:

In relation to Canberra's mounted police unit:

- (1) What are the details of the productivity report into the viability of Canberra's mounted police unit;
- (2) Throughout the investigation for this report, were the police officers performing their normal duties within the mounted police unit;
- (3) If not, why not;

- (4) How much funding was allocated to the mounted police unit in the financial years:
- (a) 2001-2002;
 - (b) 2002-2003;
 - (c) 2003-2004.

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

- (1) In June 2003 I requested the Chief Police Officer for the Australian Capital Territory to report on the future deployment of mounted police within the ACT. The Chief Police Officer has recommended that the Mounted Police Team be discontinued on the basis that resources required to make such a team effective could be better utilised in other areas of policing. I intend to accept the Chief Police Officer's recommendation on this matter.
- (2) No.
- (3) Members of the Mounted Police Team have been deployed to protective security duties in accordance with Australian Federal Police priorities for the assignment of personnel.
- (4) (a) \$254 114
(b) \$227 742
(c) \$25 911

Home burglaries (Question No 1051)

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice; on 22 November 2003:

In relation to ACT home burglaries:

- (1) How many home burglaries have been reported to the police in Canberra in the following periods:
- (a) July 2002 – September 2002 (inclusive);
 - (b) October 2002 – December 2002 (inclusive);
 - (c) January 2003 – March 2003 (inclusive);
 - (d) April 2003 - June 2003 (inclusive);
 - (e) July 2003 – September 2003 (inclusive);
- (2) Of these reported home burglaries, how many offenders in each quarter were :
- (a) arrested for the crime;
 - (b) subsequently charged for the crime;
- (3) In each quarter, what is the breakdown per Canberra suburb of the reported home burglaries.

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

- (1) The answer is contained in Table 1.
- (2) (a) The answer is contained in Table 2.
(b) The answer is contained in Table 3.
- (3) The answer is contained in Table 1.

Suburb	1 July 2002 to 1 September 2002	1 Oct 2002 to 1 December 2002	1 Jan 2003 to 1 March 2003	1 April 2003 to 1 June 2003	1 July 2003 to 1 September 2003	Total
Acton	1	1	0	0	0	2
Ainslie	42	42	21	33	60	198
Amaroo	6	3	6	3	6	24
Aranda	3	3	6	10	4	26
Banks	15	7	6	3	7	38
Barton	5	1	1	3	0	10
Belconnen	29	29	13	29	20	120
Bonython	17	4	9	7	13	50
Braddon	46	23	32	13	30	144
Bruce	27	7	7	9	6	56
Calwell	18	22	7	7	19	73
Campbell	29	12	10	8	9	68
Chapman	6	12	3	5	8	34
Charnwood	11	4	5	9	10	39
Chifley	12	14	8	12	18	64
Chisholm	14	5	10	7	14	50
City	0	1	0	2	1	4
Conder	14	14	6	6	3	43
Cook	17	22	6	9	15	69
Curtin	6	17	15	12	10	60
Deakin	12	10	1	7	17	47
Dickson	14	19	10	5	18	66
Downer	16	30	23	11	18	98
Duffy	13	7	5	2	5	32
Dunlop	8	9	4	9	12	42
Emu Ridge	0	0	0	0	1	1
Evatt	15	15	10	15	15	70
Fadden	14	13	11	11	12	61
Farrer	5	5	8	6	11	35
Fisher	5	14	6	12	3	40
Florey	11	22	16	9	23	81
Flynn	10	15	7	8	8	48
Forrest	8	1	0	1	1	11
Fraser	11	5	4	10	4	34
Fyshwick	0	2	0	2	1	5
Garran	13	17	7	7	14	58
Gilmore	3	2	5	3	13	26
Giralang	9	9	4	4	3	29
Gordon	14	11	13	11	16	65
Gowrie	8	8	7	10	10	43
Greenway	7	2	9	1	12	31
Griffith	30	16	21	22	33	122
Gungahlin	5	5	2	0	5	17
Hackett	23	13	9	4	14	63
Hall	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hawker	5	19	4	16	11	55
Higgins	0	3	8	6	5	22
Holder	10	15	4	6	11	46
Holt	9	23	10	5	14	61
Hughes	18	11	5	7	13	54
Hume	0	0	1	1	0	2
Isaacs	22	14	12	9	8	65
Isabella Plains	12	7	8	4	15	46
Kaleen	25	8	12	5	11	61
Kambah	32	26	17	5	31	111
Kenny	0	0	0	1	0	1
Kingston	9	11	24	13	19	76
Kowen Forest	0	0	0	0	1	1
Latham	12	10	12	9	10	53
Lyneham	29	16	17	15	31	108

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Lyons	17	10	8	5	8	48
Macarthur	2	2	1	3	6	14
Macgregor	17	14	10	6	6	53
Macquarie	10	12	7	14	12	55
Mawson	15	7	17	7	9	55
Mckellar	7	5	2	4	15	33
Melba	8	18	6	7	2	41
Mitchell	0	1	0	0	0	1
Monash	12	8	11	2	9	42
Narrabundah	34	23	31	30	28	146
Ngunnawal	15	17	9	17	19	77
Nicholls	15	7	2	6	12	42
Oaks Estate	2	2	3	4	2	13
O'Connor	37	39	15	16	47	154
O'Malley	2	0	0	1	3	6
Oxley	3	2	2	1	5	13
Page	13	7	7	11	7	45
Palmerston	23	8	8	8	10	57
Pearce	11	6	12	3	12	44
Phillip	32	6	9	10	15	72
Pialligo	1	0	1	0	2	4
Queanbeyan	0	1	0	0	0	1
Red Hill	9	12	5	8	37	71
Reid	39	26	9	10	22	106
Richardson	6	12	11	8	8	45
Rivett	16	18	5	21	10	70
Scullin	9	2	8	12	5	36
Spence	10	7	6	5	2	30
Stirling	7	9	3	7	3	29
Swinger Hill	0	0	0	0	1	1
Symonston	0	1	1	3	2	7
Tharwa	1	0	0	0	0	1
Theodore	9	17	6	16	10	58
Torrens	10	6	5	10	11	42
Turner	16	15	18	14	25	88
Wanniassa	14	13	7	12	21	67
Waramanga	9	16	12	20	2	59
Watson	26	18	30	6	10	90
Weetangera	4	8	7	14	9	42
Weston	9	23	4	6	10	52
Yarralumla	22	13	10	3	23	71
Strange Areas	2	6	3	3	5	19
Total	1,249	1,073	798	792	1,148	5,060

Source: PROMIS 03 November 2003

Table 2: Apprehensions for burglaries at homes in the ACT by quarter - 01 July 2002 to 01 September 2003	
Date apprehension created	Apprehensions
01 July 2002 to 01 September 2002	50
01 October 2002 to 01 December 2002	51
01 January 2003 to 01 March 2003	46
01 April 2003 to 01 June 2003	46
01 July 2003 to 01 September 2003	46

Source: PROMIS 03 November 2003

Table 3: Apprehensions for burglaries at homes in the ACT by quarter, by how cleared ~ 01 July 2002 to 01 September 2003						
Date apprehension created	Arrest	Caution	Charged Before Court	Diversionary Conference	Summons	Voluntary Agreement To Attend Court
01 July 2002 to 01 September 2002	24	0	18	0	7	1
01 October 2002 to 01 Dec 2002	26	1	12	2	10	0
01 January 2003 to 01 March 2003	21	1	6	7	11	0
01 April 2003 to 01 June 2003	31	0	5	7	3	0
01 July 2003 to 01 September 2003	18	3	7	5	13	0

Source: PROMIS 03 November 2003

**Funding for non-government schools
(Question No 1052)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, upon notice, 23 October 2003:

In relation to funding for non Government Schools:

- (1) How much funding has been provided to non Government schools in the following financial years:
 - (a) 1999-2000;
 - (b) 2000-2001;
 - (c) 2001-2002;
 - (d) 2002-2003.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) Information concerning the funding of non government schools in the listed financial years is available in the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services Annual Reports.
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**Funding for students with disabilities
(Question No 1053)**

Mr Pratt asked the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services on 23 October 2003:

In relation to students with disabilities:

- (1) How much funding has been provided to ACT government schools for students with disabilities;
- (2) How much funding is provided to ACT non government schools for students with disabilities.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to Mr Pratt's question is:

- (1) The details of funding for ACT government school students with disabilities are in the 2003-2004 Annual Report of the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services. The 2003-2004 budget estimates for expenditure for students with disabilities are in Budget Paper 4.
 - (2) Non-government schools are funded for the incremental cost of students with a disability taking into account the three way funding partnership – the Commonwealth, the ACT Government and parents/community. In 2002-2003 \$0.7m in additional funding for students with a disability was provided by the ACT government to ACT non government schools. The 2003-2004 estimate is \$0.7m. These amounts represent only the marginal increase in ACT Government grants to non government schools as a result of enrolling students with a disability.
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**Weston Park
(Question No 1055)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Urban Services, upon notice:

In relation to advice that Canberra Urban Parks and Places (CUPP) is constructing a formal entrance to Weston Park:

- (1) Why is a formal entrance deemed necessary;
- (2) What will be the cost of this development;
- (3) Will the work also involve protecting the unfenced open green spaces adjacent to the cycle path, opposite Banks and Brown Streets and behind the lakeshore from 'wheelies' and truck and car parking.
- (4) If the response to (3) is negative, why and would not the expenditure at (1) above be better spent protecting this pleasant natural environment from thoughtless motor vehicle drivers.

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

- (1) The entrance to Weston Park is being modified to secure the park from illegal motor vehicle access and to reduce vandalism to park facilities during the night-time hours. There have been ongoing problems with vandalism in the Park especially during the night, as well as theft. The damage occurring includes vehicles tearing up the grass, broken bollards, illegal dumping, an average of 25 wheelie bins burnt per annum, toilet vandalism, playground vandalism and tree damage.

New entrance signage is being installed as part of a city-wide park branding project. This coincides with the entrance works, and supplements new signage elements at various other locations including Black Mountain Peninsula and Lennox Gardens.

- (2) The cost for the Weston Park signage is \$6,500.00, and the cost for the formal entrance is \$18,000.
- (3) No.
- (4) The formal entrance is being developed to manage the access to Weston Park specifically. Precluding vehicular entry to grassed areas along Banks Street and adjacent Lake Burley Griffin is not seen as a management priority, and would require barriers to the length of Banks and Brown Streets.

The siting of the current works utilises the natural opportunity to restrict access by trees, drainage channels and existing lake inlet, while at the same time contributing to the identity of Weston Park to visitors.

**Coppins Crossing
(Question No 1056)**

Mr Cornwell asked the Minister for Environment, upon notice:

In relation to an item in *The Canberra Times* on 17 October 2003 which stated that ‘a mass of filthy, highly polluted water surging down an otherwise clean-looking Molonglo River at Coppins Crossing’:

- (1) What was the source of this pollution;
- (2) Why did it occur;
- (3) What steps are being taken to prevent a repetition;
- (4) Will prosecutions be launched and if not, why not;
- (5) What is the penalty for such pollution and does the penalty apply to government departments and agencies.

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the member’s questions is as follows:

- (1) Environment Protection Officers have investigated this issue, including questioning adjacent lease holders but have been unable to identify any individual sources that may have contributed to the high turbidity levels. However as a result of the January bushfires much of the catchment surrounding Coppins Crossing is without significant vegetation and this results in increased sediment runoff following rainfall events.
- (2) Much of the area surrounding Coppins Crossing has had the vegetative cover removed as a result of the January bushfires leaving areas of bare soil. These areas have an increased potential for erosion following rainfall events, such as those that occurred between 6 October and 7 October 2003. The National Capital Authority also confirmed water was being released from Lake Burley Griffin during this time, to manage the increased inflow, adding to the volume of water at Coppins Crossing.
- (3) The catchment is rehabilitating naturally with vegetation regrowth occurring over wide areas. This vegetation stabilises the soil and reduced the potential for erosion and subsequent turbidity to occur. Where point sources were expected to be subject to high sediment loads, such as Weston Creek, erosion and sediment controls were put in place after the fires to minimise the impacts on downstream waters, including the Molonglo River.
- (4) No. No individual or business was found to be responsible for the increased turbidity. It was not due to a single point source incident but due to diffuse, naturally occurring sources in the catchment.
- (5) If a person or company is convicted of knowingly or recklessly polluting the environment causing environmental harm, the maximum penalty is 100 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both. If the environmental harm is material or serious, as defined in the *Environment Protection Act 1997*, the maximum penalties are more severe. In the case of causing material environmental harm it is 1,000 penalty units, imprisonment for 2 years or both, and for serious environmental harm 2,000 penalty units, imprisonment for 5 years or both. There are lesser penalties in cases where a person causes environmental harm but there is no intent to do so.

Government Departments cannot be prosecuted for these offences. However, Government instrumentalities, officers, employees and contractors may be prosecuted for knowingly or recklessly, or negligently causing serious, material or “plain”

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environmental harm. Accordingly, the penalties for these offences do not apply to Government departments, but they do apply to Government instrumentalities, officers, employees and contractors.

**Currong apartments
(Question No 1057)**

Mrs Burke asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, upon notice, on 23 October 2003:

- (1) How many different Housing Managers have been positioned at Currong Apartments since 1 July 2002 to date;
- (2) Of the range of circumstances in which Housing Managers move positions, as specified in your reply to Question on Notice No 968, please indicate which apply to each of the changes which have taken place at Currong Apartments during the stated period;
- (3) Is it the case that the most recent Housing Manger is being moved after only six weeks, having commenced there in early September 2003;
- (4) Further to (3), please indicate the circumstances surrounding this particular change:
- (5) What work practices are in place concerning the relationship between Housing Managers and privately contracted security guards at Currong Apartments;
- (6) Further to (5), in the event of an accident of anti-social and/or criminal nature taking place involving residents or other parties within the grounds of Currong Apartments, is it the case that record, other than police records, are maintained reporting such incidents between Housing Managers and security officers. If so, please provide a blank copy of the nature of such form or reporting. If not, why not, and how, in such circumstances, are such incidents monitored.

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

- (1) Four Housing Managers have been allocated the portfolio of Currong Apartments between 1 July 2002 and 17 September 2003.
- (2) Three of the changes occurred through the temporary promotion of the Housing Managers to higher positions within the organisation. The last one was because of the decision to decommission Currong Apartments.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The decision to decommission Currong Apartments resulted in the appointment of two Senior Housing Managers to manage the relocation project.
- (5) The Community Guardians liaise with Housing ACT staff on a regular basis and provide daily incident reports.
- (6) Yes. A blank copy of the incident report is attached.

(The attachment has been lodged with the Chamber Support Office).