



Debates

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Tuesday, 22 September 2015

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Tuesday, 22 September 2015

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

Petition

*The following petition was lodged for presentation, by **Mr Doszpot**, from 548 residents:*

Planning—draft variation 334

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

This petition of certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory draws to the attention of the Assembly that: The density of housing proposed by the Government through Draft Variation 334 for the Red Hill Public Housing site is unacceptable, as is the proposal for 4 and 6 storey buildings on it.

Your petitioners therefore call on the Assembly to request those Ministers responsible for Draft Variation 334 to redraft it in consultation with the community, based on RZ2 zoning with a maximum of two storeys on all boundary areas and RZ3 zoning with a maximum of three stories at the central area of the site, with existing development codes applying to the whole of the residential areas of the site without variation; and in addition to provide a holistic and accurate assessment of impact to roads, traffic, parking, sewerage, water and drainage.

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

Statement by member

MR DOSZPOT (Molonglo), by leave: The petition I bring to the attention of the Assembly comes from over 584 concerned Red Hill residents and the broader Canberra community. The petition draws to the attention of the Assembly that the Red Hill public housing complex redevelopment in its current form has received extensive opposition from the Red Hill community since it was first raised in the early stages of consultation.

The main aspect concerning residents of Red Hill is that the changes in rezoning from RZ1-RZ2 to RZ5 will create the highest density of residential development in a residential area in the ACT. The zoning proposed is normally restricted to the surrounds of a significant commercial precinct, as can be seen by reviewing the location of RZ5 areas near larger shopping centres on the territory plan.

The plan proposes development of apartment blocks up to 21.5 metres high, mostly comprising six-storey developments. This will see the residential population increase rapidly, and it has led to further concerns from the community in regards to traffic implications and the impact on nearby commercial areas.

These plans could see another 400 people in the suburb, and the impact on traffic congestion is a real concern for the residents. An increase of this magnitude may lead to parking shortages in commercial and residential areas and an increase in traffic during peak hours, not to mention the increase of general traffic congestion around Red Hill schools and nearby streets that may receive the overflow from resident or visitor parking as there will not be enough provided for on site.

The Red Hill shops, a place I visit frequently, may not have the capacity to cope with the new RZ5 zoning. Many would be forgiven for believing this is just a quick money grab by the government and that little attention has been paid to the renewal of public housing and the revitalisation of Red Hill.

The lack of consideration given to the impact the changes to the territory plan will have is just another instance where this government chooses to stick its head in the sand and ignore community concerns. Similar community concerns have been raised with the government's plans to rezone areas in Manuka, Griffith, Woden and Narrabundah, but the government is still not listening to the needs and concerns of this community.

Those of us on this side of the chamber believe it is important to retain the character of Red Hill while allowing for appropriate redevelopment and proper consultation with the community. Even the residents, despite being opposed to the current proposal, are keen to see redevelopment in the area. I thank the Red Hill Residents Group—I acknowledge the many who have turned up here this morning to witness the handing over of their petition—and the wider Red Hill community for continuing to strive and stand up for the best interests of their suburb. I commend the petition to the Assembly.

Leave of absence

Motion by (**Dr Bourke**) agreed to:

That leave of absence for this sitting week be granted to Ms Porter for health reasons.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee Scrutiny report 37

MR DOSZPOT (Molonglo) (10.05): I present the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Scrutiny Report 37, dated 21 September 2015, together with the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I seek leave to make a brief statement.

Leave granted.

MR DOSZPOT: Scrutiny report 37 contains the committee's comments on 36 pieces of subordinate legislation, two government responses and two regulatory impact statements. The report was circulated to members when the Assembly was not sitting.

In his response to the committee's comments on the Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Amendment Bill 2015, the Attorney-General expressed his disappointment that the report was tabled in the Assembly only two days before it was scheduled for debate. I advise the attorney that the committee was scheduled to meet to consider the bill on Tuesday, 8 September but, due to the unavailability of government members to attend, a quorum could not be formed. The meeting was rescheduled for the next available time when a quorum of members could be formed, which was Monday, 14 September. I commend the report to the Assembly.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Reporting date

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (10.06): I seek leave to move a motion to alter the reporting date for the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' inquiry into the ACT clubs sector.

Leave granted.

MS LAWDER: I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 26 March 2015 referring *Elements Impacting on the Future of the ACT Clubs Sector* to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry and report be amended by omitting the words "by the last sitting day in September 2015" and substituting "by the last sitting day in October 2015" and adding a new paragraph (3)(d):

"(3)(d) if the Assembly is not sitting when the report is completed the Speaker, or, in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, is authorised to give directions for its printing, publication and circulation."

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Young people's plan 2009-14 Ministerial statement

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Planning, Minister for Roads and Parking, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Minister for Children and Young People and Minister for Ageing) (10.08): I am pleased to provide the Assembly with a statement about the ACT government's key achievements for young Canberrans as outlined in the final report of the young people's plan 2009-14. The report is available on the Community Services Directorate website.

In presenting today's statement, I note that while this final report details achievements across five key areas over the past five years, the *Picture of ACT's children and young people* reports annually on outcomes on how young people have been faring more broadly. For those who do not know, the ACT has a young population compared to the rest of Australia. Young people aged 12 to 25 years make up 19 per cent of the ACT's total population. Of that group, 2.9 per cent identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 19 per cent were born overseas.

We know that young people experience huge changes from the ages of 12 to 25 years that can directly impact on their wellbeing and their futures. Young people may need help to navigate unfamiliar territory to build their skills and capabilities to cope with day-to-day challenges of their world and to achieve their potential.

Alongside this, the families of young people may also need support to better manage new situations and negotiate new boundaries. This is particularly important when evidence shows us that young people can be particularly vulnerable to the impacts of mental ill health, risk taking behaviours and disengagement from school, training or employment. So against this background, the young people's plan sought to identify the needs of young people through their voices and to set out what they needed as they transitioned from early to late adolescence and then to early adulthood.

Madam Speaker, I would like to talk about achievements in relation to five key areas in the original plan. These are health, wellbeing and support, families and communities, participation and access, transitions and pathways, and the environment and sustainability. The list of achievements set out in the appendix of the final report is lengthy so today I will talk more broadly about what the breadth of this work has meant for young people and their families.

Firstly, our progress is the result of real collaboration across the ACT government directorates and community providers to put in place policies, services and supports that respond to a young person's complete physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

To give you a broad sense of how this government has been delivering for young people and their families across the life of the young people's plan, I can report that from 2009 to 2014 we have implemented a coordinated approach to services and supports to promote healthy lifestyles and respond to mental ill health; improved young people's participation in education, training and employment; developed services and support for at-risk young people and their families; reduced the number of young people involved in the youth justice system; supported young people to participate and learn more about issues relating to the environment and sustainability; and established a new direction for the way human services will be developed and delivered.

Our approach across the domains of a young person's life has been to make it easier for young people to get help and to get help early before issues get too big for them to handle. In terms of health and wellbeing, the ACT government has invested in measures that focus on preventative health and education. Foundation policy work shows that our health and education areas have implemented a wide range of initiatives around healthy eating and exercise and positive life choices that will help young people establish good habits that will last a lifetime.

We can demonstrate that we have taken the mental health of young people seriously. We are supporting our schools and communities to encourage conversations about why good mental health is so important and how it can be maintained. This simple step is assisting young people to look for help. They may do this through talking about what is going on for them, with each other and with trusted adults, or sourcing information through credible online supports.

Young people have told us that families and the communities that they live in are important to them. They are critical to developing a young person's sense of connection, participation and engagement in their world, including their physical environment.

While many young people do well, we must ensure that for young people who are more vulnerable there is help and support available so that they do not get left behind. Such support means that a young person can stay engaged at school because they have had access to flexible learning options to accommodate specific needs and to pathways to participate in further education, training or employment.

We recognise that support is critical at times of transition, particularly in cases where young people are moving out of the youth justice system or come into or out of the home care system. That is why we have introduced major changes to the out of home care system under a step up for our kids. The fundamental change sees a shift towards therapeutic and trauma informed practice in responding to the needs of children and young people, and those practices are rolling out. This approach recognises the deep and enduring impacts of abuse and neglect on children and young people and how to best support them.

The changes in out of home care also mean that young people will have a continuum of support through to the age of 21. For example, this might include support to move into their own place or to supported housing, to study or gain employment and to live independently. Both the government and the community recognise that our human services system works best when the service response considers a person as a whole, for example, when we see health, education, justice and community services working together. There are many examples where we have seen this working for young people over the past five years and it is why we are implementing the better services reform of the human services system in the ACT.

Under the framework of the human services blueprint, this government is changing the way that services and supports are being delivered. This new direction is about people getting the right service, at the right time, and for the time it is needed. For a young person this is especially important. We all know that getting the right kind of support early makes a big difference in how the rest of life unfolds. Better services will mean that a young person can access accommodation support and the kind of services that will help them to continue with their schooling or study. Better services is about supporting a young person to build their capacity to make positive choices about their future.

In the bigger picture, our work is paying off for young people. Participation in sport or recreational activities increased to 90 per cent in 2013-14. The rate of young people who volunteer has increased to be one of the highest in Australia. The number of secondary students reporting alcohol, tobacco or drug use has declined and fewer young people are coming into the youth justice system.

I can also tell you that the ACT's rate of transition to further education or training continues to be higher than the national average. We have seen the apparent retention rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students continuing from year 10 to 12 increase by 20 per cent since 2009. We have seen 31 senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students receiving scholarships.

While such achievements demonstrate that this government is delivering for young people, this progress is also enhancing the livability of our capital. These achievements are signposts for us as a community about what is needed to build a stronger and more inclusive community. So we know where we are heading. This final report on the young people's plan demonstrates that, while we have established a sound base, our work must continue to ensure that all young people, inclusive of their circumstances, are safe, strong and connected. This work is underway.

Madam Speaker, we know that the rate of unemployment has increased for our young people. That is why education remains one of the government's biggest priorities in 2015. Our commitment of \$1.1 billion to education—the largest ever in the ACT—will set us on the right path to deliver the quality education and vocational training our young people need to remain competitive in these challenging times. Our endorsement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement is an agreement that will help to build strong foundations, resilient families, and will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve their life goals.

Young people living with disability continue to need support to overcome barriers of social inclusion. Here too the ACT government is taking action. The ACT will be the first jurisdiction in Australia to have all eligible people under the national disability insurance scheme. Already, by the end of the year, all children and young people living with a disability will be eligible to have a funded support plan under this scheme.

We know too that young people who have experienced family violence or neglect or disconnection are extremely vulnerable. That is why the ACT government has made an investment of more than \$39 million over four years with a step up for our kids to break the cycle of disadvantage and keep young people safe in their homes. We recognise that some young people are struggling to have their voices heard, particularly young people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer communities. This is why we have commenced the safe schools coalition, so that all students feel safe and supported in their school and are not bullied or harassed on the basis of their sexuality.

The ACT government has a commitment to greater social inclusion. We want Canberra to be a city where everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can have

good lives, can be heard and can have the best chance to participate and contribute. We are doing this by removing barriers that prevent social inclusion and participation. We are doing this by increasing opportunities for young people to build their skills and their capacity to participate in their local community. We are doing this to improve outcomes for young people who are vulnerable or at risk of being pushed to the margins. Importantly, we are doing this side by side with the broader community because we know that Canberrans believe that everyone deserves a good life and a fair go.

As the next step for young people, the ACT government will be developing the ACT children and young people's commitment. The commitment will be a collaborative effort between government and the community to set the broad direction to promote the rights of children and young people. This work to bring the commitment to life will ensure the voices of children and young people can be heard. I look forward to sharing the progress of this work. Madam Speaker, I commend the final report on the young people's plan 2009-14 to you and present the following paper:

Young People's Plan—Final report—Achievements for young people—
Ministerial statement, 22 September 2015.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Amendment Bill 2015

Detail stage

Clause 1.

Debate resumed from 13 August 2015.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Remainder of bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Health, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Capital Metro) (10.21): Pursuant to standing order 102A(c) I seek leave to move amendments Nos 1 and 2 circulated in my name together in response to comments made by the scrutiny committee.

Leave granted.

MR CORBELL: I move amendments 1 and 2 circulated in my name together [*see schedule 1 at page 3358*] and table a supplementary explanatory statement to the government amendments.

As members know from the debate in the in-principle stage last sitting week, this bill will amend several pieces of ACT legislation to enhance ACT Policing's ability to protect the lives and sexual safety of children in our city and community. This includes amendments to the Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Act 2005 to introduce 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 entry and search warrants will ensure that ACT Policing has modern tools to allow for the effective monitoring and management of registered child sex offenders in the ACT.

As members know from the debate last week, the provisions had been drafted in close consultation with police and our Human Rights Commission and are in accordance with the territory's Human Rights Act. The amendments I have moved this morning are amendments to sections 116Q(4) and 116Z and clarify that the immunities in those provisions apply to evidence that has been obtained directly or indirectly and that the immunity relates to the registrable offender in a proceeding.

Dealing with the specifics of the amendments, in relation to amendment 1, in recognition of the fundamental 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, sections 116Q (4) and 116Z provide 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 contents of the information 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 part 3.4 of the criminal code 2002 which deals with the provision of false or misleading information.

In relation to information that is obtained under the general entry and search powers, the immunities also provide an exclusion for class 1 or class 2 offences outlined in the child sex offenders act. This means that evidence obtained during a search about class 1 or class 2 offences can be used by authorities to progress a criminal charge. This approach is consistent with the purposes of the child sex offenders act and the need to balance the rights of offenders with those of children and the community generally. The government amendments clarify the original intent of the amendments that the immunity provided under these provisions relates to material obtained directly or indirectly and that the immunity relates to evidence against the registrable offender in proceedings.

Amendment 2 mirrors the amendment to proposed new section 116Q(4) and makes the same changes. I commend the amendments to the Assembly.

MR HANSON (Molonglo—Leader of the Opposition) (10.25): We will be supporting the amendments. As I indicated in the in-principle stage, we are supportive of the intent of this legislation. We find ourselves in a situation where there were extensive comments provided by the scrutiny committee to the government and the government has responded in detail. Then there were further comments provided by the scrutiny committee back to the government and this has played out over the last

week or so. I can indicate that we have looked at this in detail and that the comments made by the scrutiny committee are enlightening and useful in terms of commentary on the bill. But I am satisfied that the government's response and the amendments moved by the Attorney-General satisfy the concerns that have been raised.

I take the opportunity to commend my chief of staff, Ian Hagan, who spent till late into the night going through all this correspondence, all this legislation and all these comments to make sure that we, as the opposition, are satisfied that the concerns that have been raised have been addressed. It is not ideal that we are going through commentary like this at the last moment on important legislation. However, we have reacted to it. We do accept that this is a piece of legislation that will, in effect, tighten up the legislation around child sex offenders. That is a worthy intent, and we will be, as I said, supporting the amendments moved by the Attorney-General.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (10.28): I made my in-principle comments about this bill in the Assembly last week. So I will just briefly discuss some of the amendments proposed by the attorney in response to the scrutiny committee's report. I support the amendment put forward by the attorney which clarifies the operation of the derivative and direct use immunities which operate in the bill. The amendment clarifies when evidence found by police when executing an entry and search warrant or when examining electronic data of a registered offender cannot be used for the prosecution of any offence except for those in the child sex offenders act. As I discussed last week, this is one of the protections in the bill to help ensure it balances human rights considerations with its purpose of protecting the community, in particular young people, from harm.

I also note the answers the Attorney-General has provided to the scrutiny committee. One of the main concerns was the committee's comment that the child sex offenders scheme may have little impact on preventing future offending. The Attorney-General has clarified that there is, in fact, a good case that the scheme and the amendments will reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

The reply also points out that the government gave consideration to whether any offender should be able to apply not to be registered rather than just young offenders. A deliberate choice was made to apply the new provision to young offenders only, with the aim of promoting rehabilitation and individualised justice for young people, consistent with particular provisions of the Human Rights Act.

The reply also addresses several other issues, and I am satisfied that the reply and the amendments proposed are a suitable reply to the issues raised by the committee.

Amendments agreed to.

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

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Crimes Legislation 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) (10.30): The Canberra Liberals will be supporting this bill. It does a number of things: it will amend the Bail Act 1992 to remove section 233B of the Customs Act 1901 from item 3 in part 1.5 of schedule 1 and insert 9.1 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 to create a neutral presumption for bail for drug offences where amounts are equal to or greater than the trafficable quantity of a controlled drug.

The bill will amend the Crimes Act 1900 to authorise police officers to take fingerprints, photograph—including video recordings—samples of handwriting and voice recordings of suspects who are children and young people for identification purposes.

The bill will amend the Crimes (Forensic Procedures) Act 2000 to: create a requirement that police officers, when intending to ask an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to consent to a forensic procedure, inform the person that the Aboriginal Legal Service will be notified; provide a mechanism to allow the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to decline the presence of an interview friend or lawyer during a forensic procedure; expand the definition of “incapable person” to include adults who are temporarily incapacitated; and will allow a “close associate” of an incapable person to consent to non-intimate forensic procedures on behalf of that incapable person.

The bill will amend the Crimes (Sentencing) Regulation 2006 to allow a victim impact statement to be made for category 2 offences under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 where exposure to a risk of death or serious injury or illness has resulted in death or serious injury or illness.

The bill will authorise police officers to issue infringement notices for certain offences under the Magistrates Court (Security Industry Infringement Notices) Regulation 2008 to enforce obligations on licensees, including that security licensees wear their licence number when carrying out certain security activities.

Numerous comments were made by the scrutiny of bills committee in its report No 36. We have taken note of those, and I am satisfied they have been addressed. The Law Society also provided comments with regard to the drafting of this legislation, and I am advised that those comments have also been taken into consideration. I thank the Attorney-General and his staff for the briefing provided to my staff. While noting the issues raised by the scrutiny committee, we will be supporting this legislation.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (10.33): This bill makes several amendments to crimes legislation, and I will make some comments on a couple of the main changes. Firstly, the bill amends the Bail Act to refer to the relevant piece of commonwealth

legislation after drug importation offences were moved from the Customs Act to the Commonwealth Criminal Code. The result is that courts can apply a neutral presumption for bail for certain serious drug offences, which is consistent with the bail presumptions for drug offences in the ACT Criminal Code.

When it comes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander notification, the bill amends the process that must be followed when police wish to undertake a forensic procedure on an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. It requires that the Aboriginal Legal Service is notified of the procedure. This change, like other considerations police must give to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody, seeks to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are treated fairly, respectfully and legally and that they have support and assistance with cultural issues. These types of provisions were first implemented in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

The need for these specific provisions arises from the evidence to a New South Wales committee on forensic procedures that bodily samples are used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for spiritual purposes and, as a result, they may be reluctant to give such samples. As the bill's explanatory statement states, the amendments allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people an opportunity to seek support from interview friends and to seek advice from legal representatives.

These types of provisions mean, of course, that special considerations are given to certain classes of people. It is a clear and well-developed aspect of human rights and anti-discrimination laws that differential treatment is sometimes necessary to try and advance the rights of a particular disadvantaged group or to try and achieve a human rights purpose. Treating every person in exactly the same way does not achieve an equal outcome because it does not acknowledge people's different circumstances, for example, historical disadvantage and cultural issues. This is particularly the case for Australia's indigenous people.

In terms of identifying material, the bill will introduce a new limited circumstance in which police can take identifying material from young people, non-intrusive identifying information from young people, which are fingerprints, photographs—including video recordings—samples of handwriting and voice recordings.

The addition of this power addresses a gap in the law relating to taking material for identification from people under 18 years of age. Police previously had this power but the section was contained in the old Children and Young People Act and was not reproduced when the act was updated in 2008. The result is an operational constraint for police when dealing with children and young people.

Whether a police officer can take identifying material and what safeguards are required differs depending on the age of a person and the circumstances. For example, a magistrate's order is required for the taking of identification material if the person is under 18 years old and not in police custody, if the person is under 16 years old and is in police custody, or if the person is 16 years old, in police custody and is impaired.

The material must be reasonably necessary for the identification of the person generally or in connection with an offence, or if the officer suspects on reasonable grounds that the person has committed another offence and that the material is likely to identify the person as having committed the other offence. Consequently, the explanatory statement includes several charts to make these different situations clear. It is a useful addition for the reader. I am comfortable with the safeguards that are applicable to these powers. The explanatory statement also gives a reasonable explanation for the rationale for the power and how it is balanced with human rights considerations.

In addition to the requirement for police to obtain magistrates orders in certain situations, when a person is not in an impaired state the police must explain the offence allegedly committed by the person, why the material is relevant and that the material may be used as evidence. Where practical, the police also have to allow a person with parental responsibility to be present when the explanation is given and the material is taken. When it is not practicable, the police have to allow the presence of an interview friend.

The last area I will touch on is the issue of an incapable person. The bill changes the definition of “incapable person” in the Crimes (Forensic Procedures) Act to include adults who are temporarily incapacitated. The main example of this is a person who is affected by drugs, alcohol or sedation. The definition is relevant because an incapable person is not able to consent to various procedures under the act. The bill makes an amendment to allow a close associate of an incapable person to consent to non-intimate forensic procedures on behalf of that incapable person. Non-intimate forensic procedures, as I said earlier, are procedures such as taking fingerprints or photographs.

It is easy to see that the definition of “close associate” is important to the scope of this change. It would be a common occurrence for a couple of intoxicated people to end up in police custody together. One person might be so intoxicated as to be incapable while the other might not. It would not be appropriate for the police to let the incapable person’s intoxicated mate consent to forensic procedures on the incapable person. The mate could even be someone that the incapable person had simply just met at the pub that night and, with a few drinks in them, they were mates forever.

The definition of “close associate” has been worded carefully in the bill. A “close associate” includes the person’s domestic partner, carer, a relative or friend. Although this may still seem quite broad, the definition in the bill then makes it clear that the close associate does not include a person under 18 or a person who appears to have impaired decision-making capacity. This would include a person who is also intoxicated.

It is also important to note that a person who is deemed to be an incapable person must be aged 18 years and that the amendment in this bill to allow consent by a close associate relates only to non-intimate forensic procedures. The different and stricter process remains in place for any intimate forensic procedures. The bill makes some other minor changes which have been discussed already and which I will not go into again. In conclusion, I will be supporting this bill today.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for Health, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Capital Metro) (10.40), in reply: I thank members for their contributions to this debate and for their support of this bill. The government is committed to continuous reform and improvement of the territory's statute book, and this bill brings forward changes to ACT criminal legislation as a response to a range of issues and concerns raised by a range of stakeholders in our justice system, including the DPP, ACT Policing and the Aboriginal Legal Service. Importantly, this bill provides extra protection and support to members of the community, such as young people, who may have particular needs when subject to the criminal justice system, and it will also enhance ACT Policing's ability to identify younger suspects.

The Crimes Act will be amended to provide authority for police officers to take for identification purposes fingerprint, photograph or video recording, sample handwriting and voice recording material from suspects who are under 18 years of age. Currently no legislative provision permits identification material to be taken from a suspect under 18 years of age unless an application is made for a forensic order under the Crimes (Forensic Procedures) Act. The absence of such a provision prevents accurate and timely identification of suspects, which is critical and in the interests of justice, particularly at the point of arrest and charge.

Under new section 230A a magistrate's approval is still required to take material of this kind from a suspect under the age of 16 years, a young person who is in an impaired state or a young person who is not in police custody. Police officers are authorised to take material without a magistrate's order if the young person is 16 or 17 years of age, was at least 16 at the time of committing the alleged offence, is in police custody and is not in an impaired state at the time the material is taken.

Where material is to be taken, a police officer must inform the suspect about the purposes for which the material is required, the offence which the young person is believed to have committed or is charged with and that the material may be used as evidence in proceedings in relation to an offence.

A police officer must allow someone with parental responsibility for the person to be present. If this is not practicable, a police officer must allow an interview friend for the person to be present when the explanation is given or the material is taken. As soon as practicable a police officer must take reasonable steps to tell someone with parental responsibility about the action that has been taken. This provision will allow police officers, with appropriate safeguards and controls, to obtain material to establish the identity of the child or young person who is suspected of committing a criminal offence.

The Crimes (Forensic Procedures) Act is also being amended to make three important changes in this bill. Firstly, a police officer will be required to notify the Aboriginal Legal Service when they intend to ask an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to consent to a forensic procedure. This provides additional protection for that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who is required to undergo a forensic procedure under the act by ensuring that a responsible agency is aware that the process is occurring.

As Mr Rattenbury and Mr Hanson have mentioned, the definition of “incapable person” will be expanded to allow a third party—that is, a close associate, including a domestic partner, carer or relative or friend—to give consent to non-intimate forensic procedures on behalf of a person who is incapable or temporarily incapable. This amendment protects vulnerable people by allowing a third party to consent to a forensic procedure on their behalf if they are unable to do so. A mechanism will be introduced to allow an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to decline the presence of an interview friend or lawyer during a forensic procedure. This respects the right of choice of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

The bill also makes amendments to schedule 1 of the Bail Act to correctly reference part 9.1 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 which reflects the change already made to commonwealth law for serious drug offences. This amendment gives effect to the original intention of the Bail Act by applying a neutral presumption for bail in relation to serious drug offences in the ACT Criminal Code.

Finally, there are two minor amendments to regulations. The Crimes (Sentencing) Regulation is amended to authorise a person to make a victim impact statement where a person is exposed to a risk of death or serious injury or illness due to negligent driving or limited offences under the Work Health and Safety Act. This is important as currently there may be no power for a relative of a victim to make a victim impact statement in cases where death of or serious injury to a worker has occurred, and this discrepancy should be rectified.

The Magistrates Court (Security Industry Infringement Notices) Regulation is also amended to authorise ACT police officers to issue infringement notices for certain offences under the act. The new power will support police officers to enforce obligations on licensees, including that security licensees wear their licence number when carrying out certain security activities. Once again, I thank members for their support of the bill and commend it to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Corrections Management Amendment Bill 2015

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

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR WALL (Brindabella) (10.46): The opposition will be supporting this bill today. It seeks to make a number of small changes to the Corrections Management Act and also a change to the Children and Young People Act. With regard to interstate leave

permits, the bill seeks to clarify how the permits can be issued, the duration of the permits and the number of times permits can be issued in succession. This issue has been addressed to add some clarification to the existing legislation particularly surrounding instances where a prisoner in the custody of ACT Corrective Services needs to be transported interstate. As I understand, a recent example was to receive health treatment that was unable to be provided within the ACT. The same provision is inserted into the Children and Young People Act to cover this instance should it arise for a young person in detention under the youth corrections system.

The other change that this bill seeks to make is to address the processes by which random drug testing is conducted within the ACT corrective system, particularly at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, the ACT's prison. Currently random drug testing is done anonymously and this legislation seeks to remove the anonymous element, meaning that drug testing that is conducted amongst prisoners and remandees will be done on a random basis but that all tests will be identifiable.

As I said before, the opposition will be supporting this legislation. These are moves that the opposition has been calling for for quite some time and it has been quite a bizarre point to me since I took over the shadow portfolio why drug testing in the prison was done purely anonymously, given that it failed to see the other part of the picture: being able to offer the help, support, rehabilitation or, in other instances, disciplinary action for breaches when they do occur. We hope that this is the first of many steps to come in addressing the drug problem at the jail and we will be supporting this today.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Planning, Minister for Roads and Parking, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Minister for Children and Young People and Minister for Ageing) (10.49): I am pleased to speak in support of the Corrections Management Amendment Bill which updates corrections legislation managed by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and legislation relating to young detainees managed by the Community Services Directorate. Today as the Minister for Children and Young people I speak to the provisions contained in the bill that will amend the Children and Young People Act 2008 to clarify that an interstate leave permit can be renewed.

Section 242 provides that the director-general can give a young detainee leave to travel to and from and remain in another state for seven days and this leave is in an interstate leave permit. Currently, as indicated by Mr Wall, section 242 of the Children and Young People Act is silent on whether interstate leave permits can be renewed. The bill makes amendments to the act to make it clear that interstate leave permits can be renewed. This amendment will ensure appropriate mechanisms are in place to allow a young detainee to stay interstate for a genuine purpose for a period longer than seven days.

A hypothetical example of where this amendment might be used is if a young person in the transition unit was undertaking work experience in the community as part of their transition plan and unfortunately became involved in a work-related accident. Following the accident medical tests and expert opinion identify that the best possible treatment and ongoing rehabilitation for the young person is not available in the ACT

and that the young person will need to be medically transported interstate for treatment and ongoing care for a period longer than seven days. The amendment to section 242 would ensure that the young person can travel interstate to receive the required treatment.

A renewal of the interstate permit will be subject to the same safeguards that are currently available under division 6.8.2 of the act. This may include a condition that the escort officer accompany the young detainee interstate. When considering making an interstate leave permit or renewing an interstate leave permit, the decision maker is bound by the principles of the administration decision making, which include making a decision based on the information and facts available and obtaining further information or advice if necessary before making or renewing a permit. For example, when renewing a permit for the reasons in my hypothetical example, the decision maker would have regard to the options and reports of the treating medical team.

The amendment also provides that if the power under section 242 is delegated, the director-general must be notified of the renewal of a leave permit for the fourth and subsequent times. This means that the power will not be used for periods longer than 28 days without high level oversight.

Finally, the amendment does not affect the power contained in part 5.2 of the act to transfer custody of the young offender to another jurisdiction. This means that if it makes more sense to transfer the custody of a young offender to another jurisdiction, rather than continuing to extend the interstate leave permit, this can be done. This supports the flexibility in the management of young offenders and is a sensible operational decision. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Justice, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Transport Reform) (10.52), in reply: The Corrections Management Bill reflects the government's ongoing commitment to maintain a safe and rehabilitative-focused environment for detainees and staff at correctional centres. The bill makes two important amendments to existing corrections facility legislation. The bill reforms provisions relating to random drug testing of detainees in corrections centres and also clarifies that an interstate leave permit under either the Corrections Management Act 2007 or the Children and Young People Act 2008 can be renewed with the appropriate oversight and care required.

The amendments to random drug testing are part of a continuing commitment by ACT Corrective Services to address detainees' substance addiction and abuse and to improve good order at the AMC. This bill amends the random drug testing provisions to allow the director-general to identify the donor of a random drug test for the purpose of referral for appropriate treatment and programs or discipline. Currently the Corrections Management Act allows for both targeted and random drug testing. Detainees are identified for a targeted drug test based on the important intelligence gathered by ACT Corrective Services. This process is in line with best practice in other jurisdictions.

However, the Corrections Management Act currently prevents the identification of detainees who provide a random drug test sample. These tests are carried out by generating 10 randomly selected detainee identification numbers per month, with the detainees then tested but no record kept of which detainee provided which sample. At the moment the information gained from this process can only be used for statistical purposes, in particular to provide data about the prevalence of drug use within the prison that can in turn be used to facilitate research papers or inform operational policy. The amendment in the bill does not mandate that an alleged disciplinary report be made for a detainee returning a positive sample; rather it is one more possible tool to use for detainee management, including informing how therapeutic interventions should be best focused in ACT correctional centres.

Currently, a number of programs are run at the Alexander Maconochie Centre to address substance abuse and addiction. The act as currently drafted impedes Corrective Services' ability to divert drug users to these programs because drug users cannot be identified by way of a random drug sample. All Australian jurisdictions use random drug testing and most provide that a positive test result from random testing can be addressed by disciplinary action. This is also true for many international jurisdictions such as New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom.

In line with the amendment to the legislation, Corrective Services will also modify policy and operational procedure, requiring officers to consider referral of detainees who return a positive targeted or random drug test for appropriate health and/or rehabilitation treatment, and consider commencing a disciplinary process. These changes will recognise that drug testing is an operational response focused on safety and detainee management and that it provides an opportunity to improve therapeutic responses.

I have directed that ACT Corrective Services work closely with members of the AMC health policies and services advisory group on the revised policy to ensure that any such referrals are evidence based and effective. This group, which includes Health officials, NGO representatives and client representatives, has begun this process and will input to the finalisation of the policy in the coming weeks.

It should be noted that if a positive result is returned from a random drug test and a disciplinary proceeding follows, as with any disciplinary decision, the detainee may ask that the decision of the presiding officer be internally reviewed under the act. Following this, an external review mechanism is available.

The second amendment to the Corrections Management Act is to clarify that an interstate leave permit can be renewed for seven-day periods to ensure appropriate mechanisms are in place to allow a detainee to stay interstate for a genuine purpose for a period longer than seven days. A detainee may need to remain interstate for longer than seven days if they require a health service that cannot be provided in the ACT, or it may be appropriate for the detainee to receive certain treatment outside the territory.

To ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place, the amendment provides increased clarity that, if the power to renew a permit is delegated, the director-general must be notified of the renewal of a leave permit for the fourth and subsequent renewals. This means that a leave permit can only be in place for 28 days before its renewal is drawn to the attention of the director-general. Permits can and already do involve close consultation with the relevant medical and health personnel involved with the detainee's specific needs, and this will continue.

As the explanatory statement makes clear, the decision maker is always bound to ensure they are making any decision based on the information available and must further obtain advice if necessary. All detainees subject to these permit provisions will also have appeal mechanisms available to them under the administrative decisions act. This provides an appropriate degree of administrative rigour and oversight while giving Corrective Services the flexibility required to manage detainees. It must also be noted that if for any reason a detainee needs to receive treatment outside the ACT for any long or protracted period the director-general may consider a formal transfer of custody to the appropriate interstate department.

The Children and Young People Act will be amended in a similar way to allow interstate leave permits for young detainees to be renewed and Minister Gentleman has provided further detail on this. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 10.59 am to 2.30 pm.

Questions without notice

Asbestos—proposed inquiry

MR HANSON: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, in December 2014 the public accounts committee recommended that the government establish an ACT board of inquiry constituted pursuant to the Inquiries Act, to investigate the full history of the Mr Fluffy legacy. They recommended that it should report by 1 March 2016. The task force has now completed its most urgent work, with the date for registering homes for surrender now past, the full list of affected owners and properties now known and the schedule of demolition to 2020 now published and started. Chief Minister, will you now agree to establish an ACT board of inquiry to investigate the full history of the Mr Fluffy legacy by 1 March 2016?

MR BARR: I never disagreed with the need to establish a board of inquiry; the areas of disagreement have been the timing and what was the most important series of tasks. The Leader of the Opposition has outlined a number of important tasks that have been

completed, but it remains the government's view that there is still more important work to be done by the task force. As such, it will prioritise those areas. A board of inquiry remains important, but not the most important thing to be done at this point in time.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Chief Minister, what are those matters that are being dealt with by the task force that are delaying the board of inquiry into the Mr Fluffy crisis?

MR BARR: There is a range of matters. There are more than 1,000 households who have 1,000 different circumstances that require the attention of the task force.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, if a board of inquiry is not established for a situation such as this, what would ever demand a board of inquiry under your government?

MR BARR: I refer the member to my previous answers. The question is not one of disagreement over whether a board of inquiry will be established; it is one of priorities. The government has made it very clear what our priorities are—that is, to clean up the Mr Fluffy mess. That is the most important thing that needs to be done. That is the focus at this point in time.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, if you agree that a board of inquiry should be established for this issue—

MADAM SPEAKER: Preamble.

MR SMYTH: why would a delay be acceptable or are you simply delaying the establishment of a board of inquiry for political reasons to hide possible government maladministration?

MR BARR: Mr Smyth is welcome to his opinion. I disagree with all of the preamble to that question.

Asbestos—home owners

MR SMYTH: My question is also to the Chief Minister. It was reported in the *Canberra Times* on 17 September 2015 that two separate up-to-date versions of the full list of Mr Fluffy homes with owners' details have been leaked into the public realm. The report claims that the full Mr Fluffy list has been in circulation in Canberra since June 2015. Minister, on what date were you made aware that the detailed full list of Mr Fluffy homes and owners was leaked?

MR BARR: On 22 June, although I was overseas and so was given a very brief indication and a full briefing upon my return from being overseas.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Chief Minister, what is the role of the public service commissioner with respect to the unauthorised leaking of the Mr Fluffy list?

MR BARR: The head of the task force, Mr Kefford, wrote to the Commissioner for Public Administration to undertake an inquiry when he became aware of the possible unauthorised release of a list. He also wrote to the head of ACT Police.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Chief Minister, when were you advised that the AFP had been requested to investigate the leaking of the full Mr Fluffy house list?

MR BARR: On 22 June, although I was overseas at the time. I received a full briefing on my return.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Chief Minister, what administrative or staffing actions have been taken to date in response to the investigations about the leaking of the Mr Fluffy list?

MR BARR: The head of the task force has written to the Commissioner for Public Administration and to the Chief Police Officer. Investigations are underway. The details of those investigations have been provided, as much as they can be, to the media and, through the media, to the public, last week.

Transport—parking

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Capital Metro. Minister, the environmental impact statement completed for capital metro details the closure of 255 car spaces on the north-west edge of London Circuit car park across from the Melbourne Building. Minister, did you consult with any of the affected businesses prior to the release of the EIS?

MR CORBELL: I thank Mr Wall for his question. The purpose of the draft EIS, which is what was released—not the final, but the draft EIS—was for consultation. So in the context of that consultation process, yes, I did meet with a number of business operators in the Melbourne Building and in the surrounding precincts of University Avenue. I did that a number of months ago now following the release of the draft EIS.

I appreciate very much the discussion I had with representatives of those businesses. They expressed to me their concerns about access in relation to parking should that full car park be utilised. I stressed to them that the government had not taken any final decisions in relation to that site, that we were very cognisant of the issues that they were raising and that we would continue to work with them to identify alternatives to make sure that there was not any detrimental impact on the operation of their businesses, and that remains the government's commitment.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, what discussions did the government have with Parsons Brinckerhoff regarding the closure of the car park whilst the EIS was being completed?

MR CORBELL: I would have to take that question on notice.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Minister, why were these disruptions not fully canvassed in the capital metro full business case?

MR CORBELL: The business case is developed for the purposes of making an investment decision. The EIS is the process utilised to assess impacts and mitigate those impacts.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Minister, does the government remain committed to capital metro?

MR CORBELL: Yes.

Health—statistics

MS FITZHARRIS: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, can you advise the Assembly on the emerging public health concerns facing Canberra?

MR CORBELL: I thank Ms Fitzharris for her question. It is important to recognise that as our community grows in overall size and age there are particular public health challenges for our city. These challenges will inform service delivery and public policy responses to try to keep our population as healthy as possible. There is good news, which I will come to shortly, but there are also some significant challenges for us when it comes to the health of the Canberra population.

We are not alone in seeing a significant increase in chronic diseases, many of which are associated with lifestyle factors. The rise of obesity is a major issue both locally and nationally. The latest report of the Chief Health Officer in 2014 found that the proportion of overweight or obese adults in the ACT has risen from 59 per cent in 2007-08 to 63 per cent in 2011-12. The number of overweight kids ranges from 15.7 per cent for kindergarten children to 26 per cent, or one in four, aged 15 to 17 years. These are disturbing statistics; they should be of concern to every member of the Assembly.

These rising levels of overweight and obese people are placing significant pressure on our public hospital and health system. Almost four per cent of our population, for example, have either type 1 or type 2 diabetes. Future projections from 2005 estimate that between 15,000 and 22,000 people in the ACT will have diabetes by 2020. That

is an increase of 50 per cent. Some 56 people died from diabetes in the ACT in 2012, and we know it is also a contributing factor in a range of other deaths, particularly where the cause of death is reported as being related to cardiovascular or renal disease.

These remain very significant issues for us to address as a community, along with the other most common causes of death cancer: cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, accidents and injuries and dementia.

We need to focus very strongly on these issues, but there is also encouraging news. We are continuing to see death rates declining for many leading health concerns, including in those areas of cancer and cardiovascular disease. We see a significant decrease in the number of Canberrans who are smoking—down from 18.6 per cent in 2007-08 to 15 per cent in 2011-12. That is well below the Australian average of 18 per cent. Smoking rates for secondary school students are now very low—down to 5.8 per cent.

The trend in alcohol consumption among secondary school kids is also down—from 85 per cent reporting drinking behaviours in 2008 to 73 per cent in 2011. There has been an increase in the number of adults undertaking sufficient physical activity—from 56 per cent in 2009-10 to nearly 60 per cent in 2011-12. This is an encouraging sign in response to the government's active lifestyle and active living agenda to try to tackle some of the issues associated with inactivity. Whilst we face particular challenges, we also see some encouraging improvements, and the government's focus will be on service delivery and infrastructure to help meet these challenges. (*Time expired.*)

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Fitzharris.

MS FITZHARRIS: Minister, what types of services does ACT Health fund to improve public health outcomes?

MR CORBELL: I thank Ms Fitzharris for her supplementary. Last year alone there were over 80,000 occasions of service provided by community care nurses treating people either in community health centres or in people's own homes. That is good news for the patient and that is good news for our hospital system. It is why the government is continuing to invest in and improve capability in the community care sector.

There are many services offered within community health centres, including the traditional mix of community health multidisciplinary services across all ages, including antenatal care, nursing, podiatry, physiotherapy, nutrition, mental health, social work and a range of other services.

Of course, this government has expanded community health treatment options, including our walk-in centres and offering extended hours services for a range of minor illnesses and injuries. We have supported the improvement in access to the after-hours GP service, including the CALMS service—the Canberra Afterhours Locum Medical Service.

We are focused very much on addressing chronic and complex conditions through a range of targeted programs, including particular programs focused on chronic disease. These self-management programs are designed to provide greater support to people living with chronic illness. People with different chronic conditions are able to attend these programs together. It is designed to empower them to improve their self-management of chronic disease and to improve the quality of their life.

At the same time, we are focusing on making sure that people are not isolated in their responses to these chronic diseases and that they are able to access good services like the independent living centre funded by the government in Weston. We are focusing on improving access through the equipment services scheme at Village Creek. These are the types of responses we will continue to facilitate. *(Time expired.)*

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Minister, can you please update the Assembly on what the ACT government is doing specifically to address the growing incidence of chronic diseases?

MR CORBELL: I thank Dr Bourke for his supplementary. Yes, a range of important programs is being financed. For example, the good habits for life program helps to address obesity by helping parents role-model healthy habits for their children around eating well, moving more and connecting with those around them. These types of behaviours are critical for improving people's health and wellbeing.

We have got the fresh taste program being rolled out across ACT primary schools to increase the availability and knowledge of healthy food choices, supporting teachers to provide nutrition education, supporting school canteens to provide more nutritious menus and giving kids hands-on experience in cooking and gardening. We have also got ongoing support from the government for the AMA's art in, butt out competition. I was really pleased to be at the awards for that competition in the past couple of weeks. That competition gives high school students the opportunity to design anti-smoking advertisements that go onto Canberra Milk cartons.

But we are also investing through the ACT Health promotion grants program. We have provided nearly half a million dollars, for example, to the ACT Nutrition Support Service to provide community organisations with convenient nutrition support over the phone or online, that is, free nutritional advice from accredited practising dieticians who will be able to tailor programs for individual Canberrans to improve their diet and tackle chronic conditions such as obesity and overweight.

We have got the women want to know campaign to make sure that women who are expecting get good advice from their general practitioners and others on the impact of alcohol during pregnancy and help them make healthy decisions there. *(Time expired.)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Minister, can you please outline to the Assembly how active transport initiatives, including the delivery of light rail, will contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community, particularly in regard to chronic diseases?

MR CORBELL: Obviously, with significant population growth in the inner north of Canberra and in Gungahlin, and with better investment in public transport, we know there is a clear correlation with improved active lifestyles and improved incidental exercise associated with walking, cycling and more healthy, active lifestyle choices. This is critically important.

Those opposite should be paying attention to what their new Prime Minister is saying, talking about the importance of public transport in cities, talking about the importance of active lifestyles and more vibrant communities which are walkable, which are cyclable, which are livable. That comes about from investment in good public transport infrastructure, whether it is better bus services, whether it is light rail services or whether it is a range of other responses like park and ride, better cycling facilities or better pedestrian facilities. All these things encourage more people to walk or cycle as part of their everyday journey. Better connectivity and accessibility mean better and more active lifestyles.

Those opposite want to lock this city into car dependence. They want to lock this city into having to buy more and more cars to get around every day, increase congestion on roads and reduce people's capacity to walk and to cycle. That is their vision for our city, but it is a short-sighted vision. It is a short-sighted view that even the new Prime Minister is rejecting. Even Malcolm Turnbull understands the importance of this reform. Those opposite would do well to pay attention to their federal leader on these important issues. (*Time expired.*)

Transport—light rail

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for Capital Metro. Minister, in the full business case, \$381 million of benefits are attributed to the capital metro project by way of land use. These land use benefits primarily come from the development of Northbourne Avenue, which is contingent on the removal of public housing properties from Northbourne Avenue. Two weeks ago, the ACT Heritage Council provisionally listed 17 of the 62 public housing properties, meaning that they will not be able to be redeveloped. Minister, what number of public housing properties on Northbourne Avenue were slated for re-development in the capital metro full business case, which allowed \$381 million worth of benefits to be calculated?

MR CORBELL: I thank Mr Coe for his question. His assumptions, though, are wrong. The benefits that accrue to land use activity across the corridor accrue across the corridor as a whole. They do not simply accrue to ACT Housing properties along Northbourne Avenue. They accrue across the corridor as a whole, and those are the assumptions built into the business case. So his assumptions and his assertions around the business case in this respect, as they have been on so many other issues, are simply wrong.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Coe—and I would like to hear it.

MR COE: Minister, did the \$381 million figure include all 62 public housing properties being redeveloped?

MR CORBELL: I refer Mr Coe to my earlier answer. The land use development benefits that accrue from light rail accrue across the corridor as a whole and not in relation solely to ACT Housing properties. They accrue across the corridor as a whole.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why was the completion of the full business case not delayed until a proper heritage assessment could be completed? Is it not customary for heritage assessments to be completed before infrastructure projects are allowed to proceed?

MR CORBELL: The development of capital metro is not contingent on the resolution of heritage matters in relation to this limited number of sites. For the balance of Ms Lawder's question, I would refer her to my earlier answers.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what portion of government held land in the corridor will be preserved as a result of the decision?

MR CORBELL: That will depend on the specific development applications that are made, the assessment of the Planning and Land Authority in relation to yields on those sites and the relevant application of the heritage listing and subsequent approved-built outcome.

Williamsdale solar farm—proposed

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for the Environment. Minister, why has the government decided that an environmental impact statement for the proposed solar farm at Williamsdale is not necessary?

MR CORBELL: Responsibility for environmental impact statements rests with the Minister for Planning.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why is the government ignoring reports of asbestos dumps in the Williamsdale area?

MR CORBELL: I refer Ms Lawder to my previous answer.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: I am not sure whether the Minister for Planning or the Minister for the Environment wants to answer this question but, whichever minister, why is the government not studying the impact of the removal of between 100 and 200 mature yellow box gum trees?

MR CORBELL: As I have indicated in my previous answers, responsibility for assessment of environmental impact under the Planning and Development Act is the responsibility of my colleague the Minister for Planning.

Mr Smyth interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Let him say it.

MR CORBELL: But what I can say is that in relation to woodland communities on that site, they have already been assessed under commonwealth environment protection law and all the necessary approvals or assessments have been undertaken consistent with commonwealth environment protection law under the commonwealth EPBC legislation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, why hasn't the government studied the impact of the removal of between 100 and 200 yellow box gums on the regent honeyeater, an ACT endangered species?

MR CORBELL: The assessments have been made consistent with commonwealth environment protection law. I refer Mr Smyth to my earlier answer. If he thinks that the application of commonwealth environment protection law is inadequate, I will be interested to hear his arguments.

Schools—autism

MR DOSZPOT: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, what were the terms of reference of the ACT government internal cage inquiry, and why have you refused to make them public?

MS BURCH: I think we covered this last week. The terms of reference are part of a process that was set up under the provisions of an EBA. As I said in a statement last week, they will not be released, but what has been released, and is in the public domain, is the scope of the work, the scope of the investigation. That is in the public domain. I encourage Mr Doszpot to look at what is on ETD's website.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, how can the public have confidence that the inquiry was done without fear or favour, given the investigator was an ACT public servant?

MS BURCH: I think the public absolutely has confidence in an independent investigation carried out by Shared Services—absolutely—and to have any other question imply—

Mr Doszpot interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, Mr Doszpot! You have asked the question. Let the minister answer the question. Minister Burch.

MS BURCH: I have nothing else to add.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, are you aware of any other instances where students in ACT public schools have been let down in such a similar fashion?

MS BURCH: This incident—this structure and this school—was no doubt an absolute failing; it was no doubt a failing. A principal made decisions. She did not take advice from the experts that were around her. She made a decision that was clearly and absolutely flawed. There is no question about that. I will read from a letter to the *Canberra Times* this morning headed “School moving on”:

As a parent of the affected school community and representative of the parent body, it shocks and saddens me to continue to read opinions based on personal agendas. Regardless of an individual’s motivations, one needs to acknowledge that a school’s primary focus must always be the education and care of its students.

Our school community has navigated through the division and difficulty of a highly complex issue. Whilst we all recognise the important role of transparency, it must not come at the expense of an individual’s right to privacy.

Our parent representatives, and the school’s board and executive have worked together to ensure the primary focus of our school remains the teaching, learning and care of every student, every day.

Words cannot express the deep gratitude felt for the unwavering dedication and commitment school staff have shown to our children at this time. We have focused all our efforts on the education and care of our children. It is this focus that has driven our school community to continue to function like any other Canberra public school throughout this challenging period. With the inappropriate structure investigation finalised, it is now time for our community to heal and move forward. The continued media-seeking behaviour of a self-serving minority and the ongoing political witch-hunt is achieving nothing other than further aggravation among our school community. (*Time expired.*)

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, did you or your office see a draft or interim report by the investigator?

MS BURCH: I certainly did not, no.

Schools—autism

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for Education and Training. Minister, who decided which parts of the report into the cage structure inquiry were made public?

MS BURCH: Again, I do ask you to go back to this letter from a member of the school community that is saying that rather than focus on the past, and I will respond to Mrs Jones, our community is committed to supporting the teaching, learning and care of our children. The school community itself now is saying, “Can we move on?”

In regard to who put the information into the public domain, that was a decision of the director-general. The director-general is responsible for managing the staff within the Education and Training Directorate. The investigation was done under the provisions of an EBA, which is why the full report will not be released. But we recognised that, in the public interest, the key facts, the key findings, of the matter needed to be put into the public space. That is the key findings: the principal acted and has taken responsibility for this.

Mr Coe: Point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Point of order. Stop the clock, please.

Mr Coe: On relevance, Mrs Jones’s question was, “Who decided which parts of the report into the cage inquiry were made public?” She has not answered that yet.

MADAM SPEAKER: I think that I heard Minister Burch say that the director-general had made that decision. If I misheard, I am sure Minister Burch will set me right. She might wish to elaborate. Minister Burch.

MS BURCH: Just so that I do not get another heckle from across the chamber, let me say that I did answer the question. I did answer Mrs Jones’s question. But there are key findings in the public domain. That is the purpose, surely, that should be of interest to those opposite—that is, that a principal acted, by her own account—

Mr Hanson: Madam Speaker, just on the point of order again—

MADAM SPEAKER: This is a separate point of order; I have already ruled.

Mr Hanson: This is the same one. Ms Burch said, “I answered Mrs Jones’s question.” But we are asking for a specific answer to who decided which parts of the report into the cage inquiry were made public.

Mr Corbell: On the point of order—

MADAM SPEAKER: I do not think I need assistance.

Mr Corbell: They have not listened.

MADAM SPEAKER: I really do not think I need assistance, Mr Corbell. I think that the minister has clearly answered the question. She said that the director-general made that decision. I think that that is quite clear. Have you got anything to add, minister?

MS BURCH: They are not listening, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

MRS JONES: Minister, did you or your office interfere in any way with the publication of the report?

MS BURCH: No.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, what role did you or your office play in determining what was published?

MS BURCH: I refer Mr Doszpot to my earlier answer.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, who, if anyone, in your directorate made the decisions about what information was published in the report?

MS BURCH: I refer Mr Doszpot to my earlier answer.

Tourism—events

DR BOURKE: My question is to the Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism and Events. Chief Minister, can you provide an update on Canberra's upcoming program of major events?

MR BARR: I thank Dr Bourke for his question. I am very pleased to be able to advise the Assembly that a major series of events has kicked off in the city, with Floriade, of course, now underway. NightFest begins this week. Last year NightFest attracted nearly 35,000 people. We are expecting the entire Floriade event plus NightFest to attract close to 500,000 attendees over the month. Some, of course, will visit multiple times, bringing in close to \$50 million for the territory economy. The windows to the world program is now well under way, and if the opening weekend is any indication there will be a very strongly supported series of events across the embassies in the territory. I thank the diplomatic community for their partnership in delivering a really world class event for our city.

We will soon see the opening of the Australian cricket season, with the Prime Minister's XI cricket match against New Zealand at Manuka Oval in October. The Soccerroos are headed to Canberra to play a World Cup qualifier. We have major Christmas in the city events including, I understand, an attempt to surpass a previous world record for Christmas lights.

The Australian cricket team returns to Canberra in January for a one-day international cricket match. Of course, we have the significant Australia Day celebrations in the city, and our fastest growing event, Enlighten, will return in the autumn of 2016. So there is a significant program of events in the city. There are, of course, a number of other major exhibitions being hosted by our national institutions and being supported by the government's ACT event fund.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Chief Minister, what are the broader economic benefits for Canberra of hosting major events?

MR BARR: There is a range of significant benefits depending, of course, on the nature of the events. Some are mass participation events that will bring participants and their families and friends to the city, sometimes for the first time and others as part of important repeat visits and increased length of stay as a result of major events.

There is a range of other high profile events that enable the city to be showcased on a national or international stage to television audiences. An example of this, of course, was our city's involvement in the Asian Cup football tournament over the last summer, including individual matches, which achieved peak viewing audiences of around 30 million people, particularly the match between China and North Korea.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Fitzharris.

MS FITZHARRIS: Minister, what has been the feedback from the community and major sporting organisations on our ability to host world-class events?

MR BARR: It has been very positive feedback, both from event organisers and from the broader Canberra community. We have researched extensively community attitudes and support for events in the city and the different types of events that the ACT government supports. There is, I am pleased to be able to advise the Assembly, strong community support for the city to continue to host major events.

I know the feedback from event organisers as diverse as the Asian Cup organising committee, the team at Cricket Australia and organisers of social, cultural and artistic events has been very positive about the city and its capacity to host those major events. So we look forward to continuing a strong program of events for Canberra in the years ahead.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Fitzharris.

MS FITZHARRIS: Minister, how do major events help to promote Canberra as a tourism destination?

MR BARR: Principally they help with length of stay; so people who come for events tend to stay longer. In addition to coming for the events, they will also spend time exploring other elements of our city's tourism offerings. They are also important in supporting repeat visitation to Canberra. They provide another reason for people to visit the city. The success of our major events program and our major events fund over many years demonstrates this fact.

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

Papers

Madam Speaker presented the following paper:

Legislative Assembly (Members' Superannuation) Act, pursuant to section 11A—Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board—Annual Report 2014-2015, dated 21 September 2015.

Mr Barr presented the following papers:

Public Sector Management Act, pursuant to sections 31A and 79—Copies of executive contracts or instruments—

Long-term contracts:

Andrew Whale, dated 8 September 2015.

Graham Tanton, dated 8 September 2015.

Short-term contracts:

Christopher Collier, dated 26 August and 2 September 2015.

David Metcalf, dated 31 August and 2 September 2015.

Gregory Hammond, dated 31 August and 2 September 2015.

Karl Alderson, dated 7 September 2015.

Lisa Holmes, dated 31 August and 2 September 2015.

Louise Gilding, dated 6 and 8 September 2015.

Lyndall Kennedy, dated 1 and 2 September 2015.

Matthew Kendall, dated 11 and 14 September 2015.

Michael Edwards, dated 7 and 8 September 2015.

Paul Rushton, dated 4 and 8 September 2015.

Contract variations:

Andrew Whale, dated 4 and 8 September 2015.

Calvin Robinson, dated 2 and 7 September 2015.

Daniel Iglesias, dated 1 and 2 September 2015.

David Colussi, dated 1 and 2 September 2015.

Gary Rake, dated 27 August and 2 September 2015.

Gordon Elliott, dated 9 and 10 September 2015.

Judianne Childs, dated 7 September 2015.

Kim Smith, dated 28 August and 2 September 2015.

Rodney Bray, dated 28 August and 8 September 2015.

Yu-Lan Chan, dated 31 August and 2 September 2015.

Auditor-General's report No 5 of 2014—government response 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:

Auditor-General's Act, pursuant to subsection 17(6)—Auditor-General's Report No 5/2014—Capital Works Reporting—Government response.

I seek leave to make a brief statement in relation to the paper.

Leave granted.

MR BARR: I am pleased to present the government's response to the Auditor-General's report No 5 of 2014 on capital works reporting. The report confirms that capital works reporting reforms introduced way back in 2009-10 have been effective in providing capital works information to the government.

The report also notes that these reforms have increased the transparency of capital project and program performance, increasing accountability across the government. The report made eight recommendations. The government has agreed in full to six and agreed in principle to two.

I commend the government's response to the Auditor-General's report No 5 of 2014 on capital works reporting to the Assembly.

Electricity Feed-In (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008— review 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:

Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Act, pursuant to subsection 13(3)—Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008—Review, dated August 2015.

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

Leave granted.

MR CORBELL: I am pleased to table this review today as required under section 13 of the Electricity Feed-In (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008. The intent of the act was to provide feed-in tariff support for small and medium-scale solar generators with a maximum generating capacity of 200 kilowatts. The act, passed in July 2008, began operating from 1 March 2009 and has four objectives: one, to promote the

generation of electricity from renewable energy sources; two, to reduce the ACT's contribution to human-induced climate change; three, to diversify the ACT's energy supply; and, four, to reduce the ACT's vulnerability to long-term price volatility in relation to fossil fuel supply.

The scheme was closed to new applicants on 13 July 2011, with existing applicants prior to that date being required to connect solar installations to the network by 31 December next year. The act provides that applicants with eligible solar installations receive feed-in tariff payments for the period of 20 years from the date of connection.

The feed-in tariffs offered under the act are as follows: between March 2009 and June 2010, 50.05c per kilowatt hour for installations up to 10 kilowatts in capacity, and 40.04c per kilowatt hour for installations greater than 10 kilowatts but no more than 30 kilowatts in capacity.

Between July 2010 and May 2011 these feed-in tariff rates were consolidated into a 45.7c per kilowatt hour rate for installations up to 30 kilowatts in capacity. Between March 2011 and May 2011 a feed-in tariff rate of 34.27c per kilowatt hour applied to installations greater than 30 kilowatts but not greater than 200 kilowatts. For two days in mid-July 2011 when the scheme was opened to new applicants it offered a combined feed-in tariff of 30.16c per kilowatt hour for all installations up to 200 kilowatts in capacity.

The act requires that a review be performed every five years after its commencement, and this is the first of these reviews. The review assesses how successful the act has been in meeting its objectives and considers the impact of costs on electricity users and whether impacts are equitable.

Turning to the key findings of the review, the review includes a number of key findings and highlights the overall success of the scheme. In summary, the scheme has contributed to the rapid growth in solar installations in the ACT. There are now over 10,000 feed-in tariff supported solar installations in 2015 with a combined capacity of 26 megawatts.

The scheme was part of a successful national and international effort to promote and increase the penetration of solar on rooftops and reduce solar costs. During the period of the scheme, installed solar panel costs dropped from approximately \$9.62 per watt in 2008-09 to \$2.42 per watt in 2010-11. The price reductions for solar installations seen during the period of the scheme were not anticipated.

With the benefit of hindsight, similar rates of solar installation may have been possible with a lower feed-in tariff rate. Further to this, for residential installations, a payment period of less than 20 years may have also driven uptake while lowering scheme costs. But these reductions in the costs of solar were not able to be anticipated at the time that prices for a feed-in tariff were set.

The scheme has not had a major impact on electricity prices in the ACT. In 2013-14 the scheme contributed just 2.3 per cent to retail electricity charges. In the average

household this equates to approximately \$36.09 per annum. The scheme has not impacted the reliability of the ACT electricity network. While it may have contributed to a reduction in the summer peak demand, winter peaks are still a significant driver for new network and investment and reductions in required network investment have not been material.

The government's mandatory inspection program has contributed to the quality and safety of solar installations during the course of the scheme. The rate of failed initial inspections of solar installations fell from 70 per cent in 2010-11 to 20 per cent in 2014-15. This demonstrates the maturation of the solar industry which this scheme has contributed to achieving. The review notes amendments to the act passed earlier this year will contribute to the ongoing effective operation of the scheme, particularly in relation to data provision and consistency.

In conclusion, the review has found that the Electricity Feed-In (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008 has been successful in incentivising the uptake of rooftop solar and meeting its objectives of promoting renewable energy by diversifying energy supply and reducing reliance on fossil fuels as well as reducing the territory's greenhouse gas emissions and therefore its contribution to climate change.

The ACT scheme was part of a global effort that saw a reduction in the price of solar technology during the scheme, and this reduction should lead to the further take-up of rooftop solar in the ACT without feed-in tariff support. The success of the scheme, and the ongoing take-up of solar technology, continues to move the ACT towards meeting its renewable energy targets and demonstrates the ACT's continued leadership on climate change and renewable energy policy.

I expect the scheme to go on meeting its objective and continue promoting the use of renewable energy in the ACT. I commend the paper to the Assembly.

ACT road safety report card—2014

Paper and statement by minister

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Justice, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Transport Reform): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020—Road Safety Report Card 2014, dated September 2015—Compiled by Legislation, Policy and Programs Branch, Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

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

Leave granted.

MR RATTENBURY: The national road safety strategy includes a requirement for each minister responsible for road safety to report annually to their parliament on progress in road safety, including reporting against national performance indicators.

This is intended to enhance public information on governments' responses to road safety and the implementation status of the national and jurisdictional road safety strategies.

Today I am tabling the ACT's third annual report card on road safety. It is focused on the 2014 calendar year and includes performance data and information on key programs and other initiatives delivered or developed in 2014.

I would like to use this opportunity today to briefly mention some of the government's achievements in 2014, as outlined in the report card. The ACT took an important step towards improving road safety for cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians with the completion in June 2014 of the Legislative Assembly inquiry into vulnerable road users. The inquiry resulted in 28 recommendations, including to trial motorcycle lane filtering and consider the introduction of a rule to require motorists to provide a minimum lateral distance when overtaking cyclists.

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate undertook consultation with key road user groups to develop the government response to the report on the inquiry. The government, in its response tabled in September 2014, agreed to 18 recommendations, agreed in principle to five recommendations and noted five recommendations.

At the end of the report card there is a table showing the implementation status of each of these recommendations. A traffic light system has been used to show the progress of each recommendation with comments included for each. Three recommendations are now complete or implemented as ongoing, 11 are well advanced, seven are commenced and progressing and just two are yet to commence. The remaining five recommendations are the ones which were noted in the government response rather than being agreed to.

The first completed recommendation called for the government to closely monitor the traffic conditions at the intersection of Athllon Drive and Beasley Street and provide a report to the Assembly. In March 2014 the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate introduced a reduced 60 kilometre an hour speed limit which operates between 3 pm and 3.30 pm on weekdays on Athllon Drive near Melrose High School. This was considered to be the most appropriate road safety treatment for this section of road. The variable speed limit has been signposted using static speed limit signs that include the time of day that the 60 kilometre an hour speed limit applies. An evaluation of the effectiveness of this improvement was tabled in the Assembly in February 2015. The evaluation found that travelling speeds were reduced and positive feedback was received regarding the implemented improvements.

The second completed recommendation was for the government to undertake a review of attitudinal components of driver licence testing, including current Australian driving tests, scientific literature and international experiences with a view to possible inclusion into ACT driving tests if appropriate. Attitudinal components of driver licence testing were reviewed by CARRS-Q in the context of a review of road ready, the ACT's mandatory pre-learner driver training course. The review found that the road ready course is mostly consistent with best practice approach to road safety education. The review provided guidance on how to improve the attitudinal

components of driver licence training and assessment. The recommendations of the review are being considered in developing the next action plan under the ACT road safety strategy.

The final recommendation which has been implemented and is ongoing is to conduct a targeted education campaign to promote the safety benefits of wearing motorcycle protective clothing. The report card notes that the ACT government previously participated in the development of the good gear guide which was commissioned by the commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and funded by the former National Road Safety Council. The good gear guide is available at Access Canberra shopfronts and is still available online. The benefits of protective clothing will continue to be promoted by Justice and Community Safety and ACT Policing.

The recommendations which are identified as being well advanced include the two-year trial of motorcycle lane filtering, which commenced in February this year, the recent same rights, same rules public awareness campaign and a trial of 30 kilometre an hour school zones as part of the active streets pilot program.

In addition, earlier this week I announced the details of a two-year trial of new cycling laws in the ACT. These will commence from 1 November and will require motorists to provide a minimum lateral distance when overtaking bicycles and will allow cyclists to ride slowly across pedestrian crossings. The minimum overtaking rule will educate drivers about what constitutes a safe lateral distance when overtaking cyclists. The pedestrian crossing changes will improve amenity for cyclists without compromising safety for cyclists and any other road user.

Both of these changes will be the subject of an awareness campaign commencing in mid-October to ensure that ACT road users understand the new rules. The campaign will include television, radio, print and digital materials.

As well as vulnerable road users, it is important for the government to continue its strong focus on drink driving. Over the last three years six people were killed in crashes where a driver had a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit. The ACT alcohol ignition interlock program, which commenced in June 2014, is primarily intended to address repeat and high range drink driving. Participation in the interlock program is a mandatory condition of relicensing for certain high risk drink driving offenders, that is, is high range and habitual drink driving offenders. Voluntary participation is an option for other drink driving offenders who may reduce their disqualification period by agreeing to participate in, and comply with, the interlock program. As at the end of last year there were six mandatory and 21 voluntary interlock scheme participants since the scheme commenced.

The government's road safety awareness program had another busy year, with the launch of several campaigns. In May the ACT government participated in National Road Safety Week with yellow ribbons being displayed on police and emergency services vehicles and vehicle inspection cars and Telstra Tower, Questacon and Old Parliament House were lit up in yellow at night for the week. National Road Safety Week was launched outside the ACT Legislative Assembly with an empty shoe

demonstration of 132 pairs of shoes representing each person killed on ACT roads over the past 10 years. This was a really visual and tragic reminder of the impact road trauma has had and continues to have on our community.

In July the focus of the awareness program was speeding, with the launch of the stop pushing the limits campaign. This campaign asked drivers what it would take for them to notice and comply with the speed limit. The campaign included television, radio, digital and social media as well as a series of public displays held at town centres, the University of Canberra and at an ACT Brumbies match. On page 17 of the report card you will see that speeding was identified by ACT Policing as a contributing factor in seven fatal crashes over the past three years. I have said it before, and I will keep on saying it, if we want to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads then we must slow down.

Tailgating was the focus in October with a television campaign highlighting the extent of rear end crashes and the impact these crashes can have on people's lives both in terms of injuries and costs including pressure on CTP premiums.

A number of legislative reforms were developed by the government and passed by the Assembly. The most significant of these reforms established an aggravated version of the offence of furious, reckless or dangerous driving with a higher penalty applying if the offence is committed where an aggravating factor is present, including if the offender was driving in a way that put at risk the safety of a vulnerable road user. An important aspect of the government's approach to road safety is improving the safety of our roads.

Following the successful implementation of the 40 kilometre an hour speed precincts in town centres, the government decided to introduce 40 kilometre an hour speed precincts in all group centres in the ACT at Amaroo, Calwell, Charnwood, Chisholm, Conder, Curtin, Dickson, Erindale, Hawker, Jamison, Kaleen, Kingston, Kambah, Kippax, Manuka, Mawson, Wanniasa and Weston group centres.

The 40 kilometre an hour precincts will help improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians and other road users. Implementation of 40 kilometre an hour speed limit precincts in all 18 group centres was completed in May 2015. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the precincts will be undertaken.

The Civic cycle loop was completed in stages between 2013 and 2015. It includes the provision for dedicated cycling facilities along sections of the busy city streets in Marcus Clarke Street, Rudd Street and Allara Street, as well as the delivery of a shared zone along the length of Bunda Street. The 3.2 kilometres of new infrastructure is designed to provide safe and prioritised facilities to support active travel modes.

The report card also includes a summary of the good work that was progressed to develop an ACT road safety camera strategy. In July 2014 an evaluation was completed by the transport and road safety research group at the University of New South Wales. This was used to inform and develop the ACT road safety camera strategy and mobile camera deployment strategy which were released in the middle of this year.

On page 12 of the report card are the high level performance indicators. All indicators are shaded green which means the ACT result was better than the result nationally. This demonstrates that the ACT is contributing to the national goal of a 30 per cent reduction in the number of deaths and serious injuries on Australia's roads by the end of 2020.

One of the indicators being used nationally to monitor road safety performance is the annual number of road fatalities per 100,000 population. In 2014 the ACT continued to maintain a lower number of road fatalities per capita than the national average with 2.6 fatalities per 100,000 population compared with 4.9 road fatalities per 100,000 people nationally.

While these results are encouraging, I am going to stop short of saying they are good. They are not good because they represent lives lost, people taken without warning and before their time. Good would be zero and that is exactly why the government adopted the vision zero philosophy as part of the ACT road safety strategy. What this means is that we are striving for zero deaths and zero serious injuries on ACT roads. We should always remember that road trauma is not inevitable. Many of the deaths are preventable and it is incumbent on us as a community to share the responsibility for road safety and to strive for vision zero.

I am determined to see the ACT become the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve vision zero. It is a goal which is becoming closer to reality with rapid improvements in vehicle technology and road infrastructure and innovative approaches to enforcement and education programs. Before the end of this year I will be releasing the ACT road safety action plan 2015-18. The action plan will include a range of innovative measures across each of the safe system pillars of safer speeds, safer roads, safer vehicles and safer people. I look forward to working closely with this Assembly and the ACT community on implementation of the 2015-18 action plan and other initiatives that will reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on ACT roads. I encourage members to have a look at the ACT road safety report card.

Planning and Development Act 2007—variation No 320 to the territory plan

Paper and statement by minister

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Planning, Minister for Roads and Parking, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Minister for Children and Young People and Minister for Ageing): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 79(1)—Approval of Variation No. 320 to the Territory Plan—Erindale Group Centre and surrounding community and recreation lands—Zone changes and amendments to the Wanniasa precinct code, dated 16 September 2015, together with background papers, a copy of the summaries and reports, and a copy of any direction or report required.

I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

MR GENTLEMAN: Variation 320 incorporates a number of recommendations into the territory plan from the Erindale group centre master plan. The variation will guide development within the centre over the next 10 to 20 years through nominating maximum building heights from between two storeys and five storeys to retain the character of the centre, while permitting moderate increases in development opportunities and rezoning a number of areas within the centre to accommodate road realignments. It will identify future development opportunities and introduce limited commercial opportunities within selected community facility zoned blocks as well as the Vikings club site to provide increased flexibility in development opportunities, while protecting the predominant use of the land, restricting residential use to the south-eastern section of the centre, and nominating main pedestrian areas and active frontages to improve pedestrian activity and passive surveillance through the centre.

Variation 320 was publicly exhibited between May and June last year and attracted 12 written submissions. The main issues raised in the public submissions included the potential impacts of increased building heights to existing residents in surrounding areas through overlooking and overshadowing, concerns with existing traffic and parking issues being exacerbated through increased levels of development, apparent departures in the draft variation from the approved master plan recommendations, and the impact of future intersections linking Ricardo Street to Erindale Drive on nearby residential areas.

A number of amendments were made to the variation in response to the issues raised. These include amending the shop provisions and adding non-retail commercial to the permitted uses for the CZ6 entertainment, accommodation and leisure zone to better reflect the master plan recommendations, amending the ground floor commercial provisions over the playing field site to ensure development is compatible with the primary use of the zone, and minor amendments to clarify the intent of certain provisions and to ensure the code requirements operate as intended. Other concerns raised that did not result in changes to the variation are addressed in the report on consultation prepared by the Environment and Planning Directorate.

Under section 73 of the Planning and Development Act I have chosen to exercise my discretion not to refer the draft variation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services as I believe the issues raised in the submissions have been adequately addressed and that there are no outstanding issues.

Papers

Ms Burch presented the following papers:

Subordinate legislation (including explanatory statements unless otherwise stated)

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64—

Animal Welfare Act—Animal Welfare (Breeding Standard) Determination 2015 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-257 (LR, 10 September 2015).

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act—Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measurement Method) Determination 2015—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-264 (LR, 14 September 2015).

Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Act—Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Reporting Determination 2015 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-263 (LR, 14 September 2015).

Food Act—Food (Regulated events) Declaration 2015 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-245 (LR, 7 September 2015).

Government Procurement Act—Government Procurement (Non-Public Employee Member) Appointment 2015 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-255 (LR, 3 September 2015).

Territory Records Act—

Territory Records (Advisory Council) Appointment 2015 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-251 (LR, 3 September 2015).

Territory Records (Advisory Council) Appointment 2015 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-252 (LR, 3 September 2015).

Territory Records (Advisory Council) Appointment 2015 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-253 (LR, 3 September 2015).

Territory Records (Advisory Council) Appointment 2015 (No 4)—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-254 (LR, 3 September 2015).

Utilities Act and Legislation Act—Utilities (Electricity Feed-in Code) Determination 2015—Disallowable Instrument DI2015-256 (LR, 10 September 2015).

ACT Ambulance Service—blueprint for change update Ministerial statement

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) (3.33): For the information of members I make the following ministerial statement updating the Assembly on the ACT Ambulance Service blueprint for change, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly on 18 March. Madam Assistant Speaker, as you would already be aware, I launched the blueprint for change on 18 March 2015. The blueprint provides a framework for ACTAS and the Emergency Services Agency to enhance professionalism in the workforce and to address workforce concerns around trust, conflict resolution and leadership. I acknowledge that this change process is a challenging undertaking and will take time to fully achieve but I am firmly committed to seeing these reforms progress in ACTAS and I know that both the ESA Commissioner and the ACTAS Chief Officer are committed to this process.

I understand and respect the desire of ACTAS officers to enable change without delay. That said, the challenges that fall within a 24/7 front-line service delivery organisation also need to be recognised. It is important that we accommodate rotating shifts and acknowledge the absolute dedication of ACTAS officers to the community. It is understood that yes they want change but they will always put our community first.

After the first six months I am pleased to report that ESA and ACTAS are moving ahead with a series of measures to achieve positive change. This includes actions on governance, workforce engagement and communications.

In accordance with recommendation 8 of the blueprint for change, an oversight committee was established to monitor progress and to provide my office with quarterly updates. The committee has met twice, the most recent meeting on 26 August. The oversight committee is headed by an independent chair, Dr David Place, who is the Director, Country Service Delivery, South Australian Ambulance Service. Members also include representatives from the JACS Directorate, the ESA Commissioner, an ACTAS staff representative and a Transport Workers Union representative. At its August meeting, the oversight committee discussed the governance arrangements for the blueprint, including the recognition of working group structures.

I highlight a number of the activities and actions that have occurred as well as ongoing work by ACTAS since I publicly released the blueprint in March this year. Work has commenced on defining with staff the actions that will arise from the recommendations as well as finalising the implementation charter. There have been five independently facilitated workshops held between May and July this year in which over 100 ACTAS staff participated. These workshops were undertaken in an atmosphere of open and frank discussions by all participants. The outcomes of the workshops provide a framework for the ongoing work which now needs to be undertaken by ACTAS.

All ACTAS officers have access through their intranet to the outcomes of these workshops and activities. The ACTAS Chief Officer has put out a communique reminding staff of the opportunities to contribute and has again put on public record his commitment to the blueprint for change.

All of the workshop participants agreed that the next stage of the blueprint for change is the formation of specific working groups that will progress priority areas for work identified by staff. And the key areas identified by the working groups which include staff representations are leadership and values, staff development and welfare, communications and information, and technical challenges. These specific project working groups are now in the process of being established with agreement from the oversight committee.

The working group members will be drawn from all areas of ACTAS to help develop and shape agreed strategies arising from these staff workshops, and expressions of interest for the project working groups were sent out on 2 September. To date over 30 nominations have been received, and 70 per cent are from front-line staff. The groups will engage together as employees, managers and with the directorate to work to identify current processes but more importantly the solutions.

In addition to the five facilitated workshops, ACTAS has commenced updating all of the headquarters-stationed staff personal development and achievement plans. These updates will include training in reinforcing effective communication skills and refresher programs in respect, equity and diversity, which underpins the ACT public sector employment values. A draft implementation charter was tabled at the August meeting of the oversight committee, and the charter is about ensuring continued commitment within ACTAS at all levels that will lead to implementing the necessary changes to support a culture that is reflective of the professionalisation and the professionalism of the service.

As part of the ongoing consultation process and keeping staff informed on blueprint for change activities the ESA Commissioner and the Chief Officer of ACTAS continue to engage with staff by visiting ambulance stations, participating at five scheduled in-service sessions and providing regular staff updates. And this consultation also includes meetings with TWU delegates. The staff communique is being issued on a monthly basis to keep staff updated.

I note the TWU's strong desire for change within ACTAS, and I wish for this to occur quickly. Change requires planning and considered execution to bring all staff along. By participation in the blueprint for change through the oversight committee, the TWU has shown a shared commitment to change within ACTAS through vigorous staff involvement. It also is my strong view that we need to give the leadership of ACTAS the directive to make sure that the blueprint for change is delivered. And I encourage the TWU to continue working towards achieving these necessary reforms.

For members' information, I have met with TWU delegates on a number of occasions and they know and understand my absolute determination to do right by them, to do right by ACTAS and to do right by the community we serve.

The work of the Chief Officer of ACTAS, supported by the ESA Commissioner, should be acknowledged in progressing and planning for the blueprint's implementation and ensuring staff involvement. The Chief Officer's contribution to leading ACTAS through a period of considerable growth and demand while still managing performance outcomes that are amongst the best in the nation was recently acknowledged by the ESA Commissioner. The statistics on ACTAS service delivery under the current Chief Officer show that it is among the best in the nation in delivering quality ambulance services to the community in the face of continued and increasing demand, and this still continues.

The ACTAS Chief Officer, supported by the ESA Commissioner, is leading the implementation and needs to be supported in this reform process. The significant reform will take time and all involved are absolutely committed to the process.

The blueprint for change highlighted that ACTAS continues to deliver the highest standards in relation to response times and patient satisfaction. The fact is that some of the performance standards are amongst the best in the country. Additionally, ACTAS has been able to achieve this outstanding performance in a time of record demand for ambulance services. In other words, ACTAS meets the technical

challenge in delivering its services to the community. The continued strong response performance by ACTAS clearly demonstrates that the community should continue to have full confidence in the capability and the quality of ambulance services that are delivered by front-line personnel on a daily basis.

While it is a strongly performing organisation, the blueprint has identified necessary reforms such as having a strong and unified leadership team, ensuring the executive lead by example, empowering middle management and staff by leading from the front, by motivating a workforce that knows why and sees that we are all in this together, and by establishing an accord that links the workforce with the leadership team and provides stronger engagement with staff through better internal communications so that they will continue to deliver the highest standards of service to the community.

The ESA, as a unified agency, is wholly committed to professionalism as a cultural standard. Responding to and addressing these adaptive challenges in ACTAS will be achieved by implementing this blueprint for change. This is a challenging period requiring difficult conversations as behavioural changes are implemented. ACTAS staff should be confident that their feedback and concerns have been heard, and the blueprint for change seeks to strengthen ACTAS for the future.

The government, ESA and the Chief Officer are committed to implementing the blueprint for change. We have started this reform journey and have a clear framework for its implementation, and the blueprint for change is the vehicle so that workplace concerns are addressed and change can occur.

It has been previously acknowledged in this Assembly how hard working and highly respected our paramedics are, and as a government and a community we have supported our Ambulance Service to expand and improve their capabilities in the past five years, and their performance outcomes stand testament to this service.

I am committed, as are the ESA, ACTAS and the directorate, to drive the necessary organisational reforms and change processes required to address all of the findings and recommendations of the blueprint for change. I am well aware that the majority of ACTAS staff as well as external stakeholders, including unions, have positively participated in the blueprint for change activities so far. And as I visit ACTAS workplaces it is clear that staff are indeed embracing the need for change and working towards the professionalism of our ambulance service.

As I said, I have met with and will continue to meet with ACTAS officers and TWU delegates. And through all of these meetings, we share one key thing, and that is our commitment to community and recognition that change is upon us. For some we are merely debating the timeliness of the change and I am pleased to come back next year and update the Assembly as key milestones are achieved. Let me assure Canberrans that this government is committed to ensuring the necessary reforms are implemented in a timely fashion to ensure that ACTAS and each of our emergency services are high performing organisations that continue to deliver quality services to the community.

In closing, I thank the ACTAS team: the paramedics, the intensive care paramedics, those that do the valuable work of the non-emergency patient transport, the officers who stock the medicine and treatment kit stores, and indeed all the positions across the service. My message to them is that they serve our community well and that I will stand with them to ensure that we continue to provide a nation-leading ambulance service and that the ACTAS blueprint for change is a key element of our success now and into the future.

I present the following paper:

ACT Ambulance Service Blueprint for Change Update—Ministerial statement,
22 September 2015.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

MR SMYTH (Brindabella) (3.45): I am reminded of the saying that the more things change, the more they stay the same. If one goes through the statement the minister has just tabled, one can see that nothing has changed. The elements the minister outlines as part of the strategic reform agenda are the establishment of an oversight committee and specific project working groups. So we have committees. Change by committee, a working group and communicate. One would think if you had a strategic reform agenda you would be able to outline the changes you were going to make and how they would be implemented—not a series of discussions.

Is it any wonder that in August this year the *Canberra Times* reported that ambulance staff were still waiting for promised reform. It said that low morale and frustration were getting worse, and in talking to my contacts in the ambulance service, many delegates and many members would like to take this further because they are not happy with the way the service is being run, the way the ESA is being run and the way the portfolio is being run.

It begs the question as to how long the Chief Minister will wait before he acts on this minister. If you were looking for leadership, if you were looking for a clear and unambiguous statement about how this reform will happen, you would be sorely disappointed. But I do not think any of us were expecting that. We had the debacle this morning of one statement being issued and then withdrawn and then a changed statement being tabled and then spoken to.

Let us go through the supposed changes the minister is so pleased to report on. Page 1, there is not a great deal there. On page 1 she says:

I understand and respect the desire of ACTAS officers to enable change without delay.

The officers want it to happen, but they are not sure management can deliver it. Remember, as is so often the case with this minister, there is no transparency. The

report was never made public. The report was never tabled in this place. Indeed, those in senior positions in the ambulance services who were responsible for allowing a climate of bullying, blame, distrust and erratic management are still in charge. So those who have mismanaged the service, those who allowed the toxic culture, as the TWU calls it, to exist are still there. Is it any wonder that levels of fear are growing?

This report purports to detail the change, but since 18 March all this minister has been able to say is that she is pleased to report the government has set up an oversight committee and is now working on specific project working groups and that the ACTAS chief officer has put out a communique. That is reform. That would make me feel better. That would allow me to sleep better at night if I were an ACTAS officer. Not likely!

You need only go to the *Canberra Times* article of 22 August—so a month ago today—which says that ambulance staff are still waiting for promised reform and that low morale and frustration gets worse. The article states:

Frustrated paramedics say the culture within the ACT ambulance service is deteriorating while the organisation continues to navel gaze.

I will read it again:

Frustrated paramedics say the culture within the ACT ambulance service is deteriorating while the organisation continues to navel gaze.

We know they are naval gazing because we have the oversight committee and we have project committees. We know there is an additional level of bureaucracy. We have the deputy chief officers from various services, including the ambulance service, who perform other functions reporting straight to the ESA commissioner. This is not a reform agenda; this is simply building a bulwark around the management that currently exists to protect itself.

If you call an ambulance you want it to turn up as quickly as it can and you want it with officers on board who are focused on the job. I commend the officers and the paramedics of the ACT Ambulance Service because they are doing a job that is much harder than it should be because this minister fails the leadership test. As a consequence, the management of ESA fails the leadership test. Workers are being put at risk by the party that purports to represent workers.

What else did the *Canberra Times* article say? It continued:

While a much-touted cultural review of the industry promised reform, months on some union members have reported a slide in the other direction.

That is what happens when you put out a document without the full context. There is the saying that he who controls the present controls the future; he who controls the past controls the present. By controlling the past and refusing to make it public—although it is pretty much public and I am proud to have helped make it public—we have not gone to the heart of what is wrong in ACTAS. This minister by producing this document today acquiesces in her duty.

The *Canberra Times* goes on to say:

A leaked copy of the review—commissioned in 2013—showed the ambulance service was plagued by bullying, blame, distrust and erratic management.

It goes on to say that the intensive care, paramedic and Transport Workers Union delegate Rob Trevillion said union members were losing faith in the drawn-out process. I know there are discussions amongst the paramedics about how they will take this further. Frankly, they said they would give it six months. As a sign of good faith they said they would give the minister six months to fix this and if it is not fixed they will take further action. On a day when a motion of no confidence was passed in this minister in another one of her portfolios, one can only wonder what the TWU will do.

Mr Trevillion said:

Members are reporting to me there's a wide-held belief that nothing has changed, in fact people feel more uncomfortable than before.

I understand there have been some workshops where people have been able to speak freely, but not a great number of people feel they can speak freely because of the climate of fear and bullying, distrust and erratic management. That is what people are telling me. Mr Trevillion goes on to say they:

... are frustrated and some are more fearful than before, they think things have actually gotten worse and they're not happy with the way things have changed.

Nothing in particular has changed. The real changes are about senior management. It is about extra positions; it is about more bureaucracy. It is not about addressing the day-to-day concerns of those on the road, how they get leave, how disciplinary processes are carried out, nepotism inside the service, how you get additional training and how you get fairness. They are not really addressed at all.

You can have your oversight committee. The minister says the oversight committee was established to monitor progress and provide her office with quarterly updates. There is not much to report on, and that is why people are more fearful than they were before.

Mr Trevillion said paramedics are afraid they would not be dealt with fairly. Why is it in this day and age when we have had a report that the government and the minister in particular tried to keep confidential—when you read it you find out why she wanted to keep it fairly confidential because it is not very positive about management in the ambulance service—that people are not feeling they will be dealt with fairly? Because nothing has changed. Mr Trevillion finishes by saying it had come to the point where people are fearful to participate in the conversation. I understand there have been instances where staff have tried to participate in various forums and have been yelled at.

These are words; they are empty, hollow words. They are lacking in reality; they are lacking in real and determined efforts to make change. If your change is simply a workshop, I think you have serious trouble. What we need is a minister who will take charge and try and change things. If this one does not, the Chief Minister should consider removing her. We see in so many of the portfolios this minister is in charge of where there is problem after problem after problem. We have had them in Fire & Rescue and know that in the State Emergency Service there was an opportunity for an open process but, no, we had transfer at level. We know in education we have had troubles with this minister. We know in multiculturalism there were troubles with this minister, and the litany goes on.

This, members, is an insult. This statement tabled today is an insult. It is an insult to the great men and women of the ACT Ambulance Service who do a fantastic job in difficult circumstances in looking after our needs at our most desperate times. When you call an ambulance, it is a serious event. We know through the defibrillation debacle that so much additional and unnecessary pressure was put on our paramedics. It should never happen. They should have clear heads. They should not be fearful of the workplace. Work should be a joy to come to because you join that sort of service because you want to make a difference. Why is it in 2015 that the ACT Labor government under Andrew Barr and Joy Burch cannot deliver a workplace that enhances what these people do instead of making them more fearful?

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Higher education sector

Discussion of matter of public importance

MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Ms Lawder): Madam Speaker has received letters from Dr Bourke, Mr Coe, Ms Fitzharris, Mr Hanson, Mrs Jones, Ms Lawder, Mr Smyth and Mr Wall proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, Madam Speaker has determined that the matter proposed by Dr Bourke be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The importance of working closely with Canberra's higher education sector.

DR BOURKE (Ginninderra) (3.56): I rise to talk on the importance of working closely and collaboratively with the ACT's higher education sector. Canberra's higher education and research institutions, such as the Australian National University, the University of Canberra and the University of New South Wales Canberra, as well as NICTA—National Information Communications Technology Australia, CSIRO—the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and organisations such as Geoscience Australia are coming to define Canberra as the knowledge capital of Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Recent world ranking results have reinforced that our universities are going from strength to strength. The ANU has risen to be amongst the top 20 universities in the world, competing with the likes of Yale and MIT. UC also improved its standing on the rankings, moving into the 551-600 band from its former position in the 651-700 band—a dramatic leap, and a validation of the hard work and vision of Vice-Chancellor Stephen Parker.

Beyond the direct benefits a strong university sector provides for students and researchers, the ACT's tertiary education sector is crucial to the long-term strength of our economy. The government recognises how central this sector is to diversifying the ACT's economic base, away from its historic over-reliance on the federal government. While our higher education institutions may be affected by changes in commonwealth government policy, they also generate income and economic activity outside the commonwealth cycle and, as such, can help offset fluctuations in commonwealth government expenditure.

The ongoing growth and expansion of our higher education and research sectors will drive a significant amount of new development in our community. Both ANU and UC already have significant on-campus accommodation for students. ANU has also recently announced that it will be spending \$53 million to deliver 500 new beds on its campus. At UC in March 2015 the Chief Minister and the vice-chancellor signed an agreement of strategic intent that underpins the UC's strategy to grow, develop and thrive.

The agreement details how the government will work with the UC to help it expand its educational offerings, create a vibrant and exciting campus, and attract research organisations. In turn, this will help the UC become even more attractive to students and academics. The agreement is about creating jobs, whether they be in building campus developments, working for new campus-based organisations or in research and teaching. It is about creating a smart workforce with the skills, imagination and vision that our economy needs.

This government has acted in partnership with the university to pass reforms through legislation and variations to the territory plan to ensure the university continues to drive its way up the list of world-ranked universities. This vision realised will turn the UC campus into an internationally recognised health and technology hub—two of the most important fields of the 21st century. Our investment in the University of Canberra public hospital prepares for the future health service needs of this community, while teaching the next generation of health professionals including researchers.

We are achieving these goals despite the nay-saying and narrow-minded position of those opposite, who prefer a small and timid view of Canberra's role in higher education. In contrast, the ACT government recognises that innovation and entrepreneurship are the drivers of economic growth and diversification. National and international research demonstrates that high growth companies are responsible for the majority of new job creation. That is why we established the CBR Innovation Network and why major players in the higher education and research sector became founding members of the network. These institutions recognise that to be successful in their goal of commercialising research the innovation ecosystem needs to nurture potential high-growth companies.

Since the establishment of the network we have seen a significant increase in participants in the Entry 29 co-working space, a range of excellent companies participating in the GRIFFIN accelerator program, the launch of the KILN incubator,

the development of programs for young entrepreneurs, Indigenous entrepreneurs and for former public servants looking to establish their own businesses. In addition, there have been a significant number of events and activities to bring participants together to generate ideas and networks.

The network measures up well against world best practice for innovation spaces. Our direction is reflected in the recent report from the commonwealth government's Office of the Chief Economist, *Australian geography of innovation and entrepreneurship*, which found:

... on a population-adjusted basis the ACT is the highest performing of all Australia's States and Territories on both innovation and entrepreneurship.

We are the highest performing jurisdiction in Australia. Our strong showing is partly because research-intensive companies are based here to sell R&D intensive services to the Australian government, particularly the Department of Defence, and partly because, with the highest intensity higher education R&D expenditure in Australia, companies want to be close to organisations such as ANU, CSIRO, NICTA, UNSW Canberra and UC. These are the goals we need to be striving for, by working closely with the education and research experts based here in Canberra. We need to be taking on Australia and the world, by showing what universities, start-ups and governments can achieve working together.

Through our revised business development strategy, for example, we committed to work with the ANU and UNSW Canberra to develop, amongst others, the ACT Space Innovation Cluster. The space cluster is based on the combined strengths of UNSW Canberra, which has expertise in satellite launch technology and close relationships with the Department of Defence, and ANU, which is a partner in the giant Magellan telescope project and has invested \$30 million in the Advanced Instrumentation and Technology Centre at Mount Stromlo. The space industry provides a major opportunity for Canberra to lead a national approach to the development of this industry, which is currently worth \$314 billion per annum worldwide and is growing rapidly.

We have the universities and research institutions with expertise in this field, and we have the Department of Defence on our doorstep. We have international companies such as Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman working with these institutions to grow the sector. A great example of this relationship between business and research is the co-location of EOS Space Systems with ANU and the Cooperative Research Centre for Space Environment Management at Mount Stromlo.

As part of the ANU and UC's ongoing hard work on collaboration, from 2016 final year Bachelor of Science students from the ANU will be able to study for a Master of Teaching from the University of Canberra at the same time, with final-year classes credited for both awards. This combined course will allow students to gain their science and teaching qualifications six months earlier than had they done the courses separately. This collaboration, which will position Canberra as a leader in the 21st century knowledge economy, is wonderful news for the ACT.

The tertiary education sector is crucial to the Canberra economy as we strive to become the knowledge capital of Australia—the clever capital. Therefore, this new ANU and UC double degree will help science students get into teaching more easily, quickly and cheaply. This is another milestone in the history of collaboration between Canberra's two leading universities. This degree will make sure that students can kick-start their careers in science teaching, as well as helping Australia to address the growing need for more science teachers as the economy continues to modernise.

These skills will provide our future workforce with the strong scientific and technical skills necessary to continue growing and diversifying Canberra's economy. Higher education already contributes \$2.7 billion to Canberra's economy every year, with one in every nine Canberrans studying or employed in the sector.

I also take this time to praise the Canberra Institute of Technology, the CIT, as an essential part of our tertiary and vocational education sector and an important pathway for many Canberrans to higher education. It is essential to the Canberra economy and provides our industries with the skills they need. It gives students in our community new skills and training in high quality, purpose-built facilities.

The CIT is the largest and longest serving provider of vocational education in the ACT, with over 30,000 student enrolments. CIT is a heavy lifter of education in the ACT. Yet the Liberals, to use Mr Hockey's phrase, do not treat it as a lifter but as one of the leaners; something to be marginalised and continually dragged down. The CIT is the institution the Canberra Liberals forgot in their policies at the last election. Mr Hanson's Liberals, like their federal and interstate counterparts, neither care about publicly provided vocational education nor understand its importance to the Canberra community and our economy.

With its reputation for quality teaching, CIT enjoys the trust and respect of the ACT community and continues to supply the majority of the skilled workers in the ACT. We in the ACT government will help to further build and expand this reputation. This trust is reflected in student satisfaction rates, employer satisfaction rates and graduate employment rates. Let me give you some of those statistics, Madam Assistant Speaker. In 2014, the student satisfaction rate was 91 per cent, the employer satisfaction rate was 85 per cent and the graduate employment rate was 87.4 per cent. These statistics are consistently well above the national averages.

This year's budget also builds on these successes, with a significant investment of \$10.7 million over four years for a new CIT campus in the Tuggeranong town centre. The provision of VET through CIT continues to be an important element in the ACT government's commitment to assist in training a highly skilled workforce to support the ACT economy.

I am very proud of the CIT facilities in my electorate at Bruce as one of CIT's largest campuses, centrally located in east Belconnen. It is part of the Bruce learning hub that also includes UC, Calvary and the Australian Institute of Sport. It is a major centre of the knowledge capital, and ties together a diverse hub of learning, training, health and hi-tech institutions. CIT Bruce has courses and facilities dedicated to training in sustainability-related majors and plays a vital role in developing Canberra as a world leader in renewable energy.

The CIT Bruce sustainable skills training hub is an important part of CIT Bruce. As wind farm operations spread in our region and across the country, they will need more and more staff skilled in the new renewable industries. The support of the ACT government for higher education means we can provide these skilled staff. The Bruce campus in particular also covers several building trades such as bricklaying, plastering, landscaping horticulture and others. CIT Bruce provides for many of the more traditional fluoro-collar trades and industries. However it now goes way beyond that to other areas and provides degrees in a number of areas such as the Bachelor of Forensic Science (Crime Scene Examination) in partnership with the Australian Federal Police and the University of Canberra. CIT is one of Australia's pioneers and current leaders in the field of forensic science education, and trains crime scene examiners from every Australian state and territory police force, along with training international forces.

Canberra is becoming known around the country and our region as a knowledge capital. But in such a competitive sector, where students can choose from a thousand worthy places to study, each and every institution must be given the opportunity to improve. Universities cannot flourish when governments treat them simply as costs to be managed.

Working closely with Canberra's higher education and research institutions is the key to growing and diversifying our economy. I am proud to be a part of a government that recognises the benefits of higher education for the individual, the community and the wider economy. The health of our city depends upon continuing this close collaboration into the future.

MR SMYTH (Brindabella) (4.11): It was interesting to hear Dr Bourke make the usual spray. I think he called us nay-saying and having a timid view. I think not. I think all would acknowledge that both sides have tried to do their best in regard to higher ed. We might have had different paths but I think of the success with things like Epicor, the medical school at the ANU and NICTA, amongst others. Indeed, building on the Canberra-Beijing sister city relationship ensures that we have had access to Chinese markets in education for more than 15 years and shows that we did have a view.

Dr Bourke spoke a little about innovation. Of course he was not here then but he has obviously forgotten that in 2006, in the first budget Chief Minister Barr participated in, all the business and innovation and entrepreneurship programs were gutted. They just disappeared—gone. It took the government many years to get them back into their budgets. We paid a price for that as a city. You should be very aware of your history, Dr Bourke, before you start sounding off like that.

Where a closer relationship with Canberra's higher education sector works is when we work together. It is not when, for instance, changes are made at UC and the community is then told of the changes that, in effect, UC has the ability to now develop two suburbs worth of accommodation plus commercial and retail. It was not as though the community was asked what they thought about it; the community was simply told what was happening. Investors who had purchased blocks of land without any knowledge that the university might want to do something of a similar nature had no idea what was coming.

There is a lot written on this subject. I refer members to some of the books that are around. One I particularly like is *The university & urban revival*. It is written about the University of Pennsylvania and their efforts. Judith Rodin, the then, I guess, equivalent of our vice-chancellor, said that you have to have five things:

First, any successful urban strategy must be that—strategic. It must be bold yet based on a realistic and full assessment of social, economic, and political forces at work, and it must have a clear roadmap towards implementation.

Yet when Mr Coe and I had briefings on what was happening, I think it was less than clear and the government's bill of intent was less than clear. Indeed, we were promised that over six months it would unfold. And so it does. Professor Rodin went on to say:

Second, we have seen that a holistic approach has a greater chance of both capitalising on resources more effectively and promoting greater sustainability.

You have to work out where the university sits in its surrounding neighbourhood and how it works. It is not going to be competition, surely. Many are simply asking for a level playing field with the rest of the community rather than privileged status. She then went on to say:

By increasing the neighbours' sense of control and empowering them to have a voice and real options for action, we increase chances for meaningfully changing behaviour and improving social outcomes.

But to do that, as I say, you have to have a holistic approach. And then she said:

Third, collaboration and transparency are critical to success.

Where is the transparency in some of the things the government has done? Again, simply making announcements is not collaboration and transparency. I read that quote again:

By increasing the neighbours' sense of control and empowering them to have a voice and real options for action, we increase chances for meaningfully changing behaviour and improving social outcomes.

Then:

Fourth, we learned that an institution that appears rich to others must be extremely careful about raising expectations.

Again, I think people think universities are probably rich. I think we all know that UC is probably not as rich as some of the other institutions in this city and around the country. But again, it is about the use of government dollars; it is about the use of moneys that they have and making sure it is right.

Then:

Fifth, while time is short, patience must always be long. Setbacks, delays, and criticisms are inevitable and Penn experienced its share of all these things.

They had a few debacles in their development. The book talks particularly about an incident where they tried to develop a theorem and it did not quite work out. But it is about the role that the university and the higher education facilities play not just in our community but in all communities. And they are very, very important.

One only has to look at the stats. Higher education export income to the ACT is \$409 million, as reported on 15 June. Three per cent of all students enrolled in university in Australia attended a university in the ACT. That is an impressive figure given the ACT only makes up 1.7 per cent of the country's total population. The overall stats show 39,313 university students are at the ANU, with 22,393 students or 27 per cent from overseas. UC has 16,920 students, with 22 per cent from overseas. And that is not counting interstate universities with campuses in our city: the University of New South Wales at ADFA with 2,685 students, the Australian Catholic University with over 1,000 students and the Charles Sturt University.

Then there are the economic benefits. Just looking at ANU and UC, according to a Deloitte Access Economics report, the two institutions contributed over \$1.7 billion to our local economy in 2012. That is almost five per cent of the economy's size. One in nine Canberra residents is either a staff member or a student at these universities. Both universities educated approximately 10,000 foreign students and 10,500 interstate students, earning \$351 million, and created about 2,450 FTE jobs. This is on top of the 11,500 FTE jobs making up about seven per cent of the total ACT workforce. So it goes on. The two universities contributed about 12.6 per cent to the ACT through their payroll tax alone in 2012, paying almost \$41 million. I think we need to acknowledge their role. We certainly need to be able to bolster it. But we also certainly need to be able to call them again if we have concerns.

I take the remaining moments I have to speak about concerns I have about the School of Music, the future of the School of Arts and the future of dramatic arts education at the Australian National University. It would be an understatement to say that the School of Music at the Australian National University has had a period of turmoil over the last four or five years. The recent removal of the head of the school I think is a very, very sad and retrograde step. I understand there are rumours that at least another six of the academic community there have now resigned also. We are seeing an enormous turnover following an enormous turnover. That would indicate that there is something wrong.

Peter Tregear was brought in with a promise of an agenda of reform to build the school back up. All of the contemporary literature on the importance of music in society, let alone the importance of music in education, is quite clear: music brings us enormous benefits. Mark Latham, commenting on opera and classical music, said that it is the field of the rich. It is not. Music is in every feature film, it is in every ad, it is in every TV show. There is music everywhere.

To see the influence that having good musicians in our community and having community involvement programs in our high schools, in our junior schools, one only needs to go to the Llewellyn Hall when they bring in the preschoolers and the kindie kids to see a room full of energy. That is all it can be described as—absolute energy.

I have some concerns. I know that members of the School of Arts are looking with some trepidation and a great deal of concern at what happens with the School of Music, and I am told that you now cannot complete a degree in the dramatic or the performing arts at the ANU. I do not know if that is true. That was what I was told. And that would be a shame if that was the case.

We need only to look at, through the lens of cultural economics, the Tourism Research Australia recent report that there is a trend that has emerged from 2012-13 where people are now coming to Australia to participate in contemporary Australian art and culture, to be part of festivals, to go to historic sites, to come and feel what it is to be Australian. At the heart of that is music, art, drama and performance. If you look at it through the eyes of economist David Throsby he says that first there is art, then there is artistic creativity, then there is creativity, then comes technology and innovation. And if we want to be a technology and innovation hub, to make that happen, we must foster the arts, particularly, I believe, given the expertise that we have and the reputation that we had in music.

Music is a great healer as well as a great inspirer. I have to say I am very sad and very concerned at what is happening at the School of Music, and I look forward to working with the incoming Vice-Chancellor of the ANU and hopefully with others to make the School of Music great again. (*Time expired.*)

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (4.21): I will of course be supporting Dr Bourke's motion today, and I welcome him bringing to the Assembly's attention this discussion about the importance of working closely with Canberra's higher education sector. I think we are all very well versed in the importance of the higher education sector to the ACT's economy, social diversity and vibrancy as a city. And of course, we know that we must collaborate closely with our local tertiary and vocational education providers and universities in particular to ensure that we all benefit from the relationships.

As we have seen in recent years, decisions taken by our universities have impacts on local Canberra matters, and things that happen on campus are of interest to many of us, regardless of our role in local government. I think of the public debates on the changes to the School of Music—and Mr Smyth has just touched on some of those—or the creation of new and affordable student accommodation in the heart of the city as examples where what happens on campus certainly spills into the life of the broader Canberra community.

But today I mostly mention the positive contribution to public life that Professor Stephen Parker has made since his appointment to the Vice-Chancellor's role at the University of Canberra in 2007. It would be fair to say that his recent announcement that he would be leaving the role next July after nine years certainly caught me by surprise, and I think many in the community, and I wish him well in his next endeavours.

I think also that the recent work of the University of Canberra, with its focus on greater integration with the Canberra identity and its quest to expand its on-campus offer of an educated life, is a positive example of the matter we are discussing today in the debate brought forward by Dr Bourke. The University of Canberra's recognition of the powerful branding and academic possibilities of partnering with the Brumbies and the Capitals, its focus on sports research and its ongoing commitment to reconciliation and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are all clear illustrations of how it has truly become Canberra's university. The recent master plan process and associated legislative changes we have debated over the past year or so are also good examples of how to sit down with government, develop a plan and work with all stakeholders to achieve new educational goals and campus aspirations.

It has in large part been Professor Parker's openness and willingness to meet with interested parties—and I have certainly taken that offer up—that has seen his vision progress, and I trust that this relationship will continue beyond his tenure as the University of Canberra continues to mature. That strong relationship between the university and the ACT government is very important, and whoever takes up the chair next will have, I hope, as one of their key priorities to continue to strengthen both the university and its role in the broader Canberra community.

As we know, we have also had a change of government federally, albeit without an election, and now a new federal education minister in the Hon. Simon Birmingham. I am sure that there will be many in the higher education sector, and indeed in the state and territory governments around Australia, who will be looking to the new minister for a much closer and more consistent relationship. Time will tell but it is about time we had clarity and equity in policy and funding from the federal government. The policy proposals we have seen in recent times I think have done no good to the Australian university sector, where we have seen considerable debate, considerable back and forth in the Senate, and therefore a considerable level of uncertainty.

This is not the future we need for Australia's tertiary education sector. We need stability, we need a forward vision, and we need to get an agreed way forward for our tertiary sector, both for the benefit of the many students in Australia who are capable of building the future of this country but also for the many international students we host for both their contribution to Australia but also to their home countries.

I thank Dr Bourke for bringing this motion forward today. I do not intend to focus on some of the issues that he has already touched on but I think that it is valuable for the Assembly to reflect on these matters today.

MR BARR (Molonglo—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Urban Renewal and Minister for Tourism and Events) (4.26): I, too, thank Dr Bourke for bringing this matter of public importance before the Assembly this afternoon because it is a good time to be talking about the need for governments to be working closely with the higher education sector.

The ACT government's focus has always been on building a close and cooperative relationship with our higher education institutions. We want to work with them to

give them the tools they need to thrive in a competitive global education market. As Dr Bourke outlined in his contribution, the results of this approach are very clear. The ACT's role as a strong partner has played a part in the rise of both the Australian National University and the University of Canberra up the ladder of the world's elite universities.

Their joint strengths were reinforced by the recent launch of a joint ANU-University of Canberra double degree in science teaching, where from 2016 the final year Bachelor of Science students from ANU will be able to study for a Master of Teaching from the University of Canberra at the same time, with final-year classes credited for both awards, allowing students to gain their science and teaching qualifications six months earlier.

A thriving university sector is fundamental to Canberra's economy in an era where we can no longer rely just on the federal public sector. Higher education and research institutions add \$2.75 billion in value to our city's economy each year and create approximately 16,000 full-time equivalent jobs. This represents nearly eight per cent of our gross state product and eight per cent of our employment.

A large proportion of this economic activity is generated by students, both interstate and international, and the growth in international student numbers is largely responsible for the ACT's 8.5 per cent annual growth in services exports over the last five years. So it is simple—we must work closely with our higher education providers to maintain this growth rate, whilst ensuring the services and accommodation are in place to support them.

We are working to attract even more undergraduate and graduate students to the ACT. For example, I recently announced that the children of international research students studying in Canberra will have their public school fees waived, to keep Canberra competitive and to attract the world's best and brightest research students to make our city home.

I also hosted the vice-chancellors forum last month, where we agreed that the implementation of the goals set out in our revised business development strategy would be an important part of the forum's future activities. The strategy lays out exactly what we will do to help our higher education and research sector, including bringing a strong economic development focus to our relationship with the sector, working to promote our city as Australia's higher education and research capital and dedicating a senior executive to champion the sector across the ACT government and prioritise economic development outcomes.

At the forum we also discussed the commonwealth's goal of doubling the number of international students studying in Australia by 2025, as well as bringing about a substantial increase in the offshore and online delivery of education. By working closely with the vice-chancellors forum members, we will maximise the returns to Canberra from these policies. This VC forum is one example of the ACT's efforts to work with the higher education and research sector, to grow its presence and strength in the ACT for the benefit of the entire community.

Another practical example is the government's work with the University of Canberra to transform its campus into a thriving and vibrant 21st century learning environment. Dr Bourke has updated the Assembly on the progress of this campus revitalisation. By the government acting to remove unnecessary impediments on university development and governance, we are certainly paving the way for the University of Canberra to achieve its potential and its vision.

The signing of an agreement of strategic intent with the University of Canberra has seen the formalisation of our commitment to assist the university to diversify its operations, develop its campus, attract cutting-edge research organisations and increase commercialisation opportunities. It is here where the contrast between the two sides of politics is quite stark. Those opposite have voted against these essential improvements at the University of Canberra not once, not twice but on three separate occasions. They have voted against attracting a billion dollars in new investment to our city's university. This will be a major draw to Australia and to the world's top students, research organisations and companies.

Our approach is to support the University of Canberra to grow—to grow rapidly—and to be successful. Those opposite would appear to prefer that our own university be stuck in the past with limited offerings and second-rate and ageing facilities and drift off the edge of world rankings. Fortunately, the University of Canberra, and Vice-Chancellor Stephen Parker, has a willing supporter in this government, and we will be with the university as it continues to drive up its place in the world university rankings. That is how a forward-thinking government acts to support such an essential component of our city's education system.

We are also working to ensure that students who are studying in Canberra are given the best possible introduction to our city's life, to recognise what a special and exciting place it is to come to study. For example, in August the ACT government delivered the Study Canberra Student Welcome at the National Gallery of Australia. It was hosted by the Minister for Education and Training. The event was attended by more than 250 students and staff from all ACT higher education providers.

I am pleased to also advise the Assembly that the ACT Study Canberra India Scholarship program has attracted a high calibre of students and a strong number of applicants with 10 eventual winners. This program brings in more than a million dollars to the ACT economy in the coming year alone. We are the only jurisdiction in Australia that coordinates its university open days to allow students to visit all potential study options. We are putting Canberra first and encouraging prospective students to visit multiple providers to find the right education for those students.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a nationally and internationally regarded higher education sector in our city. But this does not happen by accident and we cannot afford to be complacent. Only by the ACT government working closely with our universities, the Canberra Institute of Technology and our public sector research bodies will we ensure that our city remains Australia's knowledge capital. I thank Dr Bourke for bringing forward this important matter of public importance in the Assembly this afternoon.

Discussion concluded.

Adjournment

Motion by **Ms Burch** proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Amazing Belco Race

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) (4.34): On Saturday, 12 September I was part of a team that took part in the Amazing Belco Race. Teams raced each other to all corners of Belconnen competing in a range of fun and exciting challenges and hunting for the answers to some very interesting and cryptic clues. The people on my team—the Rebels on the Bus—were Dira Horne, the Chief Executive Officer of the Belconnen Community Service, who was also our driver; Belconnen Community Service workers Mandy Green, Masia Emacora and Helen Brown; and board member John Ignatius. Also joining me were Les, Paul, Rachel and Ellen, clients of the Belconnen Community Service who were also part of the team.

Belconnen is a great place to live. There is plenty to see and do. I am sure everyone who was involved in this event had a whole new appreciation of the awesomeness of Belconnen and the true meaning of Belco pride by the end of it.

The race combines elements of a scavenger hunt and *The Amazing Race*. There were also prizes on the day, including best dressed team, best decorated vehicle and sponsors extraordinaire—just to name a few. The race brings together people for a bit of fun while at the same time raising funds for the 10/10 project. The 10/10 project is a community volunteering project providing a free one-off yard and garden clean-up for people either accessing Belconnen Community Service's programs or residing in a Housing ACT property. The project provides support for people who, due to their personal circumstances, may be unable to maintain the condition of their yard.

All funds raised from the race go towards the project. Belconnen Community Service and Housing ACT employees and their families and friends volunteer their time to support the 10/10 project. This year's 10/10 project takes place on Saturday, 10 October. If anyone would like more information about how they can support the project or become involved as a volunteer, please contact my office.

I want to thank the Amazing Belco Race volunteers, especially Graham McKerchar and Adam McEvoy, the race organisers, who are part of the Belconnen Community Service team; Belconnen Community Service and Housing ACT employees and their families and friends who volunteer their time to support the 10/10 project; and the Belconnen Community Service for the work they do every day to provide support for people in Belconnen who are in need.

St Clare of Assisi Primary School

MR WALL (Brindabella) (4.37): I rise this evening to acknowledge the four streams of year 6 classes at St Clare of Assisi Primary School in Conder. A few weeks ago some members in this place may have received letters from these students about issues that mattered to them and issues they had been taking the time to research. I received six of these letters in my office and subsequently I had the opportunity, last Friday, to go down and visit many of the students in class to see if I could provide some further insight on the topics that they have raised with me in person. I also offered a broad opportunity to discuss issues of a political nature which they have been studying this term.

The students that wrote to me raised a number of issues. Liana wrote to me asking why we still have puppy farms operating in the ACT. Adam wrote to me about free-range eggs and provided a great deal of information on how free-range chickens are farmed. Callum also wrote to me about free-range eggs and how all forms of eggs that are produced should be free-range chicken products. Zac wrote to me about feral goats—clearly thinking outside the square.

Dylan raised the issue of increasing levels of rubbish going into our landfill. He also highlighted the great work that the school has been doing, along with one of his fellow students, to try and minimise some of the rubbish that is being collected through the school. Dylan also highlighted the fact that St Clare of Assisi recently came second in a keep Australia beautiful competition that has resulted in some new recycling bins and a mascot called “Bamboo”, who is the recycling panda for the school. Taylor wrote to me about Tasmanian devils and provided some research on why this species is at significant risk of becoming extinct.

It was a pleasure to hear from the students and to go out and meet with them in their class. I commend the teacher of year 6 blue at St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Anna Stincic, for encouraging the kids to have their voices heard by writing to their local members. As I promised them, each of them will be receiving a response to the letters they have written to me in the coming weeks.

Lifeline—book fair

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (4.39): I take this opportunity to acknowledge Lifeline, which held their biggest ever Canberra book fair on the weekend of Friday, 18 September to Sunday, 20 September. Events such as these, enormous events, do not just happen; they take a lot of coordination, hard work, networking, advertising and a lot of coordination of volunteers. This year Lifeline Canberra’s EPIC book fair saw a record number of people through the door. The majority of the funding raised will assist to keep the suicide prevention line—13 11 14—the telephone crisis support service, available to our Canberra community.

The book fair at EPIC offered around 250,000 donated items for sale, with a wide range of things for sale. They sell not just books but magazines, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and a range of other things that are donated. For 43 years Lifeline Canberra has provided the telephone crisis support on 13 11 14 to the people of Canberra and the

surrounding region. This is possible due to the dedication of over 250 trained volunteers from the ACT and region who fill shifts as part of a national network to ensure the phone can be answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It is no small undertaking to volunteer to become a Lifeline counsellor; a significant training effort is required. I pass on my congratulations to those people who take on that role because it can be very personally draining. However, it is a valuable and vital support to our community.

Lifeline Canberra is part of an Australia-wide network of Lifeline centres that take calls from people in need of support at times of crisis. It might be a big crisis, a small crisis, immediate or ongoing, but whatever the situation, the Lifeline telephone crisis support volunteers provide impartial, non-judgemental, confidential support.

In addition to the telephone crisis support service, Lifeline Canberra provides a number of other mental health awareness programs to the community. I acknowledge Carrie-Ann Leeson, Lifeline Chief Executive Officer; Sarah Kentwell, Lifeline Commercial Operations and Sustainability Executive; and all of the many volunteers. When I visited the Lifeline warehouse in Mitchell a few weeks ago I met a whole lot of their book fair volunteers, including one woman I bumped into called Tricia, who as it turned out, I had worked with about 15 years previously at Medicare Australia, and we had not seen each other since. That is an example of the Canberra connections you see all around the place.

I also thank Exhibition Park staff, Toll Logistics, Universal Storage, JJ Richards and the book fair partners: Exhibition Park, Tuggeranong Good Guys, and the ANU Centre for Continuing Education. I thank also the Canberra community generally: sponsors, customers and donors. Thank you and well done to Lifeline Canberra for the great job they do supporting our community in times of crisis and helping to equip individuals to be resilient and suicide-safe. We are very privileged to have them here in our community. There are people who go out every day when called on to support community members who are in crisis.

I commend Lifeline Canberra for its outstanding service to our community each and every day through their book fair and through their telephone crisis support line. You can find out more about Lifeline at www.act.lifeline.org.au.

Assembly open day

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (4.43): I take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in the Assembly open day and made it the success that it was. I was informed by Brian Allan, who made sure that everyone who came through the building was appropriately screened, that 382 people were clicked through in the course of the open day between 10 and 2 on Sunday.

I thank the Clerk's office and his staff, particularly Max Kiermaier and Janice Rafferty, for the work that was done. I also thank David Skinner and Ian Duckworth. I thank the attendants who were on the day: Panduka Senanayake, Brian Allan, Peter Edwards, Paul Oliver, Michael Sidonio and David Chavez. I thank Merryn Gates, the Assembly's art adviser and Clinton and Libby White.

I thank the members—Mr Barr, Ms Berry, Mr Doszpot, Mrs Jones, Mr Rattenbury, Mr Smyth and Ms Lawder—who took time to sizzle a sausage and take tours through the Assembly, and some of them also participated in the exhibition which I thought was the highlight of the day, *Life outside the Assembly*. Both Mr Rattenbury and Ms Lawder contributed to the exhibition, with Ms Lawder demonstrating her bonsai and cheese making skills. I will say it just one more time: blessed are the cheese makers. It is an oldie, but not necessarily a goodie. Other people who contributed to the *Life outside the Assembly* exhibition were Scott McFarlane, Jodi Bingley, Clinton and Libby White, Paul Oliver and Michael Sidonio—in addition to contributing to the exhibition he curated the event and made sure it was hanging well—and David Chavez.

I thank some people from outside the Assembly: Nick Clark from the Magna Carta committee who brought down the Magna Carta exhibition for the day and who participated along with Mr Justice Richard Refshauge in the great Magna Carta debate. I thank Merryn Gates who organised not only a number of art tours but also floor talks by some of the artists whose works appear in the ACT collection: Bev Hogg, who spoke about her listening tree which is outside Ms Porter's office; Cathy Franzi whose recent pottery acquisition is outside the Leader of the Opposition's office; and Daniel Savage, one of our newest photographic works, who spoke about the evolution of those works.

I particularly pay tribute to the education office and the indefatigable Neal Baudinette, Jo McAllister and Fiona Matz, who were particularly hardworking and who put together a fantastic program. I assure members this was an extraordinarily successful day. The really positive feedback was that members of the public enjoyed meeting their local members in a different environment, and the opportunity to be shown around this Assembly by a member of the Legislative Assembly was greatly appreciated. I thank all those who participated and made the day a success.

Gungahlin community pantry

MS FITZHARRIS (Molonglo) (4.47): I am delighted today to rise to let the Assembly know about nine-year-old Jessica, who attends Burgmann Anglican School in Gungahlin. I welcome Jessica, her mum and dad John and Carla, and also members from Communities@Work, who members will know well, and Mark Scarborough from My Gungahlin.

About three years ago Jessica's mum wanted to get rid of some of her clothes that no longer fitted and were taking up space. A little reluctant to part with some of the items, a deal was done between Jessica and her mum that they would sell the items, and some of the pocket money raised could be gifted to people in need. The clothes were sold through the My Gungahlin buy, sell and wanted Facebook group, and the money raised was split in half—half went to her gift tin and the other half would be split into Jessica's savings and spending tins.

Over the years Jessica has donated to a whole range of charities. Her gifting has included buying friends something small she knows they would like, donating money

to the school on charity days, purchasing new football boots for a remote school as part of her school's fundraisers, and donating to the Fred Hollows Foundation because she wanted kids around the world to be able to play basketball just like her.

One day Jessica met a lovely lady called Cas from Communities@Work, who told her about what Communities@Work do in their community. She was so inspired that she went through her toys and clothes and started selling even more of what she did not need online. I actually think her mum might have done a lot of that work for her. Jessica's drive to help Communities@Work community pantry largely came from the fact that Cas had taken the time to explain to her how it worked, and she got to see firsthand people needing the items that she had bought.

Jessica did a great job gathering up items to sell. She even organised a garage sale, and with the money raised Jessica and her mum headed off to the supermarket and filled a trolley with more than 100 items of food, basic household items and snacks for school lunches. Jessica also asked people to drop off non-perishables, which added to the groceries she purchased.

All up, Jessica has donated \$455 worth of groceries to the Communities@Work community pantry in Gungahlin to help people throughout the ACT. Jessica's mum says it is a win-win-win-win situation all round—the house gets decluttered, families can purchase items at very affordable prices, the community pantry receives much-needed items and Jessica still has her own pocket money. She is now working on a big Christmas donation, which I have no doubt will be very well received.

The community pantry is one of Communities@Work's social programs and provides up to 5,000 food and essential items every single week to people in need. I think it is important for us all to remember that even though we have a higher than average standard of living here in the ACT and high average incomes, there are many people who struggle and who need a helping hand. That is why programs such as the community pantry are so important.

Communities@Work says Jessica's donation was both inspirational and beneficial to the Gungahlin community. Her dedication and community spirit is an inspiration to staff at Communities@Work and all who hear her story. The Gungahlin community pantry is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 3 pm, and it is located at the back of the Communities@Work community centre at 47 Ernest Kavanagh Street in Gungahlin. As well as non-perishable food items, Communities@Work appreciates donations of personal hygiene items, including deodorant, feminine hygiene products, dental care and toilet paper. Such items meet a very practical need but also help to build confidence and ensure dignity. Financial donations are also always welcome and enable purchasing of perishable items such as dairy foods, which are vital in a healthy diet. Good quality work wear and special event clothing are always needed and highly appreciated.

I would like to thank Communities@Work for setting up the community pantry and for their tireless work promoting equality and supporting people in need across our community. I thank, in particular, Lynne Harwood, Kim Bull and Chris Barry for coming in this afternoon as well and to all your team for the great work that you do. I

would also like to recognise the great work of Mark Scarborough from My Gungahlin. Thank you, Mark, also for coming in today. He helps keep our community connected in a new way every day.

Of course, I would like to thank Jessica and her mum and dad for their very thoughtful donations which really help people in our community and highlight just how wonderful it is to live in a city like Canberra where people look out for one another. Communities@Work has a vision for a resilient and socially inclusive community that cares for the wellbeing of all, as does, of course, the ACT government.

Jessica, in particular, demonstrates that you do not have to be big to make a big impact. It is just great to see all people—young and old—coming together to build better futures for everyone. I hope Jessica keeps looking for ways to help people in our community and inspire people in this place and beyond.

Brindabella Christian School

MR COE (Ginninderra) (4.51): I rise this afternoon to speak about Brindabella Christian College, particularly the Charnwood campus. The college was formerly called O'Connor Christian School, and it has been providing a holistic approach to education based on Christian values for over 30 years. The school commenced in 1980 with two teachers and 29 students. It has grown to 700 students across two campuses.

The Charnwood campus caters for children aged from one to four years in its early learning centre and children in kindergarten through to year 3 in the junior school. Classes take place in the Canberra Christian Life Centre building, and the school eventually plans to extend to year 12 on the site.

Brindabella Christian School encourages parents and carers to be actively involved in their children's school life, including through reading groups, library, sports carnivals, excursions and assemblies. Parents can also contribute through involvement in parents and friends associations.

Junior school students at Brindabella have been focusing on the idea of healthy safe kids, and the school has organised a number of initiatives to help support this concept, including the mid-morning munch, a healthy bones morning tea, visits from Constable Kenny, a self-defence workshop and the walk safely to school program.

Last Wednesday morning I was pleased to take part in the walk to school with dad program. This was the second time all students met at the local oval and walked to school together. Last Wednesday's event focused on dads and male role models. Students, teachers, dads and other people from the community met at the Melba Oval and walked to the Charnwood campus along bike and walking paths.

The idea for the event came from Keith Roberts, the head of the junior school at the Charnwood campus. Keith was supported by teachers Louise Sullivan, Sarah Lim, Anne Bowman and teacher aide Wendy Straw. Helen Wilks helped with the invitations and organisation.

Other role models who attended the walk included: Glynn Jones from ACT Fire & Rescue; Brett Cunningham from the AFP; Quentin Botha from the ACT Ambulance Service; Kelsey-Lee Roberts, the Brindabella Christian College Charnwood sports ambassador and Commonwealth Games medallist; Nathan Campbell, the head of senior school at Brindabella Christian College, Lyneham campus; Susan Jones, the acting head of Brindabella Christian College, Lyneham campus, and Pastor Sean Stanton from Life UC Church.

I would like to congratulate all those involved in the walk to school with dad event on a very enjoyable day. I am sure the students enjoyed the experience. I wish the students, staff and the rest of the school community all the best for the rest of the year and for these coming holidays. For more information about Brindabella Christian College in Charnwood, I recommend members visit their website at bcc.act.edu.au/charnwood.

China one belt, one road forum

DR BOURKE (Ginninderra) (4.54): Last month, I had the pleasure of speaking at the one belt, one road forum hosted at the ANU Centre on China in the World. Attending were the Chinese Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Ma Zhaoxu, Minister Counsellor of Education at the Chinese Embassy Mr Xu Xiao, Pro Vice-Chancellor of ANU Dr Erik Lithander, as well as business leaders from interstate.

The ACT government has a strong commitment to strengthening ties with China, consistent with the intent of the one belt, one road initiative—to connect the future of China's neighbours with China's own future. The local Chinese community here in Canberra is very active in our rich multicultural landscape and plays a key role in building our links and strengthening our engagement with China. Around two per cent of Canberra's population—around 7,500—was born in China, and Cantonese and Mandarin are the most commonly spoken languages in Canberra after English.

The ACT government's strong push for engagement with China has created many gains for the community. There are 5½ thousand Chinese students enrolled in Canberra's universities. The ACT has more visits from Chinese tourists than tourists from any other country. The ACT welcomed nearly 28,000 Chinese visitors for the year ending March 2015, an 18 per cent increase on the previous year.

China is one of Canberra's most important trade and investment partners, with many opportunities for economic and cultural exchange facilitated by our sister city relationship with Beijing. This relationship, established in 2000, establishes the foundation for increased cooperation between the cities and is highly regarded and widely promoted in Canberra. One of the highlights of that relationship occurred in 2008 when Canberra hosted a leg of the Beijing Olympic torch relay, the only Australian city to do so.

The ACT government has ensured Canberra is in an excellent position to make the most of Australia's growing links with China. These include supporting the work of the National Library of Australia to bring a significant exhibition to Canberra from the

National Library of China, and the October 2014 memorandum of friendship, exchange and economic cooperation with the City of Shenzhen. This agreement covers technology and innovation, enhancing bilateral cultural exchanges and promoting two-way investment and cooperation.

Increasingly, there is more Chinese investment being realised in Canberra with interest and projects delivered in the real estate, infrastructure, renewable energy, technology and agribusiness sectors, bringing opportunities for employment and innovation in the ACT. Future engagement and collaboration will be enhanced by the potential of improved access to Canberra.

The \$480 million investment in Canberra Airport and surrounding infrastructure has provided Canberra with a world-class aviation facility. International connections direct to China, or indirect through major Asian hubs, would further enhance trade and investment opportunities with the ACT and nearby regional NSW.

The ANU Centre on China in the World, where the one belt, one road forum was held, is an initiative of the Rudd Labor government, the People's Republic of China and the ANU. It is a wonderful facility and a crossroads for further study and understanding of our two nations' future working together. The one belt, one road forum showed the gains that can be made from engagement with our neighbours. The ACT government is committed to delivering the gains from closer economic and cultural links with China.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 4.59 pm.

Schedule of amendments

Schedule 1

Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Amendment Bill 2015

Amendments moved by the Attorney-General

1

Clause 21

Proposed new section 116Q (4)

Page 29, line 6—

omit

Any material obtained under this section is inadmissible in a proceeding

substitute

Any material obtained, directly or indirectly, because of accessing, copying or converting data under this section is not admissible in evidence against the registrable offender in a proceeding,

2

Clause 21

Proposed new section 116Z

Page 35, line 20—

omit

Any material obtained under this part (other than under section 116Q (Order requiring registrable offender to assist with access to data etc)) is inadmissible in a proceeding,

substitute

Any material obtained, directly or indirectly, in the exercise of a function under this part (other than under section 116Q) in relation to a registrable offender is not admissible in evidence against the offender in a proceeding,
