



Debates

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Thursday, 17 September 2015

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Thursday, 17 September 2015

MADAM SPEAKER (Mrs Dunne) took the chair at 10 am and asked members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

Rates Amendment Bill 2015

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR BARR (Molonglo—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Urban Renewal and Minister for Tourism and Events) (10.01): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I introduce legislation amending the Rates Act 2004 establishing a rating methodology to calculate general rates for the Canberra Airport. The Rates Amendment Bill 2015 will increase certainty for the Canberra Airport, for the ACT government, and for the broader community.

The airport provides essential transport infrastructure and is a key facilitator for economic growth in the territory, as a regional gateway and as a generator of investment and employment in our city. Canberra Airport excels at tourism services and is crucial for the export of regional goods and services. The terminal and aviation facilities are world class. The government must ensure that there are no impediments to the continued development, upgrading and maintenance of these facilities.

When airports were privatised by the commonwealth through the issuing of long-term leases in the 1990s, despite the land being commonwealth land the lease included a section stating that the lessors of airports pay appropriate amounts of taxation to state and local governments. I understand that there was an expectation from the commonwealth that jurisdictions would enter into agreements with airports on how the airports would be taxed. This did not occur in the ACT, as arrangements for the Canberra Airport relied on ACT legislation to determine rates and other taxes on airport land.

It is a complex exercise to assess the unimproved value of airport land. General rates for land across the ACT are determined in accordance with unimproved land value. The unique combination of the Crown lease for the airport site, which was developed when the airport was privatised, and the airport's essential infrastructure result in the need for this alternative methodology.

The other difficulty with such a unique piece of infrastructure like the Canberra Airport and its unique planning regime is the complexity of using the "highest and

best use” methodology to calculate its unimproved value for taxation purposes. Given the scale of land required for airports, the highest and best use methodology is not an appropriate measure of actual value. For over three years the Canberra Airport and the ACT Revenue Office have disagreed on the unimproved value of the airport site. Valuations of the unimproved value of an airport lease can range from a value of zero to tens of millions of dollars.

It is noted that the valuation system more generally is not an issue. In relation to the more standard residential and commercial properties, the application of the valuation system has generally worked appropriately. However, in this case it is important to note that for this unique piece of infrastructure there is no commonly agreed methodology to determine its value.

It is not in the interests of Canberrans to allow this dispute to continue. It may remain unresolved for many years and generate significant legal and professional costs both for the territory government and for the airport, and this would risk significant revenue used to provide health, education and municipal services to the people of Canberra.

The changes I introduce today with this legislation establish a rating methodology for the airport and its associated leases. The amendments specify a base value for rating purposes and apply a methodology to formulate the average unimproved value of airport land.

This methodology uses two factors. The development index will be calculated based on changes in the total lettable floor space of buildings on airport land. This will take account of current and future land development at Canberra Airport. The growth index is based on the average change in commercial unimproved values across the whole of the ACT, excluding airport land.

These two indexes will be applied to the previous year’s AUV to determine the AUV of airport land for the following relevant year. This methodology provides broad consistency with the general rates framework for other commercial properties. Other than the AUV, the rating structure applies to the Canberra Airport exactly as it does to any other ratepayer.

The Rates Amendment Bill gives the Canberra Airport certainty on how its rates will be calculated over the next 15 years, allowing it to plan for the future. It also provides certainty for everyday taxpayers, ensuring we will continue to receive a fair contribution from Canberra Airport. The bill also provides certainty to the government. The government needs to secure predictable revenue to be able to provide the best for Canberra residents.

So this bill shows the government acting in a responsible manner to achieve the right balance, and I commend it to the Assembly.

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

Spent Convictions (Historical Homosexual Convictions Extinguishment) Amendment Bill 2015

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Health, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Capital Metro) (10.07): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Spent Convictions (Historical Homosexual Convictions Extinguishment) Amendment Bill 2015. The role of this legislature is to introduce and pass laws that reflect and support community standards. The bill that I introduce today reflects the prevailing view of our community that consensual homosexual sex is not a criminal offence and that people should never have received a conviction for such an offence.

The bill recognises that a person with a criminal conviction for an offence in relation to consensual homosexual sex should not have their prospects for employment or voluntary work, licensing or travel opportunities limited by a sexual conviction on their criminal record.

Until November 1976 consensual homosexual sex was illegal in the ACT. In November 1976 the Australian government made the Law Reform (Sexual Behaviour) Ordinance 1976 which decriminalised consensual acts of buggery committed in private. Prior to 1976, it was an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 for a person to commit homosexual acts. Section 79 of the act stated:

Whosoever commits the abominable crime of buggery shall be liable to penal servitude for life or any term not less than five years.

As well as a conviction for buggery on a male person, a person may have also been charged with attempted buggery or indecent assault on a male person. Consent or lack of consent was not an element of these offences. The number of men with a criminal conviction for homosexual sex is not known. However, it is estimated that a small number of relevant convictions do exist in the ACT.

Therefore, the scheme created by the bill will allow people to apply to have their convictions erased permanently from their records. This differs from the approach for spent convictions where people's convictions still need to be declared when applying for working with vulnerable people checks. This approach acknowledges that consensual sexual activity should not be treated as criminal regardless of when it occurred.

This bill supports the right to recognition and equality before the law as provided for by section 8 of the Human Rights Act 2004. Section 8 provides that everyone is equal

before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination. In particular, everyone has the right to equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground. The scheme will ensure that people who were convicted of homosexual sex offences in the ACT are no longer discriminated against as a result of those convictions remaining on their criminal record.

The Victorian Human Rights Centre, in their background paper “Righting historical wrongs”, highlighted:

A criminal conviction can cause significant and lifelong damage to a person’s reputation, mental health and familial relations, their prospects for employment or volunteering and their self-worth. The potential negative impact of a criminal conviction is amplified when it is labelled a ‘sex offence’, a term that usually evokes images of non-consensual sexual exploitation.

The offences eligible for extinguishment will include former sections 79, 80 and 81 of the Crimes Act 1900 as they relate to the offence of buggery. The bill also provides a regulation-making power to allow an eligible offence to be prescribed for extinguishment. The offence must either capture a form of sexual activity with another person of the same sex or a public morality offence. A public morality offence is defined in the act as an offence the essence of which is the maintenance of public decency or morality, and by which homosexual behaviour could be punished.

The need for this regulation-making power was drawn to the government’s attention during consultation with the ACT Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Ministerial Advisory Council during the development of the bill. The LGBTIQ Advisory Council indicated that men were often charged with a public morality offence for queer behaviour in the territory, such as cross-dressing, and anecdotally the council also noted lesbians being persecuted by police when meeting in public venues.

Due to the passage of time and amendments to the law, it is not possible to readily identify the offences used by police to charge people for homosexual behaviour. The regulation-making power will allow, therefore, a public morality offence to be prescribed if a person comes forward with a relevant conviction for the offence. This will allow such an offence to be extinguished if appropriate.

Although public morality offences can become spent and therefore not appear on a person’s criminal record after the relevant crime-free period—10 years for adults and five years for children and young people—the justification for allowing these offences to be extinguished remains. Similar schemes enacted in New South Wales and Victoria also provide for a regulation-making power to prescribe an offence as a historical homosexual offence eligible for extinguishment.

The bill before us today is another example of this Labor government’s commitment to ensuring that our territory laws do not discriminate on the basis of sexuality and demonstrates our commitment to supporting an inclusive and diverse community. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Executive members business—precedence

Ordered that executive members business be called on.

Health (Patient Privacy) Amendment Bill 2015

Mr Rattenbury, by leave, presented the bill and its explanatory statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (10.15): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I am pleased to be tabling the ACT Greens Health (Patient Privacy) Amendment Bill 2015 and the accompanying explanatory statement for the Assembly's interest. The bill defines a specific area, called a privacy zone, around an approved medical facility within which protests and other public displays regarding abortion will be prohibited, alongside provisions relating to capturing visual data. The bill aims to prevent certain actions within a defined area and defined times around relevant declared medical facilities. The actions this bill is seeking to prevent could act to increase emotional distress or, in a worst case scenario, prevent women from accessing a legal medical procedure.

This bill does not seek to engage in debate regarding a woman's right to access abortion services. Safe and medically supervised abortions were made legal by the ACT Legislative Assembly many years ago. This bill is rather about a woman's right to access those services with privacy and free from the intimidating conduct of others.

In August I tabled an exposure draft bill that has informed today's final bill, and this consultation period has enabled me to hear from many people about their views since then. I am pleased to say the majority of the feedback I have received on this important issue has been positive or offering constructive criticism or both. I thank those people and organisations who gave this feedback.

I have, of course, also received correspondence from some in the community who do not agree with the ACT Greens' position on ensuring women can access medical services without intimidation, and I appreciate that, for the most part, this type of feedback has at least been civil, unlike some of the letters we have seen printed in the *Canberra Times*.

The majority of the constructive feedback regarding the various provisions of the exposure draft bill related to sections dealing with the capturing of visual data. This is a particularly vexed issue in and around similar health services in other jurisdictions and an area which I was keen to ensure got the balance right, as it were. To that end, I have made amendments to the relevant sections which I believe take on board the comments received from individuals as well as organisations such as the Human Rights Commission and local media.

While the wording of the bill does not explicitly offer an exemption as such for media outlets, it details the circumstances around this issue in a way that is designed to respond to media concerns. The final bill before us makes it clear that in relation to the publication of visual data there must be an intention to stop someone from accessing these services for there to be an offence committed.

The Human Rights Commission, in its public submission, stated that it considers that the introduction of appropriately defined exclusion zones around abortion clinics will improve the ability of women to access legal medical services in safety and privacy and strengthen protections against discrimination. Concerns about this issue have been regularly raised with the Health Services Commissioner.

While acknowledging the limitations this bill places on various rights, it is recognised that few rights are absolute, and in accordance with established international human rights norms, reasonable limits may be placed on the right to freedom of expression and related rights with the aim of balancing competing interests. The commission's submission further states:

The commission commends the bill for recognising and seeking to remove some of the practical barriers women face in exercising their right to lawful reproductive services. In our view, the bill will assist to protect the ability of women to exercise autonomy and freely make important decisions without undue influence or coercion. It is well established that safe and accessible reproductive health services are an essential component of protecting and promoting women's human rights.

The intention of this bill is to ensure free and unfettered access to health services for women, not to curtail law enforcement actions relating to protests or reporting of the issues, and I trust the amendments I have made make this clear.

The exposure draft also raised some questions regarding the standard of "reasonably necessary" being an appropriate threshold for triggering an intrusion on human rights. I have taken this feedback on board, and the relevant section now reads "no bigger than necessary".

Civil Liberties Australia, another organisation that members may not expect to support this bill on principle, also provided a broadly supportive submission. I quote from their submission:

Civil Liberties Australia regrets the need to restrict public protest activity but, in this case, we believe protest activity against abortions would be more appropriately carried out by directing protests towards lawmakers at the parliament building rather than the users of abortion advice and procedure services at the medical facility. If protestors genuinely want the legality of the advice or services challenged then moving their protest to parliament should not undermine their cause.

They go on to state:

We congratulate the Greens ACT on seeking to work with civil society to develop legislation that recognises the tension between rights in this instance.

For instance, their legislation, unlike the Tasmanian law, attempts to avoid a blunt instrument approach to setting the protest free zones which has caused us concern in the past. For those who feel that supporting this law runs counter to standing up for civil liberties a reminder, the international covenant on civil and political rights makes clear that the right to free speech and expression does not give any state, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms recognised herein or at their limitation to a greater extent than is provided for in the present covenant, (Article 5). The right to privacy and medical autonomy must exist alongside freedom of protest and expression. This bill is a fair attempt to achieve both ends.

There are a few other minor amendments coming from the exposure draft submissions I received, such as increased time periods relating to the protected periods as information was provided regarding the current clinic's hours of operation. There were also some further drafting refinements but, overall, the intent of this final bill remains the same.

As well as the formal submissions during the consultation phase, my office also received letters from people seeking clarification or assurances that the bill would not unduly impact on our human rights legislation or the principles of freedom of expression, two areas close to the ACT Greens' heart. I am pleased to note that, while this issue has obviously created much debate and discussion about the possible impacts most people, once provided with a clear response, came to support our position.

Perhaps the clearest example of that process I can provide for members who may also be considering a first-blush, out-of-hand rejection would be that from a gentleman who wrote, and I quote:

Is this just more nanny state leftist loony policy designed to restrict freedom of speech even further?

After my office spent some time developing a comprehensive response to his questions, outlined some of the issues faced by women seeking these medical services and provided him the proposed map that accompanied the exposure draft, we received this follow-up email:

If this is the sole purpose of the bill then I am in full agreement with you. It is an emotionally difficult time for any woman who has to make this decision. If the bill is to have an exclusion zone around the clinic just for the rights of privacy for women patients then you have my full support there.

As members can imagine, or perhaps can understand from the lobbying efforts of various stakeholders in recent weeks, some in the community do not want the government to legislate on this issue. Some may see this bill as not going far enough to protect the privacy, dignity and safety of women seeking these health services. Personally, I believe this bill is the least restrictive to meet the desired outcomes, and I really hope all members of the Assembly across the chamber take the time to think about what we are trying to achieve here.

Finally, I want to mention some comments I received that sought to persuade me that the bill is not required. Some suggestions, possibly well meaning, were that, as there is a second more discrete entry to the specific health service we are discussing, women should be advised to use the back door, as it were. Disregarding the fact that this provides no protection if the clinic were ever to move, I for one do not want to live in a society where women are made to feel that they are second-class citizens or are shamed into feeling they cannot access health services the way we all normally do—through the front door. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Leave of absence

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

That leave of absence be granted to Mrs Jones for this sitting for family reasons.

Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services—Standing Committee

Statement by member

MR WALL (Brindabella) (10.25): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services relating to statutory appointments in accordance with continuing resolution 5A. For the applicable reporting period of 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015 the committee considered the proposed appointment of two members to the Medicines Advisory Committee, the reappointment of one member to the ACT Local Hospitals Network Council and one appointment to the ACT Radiation Council. The committee has advised the minister it has no comment to make on the proposed appointments.

Madam Speaker, I now table a schedule of the statutory appointments for the period of 1 January 2015 to June 30 2015 as considered by the Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services Committee in accordance with the continuing resolution of the Assembly:

Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—8th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2015.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Refugees and asylum seekers—ACT response

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Women and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Social Inclusion and Equality) (10.26): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes the:

- (a) ACT Government's longstanding commitment to the rights of refugees to seek protection from persecution;
- (b) compassion shown by the ACT community to generations of refugees who have settled in Canberra and the vital role of local specialist migrant and refugee services in supporting this process;
- (c) commitment of the ACT Government to ensuring refugees and asylum seekers have access to government services which support their inclusion in the community;
- (d) broad community response across Canberra and Australia in support of offering protection to a significant number of refugees fleeing the conflicts in Syria and Iraq; and
- (e) successful resettlement in Canberra in 1999 of a number of families fleeing the conflict in Kosovo;

(2) welcomes the:

- (a) Australian Government's commitment to offer 12 000 additional places to refugees displaced by the conflicts in Syria and Iraq;
- (b) ACT Government's commitment to play its part in settling and supporting a number of these refugees; and
- (c) ACT community's willingness to welcome and support refugees that come to the ACT; and

(3) calls on the Australian Government to consider a sustained increase to Australia's humanitarian intake.

On Tuesday I delivered a statement on the preparedness of this community to welcome Syrian and Iraqi refugees to live in the world's most livable city. I have continued to be overwhelmed by the desire of the ACT community to get involved and assist in the resettlement of people seeking a better life. It has been proof of what we know: Canberra is a refugee-friendly city. As a community we have a track record of welcoming people with open arms. We look after them and we do our best to help settle them, to address the trauma in their past that has brought them here and to help them find ways to participate in community life.

This commitment is not new. The history of our nation, particularly the past 200 years, has been one of people seeking a better, safer life for themselves and their family. Many of those people have come as refugees and asylum seekers, and Canberra has a proud history of offering welcome and refuge to people escaping war and persecution. We have welcomed many groups over time. In our earliest days Canberra enjoyed a

large wave of post-war migrants from Europe, including Germans, Italians, Polish, Greeks and those from the first migration wave from the Balkan states, including from the former Yugoslavia. The wake of the Second World War and the economic migration which followed ensured that Canberra was a multicultural place from the beginning and this history has been played out in its role in establishing our opening and welcoming culture.

Due to our city's proximity to the Snowy Mountains, a large number of skilled European workers migrated to Australia to work on the Snowy hydro scheme and subsequently relocated to Canberra when the project finished in the mid-1970s. In more recent years, the refugees migrating to Canberra have largely been a consequence of civil unrest and war in their respective parts of the world. In the 1970s we saw many Asian migrants and, significantly to Canberra, we received many Vietnamese refugees following the Vietnam War. Our Vietnamese community remains a vibrant and important part of our city.

In the 1980s Lebanese refugees came, fleeing unrest in the Middle East, and we saw an influx of refugees from Latin America. Some members in this place played a role in the acceptance of refugees from Kosovo as a result of the Balkan War in the early 1990s. Additional refugees were welcomed to Canberra since the turn of this century from Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq where civil war has displaced many people who were forced to flee from these countries. I am sure there are many more significant groups that I have missed, but we are a truly multicultural city, with Canberra's culturally diverse population now comprising nearly 200 different nationalities and over a quarter of Canberra's total population born overseas.

The way Civic is transformed each year for the National Multicultural Festival is perhaps the pinnacle of this multiculturalism, but it has been created over decades as we have offered a hand to people seeking an escape from conflicts overseas. Today the conflicts in Syria and Iraq have drawn an outpouring of public emotion for the devastation that this conflict is causing, and we are again in a position to extend a hand through the resettlement of people displaced by these conflicts.

My motion welcomes the federal government's decision to accept an intake of 12,000 humanitarian entrants this financial year. I also welcome the generally unanimous way each parliament around the country has responded to this decision. It remains early days, but I can inform the Assembly that the networks that exist to respond at times like these are well established and will guide our actions in the coming weeks. I can inform members that officials from all jurisdictions met on Tuesday this week to discuss the approach and the arrangements to process the 12,000 refugees and welcome them into our communities. I understand that officials will continue to meet on a fortnightly basis to discuss this progress.

Locally, we have a first-class group of support services run by people highly skilled in supporting people to transition from unknowable trauma into our community: the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services, Companion House, Canberra Refugee Support, the Multicultural Youth Services, Red Cross, Canberra Men's Centre, and CatholicCare. I will be meeting with some of these groups tomorrow and look

forward to hearing directly about their expectations and needs as we prepare for a number of new people moving into our community.

For the many in our community who want to donate to Australia's refugee response, I have been encouraging them to give to these organisations, and I encourage other members in this place to do the same. As our response is further developed, we will be in a better position to guide those who want to contribute directly to the local effort.

At the national level, the Australian Refugee Advisory Council will provide high quality legal advice to the commonwealth government on settlement issues including health, mental health, housing and interpreting services.

Clearly, continued national cooperation and bipartisanship is vital as the people start to arrive, and I expect open communication will continue between governments at all levels. I want to again stress that we do this all the time, in Australia and in the ACT.

The commonwealth funding support which is attached to the humanitarian program will also enable our local support mechanisms to be as effective as possible. I am confident that, despite the difficulties brought by the circumstances from which these people will be coming, the world-class community service providers we have here in Canberra will rise to the task and provide the support that is needed, as they have done in the past.

For the ACT government, our commitment to supporting the resettlement of refugees in the community is long standing. We believe in the principle of offering a safe haven to those in need and we know our community will profit from their contributions and the contributions of their children in the many years to come.

There is an extensive range of ACT services available for newly arrived refugees, including access to our public schools and hospitals. I have every confidence that, with the combined efforts of government and community, those people who come to our city will be able to adjust as well as possible.

I have taken the opportunity this week to reflect on the response this community has had to the refugees. We respond to those who come to the ACT because we see on our TVs the war and persecution they are seeking to escape and we respond out of the most instinctive sense of justice and care. It is the same persecution and war that drives people to make the most perilous journeys over land and by sea. Those people are no less deserving of our thoughts and compassion than those who find safety here in the ACT.

The past month has shown the desire of many Australians to show compassion to a large number of people fleeing different conflicts. The community has responded to the leadership of governments at different levels all putting their hands up to play a part. Sadly, there is no end in sight to the conflicts in Syria and Iraq which are driving so many people from their homes, nor in the many places where religious and ethnic minorities face persecution in their own homelands.

With this in mind, there is a role for our jurisdiction to take the same care and sense of justice that we show to people in our community into a continued national conversation around increasing Australia's humanitarian settlement commitments. Once the 12,000 additional entrants begin to arrive, we will see the ability and the willingness of our communities to accommodate these people and to keep open the option of extending the program further.

As one of the foundations of modern Australian society, a generous and compassionate approach to refugees is always something that we should be striving for, and I commend the motion to the Assembly.

MR BARR (Molonglo—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Urban Renewal and Minister for Tourism and Events) (10.25): I thank Minister Berry for bringing forward this motion this morning, a motion that goes to the heart of what our city stands for. The images that we have all seen over the past weeks have undoubtedly upset and distressed us all. People are fleeing for their lives to escape murderous ideologies and dictators who are more than willing to sacrifice their own people to remain in power.

We see mothers, fathers and grandparents forced to pick up their children and leave their homes, often with only the clothes on their backs. They are simply desperately trying to reach a safe place in countries where they will not be persecuted or caught in a murderous crossfire of competing armies. Which of us here would say that we would not do the same thing?

It is now well past time for Europe and the rest of the world to come to their aid and to offer them safe, permanent refuge where new lives can be made for themselves and their families, with the opportunity to contribute to a society and to prosper.

I am proud that Canberra is such a welcoming and inclusive community. We have a long and proud tradition of helping those in need, whether it be those resettling after the mass displacements of World War II, people fleeing the Vietnam War, and more recently families escaping the horrors of the Sudanese civil war and the ethnic cleansing perpetrated in the Kosovo conflict.

We have opened our arms as a city because Canberrans recognise our common humanity and our first instinct to help those who need it most. Each and every wave of resettlement has made Canberra a stronger, more inclusive and more vibrant place. Some of our most prominent and loved Canberra residents first came to Australia as refugees. They demonstrate that an inclusive community such as ours provides not only an opportunity to start a new life but an opportunity to give back to the city.

Today we face another international humanitarian disaster. We will again act to welcome refugees to our city and to provide them with the care and support they need to make their home here. We are not alone in wanting to help. It has been incredibly heartening to see the national debate shift from how we can stop it being our problem to focus on what more we can do. There is no doubt that in recent weeks the real

Australia has shone through: compassionate, concerned, friendly and, most importantly, welcoming.

As Minister Berry has said, the community has responded to the leadership of all governments putting their hands up to play their part. Right now we are working with our federal, state and territory colleagues to rapidly develop a way to accept and accommodate an additional 12,000 refugees. Canberra is a relatively well-off city and we have a strong array of community services available. We are well prepared to resettle refugees who come under the increased intake commitment.

Our ACT service providers are well organised and have strong experience in settlement services, such as responding to torture and trauma, orientation services providing English language assistance, support with health, accommodation and referrals to a wide range of other services and programs. We are also very happy to work with our regional councils on settlement in neighbouring towns and cities if it was agreed that that would benefit refugee families.

Canberrans should know that we will provide every assistance to help families make new lives here, that they will not be left to their own devices and that we will be with them every step of the way in making Canberra their home. From our schools to our libraries to our community health and wellbeing services—each will play their part.

Minister Berry has outlined some of the specific services that will be available. We will also be seeking to identify if there are any service pressure points and labour shortages which will help determine the refugee intake to the ACT. But I think the most important thing that I know, and I am sure all people in this place know, is that the Canberra community will make them feel welcome and a valued part of our city.

I thank Minister Berry for bringing this motion before the Assembly this morning.

MR HANSON (Molonglo—Leader of the Opposition) (10.40): I commend Ms Berry for bringing this motion before the Assembly today. I thought her speech was excellent. I also thank the Chief Minister for his words. I can assure the minister and members of this place that the sentiment and the will to do what we can in this city to support refugees, not just from this latest conflict but in an enduring sense, are shared across the political divide.

I think we have all been moved by the images we have seen on our screens of people fleeing persecution, fleeing the terrible events that are occurring in Iraq and Syria, and we feel compassion for those people. We put ourselves in their shoes. But as Ms Berry pointed out, that is not the only conflict that is occurring. These are not the only refugees that Australia and Canberra have sought to help, but refugees from Vietnam, Lebanon, Kosovo, Sudan and so on.

We are a wealthy and generous nation and I think that has been reflected across both the federal government's actions, supported by the federal opposition, and the actions across every state and territory parliament. I think that is a tremendous thing. And it is important that we have that bipartisan spirit so that we can bring the community with us in our endeavours.

I think we all bring a perspective to this. As I said yesterday in a speech, Mr Doszpot is a former refugee. He has experienced the trauma of dislocation from his homeland and found himself homeless when coming to a new country. He understands this, I think, better than all of us.

I share my own experience. The war in Iraq is one that I have seen firsthand. I had friends who were killed in that conflict, Iraqi friends. I was there to train the Iraqi army. There were those that did not make it out, and I am very proud that this nation, when we left that conflict, accepted a great number of our former interpreters and their families to settle in Australia. And there is no doubt that, if we had not done so, many of them would not be alive today.

For those of you who have been at the front of conflicts where refugees are affected by those conflicts—it is an incredibly traumatic experience—the sight of refugees who have fled their homeland and found themselves in desperate circumstances with nothing but what they carry on their backs is something you cannot see without remaining unmoved.

When it comes to this debate, I take this opportunity because it is, like many events involving refugees, forgotten. We tend to focus on the events of the day and move on. But in East Timor in the conflict in 1999 tens of thousands of people fled from East Timor into West Timor and found themselves in refugee camps in some of the most appalling conditions. People tried to help, but they were appalling conditions. Then the floods came.

I will read you an extract from the *Guardian* of that time. At that time I was serving with the United Nations on the border of East Timor and West Timor. Our job was to help coordinate the repatriation of refugees through the border, and we spent many times at the border junction points watching refugees coming back from West Timor into East Timor. I read from this article to give members a sense of what I saw:

Scores of people have died and tens of thousands have lost their homes in floods sweeping along the border between Indonesia and West Timor and Independent East Timor. Hundreds of people are still missing and the rescuers who flew over the area for the first time yesterday said that they saw people clinging to trees and rooftops and groups sheltering on small patches of high ground as muddy water more than two metres deep swirled for mile after mile, sweeping away access roads.

Staff coordinating relief efforts at the local government office in Atambua, a hill town 25 miles north of the flooded area, confirmed 81 bodies had been found. Local media reports that the death toll is at least 140. The vast majority of the victims found so far are East Timorese women and children who were living in squalid refugee camps in the West Malaka district of West Timor when the floods began on Tuesday.

Local authorities are blaming a combination of prolonged monsoon season rains and a tidal surge caused by the full moon for the scale of the disaster. We still have no idea how many people have died. One of the rescue coordinators said in Atambua: “People are describing how their relatives were washed out to sea. In

some areas the water is still rising so it will be several days before we get a clear picture of what has happened. Many of the people have not eaten properly for three days so they are starting to eat the carcasses of dead livestock. Rain is forecast for tonight. If it does rain heavily then the situation will get much worse.”

Initial assessments suggest that more than 20,000 people have lost their homes and at least another 50,000 have been affected by the floods.

These are the people—the survivors of that, who came back, bedraggled, desperate, through the junction points from West Timor into East Timor—being assisted and helped by IOM, the International Organisation for Movement, and by people working with UNHCR, aid agencies on the front line, Medecins Sans Frontieres, and the United Nations. It is worth remembering that as we open our doors and welcome in refugees there are people in the refugee camps—doctors, UNHCR, IOM—risking their lives every day to try and help those people on the frontline.

Indeed, in an unspeakable, unimaginable note of horror, a footnote to this desperate situation we found ourselves in in East Timor is that the UNHCR staff in Atambua who were helping these refugees were subject to a militia attack. They burned the building that the UNHCR staff were sheltering in and three UNCHR staff were killed in the most horrific circumstances. I will never forget that day—the desperation of trying to save those people and not being able to, trying to coordinate the rescue efforts which were complicated by it being in Indonesian territory—the horror of what was happening on the ground.

I only say this today to express that on this side of politics and, as I understand, on the other, these are not glib words. These are heartfelt sentiments that we should do what we can to help refugees, be they from this conflict that we see most lately in Syria and Iraq or from other conflicts and areas of famine throughout the world. We are a society that is welcoming, that is generous, that has the capacity to help.

We obviously join today with the ACT government in commending the federal government for their actions to date. If the federal government is in a position to do so, it should consider an increase to our humanitarian intake, not just from Syria but from elsewhere. It is a worthy, noble thing to do. It is one that touches me personally very deeply because of my experience. I think that it touches others in this place equally. I commend Ms Berry’s motion to this Assembly.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (10.50): Of course I will be supporting this motion before us today, and I appreciate Minister Berry bringing this issue forward. As the Greens member of this government I was proud to have recently reaffirmed the ACT’s commitment to welcoming refugees into our community following the federal government’s announcement that Australia will be increasing its quota of refugees from Syria. As I said then, in 1999 the ACT took in a number of families from Kosovo, refugees who were placed within our community. We believe that as a prosperous and compassionate community we are again well placed to help the many refugees in this crisis which is being described as unprecedented in our history.

I note also the comments particularly that Minister Berry made about the various capacities—and the Chief Minister touched on this—that the ACT has to assist people as they arrive both in terms of formal government services but also in the tremendous level of support that is there in our community from people who are working in dedicated groups and those people who have a great sense of compassion and a desire to help.

Every day the news is showing us scenes of complete desperation from Europe and the Middle East with borders closing and families being separated. I am so thankful when I see those images that we here in Australia have the privilege to say “Welcome” and that we can offer safety and security to those who so clearly need it. I am also thankful that we can offer those fleeing these terrible wars and conflict a permanent home. As I said, Canberra took in families from Kosovo in 1999, but that was under the safe haven program. We saw the disappointing need for prolonged political and legal battles to allow those who had settled here in Canberra to stay beyond the conflict.

Seeing the conditions in the country of origin of these refugees, I think we can all agree that it may be a very long time, unfortunately, before there is peace and safety in their homelands, and the federal government’s decision to grant permanent asylum is welcome.

I look forward to hearing more about the ACT government’s discussion with the federal departments responsible for coordinating Australia’s response. I am sure that we can, as we have done before, punch above our weight, as it were, and provide safe haven to as many as possible. I think we need to continue this discussion at a national level about how many people Australia can accept.

As Mr Hanson rightly pointed out, there are a number of conflict zones around the world from which people are desperately fleeing. Certainly Syria and surrounding countries have been at the fore of our minds in recent times, but there are a range of conflicts across the planet and a range of people being persecuted. I think there is scope for Australia to increase its intake of people in the humanitarian refugees category.

Certainly my federal colleagues have talked about an emergency intake of 20,000 Syrian refugees. The federal government went to 12,000. That is very welcome, and we must continue to monitor this situation. When we look at the numbers of people who are fleeing—and we talk in the many millions—obviously there is a global responsibility to share that burden, to share that number of people, and to make sure they can all find a safe place. Some may come temporarily. There may be a time when they wish to return, but we should certainly give them the option to escape that terrible situation that they find themselves in.

Australia has been very quick to go to war. We should be equally as quick—in fact we should be faster—in offering humanitarian assistance. The vast sums of money we spend on our military involvement in the current conflict in the Middle East dwarfs what is being spent on our humanitarian contribution. I think that reflects that we have

got the balance wrong. As a country we need to look at what is more important, and I think we must refocus our efforts, we must support the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees more strongly than we currently do and we must get the ledger right between what we commit to military endeavour and what we commit to humanitarian endeavour.

I thank Ms Berry for bringing this motion forward today. I very much welcome the support right across the chamber for the ACT being a place that is able to accept some of those fleeing the terrible situations they are in. I trust that spirit will continue and that we will soon see people arriving who can feel safe in our wonderful community here in Canberra.

MS FITZHARRIS (Molonglo) (10.55): I, too, thank very much the minister for bringing forward this important motion today. It has been impossible for us to ignore the refugee crisis playing out across the world today, particularly as it relates to Syria. Every day it is on our screens, in our newspapers and on our radios. Civilians in Syria are being attacked and forced to flee their homes and their communities. They are not alone, but Syria is certainly capturing the world's attention at the moment. As a wealthy, developed nation Australia has an obligation to not only accept asylum seekers but also to help nations surrounding Syria, in particular, to cope with the refugee crisis. I acknowledge the firm support the ACT government has thrown, particularly through statements of welcome from our minister, Minister Yvette Berry, and the services that the ACT government fund to assist asylum seekers settling in the ACT.

Disruption in the region of Syria has resulted in mass displacement. It is estimated that around 11.5 million people have been displaced both internally and externally. The external displacement has seen a mass exodus of Syrians seeking a better life in the European Union. While many Syrians are looking for a permanent home in the EU most seem to have a desire to one day return to Syria to live and many wish to remain in the region. They want to help their children in gaining a good education and want to support themselves in the interim until they can return to a peaceful Syria to live once again.

I was reflecting this morning on some emails I had exchanged with someone of Syrian background who is known to some members on this side of the chamber, Sham Sara, and I was reminding myself that in late 2011 when he was in London studying we exchanged emails and I was seeking to get some reassurance from him that his family back home in Syria were okay. In late 2011 he sent me a message saying, "Yes, there's some fighting. They tend to get used to it. But my family is a long way from the fighting."

In March 2012 we again exchanged some messages and he said that they were starting to get a little worried. His mother had just gone home for a family visit but that we were probably more alarmed about it over here seeing a brief record of what was happening in Syria on TV screens. As he said, they were a little more used to it. But it made him and his family very nervous. We look now at what is happening three years later and I do not think anyone could have imagined the grief and tragedy that is

playing out in Syria and around the region and around the world today because of this conflict that has been going on for four long years.

It is undeniable that Australia must do something to assist with this crisis. As Minister Berry stated, we have done it before when refugees fled violence in Latin America and in Kosovo, and we will do it again. Australia's obligation in this area is twofold: firstly, we must assist countries in the surrounding region who are supporting the many Syrians leaving their homes. The federal government must send more support to countries like Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan which are currently supporting millions of refugees. With the help of international organisations such as UNICEF, the UNHCR and the world food program, Syria's neighbours are working hard to help those displaced people to live in dignity, and Australia must provide humanitarian assistance. Secondly, and closer to home, Australia must accept and look after Syrian asylum seekers as we must with all asylum seekers.

I echo Minister Berry's statement that the ACT government welcomes the federal government's decision to accept an intake of 12,000 humanitarian entrants. The ACT has a long and proud history of welcoming and offering support to refugees and asylum seekers. The minister's recent announcement declaring the ACT, in particular, a refugee welcome zone is a continuation of this tradition.

This declaration is the ACT's commitment to welcoming refugees into our community, showing compassion towards refugees and upholding their human rights. Canberra is home to residents from just under 200 nationalities, including many refugees from countries such as Myanmar, Thailand, the Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan more recently and a number of European refugees from after World War II and a number of refugees from South East Asia throughout the 60s and 70s.

Institutions in the ACT and, more importantly, the ACT government play a significant role in welcoming, educating and supporting asylum seekers who settle in our territory. Our government is essential to ensuring asylum seekers have access to services and are able to properly settle into our city and become part of our community.

It is important to note that in 2011 the ACT government identified a need to guarantee easily accessible services to asylum seekers whose claims were still being processed. As the minister has mentioned, the access card was introduced then as a means for refugees to access services without standard documentation such as concession or Medicare cards. This practical step makes a real difference to accessing essential services.

The territory also runs the work experience and support program, a fantastic program that supports refugees with their entrance into the workforce. The program trains participants in formal office skills, provides work experience and grants a certificate II in business to graduates.

I would like to recognise the work of the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services, MARSS, in providing a large range of support services for asylum seekers. In particular, MARSS runs many programs designed to support young children and

teenagers. MARSS provides, for example, free homework tutoring for refugee children and organises social events for young refugees to partake in.

As the Chief Minister, the minister and other members have noted, this issue goes right to the core of our city's identity. We are generous, compassionate and open to the world. I recall on many occasions a former Minister for Multicultural Affairs, John Hargreaves, making the distinct point that Canberra is one of the most multicultural cities in the country from the representation of embassies and high commissions in this city to the many diverse communities around our territory.

The ACT should continue to be proud of its continual commitment to welcoming and providing support for asylum seekers. Canberra is a wonderful place to live, and the inclusion of people from a diverse array of cultural backgrounds and experiences only serves to strengthen our community. I welcome the ACT government's announcement that it is preparing to welcome refugees into our community, and I welcome the government and minister's leadership on this matter.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Women and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Social Inclusion and Equality) (11.02), in reply: I thank everyone for their contributions on this very important motion in the Assembly today. I want to also reflect on some of the services provided in the ACT for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. It is not just a service they provide; they work really hard at building strong communities with the people that they are supporting. All of us in this place have had at various times contact or relationships with these different organisations. They are the ones that really make a start in bringing inclusiveness to our communities, from the suburbs into our cities and for our annual national celebrations during the Multicultural Festival.

Companion House has always been a fantastic supporter in this town. I have always enjoyed going to their harmony soccer days during Harmony Day where they bring different nationalities together to play soccer—the beautiful game—at their oval in Cook. It has always been such a happy occasion. People come from all across the country, not just from the ACT. I think there is a bit of rivalry amongst the different communities in the ACT, but that is an example of where it is not just about providing support services; it is about bringing people together and building strong communities and connecting them with each other.

Another little enterprise I have been particularly proud to be involved with is Cafe Ink at Woden, which we visited the other week during the pop-up cabinet. Hongsa, whom most people in this place will know, has been a remarkable person in supporting new people who have come to live in our community from Mon and Karen, connecting them with people, welcoming them when they come from the airport, and supporting them in getting employment. The social enterprise at Cafe Ink, which recently celebrated its second year in operation, has a plan to provide employment opportunities for refugees who come into this town so that they can have an apprenticeship within their own community and have a chance to get employment outside of their start at Cafe Ink.

MARSS, of course, do a magnificent job in settling people into our community. An example of how they are not just providing support services but building strong communities is their sewing group where they have people from different nationalities coming together and learning how to sew. It is not just about learning a new skill; it is about these different nationalities sharing their stories, getting together, having a chat with each other and building that strong community. It is the MARSS sports club which organises the sporting carnival they hold each year during harmony week where they have the football and the basketball. I have offered to put myself up for a team on future harmony days and, Chief Minister, I may have mentioned your name, so be prepared for that.

I attended the national day for the Sierra Leone community and they have their own football club as well. They have been provided with new uniforms. They have not played in a league outside of their own community but they train twice a week and they play every weekend against each other. That is an example of these organisations working together.

Only a very small number of people have said they are concerned about whether the ACT has the capacity to support new people who will need a lot of help getting some assistance through escaping from the persecution and settling into a new community in Australia and whether we are supporting people in our own community who are disadvantaged. An example of where the ACT can do both and does both is the work the Speaker, Vicki Dunne, did yesterday in providing a drop-off point for the sharing the dignity campaign, which provides support to women who are leaving unsafe relationships with nothing, by providing tampons and sanitary items.

When people are concerned about the ACT having the capacity, I absolutely think our support services definitely have the capacity, and there is definitely the will in our community to make sure we support anybody who needs support and help in our community.

I want to reflect on a couple of things in ending this debate today on this motion. I thank everybody very much for their support, and I look forward to continuing to update the Assembly as we get more details about how this refugee program and settling new people into our community play out.

Motion agreed to.

Early childhood

MS BURCH (Brindabella—Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Racing and Gaming and Minister for the Arts) (11.08): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes the:

- (a) recent Australian Government cuts to Community Support program and the detrimental impact it has had on Family Day Care in the ACT;
 - (b) impact the continued uncertainty over Australian Government policy is having on ACT families and the need for greater clarity;
 - (c) inconsistent approaches the Australian Government is taking between Family Day Care providers and nannies in relation to qualifications and compliance measures;
 - (d) need to ensure consistent high quality in early childhood education and care;
 - (e) 94% growth in the number of long day care places since 2001, including an anticipated 1200 places in the 12 months from October 2014; and
 - (f) ACT Government's consistent support of the early childhood education sector through land release, targeted capital funding for centre expansions and scholarships for the workforce; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) work with the Australian Government to ensure any changes to early childhood education and care policy allow all families to access affordable and high quality early childhood education;
 - (b) support the early childhood education and care sector to ensure all Canberra families have access to affordable high quality services; and
 - (c) work with the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to ensure consistent expectation in regards to qualifications and compliance in early childhood education and care.

I have brought this motion on today to put on record the ACT government's concerns about the federal government's policy in respect to child care and some of the inconsistencies that are emerging in the policies of the federal government. This year we saw the usual pre-budget drip feed from the federal government and this year the budget has clearly focused heavily on child care and early education.

The former Prime Minister announced earlier in the year that there would be a two-year extension to the universal access partnership that guarantees every child in Australia 15 hours of early childhood education in the year before school. I am pleased the federal government has moved to continue to support this program, at least in media announcements. I say that because the commonwealth during the budget, whilst supplying money, did not guarantee a rollover of the current national partnership. Indeed, the commonwealth has consistently sought to redraw the boundaries of this deal and place in jeopardy the 15 hours of preschool for families in this city.

The research is quite clear on this. It shows that quality early education for 15 hours per week improves learning and outcomes and brain development and shows that the

benefits will continue for many years to come. So it is quite disturbing to see the brinkmanship from the commonwealth on this matter. I am pleased to say that, months on from the budget, the ACT government and the commonwealth government are very close to an agreement, but we are not there yet.

We are committed to families being able to access affordable high quality preschool, and we acknowledge that lifelong learning is the foundation for Canberra's ongoing prosperity. The ACT continues to be one of the only jurisdictions to offer free public preschool for 15 hours for all four-year-old children in the year before formal schooling. This is a significant investment and reflects our belief in the critical importance of a quality early childhood education system to positively impact on a child's development.

I can provide a guarantee that the ACT government remains committed to that provision of affordable education and preschool. That is why I am very pleased that this morning we announced that the ACT government will continue to offer 15 hours of preschool education next year in 2016. We will continue to call on the commonwealth to honour its commitments to early education, but in the ACT we will show leadership and provide certainty to Canberra families.

This brings me to another point concerning this year's federal budget. While I am generally pleased they are looking to support families, the growing cost of child care and some of the narrative is quite concerning. I am very concerned in particular about the changes being made at the expense of family tax benefits and paid parental leave. It is concerning that, while on one hand the federal government is taking the needs of families seriously, on the other it is taking the support away through cuts to family benefits and paid parental leave. This is a great example of some of the inconsistencies that are of concern to us as a government and certainly of concern to Canberra families.

Another one, of course, is the example expressed in today's motion regarding family day care. For many families in the ACT, family day care provides a fantastic option for child care for families. It can give families the option of having a professional take care of their children in a family setting, but it also provides great flexibility for families in terms of hours and location. Nationally, family day care makes up 16 per cent of the early childhood education and care sector, with over 28,000 educators supporting close on 180,000 children. In the ACT there are 18 approved family day care centres supporting over 1,200 families.

However, this sector's entire viability is being challenged by the federal government's cuts to child care and to family day care particularly. As a result of last year's federal budget, the funding forced new, tighter criteria on the community support program which has resulted in a cut to funding made available to many family day care providers. As I understand it, the community support program has existed since 2004 to provide both funds for the services to start up as well as ongoing support to providers. This money was used to support the growth of this vital sector and to ensure that access to high quality child care was made available to families in a variety of settings.

However, it seems the new criteria have meant all services have had to reapply for this funding with no guarantee that it will be forthcoming. As I understand it, no ACT providers are eligible for this funding under the new criteria. This could result in significant funding cuts locally. For example, Communities@Work could see a reduction of half a million dollars. The loss of this support will mean the cost of family day care will increase for these families.

Compare this tightening of criteria and cuts to funding with the announcement of the nannies pilot program by the federal government. The federal government has announced a \$246 million program which will fund 4,000 nannies over two years. What we know about this program is that the Australian government will not require the people caring for children under this arrangement to meet any of the current requirements of the national quality framework. In particular, they will not even need to hold a minimum qualification on early childhood care. There will be no guarantee that quality education and care is being provided. The policy is, indeed, inconsistent with the objectives of the national quality framework and it is not supported by the ACT government.

We believe there are other solutions for families that need that flexibility. We recognise the need for flexibility with some professions and families' employment, such as nurses, police officers, ambulance officers, firefighters—those that provide essential services and are committed to shift work for employment—but we believe there are other ways. That flexibility could be built into existing services, like family day care, that are regulated now through the national quality framework and that have been supporting families for decades.

It is important that the national quality framework continues to be the cornerstone for providing early childhood education and care in Australia. Better qualified educators are more likely to provide a rich learning environment and develop responsive, respectful relationships with children in education and care settings. All Australian governments continue to be committed to the national quality framework and there continues to be strong support for the framework from providers themselves.

It is important for our community and our families that they have the quality education and care that is accessible and affordable and meets the needs of working families, hence my announcement today. The ACT government has, for a long time, been working to ensure that all families have access to affordable and high quality education and care. In fact, we have been working hard since 2001 to ensure the sector continues to grow both in terms of education and care places and also quality. There has been a 95 per cent growth in the number of long day care places, including an anticipated additional 1,200 places in the 12 months from October last year through to the end of this year.

Additional places continue to come online as a result of \$13.3 million set aside for infrastructure in the last four budgets. Extensions and upgrades to 10 education and care centres have been completed, with a further three under construction and one out to market for tender. Other facilities have also been refurbished to bring them up to

modern standards. This investment has created an extra 235 places for children under preschool age.

The ACT continues to have a high number of children participating in early childhood education and care centres. We owe it to these children, their families and the community as a whole to provide them with opportunities that maximise their potential and develop a foundation for future success.

The government signed up to the national quality framework in 2009 and we remain committed to it today. These historic reforms set a new benchmark for quality education and care in Australia and we are starting to realise the benefits. While we have done much to ensure quality, accessibility and affordability, much of it relies on the funding that comes through the Australian federal government. I hope our new Prime Minister can provide certainty for families in our community. I hope to hear that these inconsistencies to their approach to child care will be removed and that they recommit to supporting family day care and the thousands of families who use it each and every day. For our part, the government will continue to do all we can to support Canberra families and support the sector that provides such high quality care to our little ones.

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (11.19): I would like to make a few comments relating to family day care and child care generally. I will start by thanking Ms Burch for bringing this motion to the Assembly today. Family day care provides an important service to everyday Canberra families. In fact, I recall a number of my own children attending family day care and long day care in my younger days. I also acknowledge the importance of lifelong learning and the importance of quality, affordable and available child care.

I want to bring to the Assembly's attention the funding provided by the federal government. Mr Shorten has claimed that the federal government had cut around \$1 billion from childcare funding. Clearly this is over-reach; it ignores some funding that has been reallocated to other childcare services. Also, it does not include areas where overall spending is increasing and it does not take into account those areas where funding was due to expire and were never given extended funding.

Since 1 July 2011 the federal government has funded more than \$1.044 billion over three years for the family support program. The program provides services across Australia to support families, improve children's wellbeing and safety, and build more resilient communities. It is through the community support program that funding is provided to approved family day care services. What is happening here is that the eligibility criteria are being tightened for providers who care for children in their own home, and Ms Burch has described some of those changes.

Support provided to approved family day care services in the ACT under the federal government's community support program includes set-up assistance, sustainability assistance, operational support and regional travel assistance. The federal government also announced things like the nanny pilot program, part of its \$40 billion investment in childcare support over the next four years, which includes an additional \$3.5 billion for the federal government's jobs for families childcare package.

The ACT government certainly has a role to play in ensuring family day care in the ACT is affordable, available and accessible for everyday Canberra families. I would like to move the amendment circulated in my name.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: So you are now speaking to the amendment, Ms Lawder.

MS LAWDER: I move:

Omit all words after “notes”, substitute:

- “(a) that, since 1 July 2011, the Federal Government has funded more than \$1.044 billion over three years into the Family Support Program. The Family Support Program provides services across Australia to support families, improve children’s wellbeing and safety, and build more resilient communities;
- (b) the Federal Government’s Community Support Program provides funding to approved family day care services in the ACT; (c) support provided to approved family day care services in the ACT under the Federal Government’s Community Support Program includes set up assistance, sustainability assistance, operational support and regional travel assistance;
- (d) the Federal Government’s Nanny Pilot Programme is part of its \$40 billion investment in child care support over the next four years. This includes an additional \$3.5 billion for the Federal Government’s Jobs for Families child care package; and
- (e) the ACT Government has a role to play in ensuring family day care in the ACT is more affordable and accessible to everyday Canberra families; and

(2) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) conduct an independent review of family day care and child care in the ACT that has the following objectives:
 - (i) to investigate and recommend practical steps to reduce the costs of family day care and child care services on everyday Canberra families; and
 - (ii) to investigate and recommend practical steps to increase the number of places available in family day care and child care centres in the ACT; and
- (b) report back to the Assembly in November 2015 on progress.

We would like the government to conduct an independent review of family day care and child care in the ACT and provide information. We would like it to provide practical steps as to how we can reduce the cost of family day care services for

everyday Canberra families, recommend how we can increase the number of places available in family day care and childcare centres in the ACT, and provide information back to the Assembly in the November sitting period.

The ACT government obviously has a role to play along with the federal government in the provision of childcare services, including long day care. Ms Burch introduced some comments in her motion about preschool. I will leave it to my colleague Mr Doszpot as to whether he wishes to speak to the particular points about preschool. I commend the amendment circulated in my name.

MR DOSZPOT (Molonglo) (11.23): I also thank Ms Burch for bringing on this motion today because it provides an opportunity to correct the mantra that Labor both here in the ACT and nationwide have been peddling about cuts to education and, in this motion, cuts to community services. The way Labor tells it, the end of the world is nigh and if only we had a federal Labor government all would be right with the world.

Of course, Labor in opposition always have a distorted memory of their years in government, and Ms Burch in particular has a very distorted memory of their years in government. We never hear Labor politicians talking about the billions of wasted funds for the BER halls in schools that were closing, gymnasiums for schools that needed classrooms. Every state, almost every city, has a story of waste to tell. Then, of course, we have their insulation debacle where not only were millions of dollars were lost but so too were lives.

When we look at today's motion, once again we see more examples of some distortion of the truth. When the federal coalition came to power it inherited dozens of programs that were due to expire with no funding set aside for the outyears, programs that had outlived their usefulness and others that were simply poorly targeted.

I do not intend to go through the aspects of Ms Burch's motion that relate to community services. Ms Lawder has already done that, and I commend her amendment that she has moved as well. Suffice it to say, Ms Burch's motion is a bit of a mish-mash of a number of sentiments with perhaps the underlying intention being to slam the federal coalition government. However, in order to do that she needs to keep her claims factual.

I will focus on the preschool aspects of the motion. The announcement today that the ACT government is about to come to an agreement to secure 15 hours of free public preschool education for 2016 and 2017 is welcome news. Canberra should be proud of the fact that we have the highest percentage of children accessing preschool education of any jurisdiction in the country. There are a whole heap of reasons for this, amongst them the fact that we also have a high rate of mothers wishing to participate fully in the workforce, and access to long day care and preschool education facilitates this.

I think it is more than regrettable, however, that this announcement has taken so long to be delivered. It was in May of this year that the federal government announced that funding would be provided for 600 hours for each child in preschool in 2016 and 2017.

I am sure mine is not the only office that has been contacted by working mothers frustrated that until today they had no way of knowing how many hours of education their child would be able to receive. It was equally frustrating for preschools who were unable to provide any certainty to parents wishing to enrol their children.

Let me read out one email I received at the beginning of last month, and it is a copy of a communication that was sent to the education directorate:

Dear ETD,

The Federal Government announced in May of this year that they would be continuing to fund up to 600 hours for each child for preschool in 2016 and 2017. Which equates to 15 hours per week for the school year. In that case why have you still not notified schools of the funding that they will receive next year?

My son has been accepted into (unnamed) Childhood school. I spoke to them yesterday in relation to the days that my son will be attending next year. They said that they couldn't tell me as they didn't know how much funding they were going to receive. They said that if they only receive 12 hours then the options will be Mon&Tue or Wed&Thur. If they receive 15 hours then options will be Mon, Tue & alternate Wed or alternate Wed, Thur and Fri.

I need to work 3 days per week. I have another young child who is in childcare. I need to be able to coordinate preschool and childcare for both of them and still work 3 FULL days each week. Do you understand how hard that is when I don't know which days of preschool I will get offered. The preschool have already told me that most people want the beginning of the week session (which is also my preference as I currently work Mon-Wed and have both children in childcare Mon-Wed), and they cannot guarantee the beginning of the week and I could get offered the end of the week.

That would all be ok, however, I need to tell my current childcare centre my preferences for next year. They are sending out the form next week to request next year's days. NEXT WEEK!

So, do I keep my youngest in on Mon-Wed and hope for the best that my eldest will get the beginning of the week at preschool? Do I keep my eldest in at his current childcare on a Wednesday (if 15 hours of preschool is offered), or do I try to get him in on a Friday in case only 12 hours is offered and I can only get the end of the week preschool session.

If I get the end of the week preschool session then I have to tell my youngest childcare centre NOW that I want to change his days. They can guarantee me his current days for next year (Mon-Wed) but if I need to change to align with my eldest then it will depend on availability and I'm not guaranteed to get Wed-Fri.

That is the end of the quote from this constituent who is obviously very frustrated and confused about the whole issue. This confusion and frustration could have been avoided. But I am pleased that at last there will be some clarity for parents. I am not sure how preschoolers in non-government schools are being treated, but we will be seeking advice as to how they are faring.

Ms Lawder's amendment calls for an independent review of family day care and child care in the ACT, and such a review would help to provide certainty for families into the future and certainly a more effective call to action than Ms Burch's call to work with the commonwealth government. I would have thought that this was a key activity for her on a regular basis.

MS BURCH (Brindabella—Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Racing and Gaming and Minister for the Arts) (11.30): I stand to talk to the amendment and respond to some of the things said by Mr Doszpot. He is absolutely right to read out that email and share with members of this place the frustration of that family. I have been contacted by families equally trying to know when certainty for the 15 hours of preschool will be delivered.

Yes, the federal government through the former Prime Minister—you may remember him—Tony Abbott announced in May that there would be a rollover. We have still not got the commonwealth to sign the NP. If those opposite, the Canberra Liberals, want to know what has been the delay in providing Canberra families certainty it is because commonwealth officials have not agreed to what we wanted to see in the NP to make sure families did not miss out on or have any disconnect with their existing provision of 15 hours of free preschool in government preschools.

Where does this problem lie? It lies with the federal government. So I am glad that you have shared with us the community's frustration. I just hope that you have been knocking on your mates' doors up on the hill sharing—

Ms Lawder: On a point of order.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Ms Burch. Point of order, Ms Lawder.

Mr Doszpot interjecting—

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Doszpot, I am considering a point of order.

Ms Lawder: Madam Deputy Speaker, on a point of relevance, Ms Burch appears to be rebutting some things that Mr Doszpot may have said rather than the amendment that has been circulated in my name.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just address the amendment, please.

MS BURCH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In talking to the amendment, though, Mr Doszpot did bring in words around preschool that are not in the amendment. So I was just responding to a matter of information that he brought into this chamber. I will go to Ms Lawder's amendment and—

Ms Lawder: On a point of order.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Ms Burch. Stop the clock please.

Ms Lawder: On a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker, it seems that Ms Burch was questioning your ruling.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: I actually did not make a ruling. I just asked her to continue to talk to the amendment. Thanks, Ms Lawder. Continue, Ms Burch.

MS BURCH: Thank you. I go to some notion in the amendment and read some comments that have been made by Family Day Care Australia concerning the nanny pilot program which I mentioned in my opening statement. They have said that the federal government announced \$246 million for a two-year nanny pilot program outside the national quality framework. Here we have Ms Lawder, through her amendment, saying that the federal nanny program is good and she is happy. The Canberra Liberals are happy with a service that sits outside the national quality framework.

Family Day Care Australia have also gone on the public record to say:

Recent cuts to the community support programme—

that is in Ms Lawder's point (b)—

for family day care, a flexible, affordable form of home-based care with a 40-year track record of providing services amount to \$150 million over three years. The community service programme funding cuts may result in a significant loss of childcare places for families due to service closures—

I do not think you did your homework perhaps, Canberra Liberals—

which could outnumber estimated places under the nanny pilot.

The Canberra Liberals, through Ms Lawder's amendment, are promoting a program that will take \$157 million out of family day care and, indeed, result in a loss nationally of places for families. I do not think that is a very good outcome for families here in the ACT or elsewhere. Family Day Care Australia also said:

The Australian Government is entering new regulatory territory by taking on responsibility for this pilot programme—

the nanny program, that sits outside the national quality framework—

and FDCA reiterates that the health, safety and wellbeing of children should always be paramount.

But not, it would seem, according to the federal government or, indeed, the Canberra Liberals here.

I have some examples of two local services. It is my understanding that no local service—this is under point (c) of Ms Lawder's amendment which is about the

community support program—is eligible. Let us look at two local services that are serving many Canberra families. Indeed, we have here one service that will have potential combined losses, thanks to the cost of a family day care coordinator of educator ratios combined with CPS funding cuts—this is one stream—of \$339,555. Service number one has potential combined losses of \$339,555. That is a good outcome for Canberra families! The element that is in point (c) in Ms Lawder's amendment will see one service lose over \$330,000. Service number two, another good ACT family day care family provider, will have combined losses of \$153,940. Over 150,000!

Combine those—I know maths is not always my great point—and we are looking at half a million dollars or thereabouts coming out of service provision in Canberra. Where are those costs going to be applied? Canberra families. So the Canberra Liberals, by the very amendment they put in here today, are saying that Canberra families cannot have service provision through the nanny program which is outside the national quality framework, that Canberra families will actually lose places and that Canberra services can be out of pocket by close on half a million dollars. That is not very good, I would not think. It is not what we think is a useful proposition.

Mr Doszpot raised some other comments around the BER. BER in the ACT has been a great success. He has asked for certainty for families around the 15 hours. In today's announcement, in spite of having a signed national agreement with the commonwealth, this government, this side over here, is so committed to providing certainty to Canberra families that we will put in our money from our own pockets to make sure Canberra families get those 15 hours. I will not wait any longer, because of the faffing about on behalf of the commonwealth officials and the commonwealth government, to make sure Canberra families rightly know by September that they have certainty for 15 hours of preschool.

I am very pleased with my announcement this morning that will give Canberra families certainty and I will not in any way, shape or form, be supporting Ms Lawder's amendment that will see Canberra families miss out and service providers miss out.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (11.39): I am happy to support the motion moved by Ms Burch today which in essence goes to the heart of the last federal budget and the broader policy direction of the federal government. I also note that since the time this motion was first placed on the notice paper we have now received word from Minister Burch that the ACT and federal governments are finally moving closer to signing a new national partnership agreement for universal access to early childhood education for the 2016 and 2017 school years. This is, indeed, welcome and hopefully bodes well for many of the other essential services that are co-funded by the commonwealth or are reliant on commonwealth funding.

It is a shame we had to once again call for clarity, transparency and certainty. Be that in health funding, education funding or today's motion in relation to the childcare sector, we seem to be constantly reeling from one policy objective to the next, and the negative impacts on local providers trying to keep up is something that each minister in the Assembly is keenly aware of. As we all know, we are now having to deal with

yet another change in government, albeit within the same political party, but nonetheless a new Prime Minister.

As this motion touches on, and as Minister Burch has also illustrated, child care in the ACT covers a spectrum of care types, from nannies or au pairs to family day care and from small, community-based occasional care services to dedicated, larger childcare centres.

As the peak body for family day care describes it, family day care is an approved form of child care that is provided in the family day care educator's own home. Family day care educators are early childhood education and care professionals, registered with a family day care service that is responsible for approving, supporting, training and advising its educators. Further, family day care operates under the same national quality framework as other forms of child care, incorporating national regulations, quality and qualification standards, educational frameworks and an assessment and ratings process. Parents who choose family day care are also eligible for the same federal government childcare benefit and childcare rebate subsidies as centre-based care.

As mentioned, last year's budget saw a tightening of eligibility for the community support program. The community support program provides funding to childcare providers offering services in areas where they might not otherwise be viable or which meet the unique needs of a particular community. The new criteria effectively restrict eligibility for CSP funding to family day care services that are the sole provider of family day care in a surrounding area, with weighting towards services that are providing care in regional, remote or disadvantaged areas.

I do not pretend to be an expert in this area, and the particulars of the impact of this restricted eligibility on ACT providers has not been raised with me personally, but I understand the childcare and early education sector is clearly asking for more time and consultation on a range of issues. The ACT needs to be able to clearly articulate our commitments to the sector in terms of overarching policy for the full continuum of childcare service providers, and to do so we also need that clarity from the commonwealth.

This debate also includes outstanding recommendations from the Productivity Commission, paid parental leave and, as the motion notes, the growing need for long day care places. This is a complex and interwoven area of public policy that touches on the lives of most, if not all, families in the ACT, of course both now but also for years to come.

As we have seen in recent times here in Canberra, the community have a special relationship with their childcare providers. Some of the older centres have a special place in the hearts of parents who themselves once attended the same centres they are sending their own children to. While the face of the industry or the sector has changed over time, we are very lucky in the ACT to have a combination of providers and services, and it is important to ensure we have the regulatory framework and policy guidelines to support a wide range of childcare and early childhood education options that parents want.

That is why I am happy to support the calls in the motion to work with the Australian government to ensure any changes to early childhood education and care policy allow all families to access affordable and high quality early childhood education and to support the early childhood education and care sector to ensure all Canberra families have access to affordable, high quality services.

To achieve these goals, the sector and the ACT government need to have a clear and consistent dialogue with their federal counterparts and, sadly, that seems to be lacking on nearly every major funding announcement or reform direction to date. I can only hope the new Prime Minister will see fit to listen to the early childcare sector, acknowledge the clear consensus for funding in this sector and provide a more sustainable and fair approach in the next budget. I will be supporting this motion from Minister Burch.

MS FITZHARRIS (Molonglo) (11.44): I thank Minister Burch very much for introducing this important motion today and in particular for the fantastic announcement this morning of the full 15 hours of preschool education in our public schools for 2016; I will return in a moment to some discussion about that particular announcement this morning.

As a mum of three young children, I know just how important it is for government to support our early childhood sector and make it easier for parents to access high quality early childhood education and care. Affordable, quality child care has become an integral part of our modern economy and our everyday lives, and family day care in particular has an important place in our community. It offers families a flexible childcare option in the home and gives children a wonderful opportunity to socialise, learn and grow in a family home environment.

As we have heard from Minister Burch, thousands of families use family day care every day in this city. It is a vital part of our early childhood education and care sector, and perhaps most importantly, unlike nannies, it is regulated and supported through the essential national quality framework. This framework guarantees the qualifications and quality of early childhood educators. Research shows higher qualified educators improve outcomes for children. A highly qualified early childhood education and care workforce is essential for providing a strong foundation for the health and educational development of Canberra's children.

It is therefore a real shame that the federal government seems to think that cutting family day care is a good idea, although it really should not be a surprise when you consider how terrible the then Abbott government's first budget was. Remember that one, Madam Deputy Speaker? It was a doozy and it was probably the beginning of the end really—so no surprise that amongst many cuts it included cuts to child care and family day care.

The peak body, Family Day Care Australia, said at the time that the cuts would impact more than 80 per cent of family day care services. Under the changes in that budget, the department of education would terminate all community support program contracts for family day care approved services, as the minister has noted. So how did

that support families here in Canberra? It did not. Instead, it causes fees to rise and makes finding appropriate care for children even more difficult. From 1 July this year, existing family day care services are being forced to meet a new set of eligibility criteria, meaning many lose a chunk of funding.

The new eligibility criteria restrict eligibility for CSP funding to family day care services that are the sole provider of family day care in the surrounding area, with weighting towards services that provide care in regional, remote or disadvantaged areas. Naturally, there will be a detrimental impact on Canberra by such changes. So, instead of all the promises from the former Prime Minister, what the federal government has actually done is make it more difficult for mothers and for families to plan to get access to affordable, quality child care and, particularly, for mothers to return to work.

The changes have also been very confusing for the sector with these cuts to family day carers, people who open their homes to other families and become an important part of family life and offer flexible care for those who might not easily have access to other forms of child care, as the minister noted.

This morning the ACT government, through Minister Burch, announced the full funding of 15 hours of public preschool. This government clearly recognises the importance of early childhood education and care for our community. The ACT government is committed to ensuring families can access affordable, high quality preschool education. The government acknowledges that lifelong learning is the foundation for Canberra's ongoing prosperity and wants every child to have the opportunity to thrive.

I understand that over 4,000 children and their families will benefit as a result of today's announcement. It is also excellent to see that the national quality framework has increased service provision quality in the ACT, with 42 ACT public preschools having now been assessed against the national quality standards and 31 receiving a rating of exceeding national quality standards.

The ACT will continue to be one of the only jurisdictions to offer free public preschool for 15 hours per week to all four-year-old children in the year before their formal schooling starts. This significant investment reflects our belief in the essential value of a quality early childhood education system to positively impact on a child's development.

As the minister has noted, I was alarmed to hear the shadow minister refer to the lack of progress by the ACT government when in fact I had also been approached by a number of families asking the same question and, as a mum who has had three children through preschool, I also sought advice directly from the minister's office. It was very clearly and very quickly cleared up for me that what the ACT government was waiting for was confirmation from the commonwealth to fund this essential program. I was able to tell the constituents that and to give them some certainty that the ACT government remained committed to this but was waiting for and working hard to get confirmation from the commonwealth.

The ACT government and the minister understand how important it is to plan for childcare arrangements around preschool hours, to plan for your other children's schooling and childcare needs. So I was a bit alarmed to hear the shadow minister for education not appearing to understand what the arrangements are for preschool and non-government schools. I am sure he will seek some further advice from Minister Burch after this debate today and be able to get back to all his constituents and explain why the delay was necessary and why today the ACT government has confirmed that it will certainly fund this very important initiative.

The ACT government continues to significantly invest in growing and upskilling the education and care workforce. To achieve this, the government has ensured a range of vocational education and training programs are available that meet the needs of educators and employers. For example, traineeships funded through the ACT's Australian apprenticeships program have grown strongly in the early childhood education and care sector since 2010. In 2014, 312 trainees completed a formal qualification approved by the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. Thirty participants completed a certificate III in early childhood education and care. Another 46 completed a relevant skill set, preparing them for further study towards a full qualification. And in 2015 the ACT's new training initiative, skilled capital, will contribute well over \$2 million towards at least 570 training places in a wide range of approved early childhood education and care qualifications.

Additionally, the early childhood scholarships program established in 2012 to assist the sector to meet new minimum qualification requirements continues, with a new round of places offered just last month. The scholarship covers full course fees for a certificate III qualification, a start-up and completion incentive, and funding to release working educators to study or attend classes. Including this year's allocation, the program has provided 145 places. A further 30 places will be offered in 2016. Fifty-seven students from the first round of funding have now achieved a certificate III in early childhood education and care. This qualification develops educators' skills in developing respectful relationships with children, supporting their development and using the early years learning framework to guide their practice. It also supports educators to work with children and families in culturally appropriate ways.

Under the national quality framework, all early childhood educators counted in educator to child ratios are now required to be working towards this qualification. This gives us confidence and our families confidence that our young children are being educated by professionals with appropriate skills and knowledge to work in partnership with families to maximise children's potential.

I want to close by thanking the minister for moving this motion today and putting on record the ACT government's strong commitment to family day care, to the national quality framework and to ensuring that every ACT family has access to affordable and high quality childcare, and I congratulate her on her announcement this morning about 15 hours of preschool.

MS BURCH (Brindabella—Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Racing and Gaming and Minister for the Arts) (11.53): I want to thank those in the chamber for their

contribution to this debate. It is an important debate to make sure that we provide Canberra families with access to quality child care. We on this side of the chamber absolutely understand this and that is why it was very important—and indeed provided a great deal of satisfaction for me—this morning to announce our continued commitment to affordable high quality preschool for children that are attending public preschools.

Preschool is an exciting time for families and children. It is a time of anticipation but with a level of apprehension, I have no doubt, for some parents as they watch their children starting their love of learning and their natural curiosity through preschool. Families are indeed recognised as the children's first and most influential educators. Preschool education consolidates learning and prepares children for formal education, extending and enriching children's lived experience.

This government has long recognised that preschool education is pivotal to a child's learning and wellbeing and we are committed to families having accessible high quality preschool education. The significant investment the ACT government has made to early childhood education focuses on children's wellbeing. We have lifted the quality in line with the national quality framework and we have set service provision to meet the needs of our community. As a result, families now more than ever are empowered to choose affordable high quality education for their children.

There is much to celebrate as we here in the ACT continue to be one of the only jurisdictions to offer free public preschool to all four-year-old children in the year before formal schooling. The ACT continues to lead the nation in providing a strong and evidence-based foundation for parental engagement in schools. The progressing parental engagement in ACT projects provides families and schools with an understanding of what parental engagement is, why it matters and how it works.

We also support the preschool matters program that recognises the importance of parental engagement to children's academic achievement through the preschool matters grants. Families have engaged with their local preschools in innovative and practical ways. We in the ACT Labor government are proud of our achievements and we are committed to continue with this.

The national reform agenda for the national quality framework has put our families in good stead. The national partnership agreement on universal access to early childhood education was signed in 2009 and the partnership enhances the learning and development of our children. A signatory to this agreement, we were able to move from 12 to 15 hours of free preschool in government preschools 40 weeks of the year. Since that time there have been a series of such agreements, signalling a mutual interest of the commonwealth and states, to be fair, in improving outcomes for preschool children.

At the conclusion of each of these national partnership agreements, new agreements have been negotiated. But our current partnership expires in December of this year, and, as I have said before, and as Ms Fitzharris has made comment on, we are yet to have agreement from the commonwealth.

So again I go to the total inability of the Canberra Liberals, in particular Mr Doszpot, to understand what the announcement today is about. It is around delivering certainty for families. It is about the ACT Labor government not waiting any longer for the commonwealth to sign the national partnership, because we understand the need to get on and give Canberra families certainty.

Mr Doszpot: You have got a very short memory.

MS BURCH: He is interjecting over there by saying I have got a short memory. No, my memory is clear. We got to November of last year before the commonwealth signed this national partnership and I made a commitment then that I would not get to November this year and still be waiting for the commonwealth to sign an NP for Canberra families.

Here we are in the middle of September and that is why we have made a guarantee, a commitment, that regardless of what the commonwealth do—and I certainly hope they do not now renege on their negotiations and pull out altogether; that would be a turn-up for Canberra families, if the commonwealth were to do that—I will not wait any longer. We, this ACT Labor government, have given that guarantee to Canberra families.

I put this motion on the notice paper back in May, because I had concerns around the federal government's inconsistency in support of Canberra families and inconsistencies in their approach to early childhood care. Here we are in September. I have made an announcement and the same concerns still exist.

I just reflect on some of the comments by Mr Doszpot and Ms Lawder, particularly the almost priceless amendment by Ms Lawder, point (e) of which states that “the ACT government has a role to play in ensuring family day care in the ACT is more affordable and accessible”.

Here today we have heard examples provided by Family Day Care Australia that indeed the community support program is going to rip places out of family day care and put a budget hole in service providers' bottom line. I would say: write to your colleagues, your federal counterparts, and say that the federal government has a very clear role in ensuring family day care is affordable and accessible.

I refer to the two providers that I made mention of before. Provider No 1 has a potential combined loss—courtesy of the CSP, the community support program that Ms Lawder was speaking so highly of—of over \$330,000. Is it even eligible under the new criteria to receive CSP funding? No. That is a good outcome. That is a great policy that the Canberra Liberals are supporting. Service No 2, as I said, has a potential combined loss of over \$150,000. Under the new criteria, is it eligible to receive CSP funding? No. That is a great outcome. These are just two services here. I could go through all of them, but these are just two. They are real examples provided to Family Day Care Australia. A combined loss of close on half a million dollars will see services diminished, and that is what Ms Lawder and the Canberra Liberals want to see.

Ms Lawder in her amendment also calls on the ACT government “to investigate and recommend practical steps to reduce the costs of family day care”. Service No 1 will have a combined loss of over \$330,000. Where does Ms Lawder think that funding is going to come from for that service provision to be maintained—possibly shifted to families, because her federal counterparts are absolutely diminishing family day care provisions here in the ACT?

I think that is an appalling outcome. Ms Lawder came in here today and I was surprised that she only spoke to her amendment for about three minutes. She did not speak to the first half of her amendment but went straight to “calls on the ACT government”. I think she actually sat there and read it and realised what a nonsense it was; that the nannies that she is promoting will see, according to Family Day Care Australia, a net loss of places, with no quality control and no quality of education and care for the families and the children involved. She has also drawn our attention to the community support program which our local providers are not eligible for.

Well done, Ms Lawder. Well done, Canberra Liberals. It is not how we will support Canberra families over here. We will not wait for their federal counterparts to sign a national agreement. We will make that guarantee and commitment ourselves because we value quality care, we value our Canberra families and we will provide for them 15 hours of free preschool in all our government preschools.

Question put:

That the amendment be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 6

Noes 7

Mr Doszpot
Mrs Dunne
Mr Hanson
Ms Lawder

Mr Smyth
Mr Wall

Mr Barr
Ms Berry
Ms Burch
Mr Corbell

Mr Gentleman
Ms Porter
Mr Rattenbury

Question so resolved in the negative.

Motion agreed to.

Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Amendment Bill 2015

Debate resumed from 13 August 2015, on motion by **Mr Corbell**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR HANSON (Molonglo—Leader of the Opposition) (12.07): The Canberra Liberals will support this bill in principle. The proposed changes are reasonable and aimed to tighten up child sex offender reporting and child sex register compliance

measures. The bill makes amendments to address issues raised by ACT Policing relating to the operation of the child sex register, the ACT experience of child sex offending issues and matters arising from national discussions about the best way to effectively monitor child sex offenders.

This includes the introduction of police powers of entry and search based on a specialised warrant application to verify personal details reported by a registrable child sex offender or their compliance with a prohibition order; the introduction of powers allowing police to request a registrable offender's details relating to encrypted information; new offences punishable by five years imprisonment and/or 500 penalty units where an offender does not comply with entry and search warrant conditions; providing a power for the CPO to apply to a court for the registration of certain previous offenders; introducing a power for the CPO in limited circumstances to issue a public notice with the name, description and photograph of a registrable offender; and amending section 37 of the Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Act 2005 where an offender must report annually to change the fault element for failing to report and allow reporting of changes in personal details rather than reporting of each individual personal detail.

There is a range of other provisions, amendments and changes throughout the legislation but, in essence, they are all aimed at tightening the operation of the child sex register and dealing with child sex offenders in the ACT. I will not go ad nauseam through the detail, but we certainly support the intention of these clauses. We support the bill in principle, but I note that there are numerous pages of comments from the scrutiny of bills committee. I have received from the government today, through the scrutiny of bills committee, the response to the scrutiny report. We only received that a short while ago.

My understanding is that the government will seek to adjourn consideration of the bill once we have agreement in principle and that next week we will debate the detail stage of the legislation. I have had a quick glance at the scrutiny comments and we will go through those in more detail. I will, if necessary, seek a briefing from the government, as we have on similar bills and complex legislation. We have worked with the Attorney-General's office.

In supporting the bill in principle today, let me be very clear: we will support any measure that aims to protect children in our society and that makes appropriate changes to our laws and regulations to make sure that any child sex offenders who are subject to conditions applied upon them are managed in an appropriate way and there are no loopholes or gaps in our laws. We want to make sure that our police and others involved in this space have the appropriate powers and the backing of this place to complete the very difficult tasks that they have.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (12.12): I will talk briefly about the main elements of this bill, noting that we will only debate it in principle today. I understand the attorney has been looking at the scrutiny of bills committee's comments, which are extensive, and we will need to debate the detail stage of this bill at a later time. The amendments proposed in this bill are intended to strengthen and modernise ACT laws relating to child sex offenders. In particular, they relate to the administration of the

sex offender register and to the ability of police to monitor sex offenders and investigate child sex offences.

As horrendous as child sex offences are, it is of course important to ensure that the new protections are balanced with our human rights obligations. The proposed changes engage important rights such as the right to privacy, rights in criminal proceedings and the right to recognition and equality before the law. These rights are not absolute because they must be weighed against other considerations such as the rights of children to be protected from exploitation and abuse. Indeed, there is a positive obligation on governments to ensure the protection of these kinds of rights.

It appears to me that in developing this bill the government has taken care to balance these rights. This is reflected in the very thorough explanatory statement which carefully considers all of the affected rights and why their limitation is reasonable and proportionate in this instance. It is also reflected in the government's willingness to defer the detail stage of the bill so that it can address the scrutiny comments. The comments are substantial, some 20 pages. That clearly points to the fact that we need a bit of time to consider them and the government's response from the attorney.

Perhaps the most significant change in the bill is that it allows police to enter and search premises of registrable sex offenders. Police will also be able to request a registrable sex offender's details relating to encrypted information such as passwords. Practically, this change will improve the ability of the police to monitor registrable sex offenders and it will allow them to verify reported information, identify unreported details and check compliance with the conditions in a prohibition order.

Obviously this is a limitation on the offender's human rights. The entry and search power is therefore limited. It only applies to a small category of people, registrable offenders. It requires a special application process and can only occur in circumstances where the offender obstructs the verification of reporting details or compliance checking relating to prohibition orders.

Requesting access to an offender's encrypted information is, obviously, an intrusion on privacy. It is not an arbitrary intrusion, though. Again, it is to protect the rights of others, and the legislation limits the use of the power to quite specific circumstances. For example, the application for use of the power must describe the location and types of material to be searched for. The reality is that it is basically impossible to access encrypted data without passwords. The material being sought can often be hidden and deleted. If the police are to effectively protect the safety of children and prevent offenders accessing illegal material, they need to be able to keep up with technological advancement.

A second amendment in the bill will allow the Chief Police Officer, in limited circumstances, to issue a public notice with the name, description and photograph of a registrable offender. Similarly, a police officer may order that photographs be taken of a registrable offender in certain circumstances. Again, the rationale for these new powers is to improve the ability of the police to monitor and manage registrable offenders and to ensure community protection and safety. The ability to release a photo of an offender will assist in locating them if they have skipped reporting

obligations and pose a threat to the community. Similarly, the ability to photograph offenders is important for identification; for example, where they may have a distinctive tattoo or birth mark.

These amendments engage the right to privacy, but I note that there are various protections in place. For example, an order to photograph without consent has to come from a magistrate, who must be satisfied of various circumstances relating to the offender and the need for the photograph. A person being photographed also has the right to a support person. In relation to the release of a photo of an offender, this can only occur where the Chief Police Officer or deputy CPO believes on reasonable grounds that there may be risk to the lives or sexual safety of one or more people or of the community in general. The Chief Police Officer or the deputy CPO must also believe on reasonable grounds that publication of the notice will reduce this risk.

I also note that the amendments in this bill introduce some flexibility to the sex offender register. They will allow the Chief Police Officer to apply to a court for the registration of certain previous offenders. The idea here is that a person might have convictions for child sex offences prior to the establishment of the register and there is strong evidence that the person continues to pose a broad risk to children. This will only be available where the Chief Police Officer believes on reasonable grounds that the person is a previous offender and poses a risk to the lives or sexual safety of one or more people or of the community generally. The registration order will be made by the Magistrates Court.

In limited circumstances the Chief Police Officer will also be able to apply to the court to remove a registrable offender from the register. This is a positive step to ensure that offenders who are assessed as no longer likely to reoffend or engage in conduct that poses a risk to the lives or sexual safety of children are no longer required to report. This will mean police can direct their resources more efficiently. Before removing an offender, the Chief Police Officer is required to give notice to a victim and to consult with the Victims of Crime Commissioner. This ensures victims are heard and considered in any decision to remove an offender from the register.

A new amendment allows a registrable offender who was a young offender at the time of the offence to apply to the Magistrates Court to be removed from the register. The amendment recognises that the circumstances that deem a young offender as a registrable offender often indicate that there is no ongoing risk. The amendment recognises this and seeks to make sure that only appropriate registration occurs. I am interested to hear further about the government's response to the suggestion from the scrutiny committee that, in fact, all offenders should be able to apply for this removal, not just young offenders.

This bill makes several other amendments which I do not intend to go into in detail. As I said, I look forward to seeing further information from the attorney in his response to the scrutiny committee and to proceeding with the detail stage of the bill at a later time. But I can indicate that I will be supporting this bill at the in-principle stage.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Health, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Capital Metro) (12.19), in reply: I would like to thank members for their in-principle support of this bill. Before I proceed to make my comments, I present the following paper:

Revised explanatory statement to the bill.

This bill, as members have indicated, addresses a number of matters raised during national and indeed international discussions, as well as issues raised by ACT Policing, when it comes to the operation of child sex offender law here in the ACT, with a specific focus on the operation of administration of the child sex offender register. These amendments have been developed in the context of a very close and ongoing consultation between the government and key stakeholders, including ACT Policing, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Human Rights Commission and the Ombudsman.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those organisations and individuals for the very valuable input they have provided in what is a very complex piece of policy and a very lengthy legislative development process. Their contributions have ensured that the reforms strike an appropriate balance between the proposed police powers, the rights and safety of children and the community, and the rights of registered offenders, and that they operate within the context of the territory's human rights law.

I provided members with a detailed overview of the amendments when I introduced this bill, so today I will instead focus on the introduction of entry and search power provisions and speak of some of the human rights issues that have been engaged by these reforms. As I have previously outlined, the amendments proposed by this bill fall into six broad categories which are amendments to introduce entry and search powers, including access to encrypted information on an electronic device in relation to registered offenders; amendments to provide a power for the Chief Police Officer to apply for the registration of a certain previous offender; amendments to provide a power for the Chief Police Officer to apply to remove an offender from the register in limited circumstances; amendments to allow a young offender to apply to a sentencing court to not be registered; amendments to provide powers for the Chief Police Officer to issue public notices in limited circumstances; and general amendments to streamline administration of the register.

In practical terms, these amendments taken as a whole introduce a number of new powers for police that will assist to reduce the likelihood of reoffending and also to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of any future offences that registered offenders may commit. In this way, the introduction of these powers will support the purposes of the scheme which are outlined in section 6 of the Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Act 2005.

One of the most important reforms in this bill is the introduction of entry and search powers in relation to registered offenders, which can include access to encrypted information on an electronic device. This amendment will allow a senior officer of the rank of sergeant or higher to apply to the Magistrates Court for a warrant for the

purposes of verifying personal details reported by registered child sex offenders and to confirm compliance with prohibition order conditions where applicable. The bill also proposes that the applicant may seek a court order requiring a registered offender to provide access to electronic data, to copy that data onto a storage device or to convert the data into documentary form.

Although these kinds of provisions vary to reflect the purpose of different registration and reporting schemes, the use of search and seizure powers is a common example of ACT law that engages our human rights legislation. The amendments provide a clear example of the importance of balancing the human rights of a person affected by changes in the law against the rights and interests of the community to protect children from sexual assault and violence.

For example, the introduction of entry and search powers specific to registered child sex offenders engages the right to privacy in section 11 of the Human Rights Act. This is because the amendments provide police access, in certain circumstances, to the registered offender's home, home environment and potentially to their family life. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that encompasses the idea that individuals should have a separate area of autonomous development, dignity and freedom from arbitrary, unreasonable or oppressive government interference. However, this right can be limited as long as it can be demonstrated that it is necessary, reasonable and proportionate—essentially, that the limitation is lawful and not arbitrary.

It is well established in European human rights law that the prevention of crime and the protection of the rights of others is a legitimate basis for placing restrictions on the right to privacy. This is why the amendments provide a careful balance between the limitation and the right to privacy. The entry and search power can only be initiated by court order, supported by evidence on oath or by affidavit where the magistrate has taken all of the circumstances into consideration before authorising the requested activity. In addition, the intention and scope of the powers is clearly set out in the law and the warrant itself must specify what is authorised.

Given that the entry and search warrant powers include amendments which compel registered offenders to provide personal details, access to their home and potentially access to encrypted information, the privilege against self-incrimination in section 22 of the Human Rights Act is also engaged. The rationale behind the privilege against self-incrimination is that those who allege the commission of a crime should prove it themselves and not be able to compel the accused to prove the criminal act for them.

In recognition of the fundamental importance of this privilege, the amendment includes the availability of a derivative use immunity to the registered offender. This immunity means that any information, document or thing obtained directly or indirectly because the person was required to facilitate access to the information, document or thing is not admissible in evidence against the registered offender in a civil or criminal proceeding other than a proceeding for an offence against the child sex offenders act or in relation to a class 1 or class 2 offence outlined in that act or an offence under part 3.4 of the Criminal Code, which deals with the provision of false or misleading information.

To give an example, if the warrant is for entry and search for a thing connected to an offence under the child sex offenders act but the officer finds evidence of theft, the privilege will ensure that the evidence is not available to be used to prosecute that theft. It is important to note that police will still have the power to seize a thing that they believe on reasonable grounds is connected with an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more, and potentially destroy the thing with the court's approval.

In relation to encrypted data, a provision has been included that any material obtained under this power is not admissible in a proceeding, except for a proceeding under the child sex offenders act or a proceeding under part 3.4 of the Criminal Code. This is consistent with similar provisions in ACT legislation that compel a person to provide information that leads to disclosure of other information or evidence and aligns with the requirements outlined in Australian case law and common law relating to the privilege against self-incrimination. The use of that further information is only permitted for strictly limited purposes.

The limitations on the right to privacy and the privilege against self-incrimination are fundamental for the protection of children and the community and minimising the incidence of reoffending under the registration and reporting scheme. The scheme cannot operate effectively without mechanisms to ensure offenders report all necessary information and police are able to verify these details. Reporting of some information is central to allowing registered offenders to live in the community.

The bill does engage a number of other rights that I have not spoken about today such as the rights to recognition and equality before the law, protection of family and children, freedom of movement, the right to liberty and security of the person, fair trial, rights in criminal processes and against retrospective criminal laws.

As there is a clear and rational connection between the proposed amendments and the issues that they aim to combat, I am satisfied that the reforms are proportionate and justified in the circumstances and that they will lessen the risks offenders may pose to the community. This view is based on the detailed analysis on the limitations of each human right in the context of section 28 of the Human Rights Act, which is outlined in the explanatory statement to the bill.

I will just briefly take this opportunity to note, as others have, that I have provided a response to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety Scrutiny of Bills Committee report No 36. This report made a number of comments on the bill and the explanatory statement which have been comprehensively addressed in the response I have provided to the opposition and the Greens today. As a consequence, I will be moving minor government amendments to the bill based on a question asked by the committee about the immunity provisions in sections 116Q(4) and 116Z of the bill. These amendments clarify the nature of the immunity to apply direct and derivative use as originally intended in the bill and do not change the substance of the bill.

I think it is sensible that members take the time to consider the government's response to scrutiny, that we adjourn debate after the in-principle stage today to allow that to occur and for the debate to resume in the next sitting week. This bill reflects a proactive, modern and practical approach to monitoring registered child sex offenders. It also reflects the important fact that the ACT's children are entitled to this protection because of being a child, without distinction or discrimination. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Detail stage

Clause 1.

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

Sitting suspended from 12.30 to 2.30 pm.

Questions without notice

Canberra Hospital—visiting medical officers

MR HANSON: My question is to the Minister for Health. I am advised that you have set a final date of 4 November 2015 for ACT Health and the ACT Visiting Medical Officers Association, or VMOA, to resolve outstanding VMO contracts. ACT Health had scheduled meetings on 12 and 26 August and 9 September for the purpose of negotiating new VMO contracts. I am advised that these meetings were cancelled by ACT Health because the VMO Association would not agree to provide certain guarantees prior to any meeting. Minister, has ACT Health cancelled contract negotiation meetings with the Visiting Medical Officers Association and, if so, how many times?

MR CORBELL: I thank Mr Hanson for his question. The answer to his question is yes. Regrettably, the VMOA have not agreed to provide certain reassurances ahead of negotiations commencing. These primarily relate—in fact, solely relate—to circumstances in relation to guarantees they are not willing to give that they will challenge the validity of the bargaining agents, the negotiating agents, which are the VMOA and the AMA. The AMA have given those assurances; the VMOA have not.

Therefore, regrettably, my director-general has indicated to the VMOA and the AMA that negotiations scheduled for on a number of occasions have not been able to proceed until those prerequisite conditions have been resolved. The simple reason for this is that it would be a waste of everybody's time to go through a lengthy negotiation period, and a lot of detail, only to have the VMOA subsequently seek to challenge the validity of the bargaining process, of the negotiating process, and challenge the validity of the entities nominated to that negotiating process, which are the AMA and the VMOA.

I would welcome their reassurance that they are not going to challenge it, because that would allow negotiations to get underway in earnest and I look forward to a sensible resolution of these matters as soon as possible.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, what are those prerequisite conditions that ACT Health is demanding be provided before negotiations continue?

MR CORBELL: They are as I outlined in my answer to the previous question.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

MS LAWDER: Minister, will you require ACT Health to proceed with negotiations with the VMO Association without preconditions being agreed to?

MR CORBELL: The approach adopted by the director-general has my strong support.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what would the effect be on Canberra patients if no agreement is reached with the Visiting Medical Officers Association?

MR CORBELL: I do not anticipate any impact on Canberrans. The provisions of the relevant legislation are that if the negotiation period cannot see resolution and agreement reached, the matters are referred to arbitration. ACT Health and the government remain committed to ensuring that this process is resolved as quickly as possible. We are adopting a constructive and sensible approach throughout and if matters are not able to be resolved during the negotiation period they will be resolved through the arbitration period.

Canberra Hospital—visiting medical officers

MR SMYTH: My question is also to the Minister for Health. Minister, ACT Health is in current discussions with the visiting medical officers concerning new contracts, but formal negotiations have not yet commenced due to the insistence by ACT Health that VMOs agree to certain pre-agreements. In the event that negotiations fail, the matter is referred to arbitration. The VMOs have identified at least two qualified arbitrators. Minister, is the current lack of commencement of formal negotiations being used by ACT Health as a tactic to force arbitration?

MR CORBELL: No.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, in the event that arbitration of the contracts is required what is the process for appointing arbitrators?

MR CORBELL: The appointment of the arbitrator will be done in accordance with the legislation and is a decision for me as the minister.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, are the arbitrators identified by the VMO Association qualified to be selected as arbitrators of the VMO contract?

MR CORBELL: We will adopt the position that arbitrators will be chosen in accordance with the provisions of the legislation and the determination I have made under the legislation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, what action will you personally take to resolve these negotiations?

MR CORBELL: I continue to be briefed on negotiations. I have indicated to my director-general that she has my full and unequivocal support for the approach being adopted in relation to the negotiations. I continue to monitor developments closely.

Schools—autism

MR DOSZPOT: My question is to Minister for Education and Training. Minister, yesterday in the debate on the motion about the cage in an ACT school Mr Rattenbury said:

... there is apparently advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions that there do not appear to be any possible criminal charges to be laid.

Has legal advice been provided to the government as stated by Mr Rattenbury?

MS BURCH: As I understand it, the Shared Services investigators were satisfied from the evidence gathered that none of the conduct warranted reporting to the police. If at any time during the investigation the investigators found material that warranted police involvement, the investigation would have ceased and been referred in totality to the police for reinvestigation. This is usual practice and quite the norm, as well as being part of the terms of reference.

Mr Coe: On a point of order, Madam Speaker. The question was in relation to the Director of Public Prosecutions rather than the police. I ask that you ensure that the minister remains relevant to the question.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Doszpot, can you repeat your question, the actual question?

MR DOSZPOT: Yes. The actual question was—do I have to read the whole question?

MADAM SPEAKER: No, I just want to know what the question was.

MR DOSZPOT: The question was:

Has legal advice been provided to the government as stated by Mr Rattenbury?

But I have to read the previous sentence—

MADAM SPEAKER: That is fine. That is what I needed to know. Thank you. I will ask the minister to be directly relevant to the question. She was not asked whether anyone contemplated referring the matter to police. She was asked whether there had been legal advice of the sort that Mr Rattenbury spoke about yesterday, which was advice from the DPP. Minister Burch.

MS BURCH: I thought there was an interest for those matters to be clarified. But it is my understanding, through the investigation, that there were conversations between Shared Services and the DPP.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, why have you not stated anything in the public realm about the matters being referred to the DPP and the outcome of that referral?

MS BURCH: Because it goes to the heart of—and it has been raised; it goes to the question about was there any criminal behaviour? As I said before, Shared Services were satisfied from the evidence that there was not any criminal behaviour and it did not warrant being referred.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, when was the matter discussed with the DPP and what was the advice provided to Shared Services?

MS BURCH: Again I refer Mr Hanson and those opposite to the fact that this investigation was independent. It operated under the enterprise agreements, and it paid due respect to the other standards that needed to be paid attention to under the Public Sector Management Act and the others. As I have said before, this is a sound investigation, and under the conditions and provisions of which it was undertaken, information cannot be released.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, how did Mr Rattenbury find out about this information that cannot be released?

MS BURCH: Through an in-confidence briefing, which Mr Doszpot had. If he does not ask certain questions, it is not my problem.

Mental health—funding

MS PORTER: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, can you please update the Assembly on the funding support this government is providing to mental health in the ACT and what this means for mental health staffing?

MADAM SPEAKER: Sorry; what was the last word, Ms Porter? What was the last word?

MS PORTER: What this means for mental health staffing?

MR CORBELL: I thank Ms Porter for her question and her ongoing and sustained interest in issues relating to mental health and mental health care in our community. This financial year expenditure for mental health will be \$133 million. This is just over nine per cent of the overall ACT health budget. This is an investment that this community and the Assembly should be proud of because it demonstrates that mental health is a priority area for the government. It also demonstrates the effectiveness of raising awareness.

The fact is that the prevalence of mental health issues in the community remains significant. The Australian health survey in 2011-12 found that 15 per cent of ACT residents reported experiencing a mental illness and it also found that 9.2 per cent of Canberrans reported experiencing high or very high psychological distress. So we are investing significantly in mental health as a result. Part of this funding includes over \$6½ million for specific services for children and adolescent mental health services, including our peri-natal mental health team, the eating disorder program, the early intervention team and the CAMHS community teams. There is over \$20 million for adult mental health services and over \$17 million for our ACT-wide mental health services, including the CATT team, older persons mental health team, the great work done at Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre and mental health services for people with intellectual disabilities.

We also focus very strongly on funding for justice mental health services through our forensic activities. In the latest budget the government has significantly increased funding for mental health services—over \$26 million in additional funding over the next four years. This will provide for the first time a dedicated community mental health team for the Gungahlin region. It will include additional intensive psycho-geriatric care for people living in residential care facilities or transitioning from an acute inpatient unit. It will include the delivery of a new self-harm diversion service, improvements in 24-hour supportive accommodation, more in-home support for people experiencing acute mental health problems and a redesign of our adult mental health services, focusing on clinical management, psychological therapies, crisis care and more home-based care.

This is very positive news for the delivery of mental health services in our community. We know that we see increasing numbers of people accessing mental health care. In 2013-14 over 100,000 service contacts were made for our ACT-wide mental health services. In 2014-15 over 106,000 contacts were made for the same

services. The case is similar for our CATT team: in 2013-14 we saw over 49,000 contacts and in 2014-15 over 51,000.

So there continues to be growth in demand for mental health care. I am very pleased that this government is responding to that demand by making one of the largest single improvements and increases in funding to mental health care since self-government. Over the last five years we have seen the employment of more than 70 new additional staff to help meet this growing level of demand.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Ms Porter.

MS PORTER: Minister, can you provide an update on the types of facilities in the ACT that now, and will in the future, care for mental health consumers?

MR CORBELL: I thank Ms Porter for her supplementary. It is the case that there are four key facilities that this government is investing in, is improving the capability of or is constructing for the first time to help improve care for mental health consumers. The first, of course, is the fantastic new adult mental health unit at the Canberra Hospital campus. This is a state-of-the art mental health unit operating at Canberra Hospital. It is a 40-bed mental health unit replacing the old psychiatric services unit. The level of care being provided there is outstanding. It is a difficult and challenging care environment with many complex and difficult conditions that staff need to assist consumers with, but they work very hard and are very capable, and I believe this facility truly delivers the humane and graceful setting you would expect for a facility that unfortunately has to deal with very acute and difficult episodes of mental illness, including instances where people are required to be detained because of the risk of harm to themselves and others.

There is also the mental health assessment unit at the Canberra Hospital. Right now we are doing a very significant refurbishment and expansion of the emergency department at the Canberra Hospital. This will include improvements in the mental health assessment unit as part of the emergency department. This is also critically important, because when people arrive at the ED in that acute phase they need a dignified and suitable environment. I am very pleased that we are making the investment at the emergency department at Canberra Hospital.

Finally, of course, work is underway in relation to the new secure mental health unit and the new University of Canberra public hospital, both providing services in this area as well. (*Time expired.*)

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Fitzharris.

MS FITZHARRIS: Minister, can you please provide an update on the types of services and programs ACT Health run to care for mental health consumers?

MR CORBELL: I thank Ms Fitzharris for her supplementary. It is worth highlighting a couple of key areas where we are expanding and improving our service delivery. The first is in relation to child and adolescent mental health services—new initiatives within this stream of care, particularly focused at primary school aged early mental

health; so early identification and treatment of children presenting with emerging mental illness or disorder, and consultation and in-reach into primary health services targeted at children. I think this is critically important as we focus on the wellbeing of young people, particularly as they move through stressful and difficult periods of their life, which can often lead to more complex and difficult mental illness if not addressed early.

Secondly, in relation to step-up and step-down services, we are focused again on adolescents, on young people and on adults. We have opened a five-bed adolescent step-up, step-down community-based mental health residential care facility. This is the first of its type in Australia and it is a very important investment in improving support for adolescents with mental health challenges. We are also enhancing our step-up and step-down services.

We are also working very closely with the police. The police, through the mental health community policing initiative, are focusing on how they can avoid and divert police away from having to address those all too complex and difficult issues that emerge in the policing environment when it comes to mental illness. The capacity to have on-call dedicated clinical advice and experience through the police communication centre is particularly important. Having those mental health clinicians embedded in ACT Policing operations continues to be a very innovative model that is delivering for mental health consumers. *(Time expired.)*

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Minister, can you outline the funding for and the types of mental health services that are provided by organisations in our community?

MR CORBELL: I thank Dr Bourke for his supplementary. Yes, we value very deeply the partnerships the government has with the not-for-profit and community sector because they provide equally important care. The government provides significant funding to community-based services.

It is worth highlighting the very, very important work done by Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Health Service. The work they do in their community mental health liaison is greatly valued. Belconnen Community Services provide mental health resilience training for at-risk young people and their families. Marymead's provision of a promotion, prevention and early intervention program is equally important for families at risk.

There is the OZ Help Foundation's provision of mental health education and alcohol and drug education for people working in the building industry. And we know that that is an industry that does see a significant level of mental illness but is underrepresented in terms of people reaching out and getting the care and support they need. Then there is work such as PANDSI, the post and antenatal depression support and information initiative. This is a great community-based organisation providing self-help for women who are suffering from ante or postnatal mental illness.

There are some really important community partnerships that the government values very much, and we will continue to provide funding to support these initiatives. Indeed, in 2015-16 over \$17 million was provided to community sector mental health, an increase from the \$15.9 million provided in the 2014-15 budget. That is a very strong demonstration of this government's commitment to working with community in tackling the challenges of mental health and mental illness in our city.

Housing—homelessness

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Minister, Homelessness Australia notes that homelessness in the ACT has increased by 70.6 per cent from the 2006 census to the 2011 census. The increase is much higher than other states and territories, including NSW where homelessness has increased by 20.4 per cent since 2006. FirstPoint data shows that as at the end of August 601 people were waiting to be placed by FirstPoint into homelessness accommodation. Housing ACT figures show that there are already 2,147 applications on the housing register waiting list as at 7 September 2015, 85 of whom are categorised as priority. Minister, why are Canberrans who are experiencing homelessness and who are on the priority housing waiting list waiting 253 days on average for housing?

MS BERRY: Thanks, Ms Lawder, for that question. As Ms Lawder knows, public housing in the ACT is targeted at those most in need. In fact, the housing waiting list in the ACT has been quite stable for the last 12 months—it has not gone up from what it was previously. We have often talked in this place about the support services in place for people who are on public housing waiting lists.

While people are on public housing waiting lists, Housing ACT works with these individuals to identify and respond to their specific needs and the circumstances that they identify while they are waiting for their applications to be approved as eligible. This is the fundamental part of the work FirstPoint does in the ACT in making sure those people who have applied for housing are provided with the services that best meet their needs.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why, according to FirstPoint, were only 48 people placed into homelessness accommodation in August when there were 601 people waiting for homelessness accommodation as at the end of August?

MS BERRY: Without actually being able to go into the detail of the data that Ms Lawder has referred to about those particular people who had applied for housing in the ACT, as we know, FirstPoint does a really great job in making sure that those people who have applied for housing in the ACT are receiving the support services that they need whilst they are on the application list and whilst their application is being assessed.

It is important to note—and Ms Lawder knows this; she has experience in this area—that many people who have applied for housing in the ACT have many other

significant and complex needs which go to the support services that they are being provided within the homelessness services sector in the ACT. It is important to note that, whilst people might not have been provided with public housing in the ACT, they are still being provided with support. Some of them may be in refuges—

Ms Lawder: On a point of order, Madam Speaker—

MADAM SPEAKER: On a point of order. Stop the clock.

Ms Lawder: on relevance. The question related to why, out of 601 people on the list, only 48 gained accommodation during August.

MADAM SPEAKER: The minister did touch briefly on the data. Minister, in the remaining time that you have I ask you to be mindful of standing order 118(a), which asks you to be directly relevant to the question.

MS BERRY: Madam Speaker, people who have been provided housing were assessed by the multidisciplinary panel to be most at need and that is why those people were provided with housing in the ACT.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, how will the government's public housing urban renewal program shorten the waiting time for those people already on the public housing waiting list?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Doszpot for the question. The public housing renewal program is a renewal program. It is not a program designed to increase the public housing numbers in the ACT. It is a program to replace some of our ageing public housing stock that does not meet the needs of our tenants.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, has the government communicated with people on the housing register and transfer register waiting lists that Northbourne Avenue public housing tenants will be allocated a property before them? If so, how is the government communicating this information?

MS BERRY: Thanks, Mr Doszpot, for the question. Last week Ms Lawder was provided with a fairly comprehensive briefing on the out-of-turn transfers, who are the public housing tenants who will be moved in to new homes as part of this renewal program. The government's commitment has always been that public housing tenants who are part of the renewal program will not end up homeless as a result of this renewal program. It is important to—

Ms Lawder: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: A point of order. Stop the clock, please.

Ms Lawder: The question was not so much about the Northbourne housing tenants on the out-of-turn transfer list but the existing people on the waiting list. Would you like us to repeat the question?

MADAM SPEAKER: The question was whether the housing directorate was communicating with the people on the waiting list about the Northbourne Avenue redevelopment and, if they were, how. I ask the minister to be directly relevant to the question.

MS BERRY: I think it is important when answering these questions to respond to the whole question. The question did refer to the renewal program, and it needed to be explained again that the renewal program is to renew Housing ACT's ageing stock for those Housing ACT tenants.

Mr Doszpot: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: A point of order. Stop the clock.

Mr Doszpot: Madam Speaker, there was no mention in the second supplementary about the renewal program.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am not going to take that as a point of order. It is quite clear that when you are talking about tenants in Northbourne Avenue, you are talking about the renewal program. Minister Berry.

MS BERRY: With regard to tenants in the ACT who have applied for housing, those applications are assessed and those people are provided with housing based on their need.

Transport—ride-share services

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister Assisting the Chief Minister on Transport Reform. Minister, why has the government taken so long to announce its position on ride-sharing services? Further to this, should ride-share services and taxis operate under the same rules and regulations?

MR RATTENBURY: Actually, the government has been very swift on this process. Just this year we undertook a taxi review on a very short time frame. We moved very quickly. In fact, the ACT government has been the most proactive government in Australia when it comes to dealing with the issue of ride sharing arriving in this country. Every other government in this country has just sat back and tried to put in place fines; they have not come up with any sort of regulatory regime.

The ACT government has been very proactive here and, as I have indicated publicly, as has the Chief Minister, our intention is to level the playing field between any prospective ride-share company that may seek to operate in the ACT and the taxi industry. We intend to do that in two ways. One is to remove some regulation and some cost for the taxi industry and the other is to put in place suitable regulation for

the ride-share sector so that we particularly protect the safety of consumers and also ensure that the playing field is levelled out as much as possible.

There are natural advantages to each of the players in this market. We also need to be mindful that it is not a simple apples and apples comparison. Each of the services has different factors that would be attractive to different consumers. For example, my impression from talking to people around the community is that ride share will be much more popular amongst younger people whereas older people feel less comfortable using ride share because of the app base and their sense of what it is.

The government has been very proactive here and, as we have indicated publicly, we expect to make an announcement within a couple of weeks on the final details of that package.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, has the government completed or will the government complete and publish a regulatory impact statement prior to significant change in the realm of public passenger services?

MR RATTENBURY: The government has undertaken a full review of the taxi industry. We have received public submissions from a range of stakeholders. Quite a few people have actually made public submissions, and the government will be releasing the details of that in the coming weeks. Mr Wall will see the details of that process when it is released.

Mr Wall: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, the question was simply: has the government completed and will it publish a regulatory impact statement prior to changes in this area? It is not as to whether or not a review has been completed.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am sorry, I did not hear the last bit.

Mr Wall: It is not as to whether or not a review has been completed.

MADAM SPEAKER: I think that Mr Rattenbury might have finished his answer. I do not think I could have upheld a point of order. I think that a review may or may not include a regulatory impact statement, and the minister may or may not answer that question directly with a yes or no answer. A supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Yes, a supplementary to the assistant. Will the government commit to giving existing operators time to respond to the changed regulatory environment prior to any change in the regulations or allowances?

MR RATTENBURY: The government will be releasing the full details of the package within a few weeks, but we have certainly given an indication that we expect there to be a level of transition time and the details of that will become available when the Chief Minister and I announce the full package.

Mr Coe: So it is a no?

MR RATTENBURY: That is a “You will find out in two weeks, Alistair.”

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Assistant minister, will the ride sharers be penalised if they operate before a regulatory environment has been established?

MR RATTENBURY: Mr Coe will find out the full details of the package when the government releases it in a couple of weeks.

Roads—construction

MS FITZHARRIS: My question is to the Minister for Roads and Parking. Minister, can you please update the Assembly on the significant investment the ACT government is making on road construction that Roads ACT is delivering across Canberra?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Fitzharris for her interest in roads in the ACT. There are a number of large construction projects underway at the moment as well as a number of major projects that will have public tenders and contracts let and will commence construction in the next 12 months. These include the Majura parkway. This project is 11.5 kilometres long, providing a seamless connection from the Federal Highway to the Monaro Highway via a dual carriageway with two lanes in each direction. The bridgeworks are progressing, with the completion of the whole project by the end of June 2016. The total cost of this project is \$288 million and is co-funded by the commonwealth government.

The Constitution Avenue upgrade, worth \$42 million, will provide a vibrant public open space and a sustainable, integrated transport network through the city. The upgrade will deliver infrastructure improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users with a dedicated bus lane in each direction, bus priority at intersections, landscaped verges, lighting and stormwater improvements.

Upcoming major works include the Barton Highway-Gundaroo Drive-William Slim Drive roundabout upgrade. This project improves safety and traffic flow. Traffic signals will be introduced to control the traffic according to the time of day. An additional lane will be added to all four approaches to the roundabout to better manage traffic and improve public transport access through the intersection. Indeed, it will reduce times. These improvements will be funded as part of the federal government’s roads to recovery program and have a particularly positive impact for residents of Crace trying to access the Barton Highway during the morning peak periods.

The Gungahlin Drive augmentation will widen to three lanes a 1.6-kilometre section of Gungahlin Drive from north of Sandford Street to the Barton Highway on the southbound side. An additional signalised left turn lane will also be provided from Well Station Drive into Gungahlin Drive. The Ashley Drive duplication stage 2 project will duplicate Ashley Drive in Canberra’s south, providing an important link

between Ellerston Avenue in Isabella Plains to Erindale Drive. The duplication will aid in the easing of increased traffic demands in the area, particularly by commuters in peak periods. This work follows on from the previous duplication during stage 1 of the wider program. Of course, there is additional scope of works in that work too.

The Gundaroo Drive duplication stage 1 ties in well with the signalisation of the Barton Highway roundabout which I mentioned earlier. This project has been given \$31.1 million over two years in the 2015-16 budget to duplicate the one-kilometre section of Gundaroo Drive from Gungahlin Drive to the intersection of Mirrabai Drive and Anthony Rolfe Avenue. In conjunction, the Horse Park Drive and Anthony Rolfe Avenue intersection will also be upgraded to improve safety and traffic flow and provide better access to the nearby suburbs including Harrison, Gungahlin and the new suburb of Throsby.

The Wentworth Avenue pavement rehabilitation stage 2 includes an upgrade to the existing road pavement on Wentworth Avenue westbound carriageway between Eyre Street and Telopea Park east. These improvements will be funded as part of the federal government's roads to recovery program.

The Pialligo Avenue and Oaks Estate Road intersection upgrade includes installation of traffic signal control at the existing intersection of Oaks Estate Road and Pialligo Avenue. These improvements will be funded as part of the federal government's black spot road safety program.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Ms Fitzharris.

MS FITZHARRIS: Minister, how does Roads ACT respond to community requests for maintenance issues?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Fitzharris, could you read your initial question, please?

MS FITZHARRIS: Can you please update the Assembly on the significant investment the ACT government is making on roads construction that Roads ACT is delivering across Canberra.

MADAM SPEAKER: Okay, fine. The Minister for Roads and Parking, Mr Gentleman.

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Fitzharris for her supplementary question. The community can contact Roads ACT through Access Canberra on 132281 or via the fix my street online service accessible through the www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet link. More than 250 requests are received on a weekly basis, and these are supplemented by direct approaches to Roads ACT by letter, emails and telephone inquiries. Ministerial correspondence often includes requests for maintenance as well.

These inquiries are recorded with the directorate's integrated asset management system, or IAMS, which alerts Roads ACT staff of the requirements for any specific follow up. Roads ACT inspectors then investigate the inquiry, assess and prioritise

any remedial maintenance and/or arrange for damaged infrastructure to be replaced through the various annual work programs that are in place.

The inspection information and actions to address the requests are noted against the inquiry within IAMS. The inquirer is notified if there is a requirement to clarify the inquiry or to inform them of the actions to be undertaken to resolve the maintenance issue and when the work will commence.

For any urgent works that pose a public safety risk, the site is made safe and measures are put in place to advise and detour the public away from the site. There are also requests for maintenance that are assessed as necessary that do not pose any safety considerations. These works are included in the various work programs and publicly tendered to ensure value for money is being achieved.

It can typically take between six to 12 months for replacement requests to be addressed on the ground as this is influenced by available funding and the need to develop packages of works that can be tendered—so a budgetary issue. Each year Roads ACT spend about \$3 million on footpath and cyclepath repairs, \$1 million on traffic light repairs and \$5 million on repairs and maintenance to street lights (*Time expired.*)

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Porter.

MS PORTER: Minister, how can the community keep engaged and informed about works underway or planned in the community?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Porter for her supplementary question. The community are kept informed on proposed roadworks or the staging or changing in traffic arrangements in a number of ways, which include through information contained on the TAMS website on roadworks where information is updated on a regular basis; through TAMS or ACT government staff attendance at various community council meetings in order to outline proposed construction programs or various projects under consideration; through the use of variable message signs on the site of proposed roadworks—these signs advise passing motorists of dates of commencement, changed traffic arrangements or other factors that may be associated with some particular projects such as bridge construction or pavement widening—and finally through newsletters which TAMS and the ACT government send out to residents and businesses advising of upcoming works.

Given the number of construction projects about to commence in Gungahlin in particular in the next few months, a newsletter has been prepared for residents informing of the works in that area, the impacts during the construction period and how information on specific traffic arrangements can be obtained.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Minister, how do Roads ACT deal with traffic issues across the ACT?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Dr Bourke for his supplementary. To report traffic issues, the community can contact Roads ACT through Access Canberra on 132281 or via the fix my street online service. I do like to say that, in regard to fix my street, I know there was some discussion recently in the Assembly about reporting back to those wishing to lodge on fix my street. I can advise that there is a button on the fix my street website. When you log your engagement, if you click on that you will get a response back from fix my street. But, if you do not click on requesting a response, you will not get the response back; it is an interactive program.

Traffic issues are recorded within the directorate's integrated asset management system and inquiries can relate to a number of issues including parking, traffic volumes, traffic speeds and crashes. Of course, the person who has made the inquiry is advised of the results of the investigation as well as any follow-up actions that are planned. Many inquiries result in investigation only without the need for remedial works. Typical actions may involve follow-up studies or surveys covering local traffic management, road safety, traffic speed and volume, as well as pedestrian and cyclist activities.

On occasions it will be necessary to include bids in future budgets to investigate major traffic management improvements, the options that may be appropriate, as well as the cost to construct these options. Low-cost safety or traffic management improvements resulting from investigations or studies are progressed as part of the minor new works program and will typically be implemented in three to six months after the initial request has been received, depending on the number of projects included in the program at the particular time.

ACTION bus service—timetable

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services and also the assistant minister. It was announced last week that ACTION would change its operating timetable in October, the second such change to network 14 since it was introduced. Amongst the changes, new peak hour services were introduced for Crace, Florey and Latham residents to enable them to travel to and from the city without transfer. However, it was further announced today that this new timetable will not begin as scheduled because ACTION does not have enough buses to run the timetable. Minister, how can such a basic error occur?

MR RATTENBURY: Unfortunately, there has been a mistake in the preparation of the new timetable. That is something that all the staff who were involved and myself, on behalf of the directorate, disappointed by. It is a mistake that we wish had not happened, but it has. The reason is that, through a ruling of Fair Work Australia, ACTION has been required to add an additional 10-minute break for drivers. This led to the revamping of the timetable which was due to come into effect on 12 October. Because this new requirement has not been there before, when the timetable was run through the network planning software it did not adequately account for this. Ultimately, it proved to be a problem where the timetable that was developed did not match the number of buses that are available in the ACTION fleet.

This is obviously a very regrettable error, but the good news is twofold. One is that this has been identified before the new network started. What it means is that right now there is a network that is running very well. ACTION has pushed the on-time running up to 79 per cent, and that network will continue. That means that from a customer point of view, the bus that they are catching today will still be there and people can keep catching the bus as they currently are.

Mr Coe interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, Mr Coe!

MR RATTENBURY: Mr Coe continues with his penchant for rudeness in the chamber.

Mr Coe interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, Mr Coe!

MR RATTENBURY: The other part of it, the reason we have taken this decision, is that if we had tried to proceed with the new network—

Mr Doszpot: Why did you sack the general manager?

MR RATTENBURY: If we had tried to proceed with the new network—you might want to listen to this, Mr Doszpot—the likely outcome would have been that ACTION would have failed on 50 services a day; the bus would not have shown up. We have made this decision because we know that the customers want their bus service to be reliable. They want to know that the bus is going to turn up. Under the proposed network, that could not be guaranteed.

So I think the people of Canberra will appreciate that, as much as there has been an error here, the government has been forthright about that. We have come out up-front and said it. What they know is that, with the retention of the current timetable—where the on-time running has been improved, the connection of services has been improved, the spacing of services has been improved—the current network that is working quite well for a lot of people will continue in place. That is the decision we have taken because that is the most responsible decision to take.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Minister, when will the new weekday timetable begin which is meant to better serve drivers and also introduce new services for Crace, Florey and Latham?

MR RATTENBURY: Thank you, Mr Coe for drawing that distinction. It is quite important to note that the new weekend timetable will take effect from 17 October as planned. In terms of a new weekday timetable, I expect that to be some time next year. It is quite a lengthy process to design the entire network from the ground up.

Mr Coe interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, Mr Coe!

MR RATTENBURY: One of the consequences of this is that the ACT government—ACTION—has a ruling from Fair Work Australia to bring in this 10-minute rule. We are now working with the Transport Workers Union to negotiate with drivers to agree on a process for ensuring that that requirement is fulfilled in a way that is agreeable and practical between both drivers and ACTION. This is obviously not ideal but, as I have said, there has been a mistake in the timetabling process.

I will be quite up-front: everybody in ACTION is disappointed about this because they have been working very hard to improve the bus service in this town. As I have said, the on-time running has been pushed up from 68 to 79 per cent in the last two years. They have made significant progress in improving the headway of buses—that is, the spacing of the timetable so that services do not come bunched together but come spread out more evenly. Again, the customers tell us that that is what they want. They have worked very hard to improve the connections and minimise the connection time at interchanges.

I know that the staff in ACTION where this mistake has been made are deeply disappointed. I am, too. It is embarrassing and we wish it had never happened. But it has happened. We have been up-front about it and the staff are now getting on with making sure we get this fixed in a way so this does not happen again.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, when were you first given a copy of this now-bungled timetable?

MR RATTENBURY: The preparation of this timetable has been underway for some time. I made a public announcement about 10 days ago that the new timetable was coming into effect and the timetable went online that day. It was publicly available at that point in time. I have known this timetable was coming, if this is what Mr Wall is trying to get at, for some time. It has been in preparation for some time. I do not think there is a definitive date on which I was handed a final timetable as such, but it went online for all of the public to see about a week and a half ago.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, what recourse do drivers have under their enterprise bargaining agreement given that the existing timetable does not allow for sufficient breaks?

MR RATTENBURY: That is a matter ACTION is discussing at the moment with the Transport Workers Union on behalf of the drivers. We are seeking to work collaboratively because, at the end of the day, everybody involved in ACTION—the drivers, the network planners and myself as the minister—wants to make sure the bus

network runs as well as possible and that customers get the best possible service. We will work collaboratively with the Transport Workers Union. Ultimately we will need to go back to Fair Work Australia and indicate to them what we have been able to agree to.

Community services—roundtable

DR BOURKE: My question is to the Minister for Community Services. Minister, two weeks ago cabinet ministers met with a number of community members and organisations in the Woden area, including through a community services roundtable at the Woden Library. What were some of the key issues raised in these discussions?

MS BERRY: I thank Dr Bourke for the question. I would also like to take the chance to thank the local residents and community leaders who responded so positively through the events that the government held in Woden. As I said in question time yesterday, all our communities have great local champions, and Woden, Weston Creek and the Molonglo valley are no exception.

Through the community services roundtable the cabinet took a chance to discuss a number of local priorities such as local community facilities, support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and specific issues affecting seniors. On the issue of seniors, it was great to get positive feedback on the government's flexible bus service from the Council on the Ageing. Designed specifically for residents such as older people and those with limited mobility, this free bus service operates on a basic timetable, picking up residents from home and taking them to local community facilities such as shopping centres and hospitals. The service is more than one simple trip from one point to another; it is a shared community service which offers a practical, inclusive option for people to get out to their appointments and their other commitments.

The discussion also included some very sobering comments around the challenges we face in providing culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. It is fair to say that there is still much more work to be done in shaping our community services system in a way in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families feel confident and trusting of the services available. Yet the need is clearly there—for example, in the fact that around 25 per cent of children in out of home care in the ACT identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

The Aboriginal-run services at Winnunga Nimmityjah and Gugal Gulwan are often the first port of call for families seeking assistance and while this proves their great value in our community it can at the same time create pressure on those services. Under our agreement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, through a step up for kids and better services, we will continue to push to improve this situation, which is only possible by having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the table and in the field, both in the design and in the delivery of our service system.

Underscoring many of these issues is also the need to ensure adequate community facilities for those of all ages and backgrounds. Woden Library itself, where our

meetings were held, is a great meeting place and a resource for local people. Minister Burch also spoke of the use of ACT school facilities for community use, which presents opportunities in all parts of Canberra. The government and the cabinet continue to discuss options for the best ways to support a strong and diverse Woden community in Woden. I again thank those who participated in the community services roundtable.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Minister, how did community leaders respond to this initiative?

MS BERRY: The community responded positively to the opportunity to talk directly with ACT government ministers. They were represented through a diverse range of services, including the Smith Family, Woden Community Service, the Capital Health Centre of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Council on the Ageing, Winnunga Nimmityjah and the local arm of the Australian Red Cross. These are busy people, taking the time to come and connect directly with the government in their own backyard to make sure we are working together as much as possible on the local priorities.

I spoke yesterday in question time about the benefits we are seeing through the local service network in west Belconnen and the fact that these networks often exist informally in different parts of the city. While some pressures are common from place to place, each area has distinct local qualities. One of the great strengths of the better services policy framework is its ability to respond to these local differences.

I note also the willingness of younger people to take the change to speak with me and other ministers and government staff, including through the pop-up stall and the one-on-one meetings which were held. Finally, I especially acknowledge the kids, parents and carers who joined with me at story time in the Woden Library—a simple but vital community institution which gets our kids and parents socialising together from such a young age.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Porter.

MS PORTER: Minister, what are some of the pressures being felt in the Woden area?

MS BERRY: We know that Woden is changing. There are big changes happening both in the town centre and in the surrounding suburbs. Some of this change is really exciting, not least the development of the Molonglo valley and projects such as the new school in Coombs.

Community members spoke about these changes, their aspirations and some of their concerns. At the top of the concerns is that of retailers and community service providers about the impacts of large numbers of commonwealth public servants moving out of office space in Woden. It is a reminder of a distinct local economy hit particularly hard by the scale and the speed of the job cuts.

The ACT government continue to do what we can to offset some of these impacts as we work to help Woden town centre maintain its standing as a major employment and shopping district in the ACT. Our plan to improve the bus interchange and increase the retail space will make an important contribution to this goal.

New development and urban renewal rolling out through the Molonglo valley, as I mentioned, and through other major investments such as public housing renewal, upgrades to Cooleman Court and \$6.6 million for a FIFA-accredited football facility at Melrose high will also make important contributions to stimulate local activity and ensure that the area remains an attractive place to live and visit.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Fitzharris.

MS FITZHARRIS: Minister, how is the government responding to different community needs through the Community Services portfolio?

MADAM SPEAKER: I think that that question has to be relevant to Woden. It cannot be a general question. I will give you an opportunity to reword the question.

Dr Bourke: On the point of order, Madam Speaker—

MADAM SPEAKER: I did not make a point of order; I made a ruling. I have given the member—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: No, I will not take a point of order. I have given the member, as I can under the standing orders, the opportunity to reword the question to make it in order.

MS FITZHARRIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Minister, how is the government responding to different community needs in Woden through the Community Services portfolio?

MADAM SPEAKER: That is perfectly fine. The Minister for Community Services, Minister Berry.

MS BERRY: I can assure members that the government's community services framework in Woden and across the city is responding to the diverse needs of local people. There are often whole-of-government and whole-of-community issues at play and our response includes many overlapping initiatives shared amongst ministers. Our primary goals lie in our commitment to social inclusion and equality. We believe in supporting everyone to feel included and valued, to live happy and healthy lives and to contribute to the community.

I have mentioned before our work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, an ongoing and central priority of this government. The focus we have agreed with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body on seeking to keep

families together runs in parallel with the central aims of the government's \$16 million investment in a step up for our kids.

At the other end of the spectrum, Minister Gentleman is progressing a broad range of initiatives for seniors in continuing to provide friendly and appealing suburbs as people age. As the June budget made clear, the ACT government is working and investing in every community across the territory and the input of locals in Woden, Weston Creek and the Molonglo valley will help guide the contribution of this work now and into the future.

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

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Report 14—government response

MR BARR (Molonglo—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Urban Renewal and Minister for Tourism and Events) (3.25): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 14—*Review of Auditor-General's Reports: No. 7 of 2014: 2013-14 Financial Audits*; and No. 7 of 2013: 2012-13 Financial Audits—Government response.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

I present the government's response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts *Review of Auditor-General's reports: No. 7 of 2014: 2013-14 financial audits*; and *No. 7 of 2013: 2012-13 financial audits*. The government's response agrees to one of the six recommendations in the report, agrees in principle to three, and notes two. Details of the government's position on each of these recommendations are contained within the response I have tabled this afternoon, and I commend the paper to the Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

Papers

Mr Barr presented the following papers:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 16B—Instruments authorising the rollover of undisbursed appropriation, including statements of reasons—

Public Trustee for the ACT, dated 25 August 2015.

Office of the Legislative Assembly, dated 31 August 2015.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Paper and statement by minister

MR BARR (Molonglo—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Urban Renewal and Minister for Tourism and Events): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 11—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2013-14*—Recommendation 10—Update on aviation partnership and direct services for international flights—Tabling statement.

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

Leave granted.

MR BARR: Today I am providing an update on the ACT government's continued work with key international stakeholders relating to the establishment of aviation partnerships and direct services for international flights. Recommendation 10 of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts report No. 11 on annual and financial reports 2013-2014 recommended that the government update the Assembly on work taking place with key international stakeholders, in particular in New Zealand and Singapore, regarding the establishment of an aviation partnership and direct services for international flights. The government response tabled on 4 August 2015 agreed that a statement on this matter be presented to the Assembly.

Canberra Airport has undergone the biggest transformation in its history, with \$480 million invested in the construction of a new terminal and supporting infrastructure. The government, in close partnership with the Canberra Airport, is leading efforts to attract direct services from Asia and from across the Tasman. Direct international flights would provide significant benefits to the territory and help secure its long-term future as a business and tourism hub and would contribute significantly towards achieving the ACT's tourism 2020 target of increasing overnight visitor expenditure to \$2.5 billion by 2020.

Research commissioned by VisitCanberra and undertaken by Independent Economics in December 2013 shows that daily services between Singapore and Canberra will generate \$88 million per annum in gross regional product for the Canberra catchment and an additional 690 full-time jobs. Similarly, daily services between Auckland and Canberra will generate \$51 million per annum in gross regional product for the Canberra catchment and an additional 395 full-time jobs. The economic modelling used in this report, the independent CGE model, is highly regarded, with the Australian Treasury a licensed user.

Business cases have been developed and presented to airlines, highlighting the Canberra and greater region opportunity that Asia and New Zealand presents for potential carriers. Ongoing dialogue and regular advocacy are being fostered with key stakeholders including airports, airlines and tourism bodies to reinforce the ACT government's commitment to establishing aviation partnerships and direct services. A key part of the business case is showing the opportunity Canberra presents from both

an outbound and inbound perspective. The Canberra Airport catchment is home to more than 900,000 people, providing a significant outbound market for new international services.

The government has committed \$1.6 million over two years to the cooperative airline stimulus fund in 2015-16. The government has proactively pursued the opportunity to establish direct services from Singapore supported by a number of meetings with key stakeholders in the past two years. In my capacity as Minister for Tourism and Events I visited Singapore in April 2013 and held meetings with executives of the Singapore Tourism Board and Changi Airport, as well as senior Singapore government representatives. The Managing Director of Canberra Airport, Mr Stephen Byron, and ACT government officials travelled to Singapore in late August 2013 to present the Singapore business case and progress discussions on direct services between Canberra and Singapore.

Further work and engagement on facilitating direct services from Singapore occurred as part of a trade mission to Singapore from 16 to 21 June 2014. I recently visited Singapore and met with the Singapore Airlines Chairman, Mr Stephen Lee, to press our case. I was accompanied by Mr Terry Snow and Mr Stephen Byron, and we held discussions on trade, business and investment opportunities between Canberra and Singapore.

Efforts to pursue trans-Tasman services were progressed as part of my visit to New Zealand on 26 and 27 February this year. This included meetings with Air New Zealand, the Auckland Airport and senior representatives of the New Zealand government.

The government, through VisitCanberra, has engaged the services of an aviation expert to update business cases for direct services between Canberra and New Zealand and Canberra and Singapore. The revised business cases incorporate additional consumer research undertaken in the catchment area and continue to demonstrate the opportunity for Canberra to host direct international flights.

The revised business cases for services to New Zealand and beyond destinations, including the United States and the Pacific Islands, has been finalised and will be presented to aviation and airport stakeholders in New Zealand this month.

In summary, the establishment of direct international services is a high priority for the government, the Canberra business sector, the Canberra Airport and, indeed, for the wider Canberra community. Experience in other gateway ports with similar size and catchments has shown it can take several years of dedicated and coordinated effort to attract sustainable international services.

The coordinated efforts of the ACT government, the Canberra Airport Group and Canberra business and community leaders have greatly elevated our city's prospects. This ongoing cooperative approach is a key goal for the government as we look at tangible ways to diversify our city's economic base and improve the standard of living for all Canberrans.

Auditor-General's report No 5 of 2015—government response Paper and statement by minister

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Health, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Capital Metro): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Auditor-General's Act, pursuant to subsection 17(6)—Auditor-General's Report
No. 5/2015—Integrity of Data in the Health Directorate—Government response.

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

Leave granted.

MR CORBELL: The government welcomes the audit report on the integrity of data in the Health Directorate. Of the 18 recommendations in the report the government agrees with 15 and agrees in principle to the remaining three. The three recommendations that have been agreed in principle are related to audit logs for the emergency department system, the establishment of a single, non-admitted data system, and a new process for some records for which medical coding is completed prior to discharge summaries being received for a patient.

The government is serious about emergency department data integrity. However, the new audit features within the upgraded system provide for considerably improved data integrity. The main concern with turning on the audit log features of the system is that this could slow it down and interfere with the operation of the emergency department. Relevant officers will work with the director of information integrity to establish the adequacy of the audit features in the current system and suggest other alternatives if the current suite is not sufficient.

The development of a single, non-admitted data system would be preferable. However ACT Health has agreements with a number of vendors for different systems. As such, the development of a single system will be managed over time based on a cost-benefit approach as current systems approach the end of their licences. ACT Health is also exploring the additional resource requirements in relation to the final recommendation that has been agreed in principle as well as looking at other ways of addressing the matter.

The recommendation noted that a system should be put in place to ensure that medical records coded before a discharge summary is completed should be flagged and any variation required to the medical record followed up with the appropriate doctor. While this is not a major problem, ACT Health continues to work to improve the timeliness of discharge summaries that would preclude the necessity to review medical records. The report notes that the processes and practices for the bulk of ACT public hospital services meet national requirements. However the report noted that additional work is required in relation to non-admitted data quality processes as well as general data quality assurance activities. ACT Health has already implemented a number of the recommendations, and work is well underway in relation the remainder.

ACT Health has already implemented a new process that provides for an analytical review of data that is to be submitted to national bodies for funding and other purposes. A new validation process has been developed for non-admitted data that provides for easier assessment of data quality and integrity. The IM strategy has been amended, as noted in the audit report, to improve training requirements for data entry staff and to provide for documented responsibilities in relation to data integrity. A new costing framework has been developed that better outlines processes and responsibilities in relation to the annual hospital costing processes.

The remaining recommendations are being actioned and will be completed by the end of this year. The government is committed to improving the quality of the data it provides to national bodies, which we also use to track the performance of the hospital system. At the national level, the development of robust and consistent data sets for non-admitted patient care is less mature than those for admitted patient and emergency department care.

The expansion of the non-admitted data collection to include outpatient and community-based services has significantly increased the scope of data that needs to be collected. There are also considerable variations in the provision of these services nationally. That said, the Health Directorate will implement improved data standards and better data quality assurance processes that increase the confidence in the information within the Health Directorate. Health is accelerating the type and nature of information available within the directorate, and this will include new systems and processes that support improved data quality through improved liaison with business areas and better feedback loops in relation to data quality activities.

The new data credentialing process developed over the last 12 months will be implemented by the end of this year. This will also provide additional oversight in terms of the level of quality assurance and robust information management processes that are being employed within the Health Directorate to maximise its data quality. These processes include improved documentation on data quality processes that include links between data, metadata and data validation processes that are more transparent with the longer aim of publishing our data quality and validations publicly; new data quality systems that provide for better linkages between areas responsible for data submissions and staff who enter data as a means of closing the loop in terms of understanding the value of the data collected within the Health Directorate; increased oversight of established data quality processes by the director of information integrity together with the development of a data quality scoring system for ACT Health data; and improved performance indicators for data quality processes that provide the basis for continual improvement in this area.

The audit report notes the efforts already put in place by ACT Health over the last few years and the work now being implemented within the directorate together with the additional information provided in the audit findings and recommendations will support greater information integrity into the future. I commend the paper to the Assembly.

Schools in established suburbs

Discussion of matter of public importance

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Dr Bourke): The Speaker has received letters from Dr Bourke, Mr Doszpot, Ms Fitzharris, Mr Hanson, Ms Lawder, Ms Porter and Mr Wall proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly for discussion. In accordance with standing order 79, the Speaker has determined that the matter proposed by Ms Fitzharris be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The importance of modernising and strengthening schools in Canberra's established suburbs.

MS FITZHARRIS (Molonglo) (3.46): I am very pleased to speak again today on the importance of education in Canberra and, in particular, modernising and strengthening schools in our established suburbs. Recently I have been visiting schools in my region and have been impressed by the very high standard of both public and independent schools in Gungahlin. So far I have met with around six principals at their schools and will get around with the others within the next month.

Amaroo School has 180 staff and 1,700 students from pre-school to year 10. It has a large, modern campus segmented by year groupings. The acting principal described the range of courses available to its students, including a successful gifted and talented program. I also visited Gold Creek School which, under the guidance of its new principal, has turned its reputation around and is now attracting students from throughout Gungahlin suburbs. They are currently finalising their application to gain International Baccalaureate status. While I have had a different experience in each school I have not failed to be impressed by the motivation of all the staff and the quality of the facilities.

Two years ago Canberra celebrated its centenary. In contrast, I live in and represent Gungahlin where suburbs have only been developed since the 1990s, and land parcels will continue to be released for both residential and commercial development for some time. As our city grows schools in established areas of Canberra need to continually be upgraded to best meet the needs of students, staff and parents and provide the best learning environments. With 75 per cent of public schools having been constructed over 30 years ago, more work is to be done.

ACT Labor has worked to enhance school environments by committing \$70 million to the school infrastructure for the future program announced in 2013. This funding has ensured that public school students can continue to learn in the very best school environments. Our high quality education system must keep pace with our population growth and continue to lead the nation in curriculum development, student performance, high quality staff, infrastructure and facilities, and family and parental engagement. In this term of government alone ACT Labor have made significant investments in infrastructure, teacher quality and innovative teaching programs across our 86 public schools.

I will start with some commentary on our investment and infrastructure. In May this year Minister Burch announced an additional \$18.4 million for major refurbishments and new facilities for Belconnen High. The investment was in addition to the \$2.2 million already allocated in previous budgets to prepare the site and undertake initial upgrades. Stage 2 of the Belconnen High School modernisation project will progress over the next three years. Detailed design work commenced immediately with construction and refurbishment work expected to commence in February 2016 to be completed by late 2017.

In addition to this major upgrade this year the ACT government also committed \$30.3 million for the north Gungahlin primary to year 6 school scheduled to open in January 2019; \$3.6 million to replace the roofs at Melrose High School and Mt Stromlo High School; \$6.5 million for a specialist learning centre at Caroline Chisholm School to provide science, technology, engineering and maths programs to students across Tuggeranong; and \$1 million for feasibility studies for a years 7 to 10 high school in north Gungahlin and a primary to year 10 school in Molonglo. The budget will also provide a new CIT campus at Tuggeranong and upgrades to the Bruce and Reid campuses to allow for courses to be delivered where they are needed.

But our investment does not stop at school buildings. In the 2014-15 ACT budget \$9.2 million was allocated through the sustaining smart schools initiative to upgrade and maintain our schools' information and communication technology infrastructure, including the expansion of wireless access points in schools to increase access to digital learning as part of the digital Canberra initiative. In 2015-16, \$37.8 million has been committed to replace and upgrade computers and expand wireless capability across ACT primary schools whilst maintaining critical, centrally provided ICT support services.

The ACT government has also a bold target to achieve carbon neutrality in public schools by 2017. The ACTSmart schools program, an excellent program run by passionate people, helps schools support the government with this target. The program provides free support, practical tips, tools and resources to help all schools more sustainably manage their energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Every public school built before 2011 has had a comprehensive energy audit and received an audit report and a free energy best practice guide. The guide provides step by step instructions and recommendations to help schools reduce energy consumption, conduct walk-through energy audits and develop an energy action plan. Schools that implement audit recommendations, adopt sustainable energy management strategies, demonstrate reductions in energy consumption and prove they are committed to saving energy can be accredited under the ACTSmart schools program.

Our government has also focused on the quality of the overwhelmingly wonderful teachers in our schools. The ACT Teacher Quality Institute—the TQI—was established by the ACT government in 2010 to raise the standing of the teaching profession across all sectors in the ACT and to strengthen the quality and sustainability of the teaching workforce. The purpose of the institute is to uphold the standards of the teaching profession in the ACT; provide quality assurance processes to support the delivery of education in schools in a professional and competent way

by approved teachers; recognise, develop and promote professional learning; and maintain community confidence in the teaching profession. TQI is responsible for the registration of teachers, developing and applying codes of professional practice for teachers and accrediting education courses.

In this year's budget the government also provided additional resources to support increased numbers of students with a disability to access and participate in education. This will result in new and innovative programs so that students with learning disabilities have the best opportunity to learn. A \$3.9 million investment will see students with a disability be provided extra resources to increase participation in education and for transport of students with disability to ACT public schools.

Learning a language is another core component of the ACT curriculum framework delivered across our public school sector. It enables students to extend their thinking and reasoning skills and apply these in other areas of learning and in processing knowledge. There is a comprehensive program of language education throughout the ACT, with options for students in every region of the city. Various schools in the ACT provide the opportunity to learn French, Italian, German, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Hindi. Learning a language has never been more important than it is today in our increasingly mobile and globalised world.

The gifted and talented students policy 2014 reflects the ACT government's continued interest in pursuing the very best provisions to ensure the very best for our gifted and talented students. The aim of the policy is to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive developmentally appropriate programs regardless of their socioeconomic or cultural background, based on their level of giftedness and those other factors which are individual to each student. Once a student has been identified as gifted, schools can use appropriate educational interventions and strategies to cater for them.

Developmentally appropriate programs for gifted and talented students include a combination of provisions to allow students access to meaningful learning opportunities, such as a differentiated curriculum incorporating advanced learning through enrichment experiences; counselling interventions; acceleration options and grouping. These provisions are dependent on each other and are strongly supported by research as central to increasing learning outcomes for gifted individuals.

Parents play a critical role in their child's learning. When families and schools work together the outcomes for children are better. Research shows the benefits of parental engagement in education include improved academic outcomes and children being more motivated to do well, and improved behaviour and greater confidence. In February Minister Burch led the country in launching a new publication, *Progressing parental engagement*, with handy fact sheets to help families and schools to better understand what parental engagement is, why it matters, how it works and how it is best achieved. The minister urged school boards and parent associations to use this document to generate conversation about parental engagement and what it looks like in their schools. I congratulate the minister for her national leadership in this area.

Forward planning of public schools is critical in order to respond to land release and urban infill programs. The Education and Training Directorate works with the Environment and Planning Directorate and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate to ensure availability of suitable land for new schools across the city. The directorate undertakes student enrolment projection modelling using information from land release data, sales data, birth data, occupation dwelling forecasts, school census and capacities data. Planning for a new or expanded public school requires approximately five years from evidence of the need for a new school to open. The directorate is assessing a number of potential new school sites, the majority in Gungahlin and Molonglo. They include Taylor, Denman Prospect, Eastlake, Kenny and Riverview.

A number of areas in the ACT are subject to urban infill, placing demand on existing public school infrastructure. Evidence of school enrolment pressure is analysed to determine likely trends and solutions. Those solutions explored include reducing out of area enrolments, adjusting the priority placement area boundary, planning for a temporary capacity increase, planning for medium-term capacity increase, planning for a permanent capacity increase, and changing the structure of the school.

In addition to the above analysis, the directorate has commenced a master planning process to capture local and regional information about education, training and childcare services. This process will help in future asset management and service delivery as well as inform decision-making on the effective and efficient use of public assets. Our schools are community hubs, and we need to make sure our planning systems and community attitudes are able to maintain the diversity and affordability of houses in our suburbs to ensure that schools remain viable community hubs.

In conclusion, schools are important to all our suburbs, which is why our established suburbs must continue to diversify and have the ability to provide housing for families of all ages. This is a topic of much thought for this government—how we make sure we enable our new suburbs to thrive and our established suburbs to grow and adapt over time so that schools can remain an essential part of our suburban mix. One thing is clear: this Labor government will always take the education of our children seriously, in particular, making the education of all children—no matter their background and no matter what part of the city they live in—as our number one priority.

MR DOSZPOT (Molonglo) (3.57): I thank Ms Fitzharris for bringing on this subject for debate today because it indicates that at least someone on the Labor benches understands we have a clear two-speed school category here in the ACT. I have to say that I see some irony in Ms Fitzharris bringing on this MPI. Ms Fitzharris identifies herself closely with Gungahlin, which has Canberra's most modern, most advanced, most resourced school of all the ACT's schools and colleges. I am pleased Ms Fitzharris is asking the Assembly to recognise the importance of modernising and strengthening schools in Canberra's older suburbs. We on this side know only too well how schools in older and more established suburbs have been sacrificed in order to divert funds to other projects.

We also know only too well the shining example that a former education minister, now our Chief Minister, set when he became education minister. On coming to the portfolio he immediately announced the closure of 23 schools. I guess that was one way of ensuring schools avoided the need for modernisation and strengthening. However, aside from the trauma the closures caused for ACT families, there was an equal number of difficulties for the schools that had to take the students from those closed schools. I do not think we have yet recovered from that blunder.

One only has to refer to an article in the *Canberra Times* this time last year that indicated that almost a quarter of Canberra's public schools would be overcrowded in three years—it is now two years—and that 10 schools were already over capacity. The schools near or at capacity identified last year included North Ainslie, Garran, Ngunnawal, Kaleen and Aranda primary schools and Lyneham High School. Of course, all these claims were denied. In response to the research done by the *Canberra Times*, the education directorate said there was nothing to worry about and they had plans to manage such pressures, including demountables, transportables, repurposing spaces—we know how they do that in some schools—and re-jigging and reducing priority enrolment area boundaries. Eventually, however, that strategy of shifting boundaries and putting in quick fixes has to catch up with you, and I suspect we are nearing that reality.

Earlier this year we heard the story of a young Gungahlin mother who was concerned that her children would not be able to find places in the local primary school. There is no doubt growth rates in Gungahlin—around a 40 per cent increase in local school enrolments—are significant. If we are having problems in newer areas, what hope is there for schools in older suburbs? Again, it highlights the absolute folly of closing 23 schools some years ago.

We have some very old schools and, as with all old buildings, upgrades and maintenance issues are costly items. For some time now, I have been pressing the education minister on her 2012 election promise to inject new moneys into ageing infrastructure. While the minister claims increased moneys are going into schools, the reality is that it is not the additional funds promised widely in the last election.

In a debate earlier this year on ageing infrastructure, I highlighted a number of issues: our ageing asset stock; the ever-growing need for upgraded information and community technology infrastructure; the ongoing issues of car parking and traffic management; and the increased need and demand for security systems by way of fencing or closed-circuit TV and other preventative and surveillance measures to reduce vandalism.

One constant issue is whether we have adequate heating and cooling throughout all our schools. In 2014 the Australian Education Union requested the education directorate to conduct an audit of all ACT classrooms. The directorate's own audit showed 73 of our schools lacked comprehensive cooling systems and 11 of our schools did not have cooling in their libraries. Admittedly, work has been done since then to reduce the number of affected schools, but I would be interested to know, if an audit was taken this week, what the new figures would be.

I know parents and teachers alike remain concerned about whether there are adequate cooling systems—and by “adequate”, I do not regard ceiling fans in classrooms or rotating classrooms particularly appropriate or acceptable solutions, as were offered by the minister in an earlier debate. If weather forecasters are to be believed, we face higher than average temperatures this summer. It will be interesting to see whether classes will need to be suspended.

We also continue to see an unprecedented amount of equipment failures in schools. In the last two years we have had an electrical fault that put a teacher in hospital; schools had to be evacuated while emergency services dealt with the problem; this year we have had gas leaks at Hawker Primary School; and Belconnen high seems to be always battling equipment failures. Is it any wonder that a \$28 million upgrade was identified before the 2012 election as essential for that school?

We have had the debate and the claims and counterclaims about whether a reduction in funding for the upgrade and refurbishment means a reduction in the deliverables. I note a local parent of a student attending Belconnen high—who coincidentally is seeking preselection for ACT Labor and has worked in Minister Burch’s office—is on record as expressing disappointment at the cut. She obviously believes it is not simply a re-costing of the original plan but a reduction in what was promised. The proof will be in the execution. I guess pupils or teachers at the school who have heard these promises for years that the upgrade would be finished by now will just be pleased to get something started. Lucky for Belconnen High the election is next year or the start would have been delayed still further, I suspect.

Before I close, I put in my usual counterclaim to the minister who, any time I as shadow education minister dare to draw attention to school needs, suggests I am not supportive of ACT schools. That line is getting somewhat worn and flies in the face of reality. I get a very positive response every time I visit a school, and I get a sense of the issues they are facing. I say, as I do every time, that if I was not supportive of ACT public schools, why would I continue to press the government to do more and to do it better?

We can always do better, and Ms Fitzharris’s motion suggests that. It is important that in building new schools to meet new demand in new suburbs that we do not forget about the established schools in the established suburbs that have been doing the hard yards educating students for many years, often in facilities that have outgrown their usefulness and are not best practice for today’s needs and expectations. I thank Ms Fitzharris for her matter of public importance—the importance of modernising and strengthening schools in Canberra’s established suburbs.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (4.05): I welcome Ms Fitzharris bringing this topic on today. It is an interesting and important matter of public importance in that it can cover a range of issues. On first reading it perhaps does not do justice to the complexity of the policy issues that it raises. As we all know, the ACT government is soon to open its newest school in the new and developing area of Coombs. The Charles Weston school will be the 87th public school in Canberra. It is expected to cost in the order of \$47 million and its construction reflects the growth of Canberra.

As more new greenfield sites are opened up around this city and we see new developments becoming established, these new schools, with their associated infrastructure, are necessary, as is their requirement to be more environmentally sustainable and energy efficient.

Of course I am very pleased to see these new schools opening, but in mentioning these emerging needs it puts into focus the issue that Ms Fitzharris has raised in today's matter of public importance, that is, what happens to the schools in the established suburbs and how are they dealt with. I believe we must take a whole-of-government approach to these infrastructure investments. We need to make the best use of our existing assets.

As we see density increasing in existing and established areas, we need to look carefully at the demographic information that becomes available and consider what sort of housing is being built and what future needs there will be in particular communities. This is particularly relevant when we think about schools in the established parts of the city.

The Greens support adaptive reuse, so we want to make the most of these buildings. We also need to think about the role that schools play both as educational institutions and also as community assets and community facilities in these existing neighbourhoods. That means thinking about what else the school facility may be able to offer to the community as a whole. This is a relevant consideration because we want to enhance our school infrastructure in a way that maximises the infrastructure that the wider community can also use.

This is an interesting consideration. There is the obvious angle of the MPI, which is about making sure that schools in more established parts of the city are kept up to date—and Mr Doszpot spoke of some of those considerations—but it is also about following up on our thinking of the school as a community and the role of the schools within the community and also being community assets. For example, using school halls for local sports, meeting rooms as playgroup spaces or excess land as community garden sites are the sorts of things that are relevant to a local community. There are many such opportunities to keep these parts of school facilities available to the community wherever possible and appropriate. That is something that we also need to be talking to our local communities about as we upgrade our existing schools and change their role as the communities evolve.

I cite this because many of the new BER school halls and school sports facilities are also able to be booked by the community, although I think there are some hiccups in relation to how willing or able the schools are to enable these bookings, in the sense that I understand in some cases teachers have to be there as volunteers for the duration of the external booking, which clearly does not encourage a very strong motivation to lease the facility or rent it out.

Gungahlin College provides a great example of being collocated with TAFE facilities and the public library, right in the middle of the town centre. Mr Doszpot touched on this and said how it is one of our new facilities. But what it points to is that as we revamp and update some of the older facilities, particularly as populations grow in

certain areas, we must think about school facilities as facilities for the whole community.

Fencing of school facilities is a contentious issue. I understand that some school communities welcome the perceived safety and security that fences offer. However, the fencing of school facilities limits informal after school and weekend use by the local community. This reduces the passive surveillance and sense of local community ownership of schools in established suburbs. Schools also have great playgrounds and sports courts and playing fields but, unfortunately, the trend towards fencing these facilities means that they are inaccessible, essentially, to the public after hours. This means that each suburb has a number of playgrounds that neighbourhood children simply cannot use.

The Greens prefer to use the approach of keeping school grounds accessible to the community. We have been contacted by a number of constituents who have raised questions about school decision making relating to perimeter fences around public school ovals and adjacent facilities. Their concerns are that perimeter fencing blocks access to school playgrounds which have historically been used by the broader community. This broader community use contributed to a sense of shared ownership of the space. As I said earlier, it allowed for passive surveillance, as well as the use of playgrounds and playing fields after school and on weekends by children, teenagers and families.

An interesting example is Ainslie Public School, which proposed to install a perimeter fence. The local community did not support it and now the site is very well used by the public out of school hours. This is a real dilemma for the schools. I have asked a range of principals that I have met over time about their views on it. They speak to the benefit of reduced vandalism and reduced antisocial behaviour. I think there is a real tension here and it is an area that probably does warrant some further consideration.

In the context of modernising schools it is also appropriate to talk about the areas that surround and connect schools in our established suburbs. One of the issues that we are seeing—and we are all being approached on this by our constituents—is a concern about the room for parking at our schools and the issue of student safety as more and more vehicles drive to school. There is a great deal of work that we can do to support and encourage children walking and riding to school, as well as taking public transport.

Our schools are facing increasing pressure from the number of people that are driving their kids to school. The pressure is on to build more parking spaces. We have got education dollars but this is not where I want to see them being spent. I want to see them spent on a range of other things. If we are revamping schools then we want the money to go into some of the issues Mr Doszpot raised and some of the issues we all know are there in some of these ageing facilities.

To that end, Territory and Municipal Services and Justice and Community Safety, in partnership with the Education and Training Directorate, are currently running an excellent project that seeks to create more supportive environments for children to take active travel to get to school. This is a pilot program called the active streets pilot

program. It will analyse the effectiveness of existing ACT government initiatives and programs in increasing the number of children who walk and ride to school. The pilot program will also compare a number of new initiatives resulting in a comprehensive analysis to be able to guide future investment in this area.

There are four pilot schools involved in this program—Macquarie, Macgregor, Latham and Mount Rogers. The government and the schools will implement different measures at different sites and they will be evaluated for their effectiveness. The measures proposed for the trial include infrastructure measures such as slow 30-kilometre an hour zones, dragons teeth line markings, road crossings and parking restrictions. There are also parent engagement campaigns aimed at increasing parent knowledge about the infrastructure investment and to encourage more parents to consider riding or walking to school options.

In bringing up these topics it will possibly seem a little way from the core issue of modernising schools in established suburbs, but the point I wanted to make is that there is the obvious angle about the need to make sure that we keep our facilities up to date—and other members have spoken to those points today—but it is also about how the school fits into the community and how people access the school and that, as we design our new schools, these things are taken into account. I guess as new ideas and trends emerge we need to implement these ideas into some of our more established schools. I thank Ms Fitzharris for bringing on the matter of public importance today. I look forward to further discussions in this area.

MS BURCH (Brindabella—Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Racing and Gaming and Minister for the Arts) (4.14): I thank Ms Fitzharris for providing an opportunity in this place to talk about our schools and recognising the importance of schools, new schools and existing schools, and the role that they play not only in educating our young but also in creating the next generation, as well as being very important and valued pieces of community infrastructure.

As minister, I place a high priority on the importance of modernising and strengthening schools in established suburbs. The government has historically invested heavily in education across the territory. It is important to maintain our national leadership role in education and improve outcomes for all Canberrans. This ACT government will continue to deliver on its commitment, targeting investment to provide the best possible education for every child, regardless of their ability, background or the challenges they face.

The government is delivering new schools where they are needed. Funding was provided in this year's budget to consider new schools in Molonglo and north Gungahlin. The new Charles Weston primary school in Coombs, which I have spoken about in this place, and which will be the 87th public school, will cater for more than 700 students and will be ready for day one next year.

The government is also continuing to invest in our existing schools. This includes expansion to respond to enrolment growth and new facilities for special programs. Just this year both the Canberra College cares facility and the Tuggeranong

introductory English centre at Wanniasa Hills Primary School opened. We have invested in major upgrades to learning and teaching environments at Yarralumla, Hughes and Curtin primary schools.

Investment in school infrastructure has a direct benefit to students, the community and the economy. Studies have shown consistently that design, layout and the condition of schools have a direct impact on educational outcomes. Accordingly, we have provided focused funding for infrastructure, asset management and information and communication technology improvements. In addition, the better engaged the students are with their school the less vandalism occurs to those schools. This is why the government has also provided funding for a number of major school infrastructure projects.

Just in terms of vandalism, I note that the issue of fencing has been raised. I know that it does create a conversation across the community. With fencing, we have seen a reduction in the funds spent on vandalism; it is just about half of the cost. Whilst it may cause a conversation and some discord within the community, it has a direct benefit to the school because the dollars need to be spent on educational outcomes and not on responding to vandalism.

A specialist learning centre at Caroline Chisholm school is being constructed to deliver science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs to the students in the Tuggeranong school network, but it will also provide professional development to all Canberra public school teachers. The Belconnen High School is being modernised through the construction of a new building and the refurbishment of existing buildings and facilities.

This investment will provide a contemporary learning environment for students and teachers and modern facilities that will be accessible for the local community. The government is investing over \$28 million in the construction and operation of a new primary school in north Gungahlin to open in January 2019 and accommodate around 540 students. In addition to these very significant new projects, the government has invested \$62.5 million over the last three years to modernise and improve schools in established suburbs under the school infrastructure for the future program.

The works completed in 2014-15 include art room upgrades at Campbell High School, a canteen upgrade and hospitality classroom at Arawang Primary School—I have visited both these upgrades and they are well used and well received by the students and teachers alike—and new disability lifts at Ainslie school and Canberra High School, which provide important access to students. Classroom upgrades and refurbishments at Black Mountain, Cranleigh and Caroline Chisholm improve the school amenity.

This year works planned or underway are an upgrade at Curtin Primary School, stage 1 of upgrade works at the Woden School, a science room upgrade and roof replacement at Melrose high, an upgrade to school administration facilities at Lyneham high and a new building for the learning support unit at Gowrie Primary School. Then there is an extension and upgrade of outdoor learning areas at the Turner

school. It is expected that by the end of this financial year, and since 2012, \$70 million will have been spent on improving and modernising Canberra public schools.

I have identified a number of priorities for the Education and Training Directorate which, in addition to those I have just mentioned, include the future planning of public school facilities through defined school master plans. These priorities align with the development of a strategic asset management plan that is in line with the ACT government's strategic asset management plan.

Always at the forefront of planning is ensuring that decisions relating to the upgrade and maintenance of existing schools and construction of our new schools meet community needs and expectations. The school modernisation strategy involves a policy framework that outlines infrastructure plans for education and training needs for the next decade. The approach ensures that facilities in all public schools are safe, efficient and meet the needs of teachers, parents and, indeed, the local community.

To ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to school planning, ETD works closely with the Environment and Planning Directorate and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate to ensure the impact of urban infill and greenfields development on existing suburbs is considered. A number of areas in the ACT are subject to urban infill, placing demand on existing public school infrastructure. Evidence of school enrolment pressures is analysed to determine the likely trends and solutions explored and put into place.

The directorate's master planning process captures local and regional information and an ongoing program to provide high quality learning environments for students continues. The process assists in future asset management and service delivery. The government's investment in infrastructure extends beyond the school infrastructure.

We are ensuring that all our students and staff are connected through modern IT services. We are investing additional resources into school information and communication technology infrastructure to ensure that digital systems and infrastructure are modern and reliable and support the provision of contemporary learning and teaching—for example, through the provision of wireless access to high speed networks. This investment totals nearly \$38 million over four years. Indeed, as the schools roll out Google apps for education, I have seen the majority of our public schools connected to that. I have been in the classroom and seen the benefits and the ease with which students and teachers exchange information.

We continue to support the ACT Teacher Quality Institute because this ACT Labor government believes in our students. We continue to invest significantly to make sure that there are new schools and refurbished and well-maintained older schools to suit everybody's needs.

There has also been mention of schools as community hubs. I encourage people to go to the Education and Training website where we have gone through, school by school, and assessed what facilities are open to the community so the community recognises that public schools are a community asset as well. I encourage community organisations to go to ETD's website where they can access on a school-by-school

level and a facility-by-facility level what is able to be accessed by the community. I thank Ms Fitzharris for bringing this motion to the Assembly.

Discussion concluded.

Adjournment

Motion by **Ms Burch** proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Alzheimer's Australia

MR DOSZPOT (Molonglo) (4.23): I rise this evening to talk about Alzheimer's Australia and dementia awareness. September is dementia awareness month, and Alzheimer's Australia ACT is hosting a number of events to support the important fundraising. Dementia is increasing in the ACT and across the country. Without important research and hopefully a medical breakthrough, the number of Australians living with Alzheimer's will reach 900,000 by 2050. Here in Canberra that number will rise from the current 4,500 who are living with dementia to 15,000 by 2050. Dementia was made a national health priority in 2012 in recognition of the impacts on governments, health systems and our community. It is essential that our governments and communities support people of all ages with dementia to live productive and meaningful lives.

Alzheimer's Australia ACT is the peak charity in the ACT that represents people who live with dementia. It provides a number of essential services such as information and advice, counselling, advocacy support groups and, importantly, education to raise awareness of dementia. Alzheimer's ACT was founded in 1997 by a group of dedicated professional and volunteers working in the community and aged care sectors. This group of dedicated people worried about what more they could be doing to help those with dementia and their families and carers.

They set up a committee to help them carry forward their important work. Their only source of funding was voluntary donations. A public forum in 1997 for carers of people with dementia helped develop an understanding of the kind of support that was needed. Today their Kaleen premises are headquarters for 22 professional staff and 20 volunteers. Together they provide support services for people with dementia and their families and carers.

I do not know all of the 22 professional staff and 20 volunteers at Alzheimer's ACT but I have worked very closely with ACT President Greg Fraser, CEO Jane Allen, Eileen McEntee and Michael Wootton, a very dedicated group whom I had the pleasure of working with during my annual charity trivia fundraising night which was in May this year. It was in support of Alzheimer's ACT. I was very impressed with the enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication of the ACT team then. So it was good to catch up with them all late this morning as we promoted their Alzheimer's walk and jog—the race against dementia—just outside the Assembly.

The promotion was for the upcoming event this Sunday, which is Alzheimer's Australia ACT's memory walk and jog. The memory walk and jog is an event designed to raise funds for and awareness of dementia. The event will be opened by Alzheimer's Australia's national ambassador, Ita Buttrose, before participants will take off on a one-kilometre walk, a five-kilometre walk or an eight-kilometre run. For those who are a little more competitive, this will be quite an activity to take part in.

The event will be held at Lennox Gardens at Lake Burley Griffin and starts at 8.30 am. I encourage all to register. Anyone from the Assembly here who wants to go along would be welcome to attend Alzheimer's Australia's ACT memory walk and jog. I wish all of them well in their endeavours, especially President Greg Fraser, CEO Jane Allen, Eileen McEntee and Michael Wootton, as well as all of their dedicated staff at Kaleen. I hope that Sunday's event, which I think already has close to 5,000 participants, will be a very successful fundraising venture for them.

Belconnen's 50th birthday

DR BOURKE (Ginninderra) (4.27): Back in Canberra's centenary year, 2013, I flagged in an adjournment debate that the new Belconnen health centre was "a wonderful addition to the Belconnen community as we near our 50th anniversary and Canberra enters its second century". Later I mentioned the opportunity to celebrate Belconnen's 50th to Daniel Ballantyne, CEO of the Belconnen Arts Centre, who, with typical gusto, has run with the idea. On Saturday night the Belconnen Arts Centre kicks off the first event in the our place celebrations to mark Belconnen's 50th birthday in 2016.

As I noted in the June budget debate, there is a small plaque in a corner of the Aranda playing fields marking the first suburban development in the Belconnen district. It reads:

This tablet marks the inauguration of development of the District of Belconnen
by the Minister of State for the Interior The Honourable J. D. Anthony, MP. 23
June 1966.

We like a party in Belconnen, and the good news is that the Belconnen Arts Centre is planning a long one, with Saturday night's event just the first in Belconnen's 50th jubilee. There will also be a big map of Belconnen on the night where people can paste up their favourite places and suggestions of further events for the year. As their flyer says, the afternoon will include showcasing local music, lantern and badge making, new collaborations, food, opportunities to place your mark on the Belconnen map and digital projections illuminating Belconnen's visual journey. You will be invited to express what living in Belconnen and the region means to you, share your story and make your memory.

Since the Belconnen Arts Centre opened in 2009 at Emu Bank it has become the jewel in the crown of Belconnen's own city to the lake. This multipurpose arts venue on Lake Ginninderra offers something for everyone, drawing in young and old to classes, exhibitions and performances. What a great cultural crossroads of Belconnen and

beyond it is. It is at the heart of Canberra's largest and most dynamic town centre, and the creative talents of our community, including our artists and performers, will be fully on show on Saturday night. I urge you all to come along between 4 and 8 pm for the start of Belconnen's birthday year of celebrations.

Share the Dignity

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (4.30): Yesterday I had the privilege of hosting a function for a new charity, the ACT Share the Dignity charity, in the reception room. Share the Dignity is a new national charity collecting sanitary products for homeless women, including women fleeing from domestic violence. Many homeless women face the choice of providing food for themselves and their children or buying sanitary products for their own health and wellbeing.

As I said in my remarks yesterday, this is an issue that I—and many others, I presume—have been remiss about, because it is something that we had not really thought about. But, when the issue was brought to our attention, I was very pleased to support this function and this charity.

Talking about sanitary products is probably a little bit icky for a number of people, but it does not mean that it is not an important issue. Yesterday I had the opportunity to hand over several large baskets of sanitary products, donated by members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff and staff of the Assembly over six weeks, and this was only a small proportion of the amount that had already been collected and taken away previously by Share the Dignity.

I would like to thank Lyndsay Pastega, the ACT coordinator of Share the Dignity, as well as volunteers Nicki Bensch, Hannah Johnstone, Lisa Black, Mary Lorraine, Tenille Wright, Anna Paul, Kerrie Ryan, Ellie Ryan and Jorja Wallace. I would also like to thank the MLAs who came to the reception, including Ms Lawder, Mrs Jones, Ms Porter and Ms Berry.

We also had representation from a wide range of community organisations. Toora House was represented by Dara Luzaic, Delphin Gilbert, Julie Moss, Marie Bombardere and Yasmine Eiferich. Inanna was represented by Martina Taliano, Jessica Aulich, Robert Martin and Simon Port. Kylie Holyland and Elaine Lollback were there from St Benedict's shelter in Queanbeyan, while Michelle Kilgower was there from the Salvation Army. Kim Book and Ruth Zanker represented Communities@Work, Lisa Knight represented Karinya House; Jessica Blythe, Nicole Townsend, Winnie Thaung and Sarina D'Onofrio represented the Canberra Youth Residential Service; and Louisa Domestic Violence Service was represented by Janette Dale, Lucia Rago, Brooke Hendry, Jan Rudd, Kristy Bishop, Tanya Talbot and Julie Abraham.

Florists Moxom and Whitney, who were one of the large business supporters, were represented by Lou Lou Moxom and Belinda Whitney. Rachel Evagelou and Julie Nichols attended from Canberra Handmade Market while Shahnee Frome attended from Authentix beauty salon. These and other businesses, including the Canberra City Market Chemist, were very, very generous supporters of the campaign. I understand

that there will be a further collection campaign starting from April next year and I look forward to again collecting sanitary products in the Legislative Assembly on behalf of Share the Dignity. I recommend this charity to members of the Legislative Assembly.

I particularly want to pay tribute to the members and staff of the Assembly who were extraordinarily generous. I know that some staff went to their male members of the Assembly and senior male people who may find it a little bit difficult to go to a chemist shop or a supermarket and buy such products. They took up a collection and went and purchased very large amounts. But I also pay tribute to those men in the building who manned up, so to speak, and went and made purchases directly.

I think it made people think about the little things that we often put to the back of our mind when we are dealing with homelessness and also to think that these are expensive products. Every time someone purchases these things or makes a donation to a charity, that is money the charity does not have to fork out and that money saved can be put to other services. It is a good, worthwhile and very practical application for our charity dollar and I commend Share the Dignity for taking on board this important work.

Involve

MS FITZHARRIS (Molonglo) (4.35): I am pleased to rise this afternoon to speak about a wonderful event I attended last week on behalf of Minister Burch, the launch of phase 2 of Involve—Canberra's disability commitment. Canberra is a proud human rights jurisdiction committed to implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the CRPD, and the national disability strategy 2010-2020. The CRPD and the national disability strategy demand us to take action to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of the rights and freedoms of all people with disability.

We have consulted with people with disability and the community and they have told us to aim high and become a world leader in social and economic participation for people with a disability. People told us we need to acknowledge the contribution made by people with a disability, put people with a disability at the centre of decision-making about their lives and shift the emphasis from barriers and exclusion to shared responsibility, opportunities and action.

With that in mind, on behalf of the minister, I launched the second stage of Involve last Friday to connect people who have an ambition to make the world better in big ways or small. Involve highlights how our community can work together to create a place where all people with disability are included and supported. It is a great initiative that seeks to engage all Canberrans to include people with disability and support them to make their dreams a reality.

Fundamentally, Involve is a movement of people with and without disability, community organisations, industry and government acting together to achieve change that empowers people with disability. It is a space for people to come together and connect, support one another and generate ideas for an inclusive community. Through

the web platform at www.involvecbr.com.au, people with disability can connect online with people from our community who have the skills, knowledge or creative ideas to support them in achieving their ambition.

Groups of people can get in on the action too and create a community ambition that will benefit the broader community. When you have people supporting you, anything is possible. The personal ambitions that have so far been outlined through Involve are admirable. They cover personal achievements as well as aspirations for the broader community. There was an artist looking for opportunities to exhibit, a business leader asking landlords to think differently about renting options, and a community leader seeking to educate retailers about access.

Five ambitions are being trialled and are now online. People can connect with the five individuals and find out ways to support their ambitions and follow their progress. On Friday I was thrilled to join Canberra Raiders coach Ricky Stuart, who has taken the lead by contracting Donkey Wash, a social enterprise run by Sam Agyemang, to highlight the sorts of outcomes we want to see with Involve. Sam, who has autism, runs a laundry service for clients, including the Canberra Raiders, and said the Raiders are his favourite client.

It was great to chat with Ricky, Sam and Sam's mum, Kate, about everything Sam has achieved, and he is only 17. He now has a plan for what he will do once he finishes school, and he gets to do something that he loves and takes enormous pride in. Not many year 10 students can say the same. Plus he is helping organisations like the Canberra Raiders to run efficiently and connect with their community. Indeed, Ricky said his team had never been cleaner, thanks to Sam's Donkey Wash laundry service. Sam has an industrial size washing machine at home and a handful of clients who keep him busy. Kate says he is very on top of the pick-up and drop-off schedule and loves the work and camaraderie he gets out of it.

This really goes to show that inclusion does not have to be difficult. There are opportunities all over our city to make connections; you just need to know where to look. That is why Involve is so important. It will help Canberra be a more inclusive community where everyone can participate and reach their full potential. I understand the ACT government is planning to open up the Involve online platform towards the end of this year to allow more Canberrans with disability to post their personal ambitions online.

I would like to sincerely thank the minister for this opportunity and to thank Sam, Kate, Ricky and the Raiders for their help in launching Involve. I thank also the Community Services Directorate staff for their hard work getting this wonderful initiative up and running. I look forward to watching it grow over the coming months.

National Child Protection Week Homeless fathers

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (4.39): National Child Protection Week was held recently. It encourages everyone to learn about the role they can play in their local community so that we can prevent abuse of children before it starts. Today I am

pleased to acknowledge the important work of organisations that work to prevent child abuse and neglect. In particular, I was thrilled to hear that dad's place, which is part of the Canberra Father's and Children's Service, or CanFaCS, was a recent recipient of the play your part awards for the ACT this year. National Child Protection Week starts on Father's Day every year and is a good way to incorporate the important role that fathers play each and every day in supporting safer families.

CanFaCS provides crisis accommodation and outreach support services to fathers with accompanying children who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. CanFaCS is a not-for-profit, community-based service incorporated in the ACT. It opened in 2002 and is the only crisis accommodation service in Australia specifically funded for homeless fathers who have their children in their care. CanFaCS and dad's place are committed to strengthening family relationships and promoting self-care and the care of others. They recognise that separated and homeless fathers have particular support needs and that the quality of their ongoing relationships, especially with their children, can be greatly enhanced if the correct supports are in place.

They acknowledge the important contributions that fathers can make to their children's lives and have as a guiding principle the achievement of positive outcomes for children, in particular. Their experience is that supporting fathers also indirectly increases the wellbeing of mothers, extended families and, indeed, the whole community.

Dad's place is a vital service here in the ACT. It provides an overnight home stay for dads who may have regular care of their children or may not have regular care, only occasional care. In general terms, dad's place provides overnight accommodation in a home that can be furnished with bedding, certain toys, pictures on the walls, all specific for that father and his children. The service is provided in consultation with the mother where that is appropriate. They have a designated caseworker. They have assistance to access other services that may support the family and, most importantly, it is the comforts of a normal home and a safe environment.

More specifically, CanFaCS and dad's place can provide safe and secure accommodation, inclusive and accessible service responses, a case management framework that is strengths based, client directed and focused on achievable outcomes, information on entitlements and responsibilities under family law, income support, housing and child support processes, sensitive and respectful counselling, skills training and parenting education, assistance to identify and access other services that may be useful and assistance to re-establish a secure and stable base from which to develop independence and self-reliance and to which it is safe to bring children.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Anthony Rochester, the executive officer of Connections ACT, and also Michael Costigan. Michael is unfortunately about to leave Connections ACT because he has been involved since the start-up of the Tara Costigan Foundation, and Michael will now be spending all of his time on the Tara Costigan Foundation.

Dad's place would also like to take the opportunity to thank their supporters who include the Snow Foundation and Georgina Byron. Most of us in this place will be well aware of the philanthropic contribution they make to our community. Without their assistance the program would not be the success that it is today. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the important work of dad's place and CanFaCS in our community. If you would like to know more, you can visit www.canfacs.org.au/dads-place.

Canberra Southern Cross Club—grants

MR COE (Ginninderra) (4.43): I rise tonight to talk about the Canberra Southern Cross Club's annual community supports grants luncheon. Last month I and several others had the pleasure of attending this function at the Southern Cross Club. The annual luncheon provides the opportunity for the Southern Cross Club to provide grants and donations to not-for-profit organisations that provide charity and welfare services to Canberrans.

At the luncheon the club provided \$134,000 worth of grants to 75 community groups. This forms part of the \$1.4 million the club will provide in community support this year. This is a sensational effort from a community club and shows just how important non-government organisations are in improving the health and wellbeing of our community. It also shows that government can be effectively complemented in the provision of community grants and community services.

As usual, grants were awarded this year to a number of different organisations which provided disability, craft, education, youth and medical services, to name but a few. Recipients of grants this year included the ACT Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Woden Valley Youth Choir's carols by candlelight, Chifley Preschool Parents Association, and Faith and Life Canberra, to name just a few. On top of this, the club also provides support to both Palliative Care ACT and Karinya House outside of their annual grant funds. This year the club was able to provide \$13,000 to Palliative Care ACT and \$28,000 to Karinya House.

I thank everyone involved in the Southern Cross Club for putting on this annual event. In particular, it is appropriate to recognise the club's board. Board members include the president, John Lewis; senior vice-president, Christopher Behrens; vice-presidents, Kim Marshall and Bob Lloyd; club directors, Paul Rollings, Mary Laughlin, David Grimmond, Paula Jones, Jack Rice and Ian Mackay.

I specifically acknowledge Kim Marshall, who chairs the board's community grants committee and puts in a lot of work to make the club's grants program a success. Kim was ably aided this year by fellow board member Mary Laughlin in allocating the grants. Congratulations also to the staff of the Southern Cross Club, in particular Geraldine Rossiter for her hard work in organising the day and making sure it was a success. I congratulate the Southern Cross Club on yet another successful grants program. For more information on the club's annual grants program, I encourage members to visit their website at www.csccl.com.au.

ACT training excellence awards 2015

MS BURCH (Brindabella—Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Racing and Gaming and Minister for the Arts) (4.46): I acknowledge tonight the fantastic achievements of the vocational education and training sector in the ACT and offer my sincere congratulations to those that were awarded and honoured at the 2015 ACT training excellence awards earlier this month.

It was a privilege to attend the awards at the Hotel Realm and witness firsthand the many proud Canberrans who represent this sector. The awards illustrated to the local community how essential the efforts of this particularly hardworking strand of our tertiary education system actually are.

I take these few minutes to recognise their efforts and also be out and proud, so to speak, as a passionate believer of our great VET system in Canberra. VET offers great opportunities to graduates to perform and excel in a diverse variety of industries that fuel and sustain our economy.

I note that the award winners will progress to represent us at a national level at the Australian training awards to be held in Hobart in November this year. I send my sincere regards to them and hopes for their success so we can once again show the nation how great the ACT is when it comes to vocational education and training.

On the night I was able to present this year's prestigious Norm Fisher award to the memory of Adrian Marron. Mr Marron was posthumously honoured on the evening. Mr Marron has been spoken of with high regard in this place. He served this community well. His sister and wife were both there on the evening, and it was a pleasure to have a conversation with them.

To the winners: ACT apprentice of the year, Tevita Supi Ma'ilei; ACT apprentice trainee of the year, Samantha Marks-Galea; ACT vocational school student of the year, Tegan Pate; vocational student of the year, Hanna Darmody; ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student trainee of the year, Rachel Hounsell; ACT school-based apprentice of the year certificate II, Nicholas Neeson; school-based apprentice of the year certificate III, Hana Chapman-Speering; VET teacher/trainer of the year, Melissa Dinn; and the John Scott memorial award, Jerome de Rose. Also recognised was Gungahlin College, the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre, CIT, Wilson Security and Transformed Pty Ltd.

I also want to acknowledge that I have had in my office over the last couple of weeks some fabulous interns: Monique Blasiak and Tom McKernan. They have been a great and valued addition to my office over the last little while.

In the time I have left I want to note that this morning, Ms Lawder—I do not know if it is per chance that you are sitting in the chair—you showed you were not across your detail during the debate. You declared in your amendment that ACT family day care

providers were supported under the federal government's community support program. Unfortunately no ACT providers were eligible for this program.

Further, this program has been axed. Had you done a simple Google search, you would have seen that the eligibility changes to this program in July mean that no ACT providers are eligible. Indeed, the program will cease to exist in its entirety in July next year. The federal minister, Scott Morrison, issued a press release on that very fact in May this year announcing that the scheme would be wound down. A bit of a blunder, one would suggest. Either you do not know your work or you just do not pay attention.

Mr Coe: You are one to talk about blunders, aren't you, Joy?

MS BURCH: This was a bit of a grand one for Ms Lawder, who came in with an amendment that was fundamentally flawed. We know what Ms Lawder thinks about access to quality care, because last year she compared child care to buying a Ferrari when she said:

You do not get to make those choices when you cannot afford it.

(Time expired.)

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 4.51pm until Tuesday, 22 September 2015, at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Alexander Maconochie Centre—incidents (Question No 428)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Justice, upon notice, on 2 June 2015:

What is the total number of (a) emergency code calls made, (b) assaults on correctional officers and (c) prisoner behavioural breaches recorded, at the Alexander Maconochie Centre for (i) 1 January to 31 March 2014, (ii) 1 April to 30 June 2014, (iii) 1 July to 30 September 2014, (iv) 1 October to 31 December 2014, (v) 1 January to 31 March 2015.

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

(a) Emergency Code Calls

Information on emergency code calls for the 2013-2014 financial year was provided in response to a question, asked by Mr Brendan Smyth MLA, which was taken on notice on 26 June 2014 during the 2014-2015 Select Committee on Estimates public hearings. That response is attached for your consideration.

Further to this, data relating to the final quarter of the 2014-2015 financial year has been included below to provide a full financial year.

Table 1

2014-15 Financial Year – by quarter	Black	Blue	Brown	Grey	Pink	Purple	White	Yellow	Green	Red	Total
July to Sept 2014	0	2	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	43	61
October to December 2014	0	3	0	1	8	10	0	0	0	20	42
January to March 2015	0	5	0	1	12	9	0	0	1	29	57
April to June 2015	0	9	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	30	57
Total	0	19	0	2	37	36	0	0	1	122	217

It should be noted that the instance of a code being called does not necessarily equate to an incident occurring; it can mean that a situation has arisen where there is a risk of an incident. Conversely, an incident may occur and be dealt with without a code being called.

(b) Assaults on Correctional Officers

ACT Corrective Services report on the number and nature of assaults within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) as part of the Report on Government Services (RoGS) annual cycle.

ACT Corrective Services applies the counting rules used for the preparation of RoGS when preparing statistics of this nature. The rules for counting prisoner related assaults on staff places them in the following general reportable categories:

- **Serious assaults** – victim subjected to physical violence that resulted in physical injuries requiring medical treatment involving overnight hospitalisation in a medical facility or ongoing medical treatment. Serious assaults include all sexual assaults.
- **Assaults** – victim subjected to physical violence that resulted in physical injuries but did not require overnight hospitalisation or ongoing medical treatment.

The 2014-15 data has not yet been reported, and will not be available until the RoGS report is released in late-January 2016. In RoGs, assault data is reported as a rate, however, the raw data for the 2014-15 financial year is provided below:

Table 2

Detainee on staff assaults:	
Serious	0
Assaults	3

While an emergency code blue was called (assault or threat of an assault on an officer/s) on 19 occasions (Table 1), only three assaults occurred. A code being called does not necessarily equate to an incident occurring; it can mean that a situation has arisen where there is a risk of an incident.

(c) Prisoner Behavioural Breaches Recorded

ACT Corrective Services' Detainee Disciplinary Policy states that a Custodial Officer, on becoming aware of behaviour that is a breach of discipline, may choose to deal with a less serious and isolated instance within the context of case management by counselling, warning or reprimanding a detainee, and making an appropriate case note. In instances of more serious or repeated misbehaviour, Custodial Officers may report the alleged breach of discipline with a view to it being dealt with under the detainee discipline provisions of the *Corrections Management Act 2007*.

When it is considered that an alleged breach of discipline may be a criminal offence warranting being reported to Police, the Police should be consulted and their views sought. If the Police investigate and charge the detainee in relation to the act, the disciplinary procedures may no longer be employed in consideration of the concept of double jeopardy provisions. If the Police choose not to act, or to not charge the detainee following their investigation, the disciplinary provisions may be employed.

Comprehensive data in relation to prisoner behavioural breaches is therefore not able to be provided due to the different methods by which it may be recorded.

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

**Schools—nurses
(Question No 438)**

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 3 June 2015 (*redirected to the Minister for Health*):

- (1) How many nurses in each of the special schools in the ACT.

- (2) What are the duties/functions performed by the nurses in each of the special schools in the ACT.
- (3) What are the (a) skills and (b) qualifications of the nurses in the special schools in the ACT.
- (4) What is the range of salaries of nurses in a special school in the ACT.
- (5) What is the cost of providing a nurse in a special school in the ACT.
- (6) What was the cost of providing nurses in special schools in the ACT during the (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013, and (e) 2014 calendar years.

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

- (1) The current distribution, as of 3 August 2015, of nurses in specialist schools is as follows:
 - Black Mountain = 1 Registered Nurse (RN) level 1 based at the school and 1 RN level 2 supporting students, parents and staff at Black Mountain School
 - Cranleigh = 1 RN level 1 based at the school
 - Malkara = 1 RN level 1 based at the school
 - Woden = 1 RN level 2 attending as required by individual student's care plan.
- (2) The duties and functions performed by the RN level 1 include:
 - Assisting in the development of the Education and Training Directorate's emergency care plans for the school
 - Completing health procedures for the students
 - Distributing medication to students (who have a current medication order), as per their prescription
 - Documenting variations in the student's clinical record
 - Taking care of health equipment
 - Acting as a first aid resource
 - Liaising with school staff and parents.

The duties and functions performed by the RN level 2 include:

- Assessing the student's health care requirements for school with the family.
 - Developing individual care plans, in collaboration with ACT Health Paediatricians and the student's family.
 - Training the Learning Support Assistants (LSA) in health care tasks for each identified student where it is appropriate for the LSA to deliver care, and assessing the LSA as competent to deliver the care and provide ongoing support.
 - Providing ongoing support and liaison between parents and schools on healthcare matters.
- (3) (a) All Registered Nurses working within the ACT Health are required to be a RN with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Authority.

- (b) In order for registration, each nurse RN level 1 must have an undergraduate nursing degree. An RN level 2 must have postgraduate qualifications and/or experience relevant to their area of specialty, in addition to their undergraduate degree.
- (4) The salary range for nurses in specialist schools is between \$57,695 and \$84,917 per annum.
- (5) The cost of providing a nurse in a special school in the ACT is approximately \$73,000 - \$104,000.
- (6) The cost of providing nurses in special schools in the ACT during the years requested is approximately:
- (a) \$310,000
 - (b) \$320,000
 - (c) \$475,000
 - (d) \$475,000
 - (e) \$480,000

**Municipal services—infrastructure costs
(Question No 446)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2015 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Roads and Parking*):

- (1) What is the cost of (a) installation and (b) annual maintenance of (i) bus shelters, (ii) bus seats, (iii) buses, (iv) roads, (v) footpaths, (vi) bike paths, (vii) street lights (each different type), (viii) road signs (each different type), (ix) line marking (green paint, red paint, yellow paint, normal, zebra crossings), (x) roundabouts (in a new road or an existing road) and (xi) traffic lights.
- (2) How many or what length in part (1) were installed during the 2014-2015 financial year.

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

(1)

Asset type	Installation Cost (per unit)	Annual Maintenance
Bus shelters	\$2,500	\$113,000
Bus seats – drivers	\$2,267.50	\$10,920
Bus seats – passengers	\$201.63	\$7,620
Buses	\$466,168 per bus	\$37,251 per bus (includes parts and labour)
Roads (Pavements)	\$375 sq/m	\$15,453,000
Footpaths (Community Paths)	\$175 sq/m	\$3,104,000

Bike paths	\$240 sq/m	Included in Footpath maintenance cost
Street Lights (with outreach arms)	\$5,000	\$7,540,000
Street Lights-Electricity	\$3,750	\$5,411,000
Road signs (Guide Signs)		\$90,000
Road Signs (Other signs)		\$400,000
Line Markings *		\$845,000
Roundabouts	\$1.2m approximately	Included in Roads (Pavements)
Traffic lights	\$750,000 approximately	\$2,230,000 (does not include electricity or telecom costs)

*unable to break costs down per colour of paint

(2)

Asset Type	Measure
Bus shelters	6 new shelters were installed in 2014-15
Bus seats	
- Driver	91 new seats were installed 2014-15
- passenger	254 new seats were installed 2014-15
Buses	30 buses delivered in 2014-15
Roads (Pavements)	41 lane kilometres
Footpaths (Community Paths)	37 kilometres
Bike paths	8 kilometres
Street Lights	1,258
Road signs	1,706
Line Markings	Data currently not available
Roundabouts	Data currently not available
Traffic lights	15

Municipal services—street sweeping (Question No 447)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2015 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Roads and Parking*):

- (1) What is the street sweeping schedule for the ACT.
- (2) What was the total cost for street sweeping services per year for each year since 2011.

- (3) Regarding vehicles used for street sweeping (a) how many are there by make and model, (b) when were they procured and at what cost and (c) has the procurement of more vehicles been budgeted for and if so, for how many vehicles.
- (4) How many staff are assigned to the program and at what cost.

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

- (1) The street sweeping schedule is published on the TAMS website:

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/421943/Annual-sweeping-program-August-2014.pdf

- (2) The cost of street sweeping services per year since 2011 is:

Year	Cost
2011-12	\$701,000
2012-13	\$1,223,000
2013-14	\$1,428,000
2014-15	\$1,346,000

- (3)
- (a) Five Hino trucks with Macdonald Johnson sweeping units fitted.
- (b) One truck was leased in October 2012 and four trucks were leased in October 2013. The lease costs of each truck are approximately \$6,000 per month.
- (c) No further procurement for street sweeping vehicles is currently planned or budgeted for.
- (4) Five staff are assigned to drive the street sweeping vehicles at a cost of \$62,000 each per year. The cost to co-ordinate and supervise the program is \$24,000 per annum.

Municipal services—mowing (Question No 449)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2015:

- (1) What portion of the overall recurrent budget was spent on mowing services for each year since 2011-2012.
- (2) What portion was spent on mowing by (a) public servants and (b) external contractors.

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

- (1) The proportion of total recurrent budget in TAMS (Place Management), spent on urban mowing services annually is as follows:

Year	Proportion of annual recurrent budget spent on urban mowing
2011-2012	29%
2012-2013	36%
2013-2014	32%
2014-2015	32%

- (2) The proportion spent on mowing by public servants and by external contractors is as follows:

Portion spent of annual budget spent on public servants and external contractors				
	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Mowing by public servants	62%	73%	86%	93%
External contractors	38%*	27%*	14%	7%

*The percentage reflects prices quoted by the contractor at time of tender.

Municipal services—community paths (Question No 451)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2015 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Roads and Parking*):

How many kilometres of community paths in the ACT have an average age of (a) 0-10 years, (b) 10-20 years, (c) 20-30 years, (d) 30-40 years, (e) 40-50 years and (f) over 50 years.

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

- (a) 523 km
- (b) 64 km
- (c) 412 km
- (d) 361 km
- (e) 819 km
- (f) 682 km

Compensation—community path accidents (Question No 452)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2015 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Roads and Parking*):

- (1) How many claims for compensation from accidents on community paths have been made each year for the last 15 years.

- (2) What is the total value of compensation paid for accidents on community paths in each of the last 15 years.

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

The ACT maintains over 2,800 kilometres of community paths (footpaths and off-road cycle paths) and spends \$3.7 million per annum on repairs.

Additionally, Roads ACT will use \$1.5 million, from the Roads to Recovery program, over the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years to undertake extra repair work.

Year	(1) No. of claims received for compensation from accidents on community paths in each of the last 15 years	(2) Total value of compensation paid for accidents on community paths in each of the last 15 years
2000	35	\$167,412.45
2001	39	\$2,540,862.00
2002	41	\$357,906.70
2003	23	\$77,955.19
2004	29	\$1,486,693.96
2005	40	\$371,018.66
2006	36	\$30,482.48
2007	35	\$214,610.00
2008	19	\$180,321.15
2009	27	\$60,363.75
2010	21	\$9,796.75
2011	31	\$103,959.10
2012	30	\$157,966.59
2013	24	\$282,812.20
2014	20	\$371,342.94

Municipal services—repair costs (Question No 455)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2015 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Roads and Parking*):

In the 2013 14 and 2014-15 financial years, broken down by (a) month and (b) location, how many (i) community paths and (ii) street lights, have been repaired.

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

(i) Community paths

In 2013-14 and 2014-15 45,294 sq. metres of community paths were replaced.

The data provided in the table below is for community path replacement by zones (see attached zone map) over the two year period.

Monthly averages are provided as these specific records are not kept by month.

2013-14

Zone	Area Replaced (Sq M)	Monthly Average (Sq M)
North West	6,543	545
North East	6,747	562
South West	3,704	308
South East	9,396	783
Total	26,390	2,198

2014-15

Zone	Area Replaced (Sq M)	Monthly Average (Sq M)
North West	5,358	446
North East	3,811	317
South West	6,351	529
South East	3,380	281
Total	18,900	1,573

(ii) Street lights

There were 28,655 street light repairs completed in 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years.

The data provided in the table below is for street lights defects repaired by suburb location over the two year period.

During the two years there were 5,372 duplicate reports, where the same outage was reported by multiple people.

Street Light repairs - Financial Years 2013-14 and 2014-15			
Location (suburb)	Number of defects	Location (suburb)	Number of defects
Acton	153	Holder	144
Ainslie	218	Holt	294
Amaroo	465	Hughes	210
Aranda	220	Hume	152
Banks	310	Isabella Plains	429
Barton	258	Isaacs	239
Beard	5	Jacka	15
Belconnen	493	Jerrabomberra Rural	43
Belconnen Rural	198	Kaleen	306
Bonner	362	Kambah	593
Bonython	210	Kingston	310
Braddon	211	Kowen Rural	18
Bruce	383	Latham	207

Calwell	185	Lawson	3
Campbell	397	Lyneham	270
Canberra City	1106	Lyons	311
Casey	345	Macarthur	160
Chapman	129	Macgregor	388
Charnwood	231	Macquarie	225
Chifley	128	Majura Rural	56
Chisholm	222	Mawson	215
Condor	335	Mackellar	128
Cook	122	Melba	174
Coombs	58	Mitchell	81
Corree District	12	Molonglo Rural	5
Crace	406	Monash	346
Curtin	496	Narrabundah	365
Deakin	391	Ngunnawal	601
Denman Prospect	14	Nicholls	569
Dickson	311	O'Connor	330
Downer	185	Oaks Estate	20
Duffy	262	O'Malley	151
Dunlop	438	Oxley	88
Evatt	187	Page	134
Fadden	372	Palmerston	355
Farrer	227	Pearce	115
Fisher	130	Phillip	532
Florey	230	Pialligo	95
Flynn	139	Red Hill	351
Forde	509	Reid	80
Forrest	308	Richardson	288
Franklin	518	Rivett	140
Fraser	85	Scullin	120
Fyshwick	285	Spence	133
Garran	305	Stirling	134
Gilmore	137	Symonston	134
Giralang	144	Tharwa	11
Gordon	539	Theodore	350
Gowrie	345	Torrens	202
Greenway	378	Turner	122
Griffith	368	Wanniassa	394
Gungahlin	673	Waramanga	126
Gungahlin Rural	102	Watson	212
Hackett	197	Weetangerra	147
Hall	21	Weston	256
Harrison	448	Wright	130
Hawker	189	Yarralumla	402
Higgins	151		

Total**28,655**

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

Trees—removal (Question No 456)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2015:

How many dead or dangerous trees were removed and how many trees were replanted, by suburb, during 2013, 2014 and 2015 to date.

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

In the 2013 calendar year, 1,087 trees which were dead or dangerous were removed. A total of 2,976 trees were replanted.

In the 2014 calendar year, 923 trees which were dead or dangerous were removed and 1,969 trees were replanted.

In the 2015 calendar year to date, 440 trees which were dead or dangerous were removed. It is anticipated 1,200 trees will be replanted in the 2015 calendar year.

The table in **Attachment A** shows the number of dead and dangerous trees removed by suburb and replanting of trees by suburb in 2013, 2014 and to date during 2015.

	2013 dead & dangerous removals	2013 planting	2014 dead & dangerous removals	2014 planting	2015 dead & dangerous removals	2015 planting to date
Acton	8	6	7	0	0	0
Ainslie	12	136	5	42	12	14
Amaroo	7	20	9	39	3	11
Aranda	7	1	8	7	4	2
Banks	12	5	12	47	0	27
Barton	10	2	8	20	4	0
Belconnen	32	122	15	0	7	4
Bonner	3	3	1	13	0	8
Bonython	3	9	10	6	8	2
Braddon	4	11	2	12	1	3
Bruce	2	27	24	2	5	9
Calwell	16	3	8	3	2	0
Campbell	5	46	39	12	8	15
Casey	12	21	3	26	1	26
Chapman	5	7	3	0	1	17
Charnwood	15	12	11	3	3	1
Chifley	6	19	11	12	1	1
Chisholm	10	15	6	5	3	2
City	6	2	1	0	2	4
Conder	9	3	3	2	4	0
Cook	5	4	8	4	0	0
Crace	0	6	17	1	0	1
Curtin	16	27	10	15	8	7
Deakin	18	51	11	26	14	14
Dickson	7	2	2	4	8	4
Downer	8	16	5	18	6	4
Duffy	1	87	4	5	5	11
Dunlop	56	630	1	38	1	5

Evatt	9	14	18	9	9	27
Fadden	13	4	15	20	4	2
Farrer	14	8	19	52	3	1
Fisher	20	13	15	11	2	1
Florey	4	1	14	6	4	1
Flynn	1	50	3	9	5	3
Forde	38	55	17	163	0	2
Forrest	4	15	2	23	51	58
Franklin	3	41	11	13	1	15
Fraser	5	3	13	1	3	1
Fyshwick	2	0	3	6	3	0
Garran	2	8	4	2	3	1
Gilmore	7	1	5	3	2	0
Giralang	3	5	6	8	0	0
Gordon	12	27	8	4	4	4
Gowrie	18	1	4	6	6	0
Greenway	1	38	5	9	2	1
Griffith	11	102	12	26	5	25
Gungahlin	22	45	2	47	0	4
Hackett	4	5	5	11	1	3
Hall	0	15	3	3	0	1
Harman	0	150	0	424	0	0
Harrison	1	32	2	19	0	14
Hawker	7	84	11	8	8	4
Higgins	5	6	6	8	4	5
Holder	27	44	5	8	1	1
Holt	21	10	15	5	8	6
Hughes	12	6	4	10	2	7
Hume	2	0	0	0	1	0
Isaacs	8	1	2	0	9	0
Isabella Plains	5	2	8	3	3	0
Jacka	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kaleen	14	27	18	8	13	3
Kambah	48	51	45	64	16	26
Kingston	5	8	10	7	0	13
Latham	9	15	10	34	2	1
Lawson	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lyneham	10	31	8	31	8	0
Lyons	4	5	6	6	2	1
Macarthur	1	0	5	0	0	0
Macgregor	13	21	12	12	4	6
Macquarie	3	5	11	0	4	1
Majura (Rural)	0	0	6	0	0	0
Mawson	9	4	8	7	3	1
McKellar	3	15	4	3	2	2
Melba	60	13	8	22	4	0
Mitchell	2	9	7	15	1	8
Monash	7	59	13	17	7	2
Narrabundah	13	30	12	30	14	10
Ngunnawal	8	24	7	33	2	11
Nicholls	8	27	2	26	2	1
O'Connor	15	30	2	48	3	6
O'Malley	5	0	23	0	1	5
Oaks Estate	0	0	2	1	0	3
Oxley	3	1	1	0	0	0

Page	8	25	7	11	1	3
Palmerston	8	20	1	17	0	1
Pearce	4	14	10	1	1	1
Phillip	6	29	14	2	6	6
Pialligo	0	0	0	0	1	0
Red Hill	14	55	15	16	3	12
Reid	6	7	0	6	2	4
Richardson	11	2	6	1	1	1
Rivett	17	4	10	6	11	3
Scullin	9	3	7	10	4	1
Spence	1	10	5	4	3	3
Stirling	5	9	20	2	1	0
Symonston	0	37	0	106	0	0
Theodore	6	2	8	8	6	2
Torrens	4	0	7	18	0	1
Turner	3	46	3	10	1	4
Wanniassa	78	41	36	9	14	5
Waramanga	7	7	7	5	2	6
Watson	9	17	4	6	8	0
Weetangera	4	16	5	30	4	5
Weston	12	9	21	33	12	3
Weston Creek (Rural)	0	2	0	0	0	0
Wright	0	0	0	2	0	31
Yarralumla	59	167	36	23	15	27
totals	1087	2976	923	1969	440	600

Art—public (Question No 457)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2015 (*redirected to the Minister for the Arts*):

What have been the ongoing costs per annum associated with each of the major installations of public art in the ACT for each year since 2009 to date, by location, for (a) lighting, (b) security and (c) maintenance, including cleaning.

Ms Burch: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ongoing costs per annum associated with each of the major installations of public art in the ACT managed by artsACT for each year since 2009 to date by location are for:

(a) lighting:

Power to artwork lighting is supplied via street light circuits and a cost per artwork is not available.

(b) security:

There are no ongoing security costs for the protection of the public art collection managed by artsACT. Some artworks are protected as part of building security

measures at arts centres such as security cameras and patrols. These measures are funded by building occupants and are not specifically to protect public artwork.

A Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera was mounted in Petrie Plaza to capture footage of the artwork *On the Staircase* from its installation in 2009 until October 2014. The ongoing cost to operate the camera, and actively monitor its footage, was part of the overall cost of the City-wide CCTV security camera system. A separate cost for the camera during that period is not known. After the removal of the artwork in October 2014, this camera is still operational and continues to form part of the CCTV public safety network.

(c) maintenance:

The total expenditure on collection management each financial year covers scheduled maintenance such as cleaning as well as unscheduled maintenance activities such as graffiti removal and artwork remediation following vandalism. Public artworks managed by artsACT are located throughout the Territory and total expenditure by financial year is as follows:

- 2009-10 - \$19,800
- 2010-11 - \$28,135
- 2011-12 - \$13,561
- 2012-13 - \$149,078
- 2013-14 - \$150,158
- 2014-15 - \$156,091
- 2015-16 - \$860 (year to date)

Expenditure on collection management rises considerably in 2012-13 because of an increase in funding to improve the maintenance of public art. \$150,000 (indexed) for public art managed by artACT was appropriated in the 2012-13 Budget.

Territory and Municipal Services is also responsible for the management of public art and it does not break down costs for public art installations for lighting, security and maintenance, including cleaning.

Housing—Narrabundah (Question No 458)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Housing, upon notice, on 4 August 2015:

What is the percentage of public housing in the Narrabundah area bound by Canberra Avenue, Sturt Avenue and Jerrabomberra Avenue, which is commonly known as old Narrabundah.

Ms Berry: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

The percentage of public housing properties is approximately 23% of the total number of properties in the Narrabundah area bound by Canberra Avenue, Sturt Avenue and Jerrabomberra Avenue, commonly known as old Narrabundah.

**Planning—Narrabundah
(Question No 459)**

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Housing, upon notice, on 4 August 2015:

- (1) What are details of the ACT Government's plans for the development of Section 34, Blocks 12 and 13, Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah.
- (2) Will the ACT Government adhere to the salt and pepper policy in the development of Section 34, Blocks 12 and 13, Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah such that this location will comprise 10 percent of public housing; if not, what percent of public housing will be developed at Section 34, Blocks 12 and 13, Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah.

Ms Berry: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Section 34, blocks 12 and 13, Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah are currently not zoned to permit residential development, however they are currently subject to the Omnibus Territory Plan Variation process. The site will be developed to achieve the objectives under the *Housing Assistance Act 2007*.
- (2) Each site will be considered for development on a case by case basis.

**Education and Training Directorate—surveys
(Question No 460)**

Mr Doszpot asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 5 August 2015:

Did the Education and Training Directorate undertake a survey of parents of students in ACT public schools in 2014.

- (1) What was the purpose of the survey.
- (2) If the survey was not distributed to all parents of students in ACT public schools, what parents were surveyed.
- (3) How were the survey participants chosen.
- (4) How were they communicated with.
- (5) Were any other groups or individuals who did not have a child in an ACT public school included.
- (6) Was the survey conducted in-house or was it contracted out. If contracted out, how and where was it advertised.
- (7) What questions were asked.
- (8) What were the results.

- (9) Have the results been published; if not, when are they going to be.
- (10) What actions are likely to be taken as a result of the survey.
- (11) What was the cost of the survey.

Ms Burch: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

Yes.

- (1) The Parent and Carer School Satisfaction Survey is an annual survey and provides data for schools to evaluate their achievements and to provide governments and the community with information about stakeholder satisfaction.
- (2) All parents and carers of students enrolled in an ACT public school were invited to participate.
- (3) See Answer 2.
- (4) Each public school was responsible for communicating with their school community. A survey invitation was sent to parents and carers via email, through the post or sent home with students. Schools were encouraged to promote the survey through their school newsletters and at school events such as Parents and Citizens Association meetings.
- (5) No.
- (6) The survey was conducted in-house.
- (7) A copy of the survey questionnaire is attached (**Attachment 1**). Each school was able to add their own school specific questions to the questionnaire contained in the attachment.
- (8) Overall, 85 percent of parents and carers were satisfied with the education provided at public schools in 2014. The key results are available on the Directorate's website.
- (9) The results were published on the Directorate's website.
- (10) Survey results from all ACT public schools are collated to provide an indication of system-wide satisfaction levels. The results are used, in conjunction with other forms of evidence, to inform the Directorate's Action Plan.
- (11) The School Satisfaction Survey is conducted in house with no costs other than internal staff salaries and resources.

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

**ACTION bus service—patronage
(Question No 462)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

- (1) What was the average number of origin passengers who boarded an ACTION bus between 7am and 9am from Monday, 3 August to Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at bus stops (identified by bus stop ID) (a) 6135, (b) 6168, (c) 6170, (d) 6172, (e) 6161, (f) 6174, (g) 6037, (h) 4927, (i) 4751, (j) 4749, (k) 4603, (l) 4551, (m) 4553, (n) 4567, (o) 4555, (p) 4557, (q) 4559, (r) 4561, (s) 4563 and (t) 4565.
- (2) How are these numbers broken down for answers to part (1) (a) to (t) for routes (a) 200, (b) 251, (c) 252, (d) 255 and (e) 259.
- (3) What was the average number of origin passengers who boarded an ACTION bus between 7am and 9am from Monday, 3 August to Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at bus stops (identified by bus stop ID) (a) 6043, (b) 6167, (c) 6169, (d) 6171, (e) 6160, (f) 6173, (g) 6036, (h) 4928, (i) 4752, (j) 4750, (k) 4604, (l) 4552, (m) 4554, (n) 4556, (o) 4558, (p) 4560, (q) 4562, (r) 4564 and (s) 4566.
- (4) How are these numbers broken down for answers to part (3) (a) to (t) for routes (a) 200, (b) 251, (c) 252, (d) 255 and (e) 259.

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

- (1) The average number of origin passengers who boarded an ACTION bus between 7am and 9am from Monday, 3 August to Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at bus stops (identified by bus stop ID) (a) 6135 was 192, (b) 6168 was 52, (c) 6170 was 111, (d) 6172 was 106, (e) 6161 was 131, (f) 6174 was 48, (g) 6037 was 3, (h) 4927 was 0, (i) 4751 was 42, (j) 4749 was 38, (k) 4603 was 13, (l) 4551 was 104, (m) 4553 was 50, (n) 4567 was 6, (o) 4555 was 19, (p) 4557 was 86, (q) 4559 was 31, (r) 4561 was 21, (s) 4563 was 2 and (t) 4565 was 13.
- (2) The response to answer 1, broken down by routes requested in question 2 are:

Average number of passenger boardings at (1a) bus stop 6135 for bus route (a) 200 is 47, (b) 251 is 26, (c) 252 is 30, (d) 255 is 17 and (e) 259 is 20.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1b) bus stop 6168 for bus route (a) 200 is 13, (b) 251 is 6, (c) 252 is 9, (d) 255 is 11 and (e) 259 is 12.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1c) bus stop 6170 for bus route (a) 200 is 37, (b) 251 is 18, (c) 252 is 29, (d) 255 is 10 and (e) 259 is 17.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1d) bus stop 6172 for bus route (a) 200 is 33, (b) 251 is 18, (c) 252 is 17, (d) 255 is 25 and (e) 259 is 12.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1e) bus stop 6161 for bus route (a) 200 is 49, (b) 251 is 16, (c) 252 is 24, (d) 255 is 22 and (e) 259 is 20.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1f) bus stop 6174 for bus route (a) 200 is 14, (b) 251 is 7, (c) 252 is 5, (d) 255 is 9 and (e) 259 is 6.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1g) bus stop 6037 for bus route (a) 200 is 0, (b) 251 is 1, (c) 252 is 0, (d) 255 is 1 and (e) 259 is 0.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1i) bus stop 4751 for bus route (a) 200 is 11, (b) 251 is 2, (c) 252 is 1, (d) 255 is 4 and (e) 259 is 6.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1j) bus stop 4749 for bus route (a) 200 is 9, (b) 251 is 5, (c) 252 is 1, (d) 255 is 6 and (e) 259 is 1.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1l) bus stop 4551 for bus route (a) 200 is 15, (b) 251 is 9, (c) 252 is 4, (d) 255 is 9 and (e) 259 is 5.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1m) bus stop 4553 for bus route (a) 200 is 10, (b) 251 is 6, (c) 252 is 2, (d) 255 is 4 and (e) 259 is 1.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1p) bus stop 4557 for bus route (a) 200 is 10, (b) 251 is 26, (c) 252 is 30, (d) 255 is 17 and (e) 259 is 20.

Average number of passenger boardings at (1t) bus stop 4565 for bus route (a) 200 is 2, (b) 251 is 3, (c) 252 is 1, (d) 255 is 4 and (e) 259 is 1.

The 200 series bus routes do not service bus stops (1h) 4927, (1k) 4603, (1n) 4567, (1o) 4555, (1q) 4559, (1r) 4561 and (1s) 4563.

- (3) The average number of origin passengers who boarded an ACTION bus between 7am and 9am from Monday, 3 August to Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at bus stops (identified by bus stop ID) (a) 6043 is 19, (b) 6167 is 2, (c) 6169 is 4, (d) 6171 is 4, (e) 6160 is 7, (f) 6173 is 1, (g) 6036 is 2, (h) 4928 is 0, (i) 4752 is 1, (j) 4750 is 4, (k) 4604 is 0, (l) 4552 is 5, (m) 4554 is 9, (n) 4556 is 4, (o) 4558 is 10, (p) 4560 is 4, (q) 4562 is 11, (r) 4564 is 3 and (s) 4566 is 5.

- (4) The response to answer 4, broken down by routes requested in question 3 are:

Average number of passenger boardings for (a) bus route 200 at bus stop (3a) 6043 is 1, (3b) 6167 is 2, (3c) 6169 is 4, (3d) 6171 is 4, (3e) 6160 is 7, (3f) 6173 is 1, (3g) 6036 is 2, (3i) 4752 is 1, (3j) 4750 is 3, (3l) 4552 is 1, (3m) 4554 is 6, (3o) 4558 is 5, and (3s) 4566 is 1.

The 200 series bus routes do not service bus stops (3h) 4928, (3k) 4604, (3n) 4556, (3p) 4560, (3q) 4562 and (3r) 4564.

Bus routes (b) 251, (c) 252, (d) 255 and (e) 259 do not operate northbound during the morning peak.

Answers provided are an average figure for the period 3 August to 5 August 2015 and as such, total figures and figures broken down by route may not balance due to rounding.

ACTION bus service—patronage (Question No 463)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 5 August 2015:

- (1) What was the average number of origin passengers who boarded an ACTION bus between 7am and 9am from Monday, 3 August to Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at bus stop 7002.
- (2) How are these numbers broken down for answers to part (1) for routes (a) 200, (b) 202, (c) 251, (d) 252 (e) 255 and (f) 259.
- (3) What was the average number of origin passengers who boarded an ACTION route 200 bus between 7am and 9am from Monday, 3 August to Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at bus stop 3410.

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

- (1) The average number of origin passengers who boarded an ACTION bus between 7am and 9am from Monday, 3 August to Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at bus stop 7002 is 352.
- (2) The response to answer 1, broken down by routes requested in question 2 are:
Average number of passenger boardings at (1) bus stop 7002 for bus Route (a) 200 is 116, (b) 202 is 82, (c) 251 is 24, (d) 252 is 47, (e) 255 is 25, (f) 259 is 31.
- (3) The average number of origin passengers who boarded an ACTION Route 200 bus between 7am and 9am from Monday, 3 August to Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at bus stop 3410 is 43.

Answers provided are an average figure for the period 3 August to 5 August 2015 and as such, total figures and figures broken down by route may not balance due to rounding.

Environment and Planning Directorate—consumer research (Question No 466)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Roads and Parking, upon notice, on 6 August 2015 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Roads and Parking*):

- (1) What polling or consumer research has been undertaken by the Directorate with regards to your portfolio since July 2013.
- (2) For any polling or consumer research identified in part (1) what was the (a) date on which the polling or consumer research was commissioned, (b) date on which the polling or consumer research was completed and (c) cost of the polling or consumer research.
- (3) Which companies were contracted to complete the polling or research for any items identified in part (1).

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

- (1) Consumer research undertaken in the Roads and Parking portfolio was the annual Territory and Municipal Services customer satisfaction survey.
- (2) The research was undertaken as follows:

Research	a) date commissioned	b) date completed	c) cost (GST inc)
2015 TAMS Satisfaction Survey	10 April 2015	24 April 2015	\$52,650*
2014 TAMS Satisfaction Survey	8 April 2014	23 April 2014	\$56,042*

* These amounts represent the cost of the full survey.

(3) The market research companies are as follows:

- Micromex
- Piazza Research

**Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—consumer research
(Question No 467)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

- (1) What polling or consumer research has been undertaken by the Directorate with regards to your portfolio since July 2013.
- (2) For any polling or consumer research identified in part (1) what was the (a) date on which the polling or consumer research was commissioned, (b) date on which the polling or consumer research was completed and (c) cost of the polling or consumer research.
- (3) Which companies were contracted to complete the polling or research for any items identified in part (1).

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

- (1) Consumer research undertaken in the Territory and Municipal portfolio was as follows:
 - Parks and City Services Customer Satisfaction Survey
 - Horse Agistment Client Survey
 - Kangaroo Management Attitude Survey
 - Capital Linen Workforce Survey
 - Library Loans Policy focus groups
 - TAMS Annual Survey including follow up focus groups
 - Communications Methods Survey
 - ACTION Early Bird research
 - ACTION Internal Communications research
 - Centenary Loop research

(2) The research was undertaken as follows:

Research	a) date commissioned	b) date completed	c) cost (GST inc)
Parks and City Services Customer Satisfaction Survey	July 2013	June 2014	\$62,000
Parks and City Services Customer Satisfaction Survey	July 2014	June 2015	\$62,000

Horse Agistment Client Survey	18 June 2015	30 June 2015	\$6,600
Kangaroo Management Attitude Survey	15 June 2015	18 June 2015	\$9,500
Capital Linen Customer Satisfaction Survey	June 2015	July 2015	\$6,050
Library Loans Policy focus groups	August 2013	September 2013	\$13,586
TAMS 2014 Annual Survey including follow up focus groups	8 April 2014	23 April 2014	\$56,042*
TAMS 2015 Annual Survey including follow up focus groups	10 April 2015	24 April 2015	\$52,650*
Communications Methods Survey	26 September 2013	8 October 2013	\$5,223
ACTION Early Bird research	26 May 2014	30 June 2014	\$22,660
ACTION Internal Communications research	11 November 2013	28 February 2014	\$24,750
Centenary Loop research	1 October 2013	30 October 2013	\$10,450

* These amounts are also included in response to QON 466.

(3) The market research companies are as follows:

- Colmar Brunton
- Market Attitude Research Services
- Micromex
- Orima Research
- Piazza Research
- Sustainable Marketing

Environment and Planning Directorate—consumer research (Question No 468)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice, on 6 August 2015 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Planning*):

- (1) What polling or consumer research has been undertaken by the Directorate with regards to your portfolio since July 2013.
- (2) For any polling or consumer research identified in part (1) what was the (a) date on which the polling or consumer research was commissioned, (b) date on which the polling or consumer research was completed and (c) cost of the polling or consumer research.
- (3) Which companies were contracted to complete the polling or research for any items identified in part (1).

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

- (1) A survey about housing choices in the ACT community was commissioned by the Environment and Planning Directorate.

The survey canvassed public opinion about the level of community satisfaction with housing choices in established residentially zoned areas and determines whether there is support for enabling greater housing choices in these areas. The data was correlated with housing characteristics to assist with an understanding of issues such as ageing in place. This work will assist the Environment and Planning Directorate to refine its residential codes.

The survey involved a 1000 person stratified random sample telephone survey. This was considered to be a sufficiently robust sample size to ensure that results at the total sample level are within a 3% accuracy range when compared to the result that would have been obtained if all people had been included.

- (2)
 - a) The research was commissioned on 12 November 2014.
 - b) The surveys were completed by Tuesday 13 January 2015.
 - c) Total cost was \$53,355.50.
- (3) Winton Sustainable Research Strategies Pty Ltd was engaged to undertake the work.

Municipal services—playgrounds (Question No 469)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

- (1) What is the overall ACT Budget for playgrounds, upgrades and maintenance, including each year for the last 15 years and in the forward estimates.
- (2) How many staff are allocated for playground maintenance (a) over the last five years and (b) will be allocated in the forward estimates.

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

- (1) The overall ACT Budget for playgrounds, upgrades and maintenance since 2010-11 is \$10,471,000 as shown in **Attachment A**.

The overall expenditure prior to 2010-11 is not readily available due to a change in financial systems.

- (2)
 - (a) An average of 10 staff.
 - (b) Unknown

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

Municipal services—playgrounds (Question No 470)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

Which playgrounds in the ACT have been upgraded and in relation to the upgrades (a) what were the features of these upgrades and (b) what was the cost of each upgrade.

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

During the 2014-15 financial year the Corroboree Park Ainslie playground was upgraded:

a) a contemporary climbing unit with two slides, net and interactive elements, a double spring rocker, a large net 'basket' and a 'rodeo board', repairs/modification to the existing large steel swing and new seating.

b) \$175,000 was allocated in the 2014-15 Budget for this upgrade.

Minor safety and repair work was carried out in 2014-15 at the following playgrounds:

INNER NORTH

Ainslie	Angas Street	Lyneham	Goodchild Street
	Agnew Street		Lambert Place
Campbell	Cobby Street	O'Connor	David Street
	Glossop Street	Watson	Wade Street
Downer	Berry Street		
	Cole Street		
	Tardent Street		
Hackett	Harris Street		

BELCONNEN

Aranda	Banjalong Crescent	Cook	Mackellar Crescent
	Jagara Street	Charnwood	Covington Crescent
Belconnen	Diddams Close (west)		Donnison Place
	Diddams Close (east)		McQuade Close
	MacDermott Place	Dunlop	Archdall Street
	Renny Place		Evelyn Owen Crescent
Bruce	Jaegar Circuit		Gouldsmith Street
	Mugglestone Place		Quinlivan Crescent
Evatt	Gollan Street	Latham	Pinkerton Street
	Kinthead Street	Macquarie	Macquarie Place
	Levine Street	McKellar	Allchin Circuit
	Read Place	Melba	Henslowe Place

Floreay	Hewlett Circuit		Scarlett Street
	Kitson Place	Page	Horton Close
Flynn	Blackwell Circuit	Spence	Bowling Place
Fraser	Bingley Crescent		Hancock Street
Holt	Beaurepaire Crescent	Scullin	Attiwell Circuit
	Boyle Place		Bullock Circuit
	Britten Jones Drive		Faithfull Circuit
Kaleen	Darby Street		Hargrave Street
	Ellenborough Street		Levien Street
	Georgina Crescent		McLeod Place
	Glenelg Street		
	Kaleen Shopping Centre		
	Warrego Circuit		

GUNGAHLIN

Amaroo	Bizant Street	Ngunnawal	Violets Park
	Proserpine Circuit		Homestead Park
	Wanderer Court		Bargang Crescent
	Bywaters Street		Paul Coe Crescent
	Corringle Close		Itterra Grove
Franklin	Gwen Meredith Loop Pedestrian Parkland	Palmerston	Haystack Crescent
Giralang	Rigel Place		Sonder Place
	Achernar Close		Bimberi Crescent
	Anne Clarke Avenue		Spec Place
	Blacklock Close		Kosciuszko Avenue
	Candlebark Close		
	Metcalf Street		

TUGGERANONG

Banks	Wilson Crescent	Kambah	Dale Circuit
	Pockett Avenue		Haskett Street
Calwell	Mountain Circuit		Humble Court
Chisholm	Dalyell Street		Kambah District Park
	Deamer Crescent		Lascelles Circuit
Conder	Montifiore Crescent		Mannheim Street
	Russell Drysdale Crescent		Toole Place

Fadden	Nicklin Crescent		Vanzetti Crescent
Gordon	Evan Place	Monash	Victor Place
	Kirkwood Crescent	Monash	Charleston Street
	Noel Ryan Gardens	Wanniassa	Harvey Place
	Popplewell Place		Sainsbury Street
Greenway	Ankertell Street		Steinfeld Court
Isabella Plains	Keverston Circuit		Sullivan Crescent
			Watkins Street
			Wheeler Crescent

INNER SOUTH

Deakin	Hannah Place	Narrabundah	Brockman Street
Red Hill	Lady Nelson Place		

WODEN/WESTON

Chapman	Bertel Crescent	Rivett	Sollya Place
	Ordell Street	Stirling	Bunbury Street
Duffy	Glenmaggie Street	Torrens	Torrens Place
Farrer	Wagga Street	Weston	Fry Place
Holder	Stapylton Street		Gruner Street
Hughes	Goble Street		Molvig Street
Mawson	Du Faur Place		Whitney Place
	Wilkins Street		
Phillip	Mansfield Place		
	Rowe Place		

- a) A total of \$500,000 was allocated for the works in the playgrounds listed above.
- b) Features included replacement / top up of soft fall, replacement of sections of equipment and hand rails, replacement of swing chains and hammerlock shackles, fixing of gaps in handrails, scramble nets and fencing, removing of rigid bars and increasing fall zones.

**Municipal services—playgrounds
(Question No 471)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

- (1) What is the total number of playgrounds in the ACT.
- (2) For each playground what (a) is the location, (b) was the cost when it was built and (c) year it was built.

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

- (1) The Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) manages and maintains 496 playgrounds on open space land.

There are other playgrounds managed by other entities for which TAMS is not responsible.

- (2)
- (a) Please refer to **Attachment A**.
- (b) TAMS cannot provide an accurate cost at the date when each playground was built. Construction costs have not been recorded for those playgrounds that were built pre-self government. In new development areas construction companies have constructed playgrounds as part of the development of the suburb.
- (c) **Attachment A** provides dates where known.

Attachment A

Suburb	Playground Location	Construction date
WESTON	DILLON CLOSE	16/06/2010
HARRISON	MOONLIGHT AVENUE	not known
WATSON	MARY KITSON STREET	01/04/2008
DEAKIN	HANNAH PLACE	not known
FRANKLIN	CHARLOTTE BARTON ST	not known
GUNGAHLIN	MARY GILLISPIE AVENUE	24/03/2009
GUNGAHLIN	ANSETT STREET	24/03/2009
CRACE	SAMARIA STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	02/07/2013
CRACE	THADOONA STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	02/07/2013
FORDE	TURBAYNE CRESCENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	07/12/2012
CASEY	CARMODY STREET PEDESTRIAN PARKLAND	17/06/2013
CASEY	WIGHTON TERRACE PEDESTRIAN PARKLAND	17/06/2013
MACGREGOR	REFSHAUGE CRESCENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	18/01/2013
WESTON	DILLON CLOSE	not known
MACGREGOR	JOHN HOLT STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	19/01/2013
MACGREGOR	DE GRUCHY PLACE PEDESTRIAN PARKLAND	09/05/2012
FORDE	VOLPATO STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	18/06/2013
BONNER	DON BELL STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	03/07/2014
MOLONGLO VALLEY	NATIONAL ARBORETUM	16/06/2013
CALWELL	CALWELL SHOPPING CENTRE	18/09/2013
FRANKLIN	ELIZABETH JOLLEY CRESCENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	17/12/2010
CHISHOLM	DEAMER CRESCENT	not known
CHISHOLM	HEAGNEY CRESCENT	not known
CHISHOLM	DALYELL STREET	not known
CHISHOLM	ALSTON STREET	not known
CHISHOLM	KIRKCALDIE CIRCUIT	not known
CHISHOLM	PROCTOR STREET	not known
GILMORE	HEAGNEY CRESCENT	not known
GILMORE	HOGUE PLACE	not known
GILMORE	ROSMAN CIRCUIT	not known
CAMPBELL	ELLIOTT PLACE	not known
GREENWAY	DE LITTLE CIRCUIT	not known
GREENWAY	ANKETELL STREET	not known
BONYTHON	MARQUET RETREAT	not known
CONDER	RUSSEL DRYSDALE CRESCENT	not known
BONYTHON	HUSSEY COVE	not known

MONASH	COCKROFT AVENUE	not known
MONASH	CHARLESTON STREET	not known
MONASH	WILLIAM HUDSON CRESCENT	not known
CAMPBELL	GARSIA STREET	not known
MONASH	HALLSTROM CIRCUIT	not known
MONASH	CLIVE STEELE AVENUE	not known
MONASH	ALABASTER STREET	not known
MONASH	VICTOR PLACE	not known
OXLEY	NEWMAN MORRIS CIRCUIT	not known
OXLEY	CUTHBERTSON STREET MCKIBBIN PL	not known
RICHARDSON	VIDAL STREET	not known
RICHARDSON	CHAUNCY CRESCENT	not known
RICHARDSON	CLIFT CRESCENT	not known
CAMPBELL	GLOSSOP STREET	not known
THEODORE	LOUIS LODER STREET	not known
THEODORE	LAWRENCE WACKETT CRESCENT	not known
THEODORE	CHIPPINDALL CIRCUIT	not known
THEODORE	SCANTLEBURY CRESCENT	not known
THEODORE	DYETT CIRCUIT	not known
WANNIASSA	LANSELL CIRCUIT	not known
WANNIASSA	BUSSAU CLOSE	not known
WANNIASSA	SULLIVAN CRESCENT	not known
WANNIASSA	SAINSBURY STREET	not known
CAMPBELL	WHITE CRESCENT (WEST)	not known
WANNIASSA	BILLSON PLACE	not known
WANNIASSA	SANGSTER PLACE	not known
WANNIASSA	WHITEMAN STREET	not known
WANNIASSA	HALFREY CIRCUIT (ATA STYLES PL)	not known
WANNIASSA	WHEELER CRESCENT	not known
WANNIASSA	HERVEY PLACE	not known
WANNIASSA	STEINFIELD COURT	not known
WANNIASSA	WATKINS STREET	not known
GORDON	MCGILVRAY CLOSE	not known
GORDON	EVAN PLACE	not known
CAMPBELL	COBBY STREET	not known
ISABELLA PLAINS	FINDON PLACE	not known
ISABELLA PLAINS	KEVERSTON CIRCUIT	not known
ISABELLA PLAINS	YABTREE PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	MANNEHEIM STREET	not known
KAMBAH	GIBBS PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	MARCONI CRESCENT	not known
KAMBAH	LASCELLES CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	HASKETT STREET	not known
KAMBAH	CRAFER PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	HORTON CLOSE	not known
KAMBAH	TOOLE PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	DEUCHAR CLOSE	not known
KAMBAH	MCKILLOP PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	VANZETTI CRESCENT	not known
KAMBAH	CROUCH PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	SUMMERLAND CIRCUIT (SOUTH)	not known
KAMBAH	MCLEOD PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	BRIMAGE PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	COGHILL CLOSE	not known
AINSLIE	RUTHERFORD CRESCENT	not known
BRADDON	LOWANNA STREET	not known
KAMBAH	BODDINGTON CRESCENT (SOUTH)	not known
KAMBAH	BOUSTEAD CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	PINKERTON CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	ROUNSEVELL STREET	not known
KAMBAH	DALE CIRCUIT	not known

KAMBAH	SPRINGBETT STREET	not known
KAMBAH	PRIMMER COURT	not known
KAMBAH	HUMBLE COURT	not known
KAMBAH	MAXWORTHY STREET	not known
KAMBAH	LIVINGSTON AVENUE	not known
CITY	GLEBE PARK	not known
KAMBAH	OLDFIELD CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	AMMON PLACE	not known
KAMBAH	ALLCHIN CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	ATTIWELL CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	BTWN BUCKLEY CCT AND BARRITT ST	not known
KAMBAH	FAITHFULL CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	BULLOCK CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	KARNEY STREET	not known
CALWELL	SAMUEL CLOSE	not known
AINSLIE	ANGAS STREET	not known
CALWELL	WERE STREET	not known
CALWELL	CASEY CRESCENT	not known
CALWELL	BECKETT STREET	not known
CALWELL	MOUNTAIN CIRCUIT	not known
KAMBAH	LEARMONTH DRIVE	not known
MACARTHUR	MERRIMAN STREET	not known
MACARTHUR	BAYLY PLACE	not known
GOWRIE	JEFFRIES STREET	not known
GOWRIE	HOWELL PLACE	not known
GOWRIE	INWOOD PLACE	not known
GOWRIE	MIDDLETON CIRCUIT	not known
GOWRIE	WRAY PLACE	not known
GOWRIE	WEATHERS STREET	not known
WESTON	MOLVIG STREET	not known
FISHER	MOONTA PLACE	not known
FISHER	ARALUEN STREET	not known
GARRAN	DENNIS STREET	not known
GARRAN	HENDERSON STREET	not known
HUGHES	BISDEE STREET	not known
HUGHES	MCNICOLL STREET	not known
HUGHES	GOBLE STREET	not known
ISAACS	DUMOLO PLACE	not known
ISAACS	ROWNTREE CRESCENT	not known
FARRER	HAGELTHORN STREET	not known
FARRER	WAGGA STREET	not known
FARRER	MOODIE STREET	not known
FARRER	GATTON STREET	not known
DUFFY	KALLARA CLOSE	not known
DUFFY	MIRROOL STREET	not known
DUFFY	GLENMAGGIE STREET	not known
DUFFY	CARGELLIGO STREET	not known
DUFFY	ROCKLANDS STREET	not known
HOLDER	PEARSON STREET	not known
HOLDER	CALDER CRESCENT	not known
HOLDER	DE GRAAFF STREET	not known
CHAPMAN	ORDELL STREET	not known
CHAPMAN	PERRY DRIVE	not known
CHAPMAN	TAUCHERT STREET	not known
CHAPMAN	BERTEL CRESCENT	not known
CURTIN	MACALISTER CRESCENT	not known
CURTIN	DAGLISH STREET	not known
CURTIN	PHILP PLACE	not known
CURTIN	CARRUTHERS STREET	not known
CURTIN	MORGAN PLACE	not known
CURTIN	FARNELL PLACE	not known
CURTIN	STOREY STREET	not known

CHIFLEY	CHIFLEY PLACE	not known
CHIFLEY	CHARTERIS CRESCENT	not known
LYONS	RISDON PLACE	not known
LYONS	TOOMS PLACE	not known
LYONS	DEVONPORT STREET	not known
LYONS	PILLAR PLACE	not known
PHILLIP	TANK STREET	not known
PHILLIP	ROWE PLACE	not known
PHILLIP	LAUNCESTON ST	not known
STIRLING	BARLEE PLACE	not known
STIRLING	BUNBURY STREET	not known
RIVETT	SANTALUM STREET	not known
RIVETT	YATE GARDENS	not known
RIVETT	BLANCOA PLACE	not known
RIVETT	SOLLYA PLACE	not known
WARAMANGA	MALARA STREET	not known
WARAMANGA	WARRAI PLACE	not known
WESTON	WHITNEY PLACE	not known
WESTON	GRUNER STREET	not known
WESTON	FRY PLACE	not known
TORRENS	PARSONS STREET	not known
TORRENS	TORRENS PLACE	not known
TORRENS	HORROCKS STREET	not known
AINSLIE	AGNEW STREET	not known
PEARCE	WHITHAM PLACE	not known
PEARCE	MACFARLAND CRESCENT	not known
PEARCE	KEMSLEY PLACE	not known
O'MALLEY	COBBADAH STREET	not known
O'MALLEY	CULGOA CIRCUIT	not known
MAWSON	WILKINS STREET	not known
MAWSON	DU FAUR PLACE	not known
MAWSON	LASERON PLACE	not known
MAWSON	AURORA CLOSE	not known
FISHER	HAMERSLEY PLACE	not known
WESTON	WITHERS PLACE	not known
DUNLOP	QUINLIVAN CRESCENT	not known
DUNLOP	EVELYN OWEN CRESCENT	not known
BANKS	POCKETT AVENUE	not known
DUNLOP	SHOBRIDGE CIRCUIT	not known
CHAPMAN	CHAUVEL CIRCLE	not known
GREENWAY	TUGGERANONG TOWN CENTRE	not known
CHARNWOOD	DEAN PLACE	not known
HAWKER	MATARANKA STREET	not known
MACQUARIE	ALLMAN CIRCUIT	not known
MACQUARIE	JAMISON CENTRE	not known
MACQUARIE	BADGERY STREET	not known
MACQUARIE	BLACKMAN CRESCENT	not known
EVATT	LEVINE STREET	not known
HALL	HALL PARK	not known
MACGREGOR	HARPER STREET	not known
NGUNNAWAL	VIOLETS PARK	not known
PALMERSTON	BIMBERI CRESCENT	not known
MACQUARIE	WYLDE PLACE	not known
PALMERSTON	KOSCIUSZKO AVENUE	not known
PALMERSTON	WEDDIN CIRCUIT	not known
PALMERSTON	HAYSTACK CRESCENT	not known
NGUNNAWAL	WELLINGTON STREET	not known
NGUNNAWAL	HOMESTEAD PARK	not known
NGUNNAWAL	NOBLE CLOSE	not known
NICHOLLS	BLACKLOCK CLOSE	not known
PALMERSTON	SONDER CLOSE	not known
MACQUARIE	MACQUARIE PLACE	not known

AMAROO	CORRINGLE CLOSE	not known
AMAROO	MIRRABEI DRIVE	not known
NICHOLLS	METCALFE STREET	not known
NGUNNAWAL	BURRUMARRA AVENUE	not known
AMAROO	BYWATERS STREET	not known
NICHOLLS	CANDLEBARK CLOSE	not known
FISHER	PANDANUS STREET	not known
MACQUARIE	ERSKINE STREET	not known
NGUNNAWAL	DEUMONGA COURT	not known
NGUNNAWAL	GADALI CRESCENT	not known
NGUNNAWAL	BARGANG CRESCENT	not known
AMAROO	PROSERPINE CIRCUIT	not known
AMAROO	BIZANT STREET	not known
NICHOLLS	SUE GEH CIRCUIT	not known
NICHOLLS	ANNE CLARK AVENUE	not known
AMAROO	WANDERER COURT	not known
GIRALANG	SCULPTOR STREET	not known
NGUNNAWAL	PAUL COE CRESCENT	not known
DUNLOP	GOULDSMITH STREET	not known
GUNGAHLIN	TEA GARDENS	not known
NICHOLLS	STEDMAN PLACE	not known
GIRALANG	WARRING PLACE	not known
DOWNER	TARDENT STREET	not known
GIRALANG	ACHERNER CLOSE	not known
GIRALANG	BARACCHI CRESCENT	not known
GIRALANG	MALINDI PLACE	not known
GIRALANG	RIGEL PLACE	not known
MCKELLAR	JEFFERY PLACE	not known
MCKELLAR	VAGABOND CRESCENT	not known
MCKELLAR	TIPPING PLACE	not known
SCULLIN	BAIRD PLACE	not known
SCULLIN	DUIGAN STREET	not known
SCULLIN	GATTY PLACE	not known
DOWNER	FENTON STREET	not known
SCULLIN	HARGRAVE STREET	not known
SCULLIN	BROADSMITH STREET	not known
SCULLIN	LEVIEEN STREET	not known
HAWKER	WOOLNER CIRCUIT	not known
HAWKER	ERLDUNDA CIRCUIT AND ANNINGIE PLACE	not known
WEETANGERA	MOWLE PLACE	not known
WEETANGERA	SMITH STREET	not known
WEETANGERA	MATHIESON STREET	not known
DOWNER	BERRY STREET	not known
PAGE	BIRRELL STREET	not known
PAGE	EARLIE PLACE	not known
PAGE	THOZET PLACE	not known
AINSLIE	PATERSON STREET	not known
DICKSON	HAWDON STREET	not known
LATHAM	SOLOMON CRESCENT	not known
LATHAM	HENSMAN STREET	not known
LATHAM	CHUBB STREET	not known
KALEEN	GEORGINA CRESCENT	not known
KALEEN	DARBY STREET	not known
KALEEN	GLENELG STREET	not known
KALEEN	ASHBURTON CIRCUIT	not known
KALEEN	BELLINGER COURT	not known
PAGE	BURKITT STREET	not known
PAGE	PETTERD STREET	not known
PAGE	NEWBERY CRESCENT	not known
MACGREGOR	BARRETT STREET	not known
MACGREGOR	PULLEINE CRESCENT	not known

MACGREGOR	CHALMERS PLACE	not known
MACGREGOR	BERNE CRESCENT	not known
MACGREGOR	BEANEY STREET	not known
FRASER	SHAKESPEARE CRESCENT	not known
FRASER	BINGLEY CRESCENT	not known
FRASER	MILDENHALL PLACE	not known
ARANDA	GUNDARA STREET	not known
ARANDA	JAGARA STREET	not known
ARANDA	BANDJALONG CRESCENT	not known
ARANDA	BANAMBILA STREET	not known
FLOREY	KESTEVEN STREET	not known
DOWNER	COLE STREET	not known
FLOREY	TATTERSALL CRESCENT	not known
FLOREY	HEWLETT CIRCUIT	not known
FLOREY	BOSWELL CRESCENT	not known
FLOREY	MEYRICK PLACE	not known
HIGGINS	O'SULLIVAN STREET	not known
HIGGINS	HUDSON STREET	not known
HIGGINS	RICH STREET	not known
LATHAM	FLOREY DRIVE	not known
KALEEN	ELLENBOROUGH STREET	not known
KALEEN	WARREGO CIRCUIT	not known
KALEEN	ALBERGA STREET	not known
KALEEN	LIFFEY CIRCUIT	not known
SPENCE	HANCOCK STREET	not known
SPENCE	CROFTS CRESCENT	not known
DICKSON	KARUAH STREET	not known
SPENCE	GLASSEY PLACE	not known
HOLT	BRITTEN JONES DRIVE	not known
HOLT	CAZALY CLOSE	not known
HOLT	BOYLE PLACE	not known
HOLT	HARDWICK CRESCENT	not known
DICKSON	HOPE STREET	not known
BELCONNEN	DIDDAMS CLOSE (WEST)	not known
BELCONNEN	TOTTERDELL STREET SOUTH	not known
BELCONNEN	TOTTERDELL STREET NORTH	not known
BELCONNEN	MACDERMOTT PLACE	not known
BELCONNEN	PIGDON PLACE	not known
BELCONNEN	RENNY PLACE	not known
BRUCE	COBBETT PLACE	not known
HACKETT	TRYON STREET	not known
BRUCE	MUGGLESTONE PLACE	not known
BRUCE	JAEGAR CIRCUIT	not known
MELBA	SCARLETT STREET	not known
MELBA	DELANY COURT	not known
MELBA	HENSLOWE PLACE	not known
MELBA	BISHOP PLACE	not known
MELBA	FLOWER PLACE	not known
FLYNN	BLACKWELL CIRCUIT	not known
FLYNN	HERSCHELL CIRCUIT	not known
FLYNN	RECHNER PLACE	not known
HACKETT	BRAGG STREET	not known
FLYNN	PLOWMAN PLACE	not known
CHARNWOOD	DONNISON PLACE	not known
CHARNWOOD	BETTINGTON CIRCUIT	not known
CHARNWOOD	SADLIER PLACE	not known
CHARNWOOD	COVINGTON CRESCENT	not known
EVATT	GOLLAN STREET	not known
EVATT	JACOBS STREET	not known
HACKETT	CALDWELL STREET	not known
EVATT	KINKEAD STREET	not known
EVATT	PITCAIRN STREET	not known

EVATT	READ PLACE	not known
EVATT	COPLAND DRIVE	not known
COOK	TEAGUE PLACE	not known
COOK	DEXTER AND BOURNE STS	not known
COOK	MACKELLAR CRESCENT	not known
COOK	LYTTLETON CRESCENT	not known
COOK	CLISBY CLOSE	not known
HACKETT	GILRUTH STREET	not known
BRUCE	LAMPARD CIRCUIT	not known
DUNLOP	ARCHDALL STREET	not known
TURNER	CONDAMINE STREET	not known
O'CONNOR	CORREA STREET	not known
O'CONNOR	BORONIA DRIVE	not known
O'CONNOR	WONGoola STREET	not known
O'CONNOR	COCKLE STREET	not known
O'CONNOR	FINN STREET	not known
O'CONNOR	DAVID STREET	not known
HACKETT	HARRIS STREET	not known
WATSON	DOWLING STREET	not known
WATSON	SIMPSON STREET	not known
WATSON	HARDING STREET	not known
WATSON	WADE STREET	not known
REID	GEERILONG GARDENS	not known
OAKS ESTATE	RAILWAY STREET	not known
OAKS ESTATE	WILLIAM STREET	not known
NARRABUNDAH	CARNEGIE CRESCENT	not known
LYNEHAM	VON GUERARD CRESCENT	not known
NARRABUNDAH	SPRENT STREET	not known
NARRABUNDAH	ANEMBO STREET (WEST)	not known
NARRABUNDAH	ANEMBO STREET (EAST)	not known
BARTON	TELOPEA PARK	not known
NARRABUNDAH	BROCKMAN STREET	not known
GRIFFITH	WELLS GARDENS	not known
GRIFFITH	FLINDERS WAY	not known
GRIFFITH	STOKES STREET	not known
LYNEHAM	COSSINGTON SMITH CRESCENT	not known
GRIFFITH	LIGHT STREET	not known
GRIFFITH	THROSBY LANE	not known
YARRALUMLA	MUELLER STREET	not known
DEAKIN	BEDFORD STREET	not known
DEAKIN	LAWLEY STREET	not known
RED HILL	GOLDEN GROVE	not known
RED HILL	LADY NELSON PLACE	not known
RED HILL	ASTROLABE STREET	not known
LYNEHAM	GOODCHILD STREET	not known
YARRALUMLA	WESTON PARK (EAST)	not known
BANKS	WILSON CRESCENT	not known
BANKS	MENZIES COURT	not known
GORDON	NOEL RYAN GARDENS	not known
GORDON	IREDALE PLACE	not known
GORDON	KIRKWOOD CRESCENT	not known
GORDON	POPPLEWELL PLACE	not known
GORDON	KNOKE AVENUE	not known
CONDER	CREMONE PLACE	not known
LYNEHAM	LAMBERT PLACE	not known
CONDER	MONTIFILORE CRESCENT	not known
CONDER	DIXSON CRESCENT	not known
FADDEN	MCPHAIL PLACE	not known
FADDEN	BERTRAM STREET	not known
FADDEN	COYNE STREET	not known
FADDEN	PARNELL PLACE	not known
LYNEHAM	DE BURGH STREET	not known

CHISHOLM	MEESON STREET	not known
CRACE	LANABA STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	05/12/2013
WRIGHT	MAX JACOBS AVENUE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	18/10/2013
JACKA	APPLEFORD AV PEDESTRIAN PARKLAND	01/11/2013
BONNER	BILIN BILIN STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	16/06/2014
NGUNNAWAL	ITERRA GROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	17/09/2014
MACGREGOR	CARMAN LOOP NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	25/09/2014
DUNLOP	JAMES HARRISON STREET	22/07/2009
O'MALLEY	DALMAN CRESCENT	03/09/2007
CRACE	STOWPORT AVENUE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	05/12/2011
FORDE	AIDA BALL CIRCUIT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	20/10/2011
BONNER	BURNUM BURNUM CLOSE CRIPS PLAYGROUND	01/09/2011
FORDE	BRUCE DITTMAR CENTRAL COMMUNITY PARK	22/03/2012
NICHOLLS	PAISLEY STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	01/01/2004
MACGREGOR	ABBIE STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	15/01/2012
CASEY	YEEND AVENUE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	18/05/2012
FRANKLIN	GLADYS LISTER STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	17/12/2010
FORDE	PHYLIS STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	28/10/2010
CASEY	JOHN CRAWFORD AVENUE	21/12/2010
GUNGAHLIN	GUNGAHLIN CENTRAL LINEAR PARK	28/05/2008
HARRISON	TANAMI STREET (NW)	15/12/2009
HARRISON	ERIC MAWSON STREET (WEST)	28/11/2007
FRANKLIN	GWEN MEREDITH LOOP	20/11/2009
FADDEN	NICKLIN CRESCENT	not known
HOLDER	STAPYLTON STREET	not known
PHILLIP	MANSFIELD PLACE	not known
RIVETT	EPACRIS PLACE	not known
WARAMANGA	YANDA STREET	not known
SPENCE	BOWLING PLACE	18/04/2006
EVATT	CANAWAY PLACE	18/04/2006
KALEEN	GWYDIR SQ	18/04/2006
KALEEN	WAKOOL CIRCUIT	18/04/2006
AINSLIE	WAKEFIELD GARDENS	18/04/2006
TURNER	HACKETT GARDENS	18/04/2006
REID	DIRRAWAN GARDENS	18/04/2006
ACTON	GARRYOWEN DRIVE	18/04/2006
HAWKER	HAWKER SHOPPING CENTRE	18/04/2006
HIGGINS	BONIWELL STREET	18/04/2006
CHARNWOOD	MC QUADE CLOSE	18/04/2006
FLYNN	SANDERSON CLOSE	18/04/2006
LATHAM	MACROSSAN CRESCENT	18/04/2006
HOLT	ARMSTRONG CRESCENT	19/04/2006
KINGSTON	SANDALWOOD STREET	19/04/2006
RICHARDSON	CASSON CRESCENT	19/04/2006
WARAMANGA	NEMERANG CRESCENT	19/04/2006
ISAACS	ROSSON PLACE	19/04/2006
FLOREY	KITSON PLACE	27/08/2007
WEETANGERA	GILLESPIE STREET	27/08/2007
FRANKLIN	CNR DOROTHY GREEN CR AND PATRICK WHITE CCT	23/11/2009
FRANKLIN	CNR CHRISTINA STEAD ST AND BALLANTYNE CR	23/11/2009
CASEY	WHITROD AVENUE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	12/12/2013
PADDYS RIVER	COREE - COTTER ROAD	01/01/2005
GUNGAHLIN	ADLARD PLACE - PEDESTRIAN PARKLAND	06/08/2012
FORDE	PAHLMAN STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	24/09/2012
MACGREGOR	CLYDE FINLAY STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	02/08/2012
DUNLOP	ELDERSHAW CRES	21/12/2006
KOWEN	KOWEN ROAD (SOUTH)	not known
KOWEN	KOWEN ROAD (NORTH)	not known
BONYTHON	BURGOYNE STREET	12/01/2009
PADDYS RIVER	TIDBINBILLA ROAD	not known
GREENWAY	PINE ISLAND ROAD	not known
STROMLO (RURAL)	COTTER ROAD	not known

GUNGAHLIN	WUNDERLICH STREET	not known
DUNLOP	HANRAHAN CRESCENT	05/10/2004
DUNLOP	MAG PLACE	04/06/2007
NICHOLLS	TUBMAN PLACE	not known
CONDER	JAMES SMITH CIRCUIT PEDESTRIAN PARKLAND	01/01/1997
WRIGHT	TISHLER STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	22/06/2015
WRIGHT	BANJO PATTERSON AVENUE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	22/06/2015
WESTON	MCCONCHIE CIRCUIT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	05/03/2015
NGUNNAWAL	BINDUGAN CRESCENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	23/04/2015
MCKELLAR	JEANNE YOUNG CIRCUIT PEDESTRIAN PARKLAND	10/02/2005
BRUCE	THYNE STREET SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE	17/01/2013
BELCONNEN	TOWNSEND PLACE	01/11/2009
MACGREGOR	BRYAN HUDSON STREET	21/12/2009
KAMBAH	BODDINGTON CRESCENT (NORTH)	17/05/2010
BONYTHON	MORICE PLACE	22/01/2010
RIVETT	RIVETT PLACE	16/06/2010
HOLT	BEAUREPAIRE CRESCENT	26/05/2010
DOWNER	CNR BONYTHON AND MELBA STS	23/06/2010
KAMBAH	SUMMERLAND CIRCUIT (NORTH)	17/05/2010
COOK	TEMPLETON STREET	26/05/2010
CRACE	NARDEN STREET CENTRAL COMMUNITY PARK (CRIP)	28/11/2012
HARRISON	ALBATROSS CRESCENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	26/11/2012
BONNER	PEARL GIBBS CIRCUIT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	21/08/2012
BONNER	NEIDJIE CLOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	21/08/2012
CRACE	MEDHURST CRESCENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	21/10/2012
BONNER	FERNANDO STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	30/09/2010
PALMERSTON	SPEC PLACE	not known
FORDE	NEIL HARRIS CRESCENT	27/11/2007

Government—small medium enterprise contracts (Question No 473)

Mr Wall asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 6 August 2015 (*redirected to the Minister for Economic Development*):

- (1) In relation to procurement, how many successful tenderers for ACT Government contracts were regional Small Medium Enterprises (SME's) in (a) 2013, (b) 2014 and (c) to date.
- (2) What was the total value of the contracts identified in part (1).
- (3) How many of the regional SME's identified in part (1) had weighting applied to a tender of (a) one to five percent and (b) five to ten percent.
- (4) How many of the regional SME's identified in part (1) were based in the ACT.
- (5) How many successful tenderers for ACT Government contracts were not regional SME's but indicated subcontracting to a regional SME in (a) 2013, (b) 2014 and (c) to date.
- (6) What was the total value of work subcontracted to the regional SME's identified in part (5).

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

- (1) The number of successful tenderers for ACT Government Goods and Services contracts with regional SMEs on the Contracts Register is:

Year	Successful regional SME Tenderers
2013	260
2014	432
2015 (to date)	121

- (2) The total value of the contracts identified in part (1) above is:

Year	Total value of contracts with successful regional SME Tenderers \$
2013	135,804,007*
2014	120,607,026
2015 (to date)	21,641,403

**the 2013 figure includes a small number of high value contracts which resulted in a high total value for that year from a relatively low number of contracts.*

- (3) All tenders conducted by Goods & Services Procurement have a standard weighting applied to regional SME's of five per cent. A 10 per cent weighting has been applied to two ICT Tenders.
- (4) Until Tenders ACT was introduced in July 2015, Goods & Services Procurement did not have a database of suppliers' registered business addresses and as such does not hold information on the number of successful regional SMEs that are located in the ACT.
- (5) Goods & Services Procurement does not keep a database of the suppliers that have indicated subcontracting to a regional SME. The information is considered on a case by case basis during the tender evaluation process.
- (6) Please see the response to question (5) above.

Disability ACT—staff (Question No 474)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

- (1) In relation to staffing for Disability ACT, what was the average per officer staffing on cost for 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014 and what is included in these on costs.
- (2) What is the marginal on cost of an additional worker at the current staffing levels.
- (3) What are the current employee numbers, both headcount, full-time equivalent, and levels in (a) Disability ACT and (b) Therapy Services.

- (4) How many graduates are currently employed in (a) Disability ACT and (b) Therapy ACT and what is the average cost of employing graduates for each agency.
- (5) How many graduates, on average, have been employed each year since 2012.
- (6) How (a) many staff have been recruited and (b) much has been spent on recruitment since 1 July 2014.
- (7) In relation to staff who leave, (a) how many have left since 1 July 2014 by month, (b) what were the reasons for leaving, (c) are exit interviews conducted and (d) what was the average termination pay.
- (8) How many staff identified in part (7) were employed by Therapy ACT.
- (9) What is the average amount, per employee, of recreation, personal and long service leave in both time and cost currently owed to staff.

Ms Burch: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Disability ACT allocated its on costs at a rate of \$18,875 per FTE for the 6 month period 1 July – 31 December 2014. The on-costs included Long Service Leave, Workers Compensation, Superannuation, Information, Communication and Technology, Lease Payments and Staff Development and Training.
- (2) CSD does not use marginal costing methodology for on costs.
- (3)
- a)

Disability ACT Headcount by Employment Status				
	Permanent	Temporary	Casual	Total
Disability ACT	221	49	39	309

Disability ACT FTE by Employment Status				
	Permanent	Temporary	Casual	Total
Disability ACT	201.44	44.61	29.08	275.13

Disability ACT Headcount /FTE by Classification		
	Headcount	FTE
Administrative Services Officer 1	3	1.82
Administrative Services Officer 2	1	1
Administrative Services Officer 3	6	5.64
Administrative Services Officer 4	6	5.61
Administrative Services Officer 5	9	8.6
Administrative Services Officer 6	25	23.54
Contract Executive	4	4
Disability Support Officer 1	166	139.48
Disability Support Officer 2	50	47.5

Health Professional 5	2	2
Senior Officer A	8	8
Senior Officer B	8	8
Senior Officer C	21	19.94
TOTAL	309	275.13

b)

Therapy ACT Headcount by Employment Status				
	Permanent	Temporary	Casual	Total
Therapy ACT	71	44	4	119

Therapy ACT FTE by Employment Status				
	Permanent	Temporary	Casual	Total
Therapy ACT	62.48	40.51	1.19	104.18

Therapy ACT Headcount/FTE by Classification		
	Headcount	FTE
Administrative Services Officer 2	7	6.3
Administrative Services Officer 3	4	2.75
Administrative Services Officer 4	1	1
Administrative Services Officer 5	5	4.6
Administrative Services Officer 6	2	2
Health Professional 1	11	10.4
Health Professional 2	19	16.7
Health Professional 3	40	32.71
Health Professional 4	10	9.8
Health Professional 5	2	2
Senior Officer A	1	1
Senior Officer B	1	1
Senior Officer C	2	2
Technical Officer 1	2	2
Technical Officer 2	12	9.92
TOTAL	119	104.18

(4) Graduates are employed by CSD centrally and rotated through a number of business groups to provide a broad training experience.

(5)

Year	Number of Graduates engaged by CSD
2012	4
2013	4
2014	3
2015	4

(6)

- a) Disability ACT – 0 Permanent, 5 Temporary, 3 Casual
 Therapy ACT – 0 Permanent, 38 Temporary, 12 Casual

b) Disability ACT - \$12,838

Therapy ACT - \$10,011

(7) As at 30 June 2015, 91 permanent staff (headcount) have separated from Disability ACT and Therapy ACT

a)

Permanent Disability ACT and Therapy ACT staff separation by month, as at 30/06/2015	
July 2014	4
August 2014	10
September 2014	11
October 2014	10
November 2014	10
December 2014	9
January 2015	10
February 2015	8
March 2015	3
April 2015	7
May 2015	6
June 2015	3
TOTAL	91

b)

Reasons for leaving, as at 30/06/2015	
Voluntary Redundancy	81
Redeployment	7
Other Reasons	2
Promotion	1
TOTAL	91

c) Yes

d) \$57,570

(8) 30

(9)

Disability ACT average leave balances and average values		
	Average Balance	Average Value
Annual Leave *	151.58 hours	\$6,453
Long Service Leave**	2.07 months	\$11,254
Personal Leave***	382.99 hours	-

* Annual Leave and Personal Leave are managed and reported in hours

** Long Service Leave is measured in calendar months

*** Liability is not calculated or reported for Personal Leave

Therapy ACT average leave balances and average values		
	Average Balance	Average Value
Annual Leave *	112.98 hours	\$6,041
Long Service Leave**	1.66 months	\$10,887
Personal Leave***	395.45 hours	-

* Annual Leave and Personal Leave are managed and reported in hours

** Long Service Leave is measured in calendar months

*** Liability is not calculated or reported for Personal Leave

Disability ACT—staff training (Question No 475)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 5 August 2015:

- (1) In relation to training programs for staff employed by Disability ACT (a) how much has been spent in the period since 1 July 2014 on training, (b) what was the purpose of each training program, (c) where was each training program held and (d) how many staff participated.
- (2) What in-house training programs were undertaken in the period since 1 July 2014 that resulted in (a) no marginal cost to the Government and (b) a cost to the Government and what was that cost.

Ms Burch: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) (a) From July 2014 to June 2015 \$913,558 was spent on staff training in Disability ACT and Therapy ACT.
- (b) The training programs fulfilled one of three purposes;
 - to maintain the currency of the skills of those people employed to support people with disability,
 - to provide new or additional skills for those people employed to support people with disability and
 - to support people employed by Disability and Therapy ACT in their efforts to gain alternative employment opportunities in the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- (c) Training was typically held in a variety of locations in the ACT. Some clinical training of health professionals occurred interstate.
- (d) 1,969 training places were provided to staff.
- (2) (a) In-house training programs provided at no marginal cost to the government primarily focused on maintaining the currency of workers skills or developing new skills to support people with disability.
- (b) In-house training programs that resulted in a cost to the government focused on maintaining the currency of workers skills or developing new skill to support people with disability. In addition job readiness training was provided to support staff find alternative employment opportunities as part of the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

In-house training program for Disability ACT and Therapy ACT in Financial Year 2014/2015		
	Number of training places	Cost
a) No Marginal Cost	839	\$0
b) Cost	582	\$164,317

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—
Innovation, Trade and Investment team
(Question No 476)**

Mr Wall asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 6 August 2015 (*redirected to the Minister for Economic Development*):

- (1) In relation to staffing for the Innovation, Trade and Investment team within Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD), what was the average per officer staffing on cost for 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014 and what is included in these on costs.
- (2) What are the current employee numbers, both headcount, full-time equivalent, and levels in the Innovation, Trade and Investment team.

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

- (1) Staffing 'on cost' is made up of salary on-cost and administrative on-cost. Salary on-cost includes superannuation, long service leave, leave loading, Comcare premium and employer productivity contribution. Administrative on-cost includes PC hardware, desktop environment ICT support and services, accommodation, insurance, training, fleet, HR and finance services, and is applied under a Treasury standardised model.

The average salary and administrative on-cost per officer for staff of Innovation, Trade and Investment for the period 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014 was \$26,263.22.

- (2) At 12 August 2015 Innovation, Trade and Investment's employee numbers comprised:

Level	Headcount	FTE
ASO 5	3	2.8
ASO 6	4	3.8
SOG C	13	13
SOG B	3	3
SOG A	3	3
Contract Executive	1	1

Disability ACT—motor vehicles (Question No 477)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Disability, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently used by Disability ACT.
- (2) For each of the vehicles referred to in part (1) (a) what are the types and sizes, (b) how many are privately garaged, (c) how many kilometres are travelled per annum and (d) what are the insurance costs, including third party insurance.

Ms Burch: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) 41
- (2) The vehicle types and sizes are in the table below. No vehicles are privately garaged, although they are primarily used at Disability ACT group homes throughout the community.

	Body Type	Fuel Type	Total km	Annual CTP Charge	Annual Insurance Charge
1	Cargo Van	Diesel	14,946	\$706.80	\$1,217.76
2	Cargo Van	Diesel	25,537	\$579.91	\$1,223.40
3	Cargo Van	Diesel	20,145	\$706.80	\$1,229.52
4	Cargo Van	Diesel	23,660	\$549.36	\$976.20
5	Cargo Van	Diesel	13,052	\$481.92	\$1,127.88
6	Cargo Van	Diesel	8,409	\$482.04	\$1,425.72
7	Cargo Van	Diesel	15,563	\$481.92	\$1,563.60
8	Cargo Van	Diesel	16,259	\$549.36	\$1,265.88
9	Hatchback	Diesel	6,614	\$620.04	\$744.60
10	Hatchback	Diesel	12,299	\$620.04	\$744.60
11	Hatchback	Diesel	18,668	\$620.04	\$744.60
12	Hatchback	Diesel	23,234	\$620.04	\$744.60
13	Minivan	Diesel	17,744	\$620.04	\$1,002.72
14	Minivan	Diesel	32,333	\$1,188.84	\$744.60
15	Minivan	Diesel	23,633	\$482.04	\$852.00
16	Minivan	Diesel	22,140	\$620.04	\$1,029.12
17	Minivan	Diesel	15,626	\$620.04	\$832.32
18	Minivan	Diesel	10,801	\$620.04	\$812.04
19	Minivan	Diesel	7,744	\$631.08	\$1,024.92
20	Minivan	Diesel	17,267	\$353.52	\$680.64
21	Minivan	Diesel	15,778	\$527.76	\$680.64
22	Minivan	Diesel	17,076	\$1,210.08	\$832.32
23	Minivan	Diesel	16,474	\$1,210.08	\$832.32
24	Minivan	Diesel	31,712	\$438.12	\$852.00
25	Minivan	Diesel	13,004	\$438.12	\$852.00
26	Minivan	Diesel	11,231	\$620.04	\$832.32
27	Minivan	Diesel	13,246	\$620.04	\$1,082.52
28	Minivan	Diesel	17,238	\$580.68	\$680.64
29	Minivan	Diesel	14,981	\$620.04	\$999.96

30	Minivan	Diesel	15,172	\$620.04	\$832.32
31	Minivan	Diesel	11,800	\$1,210.08	\$740.64
32	Minivan	Diesel	28,746	\$335.64	\$1,252.20
33	Minivan	Diesel	19,405	\$527.76	\$680.64
34	Minivan	Diesel	13,442	\$580.68	\$680.64
35	Passenger Van	Diesel	18,509	\$706.80	\$1,055.52
36	Passenger Van	Diesel	19,144	\$706.80	\$1,081.92
37	Sedan	Diesel	12,834	\$620.04	\$791.64
38	Sedan	Electric	15,194	\$1,188.84	\$812.04
39	Sedan	Electric	11,928	\$481.92	\$655.44
40	Sedan	Electric	3,763	\$481.92	\$655.44
41	Sedan	Electric	16,755	\$482.04	\$655.44

Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs—staff (Question No 478)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

- (1) In relation to staffing for the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (OATSIA), what was the average per officer staffing on cost for 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014 and what is included in these on costs.
- (2) What is the marginal on cost of an additional worker at the current staffing levels.
- (3) What are the current employee numbers, headcount, full-time equivalent and levels in OATSIA.
- (4) How many graduates are currently employed in OATSIA and what is the average cost of employing graduates.
- (5) How many graduates, on average, have been employed each year since 2012.
- (6) How (a) many staff have been recruited and (b) much has been spent on recruitment since 1 July 2014.
- (7) In relation to staff who leave, (a) how many have left since 1 July 2014 by month, (b) what were the reasons for leaving, (c) are exit interviews conducted and (d) what was the average termination pay.
- (8) What placement funding is received by Commonwealth Government initiatives for each employee currently employed by OATSIA.
- (9) What is the average amount, per employee, of recreation, personal and long service leave in both time and cost currently owed to staff.

Ms Berry: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) \$18,469

Admin On-Costs consist of internal govt charges – IT, Communication and External Bureau charges etc

- (2) CSD does not use marginal costing methodology for on costs.
- (3) 15 for both headcount and FTE consisting of:
 - Executive x 1
 - SOG A x 1
 - SOG B x 3
 - SOG C x 4
 - ASO 6 x 2
 - ASO 5 x 1
 - ASO 4 x 3
- (4) Graduates are employed by CSD centrally and rotated through a number of business groups to provide the graduate with a broad training experience.
- (5) Number of Graduates engaged by CSD:
 - 2012 – 4
 - 2013 – 4
 - 2014 – 3
 - 2015 – 4
- (6) (a) 3
(b) The cost of recruitment is not disaggregated to this level.
- (7) Due to small numbers this information is staff-in-confidence and the identity of individuals would be evident.
- (8) Nil
- (9) Due to small numbers this information is staff-in-confidence. CSD's obligations regarding these entitlements are covered by the current Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

Government—regulatory impact statements (Question No 479)

Mr Wall asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 6 August 2015:

- (1) How many Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS) have been prepared for (a) acts, (b) subordinate legislation and (c) disallowable instruments in (i) 2013, (ii) 2014 and (iii) 2015 to date.
- (2) Are any of the RIS identified in part (1) publicly available.

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

- (1) The Economic Policy and Regulation Unit in Economic and Financial Group of Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate provides advice and assistance to policy officers across the ACT Government in assessing regulatory impacts and complying with Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) requirements.

In accordance with section 34(1) of the *Legislation Act 2001* (the Act), a RIS is required when a subordinate law or disallowable instrument is likely to impose appreciable costs to the community, or part of the community, unless an exemption from the RIS requirements applies. If a RIS is required for the purposes of the Act, it must be presented to the Legislative Assembly in accordance with section 37.

- 1a) There were no RISs prepared for Acts in 2013, 2014 or 2015 (as at 6 August 2015).
 - 1b) There was one RIS prepared for subordinate legislation in 2013, none for 2014 and two for 2015 (as at 6 August 2015).
 - 1c) There were no RISs prepared for disallowable instruments in 2013, 2014 or 2015 (as at 6 August 2015).
 - (2) All RISs prepared and tabled in accordance with the Act are uploaded to the ACT Legislation Register website and publicly available at www.legislation.act.gov.au.
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Health—mental health nurses (Question No 482)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 11 August 2015:

- (1) How many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) mental health nurses have worked in the ACT (a) for each year over the past 5 years and (b) for each year in the forward estimates.
- (2) How many mental health nurses are located in each mental health facility.
- (3) How many FTE security staff at mental health facilities have worked in the ACT (a) for each year over the past 5 years and (b) for each year in the forward estimates.
- (4) How many security staff at mental health facilities are located in each mental health facility.
- (5) What is the total budget for security staff at mental health facilities (a) for each year over the past 15 years and (b) for each year in the forward estimates.

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

- (1) (a) ACT Health:

The FTE of registered and enrolled nurses in the public mental health division of Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services for 2011-15 are:

- 2011 – 187.32 FTE
- 2012 – 199.58 FTE
- 2013 – 189.54 FTE
- 2014 – 202.29 FTE
- 2015 – 214.56 FTE

Calvary Hospital:

The FTE of mental health nurses for 2011-15 are:

- 2011 – 43 FTE
- 2012 – 43 FTE
- 2013 – 43 FTE
- 2014 – 43 FTE
- 2015 – 43 FTE

(b) ACT Health and Calvary Health Care do not allocate FTE to program level across the forward estimates.

(2) In 2015, in the public mental health division of Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services the FTE of registered and enrolled nurses in each mental health facility is:

- Adult Mental Health Unit – 49.12 FTE
- Mental Health Assessment Unit – 13.95 FTE
- Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre – 31.19 FTE

In 2015, in Calvary Health Care the FTE of mental health nurses in each mental health facility is:

- Ward 2N – 23.1 FTE
- Older Persons Mental Health – 19.6 FTE

(3) (a) Security staff at ACT Health and Calvary Health care provide 24/7 coverage inclusive of regular patrols and response to incidents at both campuses and other ACT Health facilities.

(b) ACT Health and Calvary Health Care do not allocate FTE to program level across the forward estimates.

(4) See 3 (a).

(5) (a) There is no specific budget allocation for security staff at ACT Health and Calvary Health Care mental health facilities for each year in the past 15 years. Provision of security services at mental health facilities in both campuses is funded from the total security expenditure for ACT Health and Calvary Health Care.

(b) There is no specific budget allocation for security staff at ACT Health and Calvary Health Care mental health facilities for each year in the forward estimates. Security staff in both campuses will be funded from the total expenditure for security services for ACT Health and Calvary Health Care.

Hospitals—secure mental health unit (Question No 483)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 11 August 2015:

(1) What is the breakdown of capital cost of the Secure Mental Health Unit.

- (2) What was the cost of each consultation taken prior to building the Secure Mental Health Unit.
- (3) What tendering process was undertaken for the construction of the Secure Mental Health Unit.

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

- (1) The breakdown of the capital cost of the Secure Mental Health Unit (SMHU) is \$1.2 million for Forward Design, \$2 million for Finalising Design and \$43.491 million for construction and project development costs.
- (2) Three public consultations for the SMHU have been undertaken:
 - Site investigation and selection in 2009-10 - no cost.
 - SMHU Model of Care in 2013 - cost was \$11,198.79.
 - Preliminary Sketch Plans for the SMHU in 2014 - cost was \$26,626.49.
- (3) The tender process consisted of two stages and was conducted in accordance with the *Government Procurement Act 2001*. A Request for Expression of Interest was publicly advertised and four respondents were invited to submit a tender. Submitted tenders were assessed by the Tender Evaluation Team and following negotiations, the Territory entered into contract with Richard Crookes Constructions.

Hospitals—mental health staff (Question No 485)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 11 August 2015:

- (1) How many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff have worked in the Mental Health department (a) for each year over the past 15 years and (b) what are the projections for FTE staff for each year in the forward estimates.
- (2) What has been the staffing cost for each year (a) over the past 5 years and (b) in the forward estimates.

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

- (1) In FTE for the public mental health services of the Division of Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services is:

- (a) FTE for each year over the past 5 years:

2010-11 – 456.09 FTE

2011-12 – 459.93 FTE

2012-13 – 483.23 FTE

2013-14 – 494.56 FTE

2014-15 – 534.39 FTE

ACT Health is unable to provide accurate data for the previous years. Prior to this date Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Service were not part of the Division of Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services.

(b) ACT Health does not allocate FTE to program level across the forward estimates.

(2) The staffing cost within the Division of Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services is:

(a) over the past 5 years

2010-11 - \$48,928,000

2011-12 - \$52,826,000

2012-13 - \$55,754,000

2013-14 - \$58,717,000

2014-15 - \$62,634,000

(b) ACT Health does not allocate funding to program level across the forward estimates.

Emergency services—projects and facilities (Question No 487)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 12 August 2015:

- (1) What is the status of construction of the new emergency services facility at Aranda.
- (2) Was overflow parking for the Jamison Centre included in the plans for the site; if so, is that still in the plan.
- (3) If overflow parking is no longer in the plan (a) why not and (b) what alternative parking strategies are under consideration.
- (4) What was the planned (a) completion date and (b) budget of the overall project.
- (5) Is the overall project running to schedule; if not (a) why not and (b) what is the new planned completion date.
- (6) Is the overall project running to budget; if not (a) why not and (b) what is the new budget.
- (7) Have any unexpected issues emerged relating to, for example but not limited to excavation works, public or occupational safety or environmental considerations.
- (8) Was a worker on site on Friday, 31 July 2015 at approximately 2pm, walking over a pile of excavated material while wearing full hazmat protective clothing; if so, why.
- (9) When will existing emergency services facilities in Belconnen be de-commissioned and what are the future plans for those sites.

Ms Burch: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The construction is approaching the final stages of bulk earthworks. The ground drainage and relocation of major services has been completed. The building foundations and early structures will commence in early September 2015.
- (2) Overflow parking for the Jamison Centre was not included in the plans for the site. The plan provides for a public car park adjacent to the playing fields, at the south east end of the site.
- (3) Refer to question 2 answer.
- (4) The planned completion date of the project was 31 March 2016. The budget for the overall project was \$18.864 million.
- (5) The overall project is one month behind schedule. The scale and complexity of the services relocation was greater than expected (involving Telstra and other providers). Completing the services relocation took longer than anticipated, resulting in the delay. The new completion date is 30 April 2016.
- (6) The overall project is running to budget.
- (7) Asbestos piping was uncovered during earthworks. This necessitated the development of an asbestos removal plan including exclusion zones.

The public car park adjacent to the playing fields was originally planned to be constructed in the early stages of the project. However, it would have resulted in shared access with heavy vehicles for the duration of the construction. Following discussions with the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, Procurement and Capital Works from the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate and the builder, the decision was taken to delay the opening of the public car park as the shared access posed unacceptable safety risks to the public.

In the meantime, car parking for playing fields users is available at Banaga Place.

- (8) Yes. The worker required full hazmat due to the discovery of asbestos piping.
- (9) The existing facilities in Belconnen will be de-commissioned once the new station becomes operational. The future plans for those sites are a matter for a future Government decision.

Capital works—funding (Question No 488)

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 August 2015:

- (1) In relation to the summary of expense initiatives in Budget Paper 3 what is the purpose for each allocation of (a) \$82.526 million in table 3.1.1, and table 3.2.1 and (b) \$64.473 million in table 3.3.1 for associated expenses on new capital works.
- (2) Are these for capital projects to be approved in the 2015-16 budget or the expense component of capital allocations associated with expense initiatives.

- (3) What types of expenses are provided for in these figures.
- (4) What is the coverage of each, for example funding for project management teams/offices, project development, operating expenses for the infrastructure and equipments procured from these figures.
- (5) How does the capital figure of \$487.481 million in table 3.3.1 reconcile with (or relate to) the budget funded amount in table 5.1.1 - \$514.180 million or the \$458.626 million further above in the same table.

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

- (1) The \$82.526 million in Table 3.1.1, BP3, page 61 comprises of the sum of both \$64.473 million for associated expenses (new capital works) and expenditure associated with Feasibility Studies and Grants valued at \$18.053 million listed in Table 3.3.1, BP3, page 103. The purpose of Table 3.1.1 and Table 3.3.1 is to provide a high level overview of the expenses associated with new infrastructure initiatives.
- (2) These allocations represent the associated expenses for new capital initiatives listed in the 2015-16 Budget, including feasibility studies and grants but excluding the health funding envelope as described on page 61 in BP3.
- (3) The figures contain all associated operating expenditure associated with the capital initiatives (including feasibility studies and grants) but excluding depreciation which is listed separately. It also excludes the health funding envelope as described on page 61 in BP3. Examples of these expenses include items such as staffing, utilities, leasing costs, maintenance, levies, financing and other overhead costs.
- (4) There were 64 new infrastructure and capital initiatives listed in Table 3.3.2, BP3, page 104. Most project management and procurement costs associated with the project are capitalised and therefore are not disclosed as expense capitals. See the response to question (3) for the types of expenditure included in capital project funding.
- (5) The \$487.481 million in Table 3.3.1, BP3, page 103 comprises of new infrastructure and capital initiatives, including Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Property Plant and Equipment (PPE).

The \$458.626 million in Table 5.1.1, BP3, page 165 only contains new capital initiatives specific to the Capital Works Program and excludes ICT, PPE and the 2015-16 Capital Upgrade Program.

The \$514.180 million represents all new capital funding in the Capital Works Program and is the sum of funding for new capital initiatives (\$458.626 million) and the 2015-16 Capital Upgrade Program (\$55.554 million).

Capital works—funding (Question No 489)

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 August 2015:

- (1) In relation to the capital works expenditure in Budget Paper 3, can he provide a reconciliation between the total capital works program for each year (2016-17 onwards) shown in table 5.1.1 and the figures for the same years shown in table 5.2.7.
- (2) Further to table 5.2.8 – Capital Works Expenditure (and table H.1) which indicates \$144.780 million was re-profiled from 2014-15 into later years, what were the causes for the capital re-profiling of (a) Craven Creek Water Quality Control Pond (\$10.067m), (b) Horse Park Drive Extension (\$3.000m), (c) Isabella Weir Spillway upgrade (\$4.500m), (d) Molonglo 2 Sewer & Pedestrian Bridge (\$3.500m), (e) Coombs P6 School Construction (\$13.171m), (f) Calvary Public Hospital Car park (\$10.222m), (g) Continuity of Health Services Plan Essential Infrastructure (\$9.640m), (h) Staging and Decanting – Moving to Our Future (\$5.441m), (i) Constitution Avenue (\$10.000m) and (j) Transport for Canberra – Majura Parkway (\$13.080).
- (3) In relation to the budget funded new capital works, new ICT works, and new P&E at table 5.1.1, where are the associated in-service operating costs (as opposed to project management, development and procurement costs) provided for and how much is provided for these purposes in the expenses budget.

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

- (1) The figures in Table 5.2.7 are derived by summing the total annual values for both the Capital Works Program and the Capital Provision in Table 5.1.1. The reconciliation is as follows:

Source	2016-17 (\$000')	2017-18 (\$000')	2018-19 (\$000')
Table 5.1.1, BP3, Page 164 Total Capital Works Program	\$248,090	\$57,208	\$23,052
Table 5.1.1 Total Provision	\$443,188	\$578,405	\$498,125
Total	\$691,278	\$635,613	\$521,177
Totals Table 5.2.7, BP3, Page 183	\$691,278	\$635,613	\$521,177

- (2) **Attachment A** provides Directorate advice on the reasons for the re profiling of the specified projects.
- (3) In BP3, Chapter 3.3 Infrastructure and Capital Initiatives, all new initiatives are grouped by Directorate and are listed under three major sub categories:
 - i. Capital
 - ii. Information and Communication Technology (ICT); and
 - iii. Property Plant and Equipment (PPE).

Each new infrastructure and capital initiative listed under ICT and PPE for each Directorate includes a description, along with a funding table outlining the requested funding information broken down into three categories: Capital, Depreciation and Associated Expenses. Directorates may also redirect existing funding for the operation and maintenance of new assets within a output class.

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

Capital works—funding (Question No 490)

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 August 2015:

- (1) In relation to table 5.1.1 in Budget Paper 3 which indicates a capital provision of approximately \$1.5 billion, in relation to the projects and initiatives covered by this capital provision, what amounts for each year, are set aside for in-service operating expenses and financial expenses (eg admin expenses, staffing, suppliers expenses and interest payments etc) for the projects covered in the capital provision.
- (2) How are estimates for these in-service operating expenses arrived at (eg a percentage factor applied to the capital infrastructure component or more itemised estimates of operating and financial costs).
- (3) What area of the budget are those in-service operating costs estimates included.
- (4) What amounts for each year, are set aside for project planning and development, and project management and procurement expenses for projects covered in the capital provision.

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

- (1) The provision is a high level estimate to improve the transparency of the budget forecasts. The provision does not include specific estimates for operating costs. Financing costs for projects covered by the provision are included as for any capital project and are consolidated in the Interest Expense line in Table 9.1, 2015-16 Budget Paper 3 (BP3), page 269.

The costs associated with projects included in the provision have not been published due to their commercially sensitive nature.

- (2) Estimates of operating costs would be finalised and published at the time of any decision to proceed with a project.
- (3) See response to Question 1.
- (4) For the projects listed under the Capital Provision the associated appropriations for expenses that have been made are as follows:
 - the New ACT Courts Facility project in the 2014-15 Budget has had investment of \$5.476 million for the Public Private Partnership to develop the New ACT Courts Facility, reference 2014 15 BP3, page 141.
No new expense funding was appropriated in the 2015-16 Budget for this project;
 - the Australian Forum project had expense funding of \$1.1 million in 2015-16, reference 2015-16 CMTEDD Budget Statement, Table 51, page 51;
 - Capital Metro and associated expenses are represented in the Capital Metro Agency appropriation tables and financial statements as detailed in the Capital Metro Agency Budget Statement on pages 6 and 7;

- the University of Canberra Public - Car park for 400 spaces has no explicit expense appropriation for 2015-16 and 2016-17, reference 2015 16 BP3, Page 122. The project has specific appropriation for expenses from 2017-18 but because of the commercially sensitive nature of the project these are Not For Publication (NFP) in the 2015 16 Budget; and
 - the University of Canberra Public Hospital has been funded \$12.252 million in previous budgets for specification and design of the new hospital, reference 2014-15 BP3, page 138.
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Transport—light rail (Question No 491)

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 August 2015:

In relation to the capital contribution for light rail in Budget Paper 3, is the \$375 million stated in page 166 included in the \$1.5 billion capital provision shown in Table 5.1.1; if so, in which year, or spread of years is it included or if not included in the current Forward Estimates, in which years will it be included.

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

The full estimated capital value of the Capital Metro project is included in the \$1.5 billion capital provision, apportioned across the years 2016-17 to 2018-19.

The \$375 million contribution to the Capital Metro Project represents around half the estimated capital delivery cost of the project. As such, any contribution is implicitly reflected in the capital provision shown in Table 5.1.1.

Finance—government loans (Question No 492)

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 August 2015:

- (1) In relation to borrowings and principal outstanding in Budget Paper 3, and the figures underlying the GGS Principal Outstanding for each year, will he provide the (a) opening balance, (b) new borrowings (and expected/intended purpose), (c) repayments/settlements and (d) net principal outstanding (as shown for each year in Table 8.3.2).
- (2) What are the interest rates/yield rates payable (or expected to be paid) on these borrowings.

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

The information requested is detailed in the attachment.

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

Questions without notice taken on notice

Transport—light rail

Mr Barr (*in reply to a question by Mr Wall on Tuesday, 4 August 2015*): The letter was signed on 2 September 2014.

Community services—*Dropping off the edge* report

Mr Corbell (*in reply to a question by Ms Lawder on Wednesday, 12 August 2015*): Obtaining this data is not a straightforward process as it is not captured for this purpose and would require a programmer in the ACT Law Courts to undertake a significant amount of work to extract the data.

At the time it was considered that to respond to this request would have been an unreasonable diversion of resources.

ACT Policing advised that they do not collect the requested statistics regarding Domestic Violence Orders (DVO) by postcode and it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to engage a programmer to data mine on persons charged with breaching DVOs.