



Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

NINTH ASSEMBLY

3 AUGUST 2017

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Thursday, 3 August 2017

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

Minister for Disability, Children and Youth
Motion of censure

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (10.00), by leave: I move:

That this Assembly:

- (1) censures the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, for:
 - (a) failing to act to protect the physical and mental welfare of the staff and detainees of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre;
 - (b) failing to respond adequately to an increasing body of concerns about the operation of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre;
 - (c) seeking to silence legitimate criticism by staff and detainees of the operation of Bimberi; and
 - (d) resigning to the view that violence will continue to be a feature of life at Bimberi; and
- (2) notes:
 - (a) in March this year, information emerged in *The Canberra Times* of a serious incident in May 2016 at Bimberi in which three young people assaulted youth workers, three of whom were sent to hospital for treatment. The response of the Minister was that the attack was an “isolated incident”;
 - (b) further *Canberra Times*’ articles in March reported low staff morale and concerns about management, staff shortages and lack of adequate training, union concerns, incidents in October and November 2016 which led to two staff being stood down, staff being gagged and feeling uncomfortable talking to management about problems at the centre, and the Community Services Directorate seeking out the whistleblowers who were talking to the media;
 - (c) in May, the Minister tabled a statement about youth justice and said Bimberi had an integrated management system and a training plan, the Human Rights Commission was looking into all matters raised recently, and a charter of rights was coming. *The Canberra Times* carried a further report about staff tensions, high absenteeism, and concerns the Government was pouring resources into a review without addressing underlying causes of the troubled conditions in Bimberi;

- (d) on 4 July, *The Canberra Times* reported on the “living hell” of a facility characterised by violence, alcohol and drugs, racial slurs, and a lack of resources and staff training. Amnesty International called on the Prime Minister to intervene. A public servant was sent out to front the media; the Minister was absent;
- (e) on 8 July, fresh allegations emerged of a detainee brawl in May 2017, of a youth worker tackled by a detainee in June, of daily incidents and short staffing endangering staff. The Minister dismissed all of this as “mostly historical”. Amnesty International said it was time for the Minister to take responsibility. The Minister said she was awaiting the results of the Human Rights Commission investigation, which had been going on for two months;
- (f) on 25 July, *The Canberra Times* reported another brawl on 16 July between two groups of detainees in which a youth worker who intervened was injured. The police were investigating. Three sources within the facility reported a state of constant turmoil for staff. Former detainees were considering class action; and
- (g) since March, the Minister has consistently failed to appreciate the seriousness of the problems at Bimberi and she has failed to respond adequately to those problems. She has ignored the concerns of detainees, staff and independent third parties. She has been more concerned about stopping the problems being made public than about fixing the problems themselves. The situation at Bimberi is dangerous and requires effective and responsible ministerial oversight which the Minister is incapable of providing.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, members, for giving me leave to move this important motion. The catalogue of failings which has led to this point in the operation of Bimberi is long. It is too long. In March this year information started to emerge in the *Canberra Times* of a series of incidents in May 2016 at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. Three young people assaulted youth workers, three of whom were sent to hospital for treatment. Four employees were stood down. Despite the incident having occurred 10 months before the reporting in March 2017, investigation by the directorate into the incident was still ongoing.

As so often happens in the ACT, information had to be dragged out of the government through a freedom of information request that has been published by the *Canberra Times*. The response of the responsible minister, Ms Stephen-Smith, was also predictable: policies and procedures have been reviewed and the attack was an isolated incident. There was nothing to see.

But unfortunately there was something to see, and there was much more to see. Further *Canberra Times* articles in March reported low staff morale and concerns about management, staff shortages and the lack of adequate training. There were also union concerns. We in the opposition started asking questions here in question time. Of course, the answers were vague and there was a promise to report back to the Assembly about training.

Further reports appeared in the *Canberra Times* about incidents in October and November which led to two staff being stood down. Of course, at this point it could no longer be a case of “this was before my time as minister”. A new and sinister twist in the reporting by the *Canberra Times* was of Bimberi staff being gagged, of their being uncomfortable talking to senior management and the Community Services Directorate investigating to seek out the whistleblowers who were talking to the media.

We in the opposition asked more questions. Why were not remandees separated from sentenced offenders, as recommended by the Human Rights Commission? Why were Bimberi staff asking for training in the use of force? Was staffing adequate? Again, there were vague assurances from the minister and a reminder that staff should raise their concerns through appropriate channels rather than publicly, rather than to the Canberra community.

The staff were not silent. They spoke of routine strip searches and degrading cough and squat searches. The *Canberra Times* editorialised that the directorate needed to justify these practices in light of Human Rights Commission recommendations against these very practices. It concluded that a “perception matters of public interest are being covered up could lead to calls for an independent inquiry”.

When the Assembly next sat in May the minister tabled a statement about youth justice. Bimberi had an integrated management system and a training plan, apparently. The Human Rights Commission was looking into all matters that had been raised and a charter of rights was coming. The *Canberra Times* carried a further report about staff tensions and high absenteeism. Staff saw the government pouring resources into a review without addressing underlying causes of troubles at Bimberi.

We asked the minister more questions about training and the privacy of detainees. The responses showed a minister who was not on top of her portfolio and who simply did not understand the need to take control of a facility that appeared to be in crisis. For example, consider this exchange which happened on 10 May during question time:

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, when exactly did Bimberi management establish the goal of annual refresher training for staff?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Kikkert for the question, and I will take it on notice.

MRS KIKKERT: How frequently did Bimberi staff receive responding to critical situations refresher training in the five years before May 2016?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will take that on notice.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how will the Assembly know that this annual refresher training goal is being met in the future, and can you tell us when in the past refresher training has been provided to Bimberi staff since the opening of Bimberi?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: The second part of the question I will take on notice. I am happy to provide regular updates to the Assembly ...

Three non-answers on staff training, an issue which is central to the concerns about Bimberi. The next day, 11 May, the minister was asked another question:

Minister, multiple sources have brought to my attention that young people in the territory are posting on social media sites photographs of themselves taken inside the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. Under what circumstances is it acceptable for photographs of detainees to be taken inside Bimberi?

The minister's response:

I am aware of one particular incident that Mrs Kikkert refers to but I am not sure how much I am able to say about that. It is one particular matter. I would describe it as an incident, actually. I am not sure I am able to say about that; so I will take the question on notice.

Two months later, the practical implications of a minister who simply does not know what is happening in her portfolio were becoming clear. On 4 July, the *Canberra Times* ran a series of articles on the "living hell" of a facility characterised by violence, alcohol and drugs, racial slurs and a lack of resources and staff training. In fact, Amnesty International called on the Prime Minister to intervene. A lawyer working on widely reported concerns in the Northern Territory also condemned Bimberi.

There are many more harrowing stories that opposition MLAs have been told. Of course, many are very hard to substantiate, given the secure nature of Bimberi. However, the frequency with which we have been told them, and the number of sources, suggest that there is something there. I imagine members of the Greens, members of the media and perhaps other members of our community have also heard these stories. If the government has not heard these stories it shows that they either do not have systems in place to hear them or they are not trusted.

I raised the opposition's concerns about a systemic problem within Bimberi that no minister seems willing to confront. I noted that the minister seemed more concerned about a whistleblower making concerns public rather than about the substance of those concerns.

A public servant was sent out to front the media a few weeks ago. The minister was absent. The *Canberra Times* rightly criticised the government's evasive, defensive and, at times, inconsistent response. An ACT official visitor resigned in disgust. Fresh allegations emerged of a detainee brawl in May 2017, of a youth worker tackled by a detainee in June, of daily incidents and short staffing endangering staff. The minister dismissed all of this as being mostly historical.

Amnesty International said that it was time for the minister to take responsibility. However, the minister said that she was awaiting the results of the Human Rights

Commission investigation which had been ongoing for a couple of months. Last month ended with another report by the *Canberra Times* of a brawl on 16 July between two groups of detainees in which a youth worker who intervened was injured. The police are investigating, apparently. Three sources within the facility reported a state of constant turmoil for staff. Former detainees were considering a class action.

The first sitting week in August has shown that the minister is still unwilling to acknowledge the problems in Bimberi and seems incapable of showing leadership in fixing these problems. Her ministerial statement titled *Update on Youth Justice in the ACT* was largely devoted to Bimberi but reported on none of the wide range of serious concerns and incidents that have taken place at the facility.

Instead she took a swipe at the media for unsubstantiated allegations and sensationalist headlines. When challenged in question time about the *Canberra Times* report on the brawl and alleged assault of 16 July, she said it was unsubstantiated and sensationalist. She acknowledged that that particular incident did occur and it was referred to police. But when she was asked whether the police had concluded their investigation, she was not aware.

The minister is at the centre of public debate about a facility that is increasingly characterised by violence. The minister's uninformed responses suggest she is uninterested in the level of violence and is resigned to violence being the norm at Bimberi. Asked in question time how many assaults by detainees on other detainees there were in the last year she replied, "I have asked my directorate to prepare a standard report on KPIs for Bimberi on various indicators."

You would think, given all that has happened, that that kind of question, that kind of fact, would be front and centre. And when asked whether young people are informed of the real risk of assault at Bimberi, she replied, "These are young people who have often learned to use violence to express themselves. From time to time, therefore, it is not entirely unexpected that they would seek to express themselves in that way within Bimberi." In effect, boys will be boys, Madam Speaker. That is the attitude of this government: "They are just expressing themselves"; "It is not entirely unexpected." Unfortunately, the minister needs to take responsibility but she is unwilling to do so.

The minister has consistently failed to appreciate the seriousness of the problems at Bimberi and she has failed to respond adequately to those problems. She has ignored the concerns of detainees and staff, of the Human Rights Commission and of Amnesty International. She has been more concerned about stopping the problems being made public than about fixing the actual issues. She has been evasive and ineffectual and is perhaps out of her depth. The situation at Bimberi is dangerous. If left to continue without effective and responsible ministerial oversight, the risk of serious harm or perhaps death is quite possible.

This week the minister claims to have solved all the problems. She claims that by ticking off all the actions in the blueprint, all is well. If the first half of the blueprint, if the first five years, was a success, why do we have all these problems now? The minister's statement that there is a new task force and a continuation of the current plan is worrying. It is delusional to think that the problems can be addressed through a mid-term report and the existing priorities.

The minister's statement touches on the operations of Bimberi. But to think that the main announcement in her statement, the main response to the issues at Bimberi, is a standardised annual report and a charter of rights is an insult to the brave whistleblowers who are actually putting the welfare of the staff and detainees first.

Here are some practical things the minister could have done, some practical things the minister could do in this space: one, she could provide a confidential telephone number managed by someone outside of government that staff and families could contact about the issues of welfare and the operations of the centre; two, the government could ensure that the operation of cameras at Bimberi is logged so that there can be audits to see if they have been turned off; three, she could facilitate the Official Visitor to have confidential off-site meetings rather than meetings taking place at Bimberi; four, the government should frequently report to the Assembly or a relevant Assembly committee about occasions when lockdowns have occurred. The government should also report at what times detainees are allowed out of their cells each morning; and, five, she could regularly publish the recidivism rates for detainees and also the number of former Bimberi detainees who are in AMC or have served in AMC.

These are just five simple initiatives that would go some way to getting the priorities right. As Ms Le Couteur said on 9 May, "We cannot afford any further delay. Now is the time to act." The minister has delayed. She has not acted. The Assembly needs to intervene. It should censure the minister and in doing so we, as an Assembly, as representatives of our community, should ensure that safety and rehabilitation are front and centre in our youth justice system.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations): (10.17): In responding to the Leader of the Opposition's motion I wish to advise the Assembly of the actions I have taken as minister with responsibility for the youth justice portfolio. In doing so I note that I have consistently responded to questions in this place, including questions taken on notice; as well I have made two ministerial statements.

I take my responsibility to my constituents, the people of Canberra and particularly the vulnerable children, young people and families supported by my portfolio very seriously. When a series of emails was received earlier this year making a number of allegations about conditions and incidents at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre I also took those very seriously. I have never made light of any incident in Bimberi, and I have never said that practices at the centre could not be improved. I have always stated that the safety of young people and staff is my and the government's highest priority and that the young people and staff in Bimberi have the right to feel safe.

I have also consistently stated that anyone with any concerns or evidence of wrongdoing at Bimberi should come forward to appropriate authorities so that these issues can be fully investigated and addressed. I repeat that today. I am committed to being as transparent as it is possible to be about the operation of a youth justice centre.

Clause 2(a) of today's motion implies that my response to an incident on 6 May 2016 was dismissive, using a two word quote taken from media reporting. I have reviewed the response I provided to the *Canberra Times* from which the quote is taken. It was a fairly long and comprehensive response that was printed in part and therefore did not convey the full meaning of my response. I acknowledged there had been a "serious incident". The full response starts:

The matter was reported immediately and the incident was referred to ACT Policing, the official visitor and the Public Advocate.

It goes on to provide some information on the processes followed by the directorate around staff matters and then says:

As noted by official visitors, the centre is operating in an efficient and constructive manner and this was an isolated incident.

So yes, I used those two words in the context of advice from official visitors about the overall operation of the centre.

Clause 2(b) states that the directorate sought out the author or authors of the emails received earlier this year. This is true. The matters raised in those emails were extremely serious. Some of the incidents referred to were readily identifiable by directorate officials who were able to brief me on the background. In other cases allegations were vague in terms of time frames and specifics.

Given the very serious nature of the allegations, I and the senior executive of the directorate were keen to ensure that these matters could be fully investigated. A number of the emails had, in fact, been directed to me and/or senior officials in the directorate. So yes, the directorate responded to those emails to try to elicit further information in order to follow a process that would enable the matters to be fully investigated.

A concern I raised in the Assembly related to one particular email which was sent not only to Mrs Kikkert but also to at least one person outside the Assembly and the ACT government which identified a young person who was or had been in youth detention. As members are aware, protecting the privacy of young people in the youth justice system is extremely important. This is why it is so critical that people who have concerns raise them with bodies, such as the Human Rights Commission, that have the legal authority to investigate.

Clause 2(c) relates to a statement I made in May. To correct the record, I did not say in that statement that the Human Rights Commission was looking into all matters raised. The Human Rights Commission was and is looking into some of the matters raised, and I have welcomed that inquiry. I also noted in my statement that a charter of rights for young people at Bimberi was being finalised. I was pleased to release the final charter earlier this week.

My statement in May and a number of answers to questions that I have given in this place have made it clear that I am aware of some concerns among staff in Bimberi on various matters. I met with the CPSU about these matters earlier in the year and ensured that the directorate followed up on those concerns. I have made it clear to the CPSU, as I have to the official visitors and the Public Advocate and the Human Rights Commission, that they should feel free to contact me directly or my chief of staff if they have any concerns that they feel the directorate is not adequately addressing.

Clause 2(d) relates to Amnesty International. I can advise the Assembly that to my understanding Amnesty International did not seek to speak with me, my office, or the directorate prior to making a statement. Following publication of this statement the director-general contacted Amnesty International directly to offer a briefing on Bimberi and the ACT government's approach to youth justice. Amnesty is welcome to visit Bimberi, as is any member of this place.

Clause 2(e) primarily appears to relate to a comment I made stating that most of the incidents reported were historical. That comment specifically referred to a number of allegations that were detailed by the *Canberra Times* on 4 July. The relevant article included a list of specific incidents, two of which related to staff members being investigated and cleared, the most recent of which was the May 2016 incident, of which I and the Leader of the Opposition have already spoken.

In providing comment to the media on these matters I have repeatedly emphasised that the safety of young people and staff at Bimberi is our number one priority and urged anyone with any concerns or evidence of issues at Bimberi to bring that information to the directorate, the Human Rights Commission or ACT Policing so the matter can be fully investigated. News outlets that take quotes can choose whether or not to use them, but anyone who has heard my radio interviews about Bimberi will know that I have consistently repeated this message.

Clause 2(f) relates to matters that were discussed in this place earlier this week. As noted in the clause, the police are investigating this incident. Without going into detail, this incident occurred when 12 young people were playing a game of touch football on the oval with five youth workers. The advice I have received is that a verbal altercation between two young people became physical, and two other young people got involved. My advice is that the incident was responded to quickly and the whole incident was resolved in approximately four minutes. Bimberi management and the directorate continually risk-assess management of whole-of-centre activities.

While I am on this subject I will take the opportunity to answer a question I was asked on Tuesday regarding the number of assaults within Bimberi in 2016-17. I am advised that there were six assaults in total in 2016-17. Four of the assaults were between young people. That is half the number recorded in the previous year. Two of the incidents involved young people assaulting staff; two of the six incidents were referred to ACT Policing because in the other four cases the staff and/or young people declined to pursue charges; and one young person was involved in two of the

incidents, both times as the aggressor. To provide some further context, I note that the number of custody days in 2016-17 was around 31 per cent higher than in 2015-16, an issue the taskforce will be looking into.

I have nothing to hide here. As I have said, I am committed to being as transparent as I possibly can about the operation of our youth justice system, and Bimberi in particular. I have made two ministerial statements on youth justice since May and spoken directly with the media about Bimberi on more than a dozen occasions.

In responding to clause 2(g), I move on to a broader discussion of the actions I have taken as minister since my appointment, and particularly since the allegations referred to in the motion were first received. Madam Speaker, as you can imagine, I was extremely concerned when I started receiving emails making very serious allegations about wrongdoing at Bimberi. I had already met once with the Official Visitor for Children and Young People, Narelle Hargreaves, and had read and tabled the official visitor's annual report for 2015-16, which provides a very positive summary including that the official visitors have continually complimented staff and management at Bimberi, noting the support and understanding shown for the role of official visitors. The report also states that overall, the official visitors have clearly expressed their satisfaction with the level and quality of care provided to detainees at Bimberi.

In reviewing the 2015-16 annual report, I need to correct something I said yesterday. Yesterday I stated that the official visitors had been to Bimberi on 46 occasions in 2015-16; the annual report states that, in fact, they made 50 visits. I also met with the Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner, Jodie Griffiths-Cook, on 27 February. At that time, to my recollection, and according to a review of my notes from that meeting, she did not raise any concerns with me about systemic or specific issues within Bimberi. However, I invited her to call me directly if she had any concerns about any matter within my portfolios that she felt the directorate was not adequately addressing. I also subsequently called the Human Rights Commissioner and provided her with my number.

As members are aware, I said in my statement in May that a task force would be established to take stock of progress at the halfway point of the government's 10-year youth justice blueprint. I provided some further detail on that in my statement on Tuesday, including that Ms Griffiths-Cook had agreed to co-chair the task force, and three particular areas of focus I have asked it to look at. I should be clear that this task force was not simply part of the directorate's business as usual forward agenda. This is a piece of work that I initiated and, in part, it was in response to the allegations received by email about Bimberi.

I am pleased Ms Griffiths-Cook will co-chair the task force, and I have also welcomed, as I said earlier, the Human Rights Commissioner's separate investigation of some specific issues. Indeed, I also met with the Human Rights Commissioner, the Public Advocate and the Discrimination Health Services and Disability and Community Services Commissioner specifically about Bimberi on 8 May. As I have said earlier, I have also met with the CPSU and I have had a more recent meeting with both official visitors on 23 June.

As Ms Hargreaves has done publicly, both official visitors assured me that they have not seen any evidence of the generalised allegations that have been made about Bimberi's operations, that is, issues such as drug use or young people being encouraged to fight one another. Ms Hargreaves has made the point to the media that she gets to know the young people in Bimberi pretty well. My understanding is that both she and Ms Wetnall are highly respected, and that the young people have no hesitation in raising concerns with them. I hope the charter of rights I released earlier this week will further strengthen the capacity of young people to understand their rights and raise any concerns they may have.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his very specific suggestions about what more can be done to strengthen oversight of Bimberi. I note that some of the things he suggested are already in place, but I will consider all of his suggestions.

In closing, I will make three points I have made many times before but which I feel bear repeating in this context. First, my number one priority is the safety and wellbeing of the young people and staff at Bimberi. Second, I and the government take all allegations of wrongdoing at Bimberi very seriously. That is why I have consistently encouraged any person with information to come forward to the directorate, to the Human Rights Commission or to ACT Policing so that allegations can be fully investigated. Third, I will continue to be as transparent as I possibly can be about the operation of Bimberi so that Canberrans can judge for themselves both my performance and that of our youth justice system.

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (10.29): Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I wish to stand today to speak in support of the motion of censure brought by Mr Coe. I sincerely wish we did not have to address this issue in this way, and I personally find no pleasure in doing so but it is clear that we are at a breaking point where something has to change. The Leader of the Opposition has raised a number of concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of the young people who are detained at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre as well as the safety and wellbeing of the staff who seek to meet the needs of these young people. I do not need to repeat what Mr Coe has said but I do wish to make it very clear that I share all his concerns.

Since the end of last year a number of people who work or have worked at Bimberi have personally raised their concerns with me and, as you will remember, Madam Speaker, I have attempted to bring a number of these concerns into this chamber so that those of us who have been elected to represent the people of this territory would not be ignorant. As a consequence, when the *Canberra Times* published on 4 July its series of articles raising the concerns that they too had heard, I was already familiar with most of them, though this does not, I should point out, make it any easier to read about them. In addressing the *Canberra Times* reports, the government official responsible for Bimberi assured us that these incidents were all historical, many of them dredged up from the far distant past when things were worse, and anyway they had all been appropriately dealt with—a line repeated by the minister when she finally made herself available to the media later the same day.

The following day an editorial in the *Canberra Times* labelled this collective response “evasive, defensive and at times inconsistent”. Three days later the *Canberra Times* raised a fresh set of allegations, all from the previous three months. What was the minister’s recorded response? These events, she claimed, were still “mostly historical”, and anyway they had all been swiftly dealt with.

The problem, however, is that these supposedly historical events just keep coming. They apparently refuse to stay so far back in the past that the CSD and the minister can make them disappear with a simple wave of the wand. In fact, just yesterday I was told that the centre was so short staffed over the weekend that detainees were confined to their rooms for part of Saturday and Monday.

In mid-July a brawl allegedly broke out between two groups of detainees on the Bimberi oval and apparently the youth worker who tried to intervene was injured. When this fresh allegation, confirmed by ACT Policing, was reported in the *Canberra Times*, what was the minister’s response? In speaking to 2CC she reminded listeners that many of the young people going into Bimberi “have experienced significant trauma in their lives” and many of them have learnt to use violence to express their anger, fear and frustration. Because of this—and I quote the minister again—“when you have people like that together, every now and again incidents will occur”.

There you have it, the white flag of surrender has been raised. We have come full circle, from being assured not to worry because all these violent incidents occurred in the past to being told not to worry because these incidents are unavoidably going to continue/occur whenever you have people like that together. What can one do? Apparently, just learn to accept a violent assault every now and again. Never mind that a youth justice centre should be a place where vulnerable young people have their safety guaranteed.

Two days ago, in fact, the minister finally released a long-awaited charter of rights for young people in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. This charter states:

You have the right to be kept safe while you are at Bimberi.

The very first bullet point under this declaration begins with the following assurance:

You can expect to feel safe.

But, seriously, can the young people who find themselves in Bimberi expect to feel safe? Should they?

On the same day that she released the new charter of rights the minister also tabled a statement in which she revealed that in 2015-16 there were at least eight assaults by detainees on other young people in Bimberi, though a youth worker who was there during those years has told me they suspect this is a case of under-reporting. Taking this number at face value, however, means that, on average, one or more young

people in the care of the ACT government were assaulted by another detainee once every 6½ weeks. If a newly inducted detainee were aware of this statistic, do you think that she or he would expect to feel safe? I know I would not. I would be fearful that I would either end up being a victim of assault or at least witnessing an assault.

I wish to ask a question of members of this Assembly, and I hope that they will sincerely consider their answers. Knowing what we all know about Bimberi, if it were your child in there would you feel confident that she or he would be safe or would you worry that it might be your child who either witnessed or experienced a violent assault? I know that if one of my children were in youth detention in this territory—and it only takes one simple mistake for a youth to end up in Bimberi—I would be worried sick every day for his or her safety.

It is no doubt true that many young people go into Bimberi having experienced significant trauma in their lives but now we are being told by a minister of this government to expect that many young people will leave Bimberi having experienced significant trauma during their period of detention, including who knows how many young people who will have had no previous experience with this kind of trauma on the outside. The sole purpose of a youth detention centre is to rehabilitate young people. Exposing them to trauma whilst detained will only result in their returning to our community more broken than they were when they first went in. And the consequences of this brokenness will go far beyond these kids themselves as they return to our schools, our streets, our parks and shops and our neighbourhoods. I am sorry but this is not a justice centre; instead, it is a training ground for adult corrections. This is in no way acceptable.

The CSD and the minister would both have us believe that all the resources available to the ACT government are insufficient to guarantee the safety of Bimberi's detainees. In essence, a handful of kids are able to hold a government minister and an entire directorate hostage. If these young people want Bimberi to be a place where youth workers and other young detainees fear for their safety and feel constantly worried about the violence that continues to erupt every now and again, then that is what Bimberi will be. The ACT government will, of course, continue swiftly dealing with these kinds of incidents after they happen, whatever that means exactly. But according to the minister, we, including the young people and those who work in Bimberi, had better just get used to them.

I refuse to accept that the people of the ACT are okay with this response. I certainly am not okay with this response. I hope that ACT Labor and the ACT Greens are not okay with this response. When addressing another batch of allegations from Bimberi on 9 May this year Ms Le Couteur said:

When it comes to protecting the rights of children, we cannot afford any further delay. Particularly given the apparent erosion of culture and practice in the Bimberi youth facility among some staff more recently, now is the time to act.

I could not agree more. Now is the time to act.

Young people currently do not feel safe inside Bimberi, and words on a poster or on paper are meaningless if not supported through action. We know that reality as grownups, and it is even truer in a child's eye. Young people need responsible adults who not only talk about rights but take decisive action to guarantee those rights. And yet in interview after interview, when asked what specific actions she would take right now to guarantee the safety of those in Bimberi, the minister has repeatedly referred to ongoing processes of improvement already in place.

At some point, as Amnesty International Australia's spokeswoman Roxanne Moore indicated to the *Canberra Times* on 8 July, the minister must take responsibility for issues in her directorate.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (10.39): The Greens do not support this motion attempting to censure the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. The Greens were made aware of allegations of violence and breaches of duty of care of detainees as well as the opposition and the government and I can certainly say I am, and I am sure that everyone here is, concerned about the allegations about Bimberi. When we first became aware of these allegations we were concerned and alarmed. We sought and received a briefing from the CS Directorate. We were provided with sufficient information at this briefing to be reassured that appropriate actions and investigations were taking place.

We subsequently had meetings with the Human Rights Commission and the minister over these matters and again we were reassured that appropriate investigations and responses were taking place. Critical incident reviews were underway, staff had been stood down where appropriate, ACT Policing and the Human Rights Commission were both investigating. We were reassured that the official visitors had been contacted, were aware of allegations and had asked if detainees had made similar complaints. We were also reassured that the Public Advocate must be made aware of any strip searches and the reasons they have occurred.

Much of the information that has been provided by a range of whistleblowers has, to the best of our knowledge—and I have to stress it is only to the best of our knowledge—not at this stage been substantiated. The Greens at this stage are satisfied that the minister has taken appropriate action and not participated in a cover-up. Most of these investigations take significant amounts of time and there is nothing that the minister can do to make them take less time.

The minister has responded to these matters and she has responded to them on many occasions. I, and the rest of us, have listened to many questions without notice. I have also seen her extensively reported in the media and we have had some more private conversations on this issue. Particularly this week she has responded by releasing the charter of rights for young people in detention which, as the opposition pointed out, is something the Greens have been calling for for some time.

I sincerely hope that this will be part of a circuit breaker in terms of changing what is happening in Bimberi. That was the idea for the Greens pushing for this, which has

been on the agenda since 2014 when all the commissioners for young people said that something like this, a model charter, was needed. I am very pleased that the minister has released this and clearly has made it a commitment to make this charter part of the culture of Bimberi for the staff and the young people and their families.

Also on Tuesday she announced the formation of a new task force of key youth justice stakeholders, co-chaired by the Children and Young People Commissioner. The task force will be reporting regularly to the minister and this is an indication, again, that she is determined to keep her finger on the pulse of what is happening in Bimberi. She also announced that she is committed to a new report on KPIs for Bimberi which will be tabled in the Assembly on a regular basis. I think this is great and I would have to say it is really not consistent with a cover-up.

It does appear that the blueprint for youth justice is improving the situation at Bimberi. The number of young people in detention has reduced significantly since it was introduced in 2011. This very importantly includes Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander young people and we heard on Tuesday that there have been times recently when there have been no Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention at all, which is good and how we would like it to be. Strip searches, assaults and the use of force at Bimberi have all been reduced, again, something to be positive about.

As I said, the minister has repeatedly answered questions in question time about this. She clearly is concerned about this. She clearly is concerned to protect the wellbeing, the physical and mental wellbeing, of staff and detainees. As the minister has pointed out, and I agree, repeating over and over again the same unsubstantiated allegations is not helpful. As she has said, and I agree, if there are allegations, the people should go to the appropriate bodies such as the Human Rights Commission, the police et cetera. These allegations need to be investigated, not just be part of the media cycle.

It is not helpful and it clearly causes considerable stress to the people who are at the centre of these allegations. It cannot be good for the mental health or the wellbeing of the workers or the detainees or the families of these people to have the same allegations going around and around again. As the minister has said, and I agree, if you have allegations, if you have new allegations, there are bodies to report them to that can do more about them than an unsubstantiated allegation on the floor of the Assembly.

Like everyone else, I was concerned when Amnesty International raised concerns. Clearly these need to be responded to and I was pleased to hear what the minister said in terms of the information she has provided to them.

I think that the Leader of the Opposition did make some useful suggestions on actions that the minister and the directorate could take but I am frustrated that the way to do this, he felt, was by a censure motion. If the opposition has positive suggestions I think that is great but why were they not a matter of private members' business yesterday when they could have been debated and considered as positive ways forward rather than considering this purely as a censure motion of the minister? It

would have been much more positive in terms of positive actions for Bimberi to have the opposition's list of suggestions debated. "Is this a good idea? Would it make a difference? Is it being implemented? How would it be implemented?", rather than saying the minister has done the wrong thing. Clearly a censure motion is not the best way to change the practices at Bimberi.

The Greens are not going to be supporting this motion. It does not seem to me that it is likely to achieve anything positive for Bimberi and I and the Greens are certainly convinced that the minister is concerned about this issue and is doing what she feels she can do to make things better.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.47): The government will not be supporting the opposition leader's motion this morning. I note the comments from Ms Le Couteur about the approach to this issue from those opposite. The simple answer to her question as to why it is being done this way is one word: politics. We can never escape it in this place, and what we have seen this morning is bringing one of the most significant motions that can be brought before this chamber—censure of a minister, second only to a no-confidence motion in its seriousness—and yet what we have heard this morning in no way justifies this place supporting a motion of censure of Minister Stephen-Smith.

I want to take this opportunity this morning to commend the minister for her active engagement to establish frameworks to ensure as much as possible that Bimberi is safe for staff and for young people. Minister Stephen-Smith has been open and transparent about the issues facing this facility and what she and the government are doing to address them. The minister puts the welfare of the young people at Bimberi and the safety and support of staff working there as her absolute priorities. The minister and the government reject any imputation in the motion from the Leader of the Opposition and the commentary from the Liberal Party about being resigned to violence in the facility.

The minister has made a number of things very clear both in this place and in the media; and it was instructive to hear how full quotes are not published in what passes for this city's newspaper. My only advice to Minister Stephen-Smith in that regard is that, yes, live radio provides the opportunity for you to be unfiltered in your response to issues that are raised. All members will experience in our time in this Assembly being misquoted or selectively quoted by the *Canberra Times*. All of us will experience that, I am sorry to say, but there is no point dwelling on that at this point in time.

As Minister Stephen-Smith has made clear, when allegations of inappropriate staff behaviour are received they are taken seriously and fully investigated. The minister has also repeatedly urged anyone with concerns about Bimberi to provide details to the Community Services Directorate, the Human Rights Commission or other channels so that these matters can be fully investigated.

Bimberi is undoubtedly a difficult environment to work in, and I take the opportunity this morning to commend the staff for their work day in and day out in helping young people get their lives back on track. I also thank them for sharing their ideas and working with the minister and the directorate on a reform program that will lead to better care, improved safety and better outcomes for residents of Bimberi.

In May the minister announced that a task force would be established to take stock of progress under the blueprint for youth justice in the territory 2012-22. The task force, co-chaired by Jodie Griffiths-Cook, the Children and Young People Commissioner, will establish the directions we need to take in the second five years of the strategy. Members would be aware that the 2017-18 ACT budget that we will debate in this place later this month includes a further investment of \$2.1 million over four years to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of the young people at Bimberi. A further investment of \$326,000 will be used provide a new digital radio network at the centre.

I take this opportunity to seek the support of those opposite for those budget initiatives. However, if past practice is anything to go by, the opposition will vote against the budget and against those specific initiatives when it comes to a final vote in this place later this month. But they have an opportunity in the context of the budget debate to support those initiatives, and I look forward to that support given what has been said this morning. This investment was secured by the minister to support staff at Bimberi to continue to provide a safe, secure and supportive environment for young people.

The minister has not only welcomed the Human Rights Commission review of practices at Bimberi, which has been initiated to follow up on some of the allegations that have been made, but is committed to fully considering the recommendations that may come from that review. In May the minister made a clear commitment to extend to Bimberi the oversight powers of the dedicated inspectorate of custodial services being established by the ACT government.

Just this week Minister Stephen-Smith delivered the rights for young people in Bimberi which lays out the rights of young people at Bimberi and their responsibilities to uphold and protect the rights of others. The charter will serve to increase awareness of young people's rights and responsibilities, both among young people themselves and by staff and service providers. The charter was developed in consultation with the Children and Young People Commissioner, the Human Rights Commission, young people in Bimberi and service providers at Bimberi.

The ACT government is committed to an accountable, transparent and effective youth justice system. As Minister Stephen-Smith has made quite clear both in her response to this unwarranted censure motion this morning and in all of her comments on this matter that she and the government are committed to being as transparent as possible about Bimberi's operation and performance. As those opposite are aware, the minister has undertaken to develop a standard report on Bimberi's performance so that a range of indicators can be objectively scrutinised each year. The minister has made a commitment to table the first of these reports at the earliest opportunity to include data from the 2016-17 fiscal year.

In conclusion, there is no justification for this censure motion being brought before the Assembly today, none whatsoever. It should not be supported by members of this place. It is all about politics and headline grabbing. It is disappointing that this is the way those opposite seek to approach these issues, and Ms Le Couteur was absolutely right in calling it out for what it is. But are we surprised, Madam Speaker? No, we are not. Will we be supporting this motion? No, we will not. Will we treat it with the contempt with which it deserves? Yes, we will.

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (10.55), in reply: What we have now is the government, including the Greens, turning a blind eye to serious allegations of neglect. We have not moved this motion lightly; we do not frequently move motions of censure or of no confidence. Very rarely do we move motions of this level of seriousness. But when there are serious allegations about bullying, violence, corruption of processes and power, neglect, lack of leadership and, most importantly, child welfare, if these circumstances do not warrant a censure motion then what does? If the right of the government and the responsibility of the government and the Assembly is to protect its citizens, that must include the most vulnerable citizens: young people and, in particular, young people in care.

These kids have gone to this facility because they need to be rehabilitated. Unfortunately rehabilitation seems to be a distant priority for this government and everyone will face the consequences for this lack of rehabilitation. Of course, the young people themselves will pay a very high price. Their families will pay a very high price, and the community at large will pay a very high price when kids have potentially been at a crime school rather than a place of rehabilitation. It is tragic to think that there are kids coming out of Bimberi more hardened than when they went in. These are kids that are perhaps coming out with more potential for crime rather than less.

The government seems to hang its hat on the fact that they now have a charter of rights for young people. If that is going to make an impact, if that is going to make a difference, what part of that charter has not been in place to date? What part of that charter has the government been neglecting? What part of that charter is new? If that charter has not been in place to date under this government's administration then surely it warrants a no-confidence motion in the entire government. This government is collectively responsible for the problems at Bimberi, and the fact that they think this charter of rights is somehow going to magically fix all the problems is either delusional or it is a very serious development with regard to the activities at Bimberi to date.

What impact did the 2009 charter of rights for out of home care have? Is that still current? What about the July 2016 model charter of rights for children in youth justice, the one that was released a year ago? Is that one still current or has that one been thrown out as well? What is actually new about this charter of rights? What is the new level of care the government is going to offer through this charter of rights that they have not been aspiring to offer in the past? Have they not been aspiring to rehabilitate? Have they not been aspiring to keep the children safe? What is the new element this government has fallen short of?

We are unapologetic about raising the stakes in this issue. If we are not going to raise the stakes about child welfare then we would be negligent as an opposition. But we are raising the stakes. We are telling the minister and the government and the people of Canberra that this government and this minister are on notice. When you are talking about the welfare of the most vulnerable people in our community we owe it to them. We also owe it to the staff who go in day in and day out trying to rehabilitate these kids. They deserve a government that has their back. Instead, it is simply not happening.

It is an inconsistency with this government that they seem to think it is the fault of the victim for not reporting. Imagine if they had that attitude with domestic violence, that it was the fault of the victim for not reporting allegations. There would be outrage. But that is what the government is saying here: any victim who has information has the responsibility, it is their problem and the load is on their shoulders. Well, it should not be on their shoulders; it should be on the minister's shoulders.

To reasonably expect that people with serious complaints in many instances about how they have been treated by this government must complain to this government is wishful thinking. The government knows that people are not going to complain through that channel. This government knows it is not an inviting channel for people to blow the whistle.

What is more, I think this government has a vested interest in not providing appropriate channels for people to complain. That is why I firmly believe there needs to be a confidential telephone number offered by someone outside of government who can take these complaints seriously. At the moment complainants have no confidence and no trust that they are going to be treated with respect, that it is going to be anonymous and that action is going to be taken.

Madam Speaker, we do not bring on this motion lightly; we believe this minister deserves to be censured, and that is why we are calling on the Assembly to do just that today.

Question resolved in the negative.

Ministerial trade delegation—Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan

Ministerial statement

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (11.03): I would like to report to the Assembly on the delegation that I led to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan between 22 June and 30 June this year. The mission followed the delivery of the 2017-18 ACT budget and a key focus was on promoting government bonds in each market. In addition the mission provided the opportunity to engage in a range of targeted investment promotion activities, as well as sport, arts and cultural initiatives.

The government's borrowing program supports investment in Canberra within the framework of our AAA credit rating. The AAA credit rating is a strong endorsement of the government's fiscal strategy, and engagement with international bond markets supports this strategy by lowering borrowing costs, diversifying risks and, importantly, attracting more investment to Canberra.

The Singapore leg of the mission reinforced the ACT government's commitment to foster trade and investment links with Singapore, enabled further engagement with the Australian government to advance the ACT government's forward agenda for access to the Singapore market, and promoted investment opportunities in Canberra, including the raising of awareness of future investment opportunities to leading firms.

Singapore is a priority market for Canberra and the region. Regular well-planned engagement is paying dividends, creating a strong foundation for relationship development, building of trust and recognition of the ACT government's genuine commitment to the market. I have previously detailed the significance and importance of the ACT's relationship with Singapore in the statement I delivered to the Assembly following the delegation I led in April 2017.

I would like to reinforce today that Singapore is Australia's fifth largest export market for services and the third largest foreign supplier of services. The country has a creative, business-focused culture that supports its status as the major regional hub for multinational businesses operating in Asia.

The economic relationship that Australia has with Singapore is one of our country's most important, and this provides a great advantage for Canberra entering the market. The Singapore-Australia free trade agreement is the central pillar of the economic relationship with Singapore and Canberra's direct aviation connection to Singapore is our platform for opportunity throughout Asia.

The Singapore leg of the delegation focused on investment promotion activity, including debt investor meetings, and the promotion of future land sale opportunities to Singapore investors. Engagements gave investors a greater understanding of Canberra, its economic strengths and the ACT government's plans for growth through world-class developments.

As a direct result of the work facilitated during the April 2017 visit to Singapore, this visit also coincided with the ACT Brumbies exhibition match against the Asia Pacific Dragons. The ACT government is supportive of the ACT Brumbies' efforts to establish regular engagement with the Singapore rugby and business communities. I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of Brumbies CEO, Michael Thomson. That leadership was demonstrated in making that particular match a reality. The match provided an excellent platform for business engagement, promoting Canberra as a place to invest and do business.

Consistent with our efforts to establish partnerships across a range of sectors, I was also delighted to participate in a memorandum of understanding signing between our own National Arboretum and the Singapore Botanic Gardens to encourage the exchange of academic information and research and education collaboration.

A key element of this mission was promoting tangible investment opportunities to significant investors. This took the form of promoting a range of premium opportunities due to open across the city in the medium term.

In Singapore, the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Bruce Gosper, hosted an investment promotion event attended by 15 of Singapore's leading investors. I also met personally with Ms Koh Kah Sek, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Far East Group, one of the largest property development firms in Asia, that has invested approximately \$2 billion just in the past two years in our country.

As I clearly stated in my recent state of the territory address, a city growing by more than 6,000 people a year needs significant new infrastructure to support growth. In facilitating this growth, Canberra needs to be a shining example of contemporary urban renewal. Competition, vision, creativity and new ideas extending from a global investment community will help shape the future character of our city.

Canberra, particularly our main avenues, should contain buildings that people are talking about well after all of us in this place are gone. The newly created City Renewal Authority will lead the way in delivering this aspiration and Canberra's profile as a place to invest will continue to be promoted on future missions.

From Singapore, I travelled to Hong Kong, a city that supports the world's 34th largest economy, with a population of 7.3 million, yet occupies an area smaller than the Australian Capital Territory. Similar to Canberra, Hong Kong is home to a highly educated workforce. It is, of course, known as a globally significant financial, commercial, trade and transport hub.

My visit to Hong Kong provided another opportunity to meet with debt investors and further build relationships to support the government's future finance needs. It also provided the opportunity to learn about the value of planned development that supports the growth of the arts and cultural community. Arts and culture is a critical pillar for creating a vibrant city centre. In turn, attracting and retaining talented people is influenced by the ability to create vibrant places that attract knowledge, workers and entrepreneurs.

A tour of the West Kowloon cultural district was invaluable in gaining an insight into how major urban renewal approaches and commercial relationships can support arts and cultural developments. While still under construction, the West Kowloon cultural district will cover 40 hectares of land and include 17 core arts and cultural venues, as well as space for arts education. This includes a flagship museum of contemporary visual culture.

A meeting with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority regarding financial technology provided the opportunity to share information on ways to grow the fintech sector locally. In addition I met with the MTR Corporation regarding their methodologies of value capture, and I participated in further activity to promote property investment opportunities in Canberra. This included meeting with the hotel development firm Ovolo and engaging with the membership of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

I then travelled to Japan to continue the work of enhancing relationships with our sister city Nara. I participated in further debt investor meetings, as well as other strategic investment focused engagements in Tokyo.

Japan and Australia enjoy a close bilateral relationship and have strong commercial ties. Japan is Australia's ninth largest export market for services and it is the sixth largest foreign supplier of services. Foreign direct investment in Australia by Japan totalled just under \$86 billion in 2015.

Canberra, of course, has a sister city relationship with the city of Nara that has driven educational, sporting and cultural activities for more than two decades. In Nara, I met again with the recently re-elected mayor, Gen Nakagawa. The meeting enabled discussion about future actions and priorities for the Canberra-Nara sister city relationship. We discussed activities to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our sister city relationship that will take place in 2018.

Japanese companies have made, and continue to make, important investments in Canberra. For example, the Mitsubishi Corporation has recently made a long-term commitment to our city's light rail project. In Tokyo, a meeting with Mitsubishi Corporation provided an opportunity to speak with senior representatives of the company about the light rail project, its progress and the value of the partnership in place, as well as plans for future stages.

During a meeting with Eurus Energy we discussed their previous investment in one of our city's renewable energy projects, as well as the potential for future collaboration on research and development in renewable energy technologies.

A city that promotes itself effectively internationally will succeed locally. My government is proactively seeking to raise the profile of Canberra in these key international markets to create opportunity, to support our effort to generate wealth and jobs for our city, to diversify our economy and to ensure that Canberra continues on the path to become a globally recognised, knowledge-based economy that is supported by a vibrant community.

The visit to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan clearly aligned with this intent, and we will continue to undertake activities of this nature that raise the profile of Canberra on the global stage, support local businesses and drive economic growth.

Importantly, the program continued the advancement of priorities and objectives that I detailed in Canberra's international engagement strategy that I launched in September last year. The Commissioner for International Engagement supported me on this mission.

With regard to the international engagement strategy, this delegation travelled to three of the five priority markets: Singapore, China and Japan. We went to five of the 15 priority cities detailed in the strategy: Singapore, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Tokyo. Activities occurred in eight cities in total during the delegation. We held meetings across the seven key capability areas detailed in the international engagement strategy. We continued the Canberra-Nara sister city agreement by a program in Nara. And we furthered Canberra's memorandum of understanding with the city of Shenzhen through meetings with various officials and businesses in that city.

Whilst my program was underway in Hong Kong, VisitCanberra continued on to Shanghai and the Commissioner for International Engagement had additional meetings in Guangdong province. The Commissioner for International Engagement travelled to the city of Shenzhen, with which Canberra has an MOU of economic cooperation, and then continued to Guangzhou.

A detailed prospectus of investment opportunities in two different formats was produced for the delegation in two languages, English and Mandarin. Brand Canberra also produced an introductory information pamphlet on our city. Both the prospectus and pamphlet were well received.

As to outcomes of the delegation, a successful series of meetings were held with various banks to promote the sale of future ACT government bonds in the Asian money market. The MOU between the Botanic Gardens of Singapore and the National Arboretum was signed. The ACT government assisted in the delivery of the ACT Brumbies match in Singapore. Planning has started for the 25th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Canberra and Nara. And key relationships, outlined in the international engagement strategy, were significantly enhanced with a number of further opportunities identified.

Follow-up work to convert meetings held into additional outcomes is now underway. The support and active participation of the Canberra business community during this delegation reinforces that our approach is the right one, and I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who contributed to make the program in Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan a success.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and AusTrade in adding to the delegation. The help from the staff at our high commissions, embassies and consulates is most appreciated. In particular, the help provided to both the ACT government and our partners by His Excellency Mr Bruce Gosper, the Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, His Excellency Mr Richard Court, the Australian Ambassador to Japan and AusTrade in Hong Kong was indeed outstanding.

I look forward to continuing the collaborative work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and AusTrade on future missions, in particular when I return to Hong Kong later this month to undertake further investment promotion which will follow an Australian government led delegation to our sister city Beijing that I will attend as part of this next mission. I present the following paper:

Ministerial Trade Delegation June 2017—Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan—
Ministerial statement, 3 August 2017.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Cross-portfolio delegation to Singapore and Finland Ministerial statement

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Women and Minister for Sport and Recreation) (11.18): In May this year I visited two of the world's highest performing school systems, those in Singapore and Finland. Today I am happy to report on observations that were made, lessons learned and some of the key aspects for the ACT government's consideration from the many meetings and site visits that were reflected in our itinerary.

I also want to highlight the success of this trip in other portfolios for which I am responsible. In Singapore I was able to build on the work of the Chief Minister and the government's international engagement strategy through a deepening of relationships in both education and the sports portfolio. Canberra has since hosted the Singapore SG Football Academy at last month's Kanga Cup, and we hope to see teams here in future. In Finland I was also able to tap into innovative reforms in portfolios of housing, women and the prevention of domestic and family violence.

If there was one single theme across the meetings and visits we made, it is to stay on course on the key programs and policy reforms that government has made. Finland stands alone in Europe for having dramatically reduced homelessness in the past two decades, achieved most notably through a dedication to early intervention through "housing first". Within that philosophy, different programs and financing vehicles, in particular a not-for-profit housing development model, have driven this turnaround.

In domestic and family violence, again our countries have some shared experiences. Finland has among the highest reporting rates of domestic violence in Europe. Canberra continues to see reporting increase as more people feel able to speak up and seek help. The direct response of the ACT government through the safer families

program, pushing for change on the many different levels of this issue, stands out internationally as an example of a government working across different functions in pursuit of a safer community. The Finnish response was a good reminder of the need to keep pursuing gender equity across all parts of life: in the workplace, sport, political representation and elsewhere.

This trip provided a great opportunity to study education systems. The delegation, which included high school principal Lana Read, had a strong focus on observing and learning across all levels: early childhood education and care and, all levels of school, system administration and government decision-making. The whole delegation was keen to both gather ideas and bust some myths, and I am confident we achieved both of those goals.

The itinerary deliberately emphasised the key themes in the future of education work currently underway. The systems visited are not only among the top international performers, but they also shared the fundamental belief that every child deserves a great education and the life chances that flow from it. This was evident in every conversation throughout the trip, despite the cultural differences that you might expect in two countries which are not only culturally different to Australia but also to each other.

While the latest international PISA rankings of Singapore—first—and Finland—fifth—are higher than Australia—14th—our visit to schools in both countries affirmed that ACT schools compared favourably on many levels. What was learned can help the ACT build off its strong base and further improve, particularly in meeting the learning and wellbeing needs for all ACT children and young people.

In early childhood, the research is clear that success in school, particularly for disadvantaged children, is founded in quality of early childhood education. This message was repeatedly enforced. Both countries' governments heavily subsidise participation in early learning and care programs. In Singapore the cost to families can be as low as \$1 per child per month. This is one way that both countries can ensure that all children, regardless of background, have the best chance of success when they start formal schooling. The cost of child care in the ACT is one of the barriers to an equal start at school for children from the most vulnerable backgrounds.

Finland also has many notable features to its early childhood education system: extensive, 12-month long and flexible parental leave; nine maternal health checks in the first 12 months then one a year until the age of five; seamless connections between pre-primary and day care programs with the same centres and no need for transitions or movements between sites; free meals at all centres; transport provided but rarely needed as children attend their local centre; and mechanisms which build universality and equity into the system, in particular, their play parks which offer such a welcoming place for young children and families to play, eat, learn and get other kinds of support if they need it. The school holiday programs at the play parks include free hot lunches for all children up to age 16. This is consistent with their schools, which provide free hot lunches for every student every day, and have done so for 75 years.

The ACT could consider trialling some of these innovative approaches as part of our existing services, such as child and family centres, playgroups and preschools, in line with the ACT government's election commitment to pilot after-hours preschool programs. Interestingly, both Singapore and Finland said they had looked to Australia's early years learning framework as the basis for their new play-based early childhood curriculum. This gives us confidence that what is being offered in the ACT's quality early learning and care centres is seen to be world class.

The delegation also took note of the quality teaching and school leadership on display in Finland and Singapore. Initial teacher education emerged as a key theme. This was an outstanding strength in both countries, and it is clear that the rigour in their pre-service teacher education has a direct relationship with the high status of their teaching professions. The delegation heard about the process used at the University of Helsinki to select students into teacher education. They emphasised the belief that teachers need to be astute and active life-long learners with the capacity and inclination to analyse the ever-growing evidence base in education.

The Singapore pre-service approach includes an annual process whereby every teacher-in-training shares their action learning project with their peers and they receive feedback. Many of these action research projects are not education focused, but deep investigations into a key discipline, such as astrophysics. This approach is key to both the depth of understanding and the ongoing action-researched orientation of all Singaporean teachers, something that was observed firsthand at the Canberra Secondary School in Singapore.

Ongoing teacher development was also really impressive in Singapore. They foster an amazing professional learning community, and at the Canberra Secondary School they demonstrated how the duty statement of teachers includes contributing to the learning and development of their peers.

Professional learning communities are alive and thriving in many ACT schools and also have something similar to Singapore's career ladder. I am confident that Canberra's schools can use some of Singapore's ideas to take this a bit further and provide the opportunity to empower our teachers and educators. In doing so, the status of the profession in our wider community will be enhanced.

The clear lesson from both Singapore and Finland is that raising the standing of the teaching profession has been an important part of the success of these systems. This requires respecting and empowering teachers to use professional judgement to meet the individual learning needs of each child. These observations made during the visit have been strongly reinforced by recently international comparative research into high performing school systems. Canberra's schools are on the right track with what matters most.

In the short term I am keen to build on the many connections between Canberra and Singapore by facilitating teacher exchanges and I have already discussed this possibility with a ministerial counterpart in Singapore. Further to this, Lana Read will also present these learnings among her peers in Canberra and contribute to fostering greater school and teacher exchange into the future.

As a final focus, the delegation looked at how these two systems build on the foundations of a rewarding life beyond school for every young person. Both countries are decreasing the emphasis on academic achievements and increasing emphasis on broader, general capabilities that will serve young people well in a life beyond school. In other words, you do not improve overall performance by focusing narrowly on tests. This was another area where I was happy to see the ACT lining up so well with these countries.

Like Canberra, both Singapore and Finland are increasingly reliant on the knowledge economy. This requires a different emphasis in teaching and learning. One of the main components of the Australian curriculum is the general capabilities, including critical and creative thinking, intercultural understanding and personal and social capability. This is a great start to preparing Canberra's young people in a different way, and some of our ACT schools use this as part of the Australian curriculum really well. If Australian schools are going to make sure every young person has a rewarding life beyond school, then governments need to make sure that they more strongly emphasise this part of the curriculum.

Specifically in terms of IT use in teaching and learning, ACT schools are as advanced as any we observed in Singapore or Finland; again something to be celebrated and to build on. One further thing that struck me in both Singapore and Finland that contributes to their high levels of student achievement is the bilingual and multilingual nature of their populations and their school programs. This is not something that we can easily replicate in Canberra or Australia more broadly, but it reinforces for me the importance of fostering ongoing learning of home languages and continuing to emphasise quality language programs in our schools. The government's commitment to language scholarships for teachers funded in this budget will help. The ACT has the highest proportions of students studying languages in years 3 to 8 in Australia, and we should continue to build on that.

This trip made clear the importance to the ACT government of continuing to invest in reform across a range of areas, such as needs-based funding, inclusive schools, quality teaching, school review and improvement, school leadership, modern infrastructure, digital education, community and parent engagement and the quality agenda in early childhood. It brought valuable lessons to my work and that of the ACT government across numerous portfolios, and I thank the many individuals and organisations in both countries that were so generous in meeting with us.

Madam Assistant Speaker, I present a copy of the statement:

Cross-portfolio delegation to Singapore and Finland—Ministerial statement,
3 August 2017.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—Accommodation for female detainees

Ministerial statement

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Mental Health) (11.29): The Alexander Maconochie Centre is Canberra's sole adult prison. It houses remanded and sentenced men and women. The level of incarceration rates continues to place pressure on ACT Corrective Services and accommodation arrangements in the AMC. Incarceration rates for women, both remanded and sentenced, have steadily increased since the AMC opened in 2009. In the last two years the numbers have increased more rapidly. Recently, the AMC has experienced unprecedented numbers of female detainees, in particular, the number of women on remand. Forecasts could not predict the extent or the speed of the rise in female detainee numbers. At its peak this year, the AMC housed 45 women.

Reliable forecasting is inherently difficult because forecasters are unable to predict what changes might occur in population trends, community factors and significant events, changes in legislation and sentencing trends. The relatively sudden increase in female detainee numbers is a development for which we were unable to plan. While last year's successful AMC accommodation expansion project catered for the existing and forecast increase in numbers of male detainees, such a steep rise in the number of women was unforeseen.

The AMC was built with 25 beds designated for women. An additional four beds were installed to increase capacity to 29. This has left the AMC experiencing increasing accommodation pressures as existing options are insufficient to meet demand. With the AMC being the only adult prison in Canberra, accommodation needs are made more complex due to separation requirements. Increasing accommodation cannot be addressed by simply adding more beds. People who have a history in the broader community may not be able to be accommodated together. Consideration must also be given to the separation needs of the detainees and, above all, safety within the AMC.

When the prison was expanded last year to accommodate growing numbers of men predicted to enter custody there was no data to suggest the growth in women's numbers would be so significant that capacity was likely to be reached in the near future. At the time the women's accommodation area was only at two-thirds capacity. ACT Corrective Services has already implemented arrangements to accommodate the growing number of women. In 2017 the management unit was repurposed to house female detainees. The unit is capable of housing 14 detainees in single cells. This provides the combined capacity of the women's and management units of 44 beds. Additionally, four health ward beds are used when necessary to accommodate additional female detainees.

ACT Corrective Services is looking at further ways to continue to house the growing number of women within the existing infrastructure at the AMC. Short and medium-term options for women's accommodation have been identified within the

AMC's footprint while still ensuring that women remain accommodated separately from men. Risk assessments and planning for increased numbers of women are already well underway. In addition, ACT Corrective Services is undertaking a feasibility study into the future needs of the ACT's prison population. The needs of women detainees, particularly with respect to accommodation, is the top priority of the feasibility study.

The rise in female detainee numbers is not unique to the ACT. Sadly, it is a national trend. Every jurisdiction in Australia is grappling with the same issue but all other jurisdictions have more than one adult prison to manage the increasing numbers. Data released from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 8 June 2017 shows that the largest increases have been in remand, Indigenous and female detainees. This is also evident in data provided by the ACT to the report on government statistics.

Numerous factors have contributed to the rise in female detainee numbers. Canberra is a growing city; there are more people living here than ever before. We also have to keep in mind that we have a relatively small prison population, so when we talk about a big percentage increase, we may only be referring to a few more detainees. This is particularly the case for women.

I will now turn to programs available for female detainees. Women at the AMC have access to programs, employment opportunities and education to improve rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. Women can participate in life development programs like self-care skills for women, a Marymead program co-facilitated by ACT Corrective Services. This program has a strong focus on teaching women relaxation strategies to cope with stress. It also looks at mental health and physical health. ACT Corrective Services facilitates the out of the dark program, designed for women who have been victims of domestic and family abuse. This 14-hour program helps participants identify issues around domestic and family violence as well as identifying the options and supports available.

If appropriate, women in the AMC have access to SHINE for Kids, a program which facilitates access to their children. Other programs available to women include cognitive self-change, which is targeted to medium to high-risk offenders aiming to reduce reoffending. Women can access the sober driver program if they have certain types of drink-driving offences and SMART—self management and recovery training—to address behaviours such as alcohol and other drug use.

There are a growing number of employment opportunities for women at the AMC due to the government's investment in prison industries. Women will be able to work in the newly completed bakery. The new recycling bay provides jobs for women. Women and men both continue to be employed within their units as cleaners, in laundry roles and in cleaning and maintenance roles within other buildings in the AMC.

Vocational education programs in fields such as hairdressing, hospitality, business services, community services, information and communication technology, waste recycling and sustainability, culture and land management, first aid, and cleaning

operations are all available to women. The AMC currently has five women enrolled at the University of Southern Queensland tertiary preparation program. Many women spend their time in the AMC staying in cottages which promotes independence and fosters learning skills beneficial to their return to the community.

It is this focus that I must emphasise. Most women in our prison will return to our community at some stage. We owe it to them and to the community to best equip them for this transition so as to prevent their return to the AMC. Women in detention often have complex needs, as you would expect of one of the most vulnerable groups in our community. They may have experienced issues with mental health, drug or alcohol use, relationships, education, employment and accommodation. They are also likely to be mothers or have caring responsibilities in the home. Going to prison may have wide-reaching consequences for women including losing their jobs, their housing or even custody of their children.

Our extended through-care program provides support to detainees re-entering the community from custody either directly or through an outreach provider or community organisation. Through-care participants are assisted with basic needs like opening bank accounts and gathering identification, transport on the day of release and toiletries. They are also given help in sourcing appropriate accommodation, arranging health care, assisting with financial stability and developing pro-social connections.

It is important that I note that the extended through-care program is offered to all females released from the AMC whether they leave because they are granted bail, have their charges withdrawn or dismissed or have completed their sentence. This is different for males as only sentenced males are offered through-care program support. By offering all women through-care program support it is hoped that they will be more likely to remain in the community and not reoffend or return to custody.

I am heartened by the results of the recent evaluation of the extended through-care program by the University of New South Wales which showed that, in particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were benefitting from their involvement in the program. Indeed the government has, as part of the 2017-18 budget committed a further \$5.3 million to continuing this program. I look forward to seeing more positive outcomes for women in the extended through-care program.

I reassure the Assembly and the ACT community that I remain committed to providing Canberra's female detainees with appropriate accommodation and support during their time in custody. I present a copy of the statement:

Alexander Maconochie Centre—Accommodation for female detainees—
Ministerial statement, 3 August 2017.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2017

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (11.39): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2017 into the Assembly today. Members of the Assembly will be aware that the government is working on a range of initiatives designed to reduce the harm from gambling. Harm minimisation is absolutely this government's priority. Our approach to gaming machines will be based on the evidence about how we can minimise harm. Our evidence-based policies will be shaped through consultation with experts, the community and clubs.

One important feature of this government's consultation is the recognition that clubs offer sport, recreation and other opportunities for people to participate in their communities. The social contribution that clubs make needs to be valued, supported and, where possible, expanded. That is why ACT Labor took to the election a support package for small and medium clubs. This bill is another example of the government getting right down to business on its commitments. We promised to help smaller clubs in the transition away from gaming machine revenue. Today's bill does just that.

The amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 2004 in this bill provide tax rebates, reduce regulatory burdens around tax lodgement and payment requirements and improve the community's access to social impact assessments. Small and medium clubs and club groups are defined as gaming machine licensees or groups of licensees with aggregate gross gaming machine revenue of less than \$4 million for the financial year. This income level means that up to 17 clubs or club groups, based on 2015-16 revenue, would be eligible for support.

An important feature of the legislation is that it defines "club group" much like an organisation is defined for payroll tax purposes. Common branding, shared board members and other features mean that income from multiple gaming licences may be treated as counting towards the \$4 million threshold. These provisions mean, for example, that the tradesmen's clubs will not be eligible for the assistance package. The package is designed especially to target smaller organisations.

There are two key support features for clubs in this package: a 50 per cent gaming machine tax rebate and a \$10,000 grant. The tax rebate takes effect from 1 July 2017 and will mean that eligible clubs get back 50 per cent of their gaming machine tax for the financial year. The purpose of the rebate is to give clubs funds to invest in sources of income other than gaming machines.

The boost will support our local clubs to find ways to diversify. It will help them remain viable and offer services to the community without acquiring more gaming machines or relying on more money being spent on gaming machines.

Consistent with our election commitment, there is also a red tape reduction element in this bill. Eligible clubs will be able to apply for a partial refund of the tax that they have paid to date this financial year and this can be offset against future liabilities. If, at the end of the financial year, an eligible club or club group's gross gaming machine revenue has exceeded \$4 million, rebates will have to be paid back. They will also be able to lodge gaming machine tax returns, make tax payments and make problem gambling assistance fund contributions quarterly should they choose.

This measure helps clubs to manage their cash flows. The gaming machine tax rebate provisions contained in the bill will be reviewed after two years of operation, with a report to be provided to the Legislative Assembly by 30 November 2019. At that time the government will be looking to see diversification away from gaming and investment in new community services by clubs.

Although not set down in legislation, there is an important part of this package that also supports diversification. Eligible small and medium clubs and club groups will be able to apply for a \$10,000 community club grant in the coming months also to assist them in diversifying their revenue away from gaming. This, as with the tax rebate, was part of the Labor government's election commitment to support clubs.

In addition, this support measure will be implemented in a way that meets the Select Committee on Estimates recommendation in relation to the clubs assistance package. Recommendation 27 of the select committee's report calls on the government to:

... include a requirement for clubs to provide a brief plan indicating how funds will be used to diversify their business models in order to be eligible for the one off \$10,000 grant as part of the small clubs assistance package.

The community club grants will be administered by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. There will be an application process. Clubs will have to demonstrate how the \$10,000 grant will be used to assist the diversification activities and to support alternative income streams.

Uses of the grant could include the purchase of an oven or appliances for improved food and beverage offerings, new fixtures and fittings in non-gaming areas, or consultancy fees for planning and development advice. But the key purpose is to promote investment in ways to be more independent of gaming machine revenue.

The final element of the bill that I outline today is directly about harm minimisation. Harm minimisation is and will remain the focus of gaming machine regulation. Earlier in the year I announced that I would bring forward legislation to enable online access as well as physical access to social impact assessments.

This bill provides that any social impact assessment provided to the Gambling and Racing Commission may be accessed on the commission's website in addition to a physical copy being made available for inspection at a location nominated on the commission's website. Under the Gaming Machine Act a social impact assessment provides an objective analysis of the likely economic and social impact of an introduction, or increase in the number, of gaming machines on the local community.

When a licensee is seeking a new gaming machine authorisation certificate or an expansion to an existing authorisation certificate, a social impact assessment must be prepared by the licensee and provided to the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission. Members of the public can currently inspect a social impact assessment at the Gambling and Racing Commission's office during business hours for a period of six weeks and make written submissions. Online access will enable interested members of the community to copy or take extracts of the social impact assessment material should they wish to lodge a submission.

This bill makes several important changes to the Gaming Machine Act to support sustainable community clubs in the ACT now and into the future. The support package is tailored to support small and medium clubs to keep on offering a wide, diverse range of services to Canberra. The focus of this support, consistent with our overall policy on gaming, is to help clubs move away from electronic gaming machines as a source of revenue. Canberrans have overwhelmingly supported a harm minimisation policy and this government is responding.

In addition to supporting a move away from gaming machine revenue by clubs, this bill directly contributes to harm reduction by giving members of the community better access to information about social impact assessments. This will allow people who are concerned about changes to the number of gaming machines in their community to better participate in the decision-making process.

Taken as a whole, this bill represents yet another example of the government delivering exactly what it promised in the election and, more importantly, it is another plank in the government's efforts to strengthen and enhance the regulation of gaming machines in the territory. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Gaming Machine (Cash Facilities) Amendment Bill 2017

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (11.49): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am very pleased to introduce the Gaming Machine (Cash Facilities) Amendment Bill 2017 into the Assembly today. This bill is itself an important part of gaming regulation. But it is also part of a broad, multi-faceted approach to reducing the impact of problem gambling. I would like to foreshadow that this government, as it has made clear, will be introducing comprehensive reform on gaming. We will be reducing the number of gaming machines in the territory. We will be examining a range of additional harm reduction rules, including pre-commitments and bet limits.

We know that we are pursuing these changes with the full support of this community. ACT Labor went to the election with a strong policy on reducing the harms from electronic poker machines. Canberra voters clearly supported a harm minimisation approach. In my first statement of ministerial priorities in this Assembly, I identified harm minimisation and assisting clubs to diversify their business models as key portfolio initiatives. This government has been consistent in its support for harm minimisation.

This government's implementation of gaming reform will be evidence-based and shaped by consultation. What that means is that where there are data and research about how to regulate gaming to minimise harm, we will act on it. It also means that in implementing change, we are going to talk to the community about how they view those changes, to experts about how our changes align with the evidence, and to clubs and other licensees about what they can do.

Reforms have the most meaningful impacts when they are based on evidence and they are targeted to our community's needs through consultation. Today's bill is about the availability of cash and how it affects problem gambling. The territory limits ATM withdrawals at clubs to \$250 per day. This limitation is designed to ensure that for people affected by problem gambling, there is a brake on their ability to access cash.

Earlier in the year I asked the Gambling and Racing Commission to investigate cash withdrawals at gaming venues. The commission's audit checked compliance with existing ATM restrictions as well as looking at the accessibility of EFTPOS facilities. While the audit found that ATM controls were in the main being complied with, concerns were raised that EFTPOS cash withdrawals were being used as a means to circumvent the intent of the ATM restriction to limit the amount of cash able to be withdrawn to \$250.

In response to the findings of that report, and based on consultation with clubs and the community, this bill contains amendments that will limit clubs to one EFTPOS facility where a person can withdraw cash at the premises; require that any withdrawal of cash from an EFTPOS facility must not exceed \$200; require that the person operating the EFTPOS facility must be a staff member who has been trained in the responsible provision of gambling services; and require the person operating the EFTPOS facility to confirm the amount of cash to be withdrawn before it is withdrawn and to hand the cash directly to the person making the withdrawal.

The changes being introduced by the bill recognise that the voluntary code of practice currently in place to ensure that EFTPOS transactions were not undermining ATM restrictions has not worked. The government's view is that we need to do more. We know from our audit and from the shared experiences of problem gamblers in Canberra that access to unlimited cash withdrawals from EFTPOS facilities provides a way of circumventing the intent of the daily \$250 ATM withdrawal limit.

We know that research into gambling, health and wellbeing in the ACT undertaken in 2014 by the Australian National University showed general support for limiting cash withdrawals in gaming machine venues. The government has been actively exploring ways to address this issue. Consultation has been occurring with clubs on appropriate ways to place restrictions on cash withdrawals from EFTPOS facilities in clubs. All clubs in the ACT were invited to provide input, and while they have expressed a range of views, there is definitely recognition in the sector that harm minimisation is a priority.

Going forward, it will be important for everyone in the industry and in community organisations to recognise that all of this government's engagement will be focused on harm minimisation. We have a clear mandate from the community to introduce new rules that minimise the effects of problem gambling, and we will be looking for partners to achieve that outcome.

There are sound reasons for the restrictions on EFTPOS limits to be crafted as they are in this bill. These restrictions will ensure that any EFTPOS cash withdrawal involves interaction with a staff member. That staff member must be trained to recognise, and to respond appropriately, if it appears that the person making the withdrawal may have a gambling problem. These requirements will avoid the current scenario where cash withdrawals up to any amount are able to be made at multiple locations in authorised premises, sometimes from unstaffed EFTPOS cash-out machines. They are a restriction that will support staff to identify people who may be affected by problem gambling and to offer assistance.

The bill provides for the specific controls around the use of EFTPOS facilities through the amendments to the Gaming Machine Regulation 2004. This is an important feature of the bill. Implementing these controls by regulation, rather than through the principal act, allows for flexibility and responsiveness to changes in the clubs sector. As this new regulation is implemented, the government will be closely monitoring its effects. If there is any evidence that EFTPOS machines remain an issue for enforcing our cash withdrawal limitations, we will be able to respond quickly.

As with our existing ATM limits, there will be some exceptions to recognise the relatively lower risks associated with very small clubs and hotels. Small clubs and hotels are currently exempt from the \$250 ATM withdrawal limit. These venues will be exempt from these new provisions. This is because gross revenue per gaming machine is generally lower in small clubs and hotels.

The bill also includes a technical amendment to the existing exemptions to the ATM cash withdrawal limits in section 153A of the Gaming Machine Act. This technical amendment amends the way the exemptions are drafted to better reflect changes made by the Gaming Machine (Reform) Amendment Act 2015. The effect of the provision is the same.

The community clearly has an interest in these measures commencing sooner rather than later. Clubs already have staff trained in the responsible provision of gambling services, and the amendments will commence on 1 September 2017 to provide clubs with time to comply with the new requirements.

The restrictions on EFTPOS withdrawals are based on the principle that restricting the available cash to gamblers while they are gambling will reduce harm. Limiting this access will mean that overspending becomes less likely. The amendments I am introducing today mean that people will need to take a break and interact with a trained staff member if they wish to withdraw more cash.

These amendments represent just one of a number of important reforms the government is implementing to support gambling harm minimisation. These new rules, and all of the government's harm minimisation measures to come, will be evidence based. They will be targeted to this community's needs through consultation with the community, with experts, with clubs and with other licensees.

Today's bill and the work that led to its development represent a clear direction towards harm minimisation. As I outlined earlier, the election and everything we know about Canberra's attitudes towards gaming show us that harm minimisation is something that Canberrans support. Our consultation, our consideration of the evidence, and our engagement with the community is and will continue to be focused on reducing the impacts of problem gambling. Harm minimisation is the cornerstone of the government's policy.

This bill, like the rest of our gaming machine reforms, lives up to the government's commitments, and it lives up to the expectations of our community on gambling reform. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Independent legal arbiters—publication of reports

MS BURCH (Brindabella) (12.00): I move:

That:

- (1) the report of the Independent Legal Arbiter appointed in relation to the call for the release of the AECOM Infrastructure Report be authorised for publication; and

- (2) the report of the Independent Legal Arbiter appointed in relation to the call for the release of certain agenda papers for the Public Housing Renewal Steering Committee be authorised for publication.

This is really a procedural matter. There have been two independent arbiters' legal advices. Their reports were provided to members outside the sitting period and this motion just allows for them to be authorised for publication.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Report 4

Debate resumed from 8 June 2017, on motion by **Mr Wall**:

That the report be adopted.

And on the amendment moved by **Ms Cheyne**:

After the word “adopted”, add “with the following amendments to the proposed Code of Conduct detailed in recommendation 2:

- (1) in paragraph (7), omit ‘, effective and economic’, substitute ‘and efficient’;
- (2) omit paragraph (12)(c); and
- (3) in paragraph (13), omit ‘materially impede their capacity to perform’, substitute ‘unreasonably impact on’.

Amendment agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

Legislative Assembly—reaffirmation of code of conduct

Debate resumed from 8 June 2017, on motion by **Ms Burch**:

That we, the Members of the Ninth Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, having adopted a code of conduct for Members, reaffirm our commitment to the principles, obligations and aspirations of the code,

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Report 3

Debate resumed from 8 June 2017, on motion by **Ms Cheyne**:

That the report be adopted.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Aboriginal reconciliation

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (12.02): I move

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) 27 May 2017 marked the 50 year anniversary of the 1967 referendum which required that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people be counted in the census and gave the Commonwealth Parliament powers to make laws with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - (b) 3 June 2017 marked 25 years since the historic Mabo High Court decision which ended the false doctrine of Terra Nullius and recognised the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over their lands;
 - (c) on 26 May 2017, delegates to the 2017 First Nations National Constitutional Convention released the Uluru Statement from the Heart, calling for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Australian Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about Australian history;
 - (d) the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body has been established by the ACT Government as an innovative and unique model underpinning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community development and self-determination in the ACT;
 - (e) the theme for National Reconciliation Week, which ran from 27 May-3 June 2017, was “Let’s Take the Next Steps”; and
 - (f) NAIDOC Week (2-9 July 2017) will celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with a focus on the importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages;
- (2) acknowledges and respects the continuing culture and contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to the life of this region;
- (3) affirms its commitment to the principles in the Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation and Wellbeing of Communities from the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2015-2018*, including:

- (a) supporting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to freely determine their political status and to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development in line with the right to self-determination;
 - (b) recognising the ongoing effects of trans-generational trauma, caused by past government policies, on members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community; and
 - (c) acknowledging and valuing local knowledge, expertise and contributions from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, elders groups, service providers and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body in order to meet the diverse needs of the community in a holistic and culturally appropriate way;
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) continue to work in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to achieve improved and equitable outcomes through strong connections to culture, supporting people through the justice system, expanding outreach and other health programs, and improving career opportunities;
 - (b) support efforts to progress the national conversation to reach a sincere and meaningful reconciliation with First Australians; and
 - (c) remain engaged with Commonwealth discussions regarding meaningful constitutional reform; and
- (5) calls on the Assembly to write to the Prime Minister and Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Affairs to express the Assembly's support for continuing and prioritising the national conversation about reconciliation and constitutional reform with First Australians.

I bring this motion to the Assembly today to recognise one of the most significant milestone moments for Aboriginal and Torres Islander people since 1967. We have reached an important moment in the journey towards reconciliation and constitutional reform with the release of the Uluru statement from the heart and the delivery of the final report of the Referendum Council to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

In recent months we have also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum, 25 years since the historic Mabo High Court decision, National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. Each of these events plays a special role in our history and it is right that we come together in this place to speak to their significance. While we celebrate these important milestones we also look to the future and know that there is still a lot of work to do. There may be different views on what reconciliation and constitutional reform will look like but first and foremost we must listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, who have come together and mapped out a way forward through the Uluru statement.

I rise today to reaffirm my and the Greens' support for, and commitment to, the following fundamental principles as the basis for meaningful reform. First, any proposal must be developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As Dr Chris Sarra said, "Do things with us, not to us." Secondly, the conversation about reconciliation must be based on building a relationship founded on truth and justice; and, thirdly, constitutional reforms need to be more than symbolic. Rather, they must be designed to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and give them a voice in our democracy.

Today we have an opportunity to lend the support of this Assembly to meaningful reconciliation and constitutional reform. The Uluru statement clearly articulates a path forward, led and endorsed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from across Australia. The Uluru statement sits alongside a strong history of Aboriginal advocacy and calls for reforms. What is being asked for is not new; it is simply presented in a new form and in the voice of today's community leaders. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been advocating for a voice, for reconciliation, for treaty and for truth and justice for decades.

Even before they were recognised as Australian citizens through the 1967 referendum, Indigenous people were petitioning the Australian government to acknowledge and listen to them. The 1963 Yirrkala bark petitions stated:

The people of this area fear that their needs and interests will be completely ignored as they have been ignored in the past.

As mining encroached on the lands of the Yirrkala people, they sent two petitions to parliament, in both Yolngu Matha and English, protesting the excision of their land and their exclusion from the process. In 1988 the Barunga statement was presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke, calling on the government to negotiate a treaty recognising Aboriginal peoples' prior ownership, continued occupation and sovereignty over their ancestral lands and affirming their human rights and freedoms. The then Prime Minister said he wanted to conclude a treaty between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians by 1990, but his wish was not fulfilled.

In 1993 over 400 Indigenous people from across Australia gathered at Eva Valley, near Katherine, in the wake of the Mabo decision. They issued a statement calling for laws to advance first peoples' rights to land and a lasting settlement recognising and addressing historical truths regarding the impact of dispossession, marginalisation, destabilisation and disadvantage.

In 1998 the Kalkarindji statement was developed by the Combined Aboriginal Nations of Central Australia and was signed by around 50 senior elders. It was developed at the Kalkarindji constitutional convention, near the site of the historic Wave Hill walk-off, and it called for a new constitution for the Northern Territory, based on equality, co-existence and mutual respect.

Jump forward to 2015, when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders delivered the Kirribilli statement following a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. This statement calls for substantive changes to the Australian Constitution to lay the foundations for the fair treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples into the future. The statement notes that constitutional recognition is only part of the solution, and it must be accompanied by other measures to address the historic and ongoing disadvantage that has resulted from past mistreatment.

Throughout this history of protest and advocacy there is a familiar echo, and we hear it again in the Uluru statement from the heart delivered at the National Constitutional Convention this year. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to feel powerless in our democracy. The statement tells us that their voices are not being heard and that this can only be addressed through substantive constitutional change and structural reform.

It has taken us too long to learn the lessons of our history, to listen to the voices of Indigenous Australians. Now we are presented with an opportunity to embark on a process of agreement-making and truth-telling that will allow us to walk forward together. While it is not the responsibility of this place to start a national conversation, we can and must lend our support to the process, because grassroots participation and support will drive this forward. Today's motion seeks to express a hope that this will be a priority for our country, not just another lost opportunity as has happened so many times before.

It is also important to recognise that a key part of the Uluru statement was that it spoke directly to the Australian people. It was not a statement directed only to the Prime Minister and those in federal parliament. It reinforced the notion that each of us can actively engage with this message, listen to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and participate in this journey.

As is mentioned in the Uluru statement, the process of truth-telling will be central to any reconciliation process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our history includes some dark periods which have never been properly acknowledged. So I will take this opportunity to put some fundamental facts on the record today.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands and possessed it under their own laws and customs. The sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over these lands has never been ceded or extinguished and coexists with the sovereignty of the Crown. Settler massacres of first peoples were widespread across the colonial frontier. Between 1794 and 1872 there were least 150 recorded massacres in eastern Australia. It would appear that almost every clan was affected. The disadvantage suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today is associated with both historical and contemporary racism, colonisation and oppression.

Acknowledging these truths can play an important role in the reconciliation process and, as the Uluru statement notes, the underlying issues within each of these statements need to be worked through. This may be through a truth and reconciliation commission—as has occurred in other nations, including Canada and South Africa—or some other way. Regardless of the mechanism, as a nation we need to acknowledge historical grievances and provide a forum to resolve them in order to move forward together.

As the final report of the Referendum Council says, we have not yet made these truths part of our Australian history or our Australian story. Truth and reconciliation is also important to help non-Indigenous Australians get a deeper understanding of what it means to walk in two worlds. The Uluru statement lays out a vision where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will have power over their own destiny and where first nations children will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

To better understand this idea, I have drawn on the words of Galarrwuy Yunupingu, leader of the Gumatj clan, 1978 Australian of the Year and member of the Referendum Council, who wrote about this idea in his essay “Rom Watangu” in *The Monthly* last year. He wrote:

My father had to sacrifice much, too much, to reconcile his life with the ways of the modern world. But he did so. What Aboriginal people ask is that the modern world now makes the sacrifices necessary to give us a real future. To relax its grip on us. To let us breathe, to let us be free of the determined control exerted on us to make us like you. And you should take that a step further and recognise us for who we are, and not who you want us to be. Let us be who we are—Aboriginal people in a modern world—and be proud of us. Acknowledge that we have survived the worst that the past had thrown at us, and we are here with our songs, our ceremonies, our land, our language and our people—our full identity. What a gift this is that we can give you, if you choose to accept us in a meaningful way.

We need to work together to ensure that our local communities and broader society understand and cater for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. While much of our constitutional system, our system of government, the rule of law and our public institutions were inherited from Britain, they now exist for the benefit of all Australians, including the first peoples.

Our national day of celebration is one example that I will use here. For many Australians, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 26 January is not a day of celebration but is seen as a day which commemorates the invasion by British settlers of lands already owned. Whether you view British colonisation as a settlement or an invasion, the reality is that these two perspectives exist and therefore the marking of Australia Day on January 26 means that this day cannot be one that unifies our country. The campaign to change the date is growing louder every year. I hope we can find a date that allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to walk in both worlds and celebrate our national day alongside non-Indigenous Australians.

I raise this example, not as the key point of this motion or a question that we should seek to resolve here today. I recognise that many people do not support the changing of the date of Australia Day, and that is a legitimate point of view. I raise it as just one example of how our society could be better at incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories and perspectives into our national identity.

First nations peoples should not feel like they have to choose between one world or the other; they should be able to walk proudly and confidently in both. It is also important to say that while this motion does not directly address the significant disadvantage that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience, including here in the ACT, I do not wish to hide from this difficult reality. The Uluru statement notes that Indigenous Australians are the most incarcerated people in the world, and here in the ACT we continue to see unacceptably high rates of Indigenous incarcerations at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. We have high rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people removed from their families and too many Indigenous young people in detention. The health and life expectancy gaps, which we have been talking about closing for so many years, still remain.

As I said earlier, we have a long way to go. Constitutional reform cannot be seen as a solution to all these problems. However, it is an important process that needs to occur alongside local efforts to address disadvantage and improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I hope that this motion today is not seen as just more political rhetoric in a space that has had too many words and not enough action. I understand the cynicism that has developed after so many years of stalled progress and lost opportunities.

I want to be clear that I do not stand here today trying to speak for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our local Indigenous communities are full of strong, capable elders and leaders who speak for themselves and who can speak for their communities. I stand here today to affirm my and the Greens' commitment to listening to these voices and to acknowledging that there is much more we have to do.

Given this moment in our history, I feel it is important to highlight the amount of work that went into developing the Uluru statement. This statement reaffirms what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been telling us for decades now: truth-telling and constitutional reform are fundamentally important to the ongoing process of reconciliation.

As members of this place, we must not shirk this opportunity to make a real commitment to the change outlined in the Uluru statement and the report of the Referendum Council. I commend the motion to the Assembly as an opportunity to state our support for those important commitments and for progress in the process of true reconciliation in Australia. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (12.16): I thank the Greens and Mr Rattenbury for bringing this motion to the Assembly today. This is a significant year for the Indigenous community. It has been 50 years since the 1967 national referendum,

which removed an area of discrimination from the Australian Constitution, allowing Aboriginal Australians to be counted in the census, thus recognising them as full citizens of this great country of ours. This continued the movement to full recognition begun by the Robert Menzies Liberal government, which, in 1962, amended the Commonwealth Electoral Act to give Indigenous Australians the vote in federal elections. This period was a momentous time in our nation's history.

This year we also commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Mabo High Court decision, ending the doctrine of terra nullius, thereby recognising the rights of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over their native lands. In recognition, the federal government has this week launched a new online mapping tool, which visualises and enables discovery of registered native title representative bodies throughout Australia. The mapping clearly shows the progress that has been made since the High Court decision in 1992 in the recognition of native title across many areas of Australia.

This year is also the ninth year since the closing the gap agreement was signed by COAG. This agreement set a number of ambitious targets for closing the gap in outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. In the lead-up to the 10th anniversary, much has changed. A welcome change has been the move from a deficit language model to a strength-based approach that supports Indigenous advancement, which focuses on working in partnership with, not for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

But the grim reality is that, whilst we are making progress on closing the gap in some areas, it is not enough. And especially here, in the ACT, where the Labor Party has been in government for the whole time of the closing the gap initiative and where Indigenous numbers are small, we should have been able to make a significant difference, but we are not.

I would like the Assembly to note that this government is failing Indigenous Canberrans in education, in public housing, in public service employment, in health care, in the growing prison numbers and, most disturbingly, in child and youth protection services. Each of these areas is distressing. All have been highlighted in the media in recent times and more damning information has come to light. The lack of clear information is predominantly because this Labor government has moved away from cross-portfolio reporting. It has attempted to hide evidence of failure and lack of progress by separating it into individual directorate annual reports and budgets. But analysis of the NAPLAN results, annual closing the gap reports and reports on government services again and again demonstrates that not only is the ACT government failing to close the gap but in some circumstances the gap is widening.

In education the results are particularly damning. Students not attending school is one issue, but the fact is that the achievements and outcomes gap, as measured by NAPLAN, is not closing. Furthermore, when comparing ACT outcomes with those of other metropolitan areas of Australia, we are lagging a long way behind. It is all very well for the government to report that they are reaching the national minimum

benchmark. However, that is not closing the gap; that is maintaining the gap. As the *Canberra Times* shouted loud and clear this week, ACT students are at the top of the nation. All of them? No, not Indigenous students. We call on the ACT government to work with the Indigenous community to make a difference in the educational outcomes of Indigenous children and young people.

Public housing is another area of significant failure. This government is a signatory to the national affordable housing agreement, which agreed as an outcome that Indigenous people would have the same housing opportunities as other Australians and that Indigenous people be provided with safe and appropriate housing. The agreement also establishes that it is the role of the territory to take responsibility for leadership in the matter of an Indigenous housing policy. This government has failed on both counts.

The Indigenous community does not have its own or appropriate public housing, administered or supported by Indigenous organisations. What Indigenous public housing there once was has been absorbed into the general pool, administered by non-Indigenous organisations. With regard to relocation into appropriate public housing, 50 per cent of Indigenous families are still waiting. But a failure in this area is to be expected when there is no Indigenous public housing policy to direct the actions of government agencies. We call on the government to work with the Indigenous community to develop an Indigenous housing policy—one that would supply, support and administer appropriate housing for Indigenous families.

An area where the ACT government could be making a significant difference but is failing is employment levels in the ACT public service. The 2008 COAG Indigenous employment strategy committed this government to a target of three per cent of Indigenous employment in the sector by 2018. In its 2011-15 employment strategy, this government committed the ACT public service to increasing the employment of Indigenous peoples from 0.9 per cent to two per cent, as a halfway measure. Yet it has failed to achieve even this. This government has set the bar so low that it literally is tripping over it. Recent estimates figures have revealed that although some progress has been made, Indigenous employment is still only 1.4 per cent of the total workforce. We therefore call on this government to be serious about the employment of Indigenous people in the ACT public service, to work with Indigenous employment agencies and offer genuine employment opportunities to hit the original target.

In child and youth protection services, the numbers of Indigenous cases are woeful. There has been an almost doubling of the number of children receiving child protection services such as investigations, care and protection orders and out of home care. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare annual report on child protection for 2015-16 shows that the rate ratio for Indigenous children receiving child protection services in the ACT was nearly 12 times that of non-Indigenous children. This is the highest in Australia. Are we, here in the ACT, heading towards a second stolen generation? It is good to know that the government is establishing an inquiry. We call on the government to release the terms of the inquiry forthwith, prioritising this as a matter of some urgency.

I could go on. We recognise that this is a difficult area. I am not oblivious to the many issues of disadvantage, even intergenerational disadvantage, which are experienced by Indigenous Canberrans. But I wonder whether enough is being done to alleviate these. Are we doing enough to empower the community to work through their own problems? At the national level the federal Liberal government has made the courageous and momentous decision that only Indigenous organisations should be funded to support the work of overcoming disadvantage in Indigenous communities. Mr Scullion based his decision on the overwhelming evidence that the best outcomes from services designed to address Indigenous disadvantage are achieved when those services are designed and delivered by Aboriginal organisations.

This begs the question: are the decisions in the ACT made to employ certain non-Indigenous organisations to support the work of overcoming disadvantage in the Indigenous community the right ones? We know that in a strength-based approach we need to be focusing on working with, not for, and doing it with them, not to them.

The theme for this year's National Reconciliation Week was "Let's take the next steps". What are the next steps? For this government it would appear to be more of the same. I therefore call on this government to make a difference: as a next step, to commit to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT; as a next step, to employ and fund only Indigenous organisations to do the work of overcoming disadvantage in the Indigenous community; as a next step, to allow Indigenous organisations to design and deliver programs that achieve the best outcomes to actually address Indigenous disadvantage; and, as a next step, ultimately to start to make a difference and finally begin to close the gap.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (12.26): I would like to start by thanking Minister Rattenbury for bringing this motion to the Assembly. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of the motion. In speaking to this motion today, it is appropriate to acknowledge, again, the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. As the motion itself asked the Assembly to do, I acknowledge and respect the continuing culture and contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to the life of this city and our region.

As the motion sets out, this year we celebrated two significant anniversaries—the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum and the 25th anniversary of the Mabo decision which overturned the myth of terra nullius. The ACT government was pleased to support celebrations of both of these anniversaries, the first with the NAIDOC Committee and the second with the Torres Strait Islander association of the ACT. I attended both of those events and enjoyed them very much. I also attended the Sorry Day bridge walk the day before the anniversary of the referendum and the day that the Uluru statement was delivered.

Sorry Day is a reminder to us all every year of how far we have to go and of the impact of intergenerational trauma on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The *Bringing them home* report found, in one of its most shocking findings, that no Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family had likely been left unaffected by past forced removal policies. That is something we must always bear in mind.

As the motion notes, the government's ongoing commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs is set out in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement 2015-18. In 2015 the ACT government signed the agreement alongside the elected body. The agreement provides strategic direction for ACT government policies and actions, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice agreement, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy, the ACT public service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment strategy, and any future strategies.

The agreement was developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, service partners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and ACT government directorates. It sets out the ACT government's commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, frames the way the ACT government will work with the community, specifies key areas of focus and identifies high-level outcomes and initiatives that will make a difference in life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the work undertaken by Mr Rattenbury, Ms Berry and Dr Bourke as previous ministers in the portfolio, in the development and implementation of the agreement. As the motion notes, the government reaffirms its commitment to the principles in the statement of commitment to reconciliation and the wellbeing of communities from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement. I will not repeat them, given that they are in the motion and we are running short of time.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body is a unique model of facilitating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community development and self-determination in the ACT. The ACT government established the body in 2008 and since then it has been a strong voice for the community as it advocates for the rights, goals and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans.

As I mentioned in question time yesterday, the elected body held elections for a fourth term in NAIDOC Week this year, with a record 25 nominees vying for seven positions. A record number of votes were cast. I look forward to working with the fourth elected body, particularly in regard to the development of a new agreement next year to replace the current agreement. As I have said in public and in this place, I am open to having a broad conversation with the elected body and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community about the form that that agreement will take.

I am also engaged, and look forward to continuing to be engaged, in the national conversation in relation to some of the main things that this motion touches on—the Uluru statement from the heart and the report of the Referendum Council. As the foreword from the co-chairs of the Referendum Council states:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have long struggled for constitutional recognition. As far back as Yorta Yorta elder William Cooper's letter to King George VI (1937), the Yirrkala Bark Petitions (1963), the Larrakia Petition (1972) and the Barunga Statement (1988), First Peoples have sought a fair place in our country.

The ACT government has a strong record of working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to try to find that fair place. This year, and going forward, we have an opportunity to work with them both locally and nationally for the recognition that they deserve. I would like to thank Minister Rattenbury for the eloquence with which he has spoken on this topic. As the Uluru statement from the heart says:

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard.

The ACT government wants to ensure that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community are indeed heard.

At the roundtable for ministers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs that I attended in June, in Western Australia, I was able to discuss with my colleagues the work of the elected body here in the ACT and how the elected body works with the ACT government in the development of our service provision, providing advice to me as minister and also their monitoring role through the hearing process. This representative model was seen by other states and territories as a benchmark that they should look to and learn from.

One of the other topics we discussed was the work of Victoria and South Australia to commence treaty discussions with the local Aboriginal people in their respective states. A treaty may be outcomes based and can contain statements of principle, guidelines for future relationships, reparations for past injustices and guarantees about individual land, sovereignty and identity. Consistent with the right to self-determination, it is the Aboriginal communities who need to decide who will negotiate a treaty and how Aboriginal people will be represented in any treaty-making process. This is something I am looking at, regarding what we can do here in the ACT, both locally and to support national work.

Pursuant to this motion, the government is happy to write to the Prime Minister and the commonwealth minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs to express the Assembly's support for continuing and prioritising the national conversation about reconciliation and constitutional reform with First Australians. I look forward to working with all parties to pursue equitable outcomes for members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community here in the ACT, including, as Mr Milligan noted, through the review of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander children and young people in the child protection and out of home care systems. As Mr Milligan and Mr Rattenbury have both noted, we can do more and we must do more. The ACT government and I, as minister, are absolutely committed to working with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to ensure that that happens.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (12.34), in reply: I would like to thank members for their contributions to this debate today. I hope that the spirit of openness and cooperation that has characterised this discussion will continue through the national conversation on constitutional reform. I will simply conclude my contribution today by reading some of the words of the final report of the Referendum Council. They said:

The window of constitutional opportunity is limited for well-known reasons. The political and electoral challenges facing the promulgation and passage of a Bill of the Commonwealth Parliament to initiate a referendum are considerable. The political and electoral challenges facing the conduct of a referendum are also considerable. Bipartisanship, indeed multi-partisanship, amongst political parties within the parliament and constituencies in the wider community is necessary but not always sufficient for success.

They went on to say:

We believe that the recommendation we have made for enshrining a First People's Voice in the Constitution will be unifying for the nation, because constitutional inclusion is fundamental to a reconciled future. The symbolic and practical effects of the Voice will enable good measures to flow from future legislation, institutions, agreements and policies.

Our recommendation of an extra-constitutional Declaration will also be unifying. This will give our nation the opportunity to bring together the story of Australia and afford mutual recognition of the three parts of our shared heritage: the First Peoples, the British and the Migrant. It is not possible to recognise First Peoples within the Australian Commonwealth without recognising the whole. That whole includes two other parts, which the proposed Declaration would also encompass.

I will add the final words of the Referendum Council. They said:

Finally, this single, modest and substantive constitutional amendment combined with a unifying extra-constitutional Declaration is capable of attracting the necessary support of the Australian people. Much work and goodwill will need to flow for their achievement, but these reforms are foundational to a better future. It is our Council's fervent belief that we have before us the best opportunity we are likely to ever have to achieve something profound for our children's future, that they may live in a reconciled future and be proud of their identity as Australians and feel the gift of all its parts.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 12.37 to 2.30 pm.

Ministerial arrangements

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (2.30): I advise members that Minister Fitzharris will not be present in question time today. In addition to taking questions on behalf of Minister Gentleman, I will also take questions on behalf of Minister Fitzharris.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may be busy, Chief Minister.

MR BARR: It may well be true.

Questions without notice

Asbestos—treatment policy

MR COE: My question is to the Chief Minister regarding the activities of the asbestos response task force. Chief Minister, the media has recently reported the case of a property that was deemed “genuinely unique” by the task force. How many unique cases has the asbestos response task force come across that have warranted a non-standard approach in the actions of the task force?

MR BARR: I will have to take that question on notice.

MR COE: The Chief Minister might also be able to take on notice whether the government has criteria that, if not complied with, automatically qualify the situation for a non-standard treatment.

MR BARR: Thank you. I will take that on notice too.

MRS DUNNE: Chief Minister, do cases where no asbestos has been located on the property qualify the block for special treatment?

Mr Barr: I am sorry?

MRS DUNNE: Where no asbestos has been found, is the block treated specially?

MR BARR: Where properties share common walls, common roof spaces, there have been examples throughout the diverse number of properties that have been impacted by Mr Fluffy asbestos. There is a commercial property in Ainslie that has both a residential unit above it and adjacent commercial properties that has been the subject of some media coverage in recent times. There are examples amongst the more than a thousand properties where there have been impacted and affected properties.

Asbestos—treatment policy

MS LAWDER: My question is also to the Chief Minister regarding the activities of the Asbestos Response Taskforce. Chief Minister, where loose-fill asbestos is located in a unit in a multi-unit complex or duplex, are all units in the complex condemned for demolition under the guidelines?

MR BARR: I will need to check. It has been a while since I have had portfolio responsibility for this but I am certainly aware that at the time there were a number of properties, for example, in a row of town or terrace housing, where one or a number of properties, sometimes even in the middle of a row of attached housing, have had the loose-fill asbestos in their roof space and that has extended across the entire roof of the units.

Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of properties were detached dwellings. But there are example such as, as I mentioned in response to the previous question, Ainslie, which has clearly received a degree of media attention.

MS LAWDER: Chief Minister, are the structural circumstances of each complex taken into consideration when determining whether other units in a complex are demolished or not?

MR BARR: I understand that certainly has to be a factor.

MR STEEL: Can the Chief Minister advise of the success of the Mr Fluffy scheme across Canberra?

MR BARR: The latest update that I have seen from the task force is that work is progressing ahead of previously published schedules and that they are undertaking the tasks of both demolition of affected properties and resale as quickly as possible.

Asbestos—Ainslie shops

MR DOSZPOT: My question is to Chief Minister regarding the Asbestos Response Taskforce. A *Canberra Times* article of 3 July 2017 stated regarding Ainslie shops that the internal walls, ceilings, cornices, timber beams and the roof of the first-floor above Edgar's would be removed to clean the asbestos, leaving only the perimeter walls. Chief Minister, was an exception to the usual process required to allow for the relevant Ainslie shops building to be cleaned rather than demolished?

MR BARR: No, the Ainslie shops will need to be demolished.

MR DOSZPOT: Chief Minister, under what circumstances will the government allow for a structure to be thoroughly cleaned rather than demolished?

MR BARR: Under no circumstances. I will be very clear. The properties will be demolished. Consistent with the scheme that allows for a management regime to be in place in the medium term, which is the case for a number of residential properties as well, there is time to work through the detail. But ultimately the only lasting solution will be the demolition of those properties.

MS LEE: Chief Minister, when will people who are in this situation be notified of what the future of their homes or commercial property will be?

MR BARR: It is on a case-by-case basis.

Planning—Coombs shops

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development and relates to the Coombs shops, the site for which was sold in March 2015 but is still not operating. Minister, given that the site operators are now telling residents that they cannot find a supermarket operator, what is the government going to do to ensure that residents of Coombs and Wright have local shops and that the pressure is taken off the Cooleman Court shops?

MS BERRY: I will have to take the question on notice so that I can provide some more information to the member. It might include information from another minister as well.

MS LE COUTEUR: Minister, will you investigate other options, such as pop-up shops or a coffee van or encouraging some mixed-use developments to include shopping facilities?

MS BERRY: I do not know whether it would ordinarily be the case to look at those different options. Again, I would have to take the question on notice and get some more advice to you on that.

MRS JONES: Minister, given the lack of shops in Coombs, now some years after the block was sold, when will additional shops be opened in the new Molonglo region?

MS BERRY: I can advise that the developer of the Denman Prospect development out in the Molonglo area did announce and put out a plan for a new shopping centre precinct as part of their development.

Mrs Jones: By when?

MS BERRY: 2018. I would be happy to provide the member with some more information on that at another time, if she is interested in that particular project.

Roads—safety

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services or, I dare say, the Chief Minister in his absence. Chief Minister, the intersection of Preddy Way and Lewis Luxton Avenue in Gordon has been the scene of a number of serious motor vehicle accidents, including five incidents of out-of-control vehicles landing in the backyard of a residence located on Lewis Luxton Avenue. Chief Minister, given that this location has been known as a speeding hotspot since at least 2014, what action has been taken to prevent further damage to people and property since then?

MR BARR: I will need to take that question on notice.

MR WALL: Chief Minister, in response to that, given that little has happened, will it take a fatality as a result of speeding to occur before action is taken to fix the problem of out-of-control cars and speeding at this location?

MR BARR: ACT Policing and Roads ACT have an established system in relation to both road safety and dangerous driving. Given that this matter has been raised today, I will seek from the offices of the police minister and the Minister for Transport and City Services confirmation that the matter has been examined and that potential solutions have been identified.

MR PARTON: Chief Minister, can you provide a guarantee to the residents of Preddy Way and Lewis Luxton Avenue at Gordon that you will do everything in your power to ensure that adequate safety measures have been put in place to guard against damage and injury caused by speeding vehicles near their homes?

MR BARR: Within human reason and the capacity of the government to be able to address the issues in a commonsense manner we will endeavour to respond to the issues that have been raised.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—addiction treatment

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for Corrections. Minister, I refer to the use of the drug Suboxone in the Alexander Maconochie Centre as an alternative treatment method to methadone for people with opioid addiction. Suboxone contains buprenorphine and naloxone, comes in a film tab form, and must be absorbed orally by placing the tab under the tongue. If the tab is not placed under the tongue, it will not be absorbed properly. As a result, this drug is known for having a high diversion rate. Minister, what are the guidelines for the prescribing, dispensing and administering of Suboxone at the Alexander Maconochie Centre?

MR RATTENBURY: Given the very detailed nature of Mrs Jones's question, and to ensure that she gets an accurate answer, I will take that on notice and provide the details.

MRS JONES: Minister, what policies and operational procedures are in place at the AMC to ensure that Suboxone is not diverted and shared amongst other inmates?

MR RATTENBURY: As with my previous answer, I will provide Mrs Jones with the details on that later.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, will there be any review of the use and dispensing of Suboxone at the AMC, and how many prisoners are currently prescribed Suboxone?

MR RATTENBURY: The nature of Mrs Dunne's question is that she is suggesting that it should be reviewed. I will find out—

Mrs Dunne: No, I am just asking you whether there is a review. Is there one?

MR RATTENBURY: I will confirm that is the case. Also I will confirm for her the number of people that are currently accessing the drug.

Economy—defence industry

MS CHEYNE: Chief Minister, how is the defence industry contributing to the diversification of Canberra's economy?

Mr Hanson: You came up with a good policy, didn't you, Andrew? It was very similar to mine.

MR BARR: Thank you!

MADAM SPEAKER: Chief Minister, you are easily amused; but to the question, thank you.

MR BARR: I am always amused by the former Leader of the Opposition. He continues to be a source of amusement. I thank Ms Cheyne for the question. I am pleased to advise the Assembly that defence and defence industries are indeed major contributors to our territory economy, collectively adding about \$4.3 billion each year and providing over 23,000 jobs in the Australian Capital Territory.

We are, comparatively speaking, a major player in the Australian defence industry, with 11 of the top 40 defence contractors headquartered here. This includes two rather famous Canberra born and bred companies: Aspen Medical, well known to everyone here; and Australia's largest privately owned defence company, CEA Technologies. There is also the fantastic news that Electro Optic Systems will be consolidating their business into the ACT, further contributing to the diversification of our city's economy.

It is worth noting that our research institutions are also valuable partners in defence industry development. Many of Canberra's academics have seized opportunities to spin off their research into commercial ventures. Examples include Seeing Machines, a successful Canberra-based company with defence-related capability. The future is bright for our local defence industry. I am advised that the next 10 years will see something in the order of \$200 billion worth of capital investment in defence capabilities, including \$17.5 billion in intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, electronic warfare and cybersecurity capabilities, all areas where we have particular strengths. The ACT government will seek to capitalise on these strengths by establishing—by running out of time, in this instance. (*Time expired.*)

MS CHEYNE: Chief Minister, how is the government building on the appointment of the Defence Industry Advisory Board?

MR BARR: As I was just saying, the Defence Industry Advisory Board will help guide our industry and successfully target these key sectors. This is significant for the economy. KPMG estimates that for every \$1 billion spent on defence operations in the Canberra region, our gross state product is boosted by \$1.4 billion and nearly 8,000 jobs are created. Since the establishment of the Defence Industry Advisory Board in March, its members have been working to grow the ACT's defence industry.

One of the board's main priorities is to provide strategic advice to government. Last month I released the ACT defence industry strategy "Established, capable, skilled". This strategy is the product of the board's advice to government and it will guide our efforts to grow our city's defence industry. It is a sector-specific strategy that is consistent with our ongoing efforts to diversify the ACT economy.

It identifies key strengths of our ACT industry. These include the established defence presence in the ACT, across both government and industry; our capable businesses and institutional ecosystem; but, most importantly, our people, our high performing, skilled workforce.

With the release of the strategy we have committed to 23 distinct actions across five key priority areas. We will support Canberra region businesses to maximise opportunities from defence procurement. We will continue collaboration with other states and territories. We will attract investment to grow the defence industry in our region. We will continue to build a skilled, innovative and connective workforce. We will foster new ideas and grow research and industry partnerships.

MR STEEL: Chief Minister, what success has the board had since its establishment?

MR BARR: We are using the board's skills to promote our defence capabilities. I made some opening remarks at last month's Defence + Industry conference, which provided an opportunity to remind key decision-makers of the reasons to be based in Canberra. We have also used the board's expertise to develop a joint paper with the South Australian government on the development of the space industry in Australia. The paper, which I will lead discussion on at tomorrow's COAG Industry and Skills Council meeting, argues that the commonwealth government needs to provide clear leadership in the development of the space sector if the defence white paper's goal of having our own intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities is to be met.

Next month the board will consider providing the government with advice on how Canberra companies can make the most of funding available through the Centre for Defence Industry Capability and, in particular, the next generation technology fund. The board will also advise government on which of the many defence events we should seek to attract to Canberra, and how to best promote our city's defence capabilities.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—bush healing farm

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Minister, the government promised the community a new model of care for the Ngunnawal bush healing farm, consistent with the current intention of the property. What role have you played in the development of this model and when will it be published?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Milligan for his question. As I think he is aware, the policy responsibility for the Ngunnawal bush healing farm lies with the minister for health. I can advise that I understand that there will be some announcement on that shortly. I do not want to speak on behalf of the minister for health on that matter. So I will take that question on notice on her behalf.

MR MILLIGAN: When will the intended operators of the Ngunnawal bush healing farm be made available?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will take that question on notice.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, will there be Indigenous leadership in the delivery of the services at the Ngunnawal bush healing farm?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Dunne for her supplementary question. I realise I did not respond before to Mr Milligan's question about my involvement. I have been briefed regularly on the update, but I have not had a brief for some little while. I can say that ACT Health is working closely with the Ngunnawal bush healing farm advisory board to finalise a non-residential day program to run over a period of approximately 10 weeks targeting 10 to 12 clients and subject to final negotiations with service providers, as I indicated in the previous question that I took on notice.

The advisory board will continue to meet frequently to ensure that the bush healing farm is best placed to succeed. ACT Health continues to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. In relation specifically to Mrs Dunne's question, I understand that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership is very important in this matter and that will be the case. I will take the detail of the question on notice.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—women's accommodation

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Corrections. Minister, I refer to your ministerial statement today in which you stated "the relatively sudden increase in female detainee numbers is a development for which we were unable to plan". In 2003 the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics released a report highlighting the massive growth in the number of women in Australian prisons since 1995. In 2016 the Vera Institute of Justice released a report on the 14-fold increase in the population of women in US prisons since 1970. These are just two of the many national and international reports on the growth in the number of women in prisons. You also stated that last year's expansion of AMC accommodation was "successful". However, the dedicated women's accommodation in the AMC comprises 29 beds, while we have had up to 45 women in the prison. The prison is having to rely on the management unit and health unit for further women's accommodation. Minister, did you look at the national and international evidence which shows that the number of women in prisons is growing at a rapid rate and, if you did, why were you not able to plan for this increase in the number of women detainees?

MR RATTENBURY: Mrs Kikkert was not here in the last term, but there was quite a bit of debate in the last term about our modelling and what the right size should be for the AMC. As members who were here will recall, the ACT government contracted external expertise, criminologist John Walker, who is well recognised in this field. It is a challenging field, frankly, as I said in my remarks this morning—estimating future population numbers in custody. We contracted out to, frankly, the best person we could find to give us that advice, and the government took that advice. That advice did not identify the sort of increase in the female population that we have experienced here in the ACT.

Mrs Jones: Was he asked?

MR RATTENBURY: Mrs Jones interjects and gets an extra question in, and because I am feeling generous, I will answer it.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, allow Mr Rattenbury to answer the question.

MR RATTENBURY: Of course, I am not supposed to respond to interjections, and this has been a demonstration of why. Mr Walker was asked to model the numbers for all detainees at the AMC.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, you should have respect for your own colleagues when they stand to ask a question.

MRS KIKKERT: That is okay. I do not mind a little laughter. Is it reasonable for our prison to have to house women detainees in the management unit indefinitely because there is a lack of dedicated women's accommodation?

MR RATTENBURY: I can assure the Assembly, as I have before, that there is complete separation of the women in the management unit from any men's part of the jail. There has been a very clear effort to do that. The Human Rights Commissioner has been briefed on the situation so that we can ensure a degree of external scrutiny in making the accommodation decision that has been made for the AMC.

It is not for an indefinite period. There is work going on at the moment, as I indicated this morning, to provide further short to medium-term solutions. We are also undertaking a longer term strategic assessment of accommodation needs at the AMC.

MRS JONES: Minister, how can you describe the AMC accommodation expansion as completely successful given all of the problems with the women's accommodation over the past couple of years?

MR RATTENBURY: Last week I attended the corrections ministers conference, and what I can tell the Assembly is that every jurisdiction in Australia has experienced a range of accommodation issues like this. All of these jurisdictions are doing their best to predict what future numbers will be but there are a range of factors external to corrections. The colloquial expression is that corrections is the end of the line—we take whoever gets sent to us. The ability of corrections to influence that is limited and corrections needs to do the best it can to accommodate those who arrive. That is continuing. It is a dynamic environment.

I think that the expansion of the AMC was successful in that it provided a range of improved accommodation options and improved safety and management options for ACT Corrective Services. I expect that, as we consider future options for particularly the women's accommodation, some of the expertise gained from the successful expansion will be brought to dealing with the question we now have to deal with.

Planning—Federal Golf Club

MS LEE: My question is to the Chief Minister in his capacity as acting Minister for Planning and Land Management. Chief Minister, today's *Canberra Times* reported that the government has set up a panel to progress the Federal Golf Club's plans for a new clubhouse with a gym and 125 homes. Despite first floating plans to sell parts of its land as early as 1999 and plans for the development of villas being discussed in 2015, the Federal Golf Club is yet to lodge a development application. Now, in August 2017, the government has set up this panel. Chief Minister, what criteria does the government use in determining when to establish a panel of this kind and in selecting the panel's membership?

MR BARR: This is a one-off commitment, I am advised. The panel meets for the first time this evening. Deliberations of the panel are without prejudice and do not bind the ACT government, the National Capital Authority, the proponent, the various participants or the groups they represent to a preferred option or a stated position.

Given the history of this particular issue, which I think goes back to the Carnell government, it is an attempt to reach a community consensus in relation to the proposal.

MS LEE: Chief Minister, what role will the government play in assessing the development application when and if it is lodged?

MR BARR: The independent Planning and Land Authority assesses development applications.

MR PARTON: Chief Minister, with the government's decision to now set up this panel, what association does it have with the Federal Golf Club's recent decision to withdraw its membership of ClubsACT?

MR BARR: Absolutely none.

Crime—motorcycle gangs

MR HANSON: My question is to the Attorney-General and relates to outlaw motorcycle gang activity in Canberra. A senior NSW police officer was quoted in January as saying, “A lot of clubhouses have been closed down and bikies are no longer roaming in packs in NSW but it is frustrating that they can still operate freely in Canberra.” The ACT Chief Police Officer was reported as stating that she “agreed that Canberra’s lack of anti-consorting laws made Canberra a haven for bikies. I believe that is a factor in the decision to come here and undertake their activities.” Attorney-General, how can you maintain that anti-consorting laws are ineffective when police advice is that they are moving from NSW to the ACT as a result of the absence of those laws?

MR RAMSAY: I thank the shadow attorney-general for his question. When we were in a committee hearing earlier this year I was commenting that the member has a habit of being able to find one particular tool in the toolbox and just keep going with that one. I think we have now managed to swap portfolios, but we are seeing the same thing happening again. There are issues, but the shadow attorney-general sees only one matter and grabs the only tool that he has in his toolkit, which is to talk about—

Mr Coe: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Be seated, Attorney-General. A point of order, Mr Coe.

Mr Coe: On relevance, I think the attorney owes it to Canberrans to be directly relevant to the question and not consume half the answer talking about Mr Hanson.

MADAM SPEAKER: It was not half the answer; and I should have stopped the clock for the attorney. Attorney, you now have less than a minute to conclude your answer.

MR RAMSAY: I note that the hammer keeps going in one particular place. The reason the government is choosing to do what it will do is that it will be based on the evidence. I am pleased to hear from my colleague Minister Gentleman about the conversations he has had with the Chief Police Officer and the way the focus is going. The number one focus for ACT Policing I am advised is in relation to outlaw motorcycle gangs. In relation to law reform, we will work on the basis of evidence. I again draw the attention of the Assembly to the report in relation to the New South Wales laws which says repeatedly—

Mrs Dunne interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, can you refrain, please, from shouting across the floor.

MR HANSON: Attorney-General, what are the factors causing bikies to reduce activity in New South Wales and increase activity in Canberra?

MR RAMSAY: I would advise the shadow—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, can you resume your seat. Members opposite—Mrs Jones, Mr Wall—I would have thought that you considered that your questions were serious. Therefore you are asking the minister for an answer but you go straight into the jokes, Mr Wall. I ask that you refrain. Attorney, can you get to your answer.

MR RAMSAY: Thank you Madam Speaker. Without accepting the premise of the question, I would assume that the best thing for Mr Hanson to do, if he is keen to know the answer for the motivation of any individual member of an outlaw motorcycle gang, is for him to ask them.
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MR STEEL: Minister, has any new evidence—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, Mr Steel cannot be heard.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson—enough.

MR STEEL: Minister, has any new evidence of the effectiveness of anti-consorting laws been published since yesterday?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Steel for his question. The answer is simply: no. Accordingly the answers that I gave yesterday continue to stand today. We will continue to work on the evidence and not on speculation.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson—enough.

Health—Mental health staffing

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Mental Health. I refer to a statement, reported in the *Canberra Times* of 24 July, by Mr Stephen Crook, the secretary of the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation ACT. Mr Crook was speaking about staff shortages in mental health and he said:

Senior management appear to continue to expect more services to be opened and staffed, while current units have inadequate staffing ...

Minister, do we currently have enough staff providing mental health services to the community and, if not, which areas are the most affected?

MR RATTENBURY: Yes, I did see the press release put out by ASMOF making those concerns public about the shortage of psychiatrists in the ACT. I can inform the Assembly that there has been a degree of staff turnover and 12 staff have left in the last period of time. However, during that same period, ACT Health has undertaken seven recruitment rounds and successfully recruited 13 new psychiatrists. Not all of those are on board at this time; some are coming a bit later this year.

Certainly, the challenge that we face is that there is nationally a shortage of psychiatrists. The ACT is competing with other jurisdictions to encourage people to come and work in our jurisdiction. That presents its challenges. We have just been discussing why people want to come to Canberra. This is one of the issues that we need to deal with here. But we are successfully recruiting psychiatrists. One of the issues I intend to raise at the COAG health ministers meeting tomorrow, with other mental health ministers in particular, is how we can address the issue of the national shortage of psychiatrists and whether there are steps we need to be taking nationally to get more people to enter the profession. That will not provide an immediate response but I think it is an important long-term workforce strategic planning question.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how often has the adult mental health unit at the Canberra Hospital had only one psychiatrist present when the unit is meant to be staffed by four psychiatrists at any one time?

MR RATTENBURY: I will take that question on notice and provide Mrs Dunne with an answer.

MR WALL: Minister, what actions have you taken to satisfy yourself that the adult mental health unit has enough qualified staff to meet the rising levels of demand?

MR RATTENBURY: I have had quite a number of discussions with my directorate about the availability of psychiatrists in the ACT and we have been discussing in detail the recruitment strategies used by ACT Health to ensure that we have enough staff in the ACT.

Government—events policy

MR STEEL: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Can the minister outline how the government is making it easier to stage events in Canberra, including in my electorate of Murrumbidgee?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Steel for his question. The government is committed to making Canberra a vibrant city which strikes the balance to facilitate events whilst ensuring that public safety is maintained. It can be time-consuming to have all of the relevant information and to go through all of the possible applications. That is why Access Canberra has set up their events case management team. Those who want to host an event in Canberra need only fill out one online form and this team will kick into action to ensure that organisers have all the relevant information. They will then work with them to help them to obtain all the relevant government approvals they need.

This team works with events of all sizes and natures. Whether it is something as large and complex as Summernats or Spilt Milk, something new and innovative like the Pop Inn mobile wine bar or even a community dance event in the park commemorating a song from the 1970s, the events team in Access Canberra are ready to do everything they can to ensure that our citizens have every relevant government box ticked across all relevant directorates and authorities.

Recently the team helped with the Brave Tailgate season opening event, which was a fan-led event in the car park of the Phillip ice skating rink for the Australian Ice Hockey League team prior to their first match of the season. The event attracted over 400 people across three hours and helped to create a buzz for the start of the season. Afterwards, I am advised, the organisers remarked, “It was so easy, especially after nearly not proceeding due to the red tape involved in closing a car park and obtaining a commercial liquor permit. But the events and business coordination team at Access Canberra made it very easy.”

Madam Speaker, this government is pleased to continue its work to make events easy to organise so that Canberrans can continue to build their community experience.

MR STEEL: Can the minister advise if this model could be used in other areas of government regulation to help businesses in Murrumbidgee?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Steel for his supplementary question. I am happy to report that, after the rousing success of this model in the events space, Access Canberra have expanded this team’s remit to also help new liquor businesses navigate the relevant government processes. Liquor businesses can be some of the most complicated ones to set up, with multiple government approvals needed. This can include ensuring that the physical site complies with building, electrical and gas codes; and advising on food, liquor and outdoor dining permits. The team will help Canberrans navigate all of the requirements they need to set up. The team will also ensure that organisers have all their applications in and will organise joint inspections across the relevant areas of government, where needed, to make the process as efficient as possible.

In particular in Mr Steel’s electorate, since the start of 2017 Access Canberra has issued seven liquor licences in the Murrumbidgee area, and five liquor permits in the Murrumbidgee area since 1 July 2017. Liquor permits were issued to community groups for the purpose of cultural events and fundraisers. Liquor licences issued in the area were for a wide variety of ventures, including restaurants and a brewery. The Access Canberra liquor team also helped successfully negotiate a licensed outdoor dining area for a restaurant without the need for a development application, which saved the customer approximately \$3,000. These teams go over and above, helping the businesses of Canberra to realise their dreams in a way that is both safe and lawful.

MS ORR: Minister, what is the saving to businesses by offering a case managed model for these kinds of services?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary question. On the events side of the business, Access Canberra has been crunching the numbers and, on average, the events team are saving organisers around 10 hours per event. This translates to an annual saving to business of around \$1 million, a huge gain for event organisers in the ACT. While it is still too early to quantify the savings from the liquor side of the team, early indications are that they are providing an equivalent level of service.

This new way of thinking has turned traditional government service delivery on its head, with the public service doing much of the running around and finding of information that we previously asked the public to do. This change frees up businesses to spend more time organising and planning events and less time looking through government websites to find what approvals and permits are needed. This is all part of the government's push to be more facilitative in allowing innovative ideas to come to fruition in Canberra. We are working with businesses to help get their ideas over the line in a safe and lawful way, which helps the ACT economy to expand and diversify.

Greyhound racing—cruelty reports

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Minister, on 13 July your ministerial colleague Mr Rattenbury asserted that he had confirmed reports of animal cruelty at the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club, despite there being no record of this on either Domestic Animal Services or RSPCA databases. Has Minister Rattenbury given you or your directorate a copy of these reports?

MR RAMSAY: I thank the member for his question. I am aware of a number of matters which have been alleged in relation to greyhounds and which have been and are under investigation. Certainly on 6 February there was a complaint which was made in relation to alleged race fixing and swab practices. That matter has been investigated and the matter has been closed.

In addition, on 28 February there was a new piece of information provided to my office about swabbing practices. My advice is that the matter is currently being investigated by Access Canberra.

Mr Parton: On a point of order, my question specifically pertained to information that has come from your ministerial colleague Mr Rattenbury.

MADAM SPEAKER: Attorney, you do have some time yet to be more relevant to the question.

MR RAMSAY: Thank you Madam Speaker. In relation to information, I note the comments that were made by Mr Rattenbury. Minister Rattenbury has, I understand, been in contact with members of the public and, as is always the case, I encourage people to pass matters straight on to Access Canberra. Mr Rattenbury has not passed anything in particular on to me. If it is in relation to the same matters—and I understand it may well be—I have received those and have passed those directly on to Access Canberra for investigation.

MR PARTON: Minister, to the best of your knowledge, have these reports been lodged with the Gambling and Racing Commission or Domestic Animal Services?

MR RAMSAY: As I was saying, the information is that the questions that have been raised in relation to swabbing practices on 28 February have been passed on and they are currently being investigated by Access Canberra.

MR COE: Minister, have these reports been made available to the Canberra greyhound club?

MR RAMSAY: I will take that on notice.

Housing—new housing strategy

MS ORR: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Can the minister advise the Assembly of the work now underway to engage the community on the development of a new housing strategy?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Orr for her question. The ACT government is developing a housing strategy that will focus on reducing homelessness, strengthening social housing assistance, increasing affordable rental options and improving pathways to affordable homeownership. To build on last year's efforts, I have brought together industry and community stakeholders to participate in further conversations about housing in the ACT. In aiming to deliver increased affordable housing for low income households we are utilising a diverse group that represents the multiple ways in which the same problem can be looked at by different people.

Last week I issued a discussion paper, *Towards a new housing strategy*, to help inform the community conversation about housing and homelessness ahead of the housing summit the ACT government will hold in October. The government has commenced a comprehensive engagement process, initially with community organisations, industry and service providers, in order to develop some broad themes and areas for reform. These broad themes have guided the development of the public discussion paper, and we now want to hear from all Canberrans on their experiences and ideas to address housing affordability.

A range of opportunities to contribute ideas and help to shape the government's future actions will include: online engagement through the ACT government's your say website; facilitated discussions with stakeholder groups and subject matter experts; targeted focus group discussions and workshops; engagement with key industry and corporate organisations; and public information sessions. Contributions received during the engagement period will be presented at the housing and homelessness summit on 17 October.

MS ORR: Minister, what involvement did the affordable housing advisory panel play in this process, and how will that group be used going forward?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary. The ACT government has been proactive and responsive in seeking to address housing affordability in the ACT. By many comparisons, the ACT is doing well in responding to the housing needs of Canberrans, including the most disadvantaged households. On average measures, the ACT continues to rank first in terms of home loan and rental affordability across all jurisdictions. It is recognised, however, that market-driven initiatives have not always achieved equitable outcomes across the income quintiles and a narrower focus on providing support for households in the lowest two income quintiles is needed to address the challenge of housing affordability.

The affordable housing advisory group has been established to provide an independent, external perspective of the challenges of housing affordability in the ACT and the possible responses that might be considered by the government. The group is providing guidance and advice on affordable housing and homelessness policy and, in particular, on possible actions which could be included in the new ACT housing strategy.

The group has been chosen for their independent external expertise and reflects my and the government's desire to engage with a broader and different group of stakeholders on this important community issue. The group has been meeting monthly over the past five months. Opportunities for action have been explored in the areas of planning, regulatory and policy reform, housing supply and diversity, targeting of housing support, choice and flexibility, and measures for strong and sustainable public housing.

The group has provided advice around content for engagement and how to target specific groups who may be difficult to engage with, and will assist in the facilitation of focus groups by hosting events and reaching out to their stakeholders.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, could you advise on the arrangements for the housing and homelessness summit in October?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. In accordance with the parliamentary agreement, the government has committed resources in the budget to convene a homelessness summit in 2017, bringing together all key stakeholders to develop innovative proposals to combat homelessness. This will be held, as I said, on 17 October 2017.

The target audience for the summit includes service provider organisations and participants in the community consultations and focus group discussions. The summit's goals are to provide an overview of what we have heard so far from the community and stakeholders; provide an opportunity to discuss, refine and prioritise possible outcomes that could be included in the new housing strategy; and continue to build a deliberative partnership and shared ownership with the community to tackle the challenges of affordable housing and homelessness. Summit attendees, who will include some of our federal parliamentarians, will workshop possible actions that could be part of the new housing strategy document and provide their perspective on prioritisation strategies.

The challenge that lies ahead is not one just for government. Different sectors need to join together in an ongoing conversation and as a community to identify and deliver workable solutions to strengthen housing assistance and address housing affordability in Canberra. This summit is an important part, but only one part, of a range of opportunities that are open to the community to contribute ideas and to help shape the government's thinking. These are all outlined on the ACT government's Your Say website.

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

Supplementary answer to question without notice Greyhound racing—cruelty reports

MR RAMSAY: Madam Speaker, I am able to provide some further information in relation to a supplementary question which was asked by the Leader of the Opposition. In relation to the allegations that have been made about swabs of greyhounds, I can advise that the main areas that were raised were the small number of greyhounds that were swabbed up after performing poorly; the highly variable number of swabs that were taken per meeting; the swabs that were reportedly misplaced by the freight company; and the substantial number of swabs that were never cleared in the negative swab list. As I mentioned, the matter was referred to Access Canberra. I am advised that Access Canberra determined that they needed further information from Canberra Greyhound Racing Club. They have sought that information, and that information has been provided by the racing club. The investigation is continuing.

Personal explanation

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Mental Health) (3.22): Madam Speaker, I seek your leave under standing order 46 to make a personal explanation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Do you claim to have been misrepresented, Mr Rattenbury?

MR RATTENBURY: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please proceed.

MR RATTENBURY: Mr Parton, in his question to the attorney, made the allegation that I have information about individual cases of abuse of greyhounds that I have not provided to the authorities. I have never made such a claim. I have never had such information. Mr Parton is drawing his analysis from an interpretation by the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club of an interview I gave with Chris Coleman on Radio 2CC a couple of weeks ago. At the time, Mr Coleman asked me about why the ACT government was moving to bring an end to the greyhound industry in the ACT. I said to Mr Coleman:

When it comes to the record of the greyhound industry in the ACT, we have had reports of abuse here in the ACT, and I think we have seen—

The quote then ends, because Mr Coleman interjected and demanded that I provide examples. I probably could have answered more crisply at the time. What I was speaking to was the fact that both the Durkin report and the McHugh report in New South Wales, which I spoke about extensively in this place on Tuesday night, have identified instances in the ACT. I was not suggesting that I had individual information.

I provide that for the clarity of members, and also for the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club, who have now gone down the preposterous path of suggesting that I have withheld that information and who have therefore decided to report that matter to the police, in what can only be described as a terrible waste of police resources in this territory. Given the opposition's concern about police resources, they should perhaps discuss that matter with those they are so keenly supporting.

Papers

Madam Speaker presented the following papers:

Reports of the Independent Arbiters—

AECOM Infrastructure Report, dated 16 June 2017—Prepared by Keith Mason
AC QC.

Public Housing Renewal Steering Committee Agenda Papers—Disputed Claim
of Privilege, dated 11 July 2017—Prepared by The Hon Richard Refshauge
SC.

Mr Barr presented the following papers:

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act, pursuant to section
24—Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—Reports—

No 6 of 2017—Standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small
customers from 1 July 2017—Final Report, dated June 2017.

No 7 of 2017—Standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small
customers—Price Direction—1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020.

Auditor-General's Report No 6/2016—Management and Administration of
Credit Cards by ACT Government Entities—Progress of the Implementation of
the Accepted or Partially Accepted Recommendations in the Government
response—Government report.

Coroners Act, pursuant to subsection 57(5)—Report of Coroner—Inquest into the death
of River Arama Parry—

Report, dated 4 November 2016.

Government response and a matter of public safety relating to home swimming pool
safety barriers.

Leave of absence

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

That leave of absence for today's sitting be granted to Ms Fitzharris to attend interstate ministerial meetings, and Mr Pettersson on a personal matter.

Single parents

Discussion of matter of public importance

MADAM SPEAKER: I have received letters from Ms Cheyne, Mrs Kikkert, Ms Le Couteur, Ms Orr, Mr Parton, Mr Steel and Mr Wall proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, I have determined that the matter proposed by Mr Steel be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The importance of supporting single parents in the Canberra community.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (3.26): I have proposed this matter of public importance so that we can recognise the importance of supporting single parents in the Canberra community. Families come in all shapes and forms in the ACT, and our government recognises, and values, the full range of families, including modern families, that exist in our community.

According to the 2016 census there were 14,129 one-parent families in the ACT, of which 79 per cent, or 11,280 people, were women and 2,851 people were men. We know from research that the family life of single parents and their children is likely to be more complex and presents some challenges, though there are a range of single-parent families in the ACT and their experiences may differ considerably, as well as their access to family supports.

There are a range of ways in which the ACT Government is supporting single parents, whether through access to information or through child development services, early childhood education and care, education for parents, employment, housing and community services. The ACT government provides information about the services and supports available to single-parent families. Through the Office for Women, the ACT government provides a free service to women, empowering them and their families by helping them to access quality, relevant and timely information about choices that impact on their quality of life. This service provides information on available options, respects the right of women to select the options that meet their individual needs and assists women to link in to the options that they select.

The ACT government also provides ParentLink to increase parents' confidence and skills by supporting and linking them with a network of information, ideas and community services. There are also a range of resources available through our fantastic commonwealth-funded raising children network and the single mum Australia website.

As someone who has previously worked in early childhood policy in government and in the community sector, I was always very cognisant of the needs of single parents in my work. We know from the HILDA survey that single parents are more likely to use paid care than couple parents. I led a government-funded project examining the flexibility of early childhood services across Australia. What we found was that the difficulty in finding an effective childcare solution is exacerbated by a range of factors, including single parenthood.

In relation to financial flexibility, a family's limited capacity to pay may also restrict what options they have in accessing flexible early childhood education and care, particularly for single parents or families with lower incomes. In the course of the project, I visited family day care services that were open late at night, catering for single-parent families, including a single dad who was a policeman working shiftwork and relied on the flexibility that that service offered him. In the ACT, flexibly located childcare facilities are available at our CIT campuses at Bruce and Reid, and we have a collocated childcare service as part of our CCCares model at Canberra College.

Here in the ACT we are making access to support for parents, including many single parents, and their children as easy as possible through our child and family centres. These centres are designed to meet the needs of service users by integrating a range of important ACT government services. Many of the women who come through the intake across the three centres in the ACT are faced with the issue of family violence. Some of the women may have fled their partner, whilst others are still together. Our partnership with the DVCS service via our stepping forward walking group consists of a small group of women who have separated from their partners and are single parents who wish to reconnect socially.

Other services that may meet the needs of single parents are the women's information office, the women's health service, Legal Aid, and Relationships Australia through the child and family centres. The Marymead KAYAKS, or "kids and youth are cool", post-separation service provides counselling to children from four to 18 years of age after their parents are separated and operates from the centres.

And, of course, our fantastic maternal and child health service provides a free public health nursing service through the child and family centres as well in our health centres in Gungahlin, Belconnen and Tuggeranong. MACH nurses provide a range of universal public health services for children aged zero to five years and their parents, including support for breastfeeding and the transition to parenthood, and surveillance of child development during the early years—the time when, we know, development is rapid and dramatic.

We are also very lucky on the south side to have the child development service, which is based in the suburb of Holder and provides assessment, referral, information and linkages for children from zero to six years of age where there are concerns about their developmental milestones. Our developing kids playgroups provide support for families who may have difficulty engaging with mainstream services and are experiencing vulnerabilities, including single parents. They also provide support in the transition to preschool and the transition into school.

Education is really important, and it is important that our education system supports single parents to continue and complete their education. I am very proud that in my electorate we have a nation-leading model of support for young parents in the CCCares program based in Phillip. I was very pleased to visit Canberra College recently to see firsthand how the program is supporting parents.

The CCCares program supports young and single parents, who are able to study in a safe, supportive environment while caring for their children. Young women are studying and training to complete their year 12 certificate or vocational education through CIT, with on-site childcare services to support them, as well as allied health staff from the child development service providing regular drop-in services and consultations with parents and children. This is an opportunity for therapists to screen the developmental milestones of children in the program, offer advice and facilitate referrals, including to other appropriate services as required. It was great to see the CCCares program featured on the SBS *Insight* program this week, which was focusing on teen parents. It is certainly well-deserved recognition.

We know from the recent household, income and labour dynamics in Australia survey, the HILDA survey, that poverty rates are higher for people living in single-parent families. In 2015, 21 per cent of people living in single-parent families were in poverty. Single parents may therefore require extra support for housing, through either public housing or affordable housing. Our government has a strong commitment to renewing public housing in the ACT, with an investment to date of \$608 million. A significant number of those qualifying for public housing assistance are single parents. The renewal program will ensure they have safe, suitable and modern housing that meets their family's needs. In addition to housing support, the ACT government provides an extensive concessions program, which is available to those holding an eligible concession card, for assistance with utilities and transport—which are obviously significant cost-of-living issues.

Importantly, the ACT government is also supporting single mothers to transition to work and employment. The ACT government provides the women's return to work grants program to support women to return to the paid workforce through financial assistance: individual grants of up to \$1,000. We know from research by Professor Jenny Baxter from the Australian Institute of Family Studies that improving access to more flexible hours at work is really important to reduce experiences of work-family strain, particularly for single parents. That is particularly important because we know that supports in the community and extended family may also have strong associations with the employment of single parents.

There are a range of other important programs available through the ACT government and other community organisations focusing on single parents that I think it is important to acknowledge. The Marymead child and family centre offers a number of groups, including for parenting as a single mum, parenting after domestic violence and self-care for mums. The national council for single mothers and their children is a self-help group to fight for the basic and essential rights of all sole-parent families. These are great resources for single parents and their families.

I also want to acknowledge the solo mothers by choice community here in the ACT. That is a group of women who have chosen to have a child without a partner, often through a gamete donation or through foster care and adoption, and are raising happy and healthy children. Solo mothers by choice and open community forums like HerCanberra are enabling these women to provide each other with peer support online and through regular meet-ups.

Our government values single-parent families. When it comes to access to information, child development, early childhood education and care, education for parents, employment, housing and community services, we are providing services to them through the ACT government and in partnership with the community. I finish by acknowledging my Labor colleague Bec Cody's interest in this issue. Despite her unavoidable absence today, I know that she will continue to advocate strongly for single-parent families as well.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (3.36): As a single parent myself, I am pleased today to discuss the importance of single parents in the Canberra community. In May this year, on the International Day of Families, the Australian Bureau of Statistics told us that the vast majority of families—84 per cent—were couple families but that the next largest group of families was one-parent families, at 14 per cent. It is significant to note that, of the single-parent families, 83 per cent are headed by single mothers, so single parents and single mothers are not an insignificant part of our community.

Members may have recently seen that the University of Melbourne released the HILDA report, the report on household income and labour dynamics in Australia. This has tracked 17,000 people in 9,500 households over about a 20-year period. It painted a pretty dark picture for single-parent families. It described the likelihood of child poverty for single-parent families as very high—between 20 per cent to 25 per cent—and well above the general community rate of 10 per cent.

Child poverty in single-parent families has increased every year between 2012 and 2015. This is despite an otherwise downwards trend in overall poverty in Australia. In particular, single parents have borne the brunt of rising childcare costs, which the HILDA survey found doubled in real terms over 10 years for single parents. But even for couple families, who have a lot more flexibility, costs still increased by a large 74 per cent. A significant reason for the increase in child poverty in single-parent families over the last 10 years has been the changes in social security arrangements for single parents, who have been moved out of the parenting system into the general unemployment system. That is clearly not adequate to support people and children above the poverty line.

Yesterday we talked about related issues and how women bear a disproportionate burden when it comes to child rearing. That is why 83 per cent of single-parent families are headed by a woman. Women, of course, face significant disadvantage as single mothers. Again looking at ABS statistics, for single-parent families with dependents 83 per cent of mothers were employed compared to 72 per cent of fathers.

Understanding these gender differences is important to governments and policymakers alike. When we see this sort of data we have to make sure that our policy responses, our programs and our approaches take these gendered differences into account.

For single parents, our efforts to provide employment options to get people out of poverty have to take into account school times and other demands. Single parents provide many, many hours of unpaid work undertaking domestic and parenting duties. There are many reasons for sole parenting, such as choice, divorce, death of a partner, work requirements and illness. But one I want to specifically mention is domestic violence. These are parents in the position of having to separate from either the other parent or a partner, often because of concerns about their children's welfare and safety or because of the impact of witnessing or having been subject to violence. These people are forced to become sole parents because they fear for their safety or their children's safety. After having made that hard decision, they have to negotiate with the person who has been threatening violence and threatening their children. It must be incredibly hard to do those sorts of negotiations.

On a brighter side, importantly there is no evidence to suggest that children are worse off if brought up in single-parent households. There have been many, many studies on this, and what seems to matter is not how many parents there are or even whether the parents are biologically related to the children; instead, the factor that influences whether children have problems at school or with their siblings or their friends seems to be whether or not there is significant conflict at home, between parents or between parents and kids. That is clearly related to problems at school or with their friends.

Unfortunately, there is clear evidence that being a female single parent is not good for the long-term financial health of that parent. Many live in poverty while they are raising their children and, unfortunately, they tend not to be able to rebuild lives financially after this. Years of not working or working part time due to child-raising responsibilities can lead to single parents having low savings and super balances. As I said earlier, most single parents are women and, on average, women have half the super balance of men. Most single parents are not home owners, which further adds to their financial stress, especially in retirement. As Mr Steel mentioned, ACT Housing has a disproportionate number of single-parent tenants.

It really is important to make sure that single parents feel valued in our society. We often carry a greater burden than someone who has a parenting partner, as there is no-one to share the load. The challenges of parenting are numerous and sometimes feel overwhelming. I am very happy to agree that it is, indeed, important to support single parents in the Canberra community.

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (3.43): I thank Mr Steel for bringing this important matter before the Assembly today. I know from firsthand experience how important it is that single parents in our community receive the support they need. I was still in primary school in Sydney when my mum made the important decision to flee domestic violence, even though it would mean she would have to raise us kids alone.

As recent migrants to Australia who were unfamiliar with the social landscape and lacked a strong community network, we pretty much had no support. Courageously, my mum found an affordable rental property—this was back when poor people like us could actually afford to pay rent—and then proceeded to move herself and her five children into this small flat.

The flat was located about 20 or 25 minutes away by foot from our home, but feet were all that we had. So Mum borrowed a shopping trolley from the local shopping centre and we proceeded to make dozens of long trips to and from the new flat, taking whatever we could in each load. This was the beginning of many years of doing whatever she could to support her family, including working hard and long hours. We made it, thankfully, though sometimes only just. But it sure would have been nice to have a bit more support along the way.

The Canberra Liberals believe in a number of principles that relate to supporting single-parent families. First, we believe in the innate worth of the individual and in the right to be independent, to own property and to achieve. We also believe in equality of opportunity, with all Australians having the right to reach their full potential. Being a single parent should not make a person into a second-class citizen. We should all work together to remove obstacles that could stand in the way of anyone's independence. Single parents, for example, should have the same opportunities as anyone else to obtain education and skills, to work hard, to make choices that are good for their families and to even own their own homes.

The Canberra Liberals also believe in a just and humane society where those who cannot provide for themselves can live in dignity. Along the pathway to independence, many of us will experience phases where we need a bit of support, including things such as housing assistance. It grieves me personally to read just this week about how many people in Canberra currently have nowhere to sleep. This includes a large number of women, some of them single parents, who have taken to living in their cars. There is nothing dignified about sleeping in a car.

It is imperative for the ACT government to address the crisis in affordable housing that is hurting our community and that disproportionately harms single-parent families. Supporting these families is crucial, because the Canberra Liberals also believe in the family as the primary institution for fostering the values on which a cohesive society is built. When our families are strong, our entire community is strong. We must not let single parents or their children fall through the cracks.

Most single parents do not choose their situations. Many of them, like my mum, find themselves raising children alone because they have been forced to flee domestic violence in order to protect themselves and/or their children. Whenever we discuss supporting single parents, we should remember to connect the dots back, and in many cases it is to personal and family violence. Responding correctly to domestic violence, therefore, is one important way that we can support single parents.

Yesterday's *Canberra Times* discussed a recent report, based upon interviews with frontline crisis workers who help those experiencing domestic violence, which is

meant to inform the government's development of its domestic violence hub. A number of issues raised in this report also speak to how we should support single parents. First, although most single parents are women, not all are. We must be careful, therefore, not to isolate single fathers by relying on a gendered approach.

Second, those who have experienced intergenerational trauma are often afraid to ask for help. We need to carefully design our responses so that we make it as safe and as comfortable as possible for such people to seek the help that they need. Third, we must be sensitive to a variety of cultural values. As the report notes, traditional domestic violence responses are typically geared towards perpetrators leaving and therefore often do not suit those who have a strong cultural drive to keep their families together. The breakdown of a two-parent family is likewise experienced differently by different people, depending on a number of factors, including culture, and we must be careful not to impose a one-size-fits-all approach.

The question remains: who should be providing this support? Without a doubt the ACT government must play a role. At the same time, various community organisations, churches, mosques, temples, clubs and associations have an enormous role to play. When such groups are there for each other and take care of each other, this is often all the support that some single parents will need. We also have roles to play as individuals. We should be involved in our communities and know our neighbours. One of the most important ways we can support single parents in our community is to be each other's friends. In this way we can help to provide the emotional support that single parent families may need. We can listen. We can offer help to kids. We can take an interest in the children's schooling, sport and other activities. In short, we all need to be there for each other. I hope Canberra can be a city that takes care of its single parents.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Women and Minister for Sport and Recreation) (3.49): I thank Mr Steel for bringing this matter of public importance to the chamber today. It is a very important discussion. I acknowledge the challenges of single parents—including Mrs Kikkert's family and Caroline Le Couteur and me as single parents. But it is less about us and more about the people in our community that we are here to represent.

There is no doubt that it is tough for single parent families. The biggest issue facing them is financial stress. I think Ms Le Couteur was at the same rally I was at, not long after I was elected to this place, when the federal Labor government cut the single-parenting payment. The effect that had on single-parent families across the country was extraordinary and continues to be the case. It meant that parenting payments were cut by up to \$110 a week. When you are living on nothing and your payments are cut by \$110 a week, there is not much left for your family to get by on.

After that process, and when a new government was elected, it was acknowledged by a member of the federal Labor Party at the time that that was not the right decision to make and that it had a detrimental effect on single parents all across the country. The

financial stress that comes to single parents through cuts like those of 2013 really has a significant effect, but then there is the flow-on from that. Often when people are experiencing or have experienced issues like domestic and family violence, being able to access financial support is incredibly difficult. Then there all the other processes a person might need to go through—whether that is court appearances, working out how to find a home for you and your children, and determining whether you are the primary carer or not. All of those issues are impacted by your ability to continue to work, if you are working in the first place.

That is why the ACT government provided access to domestic and family violence leave for its workforce. The ACT government provides 20 days additional leave for people who have experienced or are experiencing domestic and family violence so that they can access that leave over and above any other leave they would be entitled to, so that they can move themselves on, move their children to safety, deal with injuries if they need to, go to medical appointments and at the same time not be judged by others and not eat into any other leave provisions.

The ACT government has been calling on the federal government for some time to have this leave included as a national employment standard, but at this stage that has not been the case. Whilst I have heard some employer organisations say that employers will just allow the leave to occur, it is more than just an entitlement to leave; it is about building on a cultural change we are trying to commit to as a community. It is about how we have respectful relationships and how, together as a community, we deal with this terrible issue of domestic and family violence. It is more than just a leave entitlement; it is about building on a culture we want to change in our community.

We need to end domestic and family violence, and that goes beyond what happens in your home. Each of us needs to know what is going on and reach out to people who need support in different kinds of ways, whether that is in our workplaces or within our neighbourhoods. That is why domestic and family violence leave has been such an important entitlement for people who have experienced it, over and above any of their other entitlements.

The impact of financial abuse post-separation has been particularly stark for women interviewed as part of the recent ANROWS analysis with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The analysis showed that ex-partners denied or misused access to financial or material resources to maintain abuse and control after separation, resulting for some women in periods of homelessness or housing problems, the loss of employment, and a post-separation lifestyle marked by poverty and instability. This confirms the need for women and men who are single parents to be able to access an entitlement to leave that will allow them to get control over their lives and also their finances, which are a very important part of that.

Mr Steel commented on early childhood education and access to out of hours education, particularly for women, but for single parents more generally. One of the biggest issues the ACT is facing in funding for early childhood education is continued funding from the federal government, through a partnership agreement on universal

access, which provides 15 hours of free preschool education each week—12 hours funded by the ACT government, with an additional three hours co-funded with the federal government. I have publicly, on a number of occasions, called on the federal minister to confirm that that funding will continue. Mr Birmingham, the federal education minister, has never, ever confirmed that that will be the case. In fact, he has all but said that that funding will not continue and that the federal government considers it has dealt with the issue of affordability for early childhood education through changes to the childcare benefit.

If you are a sole parent struggling to make ends meet, no childcare benefit or arrangements in that space will allow you to afford early childhood education in a long day care setting. That means that children of low income families and single parents will miss out because of the cuts that the federal government has refused to confirm will not go ahead. That affects all of us. When the children of single-parent families are not properly prepared for the life that they are about to go into in preschool, all of us pay for that and all of us are responsible for that in our community.

We want strong and inclusive communities and we want to make sure every child gets the best chance at the best quality education possible. Education is vitally important, but it cannot be accessed by single families who are struggling to make ends meet. It continues to be available at the moment, but there is no guarantee that that will continue. A couple of things are out of our control, and we call on the federal government to implement domestic and family violence leave, which will support single-parent families, and to continue funding universal access so that single-parent families experiencing financial stress can continue to ensure that young people in their lives get the best start to a quality education in preschool before they go into kindergarten and primary school.

Discussion concluded.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (3.58): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services for the Ninth Assembly relating to statutory appointments in accordance with continuing resolution 5A. Continuing resolution 5A requires standing committees which consider statutory appointments to report on a six-monthly basis and present a schedule listing appointments considered during the applicable period.

The schedule is required to include the statutory appointments considered and, for each appointment, the date the request from the responsible minister for consultation was received and the date the committee's feedback was provided. For the applicable reporting period, 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017, the committee considered the appointment of five part-time appointments to one statutory body. In that case, the committee advised the minister it had no comment to make on the appointments proposed.

I therefore table a schedule of statutory appointments for the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017 as considered by the environment and transport and city services committee for the Ninth Assembly in accordance with continuing resolution 5A. I present the following paper:

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—9th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2017.

Statement by chair

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (3.59): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services. At a private meeting on 26 July 2017 the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the management of ACT cemeteries. The committee resolved to inquire into the management of cemeteries in the ACT with particular reference to:

1. Current burial and cremation practices in the ACT, including;
 - a. Current and anticipated community and regional demand for burial, cremation and any other internment or memorial practices in the ACT,
 - b. Current and anticipated capacity of existing ACT cemeteries,
 - c. Land management/land use and maintenance relating to ACT cemeteries including the identification of potential future sites,
 - d. Tenure;
2. The funding model for ACT cemeteries, including:
 - a. Initial and ongoing expenditure for burial, cremation, internment and memorial practices,
 - b. Current funding sources for burial, cremation, internment and memorial practices,
 - c. Cost-effectiveness and future viability of the current funding model,
 - d. Comparative analysis with funding models used in other jurisdictions,
 - e. The role of the private sector;
3. The governance model for ACT cemeteries, including:
 - a. Legislative requirements and current governance structures,
 - b. The cost-effectiveness of existing structures,
 - c. Comparative analysis with governance models in other jurisdictions, and
4. Any other relevant matter.

The committee will present its report to the Assembly by the last sitting day for 2017.

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (4:01): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services for the Ninth Assembly relating to statutory appointments in accordance with continuing resolution 5A.

I wish to inform the Assembly that during the applicable reporting period, 1 January 2017 to 31 July 2017, the standing committee considered the proposed appointment of two members to the ACT Medicines Advisory Board. The committee has advised the minister it has no recommendation to make on the proposed appointment.

I now table a schedule of the statutory appointments considered during this period. I present the following paper:

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—9th Assembly—Period 1 January to 31 July 2017.

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4:01): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal relating to statutory appointments in accordance with continuing resolution 5A. I wish to inform the Assembly that during the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017 the standing committee considered 11 statutory appointments.

In accordance with continuing resolution 5A, I now table a schedule of statutory appointments considered during this reporting period. I present the following paper:

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—9th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2017.

Statement by chair

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal relating to petition No 1-17. The petition was received by the Assembly on 14 February 2017 and was referred to the committee under standing order 99A. This petition requested the minister to consider the draft master plan for the Curtin group centre and the potential effects on the Curtin group centre and Curtin Square when considering proposed development applications for the site.

The committee notes that the minister's response to the petition under standing order 100 indicates that a development application for Curtin Place had been refused by the Planning and Land Authority in February 2017 and notes that any future development applications located within the Curtin group centre will be assessed in accordance with relevant planning legislation. Following consideration of the petition and the minister's response, the committee has determined that it will not be holding an inquiry into the matter at this time.

Adjournment

Motion (by **Ms Berry**) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Light Up Lyneham

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (4.03): On Saturday, 29 July I had the great pleasure of attending the Lyneham Community Association's inaugural Light Up Lyneham event. The event was born out of the community's bright idea—sorry about the pun—of celebrating the halfway mark of winter by lighting up the night with a lantern walk around the Lyneham wetlands. Groups like the Black Mountain Girl Guides, North Canberra Burley Griffin Girl Guides, Lyneham Primary School P&C, the Crossroads Church, Lisa Tozer from the Interview Coach and Lisa Burkart's Recycled Winter Clothing helped to pull the event together.

As with any good community event, sausage sizzles, hot chocolate and hot apple cider, ice cream, cookies and cupcakes were in abundance. It was also a pleasure to see our very own Family Court judge, Justice Shane Gill, showing off his barbecue skills at the sausage sizzle. I was able to indulge in a cup of hot chocolate as, with our homemade lanterns, we took a nice walk around the Lyneham wetlands. Our way was lit by both a series of lanterns laid out by the community association and by a luminous Chinese dragon from the Prosperous Mountain Lion Dance group that danced its way along the bike paths of Lyneham.

I was delighted to see the community come together, which made it a really special event. More than 500 Lyneham-ites, if I can call them that, and other residents from all over my electorate were in attendance. Not only was this a great way to get to know Lyneham but it was also a good way to check out the beauty of the wetlands and a fun way of spending a Saturday evening.

I am grateful for the opportunity to engage in community initiatives such as this. It is always encouraging to see how events like this can bring Canberrans together. They are truly a testament to the vibrant, supportive and passionate community that exists within my electorate of Kurrajong.

**Giralang park
Giralang shops site**

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (4.05): I rise today to provide an update on my recent activity in Giralang. In the 2016-17 budget the government committed \$100,000 to the development of a park in Giralang. Since the budget announcement I have been out at stalls and knocking on doors, speaking with residents of Giralang about the things that they would like in their park.

So far we have received requests for play opportunities for kids under five and over five, somewhere for parents to sit, somewhere for older residents to sit, a BMX track like the one at North Ainslie primary, somewhere to work out, something for teenagers—although no-one has been able to tell us what this might be, lots of native grasses, no native grasses, a coffee cart, and a fireman's pole. People have been surprised and encouraged that they can have a say about what goes into the park before the design is drafted. I will continue to collect all of these ideas, which will inform the design that is put to the community as part of the formal planning process.

As I have mentioned before, the development of Giralang shops has been and continues to be a hot topic in Giralang. Whenever it comes up, the question I most often receive is: what is going on? I met with the site developer in April this year. During that meeting I conveyed the views expressed to me by the Giralang community. His response was that he is re-energised and committed to seeing the development progress. I encouraged the developer to speak with the Giralang community and keep them informed as he progresses.

But by all accounts known to me, the developer has not provided the community with any information, and the question I still most often receive from residents is: what is going on? Residents were especially desperate for information when the lights and demountable sheds were removed from the site in May. This was the first movement on the site in years, but the community heard nothing. Giralang residents contacted me, asking if this indicated the developer had given up on the project and was abandoning the site. I let the developer know that residents still have questions and again encouraged him to speak to residents directly. Unfortunately, he is yet to engage the Giralang community. The conversation in Giralang has now turned to, "Can't the developer at least clean up the site?" and "Isn't he in breach of his lease?"

In response to these questions, I agree with the community's view that the building site should be maintained and kept tidy. In June this year I wrote to the minister for planning raising concerns about the upkeep of the site. Following my letter, Access Canberra inspectors attended the site. Access Canberra is now contacting the developer to remind him of the need to keep the site tidy at all times. As to the question of breaching the conditions of the lease, I can confirm that, under clause 3(b) of the lease, the lessee of the Giralang shops site is required to complete the development within 36 months of the start of their lease. According to the crown lease, the erection of buildings on the Giralang shops site should have been completed by 12 March this year.

The government has now notified the developer that he is in breach of this clause and that he has two options available to him: to submit a development application with a lease variation to extend the completion date or apply for a lease variation to extend the date. It is my understanding that the developer would have a case for an extension, given the legal circumstances surrounding the development, but he does need to put in an application. Following these events, I have in the last few days received a call from the developer requesting a meeting so that he can update me on his progress. I welcome his approach and hope it indicates that community engagement will shortly follow.

While the lack of progress on the Giralang shops is disappointing, we, the ACT government, see no reason why this should hold up other development in Giralang. The government is working to restore the heart of Giralang, including by delivering a park for all residents to enjoy. The government is ensuring the developer is compliant with the terms of his lease and is maintaining the site in accordance with the relevant regulations. The government is committed to delivering a quality, integrated precinct for Giralang, one that the community can contribute to and feel they have ownership of. I look forward to hearing directly from the developer about what he is doing to progress the shops.

OECD education report

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (4.10): I rise to speak about the recent release of the OECD's 2017 report *Starting Strong V* on how member states fare with the education of their young children. Since its inception in 2001 the *Starting Strong* series has, over its five entries, been a driver of policy reform in early childhood education and care, with the most recent report focused on transitions from early childhood education and care to primary education. Policymakers and researchers here in Australia regularly draw upon the series as a benchmark for comparing Australia's inputs and outcomes as well as providing future policy direction.

The data compiled and the recommendations contained in the series were the major contributors to the formation in 2009 of the national partnership on universal access and the national partnership on the national quality agenda that continue to guide commonwealth and state policies in this area today. The publishing of the latest report is an excellent time to take stock of what we are doing right and to identify where we need to improve.

Australia has made significant strides in boosting access to and ensuring greater quality in early childhood education and care, particularly amongst four-year-olds, although, as the minister mentioned before, funding from the commonwealth for universal access is not certain into the future. However, we do still lag behind other OECD member states. For example, while the participation rate of four-year-olds has risen to 85 per cent, it still lags below the 95 per cent standard in the UK, France, Germany and several Scandinavian countries. We have a particularly poor participation rate in regard to three-year-olds accessing early childhood education and care. We rank in the bottom third of all countries in the OECD in that regard.

This is a critical problem because, as the report shows, two years of preschool are better than one. Findings from the report and PISA show that the number of years of preschooling education that a child receives is the strongest predictor of educational performance at age 15, adjusting for socioeconomic background. PISA results show that, on average, students who received two or more years of early childhood education and care achieved science results that were a third better than students who received a year or less. Likewise, students who received two or more years of ECEC were less than half as likely to fall below the baseline science proficiency level than students who received a year or less.

In the past I have repeated ad nauseam the findings of the study on the effective provision of preschool, primary and secondary education from the UK, which found that students who undertook two years of early childhood education from age three were more than three times more likely to take higher academic pathways into post-secondary education.

The report from the OECD, *Starting Strong*, also shows that in Australia this problem is particularly compounded by especially poor attendance rates amongst children from low socioeconomic and immigrant backgrounds, who have the most to gain from access and participation. Without free access to preschool, I suspect that these groups may not be participating at age three in the ACT as well, although some higher socioeconomic groups may be attending through childcare arrangements. This demonstrates again why we need to start the detailed policy work to provide universal access to three-year-olds in this country generally.

Something else contained in the report that can be tackled right now is the state of data available to policymakers and researchers. As Dr Stacey Fox, Sarah Pilcher and Kate Torii of the Mitchell Institute point out in relation to the report, limitations in the current data collections are a real problem, including the large number of three-year-olds attending programs delivered by an early childhood teacher in long day care settings, which is missed in our data collection. This is the responsibility of the COAG early childhood data subgroup. It is vital that this deficiency in our data is addressed as soon as possible, because we need to measure improvements to the participation of children at age three to inform future policy development.

I am delighted that the ACT government is working towards a future of education strategy. I understand that the ACT government will release its early childhood education discussion papers for consultation as part of this work. It is an important process and I hope that the early childhood sector in the ACT, parents and children get involved.

Holy Family Primary School—additional classrooms

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (4.15): I rise today to speak about the official opening of the new facilities at Holy Family Primary School in Gowrie that I attended, along with Senator Zed Seselja and my Assembly colleague Mark Parton. Holy Family Primary School has been operating since 1985 and has been an important part of the

lives of many families living in south Tuggeranong. Other people attend from Jerrabomberra and rural estates like Burra and Googong and Royalla. It was a while ago, but my kids attended Holy Family Primary School, and now some of my grandchildren are attending the school.

Holy Family has a current enrolment of around 660 students, from kindergarten to year 6, and 110 preschool students, supported by dedicated staff. The school provides a wide-ranging and rich curriculum incorporating literacy, numeracy and information and communications technology. Furthermore, the students are taught life skills such as respect, cooperation and independence. The new block at Holy Family provides students and staff with access to two new classrooms and an amenities block. Up-to-date educational facilities play an important role for students in their learning. These new facilities have incorporated modern education research so that students can maximise their learning.

During the opening I was privileged to meet many supportive and passionate parents, teachers and students who are very excited about the new classroom block. The opening of the new facilities was also a reflection of the strong sense of community, with many engaged parents and community members. The official opening was accompanied, of course, by a delicious morning tea. I am sure the school community would like me to pass on once again their thanks to the commonwealth government and the wider school community—parents and other members of the community—for funding this project. I would like to acknowledge the principal, Ms Anne-Marie Marek, the chair of the school board, Mr Brett Mulvey, as well as the many staff and parents for their ongoing efforts in fostering a great educational environment for the students of Holy Family primary.

Hands Across Canberra

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (4.17): I rise today to express my gratitude and support for Hands Across Canberra, a foundation that provides a simple, direct, cost-effective, flexible and financially secure opportunity for Canberrans to contribute to our local charities here in the ACT.

Hands Across Canberra achieves this in a number of ways. First, it provides a vehicle for people and businesses to conveniently and actively engage in philanthropic activities to address a wide range of issues in the ACT community. Second, by building a permanent fund and generating increasing resources, Hands Across Canberra has been able to use these tools freely in order to meet Canberra's current and ever-changing needs. By recognising and improving the capacity of donors and grant recipients, opening up new areas of social investment and exercising coordination and leadership in local philanthropic work, Hands Across Canberra supports and celebrates the community spirit and generosity that is at the heart of the ACT community.

Two weeks ago I had the privilege of attending Hands Across Canberra's 2017 grant announcement at Canberra City Care, which operates a number of services for the community in west Belconnen, in my electorate of Ginninderra. This valuable

organisation acknowledged the important and essential contributions charities make across the ACT and provided \$197,497 to a number of our local charities that work with our community's most vulnerable people, including OzHarvest Canberra, the Shepherd Centre, St Vincent de Paul Society, YWCA Canberra, Lifeline Canberra and many more.

At this event Peter Gordon, CEO of Hands Across Canberra, remarked that the role of the organisation is to:

... encourage Canberrans to think about being generous right here in our own backyard ... I work to connect people who can help with local charities needing support.

I am grateful not just for Hands Across Canberra but for each of the charities that this organisation supports. The Canberra Liberals strongly believe in a just and humane society where those who cannot provide for themselves can live in dignity. We also believe in the innate worth of the individual. It is my belief that many Canberrans understand and share these same principles. They understand that in the great family of man we are all brothers and sisters; therefore we have not just the obligation but also the happy opportunity to love and take care of each other.

But how do we do that? Often we do not know who needs help. That is where an organisation like Hands Across Canberra comes in. They know who needs our help, providing a place where we can give, secure in the knowledge that our gifts of love will reach their target. I encourage all members of this Assembly and all Canberra citizens to consider contributing.

World Refugee Day NAIDOC Week

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (4.20): I endorse the comments of Mrs Kikkert about Hands Across Canberra, a very worthy organisation.

Canberra is a city of great diversity. During the winter recess I was able to join with members of Canberra's community to not only celebrate this diversity but also reflect on what can be done to continue to support and promote inclusion.

On 20 June, I joined Canberrans and communities across the globe in marking World Refugee Day, a day that both highlights the plight and celebrates the triumph of people from refugee backgrounds. Here in the ACT we have welcomed more than 2,000 refugees over the past 10 years. This year the government hosted a World Refugee Day breakfast for refugees and non-government organisations that support refugees and asylum seekers in our community.

Mr Mustafa Ehsan, a Hazara refugee from Iran and the 2017 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year, spoke at the breakfast. He spoke movingly of his work with young refugees and asylum seekers, including his ongoing determination to include all Canberrans through sport and social mentoring. I had the opportunity to see his work in action at the Multicultural Youth Services “Refugee World Cup” at Hawker Football Centre.

The ACT government has a strong commitment to supporting refugees and other newly arrived Canberrans. As part of this commitment, as members would be aware, the ACT became a refugee welcome zone in 2015. As part of Refugee Week this year the ACT played host to a forum of 50 refugee welcome zones to work on ways to better support refugees in our communities. The forum discussed issues such as role models, how to counter negative stereotypes, local government leadership, fostering engagement, and social cohesion.

Amongst all of the activities of the week, one of the real highlights was the awarding of the Canberra Refugee Support Scholarships. At the ceremony I had the opportunity to hear from Canberra students with asylum seeker or refugee backgrounds, to hear of their personal aspirations, their stories and their vision for their future life in our city. At each and every one of these events the strength of our diverse community and the value of multiculturalism—including some of our newest communities—were on display. At each event I met new Canberrans whom our country should be proud to claim as new citizens. We should be welcoming their full participation in our community, not making it harder as the federal Liberal government is currently seeking to do.

It was also a privilege to be able to join our oldest community, our first peoples, to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander history, culture and achievements in NAIDOC week. The NAIDOC theme for this year, “Our languages matter”, aimed to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water, and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander history, spirituality and rites through story and song. Some 250 distinct Indigenous language groups covered the continent at the time of significant European contact in the late 18th century. Today only 120 of those languages are still spoken and many are at risk of being lost as elders pass on.

I was able to attend a number of events held throughout NAIDOC Week, including the Canberra and district NAIDOC Aboriginal corporation ball, NAIDOC family days at Belconnen and the University of Canberra, and the 2017 NAIDOC Community Art Exhibition. At all of these events the strength of our local community and the ongoing cultural connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans were proudly on display. I thank and congratulate the organisers of all of these events.

I am looking forward to joining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families tomorrow at the West Belconnen Child and Family Centre to celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day at their bush tucker garden. This day is not only a time for these families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their

children but also an opportunity for all Australians to learn about the crucial role that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

Mr Les Murray

MR DOSZPOT (Kurrajong) (4.24): I rise tonight to speak about the passing of yet another old friend, Les Murray. Les passed away last Monday, 31 July 2017, after a lengthy illness—an illness that Les chose to keep as a private battle. I last spoke to him a few months ago when he rang me to enquire about my health. He was still heavily involved, advocating for an additional national league club for the Illawarra area, his passion for football still present to the very end.

Les was born Laszlo Urge in Budapest in 1945 and came to Australia in 1957 as a refugee with his parents and two brothers, Bandy and Jozsy. After settling in to school as an 11 year old, Les was shocked to discover that his football was not the national sport of Australia, and began his life journey to change that. He wanted Australians to recognise and convert to “the beautiful game” and, with Johnny Warren, he made an incredible impact on recognition and acceptance of the world game here in Australia.

My friendship with Les began when I was around 16 and Les a whole two years older. We played soccer every Sunday morning at Sydney’s Centennial Park, with an eclectic bunch of young and old Hungarian refugees who, apart from our ethnic backgrounds, were drawn together through passion for our football, which we had to call soccer in our new homeland.

In the following years we went in different directions. Les joined a pop group as lead singer and became heavily involved, with his family, in a new soccer club, St George-Budapest. I lived in Leichhardt and started playing for APIA. We reconnected when I also joined St George-Budapest. Les was already there, playing reserve grade, while Johnny Warren was captaining St George-Budapest first grade and I was merely in third grade. Johnny and Les became great mates, while I moved to Canberra and, along with football legend Charlie Perkins, helped to set up our first entry into the 1977 Phillips Soccer League.

There has already been a lot said about Les and his impact on and contribution to Australian football. What is not well known is that Les has quite a history with our fair city, Canberra. Through our St George-Budapest connection, I was instrumental in getting Johnny Warren to become Canberra City’s first coach. Then, a year later, after Les had a short stint as a soccer commentator at Channel 10 in Sydney, his program was cancelled and I was able get Les to come to Canberra to be a soccer commentator calling the Canberra City matches fortnightly for Tony Campbell’s *Wide World of Sport* on Capital 7.

He called many matches of the National Soccer League and, incidentally, a new team, Canberra City, was coached by our mutual friend Johnny Warren. That was at the then Bruce Stadium from 1978 to 1980. Les was the commentator and I was his co-commentator. We spent many an afternoon up high in the commentary box at the

then Bruce Stadium, as we froze in our little box, calling various matches; not a lot of winning matches but a lot of Canberra City matches. So when SBS came onto the scene, Les was in the box seat, so to speak, to get a job with the new broadcaster, as the most experienced soccer commentator in Australia.

Les has had an incredible journey. He had a song written about him in the mid-1990s by a cult band called TISM, titled *What Nationality is Les Murray?* He met players like Puskas, Pele, Beckenbauer and Maradona. He was Mr Soccer, not just around Australia but on the world scene. The following is a description of Les by Sepp Blatter, the then president of FIFA: “Les, at first a media contact in faraway Australia, rapidly became a voice we all had to listen to. His expertise is unrivalled, his professionalism poignant and his integrity complete. His instinct detects hidden flaws, recognises inaccuracies with lightning speed and his judgement is always fair, respectful and clear.”

Johnny Warren and Les Murray became a dynamic duo as soccer commentators, giving us a level of insight and analysis that had all of us enthralled as they took us on a magical football journey every four years from one World Cup to another. They became known as Mr and Mrs Soccer, a partnership and a journey that we all followed to that epic game against Uruguay that eventually took the Socceroos to Germany in 2006 and a result that, sadly, our good friend Johnny Warren never got to see.

And now of course we will be saying farewell to Les Murray at a much-deserved state funeral in Sydney next week, as Les joins up with our other two close mutual friends Johnny Warren and Charlie Perkins. I believe Les Murray lived that famous Bill Shankly quote, “Football is not a matter of life or death. It is much more important than that.”

Rest in peace, old friend.

NAIDOC Week

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (4.29): It was my pleasure to speak at the NAIDOC Week celebrations at the Gilmore Church. NAIDOC Week is an important week to the Australian community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. It helps to celebrate and recognise the rich cultural heritage of the first peoples and their contribution to making Australian society unique. It was a pleasure to be invited to celebrate this with them.

One of the things I have enjoyed as shadow minister for Indigenous affairs has been the opportunity to meet with members of the Indigenous community. Opportunities such as the celebrations provide places to chat with them, hear their stories, or yarns—and sometimes sad ones, I confess. This has certainly been a highlight for me. It has highlighted for me the depth and richness of the Indigenous culture and what it contributes to the Australian landscape. I particularly value the Indigenous focus on family. It is something that we could and should learn more about.

NAIDOC Week this year was a celebration of Indigenous culture and history and the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The primary focus was on their languages, for languages matter. They matter as the primary way to safeguard and preserve cultural identity, linking people to their land and water, and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites through story and song.

I learned more about the importance of Indigenous language preservation in my recent visit to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. The institute is situated near the National Museum of Australia and houses an amazing collection of artefacts, including film, photographs and printed material. A key function of the institute is to preserve Indigenous language, which includes the collection and publication of Indigenous dictionaries.

During my visit I learned from Dr Michael Walsh, senior research fellow with the institute's centre for languages. Michael shared with me an in-depth look at how the languages were revitalised using both past and current sources. He gave an example of the process for recording each word. It is extremely complicated and can include as many as 13 to 15 sources, many dating back to the earliest surveyor records.

I was interested to learn that the institute was a key contributor to the development of the acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language used by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in recent times. While this may seem easy, Michael shared that finding the right words—for example, for the word “acknowledge”—is not easy, as often these words do not have equivalent words in the Indigenous language.

This also opens up the importance of revitalising languages for local Canberran Aboriginals. However, it goes well beyond the welcome to country. Language links them to their land and lore and allows them to transmit their history, spirituality and rites. Having a written record of the languages of the local Indigenous people would also provide opportunities for books to be printed in that language and for their traditional stories to be published.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 4.33 pm until Tuesday, 15 August, 2017, at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Light rail—employment (Question No 148)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 24 March 2017:

- (1) Has a Local Industry Participation Plan, or similar, been implemented as part of the contract with Canberra Metro for the light rail project; if so, can the Minister, outline the obligations, if any, of the Canberra Metro consortium to employ Canberrans and to engage subcontractors based in the Australian Capital Territory.
- (2) How many Canberrans have been directly employed to date by Canberra Metro to work on the light rail project.
- (3) How many subcontractors based (a) in and (b) outside of the Australian Capital Territory have been engaged by the Canberra Metro consortium to work on the light rail project.
- (4) What process is in place to allow local businesses the opportunity to bid for work on the light rail project?
- (5) Has a Subcontractor Forum been established by the Canberra Metro consortium or by Transport Canberra; if so, (a) how many meetings of the Forum have been held to date and (b) are minutes of the Forum's meetings publicly available.

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

- (1) The Canberra Metro Consortium has a contractual obligation to recognise the ACT Government's requirements for local industry participation. Canberra Metro has prepared its Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP).

This plan addresses the ways by which Canberra Metro intends to identify, create, communicate and provide opportunities to local industry in Canberra and the surrounding region. It includes:

- workforce skills development and training;
- partnership with UNSW @ ADFA to provide undergraduate students with work experience placements;
- local industry and Small Medium Enterprise (SME) participation strategies; and
- key performance indicators and reporting mechanisms.

The LIPP outlines the following commitments

LIPP Objective	LIPP commitment
Apprentices and Trainees	Minimum of 60 apprentices and trainees during peak workforce numbers.

LIPP Objective	LIPP commitment
Diversity and Equity	10% diversity and equity representation in overall workforce during delivery phase.
Graduates Placements: additional activity	10 placements on Project during delivery phase.
Local Sustainable Jobs	70% of all jobs in the delivery phase.
Training (Diversity Related)	100% of the overall workforce during the delivery phase.
Local Business	50% use of local suppliers during Delivery phase – additional activity Living partnerships program including working with ICN, the Business Reference Groups and the Canberra Business Chamber.
Nationally Recognised Training	Minimum 20% of overall workforce to undertake nationally recognised and accredited training per annum
Education Contribution Program	2% of staff (with 100% staff eligibility) participation in an Education Contribution Program established in accordance with the LIPP.
Work Experience Placements (UNSW @ ADFA)	Between academic years (i.e. 3rd week of November to 2nd week of February inclusive) throughout the delivery period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 x Civil engineering students; • 5 x Mechanical engineering students; and • 5 x Electrical engineering students.
Corporate Office Location	Canberra Metro will locate its corporate offices in the Operational Control Centre in Mitchell during the Operating Phase.

- (2) Canberra Metro's current workforce is comprised of 86% local employees. For the purposes of reporting, local staff and workforce are people who reside within the ACT and nearby communities that encompass the greater capital region, such as those residing in Queanbeyan, Palerang and Yass.
- (3) On 24 August 2016 in a local industry forum hosted by the Canberra Business Chamber 75 work packages targeting local businesses were launched. Since then, Canberra Metro has revised a number of these packages to be more reflective of how the project is being delivered by splitting them into 292 smaller packages. Current figures indicate that 221 work packages have been awarded, 127 (57%) of which to local businesses.
- (4) A select tender process is run by Canberra Metro to award work packages. The Canberra Business Chamber Light Rail Business Link Program continues to promote and advertise work packages still to be awarded to the business community. A full list of work packages is available on the Canberra Business Chamber Light Rail Business Link Program website.

- (5) A Subcontractor Forum has been established by Canberra Metro, with the inaugural forum held in May 2017.

Other forums that Canberra Metro has held with subcontractors include:

- two Master Builders Association information/feedback sessions; and
- four Light Rail Business link forums – run by the Canberra Business Chamber.

Housing—government purchases (Question No 166)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Further to the evidence given to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal on 10 March 2017, could the Minister outline the advice received about the publication of property purchases on the ACT Government Notifiable Invoices Register, particularly whether invoices for components of a purchase that meet the threshold value of \$25,000 should be published on the Register.
- (2) Could the Minister provide a list setting out any payments made for invoices above \$25,000 that have not been published on the ACT Notifiable Invoices Register since 1 July 2015 including the same details as set out on the Register, that is (a) supplier name, (b) supplier ABN, (c) reporting entity, (d) publish description, (e) payment date and (f) payment amount.

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

- (1) The Land Development Agency (LDA) has received advice that payments such as reimbursements, act of grace payments, or payment for property are not notifiable invoices under section 42A of the *Government Procurement Act 2001* as they do not represent a good, service or works.
- (2) Below is a list of payments above \$25,000 that have not been published on the ACT Notifiable Invoices Register. A total of 11 payments have been excluded from this list as they are subject to confidentiality agreements. The total value of these payments is \$16.560 million and they primarily relate to land acquisition payments.

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

Land Development Agency—staffing (Question No 168)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Further to question on notice No 77, what is the current (a) full-time equivalent (FTE) of the workforce of the Land Development Agency (LDA), (b) headcount of the workforce of the LDA and (c) number of executive staff of the LDA.

- (2) What is the FTE and cost of support (or administrative or central) staff that are not attributable, or directly working on, LDA projects.
- (3) Given that the Chief Minister announced the Government's intention to replace the LDA with two other agencies as from 1 July 2017, will staffing numbers at the LDA reduce in the period to 1 July 2017.
- (4) Will existing staff of the LDA be given the opportunity to transfer to one of the two agencies or to remain in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.
- (5) Will any redundancies be offered as a result of the decision to replace the LDA with two new agencies; if so, how many may be offered and at what estimated cost.

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

- (1) As at 31 April 2017:
 - a) 107.95
 - b) 110
 - c) 8
- (2) Total FTE related to administrative functions is 46 which represents an estimated cost of \$5.730 million for 2016-17. This includes sales and marketing, finance, human resources, governance and valuations.
- (3) The LDA will be abolished from 1 July 2017. All LDA positions will be transferred to either the new entities or the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.
- (4) LDA staff will be given the opportunity to transfer to one of the two agencies or the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.
- (5) No staff will be offered redundancies as part of the transition. Three executive contracts will be ceased as a result of the transition. The total cost is estimated at \$0.3 million.

Infrastructure—Pialligo (Question No 169)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) In relation to the scheduled mowing program, could the Minister advise which suburb includes the area around Pialligo.
- (2) Should a separate entry be considered for Pialligo for the information of residents and visitors to this area.
- (3) Are there any proposals under consideration to improve the condition of Beltana Road in Pialligo, particularly to ensure the safe use of the road by motorists, cyclists and pedestrians; if so, when can the community expect an announcement regarding any improvements to Beltana Road and the actual work to commence.

- (4) Are there any proposals under consideration to extend public transport to Pialligo; if so, can the Minister outline the proposals under consideration and advise when the community can expect an announcement to be made.
- (5) Is Beltana Road Pialligo a suitable road for a Transport Canberra bus to safely navigate.

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

- (1) The area around Pialligo that is included in the arterial road mowing program consists of urban open space along Pialligo Avenue.
- (2) Yes. Pialligo will be included on the suburb mowing program for the 2017-18 mowing season.
- (3) Work to upgrade the culvert is scheduled for 2017-18 to address stormwater issues. Other than stormwater, there are no planned upgrades to the condition of the road.
- (4) There are currently no proposals under consideration to extend public transport services to Pialligo.
- (5) Transport Canberra considers Beltana Road as suitable for infrequent bus use only.

**Street lights—maintenance
(Question No 170)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) What is the total number of street lights in the Territory.
- (2) How many street lights use energy-efficient globes and what is the expected life of energy-efficient globes.
- (3) How many street lights have mercury vapour lamps and what is the expected life of mercury vapour lamps.
- (4) How much funding was allocated in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 for the replacement of mercury vapour lamps.
- (5) What is the current timeframe for replacing mercury vapour lamps in the ACT.
- (6) How many complaints were lodged via Access Canberra (Fix My Street) regarding failed street lights in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (7) What is the standard timeframe to repair a failed street light after it has been reported to Access Canberra (Fix My Street).
- (8) What procedure is followed when logging a work order for the repair of a street light.

- (9) Are repairs done in chronological order after a failure has been reported or are jobs reserved until there is sufficient work in a suburb for a repair crew to undertake.
- (10) Is there a procedure for expediting urgent street light repairs, such as when complaints are submitted by elderly people or when a light that illuminates an intersection fails.

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

- (1) As at 30 March 2017, the number of streetlights owned by TCCS was 78,900.
- (2) As at 30 March 2017, the number of streetlights that use energy-efficient globes is 21,014 (compact-fluorescent), plus 3,818 LED fittings. The compact-fluorescent globes have an expected life of four years and the LED fittings have an expected life of 10 years.
- (3) As at 30 March 2017, there were 6,908 mercury vapour lamps with an expected life of four years.
- (4) No specific program for mercury vapour lamp replacement was separately funded during 2015-16 or 2016-17. Mercury vapour lamps are being continuously replaced under the routine maintenance program. 618 mercury vapour fittings have been replaced since 2014 at an approximate total cost of \$988,800.
- (5) Mercury vapour lamps are replaced with LED when they are no longer serviceable.
- (6) Fix My Street request for streetlight repairs:
 - a) 2014-15 – 3,347
 - b) 2015-16 – 4,095
 - c) 2016-17 - 2,909 (to 30 March 2017)
- (7) The standard timeframe for a repair of a streetlight lamp is 10 days. If the cause of the outage is a cable fault the standard timeframe for repair is 30 days.
- (8) Requests for streetlight repairs to Access Canberra are assessed, batched and provided to the streetlight maintenance contractor. Where possible (eg when contact details are provided) customers are contacted to confirm receipt of the report and advised when the repair is completed.
- (9) Yes under normal circumstances. If safety issues are identified, repairs are prioritised.
- (10) Yes. Refer to question 9.

**Government—programs
(Question No 172)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide an outline of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation report of the pilot of the Active Street Program.

- (2) Who completed the evaluation report.
- (3) What was the cost of completing the evaluation report.
- (4) Why was the decision made to roll out the program across a further 20 sites before the valuation of the report was finalised.
- (5) If the evaluation report has findings or recommendations contrary to the roll out, how will these issues be managed.
- (6) Can the Minister provide the status of the development of the School Crossing Supervisor program, including (a) when the project will commence, (b) how the sites with the highest need are identified, (c) the expected annual cost of the project at each location, and the total cost overall and (d) the metrics used to measure the effectiveness and success of the project.
- (7) Can the Minister provide a timetable of the roll out for each of the 20 sites identified, and for each outline (a) what actions, installations, and/or improvements will be undertaken, (b) the total cost for each site, and the total cost overall and (c) the metrics used to measure the effectiveness and success of the project.
- (8) Are other sites being considered for the Active Streets Program; if so, can the Minister advise the criteria used to assess potential sites, and when a decision regarding the inclusion of the sites will be made.

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

1. A summary of the Active Streets evaluation report containing de-identified school data will be finalised in July 2017 and released soon after.
2. The evaluation was undertaken by the Transport and Road Safety Research Centre, University of New South Wales (UNSW).
3. The total contract price with UNSW for the Active Streets evaluation work is \$38,192.70 (inc GST).
4. The Active Streets program is an educational campaign that is complemented by infrastructure improvements focused on routes to schools. The program provides substantial health and safety benefits for children. While the final evaluation report will help to inform future infrastructure decisions around schools, there is an ongoing opportunity to work with schools, parents and children to create safer environments around schools.
5. They will be managed appropriately and in order to deliver benefits to students.
6. A School Crossing Supervisor program is currently under development and is expected to commence in 2018. Consultation with key stakeholders is underway to ensure the delivery model selected is appropriate for the ACT environment. Pedestrian and traffic volumes were collected at school crossings in early 2017. This data will be used as an input informing which crossing sites have the greatest need for a supervisor. Costs will not be finalised until the delivery model is settled and service costs are sought. The success of the program will be measured through feedback from school communities and potential other measures.

7. The School Crossing Supervisor program is expected to commence at 20 crossing sites in 2018. As part of the School Crossing Supervisor program, traffic management plans will be developed for each of the sites. The traffic management plans will inform what improvements might be made at individual sites. The cost of any infrastructure improvements will vary from site to site and won't be known until the traffic management plans have been developed. The success of the program will be measured through feedback from school communities and potential other measures.
8. The 25 schools participating in the Active Streets Program will be the priority in 2017-18. Further sites may be considered in the future.

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—
employee assistance program
(Question No 174)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Could the Chief Minister please advise for each quarter of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15 (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date (i) the total headcount of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate and (ii) the number of staff who accessed the employee assistance scheme.
- (2) For each of the financial years referred to in part (1), provide the total cost of the employee assistance scheme.
- (3) Has any analysis been undertaken to determine why the number of staff accessing the employee assistance scheme is increasing.
- (4) Have any strategies been introduced to assist staff to deal with workplace complexity; if so, please outline those strategies.
- (5) For each of the financial years referred to in part (1), list the average number of personal leave days taken (based on full-time equivalent work days) and the personal leave absence percentage rate for staff of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

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

- (1) (i) Please refer to the relevant Annual Reports for headcount figures.
- (ii)

	FY 12/13 (CMCD)	FY 13/14 (CMTD)	FY 14/15 (CMTEDD)	FY 15/16 (CMTEDD)	FY 16 – March 17 (CMTEDD)
Jul - Sep	5	8	11	51	55
Oct – Dec	5	11	14	63	41
Jan - Mar	6	4	37	52	45
Apr - Jun	5	7	42	59	----
EAP usage per Individual	21	30	104	225	141

(2)

	FY 12/13 CMCD	FY 13/14 CMTD	FY 14/15 CMTEDD	FY 15/16 CMTEDD	FY 16 – Feb 17 YTD CMTEDD
Cost of EAP	\$14,850 ¹	\$37,047	\$33,095	\$80,314	\$42,526

1. Note: Annual fixed fee paid for the 2012/13 Financial Year not on a per services basis.

(3) Staff are actively encouraged to access the service for assistance with both work and personal related issues. Family members of directorate staff are also entitled to access the service. Reports are provided to CMTEDD on a quarterly basis and monitored. It is noted that:

- for Quarter 1 2016/17 FY: of the new referrals, 35% of referrals were work-related, compared with 65% personal. The industry benchmark for the same period was 67% work, 33% personal;
- for Quarter 2 2016/17 FY: of the new referrals, 35% of referrals were work-related, compared with 65% personal. The industry benchmark for the same period was 59% work, 41% personal; and
- for Quarter 3 2016/17 FY: of the new referrals, 21% of referrals were work-related, compared with 79% personal. The industry benchmark for the same period was 60% work, 40% personal.

(4) The Directorate offers a range of strategies to deal with workplace complexity to support staff including but not limited to:

- Access to the Employee Assistance Program service including critical incident debriefings as required;
- Mental Health in the Workplace sessions;
- New Access information sessions (Beyond Blue program);
- Mental Health First Aid training;
- Quarterly Induction sessions provide tools and information on a range of support available within the Directorate
- Respect, Equity and Diversity training;
- Domestic/Family Violence Awareness training;
- Disability Awareness training;
- Leadership and Management training;
- Senior Officer Grade A engagement model;
- Workshops arranged at the local level to address workplace specific topics;
- Staff have access to individual training offered through the whole of government training panel; and
- Coordinated health and wellbeing activities.

(5) Personal leave days taken and personal leave absence percentage rate:

	FY 12/13 (CMCD)	FY 13/14 (CMTD)	FY 14/15 (CMTEDD)	FY 15/16 (CMTEDD)	FY 16 – March 17 (CMTEDD)
Average personal leave days taken (FTE work days)	10.6	10.7	11.3	13.7	12.2
Personal leave absence percentage rate	4.2%	3.6%	4.4%	5.2%	4.8%

Please note that personal leave is usually formally approved retrospectively and, as a result, is subject to a degree of variance in the months following the reporting period.

Community councils—funding (Question No 176)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 May 2017 (*redirected to the Acting Treasurer*):

- (1) Further to Question No. 405 of 2015, can the Treasurer provide the amount of funding allocated to community councils in the ACT for each financial year since 2014-15, broken down by community council.
- (2) What is the purpose of the funds allocated to community councils.
- (3) Can the Treasurer outline the status of the deed of agreement with each community council.
- (4) What other non-monetary assistance has been offered to each of the community councils.
- (5) Is there a proposal for a separate community council for the Molonglo Valley; if so, when will the new council be established.

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

- (1) The table below shows the funding provided by the ACT Government to Community Councils since 2014-15.

Community Council	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
Belconnen	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$38,463
Tuggeranong	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$38,463
Gungahlin	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$38,463
Weston Creek	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$38,463
Inner South Canberra	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$38,463
Woden Valley	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$38,463
Inner North	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$38,463
Total	\$89,747	\$89,747	\$89,747	\$269,241

- (2) Community Councils operate as apolitical organisations that provide a representative voice of the views of their local community.

The ACT Government provides community councils with funding to:

- a. support participation by the community in Council activities;
- b. communicate the views, expectations and concerns of community members to the ACT Government;
- c. hold community meetings that are open to the public and publicly advertised; and
- d. achieve broad and inclusive engagement by using a range of communication channels and community consultation activities in addition to the public meetings.

- (3) The CMTEDD Communications unit worked with Community Councils and the ACT Government Solicitor to update the 2016-17 Deed, to ensure it was consistent with other ACT Government Funding Agreements while reflecting the unique nature of community councils. The current deed of agreement with each community council is to 30 June 2017.
- (4) Management of the Community Councils funding agreements is undertaken by CMTEDD Communications. A combined insurance policy covering public liability and volunteer insurance for all councils has been negotiated by the directorate. This combined policy has the effect of standardising arrangements and lowering insurance premiums for each of the councils.

To support and build capacity within community councils, CMTEDD Communications has developed a series of training workshops for council members to help them engage effectively with the community including those who are unable or unwilling to attend community meetings. The first two workshops were delivered in February 2017 on social media and engaging young people to assist councils to reach a wider and more representative range of community views.

- (5) There is no current proposal for a Community Council for the Molonglo Valley.

Economy—trade (Question No 177)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Is Invest Canberra still operational.
- (2) How many ACT government public servants are attached to Invest Canberra.
- (3) What was the budget allocation for Invest Canberra in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17.
- (4) When was the Invest Canberra website last updated.
- (5) How many investment leads has Invest Canberra received in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date.
- (6) Of the investment leads received in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date, how many were generated through the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Austrade.
- (7) How many investment projects are currently being managed by Invest Canberra staff.
- (8) How many investment projects are currently being managed by Invest Canberra staff in relation to (a) the light rail project, (b) defence and cyber security, (c) renewable energy, (d) digital economy and e-government, (e) health and sports science, (f) innovation and higher education, (g) space, satellite and spatial sciences and (h) tourism infrastructure.
- (9) How many investment projects in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date have led to actual investment deals and what is the value of these deals.

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

- (1) *Invest Canberra* functions as one of a number of branded programs within Innovate Canberra, the ACT Government's innovation policy and program delivery unit, which in 2016/17 is part of output *Class 3.1 Trade Innovation Investment* in the Chief Minister's, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.
- (2) There are no public servants 'attached' to the *Invest Canberra* program. As per (1), investment facilitation, under the *Invest Canberra* brand, forms part of Innovate Canberra's activities that include innovation policy development, relationship with the higher education and research sector, management of the ACT Vice Chancellors' Forum, relationship management with Commonwealth and State agencies including COAG Forum, sector development activities including development of the Key Capability Areas and the defence sector, enterprise development, export and trade development and programs such as Innovation Connect and the Small Business Innovation Partnership. Innovate Canberra currently has 31.47 FTE spread across these activities operating in a semi-matrix delivery model. The Commissioner for International Engagement also works closely with Innovate Canberra on aligned international engagement, export development and investment attraction activities.
- (3) Innovate Canberra's total budget allocation was:
 - (a) 2015-16 - \$14,518,000 ; and
 - (b) 2016-17 - \$11,705,000.

The amounts reflect GPO Budget allocation per year. The difference in allocation reflects changes per year to manage program rollover and reprofiling costs, new program appropriations, and program completions.
- (4) Updates to the website are ongoing. A project is currently underway to rationalise and align investment promotion activity to the CBR Brand platform and also how web and social media resources are applied across the broader branch function. The aim is to create consistency in communication and achieve more efficient and effective use of these resources.
- (5) Innovate Canberra managed 36 investment leads in 2015-16 and 34 investment leads have been received to date in 2016-17 (to 30 June 2017).
- (6) Of the 36 investment leads received by Innovate Canberra in 2015-16, 14 were generated through the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Austrade.

Of the 34 investment leads received by Innovate Canberra in 2016-17 to date, 16 were generated through the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Austrade (to 30 June 2017).
- (7) At date of data collection for this response 18 projects are active across Innovate Canberra ranging from management of unsolicited bids, company engagement, sector development, facilitating investment in existing ACT businesses and reinvestment by multi-national companies and infrastructure development opportunities.
- (8)
 - (a) Light rail: Nil.
 - (b) Defence and cyber security: 4.
 - (c) Renewable Energy: Nil.
 - (d) Digital economy and e-government: 1.

- (e) Health and sports science: 2.
- (f) Innovation and higher education: 2.
- (g) Space, satellite and spatial sciences: 3.
- (h) Tourism infrastructure: 6.

As per previous answers, Innovate Canberra engages with multiple sectors relating to investment and economic growth opportunities. Innovate Canberra manages the development of these key sectors in a holistic manner and the actions taken depend on the needs of each sector. The numbers identified at Question 8 list the number of investment related projects that Innovate Canberra has engaged with that best relate to the nominated categories.

With regard to renewable energy investments, these are principally managed by Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate in consultation with Innovate Canberra where they relate to local economic development outcomes. This includes the attraction of international business, support for local businesses and the development of Canberra's higher education and research capabilities. Direct linkages include the introduction of a new 'Renewables Stream' under the Innovation Connect Grants program that is administered by Innovate Canberra.

- (9) As a result of the activities of the ACT Government and partner institutions, each of these sectors identified at Question 8 are growing with both institution and company based investments occurring. However, it is not possible to capture and value these investments without significant resources being applied to that task. Also, some investments will also seek to remain invisible to external view.

Further information on investment lead support is contained in my answer to QON 179.

Economy—trade missions (Question No 178)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide, in relation to ACT Trade Missions in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date (i) the total amount spent on ACT Trade Missions, (ii) the destination and cost of each mission, (iii) how many ACT Government officials travelled in support of each Trade Mission, (iv) the number of other participants on each Trade Mission and (v) the economic benefit arising from each Trade Mission.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a list of ACT Government grants used to support ACT Trade Mission and Trade Mission delegates in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016 17 to date, including the (i) name of the grant (ii) purpose of funding and (iii) name of each organisation which travelled as part of the delegation.
- (3) Are any ACT Trade Missions proposed for the remainder of 2016-17 and 2017-18; if so, (a) what is the expected timing and duration of each proposed Trade Mission, (b) what is the destination, (c) what is the cost and (d) will the Trade Mission be led by an ACT Government Minister; if not, by whom will it be led.

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

(1) In responding to the question the ACT Trade Missions cost:

(a) 2015-16:

(i) Total expenditure on trade missions for the year - \$330,394.

(ii) Destination and cost of each trade mission:

- USA-Japan (San Francisco, Austin, Washington DC, Nara, Tokyo) – October 2015 - \$212,997;
- Singapore Trade Mission combined with Canberra Business Chamber – November 2015 - \$36,866; and
- Singapore-China-Hong Kong (includes participation at Australia Week in China)– April 2016 - \$80,531.

(iii) ACT Government Officials supporting the mission:

- USA-Japan: 7 ACT Government officials travelled in support of the mission including the Chief Minister and 2 staff from his office.
- Singapore Trade Mission: 2 ACT Government officials travelled in support of the mission. There was no representation from the Chief Minister's office.
- Singapore-China-Hong Kong: 7 ACT Government officials travelled in support of the mission including the Chief Minister and 2 staff from his office.

(iv) Other participants on each trade mission:

- USA-Japan: 19 ACT businesses participated in the mission.
- Singapore Trade Mission: 10 ACT businesses including Canberra Business Chamber representatives participated in the mission.
- Singapore-China-Hong Kong: 30 ACT businesses participated in the mission.

(v) Economic Benefit:

- Trade missions have direct and indirect economic benefits that accrue in both the short and long term. Accordingly, it is not possible to measure the economic benefit from an individual mission. A continued effort in markets is also required to generate desired results.
- The trade mission format is a way of 'soft landing' companies with export capabilities in new markets and also mixing these companies with more experienced exporters with more developed market strategies and experience. This mix of capabilities will see some companies achieve early success, while others will take longer or not progress their plans at all, based on the accelerated learning of a mission.
- Trade missions are also about branding the ACT – taking local business capability and innovation message to new markets, exposing local businesses to international networking opportunities, potential partners and investors, and setting up opportunities for local businesses to pursue further trade and export development links. Studies show that active exporters occupy an important place in the business community; as companies they tend to grow more quickly, pay higher wages, have higher rates of productivity, be more innovative and have a positive impact on their local supply chains.
- Some examples of outcomes include:
 - Securing direct international flights to and from Singapore and Wellington;

- Success of one of Canberra's online transaction business – in April 2016 Canberra online transaction business eWAY (also a participant in the October 2015 US trade mission, during which eWAY progressed its international merger negotiations) announced it had been acquired by American payment technology services giant Global Payments for \$US50 million;
- Shaw Vineyard Estate, one of Canberra region's top wine exporters and a regular trade mission participant, has opened wine retail outlets in China. The Cellar Door and Wine Shop exclusively feature only wines by Shaw Vineyard;
- Intelledox's recent success in securing \$4 million investment from Ellerston Capital;
- Canberra start-up Mineral Carbonation International (MCi) signed a \$100 million Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Singapore company - ArmorShield Holdings, which has extensive networks and experience doing business in China.
- Significant investment in mixed used development sites in Canberra from Shenzhen business as a result of continued engagement with Shenzhen, post the signing of the MOU with the city of Shenzhen;
- In addition to above, numerous other ACT businesses that have participated in ACT Trade Missions and/or received Trade Connect funding support have generated successful business connections, links and business deals with international partners. These include: On the Go Sports, Inland Trading Co, Quintessence Labs, WildBear Entertainment, Bottles of Australia, Cogito Group and Seeing Machines.

(b) 2016-17:

- (i) Total expenditure on trade missions for the year - \$391,999.
- (ii) Destination and cost of each trade mission:
 - Wellington – (July 2016) - \$26,404;
 - Canberra Week in Wellington – (November 2016) - \$265,940;
 - Wellington – (March 2017) - \$30,225; and
 - Singapore – (April 2017) - \$69,430.
- (iii) ACT Government Officials supporting the mission:
 - Wellington – (July 2017): 6 ACT Government officials travelled in support of the mission including the Chief Minister and 2 staff from his office.
 - Canberra Week in Wellington – (November 2016): 10 ACT Government officials travelled in support of the mission including the Chief Minister and 2 staff from his office.
 - Wellington – (March 2017): 6 ACT Government officials travelled in support of the mission. There was no representation from the Chief Minister's office to this mission.
 - Singapore – (April 2017): 7 ACT Government officials travelled in support of the mission including the Chief Minister and 2 staff from his office.
- (iv) Other participants on each trade mission:
 - Wellington – (July 2016): 7 ACT businesses including Canberra Business Chamber and CBR Innovation Network participated in the mission.

- Canberra Week in Wellington – (November 2016): 14 ACT businesses participated in the mission.
- Wellington – (March 2017): 11 ACT businesses participated in the mission.
- Singapore – April 2017: 19 ACT businesses and 4 Wellington businesses participated in the mission.

(v) Economic Benefit: As per (1) (a) (v).

(2) Trade Connect is the only ACT Government grant program that is used to support delegates participating in ACT Trade Missions. Trade Connect is designed to help Canberra based businesses and organisations with a range of export market development activities. Following businesses participated in the ACT Trade Missions (** are those supported by Trade Connect co-contribution funding*).

(a) 2015-16 Trade Mission participants:

US Trade Mission (October 2015)

- QuintessenceLabs Pty Ltd *
- DAMsmart *
- Centre for Internet Safety (CIS) *
- Clarus Technologies *
- Fyshh Pty Ltd *
- HLS Vehicle Customisation *
- CBR Innovation Network Limited *
- Power Saving Centre (Canberra) Pty Ltd *
- IT Power (Australia) Pty Ltd *
- National Capital Educational Tourism *
- Delv Pty Ltd *
- Domestic Commercial Solar & Electrics
- eReflect *
- Intelledox Pty Ltd *
- iSimulate *
- Link Web Services Pty Ltd *
- Mineral Carbonation International
- Mobflic Pty Ltd *
- Web Active

Singapore Trade Mission combined with Canberra Business Chamber (November 2015) participants:

- Centre for Internet Safety (CIS) *
- Balloon Aloft Canberra Pty Ltd *
- Canberra Business Chamber
- Delv Pty Ltd *
- 4514 Avenue D Pty Ltd *
- Bisa Hotels *
- Canberra Convention Bureau *
- Cogito Group *
- Random Computing
- Solution Solution (Prima Facie Group Pty Ltd) *

Singapore-China-Hong Kong (April 2016) Trade Mission participants”

- CropLife Australia

- Ausmate Pty Ltd
- Australian Pork Limited
- CSIRO (HO)
- Addysk
- APIR Systems Pty Ltd
- Australian National University - College of Business & Economics
- Minter Ellison (Canberra)
- Aspen Medical Pty Ltd
- Numerals Pty Limited
- Volney Digital Pty Ltd
- ACT Chinese Business Council
- Gravity Consulting Services Pty Ltd *
- Group of Eight
- Canberra Innovation Network
- Canberra Business Chamber
- Mineral Carbonation International
- University of Canberra
- Business Group Australia Pty Ltd
- Australian Pork Limited
- Orient Partners *
- Ausmate Pty Ltd
- Australian Food and Grocery Council
- Property Council of Australia
- Octavo Pty Ltd *
- KC Natural
- Shaw Vineyard Estate *
- Canberra Airport Pty Ltd
- Screencraft *
- eReflect Pty Ltd

(b) 2016-17:

Wellington Mission (July 2016) participants:

- Helm Wines
- Canberra Business Chamber
- Cogito Group *
- ACT Woodland and Wetlands Trust
- Canberra Airport Group
- Canberra Innovation Network
- Canberra International Riesling Challenge

Canberra Week in Wellington (November 2016) Trade Mission participants:

- ACT Screen Industry Association
- Australian National University
- BDW Special Events Management
- Canberra Airport
- Canberra Innovation Network
- Canberra Institute of Technology
- Cogito Group
- Pact Beer Co
- Shaw Vineyard Estate

- Tania Parkes Consulting
- Tedx Canberra
- The Film Distillery
- University of Canberra
- Wisdom Learning

Wellington Mission (March 2017) participants:

- ACT Little Athletics
- ANU Sport
- Basketball ACT
- Brumbies Rugby
- Canberra Business Chamber
- Capital Cycling
- Capital Football
- Cricket ACT
- ScreenACT
- Sponserve
- Woodlands and Wetlands Trust

Singapore Mission (April 2017) participants:

- Academy for Interactive Entertainment
- ANU Connect Ventures
- Auraya
- Beta Therapeutics
- CBR Innovation Network
- Ecospectral *
- EpiAxis Therapeutics *
- Liquid Instruments *
- Mineral Carbonation/Health Horizons *
- nuCoria *
- OzGuild *
- Quizling *
- Screen Wellington
- ScreenACT
- SignOnSite *
- Skoolbo *
- Solcast
- The Film Distillery
- The Healthy Grain

Wellington Businesses:

- GuestFolder
- Eight-Wire
- Whosonlocation
- PressPatron

(3) ACT Trade Missions proposed for the remainder of 2016-17 and 2017-18:

The ACT International Engagement Strategy, launched in September 2016, outlines the ACT Government's future priorities regarding international engagement activity. 2017-18 trade mission activity is under development to reflect these priorities.

- (a) Expected timing and duration of each mission:
There was one further delegation in 2016-17. This occurred from 22 June to 2 July 2017 and included Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan.
- (b) Destination of each mission:
2016-17
- Singapore;
 - Hong Kong; and
 - Japan.
- (c) Cost of the missions:
Cost relating to the June 2017 Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan mission are currently being finalised pending receipt of all associated invoices and mission expenses. Costs relating to future 2017-18 missions cannot be determined until the format and scope of delegations has been decided. Costs are contained within initiative appropriations.
- (d) ACT Government Minister's involvement in Trade Missions:
Where a Trade Mission is not led by an ACT Government Minister it will either be led by the Commissioner for International Engagement or the public sector executive responsible for the focus of the mission.
-

Economy—trade missions (Question No 179)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) For the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date, can the Minister list the events, including trade events, exhibitions, seminars and missions, organised by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Austrade, which were attended by ACT Government public servants and/or Ministers.
- (2) How many ACT Government public servants and/or Ministers attended the events in part (1).
- (3) What was the cost of ACT Government public servants and/or Ministers attending the events in part (1) for the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (4) How many events of the events referred to in part (1) were held overseas in the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (5) How many investment leads were generated arising from participation in the events in part (1) and what was the value of these potential investments.
- (6) Of the investment leads that were generated, how many investments were secured for the Australian Capital Territory and what is the value of these actual investments.

- (7) Are there any plans for ACT Government public servants and/or Ministers to attend events, including trade events, exhibitions, seminars and missions, organised by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Austrade, for the remainder of 2016-17 and in 2017-18; if so, list those events and the expected total cost of attendance, including travel.

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

- (1) (2) & (3) Austrade events attended by ACT Government officials and the cost of attendance:

(a) 2014-15:

- Winning Investment for Australia – 2 ACT Government officers attended the training program. Cost of attendance for 2 staff was \$6000.
- Australian Export Awards – 2 ACT Government officers attended the awards ceremony. There was no registration cost to attend this event.
- Austrade Education Agent Seminar – 1 ACT Government officer attended to deliver training for offshore Austrade registered education agents in China. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$880. Please note: as the officer was the keynote speaker, there was no registration cost for this event.
- Austrade Education Agent Seminar – 1 ACT Government officer attended to deliver training for offshore Austrade registered education agents in Taiwan and China. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$1450. Please note: as the officer was the keynote speaker, there was no registration cost for this event.
- Austrade Future Unlimited Education Exhibition - Korea - 1 ACT Government officer attended to promote ACT public schools and recruit prospective students. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$5320. Please note: the registration cost for this event was \$4000.
- Austrade Future Unlimited Education Exhibition - Taiwan - 1 ACT Government officer attended to promote ACT public schools and recruit prospective students. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$4120. Please note: the registration cost for this event was \$3540.

(b) 2015-16:

- Winning Investment for Australia – 1 ACT Government officer attended the training program. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$3000.
- Austrade FTA seminar – 1 ACT Government officer attended the seminar. There was no cost to attend the seminar.
- Australia Week in China – Shanghai – 6 ACT Government officers including the Chief Minister attended the program. It was an Australian Government sponsored event with no costs involved to attend the program.
- Australian Export Awards – 2 ACT Government officers attended the awards ceremony. There was no registration cost to attend this event.
- National Trade Development Working Group - 1 ACT Government official attended the meeting. Cost of attendance \$381.
- Australia Indonesia Business Week - 1 CIT officer attended the mission in Jakarta. All program costs were covered by the Australian Government.
- Austrade Education Agent Seminar – 1 ACT Government officer attended to deliver training for offshore Austrade registered education agents in China. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$990. Please note, as the officer was the keynote speaker, there was no registration cost for this event.

- Austrade Future Unlimited Education Exhibition - Taiwan - 1 ACT Government officer attended to promote ACT public schools and recruit prospective students. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$8760. Please note the registration cost for this event was \$5400.
- Austrade Future Unlimited Education Exhibition - Korea - 1 ACT Government officer attended to promote ACT public schools and recruit prospective students. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$7400. Please note the registration cost for this event was \$4400.

(c) 2016-17

- Australian Export Awards – 2 ACT Government officers attended the awards ceremony. There was no registration cost to attend this event.
- Winning Investment for Australia – 1 ACT Government officer attended the training program. Cost of attendance for 1 staff is \$3000.
- Austrade Future Unlimited Education Exhibition - Taiwan - 1 ACT Government officer attended to promote ACT public schools and recruit prospective students. Cost of attendance for 1 staff was \$7550. Please note the registration cost for this event was \$4200.

(4) Austrade events referred to in part (1) held overseas in the financial years:

- (a) 2014-15 – 4 events (Austrade Education Agent Seminars – China, Taiwan and Korea);
- (b) 2015-16 – 5 events (Australia Week in China, Australia Indonesia Business Week and Austrade Education Agent Seminars – China, Taiwan and Korea); and
- (c) 2016-17 - 1 event (Austrade Education Agent Seminar - Taiwan).

(5) Investment leads generated from participation in Austrade events and their value.

Investment lead generation is not necessarily aligned to all Austrade events and engagements. However, Austrade works collaboratively with all states and territories through a partnership approach to attracting investment and directing relevant investment leads to each or all jurisdictions.

Further information is contained in my answer to QON 177 (BM17/1234).

(6) Investment leads passed through the Austrade channel can vary considerably in their scale, investment readiness, timeframe and degree or otherwise of government facilitation that might be required. Leads are also 'commercial in confidence', regardless of whether they proceed or not, or are made public. However, the ACT Government has received 45 investment leads since 2014 to date from Austrade through this partnership.

Currently, the ACT Government is facilitating and supporting three investment projects that came as leads from Austrade. The Government is not able to provide specific information on the investor or value of investment.

Further information is contained in my answer to QON 177 (BM17/1234).

(7) There are no plans for ACT Government public servants and/or Ministers to attend any Austrade events including trade events, exhibitions, seminars and missions for the remainder of 2016-17.

Austrade has not, as yet, shared its complete 2017-18 list of events including its forward trade mission program. ACT participation in the 2017-18 Austrade program will be made consistent with the Government's international engagement strategy.

Parks—micro parks (Question No 180)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister advise how much has been budgeted for Micro Parks in the financial years (a) 2016-17 to date, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19.
- (2) What provision been made for the ongoing maintenance of Micro Parks.
- (3) How much has been budgeted to develop the Micro Park pilot proposed to be installed in Garema Place, including for the consultation on the design.
- (4) What is the timetable for the development of the Micro Park in Garema Place.
- (5) Will users of Garema Place, including people who work in nearby offices and businesses, be advised of the Micro Park development and given the opportunity to comment.
- (6) Can the Minister outline the composition of the jury which will consider the shortlist of designs for the Micro Park proposed to be established in Garema Place.
- (7) How many other Micro Parks are expected to be installed in the Australian Capital Territory.
- (8) Which sites have been identified as suitable for a Micro Park installation.
- (9) Will the Micro Parks be permanent or temporary fixtures.
- (10) Can the Minister outline the design parameters for a Micro Park.

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

(1)

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
\$45,000.	Nil	Budget not yet finalised

- (2) Costs associated with the maintenance of the temporary micro park for Garema Place will be absorbed within the TCCS operations budget.
- (3) The City Activation Unit (CAU), Office of the Coordinator General, has committed \$45,000 to the Pop up Micro Park in Garema Place. In the City Canberra have also contributed \$10,000. The total project funding is \$55,000 (excluding GST).

The budget is for the design, construction, competition prizes and launch with consultation managed within existing government resources.

- (4) The public design competition was launched on 30 June 2017 and will be open for four weeks, until 28 July 2017. The jury will shortlist the design entries for a public vote to determine the winner.

The winning design will be developed by a Landscape Architect for construction in spring 2017. The Micro Park is planned for installation in October 2017.

- (5) Consultation with traders will be undertaken throughout the project, predominantly by the City Activation Unit. In the City Canberra who represent businesses in the city have provided their support for this pilot project via their sponsorship.

- (6) The makeup of the jury is currently being confirmed.

It is planned that the jury will include a representative from a mix of government and community, such as representatives from the City Activation Unit, In the City Canberra, the University of Canberra, Landscape Architects and Architects.

- (7) The precise numbers of micro parks has not been confirmed.

- (8) Specific sites have not yet been identified other than Garema Places. Selection of locations will be guided by community ideas.

- (9) Micro Parks may be permanent or temporary depending on activation purpose, design and function. The feasibility study stage of future projects will investigate and determine the most appropriate for each location.

- (10) There are no defined design parameters for a Micro Park. The community ideas generated through the pilot project in Garema Place will assist to inform future design parameters.

Transport—light rail (Question No 182)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How many staff have been appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project team to date.
- (2) How many staff may be appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project team in the financial years (a) remainder of 2016-17, (b) 2017-18, (c) 2018-19 and (d) 2019-20.
- (3) Will the staff appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project team be permanent ACT public servants or contractors.
- (4) How are the staff required for the Light Rail Stage 2 project team being recruited.
- (5) How much has been budgeted for the recruitment of staff in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18.

- (6) Of the total number of staff expected to be appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project team in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18, how many will be responsible for communications, stakeholder and community engagement.

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

- (1) One is currently dedicated full time, with four other staff spending material time on the project in addition to contractor and advisory support.
- (2)
- a) Approximately five, the recruitment process is currently under way. Final numbers in this current financial year and numbers in next financial year are dependent on the outcomes of the current recruitment process.
 - b) Approximately ten.
 - c) To be determined in the future.
 - d) To be determined in the future.
- (3) This is dependent on the outcome of the current recruitment process.
- (4) The staff are generally being recruited through a contract with Hudson Global Resources. Hudson are using its own sources, as well as advertising on the jobs ACT website.
- (5)
- a) \$45,000
 - b) \$160,250
- (6)
- a) Four are anticipated.
 - b) One additional appointment is anticipated.
These resources are shared between Light Rail Stage 1 and Stage 2

**Transport—light rail
(Question No 183)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How many contracts have been entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project.
- (2) How many of the contracts in part (1) have been reviewed by UnionsACT as part of the Government's Memorandum of Understanding with UnionsACT.
- (3) For each contract that has been entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project, what is the (a) title of the contract, (b) execution date, (c) expiry dates and (d) value.

- (4) For each contract that has been entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project, was the contract the subject of an open tender, select tender, panel arrangement, multi-use list arrangement, scheme or any other type of arrangement.
- (5) For the remainder of the financial year 2016-17, how many other contracts may be entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project.
- (6) For the financial year 2017-18, how many other contracts may be entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project.
- (7) For the contract that may be entered into for the remainder of 2016-17 and 2017-18 relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project, what is the nature of those contracts and the expected value.

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

- (1) As at 9 June 2017, eight contracts have been entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project.
- (2) None.
- (3) Details for contracts entered into are as follows:

Contractor/ Consultant	Scope	Commitment (GST Incl.)	Start Date	Expiry Date
Clayton Utz	Legal Services	\$1,650,000.00	28-Mar-17	30-Jun-19
Hudson Global Resources Pty Ltd	HR Manager	\$205,250.00	31-Mar-17	30-Mar-18
Sparke Helmore Lawyers	Probity Advisor	\$40,000.00	28-Apr-17	30-Jun-19
Arup Pty Ltd	Technical Advisor	\$5,842,360.70	08-May-17	07-May-18
Ernst & Young	Commercial Advisory Services	\$874,500.00	09-May-17	08-May-18
Turner & Townsend Pty Ltd	Cost Estimation Advisory Services	\$334,857.36	8-June-17	8-June-18
Elton Consulting	Community Consultation	\$174,000	6-June-17	6-June-18
Veitch Lister Consulting Pty Ltd	Strategic Transport Modelling and Public Transport Integration Advisory Services	\$576,642.00	19-May-17	18-May-18

- (4) The following contracts for services for Stage 2 of the Canberra Light Rail Project were established via a Public Tender process:

- i. Ernst & Young (Commercial Advisor)
- ii. Arup Pty Ltd (Technical Advisor)
- iii. Hudson Global Services (HR Manager)
- iv. Veitch Lister Consulting (Strategic Transport Modelling and Public Transport Integration Advisor)
- v. Elton Consulting (Community Consultation)
- vi. Turner & Townsend Pty Ltd (Cost Estimators)

The following contracts were established under a current panel (standing offer) arrangement administered by the ACT Government Solicitor's Office:

- i. Sparke Helmore Lawyers (Probity Advisor)
- ii. Clayton Utz (Legal)

- (5) The Territory expects to execute a minimum of one further contract for services in relation to Stage 2 of the Canberra Light Rail Project before the end of the 2016-17 financial year.
- (6) The Territory will establish a panel of Technical Advisors during the 2017-18 financial year via a Public Tender process. The number of Panel Deeds to be awarded following this procurement process is not yet known and may depend on the number and quality of responses received from the market. Once in place, the Territory may enter into contracts under this panel.

The number of contracts to be executed under the proposed panel in the 2017-18 financial year is not yet known.

- (7) The Territory expects to contract the following services prior to the end of the 2016/17 Financial Year.

The nature and value of services to be procured under the proposed Technical Advisors Panel in the 2017-18 Financial Year is yet to be determined.

Transport—light rail (Question No 185)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) What has been the total number of employees dedicated to public relations, communications or media related functions for Capital Metro for (a) Stage 1 and (b) Stage 2 since the beginning of the 2016-17 financial year.
- (2) What has been the total salary expenditure for employees dedicated to public relations functions, communications or media related functions for Capital Metro for (a) Stage 1 and (b) Stage 2 since the beginning of the 2016-17 financial year.
- (3) Have any external organisations been contracted to advise on or undertake public relations functions, communications, design or media related functions for either Stage One or Stage Two of Capital Metro; if so, (a) name of the organisation, (b) value and duration of the contract and (c) purpose of the contract.

- (4) What has been the total expenditure for “wrap around” fencing advertisements along the Stage One light rail route since the beginning of the 2016-17 financial year.
- (5) How many metres of “wrap around” fencing advertisements have been produced for (a) Capital Metro and (b) Transport Canberra.
- (6) How many different designs of “wrap around” fencing advertisements have been produced for (a) Capital Metro and (b) Transport Canberra.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) Employees dedicated to communications or media related functions for light rail in the 2016-17 financial year is as follows:
 - i. July 16 – Dec 16: 1
 - ii. Jan 17 – April 17: 2
 - iii. May 17 – current: 3
 - iv. Note that from November 2016 the resources are shared across light rail stages 1 and 2.

- (2) Total employment expenditure for communications staff working across both Stages 1 and 2 since the beginning of the 2016-17 financial year is \$162,974.

- (3) Minson Strategy were engaged to assist with stakeholder management and community consultation for the delivery phase of Stage 1 of the Light Rail project from March 2016 to December 2016. The value of the contract was \$79,291.00 [incl. GST].

Elton Consulting were engaged following a public tender for provision of Communications and Engagement Advisory Services for Stage 2 of the Canberra Light Rail Project. The first deliverable for the contract was the development of a Communications and Consultation Plan. An option in the contract was exercised for Elton to then assist the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate in the implementation of the Communications and Consultation Plan. This work is still in process. Total cost of this contract to develop the plan and then implement is forecast to be \$174,000.

- (4) The cost to supply and install shade cloth to the site fencing is within Canberra Metro’s Lump Sum cost and this item is not disaggregated from the total project cost.
- (5) Shade cloth has been supplied and installed by Canberra Metro under the contract agreement. In total, over 9,000m of shade cloth has been produced (1,800m has been produced of 1.6m high shade cloth, with the remaining at 0.9m high shade cloth).
- (6) Three different designs have been produced by Canberra Metro in consultation with the Territory.

Transport—light rail (Question No 187)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Have any variations been made to the project agreement with Capital Metro PC Pty Limited for the Capital Metro Project since it was made; if so, outline the nature of those variations.
- (2) Have the obligations set out in the agreement for the Capital Metro Project, including for delivery phase reports, been met to date; if not outline the nature of any obligations which have not been completed in accordance with the agreement.
- (3) Has a subcontractor forum been established; if so, how frequently are meetings of the stakeholder forum expected to be held and how many meetings of the subcontractor forum have actually been held.
- (4) Has a union forum been established; if so, how frequently are meetings of the union forum expected to be held and how many meetings of the union forum have actually been held.

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

- (1) Two Deeds of Amendment have been agreed with Canberra Metro to incorporate minor changes to the Project Agreement. The nature of those changes is as listed below:
 - a. Typographical errors.
 - b. Clarifying the definition of insurance component.
 - c. Defining the process for reviewing Project Plans.
 - d. Amending the access date to Constitution Avenue and Coranderrk Street.
 - e. Amending the access date for Land Access at Flemington Road, changing the access date to the Area 1 and Area 2 of the intersection of Manning Clark and Flemington Road,
 - f. Removing clause 10.9 (b) and (c) from the Project Agreement.
 - g. Commencement of a review period to accommodate rostered days off (RDO's).
- (2) The obligations have been met to the satisfaction of TCCS.
- (3) The subcontractor forum was established in May 2017 and will be held at least quarterly. It is convened and chaired by Canberra Metro, as required under the Project Agreement.
- (4) The Industrial Relations Forum was established by Canberra Metro in September 2016. Meetings involving Canberra Metro, Unions ACT representatives and ACT Government are generally held monthly.

**Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—Transport Canberra
(Question No 188)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Further to Question No. 84, can the Minister provide an itemised breakdown of the \$686,137.57 spent in 2015-16 to establish Transport Canberra.

- (2) In relation to uniforms for Transport Canberra staff (a) can the Minister outline the timetable for the procurement of the uniforms, (b) provide the budgeted cost for the uniform project, (c) list the type and the number of uniform items to be procured, (d) for each item of uniform, provide the country of manufacture and (e) list the type and number of uniforms expected to be replaced in (i) 2016-17 and (ii) 2017-18.
- (3) In relation to uniforms for ACTION staff, what was the type of uniform items previously provided.
- (4) What is the type of promotional material produced, or expected to be produced, for Transport Canberra in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 and the budgeted cost of that material.

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

(1)

Employee costs	\$343,379.00
Advisory Support	\$188,226.00
branding	\$84,216.00
new uniforms	\$2,414.00
promotional material	\$40,960.45
signage including posters	\$26,942.12

(2) (a)

Request for tender issued	22 December 2016
Request for tender closed	23 February 2017
Approval of tender evaluation report:	11 May 2017
Contract negotiations	Currently underway

(b) The budgeted cost for new uniforming in 2017-18 will be approximately \$220,000.

(c) The following items will be procured (based on indicative staffing numbers of 780 driver and 36 Transport Officers):

Item	Volume Allocated per Person	Total
Shirts, combination of long and short sleeves	5	4080
Pants, combination of long, short and skirt	4	3264
Cold weather jacket	1	816
Cold weather vest	1	816
Baseball Cap or wide brimmed hat	1	816
Beanie	1	816
Tie, Transport Officers only	1	816
Sunglasses	1	816
Socks	5	4080

(d) As the Territory is in contract negotiations with the preferred tenderer, this information is not available.

- (e) As uniforms are issued on a wear and tear basis, it is difficult to forecast the type and number of uniforms expected to be replaced in 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- (3) The current uniform items issued to ACTION staff, either as standard issue or as an option, are:
- i. 6 shirts, combination of long and short sleeve (7 for Transport Officers).
 - ii. 4 trouser/Shorts/skirt, combination.
 - iii. 1 belt.
 - iv. 1 bomber jacket or hi visibility jacket.
 - v. 2 knitwear, pullover, vest or cardigan.
 - vi. 1 hat Akubra.
 - vii. 1 baseball cap.
 - viii. 1 tie (2 ties for Transport Officers).
 - ix. 1 sunglasses.
 - x. 10 pairs of socks.
 - xi. 1 pair of gloves (Transport Officers only).
 - xii. 1 wind stopper Jacket (Transport Officers only).
 - xiii. 1 wet weather jacket (Transport Officers only).
- (4) A range of promotional materials have been and will be produced to assist communication and education of the community in regards to Transport Canberra services – e.g. timetable books, maps, signage, flyers, digital etc. as well as marketing collateral to support the introduction of new and changing services. These will be funded from the Transport Canberra and City Services Operating budget.

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—consultants (Question No 189)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide the total amount spent on disbursements, including, but not limited to, accommodation, transport costs and meals, for consultants engaged by Capital Metro or by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate for the Light Rail project (Light Rail project consultants) in the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (2) Can the Minister provide the total amount spent on accommodation costs for Light Rail project consultants in the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (3) On how many occasions were accommodation costs paid to Light Rail project consultants above the reasonable expenses amount of \$160 per night in the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (4) What evidence is required to demonstrate that there are exceptional circumstances which require accommodation costs to be paid above the reasonable expenses amount of \$160 per night.

- (5) What is the highest per night rate paid to Light Rail project consultants for accommodation costs when exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated.
- (6) What is the loading that has been added into the contracts of three of the Light Rail project consultants to cover accommodation costs.
- (7) What is the total amount spent on transport costs for Light Rail project consultants, either as reimbursements or directly to a transport provider in the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (8) Is it usual for transport costs to and from the workplace to be met for consultants.
- (9) Can the Minister list any external parties, such as UnionsACT, the Community and Public Sector Union or the Transport Workers Union, that may have been consulted on the engagement of consultants for the Light Rail project by Capital Metro or the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.
- (10) For each of the Light Rail project consultants, what was the method used to select and engage the consultant and briefly outline his or her area of expertise.

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

- (1) There are no such reporting requirements for disbursements except where they form part of a "notifiable invoice". Disbursements are normally one item within an invoice that includes claimed amounts for a number of services and, as such, disbursements are not separately recorded or reported.
- (2) Accommodation costs are not separately recorded or reported where they fall as an item under an invoice with services claimed as payable by a contractor or consultant. Where the Territory enters a lease arrangement on behalf of a consultant or contractor, these may be recorded, as any invoice under a respective lease agreement will be solely for the purpose of accommodation expenses.
- (3) The number of occasions where claimed accommodation costs above the \$160.00 per night limit may have been paid are not recorded. It is the duty of the Territory Contract Manager, with advice from the Senior Contracts Officer, to seek justification to the extent that accommodation at the \$160.00 limit was not attainable at the time of booking.
- (4) Invoices that include accommodation expenses must be supported with evidence in the form of a Tax Invoice from the accommodation provider to demonstrate the legitimacy of the claim. This Tax Invoice is reviewed by the Senior Contracts Officer (SCO) who provides advice to the Territory Contract Manager as to the conformance of the item against reasonable expense criteria. The Territory Contract Manager may review the claim and the advice from the SCO in consideration of the time of booking, circumstances (i.e. parliament sitting week) and those days for which accommodation is being claimed. The Territory Contract Manager may undertake his/her own review of the relevant hotel to determine the appropriateness of the accommodation and the rates available. The Territory notes that the prescribed limit of \$160.00 per night has been in place for two years without increase and on this basis it may be difficult for interstate providers to locate short-term accommodation for such low rates.

- (5) The Territory has rejected claims for reimbursement of accommodation expenses greater than \$250.00 per night. Claims for \$250.00 per night were agreed by the Territory Contract Manager as payable under the circumstances that comprised of the following considerations:
 - a. The contractor's personnel was procured at short notice, restricting their ability to book accommodation in advance to obtain a better rate; and
 - b. The contractor's personnel was on an as required basis for part-time services which restricted ability to book accommodation in advance.
 - (6) Those contractors/consultants who are paid a rate inclusive of disbursements, does not include a separation of accommodation costs against other disbursements. The rate is provided as a lump sum (usually daily rate) consideration.
 - (7) Travel costs are not separately tallied or reported where they fall as an item under an invoice with services claimed as payable by a contractor or consultant.
 - (8) Where a consultant or contractor is engaged for services in the Territory and who resides interstate, it is usual practice to reimburse travel expenses to and from the workplace. The Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate does not generally pay travel costs to and from the work place for those contractors or consultants who reside in the ACT.
 - (9) Transport Canberra and City Services does not consult with Unions ACT (or any other external organisation) when undertaking the engagement of consultants to the Territory.
 - (10) This information may be found in the relevant appendix of the Capital Metro Agency/Transport Canberra and City Services Annual Reports.
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Public housing—redevelopment (Question No 193)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How many community council meetings were attended by (a) representatives of the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce and (b) the Minister in (i) 2015-16 and (ii) 2016-17 and the (A) date of each meeting attended and (B) name of the relevant community council.
- (2) Did any issues arise at the meetings in part (1) where Taskforce representatives or the Minister were not treated appropriately or where there were concerns about security.
- (3) Did the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce receive invitations to attend community council meetings in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17; if so, list the community council and the date of those meetings.
- (4) In relation to the information drop-in session held on Saturday 8 April 2017 at the Weston Creek Community Council (a) how many representatives of the Public

Housing Renewal Taskforce and other Directorates attended the session, (b) how many community members attended the session, (c) how many feedback forms were completed for each of the proposed public housing sites in Chapman, Holder and Wright, (d) did any issues arise where people were not treated appropriately, (e) what was the total cost of holding the session, (f) did security personnel attend; if so, list the (i) number of security personnel who attended, (ii) cost of having security on site and (iii) reason security was required, (g) is it usual for security personnel to be on-site at information sessions and (h) will residents be given advice on the outcome of their feedback.

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

(1) Community council and residents group meetings were attended as follows:

a) Representatives from the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce (the Taskforce):

(i) (A) (B) 2015–16:

- 12 August 2015: Gungahlin Community Council Meeting;
- 14 August 2015: Meeting with Gold Creek School;
- 15 August 2015: Combined Community Council;
- 18 August 2015: North Canberra Community Council;
- 20 August 2015: Molonglo Valley Residents Advisory Group;
- 26 September 2015: Molonglo Valley Bike and Brunch Day;
- 15 October 2015: Meeting with Franklin Early Childhood School;
- 20 October 2015: Belconnen Community Council;
- 28 October 2015: Weston Creek Community Council;
- 19 November 2015: Meeting with Franklin Early Childhood School;
- 1 December 2015: Tuggeranong Community Council;
- 9 December 2015: Gungahlin Community Council;
- 23 February 2016: Red Hill Residents Meeting;
- 23 February 2016: Meeting with East Greenway Residents Group; and
- 1 March 2016: Tuggeranong Community Council.

(ii) (A) (B) 2016–17:

- 15 November 2016: Belconnen Community Council;
- 30 November 2016: Coombs public notice distributed at Weston Creek Community Council meeting;
- 21 March 2017: Inner South Community Council;
- 29 March 2017: Weston Creek Community Council (meeting cancelled);
- 5 April 2017: Woden Valley Community Council;
- 26 April 2017: Weston Creek Community Council; and
- 11 May 2017: Molonglo Valley Information Night.

b) The Minister for Housing and Suburban Development (relating to public housing):

(i) (A) (B) 2015–16:

- The Minister for Housing and Suburban Development (as per the Administrative Arrangements of 19 December 2016) did not attend any meetings with Community Councils in 2015-16.

(ii) (A) (B) 2016–17:

- 26 April 2017: Weston Creek Community Council

- (2) ACT Government representatives were concerned by the aggressive behaviour of some individuals at some of the meetings in part (1). While these issues were not considered to be 'severe' in nature, they were of concern from a Work Health and Safety perspective as employees of the ACT Government are entitled to a safe working environment. They are entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect, as are other attendees at these meetings.
- (3) The Taskforce has taken a proactive approach to arranging presentations at community councils, rather than waiting to receive invitations, noting that there is sometimes negotiation about meeting dates and, on occasions where staff are unavailable for the first proposed meeting date, the Taskforce arranges to attend an alternative session.
- (4) In relation to the session held on Saturday, 8 April 2017 at the Weston Creek Community Centre:
 - a) 7 representatives from the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce attended, 4 representatives from Economic Development attended and 8 representatives from the Community Services Directorate attended;
 - b) There were 93 attendees for Holder, 78 attendees for Chapman and 66 attendees for Wright, totalling 237 attendees;
 - c) As at 15 May 2017, the following numbers of feedback forms were completed:
 - (i) **Holder**: 43 feedback forms at the consultation session and 15 online feedback forms – a total of 58 forms.
 - (ii) **Chapman**: 26 feedback forms at the consultation session and 17 online feedback forms – a total of 43 forms.
 - (iii) **Wright**: 19 feedback forms at the consultation session and 25 online feedback forms – a total of 44 forms.
 - d) There were some instances at the session where attendees raised their voices at staff or made inappropriate comments to staff. There was also an individual that was collecting signatures for a petition. Several staff members and at least one member of the public found this individual's behaviour threatening. There were no issues which involved physical violence or which required escalation or involvement of security personnel.
 - e) The cost of holding the session was \$2,874.72. This includes the cost of the venue, security and the information boards (noting that some of these boards were also used for other sessions relating to the sites in Monash and Mawson). It does not include the cost of staff salaries.
 - f) Security personnel did attend:
 - (i) There was one security guard in attendance.
 - (ii) The cost of having security on-site was \$243.72.
 - (iii) Security was required to manage concerns about staff safety and to ensure that all attendees had an opportunity to express their views and were not 'shouted down' or intimidated.

- g) Decisions are made about the requirements for security on a case-by-case basis, including consideration of feedback received prior to the session and the expected number of attendees;
- h) The Taskforce is carefully and thoroughly recording the comments and feedback. The ACT Government, through the Taskforce, is continuing to meet with community councils, resident groups and individuals to work through their suggestions, concerns and questions. Updates are being made available via the website at www.act.gov.au/housingrenewal

Transport Canberra and City Services—employee assistance program (Question No 195)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide for each quarter of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date, the (i) total headcount of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate and (ii) number of staff who accessed the employee assistance scheme.
- (2) For each of the financial years in part (1), what was the total cost of the employee assistance scheme.
- (3) For each of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date, what was the average number of personal leave days taken (based on full-time equivalent work days) and the personal leave absence percentage rate for staff of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

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

1. Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) was formed on 1 July 2016. The following table details the number of employees who have requested appointments with the EAP service by quarter in this time.

2016 - 17	Head count	Individual Employees Attending EAP	Percentage of Employees	Number of appointments
Jul 16 – Sep 16	1784	14	1.37	44
Oct 16 – Dec 16	1811	11	1.20	40
Jan 17 – Mar 17	1822	20	1.43	46

The following table details the split of personal and work related reasons

2016 - 17	Work Related	Personal Reasons
Jul 16 – Sep 16	32%	68%
Oct 16 – Dec 16	31%	69%
Jan 17 – Mar 17	16%	84%

2. The cost of the EAP service for the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate staff from 1 July 2016 is noted below.

Financial Year	Cost of EAP service
2016 – 17 (9 months)	\$12,248.31

3. The average number of personal leave days taken (based on full-time equivalent work days) and the personal leave absence percentage rate for staff of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate from 1 July 2016 is noted below.

Financial Year	Average Days	Absence Rate
2016 – 17 (to 30 April 2017)	10.6	5.2%

ACTION bus service—new buses (Question No 196)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) In an announcement dated 6 September 2016, the Minister indicated that three electric buses were to be delivered by December 2016. A subsequent article appeared in The Canberra Times dated 31 March 2017 which indicated that the electric buses were to be delivered by 28 February 2017. Could the Minister please advise when the three electric buses were due to be delivered.
- (2) When did the (a) Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate and (b) Minister first become aware that the electric buses were not going to be delivered by the deadline.
- (3) What is the status of the electric bus trial.
- (4) The article in The Canberra Times dated 31 March 2017 indicated that Transport Canberra was seeking tenders for a trial of 'alternative fuel buses, with a particular focus on electric buses'. What alternative fuel buses are being considered.
- (5) What has been the cost to date of preparing for the trial of electric buses.
- (6) Will the funding of \$900,000 allocated in the 2016-17 Budget for the 12 month trial of up to three electric buses on regular on- and off-peak route services be retained by Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate pending the actual commencement of the trial.
- (7) Will additional funding be required for the trial of alternative fuel buses.

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

- (1) The three electric buses were due to be delivered to the Territory prior to 28 February 2017.

- (2) (a) Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate was advised on 8 February 2017 by AVA Bus Manufacturing Pty Ltd that it would be unlikely to meet the delivery deadline of 28 February 2017.

(b) Following the correspondence between TCCS and AVA Bus Manufacturing, the Minister for Transport and City Services office was briefed regarding the developments on 16 February 2017.
- (3) Responses to a Request for Proposal for an Alternate Energy Bus Trial were received on 13 April 2017. Final contract negotiations following the process are underway.
- (4) Transport Canberra is willing to consider any proposals for alternative fuel buses that meet the criterion set out in the Statement of Requirement of the Request for Proposal. The Statement of Requirements set out a preference to trial electric and/or electric-hybrid buses.
- (5) No external costs have been incurred to date in relation to the RFP issued 29 March 2017.
- (6) The funding allocated in the 2016-17 Budget for the 12 month trial of up to three electric buses on regular on and off peak route services will be applied by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate to the forthcoming trial.
- (7) It is not expected that additional funding will be required for the trial of alternative fuel buses.

**Education Directorate—employee assistance program
(Question No 198)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide for each quarter of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date, the (i) total headcount of the Education Directorate and (ii) number of staff who accessed the employee assistance scheme.
- (2) For each of the financial years in part (1), provide the total cost of the employee assistance scheme.
- (3) For each of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date, what was the average number of personal leave days taken (based on full-time equivalent work days) and the personal leave absence percentage rate for staff of the Education Directorate.

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

- (1) Staff headcount and employee assistance scheme access per annum is as follows:

Financial Year	Staff employed by the Directorate	Staff accessing employee assistance scheme
2012-13	5,997	310
2013-14	6,170	348
2014-15	6,189	335
2015-16	6,316	384
2016-17	Not yet available	Not yet available

Note: Headcount data was sourced from the Education Directorate Annual Report for each Financial Year and from Shared Services data reports. Quarterly reporting is not available. Employee assistance usage numbers were sourced from service provider annual reports. Complete headcount and usage data for FY 2016-17 is not available at this time.

- (2) The following table displays the total cost of the employee assistance scheme from FY 2012-13 to FY 2016-17:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Cost	\$0.125m	\$0.125m	\$0.158m	\$0.133m	\$0.174m

- (3) The average number of personal leave days taken per annum is as follows:
- (a) 8.70 days per person (2.38% absence percentage rate) for FY 2012-13.
 - (b) 9.09 days per person (2.49% absence percentage rate) for FY 2013-14.
 - (c) 9.56 days per person (2.62% absence percentage rate) for FY 2014-15.
 - (d) 11.04 days per person (3.02% absence percentage rate) for FY 2015-16.
 - (e) 10.08 days per person (2.76% absence percentage rate) for FY 2016-17.

Note: The FY 2016-17 figures are sourced from Shared Services data and are based on personal leave used and processed to date. As such, the amounts under-represent what will be the final personal leave usage figures for the Financial Year. 'Absence percentage rate' has been calculated by dividing the average days per person by the number of days in the Financial Year.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate— employee assistance program (Question No 199)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide for each quarter of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date, the (i) total headcount of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and (ii) number of staff who accessed the employee assistance scheme.
- (2) For each of the financial years in part (1), provide the total cost of the employee assistance scheme.

- (3) For each of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date, what was the average number of personal leave days taken (based on full-time equivalent work days) and the personal leave absence percentage rate for staff of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

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

- (1)(i) Total headcount by Quarter.

Financial Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
2012-13	497	500	487	478
2013-14	457	458	446	449
2014-15	474	465	472	314
2015-16	316	316	322	328
2016-17	526	577	595	~

- (1)(ii) Total number of staff who accessed the employee assistance program.

Financial Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
2012-13	13	9	7	9
2013-14	15	12	9	11
2014-15	12	9	11	7
2015-16	8	8	5	8
2016-17	9	8	12	~

- (2) Total financial cost of employee assistance program by financial year.

Financial Year	Amount
2012-13	\$ 15,987.13
2013-14	\$ 26,916.23
2014-15	\$ 8,387.43
2015-16	\$ 8,640.53
2016-17 to date	\$ 6,231.65

- (3) The average number of personal leave days taken and the personal leave absence percentage rate.

Financial Year	Personal leave absent rate (Average Days)	Absence Rate (%)
2012-13	12.8	5.2%
2013-14	13.0	5.3%
2014-15	12.3	5.0%
2015-16	11.4	4.5%
2016-17 to date	7.7	3.8%

Health Directorate—employee assistance program (Question No 200)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide for each quarter of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date, the (i) total headcount of the Health Directorate and (ii) number of staff who accessed the employee assistance scheme.
- (2) For each of the financial years in part (1), provide the total cost of the employee assistance scheme.
- (3) For each of the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16 and (e) 2016-17 to date, what was the average number of personal leave days taken (based on full-time equivalent work days) and the personal leave absence percentage rate for staff of the Health Directorate.

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

- (1) (i) Total headcount of the Health Directorate

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (to April)
Quarter 1	6222	6660	6848	7090	7264
Quarter 2	6247	6653	6884	7037	7249
Quarter 3	6478	6802	7080	7602	7416
Quarter 4	6540	6797	7064	7195	-

- (ii) Number of staff who accessed the Employee Assistance Scheme

	Number of new employee cases	Number of new family member cases	Number of continuing cases	Total number of clients seen by EAP
2012-13				
Quarter 1	74	8	34	116
Quarter 2	74	13	37	124
Quarter 3	43	6	33	82
Quarter 4	45	7	40	92
2013-14				
Quarter 1	96	5	56	157
Quarter 2	95	11	57	163
Quarter 3	43	6	33	82
Quarter 4	94	9	34	137
2014-15				
Quarter 1	95	7	43	145
Quarter 2	58	12	35	105
Quarter 3	93	3	28	124
Quarter 4	67	5	41	113

	Number of new employee cases	Number of new family member cases	Number of continuing cases	Total number of clients seen by EAP
2015-16				
Quarter 1	60	6	32	98
Quarter 2	70	11	34	115
Quarter 3	70	8	21	99
Quarter 4	75	7	31	113
2016-17				
Quarter 1	76	12	28	116
Quarter 2	67	8	31	106
Quarter 3	84	7	25	116

(2) Total cost of the Employee Assistance Scheme

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (to April)
Total cost of EAP	\$157,375	\$138,366	\$126,284	\$95,540	\$91,701

(3) Health Directorate Personal Leave

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Average number of personal leave days taken (based on FTE work days)	11.7	11.7	12.4	12.9	9.3
Personal leave absence percentage rate	5.00%	4.90%	5.30%	5.40%	5.00%

ACT Health—forums (Question No 201)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister list the forums organised by ACT Health for government organisations, community and other non-government organisations and individuals, together with the cost of the forums, in the financial years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date.
- (2) In relation to the Preventative Health Forum held on 10 April 2017 (a) what was the total number of attendees and the organisations represented, (b) how many ACT Government officials attended, (c) what was the total cost of the forum and (d) what the cost for the following components of the forum (i) venue hire, (ii) promotion, (iii) speakers' fees, (iv) travel costs for speakers and (v) hospitality.
- (3) In relation to the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) forum held on 16 November 2016 (a) what was the total number of attendees and the organisations represented, (b) how many ACT Government officials attended, (c) what was the total cost of the forum and (d) what the cost for the following components of the forum

- (i) venue hire, (ii) promotion, (iii) speakers' fees, (iv) travel costs for speakers and (v) hospitality.

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

- (1) ACT Health Volunteer Services coordinate "thank you" events to acknowledge the contribution of the 400 (approximate) volunteers to ACT Health. The volunteer events include an annual Christmas lunch and a morning tea event which has been held every second year since 2013. There are plans to hold the morning tea annually to coincide with Volunteers Week.

Both events are held within ACT Health's facilities therefore there are no venue costs.

The single cost associated with both the volunteer events is catering. ACT Health, Food Services is responsible for all costs for the catering of the volunteer Christmas lunches and morning teas.

(a)	2013-14		
	Christmas lunch catering cost		\$3,000.00
(b)	2014-15		
	Christmas lunch catering cost		\$3,100.00
	Morning tea catering cost		\$590.00
(c)	2015-16		
	Christmas lunch catering cost		\$3,200.00
(d)	2016-17		
	Christmas lunch catering cost		\$3,300.00
	Morning tea catering cost		\$620.00

Financial Year 2013 – 14

Aged Care Forum

Communicable Disease Control hosts an aged care forum as part of our winter preparedness activities. The aim of the forum is to provide information and advice for the prevention and management of communicable diseases in aged care. Attendees receive influenza testing guidelines and a starter pack of respiratory swabs.

Total cost was \$1447.59 (catering \$686.50 / swabs \$761.09)

Healthy Canberra Grants and Health Promotion Innovation Fund Launch and Information Session

The Launch and information session were open to the public to attend. Therefore, attendees would have included representatives from government organisations, community and other non-government organisations, as well as individuals.

Total cost (GST inclusive) was \$460.91.

Healthy Canberra Grants Information Session

The information session was open to the public to attend. Therefore, attendees would have included representatives from government organisations, community and other non-government organisations, as well as individuals.

Total cost (GST inclusive) was \$460.91.

Financial Year 2014 - 15

Pharmaceutical Stakeholder education session

Education session relating to the Drugs and Poisons Information Session

Total cost \$350.50

Aged Care Forum

Communicable Disease Control hosts an aged care forum as part of our winter preparedness activities. The aim of the forum is to provide information and advice for the prevention and management of communicable diseases in aged care. Attendees receive influenza testing guidelines and a starter pack of respiratory swabs.

Total cost was \$1374.59 (Catering \$586 / Swabs \$788.59)

Healthy Canberra Grants Information Session

The information session was open to the public to attend. Therefore, attendees would have included representatives from government organisations, community and other non-government organisations, as well as individuals.

Total cost (GST inclusive) was \$565.

Financial Year 2015 - 16

ACT Government Community Consultation on Food and Drink Marketing

The consultation included five stakeholder forums with the community, businesses, sporting organisations and event organisers. External contractors were engaged to facilitate the forums at a total cost of \$24,500 (GST exclusive).

Aged Care Forum

Communicable Disease Control hosts an aged care forum as part of our winter preparedness activities. The aim of the forum is to provide information and advice for the prevention and management of communicable diseases in aged care. Attendees receive influenza testing guidelines and a starter pack of respiratory swabs.

Total cost was \$1931.62 (Catering \$1026.50 / Swabs \$905.15)

Healthy Canberra Grants Information Session

The information session was open to the public to attend. Therefore, attendees would have included representatives from government organisations, community and other non-government organisations, as well as individuals. Total cost (GST inclusive) was \$750.

Financial Year 2016 – to date

Healthy Canberra Grants: Focus on Healthy Ageing Information Session

The information session was open to the public to attend. Therefore, attendees would have included representatives from government organisations, community and other non-government organisations, as well as individuals. Total cost (GST inclusive) was \$727.50.

Aged Care Forum

Communicable Disease Control hosts an aged care forum as part of our winter preparedness activities. The aim of the forum is to provide information and advice for the prevention and management of communicable diseases in aged care. Attendees receive influenza testing guidelines and a starter pack of respiratory swabs.

Total cost was \$1883.08 (Catering \$820 / Swabs \$1063.08)

Food Safety

Information Sessions for food businesses. Four session were held.

Total cost for all four sessions was \$3280 (venue hire and catering)

Non-Government Organisation Forum

5 September 2016 – Cost: \$2,115

6 December 2016 – Cost: \$950

(2) Preventative Health Forum**(a) Total number of attendees: 66. Non ACT government organisations represented: 37**

1. ACT Council of Social Service
2. Australian Catholic University
3. Australian Federal Police
4. Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Association ACT Inc
5. Alzhiemers Australia
6. Australian Nursing & Midwifery Foundation
7. Austrailan National University
8. Australian College of Nursing
9. Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
10. Canberra Business Chamber
11. Cancer Council ACT
12. Capital Health Network
13. Diabetes Australia ACT
14. Engineers Australia
15. Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education
16. Health Care Consumers Association ACT
17. Healthy Eating Hub
18. Healthy Kids Association incorporated
19. Heart Foundation ACT
20. MOVE muscle, bone & joint health
21. Nutrition Australia ACT Inc
22. Pedal Power ACT
23. Pharmacy Guild of Australia - ACT
24. Physical Activity Foundation
25. Property Council of Australia
26. Public Health Association of Australia
27. Sexual Health & Family Planning ACT
28. The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre (TAPPC)/ANU
29. TAPPC/Sax institute
30. University of Canberra CeRAPH
31. University of Malawi and University of Melbourne
32. University of Canberra - NSW
33. Women's Centre for Health Matters
34. World Health Organization
35. YMCA of Canberra
36. YWCA Canberra
37. Youth Coalition of the ACT

(b) Number of ACT Government officials:

19 (comprising four MLAs, two advisors, 13 ACTPS employees)

(c) Total cost of the forum:

\$17,800.85 (GST exclusive)

(d) Cost of Forum components

- (i) venue hire: \$1,100
- (ii) promotion: nil
- (iii) speakers' fees (forum facilitator): \$11,180.67
- (iv) travel costs for speakers (including accommodation): \$1,002
- (v) hospitality: \$4,518.18

(3) Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) Forum – the NGO forum occurred on 16 December 2016, not 16 November 2016 as referred to in question 3 above.

(a) **Invited:** 78 Organisations. **Attendees:** 66 attended with 41 organisations represented. The organizations represented were:

- 1. Kincare
- 2. Marymead
- 3. QEII
- 4. Asthma Foundation ACT
- 5. Hepatitis ACT
- 6. Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
- 7. Cancer Council ACT
- 8. DUO
- 9. CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
- 10. Goodwin
- 11. Capital Health Network
- 12. Woden Community Services
- 13. KinCare ACT
- 14. Australian Breastfeeding Association
- 15. ASHR
- 16. ACT Mental Health Consumer Network
- 17. Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT
- 18. Community Services #1
- 19. Nutrition Australia
- 20. Ted Noffs
- 21. OzHelp Foundation
- 22. Karralika Programs
- 23. Healthcare Consumers Association
- 24. University of Canberra
- 25. ATODA
- 26. AIDS Action Council
- 27. Mental Illness Education ACT
- 28. Pharmacy Guild ACT
- 29. Relationships Australia
- 30. Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
- 31. Burrangiri Respite Care
- 32. Wellways
- 33. Bluearth Foundation
- 34. MS
- 35. Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT

- 36. Arthritis ACT
- 37. Heart Foundation
- 38. COTA ACT
- 39. Companion House
- 40. Oz Harvest
- 41. ACTCOSS

(b) **Number of ACTPS employees in attendance:** 14

(c) **total cost of the forum:** \$950.00

(d) **cost for the following components of the forum**

- (i) Venue hire: \$350.00 (plus. \$50 cordless Mic, \$165 Data projector & screen)
- (ii) Promotion: N/A
- (iii) Speakers' fees: N/A
- (iv) Travel costs for speakers: N/A
- (v) Hospitality: \$385.00

Legislative Assembly—ministerial leave (Question No 204)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Chief Minister outline the process for Ministers to apply for leave.
- (2) In considering requests from Ministers for leave, is consideration given to Legislative Assembly sitting dates or to Legislative Committee meetings, including for Annual Report hearings or Estimates hearings.
- (3) When a Minister is on leave, is an Acting Minister appointed.
- (4) For the years (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017, what was the approved Ministerial leave (including forward leave), dates of leave and acting arrangements.

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

- (1) Ministers seek approval from the Chief Minister when applying for leave.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) See attached.

(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).

**Government buildings—electrical systems
(Question Nos 205-207 and 209-234)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, the Minister for Urban Renewal, the Minister for Economic Development, the Minister for Health, the Treasurer, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Minister for Women, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, the Minister for Regulatory Services, the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, the Minister for Veterans and Seniors, the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, the Minister for Corrections, the Minister for Mental Health, the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, the Minister for Transport and City Services, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, upon notice, on 12 May 2017 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) Can the Minister provide, in relation to ACT Government buildings and facilities that fall under the Minister's portfolio responsibilities if there have been any faults reported with electrical switchboards installed in those buildings or facilities in the financial years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date; if so, (i) the name and location of the building or facility affected, (ii) the date and the number of faults, (iii) the cost of the repair and (iv) if the faults have since been rectified.

Are the electrical switchboards installed in ACT Government buildings and facilities that fall under the Minister's portfolio responsibilities compliant with current Australian/New Zealand wiring and safety standards; if not, list the name and location of the building or facility that houses non-compliant electrical switchboards.

- (3) Are electrical switchboards brought up to the latest Australian standards when building works or refurbishments are carried out on Territory-owned properties.
- (4) Is there a schedule of maintenance for electrical switchboards installed in ACT Government and buildings and facilities that fall under the Minister's portfolio responsibilities; if so, outline the frequency of maintenance.
- (5) Is there a schedule of inspections or safety audits for electrical switchboards; if so, outline the frequency of the inspections or safety audits.
- (6) Are there any current contracts in place to maintain the electrical switchboards installed in ACT Government and buildings and facilities that fall under the Minister's portfolio responsibilities; if so, list the contract number, period of contract and value of the contract.
- (7) What ACT Government buildings and facilities that fall under the Minister's portfolio responsibilities are deemed to be part of ACT's critical infrastructure.

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

The Chief Minister is providing a consolidated response to the Member's questions.

The ACT Governments owned buildings and facilities are managed either by the ACT Property Group which is a business unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) or, in certain cases, by individual Directorates. As such, this response is grouped by ACT Directorate with those under the custodianship of Property Group covered under CMTEDD and supplementary assets group under each Directorate where relevant.

CHIEF MINISTER, TREASURY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

- (1) No faults have been reported in relation to Active Canberra buildings/facilities, Manuka Oval, Exhibition Park, National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park over these years.

ACT Property Group has provided the following table that list repairs of faults to electrical switchboards that have carried out under their portfolio;

Date	Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
06/06/2013	Corin Dam Cottage	Install earth leakage/circuit breakers to both Corin Cottage and Workshop.	\$850.00	Y
17/07/2013	1 Moore Street	Rectify RCD's not working properly.	\$1,180.00	Y
25/07/2013	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Replaced tripped circuit breaker	\$150.00	Y
08/08/2013	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Replace circuit breakers No 8 and No 10 in the lighting panel for the main floor	\$255.02	Y
23/09/2013	Namadgi Riverview Cottage	Rectified solar power switch point	\$200.00	Y
08/10/2013	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Repaired main circuit breaker to dryers	\$6,700.00	Y
08/10/2013	Nealie Place Centre	Replaced RCD switches	\$373.18	Y
08/11/2013	Dame Pattie Menzies Building	Rectify tripped circuit breaker	\$160.00	Y
19/02/2014	Belconnen Parks Depot	Rectified the GPO outlets that had no earth leakage protection. Installed ELP to the workshop switchboard	\$395.00	Y
20/03/2014	Kippax Health Centre	Investigated and rectified circuit breakers that had cause smoke Please attend and rectify the circuit breakers which has caused a fire alarm from the smoke.	\$310.00	Y
14/04/2014	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Investigate and rectify possible tripped circuit	\$152.00	Y
22/04/2014	Macarthur House	Rectify tripped mechanical breaker for data centre	\$600.00	Y

22/04/2014	Macarthur House	Rectify tripped circuit breaker	\$190.00	Y
15/05/2014	Fyshwick Offices Canberra Ave	Inspected main switchboard	\$590.00	Y
27/7/13	Canberra Theatre Centre	Annual thermal testing of distribution boards	\$2,387.00	Y

(b) 2014/2015 Financial Year;

No faults have been reported in relation to Active Canberra buildings/facilities, Manuka Oval, Exhibition Park, National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park over these years.

ACT Property Group has provided the following table that list repairs of faults to electrical switchboards that have carried out under their portfolio;

Date	Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
18/07/2014	1 Moore Street	Inspected electrical circuits to ensure RCD's are compliant.	\$200.00	Y
29/07/2014	1 Moore Street	Tested level 3 electric Circuits for RCD Compliance	\$113.00	Y
14/08/2014	Athallon Drive Parks Depot	Rectified the lack of (RCDs) on the power board	\$770.00	Y
20/08/2014	1 Moore Street	ELCB circuit breaker was replaced and tested	\$160.00	Y
10/09/2014	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Rectify tripped circuit breaker	\$600.00	Y
02/10/2014	Village Creek Centre	Reset tripped circuit breakers for 3 phase power supply	\$160.00	Y
23/10/2014	Giralang Community Hall	Upgraded switchboard	\$1,247.97	Y
31/10/2014	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Rectified tripped breaker no 10	\$540.00	Y
03/02/2015	Woden Library	Replaced 32amp main breaker switch.	\$255.00	Y
05/02/2015	Tuggeranong Library	Rectified RCD10 to the main DB are being tripped	\$540.00	Y
14/04/2015	Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club	Rectified tripped circuit breaker	\$366.65	Y
21/04/2015	Tuggeranong Homestead	Performed thermal imaging of switchboard	\$341.25	Y
22/04/2015	Macarthur House	Repaired faulty indicator light fittings.	1,640.00	Y
08/05/2015	1 Moore Street	Please attend and provide as quote for Provide quote for installation of RCD Protection	\$550.00	Y
30/05/2015	Weston Creek Community Centre	Isolated switchboard	\$2,560.00	Y
01/06/2015	Fyshwick Offices Canberra Ave	Rectified main breaker	\$510.00	Y

Date	Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
17/06/2015	Mawson Drive Depot	Installed RCDs.	\$1,565.00	Y
20/06/2015	Athllon Drive Parks Depot	Rectified damaged DB and installed RCDs	\$1,375.00	Y
29/06/2015	Tuggeranong Homestead	Repaired tripped circuit breaker	\$805.00	Y
30/06/2015	Fyshwick Offices Canberra Ave	Rectify tripped circuit	\$1,080.00	Y
26/7/14	Canberra Theatre Centre	Repair tripping circuit in The Playhouse	\$319.00	Y
11/9/14	Canberra Theatre Centre	Replace faulty circuit breaker to hot water system	\$231.00	Y
18/9/14	Canberra Theatre Centre	Annual thermal testing of distribution boards	\$2,610.30	Y
12/2/15	Canberra Theatre Centre	Attend damaged circuit breaker and replace	\$1,309.00	Y
1/6/15	Canberra Theatre Centre	Supply and install new switchboard equipment	\$2,706.00	Y
22/6/15	Canberra Theatre Centre	Attend tripping light circuit	\$308.00	Y

(c) 2015/2016 Financial Year;

No faults have been reported in relation to Active Canberra buildings/facilities, Manuka Oval, Exhibition Park, National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park over these years.

ACT Property Group has provided the following table that list repairs of faults to electrical switchboards that have carried out under their portfolio;

Date	Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
01/07/2015	Weston Community Hub	Rectified tripped RCD's	\$160.00	Y
10/07/2015	North Building	Replace faulty circuit breaker	\$440.00	Y
14/07/2015	National Convention Centre	Rectified tripped circuit breaker and damaged 200 amp fuse	\$1,990.00	Y
16/07/2015	1 Moore Street	Replaced pole fillers	\$246.09	Y
17/07/2015	Belconnen Parks Depot	Inspected rectified four switchboard for repair	\$929.82	Y
21/07/2015	Kambah Parks Depot	Rectified tripped circuit breaker to security system	\$930.00	Y
22/07/2015	Chifley Community Hub	Replaced tripped circuit breaker	\$430.00	Y
22/07/2015	Kambah Parks Depot	Investigated and rectified tripped circuit breakers	\$1,300.00	Y
22/07/2015	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Rectified tripped circuit breaker	\$1,180.00	Y
23/07/2015	1 Moore Street	Investigated and rectified RCDs	\$160.00	Y

Date	Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
04/08/2015	Civic Youth Centre	Replaced faulty RCD's	\$1,199.45	Y
14/08/2015	Hall Community Precinct	Replaced identified faulty RCD's	\$364.18	Y
17/08/2015	Gugan Gulwan Youth Centre	Replaced two faulty RCDS on sub board.	\$415.25	Y
31/08/2015	Causeway Hall - Kingston	Rectified faulty RCD	\$252.09	Y
02/09/2015	1 Moore Street	Rectified failed connector causing heat in Switchboard DB No2	\$16,750.00	Y
02/09/2015	Greenway Childcare Centre	Replaced 2 faulty RCD's	\$343.82	Y
14/09/2015	Nicholls Parks Depot	Replaced faulty RCD	\$178.09	Y
17/09/2015	Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre	Replaced six faulty RCDs	\$937.18	Y
22/09/2015	Gudgenby Homestead	Replaced faulty RCDs	\$395.84	Y
25/09/2015	Civic Youth Centre	Installed RCD to the lights.	\$1,849.90	Y
08/10/2015	Googong Depot	Installed 2x 15 AMP GPO	\$1,746.56	Y
08/10/2015	Googong Depot	Replaced faulty RCD	\$202.09	Y
20/11/2015	Macarthur House	Rectified tripped circuit breaker	\$120.00	Y
27/11/2015	Belconnen Parks Depot	Identified circuits and labelled wash bay on switchboard.	\$1,400.00	Y
27/11/2015	Isabella Plains Neighbourhood Centre	Installed new 24 way metal switchboard with R.C.Ds	\$2,600.00	Y
11/12/2015	North Building	Rectified fuse in the electrical system for circuit breakers	\$175.00	Y
17/12/2015	Erindale Business Park	Replaced faulty RCD	\$202.09	Y
29/01/2016	Blaxland Centre	Rectified tripped mechanical services switchboard	\$261.00	Y
02/02/2016	Boomanulla Oval	Removed main fuse from switchboard and tagged off.	\$294.00	Y
05/02/2016	Woden Business Park	Investigated and labelled switchboard & field equipment	\$3,080.00	Y
10/02/2016	Nealie Place Centre	Rectified safety switch not turning off the RCD.	\$305.00	Y
11/02/2016	Civic Youth Centre	Attended and fault found mixed neutral on DB.	\$840.00	Y
01/03/2016	City Depot	Installed RCDs on the power circuits	\$3,640.00	Y
07/03/2016	White House Red Hill	Replaced faulty RCD,	\$194.78	Y
08/03/2016	Googong Ranger Cottage Cooma Road	Upgraded switchboard	\$1,322.85	Y
11/03/2016	Chelsea Cottage	Replaced a faulty RCD found during testing	\$343.78	Y
21/03/2016	Tuggeranong Library	Rectified tripped circuit breaker No 10	\$150.00	Y
22/03/2016	Tuggeranong Homestead	Rectified tripped circuit breaker	\$295.00	Y

Date	Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
04/04/2016	Fyshwick Offices Canberra Ave	Reset circuit breakers	\$435.00	Y
18/04/2016	Angas Street Depot	Rectified tripped circuit	\$256.45	Y
02/05/2016	Lanyon Community & Lanyon Youth Centre	Rectified tripped safety switch	\$1,395.00	Y
04/05/2016	1 Moore Street	Rectified tripped circuit on DBG CB17	\$310.00	Y
10/06/2016	Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre	Reimbursement for electrical works on circuit breaker	\$1,009.90	Y
16/06/2016	Cooinda Court - No. 3	Updated electrical switchboard	\$113.00	Y
17/06/2016	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Rectified tripped circuit	\$160.00	Y
10/8/15	Canberra Theatre Centre	Investigate tripping light circuit	\$915.20	Y
26/8/15	Lanyon cottage #2	Various works including replace existing switchboard to meet current standards	\$14,660.80	Y
7/9/15	Canberra Theatre Centre	Annual thermal testing of distribution boards	\$2,750.00	Y
11/11/15	Lanyon	Safety Check on power box	\$437.12	N
23/11/15	Canberra Theatre Centre	Rectify heat problems in electrical switchboards	\$2,739.00	Y
24/11/15	Lanyon	Replace distribution board	\$8,781.58	Y
26/5/16	Calthorpes' House	Install RCDs	\$1,897.50	Y

(d) 2016/2017 Financial Year

No faults have been reported in relation to Active Canberra buildings/facilities, Manuka Oval, Exhibition Park, National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park over these years.

ACT Property Group has provided the following table that list repairs of faults to electrical switchboards that have carried out under their portfolio;

Date	Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
22/06/2016	Griffin Centre	Rectify short circuits when additional items are plugged in to GPOs	\$80.00	Y
13/07/2016	Fyshwick Offices Canberra Ave	Reset circuit breakers after black out.	\$64.00	Y
13/07/2016	Googong Depot	Install RCD's in shed.	\$472.82	Y
11/08/2016	Astrolabe Preschool	Undertake mandatory electrical tests	\$810.00	Y
12/08/2016	North Building	Rectify circuit breaker.	\$113.00	Y
19/08/2016	Kippax Health Centre	Replace faulty RCD's during annual testing.	\$438.18	Y

Date	Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
24/08/2016	Hall Community Precinct	Upgrade the switchboard	\$8,095.00	Y
31/08/2016	Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry	Rectify cause of circuit breaker activation.	\$448.65	Y
31/08/2016	Throsby Street Depot	Attend and install RCDs.	\$559.10	Y
31/08/2016	Tidbinbilla Depot	Replace a faulty RCD	\$270.09	Y
22/12/2016	Dame Pattie Menzies Building	Install RCDs to switchboards	\$9,000.00	Y
22/12/2016	Dame Pattie Menzies Building	Install RCDs to switchboards	\$21,600.00	Y
15/02/2017	Hall Community Precinct	Repair switchboard.	\$736.36	Y
21/02/2017	Mitchell Depot - Sandford Street	Replace recalled RCDs.	\$162.00	N - to be replaced as part of the recall program
16/03/2017	Kingston Fitters Workshop	Disconnect the internal crane from main switchboard.	\$150.00	Y
29/03/2017	Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre	Rectify power point circuits.	\$350.00	Y
30/03/2017	Hyland Place Depot	Inspect switchboard	\$638.00	Y
22/7/16	Mugga Mugga cottage	Install RCDs	\$1,723.93	Y
6/8/16	Lanyon cottage # 6	Various works including new 12 pole switchboard	\$4,833.02	Y
15/8/16	Canberra Theatre Centre	Annual thermal testing of distribution boards	\$2,308.90	Y
20/3/17	Canberra Theatre Centre	Audit of switchboards	\$561.00	Y

(2) Switchboards in buildings under the custodianship of the ACT Property Group and Cultural Facilities Corporation were compliant at the time of their installation. ACT Property Group has a maintenance program in place to maintain the integrity of each switchboard. All new switchboards fall into two categories:

- a) Off the shelf type for smaller installations and sub boards. These are usually bought from an electrical wholesalers or manufacturing firm. All such boards are built to the Australian Standard AS/NZS 3439.1:2002.
- b) Larger main switchboards for commercial & industrial installations. These boards are custom built for the various tasks of delivering power to other sub switchboards throughout a facility. These boards are manufactured at a licensed switchboard maker. In this case they will be built to the Australian Standard and an electrical engineer's specifications. Extensive testing of the board and associated circuitry is undertaken by the builder as part of the pre delivery process.

Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) undertakes regular thermal imaging on the larger main switchboards at the Canberra Theatre Centre. Please note that smaller venues such as Calthorpes' House, Mugga Mugga and several cottages are more akin to standard household type switchboard/power distribution boards

- (3) Yes – when refurbishment works occur that are covered under the specifications of the Building Code of Australia, switchboards are upgraded accordingly. However if the building works do not involve work on the Main Switchboard (MBS), then there is no requirement to upgrade it to the prevailing standards. However if the building works involve replacement of the MSB, then the new MSB is required to comply with the applicable Australian Standards in force at the time of the work. Where the building works only require the MSB to be extended, only the extended part needs to comply with the prevailing Australian standard as long as the new work does not impact on the existing electrical installation's compliance.
- (4) For those buildings under the management of Territory Venues and ACT Property Group a program of thermal imaging of all switchboards is carried out. All major load centres are checked annually. The nature of the testing is invasive, in that an ACT Property Group's licensed electrician removes the escutcheon panels to reveal the electrical chassis and associated switchgear (circuit breakers). The electrician will identify any issues with the equipment and any minor problems are rectified during the inspection. A report is produced and any additional work will be planned and dealt with in a timely manner.

Cultural Facilities Corporation does not undertake annual thermal imaging for the smaller type distribution boards.

Maintenance for electrical switchboards to Active Canberra buildings/facilities is undertaken as required. Switchboards are regularly checked by electricians contracted to the venues.

Maintenance to Territory Venues is undertaken as required and includes thermal image inspections.

Venues Canberra maintenance contracts include the provision of electrical services. However, the scope of the contracts are much broader than the maintenance of switchboards. No switchboard maintenance costs are separately identified.

- (5) Please refer to question 4 above.
- (6) There are no contracts required in regard to the inspections of switchboards as detailed above as this work is conducted by an ACT Property Group officer who is a designated electrical tester, licenced electrician and has undergone an accredited training course.
- (7) The contents of the ACT's Critical Infrastructure Register are classified and I am therefore unable to release this information publicly.

JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIRECTORATE

The ACT Governments owned buildings and facilities are managed either by the ACT Property Group which is a business unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) or, in certain cases, by individual Directorates. As such, this response is grouped by ACT Directorate with the following response provided by Justice and Community Safety Directorate for those assets under their custodianship.

- (1) The Infrastructure Register is classified and I am therefore unable to release this information publicly.

Any records pertaining to the Supreme Court and Magistrates Court prior to December 2015 would reside with ACT Property Group who managed the facility prior to that time. Earlier this year, a national announcement from Eaton Circuit Breakers came out advising of a faulty Residual Current Device (RCD) protected circuit breakers.

Six of the seven sites are completed with the remaining site, Fyshwick Fire & Rescue station scheduled for completion in the coming months, being delayed by the site undergoing Privacy and Dignity upgrades as part of an approved Capital Works Initiative.

Records pertaining to the Magistrates Court prior to December 2015 reside with ACT Property Group as the previous custodian. Earlier this year, a national announcement from Eaton Circuit Breakers came out advising of faulty RCD protected circuit breakers.

- (b) 2014/15 saw the commencement of an electrical maintenance contract at ACT Policing sites, which included auditing and regular inspection of distribution boards (DB). Initial audit costs including DB inspections \$115,000 RCD circuit breakers across the ACT Policing sites were tested and replaced where necessary. Estimated cost \$6,000. No major faults occurred or were identified during routine monthly and annual maintenance inspections. RCD circuit breaker testing identified faulty circuit breakers which were replaced shortly after the time of test as part of maintenance responsibilities.
 - (c) Since December 2015 the Supreme Court has been identified having two boards with affected circuit breakers. Eaton were advised of the situation and we were told that the circuit breakers would be replaced at nil cost. Eaton provided ELQ Reference No: 1-9909115065 and we await further advice on rectification process. No major faults identified with ESA sites. RCD circuit breaker testing identified faulty circuit breakers across various ACT Policing sites which were replaced shortly after the time of test as part of maintenance responsibilities.
 - (d) During May 2017 the ESA requested that Capital Works and Infrastructure (CWI) conduct another procurement process to audit all remaining sites. To date no major faults occurred or were identified during routine monthly and annual maintenance inspections. RCD circuit breaker testing identified faulty circuit breakers across various ACT Policing sites which were replaced shortly after the time of test as part of maintenance responsibilities.
- (2) Records pertaining to the Magistrates Court prior to December 2015 reside with ACT Property Group as the previous custodian. During 2016/2017 works commenced on replacement of fifteen distribution boards as part of backlog works to meet BCA requirements for the new facility. This work is due for completion by November 2017.

Switchboards in buildings under the custodianship of the ACT Emergency Services Agency were compliant at time of installation and have a maintenance program in place to maintain the integrity of the switchboards. However, the ECOWISE audit identified noncompliance issues that have been addressed through contract management and the procurement process for rectification works.

All new switchboards fall under two categories:

- (a) Those that are an off the shelf type, for smaller installations and sub boards.
All such boards are built to the Australian Standard AS/NZS 3439.1:2002; and
 - (b) Larger main switchboards for commercial & industrial installations. These boards are custom built for the various tasks of delivering power to other sub switchboards throughout the facility, and manufactured at a licensed switchboard maker. In this case they will be built to the Australian Standard and an electrical engineers specification. Extensive testing is undertaken by the builder as part of the pre delivery process.
- (3) Yes. Electrical switchboards are bought up to the latest standard, most recently in the instance of the upgrade of existing the Magistrates Court and New Build, and Forensic Medicine Centre. When refurbishment works occur the works must meet the requirements of the Building Code of Australia, with switch boards upgraded as required.
- (4) Switchboard maintenance is conducted at six monthly intervals at buildings under the control of ACT Emergency Services. Thermal imaging of switchboards is carried out when a fault or anomaly is detected during six monthly maintenance. All major load centres are checked annually. The nature of the testing is invasive, in that a licensed electrician removes the escutcheon panels to reveal the electrical chassis and associated switchgear (circuit breakers). They identify any issues with the equipment, all minor problems are rectified during the inspection. If any issues arise they are dealt with in a timely manner. The ECOWISE audit identified contract management issues that CWI have now addressed with the service provider.

As part of the PPP the facilities manager (PFM) will be responsible for the annual inspection and testing of all electrical boards including thermal scanning of board components. This will cover the entire courts facility that accommodates the Supreme Court and Magistrates Court. As the Forensic Medical Centre is not part of the PPP The ACT Government will directly engage a facilities manager who will also be asked to carry out annual inspection and testing of all electrical boards including thermal scanning of board components.

- (5) Inspections for electrical boards outlined above in dot point 4. The Contract Amount Represents the Net Present Cost of the service payments to be made during the 25 year operating term of the PPP agreement which is \$250.5 million (Total value of this particular contract only).
- (6) ESA has a contract in place - Contract C08623 – “Provision of Maintenance Services”.
- (7) The contents of the ACT’s Critical Infrastructure Register are classified and I am therefore unable to release this information publicly.

HEALTH DIRECTORATE

The ACT Governments owned buildings and facilities are managed either by the ACT Property Group which is a business unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) or, in certain cases, by individual Directorates. As such, this response is grouped by ACT Directorate with the following response provided by Health Directorate for those assets under their custodianship.

- (1) In September 2015, a fault occurred with the B2 Electrical Main Switch Board (EMSB) at The Canberra Hospital which precipitated the decision to replace the B2 EMSB as part of the 2016/17 budget appropriation Upgrading and Maintaining ACT Health Assets. In April 2017 a fault occurred with the B2 EMSB at The Canberra Hospital. A program is currently underway to replace this EMSB by June 2018.
- (2) Electrical Switchboards and their associated installations are certified by the Licenced Contractor who installs the installation at the time of handover, to Australian Standard AS/NZS 3000:2007
- (3) Any electrical work undertaken is required to meet the specifications outlined in AS/NZS 3000:2007. ACT Health engages the services of qualified designers, engineers, builders and independent building certifier's capital works projects to ensure that the necessary obligations are met.
- (4) Inspection and testing for residual circuit breaker operation, visual inspections and thermal scanning is conducted every 12 months, in accordance with AS/NZS 3000:2007.
- (5) Visual inspections of the main switchboards are carried out regularly by ACT Health Facilities Management staff and ACT Property Group contractors. Any repairs that are required are performed at that time, or as follow up maintenance involving significant planning in advance of planned maintenance to ensure continuity of operations. Facilities Management is responsible for the maintenance of electrical distribution switchboards at The Canberra Hospital.
- (6) ACT Health have an agreement with ACT Property Group using their contractor agreements to maintain all Non-Acute sites and specific new buildings at the Canberra Hospital Campus including Building 11, Centenary Hospital for Women's and Children, Building 19, Capital Region Cancer Centre and Building 25, Adult Acute Mental Health Unit. All other buildings at the Canberra Hospital Campus are maintained by Act Health Facilities Management group with input from specialist contractors in accordance with planned maintenance requirements
- (7) The contents of the ACT's Critical Infrastructure Register are classified and I am therefore unable to release this information publicly.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

The ACT Governments owned buildings and facilities are managed either by the ACT Property Group which is a business unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) or, in certain cases, by individual Directorates. As such, this response is grouped by ACT Directorate with the following response provided by Community Services Directorate for those assets under their custodianship.

- (1) Community Services Directorate have an agreement with Spotless under the Housing contract to provide maintenance at locations such as Bimberri Youth Centre.

In regard to properties purchased or constructed by the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce, there have been no faults reported with electrical switchboards.

The below table shows costs relating to Electrical Switchboards for properties where a management arrangement is held with ACT Property Group;

(d) 2015/2016 Financial Year;

Building	Fault	Cost	Rectified Y/N
Therapy ACT Holder	Annual switchboard maintenance	\$35.94	Y

- (2) Electrical switchboards installed in properties purchased or constructed by the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce are compliant with Australian Standards.
- (3) Electrical switchboards are brought up to the latest Australian standards when buildings that are purchased by the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce are refurbished.
- (4) Housing ACT is responsible for ongoing maintenance of properties constructed and purchased by the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce
- (5) Housing ACT is responsible for ongoing maintenance of properties constructed and purchased by the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce.
- (6) Housing ACT is responsible for ongoing maintenance of properties constructed and purchased by the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce.
- (7) The contents of the ACT's Critical Infrastructure Register are classified and I am therefore unable to release this information publicly.

EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

The ACT Governments owned buildings and facilities are managed either by the ACT Property Group which is a business unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) or, in certain cases, by individual Directorates. As such, this response is grouped by ACT Directorate with the following response provided by Education Directorate for those assets under their custodianship.

- (1) The day to day management of school facilities is the responsibility of each school principal. Issues associated with faults in electrical switchboards are therefore dealt with by schools as part of their School Operational Allocation funding and only major faults that require Directorate assistance to rectify would be reported. Minor faults would be dealt with by schools in general and the Directorate does not collect this information centrally.
- (2) Yes. The switchboards in buildings under the control of the Education Directorate were compliant at the time of installation. All new switchboards fall under two categories;
 - (a) Those that are an off the shelf type for smaller installations and sub-boards. These are usually bought from electrical wholesalers or manufacturing firms. All such boards are built to the Australian Standard AS/NZS 3439.1:2002; and
 - (b) Larger main switchboards for commercial & industrial installations. These boards are custom built for the various tasks of delivering power to other sub-switchboards throughout a facility. These boards are manufactured by a licensed switchboard maker. In this case they will be built to the Australian Standard and an electrical engineer's specifications. Extensive testing of the

board and associated circuitry is undertaken by the builder as part of the pre-delivery process.

- (3) Yes. When refurbishment works occur that are covered under the requirements of the Building Code of Australia, switchboards are upgraded accordingly. However if the building works do not involve work on the Main Switchboard (MBS), then there is no requirement to upgrade it to the prevailing standards. However if the building works involve replacement of the MSB, then the new MSB is required to comply with the applicable Australian Standards in force at the time of the work. Where the building works only require the MSB to be extended, only the extended part needs to comply with the prevailing Australian Standard as long as the new work does not impact on the existing electrical installation's compliance.

For those buildings under the control of the Education Directorate electrical switchboards are inspected every three years as part of the school condition assessment program. During 2015 and 2016 all public school switchboards received thermo-graphic testing to identify any heat or load issues. This was done as part of the installation of Residual Current Devices (RCD) or safety switches on all power circuits in ACT public schools. RCD's are tested each year by schools as required by Australian Standards.

- (4) Six monthly thermal imaging and visual inspections are undertaken at the CIT's.
- (5) Schools engage their own electricians for electrical maintenance work on an ad-hoc basis. The Infrastructure and Capital Works Branch occasionally engages electricians via the ACT Property Group Panel Contract for upgrades to electrical switchboards.
- (6) CIT has a Panel of Electrical Contractors for Electrical Maintenance and Minor New Works – Contract number 3026/1000. The value of the contract is \$200,000 per annum
- (7) The contents of the ACT's Critical Infrastructure Register are classified and I am therefore unable to release this information publicly.

TRANSPORT CANBERRA AND CITY SERVICES

The ACT Governments owned buildings and facilities are managed either by the ACT Property Group which is a business unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) or, in certain cases, by individual Directorates. As such, this response is grouped by ACT Directorate with the following response provided by Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate for those assets under their custodianship.

- (1) No repairs required for any year.
- (2) Yes. As per the response provided by ACT Property Group.
- (3) Yes. As per the response provided by ACT Property Group.
- (4) Yes. Annually.
- (5) See question four (4) above.
- (6) No.

- (7) The contents of the ACT's Critical Infrastructure Register are classified and I am therefore unable to release this information publicly.

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORATE

The ACT Governments owned buildings and facilities are managed either by the ACT Property Group which is a business unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) or, in certain cases, by individual Directorates. As such, this response is grouped by ACT Directorate with the following response provided by Environment Planning and Sustainability Directorate for those assets under their custodianship.

- (1) Premises occupied by EPSDD are owned and managed by ACT Property Group.
Please refer to response provide by ACT Property Group;
- (2) Premises occupied by EPSDD are owned and managed by ACT Property Group.
Please refer to response provide by ACT Property Group;
- (3) Premises occupied by EPSDD are owned and managed by ACT Property Group.
Please refer to response provide by ACT Property Group;
- (4) Premises occupied by EPSDD are owned and managed by ACT Property Group.
Please refer to response provide by ACT Property Group;
- (5) Premises occupied by EPSDD are owned and managed by ACT Property Group.
Please refer to response provide by ACT Property Group;
- (6) Premises occupied by EPSDD are owned and managed by ACT Property Group.
Please refer to response provide by ACT Property Group;
- (7) Premises occupied by EPSDD are owned and managed by ACT Property Group.
Please refer to response provide by ACT Property Group;

Schools—Franklin Early Childhood School (Question No 235)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Is the Government monitoring enrolments at the Franklin Early Childhood School and the population growth in the Franklin area.
- (2) What options are being considered to increase the capacity of the Franklin Early Childhood School.
- (3) Will the Government consider expanding the capacity of the Franklin Early Childhood School so that it can offer positions for students in years 3 and above or is it expected that children in this situation continue to attend schools outside their area.

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

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Options for the Franklin Early Childhood School are being considered as a component of enrolment planning for the whole of the East Gungahlin region.
 - (3) At this stage the government has committed to expand Franklin Early Childhood School in its current model but the government will also discuss with the community the best way forward.
-

**Transport—electric cars
(Question No 239)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How many electric cars are registered in the ACT and what is the number as a percentage of the total number of registered passenger vehicles for the financial years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date.
- (2) What is the total number and type of charging stations for electric or hybrid cars within the ACT and their locations, and detail the average (a) number of times each station is used per week and (b) length of time the each charging station is utilised per use.
- (3) Provide a breakdown of the cost of each electric or hybrid charging station relating to the (a) installation of the charging station and (b) annual cost of maintenance of the charging station.
- (4) How many times has each charging station been out of order in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017 to date and detail the (i) reason the charging station was not able to be used and (ii) average length of time each charging station was out of order.
- (5) Which were the three most used charging stations in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (6) Which were the three least used charging stations in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, and (c) 2016-17 to date.
- (7) What are the locations of the new charging stations being deployed in the remainder of 2017 and in 2018, and detail for each (i) the type of charger that will be installed, (ii) why the location was selected, (iii) the expected number of users per week, (iv) when the charging station will be installed and (v) the expected cost of the installation.
- (8) Have any charging station/s been incorporated into the planning design and development of new suburbs over the next five years (a) provide the planned location/s of the charging station/s and the expected installation dates and cost and (b) will new developments or apartment complexes be required to incorporate charging points as part of their design.

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

- (1) The number of electric cars registered in the ACT including as a percentage of the total number of registered passenger vehicles for the financial years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date is provided in the table below:

Electric Vehicles Registered as at 30 June each year and 2017 Year to Date.			Registered Vehicles (Excluding Trailers) as at 30 June each year and 2017 Year to Date.	Percentage of electric cars to total registered passenger vehicles
Status date	Total	Forklifts (Included in Total)		Not including forklifts
16/05/2017	255	10	288200	0.09%
30/06/2016	237	10	281626	0.08%
30/06/2015	179	10	276338	0.06%
30/06/2014	141	11	271981	0.05%

- (2) Electric vehicle chargers have been installed by various parties within the ACT.

As this is an unregulated area, the information requested is best provided by those commercial parties.

ActewAGL has provided the following summary of the chargers installed as part of its universal charging network pilot program.

Location	Address	Type
Civic	77 London Circuit, Canberra ACT	Level 3
Canberra Airport	Rogan St, Canberra ACT	Level 3
Greenway	Anketell St & Oakden St, Greenway ACT	Level 3
	38 Reed St, Greenway ACT	Level 2
New Acton	20 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra ACT	Level 2
Manuka	19 Furneaux St, Forrest ACT	Level 2
Belconnen	10 Lathlain St, Belconnen ACT	Level 2
	10 Lathlain St, Belconnen ACT	
	10 Lathlain St, Belconnen ACT	

- (3) The ACT Government has not installed any EV charging infrastructure.

Owing to the commercial nature of the information requested, it is recommended that this information be sourced from those commercial entities who are involved.

Advice from ActewAGL on its experience during the pilot phase of their EV Charging Project was that installation pricing varied significantly, depending on site specific factors, and the level of charger being installed. ActewAGL also advised the information gained through their pilot is having a significant influence on their consideration of any future locations.

- (4) As this is an unregulated area, the information requested is not required to be provided by those commercial parties who have installed EV charging infrastructure.

At the Government's request, ActewAGL has provided the following summary of availability of chargers installed during their pilot program:

During the pilot and development phase of the ActewAGL EV Charging network, one Level 3 charger was out of order for three working days owing to an internal component being partially damaged. The charger was restored to operation following

the manufacturer providing a specialised technician to replace the component, and completion of necessary testing to ensure operability of the new hardware.

Additionally, EV chargers may have been out of service for a few hours to a day, owing to hardware upgrades through the pilot period.

Post pilot, some EV chargers have and will continue to occasionally go out of service due to power outages, malfunctions due to communications with the electronics of the EV, or due to EV driver erroneous handling of charging stations. Emergency shutdown is also triggered by activities such as acts of vandalism, acting to ensure ongoing community safety.

Issues and/or errors are communicated in real time to ActewAGL via an automated process, to expedite resolution for our customers. EV drivers are able to view the status of chargers at any time via the EV portal map located at actewaglevlution.com.au

- (5) The Government understands the first commercially installed EV charging station became operational for public use in the ACT in early 2016.

At the Government's request, ActewAGL has provided the following summary of availability of chargers installed during their pilot program:

ActewAGL commenced design of a charging network solution and subsequent installation of chargers in 2016. In 2016 the three most used stations were the level 3 stations located in Civic, Greenway and the Airport.

From January to May In 2017, the three most used stations were the level 3 stations located at Civic and Greenway; and the level 2 stations located in Greenway (38 Reed St, Greenway ACT).

- (6) As this is an unregulated area, the information requested is not required to be provided by those commercial parties who have installed EV charging infrastructure.

At the Government's request, ActewAGL has provided the following summary of availability of chargers installed during their pilot program:

Over the course of 2016 the three least used stations were Level 2 Chargers in Greenway, Belconnen and New Acton. This information is based on aggregated use and does not take into account the time of year each was installed.

In 2017, Belconnen Level 2 chargers remained in the least used group, with Manuka and the Airport being the other two locations. The Level 3 Charger at the airport has dropped into this category as usage in other locations has increased at a higher rate. Usage at the airport actually increased in 2017.

- (7) The Government is aware of a number of companies exploring the option of installing EV charging facilities in their premise(s) and/or developments but as these are commercial decisions, are not privy to the information requested.

We are however aware that options being considered include Level 2 and Level 3 chargers.

It is also noted that surrounding jurisdictions are actively pursuing the installation of both Level 2 and Level 3 chargers.

- (8) (a) As part of the West Belconnen (Ginninderry) Joint Venture, locations for two rapid public charging points have been identified for Stage 1. It is intended that the charging stations will be installed once resident occupation occurs in 2019. The cost will be met by the project, but the value is yet to be determined. Electricity will be provided to these locations as part of the Stage 1 civil works.

It is also a requirement that all display village homes include an electric vehicle charging point within the garages. Additionally, it is recommended that residents consider installing wiring to accommodate electric vehicle charging points, allowing for a future retrofit of a charging point. The project has released a Smart Living Brochure explaining this to residents.

ActewAGL is currently considering installing a fast charger as part of their free roll-out at the Link Building – the sales and marketing centre for Ginninderry at Strathnairn.

- (b) The Government recognises the challenges and opportunities for the expansion of EV charging infrastructure in private locations around the ACT. Specific provision for electric vehicle charging within commercial and multi-unit residential developments is currently being considered as part of a revised ACT Parking and Vehicular Access General Code.

This is intended to align the supply of electric vehicle charging facilities within new developments and the growing demand for electric vehicles. Additionally, ChargePoint and other charging infrastructure providers are actively promoting opportunities for multi-unit apartments and mixed-used commercial developments as an option of paying for the installation of their charging infrastructure which is then marketed as part of their national networks (see www.chargepoint.com.au).

Legislative Assembly—tabling of government responses (Question No 240)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Why has the Government not tabled a response to the Public Account's Report No. 27 of 2012: Review of Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2011: The North Weston Pond Project tabled in the Assembly on 22 August 2015 during the Seventh Assembly.
- (2) Will a response to the report in part (1) be tabled in the Ninth Assembly; if so, what deadline will be set for the response to be tabled before the Assembly; if not, explain why no response will be forthcoming from the Government.

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

- (1) The Public Account's Report No.27 of 2012: *Review of Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2011*: The North Weston Pond Project was tabled in the Assembly on 22 August

2012. Following the last assembly sitting day on 23 August 2012, the Government went into Caretaker mode in the lead up to the next election.

At that time, advice was provided to all directorates that at the dissolution of the Seventh Assembly the Caretaker conventions stipulated that it was for the incoming Government to determine whether a Government Response for a report to a previous Assembly was still to be prepared. Directorates were also advised Committee Reports should not be responded to unless the responsible Minister decided it was required. The responsible Minister at that time decided that a response was not required.

- (2) No, a response will not be tabled in the Ninth Assembly. The responsible Minister at the time, Minister Corbell, decided that a response was not required.

Trees—assessments (Question No 244)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) How many requests for tree assessments have been received through Access Canberra in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date.
- (2) How many tree assessments were undertaken after being initiated by a constituent request in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date.
- (3) How many tree assessments were performed in 2015-16 after receiving a request or notification through Access Canberra within (a) 1-2 days, (b) 3-5 days, (c) 6-10 days, (d) 11-15 days, (e) 16-20 days, (f) 21-15 days, (g) 25-30 days and (h) over 30 days.
- (4) How many tree assessments were performed in 2016-17 after receiving a request or notification through Access Canberra within (a) 1-2 days, (b) 3-5 days, (c) 6-10 days, (d) 11 15 days, (e) 16-20 days, (f) 21-15 days, (g) 25-30 days and (h) over 30 days.
- (5) How many complaints have been received regarding tree issues not being adequately addressed in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date.
- (6) How many complaints about trees or tree removal in relation to the light rail project have been received in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17.

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

- (1)

2015-16	2016-17
8,300	10,526

- (2) (a) and (b) The majority of public requests relate to more than one tree. Individual tree numbers associated with these requests are not specifically collected.
- (3) The ACT Government manages 780,000 trees in Canberra. The information on tree assessments is not generally captured for street or parkland trees in a way that can be interrogated to accurately respond to the question. Safety is paramount when

managing trees and crews respond to urgent priority jobs within 24-48 hours or sooner.

- (4) See response to 3.
 - (5) Complaints, feedback and enquiries are received by the ACT Government in many different forms and through various access points. Specific data in response to your question is not readily available and would require considerable resources to complete.
 - (6) Complaints, feedback and enquiries are received by the ACT Government in many different forms and through various access points. It is not possible to provide this figure as data is not specifically collected on this issue.
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Trees—assessments (Question No 245)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) In the media release on the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate's website titled 'Crews continue to clean up following January storm' on 16 February 2017, the Director of City Presentation, Stephen Algeria stated that "...thousands of trees across the urban area sustained damage." Have all tree assessments initiated due to the storm on 13 January 2017 been completed; if not, how many are outstanding.
- (2) Within the press release stated in part (1), the Director of City Presentation, Stephen Algeria also stated that "...the extent of the damage may impact on the completion of other less urgent tree-related enquiries and works." Have all other less urgent tree-related enquiries and works that were rescheduled as lower priorities been completed; if not, how many are outstanding.
- (3) What was the cost of tree maintenance and assessments for 2015-16 to date broken down by (a) staff, (b) equipment, and (c) other.
- (4) What was the cost of tree maintenance and assessments for 2016-17 to date broken down by (a) staff, (b) equipment, and (c) other.
- (5) How many staff were involved with tree maintenance for (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date.
- (6) How many assessors are needed on average to conduct a tree assessment.
- (7) How many tree assessments were undertaken in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date.
- (8) How many trees were assessed and found to be unsafe in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17.

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

- (1) All tree assessments initiated following the January 2017 storm have been evaluated and work prioritised.

- (2) The database is not able to quantify the number of lower priority jobs that were rescheduled as a result of the need to focus on storm damage works.
- (3) Refer to **Attachment A**.
- (4) Refer to **Attachment A**.
- (5) (a) 53.
(b) 53.
- (6) One.
- (7) (a) The databases that capture information about tree assessments have not been designed to quantify the number of specific tree assessments. Tree assessments are undertaken at various levels of detail, including in response to formal applications for approval to undertake tree damaging activities for trees on leased land; in response to public enquiries for trees on public land; in work undertaken for powerline and road, parking and directional signage and from audits.
- (b) refer to the response in 7a.
- (8) (a) Trees on public land are removed for a variety of reasons including if they are dead, damaged, defective or significantly interfere with infrastructure causing safety issues. In 2015-16, 1,401 trees were assessed and removed.
- (b) 2,599 trees were assessed and removed in 2016-17.

"Attachment A Question on Notice 245"	Tree Management/Tree Protection Unit	Tree Operations	Total
2015-16			
Salary and Non Payroll Contract Staff	1,544,345	2,381,077	3,925,422
Operational Costs*	1,909,274	1,470,511	3,379,785
Total Costs	3,453,619	3,851,588	7,305,207
2016-2017 April YTD			
Salary and Non Payroll Contract Staff	1,379,998	1,961,704	3,341,702
Operational Costs*	651,204	1,376,694	2,027,898
Total Costs	2,031,202	3,338,398	5,369,600
* This includes:			
- Equipment hire (Dry & Wet)			
- R&M on leased and owned plant & equipment			
- Plant & Equipment lease costs and fuel			
- Vehicle lease, maintenance and fuel costs			
- Planting, Watering & Removal of Trees			
- Supply of professional services			
- Other operational costs including employee expenses and depots			

ACTION bus service—breakdowns (Question No 247)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) What is the total number of ACTION bus breakdowns by model of bus for the financial years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date.
- (2) What is the most common cause of breakdown by model of bus in the ACTION fleet for the financial years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date.
- (3) What is the average annual maintenance cost per bus for each model of bus in the ACTION fleet.
- (4) What is the the total amount of spent on bus maintenance during the financial years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date.
- (5) What is the average number of bus breakdowns per model of bus per year for the financial years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17 to date.
- (6) What is the total number of services that (a) were not completed due to a breakdown and (b) completed their service more than four minutes after the scheduled time after a breakdown in (i) 2015-16 and (ii) 2016-17 to date.
- (7) What is the number of breakdowns that occurred during (a) peak periods and (b) off peak periods in (i) 2015-16 and (ii) 2016-17 to date.

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

- (1) The following table sets out the total number of ACTION bus breakdowns by model of bus.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
Renault PR100.2	194	235	303	362
Renault PR100.3	108	128	180	155
Renault Agora Line	143	139	164	121
Scania Gas	290	255	325	270
Man Gas	56	78	69	75
Man Diesel	177	209	301	210
Scania Steer Tag	45	48	54	66
Scania Artics	44	61	68	82
Scania Euro 6	-	34	107	100

* To the end of May 2017

- (2) The most common cause of breakdown for the financial years was:

2013-14 – Engine;
 2014-15 – Electrical Systems;
 2015-16 – Electrical Systems; and
 2016-17 – Electrical Systems.

- (3) The average cost of maintenance per bus within the Transport Canberra bus fleet is \$52,600 per annum. This figure is inclusive of staffing including all on costs and parts and consumables.
- (4) The total amount spent on bus maintenance was:
- 2013–14 \$21,024,595.79;
 2014–15 \$21,505,714.36;
 2015–16 \$22,357,901.96; and
 2016–17 \$18,368,189.62 (year to date at end of May 2017)
- (5) The following table sets out the average number of bus breakdowns (measured per 100,000km) per model of bus.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
Renault PR100.2	3.18	4.46	6.83	10.97
Renault PR100.3	7.25	10.11	15.59	18.91
Renault Agora Line	14.48	14.08	17.53	13.37
Scania Gas	8.51	7.48	9.72	8.64
Man Gas	5.69	7.93	7.01	8.32
Man Diesel	2.67	3.16	4.55	3.46
Scania Steer Tag	3.80	4.06	4.57	6.09
Scania Artics	2.48	3.44	3.84	5.05
Scania Euro 6		1.54	2.68	1.93

* To the end of May 2017

- (6) The total number of services that were not completed due to a breakdown were (i) 1,956 in 2015-16 and (ii) 1,677 in 2016-17 (year to date as at 30 May 2017) representing 0.21% and 0.19% respectively of total scheduled services. ACTION does not record the services that completed their service more than four minutes after the scheduled time after a breakdown.
- (7) The total number of breakdowns that occurred during (a) peak periods (i) was 952 in 2015-16 and (ii) 829 to date in 2016-17 representing 0.28% and 0.27% respectively of total services. Peak periods are defined as before 9:00am and between 4:30pm-6:00pm weekdays.

The total number of breakdowns that occurred during (b) off peak periods (i) was 1,223 in 2015-16 and (ii) 1,089 to date in 2016-17 representing 0.21% and 0.19% respectively of total services. Off peak periods are defined as between 9:00am-4.30pm and after 6:00pm weekdays and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.

ACTION bus service—timetable (Question No 248)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How many ACTION bus trips ran late per week from April 2016 to date, and include (a) the average number of minutes the service was late and (b) any significant specific reason for the lateness if available.

- (2) Which ten ACTION bus routes that have most often run late from April 2016 to date; and include (a) the number of trips that ran late for each of the routes from April 2016 to date, (b) the average number of minutes the services was late and (c) any significant specific reason for the lateness if available.
- (3) What are the top ten roadwork sites that have disrupted ACTION bus services in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017 to date and include (i) when the road works commenced, and when they were or will be completed, (ii) the routes that have been impacted by the sites and (iii) the average number of minutes the service ran late during the duration of the road works.
- (4) The ACTION data on 'Network punctuality' available on the Transport Canberra website shows that the number of services that ran late spiked in August 2016 and continued to remain at similarly high levels to date. Can the Minister provide an explanation of what has caused the increased number of services to run late since August 2016 and include (a) what actions have been undertaken to address the higher percentage of services that have run late since August 2016 and (b) outline any future initiatives that will be implemented in the remainder of 2017 to address the number of ACTION services that run late.
- (5) How many complaints were received from April 2016 to date regarding services running (a) late and (b) early and what are the top ten routes that have had the most complaints from April 2016 to date about running (i) late and (ii) early.

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

- (1) ACTION service timeliness is recorded at the trip timing point level. This means that a single trip can be on time, late and early throughout. This method is used to provide the best outcome for performance management on the network. For the period April 2016 to date, the ACTION bus network recorded 7,513,271 timing point records. Of the timing points recorded, 1,418,501 timings points or 18.9% were recorded to be later than 4 minutes after the scheduled departure time. A level of late running across the network is expected due to buses mostly being part of the mixed traffic environment.
- (2) The following ten ACTION bus routes recorded the highest number of late timing records from April 2016 to date and the table below displays the periods of late running recorded as a variance from the scheduled timetable:

Route	Timing Record Variance from schedule					Total Late Timing Points
	4:01-6:59 late	7-9:59 late	10-12:59 late	13-15:59 late	16+ late	
200	44,105	17,288	5,956	1,963	1,254	70,566
3	34,798	12,419	4,537	1,545	760	54,059
4	35,259	12,552	3,949	1,309	766	53,835
1	33,050	10,117	2,799	1,015	843	47,824
2	32,239	9,918	2,856	834	568	46,415
7	28,545	11,207	3,960	1,385	856	45,953
5	28,121	10,397	3,587	1,146	646	43,897
313	25,525	6,756	1,670	422	272	34,645
58	19,080	7,054	2,126	833	1,003	30,096
Total	280,722	97,708	31,440	10,452	6,968	427,290

- (3) The specific data requested is not readily available. Disruptions to the ACTION network for 2016 and 2017 have occurred mainly due to the reconstruction of Constitution Avenue and works throughout Gungahlin, including Horse Park Drive duplication, Gundaroo Drive duplication and the ongoing works for Light Rail stage 1.
- (4) The new network in August 2016 had some inter-run mismatch between anticipated and actual timing points, with runs still generally starting and ending on time. Regarding (a) actions being undertaken, Transport Canberra continually monitors the performance of the network to identify improvements to running times across the network. In January 2017, the timetable for Route 3 was revised after it was identified as having a high amount of late timing records. The revised timetable resulted in an increase of on time performance on this route. Regarding point (b) Transport Canberra service planners will continue to use performance data from the MyWay and NXTBUS systems to identify problematic running of services and publish revised timetables to deliver an improved service outcome as operational changes allow.
- (5) For the period of April 2016 to date regarding services running (a) late there were 511 complaints recorded and (b) early there were 416 complaints.

For the same period, the tables below highlight the top ten routes that recorded complaints for (i) late and (ii) early running:

Route	(i) Late Running Complaints
1	34
7	23
80	20
3	19
4	19
200	16
58	15
251	14
2	14
40	10

Route	(ii) Early Running Complaints
2	22
200	20
27	17
3	16
4	12
39	11
40	11
1	10
314	10
8	8
80	8
5	8

Transport—ride-sharing services (Question No 249)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) What is the total number of vehicles registered under (a) rideshare vehicles and (b) taxis for the financial years (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16 and (iii) 2016-17 to date.
- (2) What premium rates have been charged in the ACT for compulsory third party (CTP) insurance for (a) rideshare vehicles and (b) taxis for the financial years (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16 and (iii) 2016-17 to date.
- (3) What (a) forms, (b) fees, (c) CTP insurance and (d) other requirements need to be paid or met for a motorist to obtain a D condition code on a Class C license in the ACT in 2017.
- (4) What (a) forms, (b) fees, (c) CTP insurance and (d) other requirements need to be paid or met for a vehicle to be licensed for ridesharing in the ACT in 2017.
- (5) What is the total amount paid by motorists upgrading their license or vehicle registration under rideshare regulation in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date for (a) application fees, (b) license fees, (c) registration fees and (d) CTP insurance.
- (6) What is the average length of time it took to process an application in 2016-17 to date for (a) working with vulnerable people registration, (b) rideshare vehicle licence, (c) upgrade of driver licence and (d) upgrade of driver licence for rideshare and driver accreditation and vehicle licence application package.
- (7) Have there been any assessments or investigations done on the viability of a similar scheme operating in the ACT like the New South Wales recently passed Motor Accident Injuries ACT 2017 (NSW) that will be transitioning to a usage based CTP insurance system for rideshare and taxi vehicles at the end of 2017.
- (8) What data is collected on the use of ridesharing services within the ACT and how is the data used.
- (9) How many complaints has the ACT Government received regarding ridesharing services or drivers in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.

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

- (1) Count of vehicles registered as Taxis and Rideshare vehicles as at 30 June 2015, 30 June 2016 and as at 6 June 2017 is as follows:

	Taxi	Rideshare
30/06/2015	218	N/A
30/06/2016	270	634
06/06/2017	313	1,270

The above information is drawn from government sources and is provided on a point in time basis as operators may join and leave a transport booking service at any time.

- (2) The average CTP premium (12 month CTP policy, business use) for the four CTP insurers as at 1 July of each financial year are:

	01/07/2014	01/07/2015	01/07/2016
Rideshare	N/A	N/A	\$851.25
Taxis	\$9,421.42	\$9,549.80	\$8,697.60

Note:

* Rideshare operators from the commencement of ridesharing on 30 October 2015 up to 1 April 2016 were able to undertake ridesharing on an interim basis within the passenger vehicle class. The average CTP premium as at 30/10/2015 was \$618.35 (business). Rideshare operators were required to change to the CTP rideshare class and pay the higher premium when their registration fell due after 1 April 2016.

** CTP premiums can be adjusted by insurers throughout the year. Premiums are published at www.act.gov.au/ctp.

- (3) (a) and (b) An “Application to Upgrade Driver Licence” form is submitted along with an application for “Authorisation to Release Public Passenger Driver Licence, and Accreditation Status” along with a copy of the ACT Driver’s Licence, evidence of resident status, valid Police Character Check or Unrestricted Working With Vulnerable People Card and Commercial Driver’s Health Assessment. Once the application has been approved, the client is advised of the outcome to attend the shopfront where the ‘D’ Condition is applied to the Driver Licence at no fee. *

Once the applicant has obtained the D condition on their driver’s licence, they are required to (i) complete an “Application for Rideshare Driver Accreditation” and (ii) pay a \$50 application fee.

* A “Q” condition may be applied to a temporary resident depending on the type of work rights the applicant has. This is validated with the Visa Entitlement Verification Online Service (VEVO) and the condition is applied if needed.

(c) In 2017, for a motorist to obtain a Class C license (with a D condition code) in the ACT, the payment of CTP insurance is not relevant. CTP insurance is paid in respect of the vehicle class and as part of the vehicle registration process – see response to Question 4 (c).

(d) Rideshare drivers are subject to character, medical, driving history (including disqualifications and suspensions within 5 years) and immigration checks. They must hold a full ACT drivers’ licence.

Rideshare drivers can only provide services through an affiliated Transport Booking Service (TBS). Within three months of affiliation with a TBS, a driver must have demonstrated competencies in relation to matters related to operation of the Discrimination ACT, Work Health and Safety Act, and the ability to serve people with disabilities or other accessibility issues.

- (4) (a) and (b) Once the applicant has paid the appropriate CTP insurance premium for a rideshare vehicle and presented a passed roadworthy certificate, they are required to complete an “Application for a Rideshare Vehicle Licence” and pay the annual (\$100) or six year (\$450) vehicle licence fee. If a person is the driver/owner of the vehicle they do this as part of the accreditation process.

(c) In 2017, ridesharing vehicles are required to pay the rideshare class 25A CTP premium when undertaking registration, which for the four CTP providers is currently as follows: AAMI \$901.10; APIA \$933.60; GIO \$892.80; and NRMA \$653.30 [12 month CTP policy, business use].

(d) GPS tracking must be available for rideshare hirings to take place. Vehicles are required to display the vehicle licence identification label when in service. (However, no advertising of the service is permitted).

(5) (a) Application fees - there are no application fees to upgrade a licence to hold a public vehicle condition.

(b) Licence fees - there are no licence fees to upgrade a licence to hold a public vehicle condition.

(c) and (d) The total amounts paid by motorists for the fee incurred on the registration to change the usage of the vehicle for CTP purposes from 'private' to 'business' and CTP insurance for 2015-16 and 2016-17 is as follows:

Sum Amounts of Registration Component and CTP Premium where a vehicle was moved to CTP Class 25A (Rideshare) within a Registration Period

	Registration Component – change-over fee	CTP Premium
2015-16	\$519.40	\$13,426.40
2016-17	\$1,720.60	\$56,935.05

(6) (a) Working with vulnerable people registration takes 13 days on average.

(b) Depending on the number of applications received at one time, it can take 3-5 working days to process a rideshare driver accreditation and rideshare vehicle licence if the application is complete.

(c) Upgrade of driver licence takes 1 day on average to approve a completed application and notify the client of the outcome.

(d) It takes 1 day on average to approve a completed application and notify the client of the outcome.

(7) The CTP regulator is monitoring other CTP schemes' approaches to, and progress with ridesharing. This includes NSW, which to date, is the only jurisdiction implementing a usage based CTP insurance system for rideshare and taxi vehicles.

(8) For Driver Accreditation – Public Transport Regulation, Access Canberra maintains a register of accredited rideshare drivers and licensed vehicles. As of 1 November 2016, Transport Booking Services (TBS) with affiliated rideshare services are required to provide quarterly reports on the total number of hirings over a 24 hour period; the percentage of hirings occurring within peak periods; the average fare price; the percentage of fares subject to additional price elements; the average wait time; and the average service feedback rating. To date Uber, is the only TBS providing rideshare services, currently Uber has advised that due to the commercial sensitivity they have not yet supplied data. Officials are working with Uber to resolve this issue.

Data collected is to assist with the Government's understanding of the operation and performance of the market. This relates to the Government's commitment to monitor and evaluate its on-demand transport industry reforms over a two year period. The Government's evaluation during 2017 will include public consultation, such as submissions and surveys of stakeholders and the community.

(9) The following number of complaints have been made:

- (a) 2014-15 – 0;
- (b) 2015-16 – 4; and
- (c) 2016-17 – 31.

Taxis—licences
(Question No 250)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 May 2017 (*redirected to the Acting Treasurer*):

- (1) What (a) forms, (b) fees, (c) compulsory third party insurance (CTP) and (d) other requirements need to be paid or met for a motorist to obtain a taxi license in the ACT in 2017.
- (2) What (a) forms, (b) fees, (b) CTP insurance and (c) other requirements need to be paid or met for a vehicle to be licensed as a taxi in the ACT in 2017.
- (3) What is the total amount paid by motorists obtaining a taxi license, accreditation, or vehicle registration under taxi regulation in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date for (a) application fees, (b) license fees, (c) registration fees and (d) CTP insurance.
- (4) What is the average length of time it took to process an application in 2016-17 to date for (a) taxi service accreditation application package, (b) independent taxi service operator accreditation application package, (c) operation of a taxi licence, (d) application for a temporary operation of a taxi service and (e) application for stand-by taxi service.
- (5) Have there been any assessments or investigations done on the viability of a similar scheme operating in the ACT like the New South Wales recently passed Motor Accident Injuries ACT 2017 (NSW) that will be transitioning to a usage based CTP insurance system for rideshare and taxi vehicles at the end of 2017.
- (6) What data is collected on the use of taxi services within the ACT and how is that data used.
- (7) How many complaints has the ACT Government received regarding taxi services or drivers in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.

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

- (1) (a) and (b) An "Application to Upgrade Driver Licence" form is submitted along with an application for "Authorisation to Release Public Passenger Driver Licence and Accreditation Status" along with a copy of the ACT Driver's Licence, evidence of resident status, valid Police Character Check or Unrestricted Working With Vulnerable People Card and Commercial Driver's Health Assessment. Once the application has been approved the client is advised of the outcome to attend the shopfront where the 'T' Condition is applied to the Driver Licence at no fee. *

Taxi drivers are not accredited. The legislative requirements for accreditation of taxi services relate to the operator of the taxi, not the driver.

* A “Q” condition may be applied to a temporary resident depending on the type of work rights the applicant has. This is validated with the Visa Entitlement Verification Online Service (VEVO) and the condition is applied if needed.

(c) For a motorist to obtain a taxi license in the ACT, the payment of CTP insurance is not applicable. CTP insurance is applicable to the vehicle class and is paid as part of the vehicle registration process.

(d) In addition to the driver licensing requirements for rideshare (and hire cars) in response to Question on Notice 249 in the Notice Paper of Friday, 12 May 2017, taxi drivers are subject to English language requirements to support the operation of rank and hail services. Wheelchair accessible taxi drivers are subject to specialised training requirements to support the safe and effective provision of services to people with disabilities.

(2) (a) and (b) Accredited taxi service operators are required to complete (a) an application for a taxi licence for each taxi they operate and (b) pay the quarterly (\$1,250) or annual (\$5,000) licence fee for each vehicle.

(c) For a vehicle to be licensed as a taxi in the ACT, the payment of CTP insurance is not applicable. CTP insurance is applicable to the vehicle class and is paid as part of the vehicle registration process.

(d) Taxis are also subject to requirements relating to:

- (i) the age of the vehicle;
- (ii) the identification of the vehicle as a taxi;
- (iii) security – camera and duress alarms requirements (due to the anonymous nature of rank and hail services), and GPS tracking;
- (iv) taxi meter requirements and information displays; and
- (v) disability standards for accessible public transport.

(3) (a) Application fees - there are no application fees to upgrade a licence to hold a public vehicle condition.

(b) Licence fees - there are no licence fees to upgrade a licence to hold a public vehicle condition.

(c) and (d) The total amounts paid by motorists for registration fees and CTP insurance, as well as taxi accreditation and hire car / taxi licensing for 2014-15 to 2016-17 is as follows:

Sum Amounts of various collections for Taxis

	Registration Component	CTP Premium	Taxi Accreditation	Hire Car and Taxi Licensing
2014-15	\$201,180.30	\$2,566,503.90	\$152,594.58	\$ 1,634,534.76
2015-16	\$221,231.25	\$3,018,549.80	\$34,626.40	\$831,006.00
2016-17	\$218,012.70	\$2,492,849.30	\$11,330.00	\$566,970.36

Note:

2014-15 Application fee \$50, Accreditation Fee \$350, vehicle licence Fee \$20,000pa (Standard Government Leased Licence).

2015-16 Application fee \$50, Accreditation fee \$350 until 1 November 2015, vehicle Licence Fee from \$20,000pa (Standard Government Leased Licence) to \$10,000pa on 1 November 2015.

2016-17 Application fee \$50, No Accreditation fee, vehicle Licence Fee from \$10,000pa (Standard Government Leased Licence) to \$5,000pa on 1 November 2016.

- (4) (a), (b) and (c) All taxi service accreditation applications are generally processed within 1-2 working days, once all the required paperwork has been provided.

(d) Applications for a temporary operation of a taxi service are processed as soon as possible on the same day, or the next business day if provided after hours.

(e) Applications for a stand-by taxi service are processed as soon as possible on the same day, or the next business day if provided after hours.

- (5) The CTP regulator is monitoring other CTP schemes' approaches to, and progress with ridesharing. This includes NSW, which to date, is the only jurisdiction which is implementing a usage based CTP insurance system for rideshare and taxi vehicles.

- (6) Public Transport Regulation, Access Canberra maintains a register of accredited taxi service operators and licensed vehicles. As of 1 November 2016, Transport Booking Services (TBS) with affiliated taxi services are required to provide quarterly reports on the total number of meter activations; the percentage of hirings with a maximum waiting time of less than 18 and 30 minutes in peak periods and percentage of hirings with a maximum waiting time of less than 10 and 20 at all other times; the total no. of hirings over a 24 hour period; the average fare price; the percentage of fares subject to additional price elements; the average wait time; and the number of complaints received. To date all TBS's have provided the required data.

Traditionally, data on taxis has been required to support the enforcement and compliance with regulated performance requirements.

Currently the data on taxis is being used in the same manner advised for data relating to rideshare. Please see response to Question on Notice 249, Notice Paper of Friday, 12 May 2017.

- (7) The following number of complaints has been received:

- (a) 2014-15 – 51;
- (b) 2015-16 – 78; and
- (c) 2016-17 – 79.

Transport—light rail (Question No 252)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How have local designers from the Australian Capital Territory had input on the design of the light rail stops.
- (2) What is the total number of designers from the Australian Capital Territory that have consulted or had input on the design of the light rail stops and (a) identify whether any local designers received compensation for their input and (b) the total cost.
- (3) How much has been spent on the designing of the light rail tram stops in 2016-17 to date.
- (4) What was the total amount allocated to the design of the light rail stops over the course of the light rail project.
- (5) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the cost of the design process including (a) consultants, (b) designers, (c) production of designs, (d) promotional material, (e) events, (f) conferences or meetings and (g) any other relevant costs.

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

- (1) Local designers have been involved in the development of the light rail stops. The Scope and Performance Requirements and Transport Canberra's concept designs were generated with the input of ACT based architects. More recently light rail stop designs have been developed by Canberra Metro's design team, including designers based in the ACT.
- (2) Approximately 14 designers from the ACT have been involved in the design of the light rail stops. Designers have been compensated for their input into the design. The majority of these services are within Canberra Metro's project cost and these aspects are not disaggregated from the total project cost.
- (3) The design of light rail stops is within Canberra Metro's project scope, as may be modified, and these aspects are not disaggregated from the total project cost.
- (4) The design of light rail stops is within Canberra Metro's project scope, as may be modified, and these aspects are not disaggregated from the total project cost.
- (5) The design and construction of light rail stops is within Canberra Metro's project scope, as may be modified, and these aspects are not disaggregated from the total project cost.

**Animals—cat containment
(Question No 253)**

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister describe cat containment community education for the last few years.
- (2) What was the expenditure on this community education.

- (3) What happened after the community consultation in relation to cat containment at Kingston Foreshore and Casey.
- (4) What expenditure has there been at Gungahlin in relation to cat containment as per the commitment in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment prepared under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- (5) When will the cat management strategy be released.

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

- (1) Community education activities in the past three years included:
 - An education program targeting responsible cat ownership in and around newly declared cat containment areas was delivered in late 2014 by the former Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) in partnership with the Conservation Council. TAMS delivered flyers about cat containment to residents in cat containment areas while the Conservation Council delivered postcards about responsible cat ownership to residents in areas adjacent to reserves that had not been declared but where cats posed a threat to native wildlife. In total, information was delivered to around 75,000 Canberra households.
 - Flyers were provided to veterinary clinics and pet stores, to be distributed to clients.
 - A wider media campaign was undertaken that utilised print, electronic and social media.
 - The TAMS and Conservation Council websites were updated to include information about cat containment and responsible cat ownership.
 - The Land Development Agency (LDA) committed to including flyers about cat containment in the welcome packs for new residents in cat containment areas. The LDA also undertook to advise developers of land in cat containment areas of the requirements under cat containment legislation.
 - Cat containment areas were added to the ACT Government's interactive mapping service, ACTMAPi
 - Cat containment signage was erected at entrances to Bonner, Crace, Forde, Wright and The Fair at Watson and stencilled cat containment symbols were also placed on selected roads in Bonner, Crace, Forde and Wright.
 - Developers are required to erect permanent signage in new developments that are cat containment areas.
 - Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) continues to ensure that its website is kept up to date with information about responsible pet ownership, including cat containment requirements.
- (2) Most expenditure by ACT Government Directorates was in-kind through existing staffing and administrative resources and as a result, exact figures are not available. The most significant expenditure was \$38,394 for signage and road stencils.
- (3) In late 2015, TAMS invited members of the public to comment on the proposal to declare Casey and areas adjacent to the Jerrabomberra Wetlands as cat containment areas. Following the community consultation process and after careful consideration of the comments received it was decided not to declare these areas as cat containment areas at that time. Further declarations will be considered once the Animal Welfare and Management Strategy and a Cat Management Plan have been finalised.

- (4) The Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan (June 2013) requires the declaration of further cat containment areas and a funded compliance program.

To date, cat containment suburbs in Gungahlin include Throsby, Jacka, Moncrieff, Bonner, Crace and Forde. As new suburbs are established in Gungahlin they will be declared cat containment areas in accordance with the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan. Data that relates specifically to expenditure on compliance in cat containment areas is not available as these services are managed through the broader Domestic Animal Services funding appropriation.

The 2017-18 ACT Budget provides additional capital resources for the Domestic Animals Services facility at Symonston which will support service delivery in relation to cat containment. In addition, recurrent funding in 2017-18 was allocated for animal welfare services provided by RSPCA, including cat management.

- (5) A Cat Management Plan is being prepared by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and TCCS, to provide guidance relating to the management of cats, including domestic, stray/roaming and wild/feral cats. The Cat Management Plan is a species-specific plan under the overarching Animal Welfare and Management Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy will be finalised in the coming months following consideration of public feedback received in a consultation process that closed on 24 May 2017. Public input to a draft Cat Management Plan will then be sought.

Trees—replacement (Question No 256)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 12 May 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) How many recommendations of the 2011 report into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest by Dr Maxine Cooper, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, have been delivered; if not, (a) which ones and (b) why.
- (2) What is the current policy in respect of street and park tree replacement.
- (3) How frequently are trees inspected to assess their condition.
- (4) What is the current population of trees in (a) streets, (b) parks, (c) schools, (d) shopping centres and (e) other public places not otherwise listed.
- (5) How much money is allocated annually to the maintenance and replacement of trees on Canberra public land.

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

- (1) All of the 40 agreed recommendations in the 2011 report have been delivered or are in progress.

- (2) All locations where urban trees are removed are assessed against a series of criteria to determine whether or not the site is suitable to receive a replacement tree. If the site is suitable, replacement is programmed in line with seasonal factors and available budget. Priority is given to fulfilling public requests for street tree replacements.
 - (3) All trees that are the subject of public enquiries are inspected and assessed. Tree maintenance staff inspects trees in the course of their duties.
 - (4) TCCS manages more than approximately 760,000 trees across the city including approximately 330,000 in streets and approximately 250,000 in open space areas (trees in nature reserves are not included). The remainder (approximately 180,000) are located in semi-natural open space areas. The Education Directorate advises that they manage a further 17,420 trees on school grounds. Data is not available regarding the number of trees in public places managed by other Directorates.
 - (5) The budget allocated in 2016-17 to Transport Canberra and City Services for urban tree management is \$7.372m. This includes funding for tree maintenance, tree watering, tree planting, tree removal and general administration of tree management issues and the *Tree Protection Act*.
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Public housing—procurement (Question No 261)

Mr Parton asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) On what date or dates were the procurement notices for public housing construction in (a) Chapman, (b) Holder, (c) Wright, (d) Mawson and (e) Monash entered into the Call Tender Schedule website.
- (2) What is the purpose of these notifications.
- (3) What other types of procurement notifications will be posted in relation to the five sites in part (1) and (a) what are the expected timings for any subsequent procurement notifications and (b) what websites will these notifications be posted on.

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

- (1) Procurement notices for construction on Chapman part Block 1 Section 45, Holder part Block 2 Section 21, Wright part Block 1 Section 29, Mawson Block 29 Section 36, Monash Block 2 Section 20 and Monash Block 15 Section 56 were entered into the Call Tender Schedule on 31 March 2017.
- (2) The purpose of the Call Tender Schedule is to give the construction industry advance notice of anticipated forthcoming tenders, with the objective of assisting the industry in its planning. The Call Tender Schedule does not provide definitive dates or guarantee that tenders will be issued as per the forecast.
- (3) In relation to sites listed in part (1), remaining procurement activities are expected to be limited to the engagement of builders for construction. Timing for the procurement and engagement of builders will depend on the outcomes of the consultation process

and the approval of Development Applications. The Call Tender Schedule will be updated regularly to reflect current forecast timeframes. All executed contracts are also uploaded on the ACT Government's Contracts Register.

Children and young people—playgrounds (Question No 262)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) What is the overall ACT Budget for playground upgrades and maintenance, including each year for the last 5 years and in the forward estimates.
- (2) What has been the total expenditure for playground upgrades and maintenance each year for the past 5 years.
- (3) What has been the total expenditure for playground upgrades and maintenance in each ACT electorate each year for the past 5 years.
- (4) How many staff have been allocated for playground maintenance (a) over the last five years and (b) will be allocated in the forward estimates.
- (5) Which playgrounds in the ACT have been upgraded over the past five years, and in relation to the upgrades what (a) were the features of these upgrades and (b) was the cost of each upgrade.
- (6) Which playgrounds are currently prioritised, in order of highest to lowest, for (a) maintenance and (b) upgrades.
- (7) What are the proposed features of the upgrades and the associated cost of each upgrade in part (6).
- (8) How many playgrounds have been constructed in the ACT over the past 5 years and (a) where are they located, (b) what are the equipment and features of each playground and (c) what was the total cost of construction for each playground.
- (9) Which playgrounds will have maintenance or upgrades completed within the next 2 years.
- (10) How many playgrounds have been removed in the ACT each year for the past 5 years and (a) where were they located, (b) what plans are in store for these locations and (c) what is the reason for their removal.
- (11) How often are playground audits conducted in the ACT.
- (12) Are all playgrounds in the ACT assessed as part of a playground audit; if not, (a) how are playgrounds selected for audit and (b) on average, how often is each playground audited.
- (13) When was the most recent playground audit conducted and which playgrounds were (a) audited, if not all playgrounds in the ACT, (b) assessed to require maintenance,

- (c) assessed to require upgrades, (d) assessed to require priority maintenance and why and (e) assessed to require priority upgrades and why.
- (14) What factors are considered by the playground auditors when a playground is being assessed and what are the criteria for determining (a) whether a playground is “fit for purpose”, (b) that a playground requires priority or non-priority maintenance and (c) that a playground requires priority or non-priority upgrades to equipment and construction.
- (15) What is the timeframe between receiving a playground audit report and commencement of (a) maintenance and (b) upgrades.
- (16) What factors or criteria determine the order in which playgrounds will receive upgrades and or maintenance.
- (17) Which criteria determine which playgrounds will receive upgrades in 2017.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) Budget over past five years for playground upgrades and maintenance:

Year	Amount (\$'000)
2016-17	\$3,217
2015-16	\$1,354
2014-15	\$1,459
2013-14	\$804
2012-13	\$1,842

Specific budget allocations for the 2017-18 financial year are yet to be finalised.

- (2)

- a. Total budgets for playground upgrades over the past five years:

Year	Amount (\$'000)	Project
2016-17	\$900	Playgrounds – four major upgrades
	\$200	Playground Rehabilitation (minor works)
	\$360	Natural Playgrounds
	\$900	Shade sails and fences
2015-16	\$200	Playground Rehabilitation (minor works)
	\$300	Playground upgrade – Point Hut Pond District Park
2014-15	\$175	Playground upgrade
	\$500	Playground Rehabilitation (minor works)
2013-14	Nil	
2012-13	\$1,000	Playground Rehabilitation minor work, forward designs; playground upgrades – John Knight Park snake house, Kambah District Park, Yerrabi Pond District Park flying fox

b. Expenditure over the past five years for maintenance:

Year	Amount (\$'000)
2016-17	\$804
2015-16	\$974
2014-15	\$800
2013-14	\$907
2012-13	\$959

(3)

a. Funding allocated for playground maintenance and upgrades is allocated across Canberra. There is no data kept by electorate as all playgrounds require the same level of inspection frequencies and this does not differ between electorates.

b. Refer to the above response.

(4) Playground maintenance throughout the ACT is undertaken though a service level agreement that does not specify staffing levels.

(5)

a. Playgrounds upgraded in past five years, features of the upgrades and costs of the upgrades:

Year	Amount (\$'000)	Project	Features
2016-17	\$900	Playgrounds – four major upgrades – Florey, Gowrie, Gungahlin, Evatt	<p>Florey, Boswell Street – Double swing set, climbing unit, spinning platform.</p> <p>Gowrie, Howell Place – Double swing set, climbing unit, rotating see saw, train structure.</p> <p>Gungahlin, Yerrabi Pond District Park – modifications to the tarzan bridge and large giant swing.</p> <p>Evatt, Jacobs Street – Double swing set, climbing unit, spinning platform and seesaw.</p>
	\$200	Playground Rehabilitation (minor works)	Minor works to address individual play elements that are the highest priority in existing playgrounds.

Year	Amount (\$'000)	Project	Features
	\$360	Natural Playgrounds – Barton, O'Connor, Greenway	Barton, Telopea District Park – natural elements such as logs and boulders. O'Connor, Finn Street – natural elements such as logs and boulders. Greenway – Tuggeranong Town Park - natural elements such as logs and boulders.
	\$900	Playground Package – shade sails and fences	Shade sails over 25 existing playgrounds including Boundless and the Civic skate park. Addition of a climbing structure to a playground in Page and installation of four fencing elements at Spence, Kaleen, Weston and Gowrie.
2015-16	\$200	Playground Rehabilitation (minor works)	Minor works to address individual play elements that are the highest priority in existing playgrounds.
	\$300	Playground upgrade – Point Hut Pond District Park	Whole of playground upgrade. New climbing element with slide, ropes, imaginative play.
2014-15	\$175	Playground upgrade – Corroboree Park Ainslie	Existing swing refurbished, new spinning net element and climbing unit with slide.
	\$500	Playground Rehabilitation (minor works)	Minor works to address individual play elements that are the highest priority in existing playgrounds.
2013-14	Nil		

Year	Amount (\$'000)	Project	Features
2012-13	\$1,000	Playground Rehabilitation work (minor works); forward designs; playground upgrades – John Knight Park snake house, Kambah District Park, Yerrabi Pond District Park flying fox	<p>Rehabilitation minor works to address individual play elements that are the highest priority in existing playgrounds. John Knight Park - refurbishment of existing element and the addition of new all abilities play elements.</p> <p>Kambah District Park - upgrade one of the play areas with a new all abilities climbing unit and a new “birds nest” swing.</p> <p>Yerrabi Pond District Park - upgrade refurbishment of existing flying fox.</p>

(6)

- a. Priorities for maintenance are based on the routine visual and operational inspections. Operational inspections involve inspecting playgrounds for faults and maintenance issues. These faults/issues are then risk assessed and prioritised for repair through the level of risk they present to those using the playground.
- b. Upgrade priorities are determined primarily by the results of an annual Level 3 comprehensive audit on all existing playgrounds that assess the playground against current Australian Standards. The audit results may change annually dependent on asset deterioration or vandalism and changes to the playground standards. The 2017 Level 3 comprehensive audit is still in progress.

(7) The features of future upgrade work is yet to be determined as the 2017 Level 3 comprehensive audit is still in progress.

(8) 26 playgrounds have been constructed in the past five years, as shown at **Attachment A**.

(9) All playgrounds will be inspected at least fortnightly as part of the operational inspections and any maintenance issues will addressed as they arise. The location(s) for playground upgrades is subject to the results of the 2017 (and future) playground audit and outcomes of future ACT Budgets.

(10)

Year	Location	Reason
2016-17	Nil	
2015-16	Charnwood Shops on Tillyard Drive	This play element was removed and replaced as part of the shopping centre upgrade. The upgrade identified the opportunity to replace the aged and little used element with a sculptural/play prompt seating structure. The end result created a multi-function space that prompted play and served as a community gathering space.
2014-15	Nil	
2013-14	Nil	
2012-13	Nil	

(11) Level 3 comprehensive audits are undertaken annually to establish the overall safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces. This comprehensive inspection assesses compliance against the Australian Standard AS4685/14.

Level 1 and Level 2 audits are conducted more frequently. These audits check for vandalism, storm damage and normal wear and tear of the equipment. TCCS conducted more than 25,000 Level 1 and 2 playground audits last year.

(12) Yes. All public playgrounds in the ACT are included in the annual Level 3 comprehensive audit.

(13) The most recent playground audit is currently underway (June 2017).

- a. All playgrounds in the ACT are being audited.
- b. This will not be known until the results of the 2017 audit are completed.
- c. This will not be known until the results of the 2017 audit are completed.
- d. This will not be known until the results of the 2017 audit are completed.

(14)

- a. The Level 3 comprehensive audit is undertaken against criteria guided by the Australian Standards for playgrounds. The Australian Standards are about risks to children. The risks are rated on a matrix of likelihood and consequence.
- b. The risk matrix determination provides the priority of upgrade.
- c. Higher risk, higher priority issues are determined by the Level 3 comprehensive audit which considers both individual components of playgrounds as well as whole playgrounds. To most effectively deal with these prioritised issues, upgrades are delivered in either major (whole) playground upgrade or minor works upgrades.

(15)

- a. Maintenance is routinely undertaken as issues arise on site.
- b. Upgrades are based on risks identified during an audit and are acted upon based on the times required by the risk management framework.

(16) Upgrade priorities are determined by results of the Level 3 comprehensive audits, age, condition, usage levels, vandalism and changes to local circumstances eg increase in population from development. The available funding determines the extent to which the priorities can be addressed.

(17) Refer to 16.

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

Transport—light rail (Question No 263)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) In regard to the consultation on route options and stops for stage 2 of the light rail to Woden Town Centre, and noting the Minister's remarks in response to Mr Steel's supplementary question without notice on 9 May 2017 where the Minister says "we know how many people in the future will live, work and study along the stage 2 route from Civic through to Woden", what data is available to the Directorate regarding the number of people living along the proposed routes, and their travel, work and study habits.
- (2) How many people will (a) live, (b) work or (c) study along the proposed stage 2 corridor in (i) 5 years, (ii) 10 years and (iii) 25 years.

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

- (1) Key data available for the Civic to Woden corridor includes population, employment, household composition, educational enrolments and other data held by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.
- (2) The Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate is currently assessing the potential impact of light rail on population and employment in the corridor for future years as part of its business case activities. Numbers in relation to stop catchments are as follows:

	2016	2026	2036
Population	22,000 – 29,000	29,000 – 37,000	37,000 – 45,000
Employment	88,000 – 98,000	105,000-111,000	111,000 – 122,000
Students	17,000 – 22,000	21,000 – 26,000	24,000-30,000

(Note: data is based on a catchment 800m from the current proposed stops and a range based on the 4 currently proposed route options)

Land Development Agency—green rating (Question No 265)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 12 May 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Urban Renewal and the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development*):

- (1) Does the Land Development Agency (LDA) consider "green rating" benchmarks (for example, Green Star or EnviroDesigns) in planning developments.

- (2) How many, which and with what outcome have previous LDA developments been assessed against “green rating” benchmarks.
- (3) What LDA developments currently being planned will be assessed against these benchmarks.

Mr Gentleman and Ms Berry: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) The LDA’s Sustainability Framework has been updated to incorporate current Government policies as well as the principles from the Green Star Communities Rating tool of which LDA is a co-sponsor. This approach is consistent with other government land organisations, particularly in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia who similarly apply Green Star principles in the delivery of their projects.
- (2) Two LDA estates have been assessed using Green Star and two estates have used the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) EnviroDevelopment rating tool.

The LDA/Riverview joint venture project at West Belconnen (Ginninderry) achieved a Green Star Communities 6 Star rating in 2015-16. Re-certification must be achieved within five years of the initial certification and every five years thereafter until the project is fully completed. The suburb of Lawson was used as a pilot project to test the Green Star tool. This pilot process identified the need to ensure that the application of any green rating tool, be it Green Star or EnviroDevelopment, must be built into the early documentation, feasibility and procurement to ensure that the criteria can be met throughout the project life.

Wright and Coombs in Molonglo received re-certification under the ecosystems, energy, waste and community categories of EnviroDevelopment. Wright received EnviroDevelopment recertification in the elements of ecosystems, energy, waste and community in 2013-14, making it one of Australia’s most sustainable developments assessed under EnviroDevelopment. Coombs received certification in 2010 and was re-certified in 2013.

- (3) The LDA has been investigating strategies to ensure that sustainability principles are incorporated into all estate projects while also leaving the option for selecting certain key projects that may be suitable for Green Star Communities certification. The principles of Green Star will, however, be applied to all projects through the Sustainability Framework.

Planning—variations (Question No 269)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Will a Territory Plan Variation be required prior to the expansion of the Woden Cemetery into the adjacent Edison Park.
- (2) If a Territory Plan Variation is required (a) would the Variation take the form of a Technical Amendment or a full Variation, (b) has a request been made to EPSDD to commence preparing the Variation and (c) if the request has been made, what is the proposed timeframe for community consultation on the proposed amendment.

- (3) If no Territory Plan Variation is required will a development application be required for the expansion of the cemetery; if so, has a development application been lodged.

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

- (1) A Territory Plan variation would be required prior to any expansion of the Woden Cemetery into the adjacent Edison Park. Edison Park is currently zoned PRZ1 Urban Open Space with a Pe Urban Open Space overlay. Any extension of the cemetery into Edison Park would require the overlay to be amended to a Pf Cemetery or Burial Ground overlay.
 - (2) A Territory Plan variation would be required:
 - (a) this would take the form of a full variation,
 - (b) the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is progressing a request from the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority to potentially change the Territory Plan to allow expansion of the Woden Cemetery, and
 - (c) the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority has consulted the community already on this proposal, and if a Territory Plan variation for the site is undertaken, the process would involve further consultation with the community.
 - (3) As previously advised, a Territory Plan variation would be required.
-

Public housing—relocations (Question No 270)

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) On what date did the Minister first visit the sites proposed for public housing in the suburbs (a) Holder, (b) Chapman, (c) Wright and (d) Mawson.
- (2) On what date did Directorate officials first visit the sites proposed for public housing in the suburbs (a) Holder, (b) Chapman, (c) Wright and (d) Mawson.
- (3) On what date did sub-contractors, including surveyors, first visit the sites proposed for public housing in the suburbs (a) Holder, (b) Chapman, (c) Wright and (d) Mawson.

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

- (1) I have visited the sites a number of times in various capacities.
- (2) Staff members from the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce (the Taskforce) first visited the sites in Holder, Chapman, Wright and Mawson in 2015 along with other sites throughout the ACT, as part of a review of potential sites for inclusion in the public housing renewal program. As the possible sites were refined there has been a range of subsequent visits.

ACT Government staff have been investigating the potential development of these sites over a number of years, prior to the establishment of the Taskforce. As such many staff will have visited the sites during this time and the first visit by Directorate officials is not able to be identified.

- (3) As part of normal business practices, the Land Development Agency (LDA) has engaged a number of consultants and contractors over time. They have undertaken site assessments and other due diligence work on vacant Territory-owned land. I have been advised that consultants and contractors have visited the sites, as outlined below:

Suburb	Date of Site Visited	Consultant or Contractor	Purpose
Holder part Block 2 Section 21	17/9/2015	GHD	Stage 1 Site Investigation Report
	17/9/2015	Mylek Consulting	Undertake a Trees Assessment
	19/7/2016	GHD	Stage 2 Site Investigation Report
	20/7/2016	Matrix Traffic & Transport Data	Undertake a Traffic Assessment
Mawson Block 29 and Section 36	15/12/2015 and 24/2/2017	Opus	Undertake a Tree Survey
	14/11/2016	Cardno Pty Ltd	Stage 1A Site Investigation Report & Photographs
	6/4/2017	Cardno Pty Ltd	Stage 2 Site Investigation Report & Photographs
	8/4/2017	Cardno Pty Ltd	Pedestrian Traffic Counts for Stage 2 Site Investigation Report
Chapman Part Block 1 Section 45	12/7/2016	Bushfire Protection Planning & Assessment Services Pty Ltd	Bushfire sub-consultant site visit
	18/7/2016	Redbox Design Group	Undertake a Trees Assessment
	22/7/2016	Cardno Pty Ltd	Stage 1 Site Investigation Report & Site Photographs
	2/8/2016	ACT Survey	Undertake a Site Survey
Wright Part Block 1 Section 29	22/7/2016	Cardno Pty Ltd	Stage 1 Site Investigation Report & Site Photographs
Holder Block 29 Section 36	28/4/2017	Cardno Pty Ltd	Undertake a Road Safety Assessment

Schools—enrolments (Question No 281)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide for each government school and college (a) the maximum student enrolment by school and (b) how the maximum student enrolment is calculated.

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

- (1)
- (a) Maximum school enrolments for each public school and college in the ACT have been published on the ACT Education Directorate website (http://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school).
 - (b) The maximum capacity of a school is a function of the number of mainstream learning and teaching spaces available in a school and the needs of special education units, such as learning support units and Introductory English Centres (for schools that host these units), and the flexibility that is available to a school in the management of these spaces. Management of available spaces, such as using large spaces for more than one class, or use of break-out spaces, can increase the effective capacity of a school.

Schools—international students (Question No 282)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

Can the Minister provide for each government school, (a) how many fee paying international students there are, (b) how many fee paying international students there are by year level and by school and (c) what fees are being charged to fee paying international students by year level and by school.

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

1.
 - a) There are currently 778 fee paying international students attending Canberra public schools.
 - b) Data on international students by school and year level is at Attachment A.
 - c) The 2017 fee structure for international students attending Canberra public schools is as follows:
 - College students (years 11-12) are charged at the rate of \$15,200 per annum
 - High school students (years 7-10) are charged at the rate of \$13,600 per annum
 - Primary school students (K-6) are charged at the rate of \$10,400 per annum, and
 - Preschool students are charged at the rate of \$3,900 per annum.

Fees for international students attending Canberra public schools for part of a school year are calculated based on a pro rata of the annual rates listed above. International students may be liable for the following fees depending on their particular circumstances:

- Application Fee \$250
- Airport Pickup \$200
- Homestay Placement Fee \$200
- Late Fee \$600
- Homestay Transfer Fee \$200

The fee structure listed above applies equally to all international students attending any Canberra public school.

COUNT	YEAR LEVEL	SCHOOL
1	P	Ainslie PS
1	01	Ainslie PS
1	02	Ainslie PS
2	06	Ainslie PS
4	00K	Ainslie PS
2	07	Alfred Deakin HS
2	08	Alfred Deakin HS
6	09	Alfred Deakin HS
19	10	Alfred Deakin HS
3	01	Amaroo School
1	02	Amaroo School
1	03	Amaroo School
1	05	Amaroo School
1	06	Amaroo School
1	07	Amaroo School
2	08	Amaroo School
5	09	Amaroo School
7	10	Amaroo School
1	02	Aranda PS
1	04	Arawang PS
1	00K	Arawang PS
1	07	Belconnen HS
1	09	Belconnen HS
6	10	Belconnen HS
3	08	Campbell HS
7	09	Campbell HS
7	10	Campbell HS
26	11	Canberra College
25	12	Canberra College
1	07	Canberra HS
5	08	Canberra HS
6	09	Canberra HS
6	10	Canberra HS
1	09	Caroline Chisholm School
6	10	Caroline Chisholm School
1	03	Charles Conder PS
2	00K	Charles Conder PS
1	P	Charles Weston School

COUNT	YEAR LEVEL	SCHOOL
1	02	Charnwood Dunlop PS
2	03	Charnwood Dunlop PS
2	00K	Charnwood Dunlop PS
1	02	Charnwood IEC
2	01	Curtin PS
1	03	Curtin PS
1	04	Curtin PS
38	11	Dickson College
14	12	Dickson College
1	P	Duffy PS
2	10	Erindale College
2	10	Erindale College
7	11	Erindale College
7	12	Erindale College
1	01	Florey PS
2	03	Florey PS
2	04	Forrest PS
1	05	Forrest PS
1	P	Franklin Early Childhood School
1	01	Franklin Early Childhood School
1	00K	Franklin Early Childhood School
1	02	Garran PS
1	03	Garran PS
1	05	Garran PS
1	02	Giralang PS
1	04	Giralang PS
2	P	Gold Creek School
1	06	Gold Creek School
1	08	Gold Creek School
4	09	Gold Creek School
3	10	Gold Creek School
1	00K	Gold Creek School
1	10	Gungahlin College
38	11	Gungahlin College
22	12	Gungahlin College
1	02	Gungahlin IEC
1	06	Gungahlin IEC
1	01	Harrison School
4	02	Harrison School
1	05	Harrison School
2	06	Harrison School
1	07	Harrison School
2	08	Harrison School
7	09	Harrison School
8	10	Harrison School
1	00K	Harrison School
20	11	Hawker College
19	12	Hawker College

COUNT	YEAR LEVEL	SCHOOL
1	03	Hughes IEC
1	06	Hughes IEC
3	02	Hughes PS
1	03	Hughes PS
1	04	Hughes PS
1	06	Hughes PS
1	00K	Hughes PS
1	08	Kaleen HS
1	09	Kaleen HS
1	P	Kingsford Smith School
1	01	Kingsford Smith School
1	08	Kingsford Smith School
1	09	Kingsford Smith School
1	10	Kingsford Smith School
13	11	Lake Ginnnderra College
15	12	Lake Ginnnderra College
20	11	Lake Tuggeranong College
18	12	Lake Tuggeranong College
1	08	Lanyon HS
1	09	Lanyon HS
1	10	Lanyon HS
2	08	Lyneham HS
1	09	Lyneham HS
2	10	Lyneham HS
2	P	Lyneham PS
3	02	Lyneham PS
1	05	Lyneham PS
1	P	Lyons Early Childhood School
2	01	Lyons Early Childhood School
1	00K	Lyons Early Childhood School
1	01	Macquarie PS
1	02	Macquarie PS
2	03	Macquarie PS
1	05	Macquarie PS
2	05	Majura PS
1	06	Majura PS
1	01	Maribyrnong PS
1	02	Maribyrnong PS
1	03	Maribyrnong PS
2	06	Maribyrnong PS
2	00K	Maribyrnong PS
1	01	Mawson PS
1	04	Mawson PS
1	08	Melba Copland Secondary School
5	09	Melba Copland Secondary School
12	10	Melba Copland Secondary School
27	11	Melba Copland Secondary School
11	12	Melba Copland Secondary School

COUNT	YEAR LEVEL	SCHOOL
1	07	Melrose HS
1	08	Melrose HS
2	09	Melrose HS
12	10	Melrose HS
1	04	Monash PS
4	09	Namadgi School
4	10	Namadgi School
42	11	Narrabundah College
26	12	Narrabundah College
1	03	Neville Bonner PS
1	04	Neville Bonner PS
1	P	Ngunnawal PS
1	06	Ngunnawal PS
1	06	North Ainslie IEC
5	00K	North Ainslie IEC
2	P	North Ainslie PS
1	01	North Ainslie PS
1	02	North Ainslie PS
1	03	North Ainslie PS
2	06	North Ainslie PS
2	00K	North Ainslie PS
2	01	Palmerston PS
2	02	Palmerston PS
1	03	Palmerston PS
1	05	Palmerston PS
4	06	Palmerston PS
1	00K	Palmerston PS
1	P	Red Hill PS
1	01	Red Hill PS
3	03	Red Hill PS
1	04	Red Hill PS
1	05	Red Hill PS
2	00K	Red Hill PS
3	07	Secondary IEC
3	09	Secondary IEC
12	10	Secondary IEC
10	11	Secondary IEC
2	P	Southern Cross Early Childhood School
5	09	Stromlo HS
11	10	Stromlo HS
1	04	Telopea Park School
1	05	Telopea Park School
2	07	Telopea Park School
5	08	Telopea Park School
1	09	Telopea Park School
3	10	Telopea Park School
3	01	Turner PS
1	02	Turner PS

COUNT	YEAR LEVEL	SCHOOL
1	03	Turner PS
1	04	Turner PS
1	05	Turner PS
1	08	Wanniassa Hills Primary School
1	03	Yarralumla PS
1	05	Yarralumla PS

Schools—bullying (Question No 283)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide, for each government school, how instances of reported bullying were recorded by the Education Directorate from (a) students, (b) staff and (c) parents and guardians, for the period December 2014 to present.
- (2) Following a report of bullying what steps are procedurally required to be taken.
- (3) How many reports of bullying have there been by type/basis (namely on grounds of gender, race, sexual orientation and identity, religion, etc), for the period referred to in part (1).

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

- (1) Records of bullying by students, parents, and guardians are held by individual schools not collected centrally. Complaints of alleged bullying of staff which are reported to the Directorate's employee relations section are recorded on an internal data base.
- (2) Schools use the *Safe and Supportive Schools Policy* to guide their response to reports of bullying. Staff are guided by principles of respect, equity and diversity detailed in the *Respect, Equity and Diversity Framework* to create a positive workplace culture.
- (3) The breakdown of data by school cannot be provided due to privacy concerns which may lead to the identification of individuals. The following instances of staff to staff bullying were recorded for the period 1 December 2014 to 31 May 2017:
 - a. 17 complaints received alleging bullying.
 - b. 1 complaint received where bullying was substantiated.
 - c. 4 complaints received, but resolved informally.

Schools—violence (Question No 284)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide, for each Government school between December 2014 to present, how are instances of reported violent behaviour recorded by the Education Directorate, by (a) students, (b) staff or (c) parents and guardians.
- (2) What steps are procedurally required to be taken following a report of violent behaviour.
- (3) How many reports of violent behaviour have there been for each Government school by (a) teachers, (b) parents and guardians or (c) students.

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

- (1) The Directorate uses the ACT Public Service accident incident reporting system, Riskman, to record instances of violent behaviours affecting workers including where students, parents or guardians are the users of violence. The Directorate introduced Riskman into all schools in the second half of 2015. Incidents were recorded using a paper based accident incident report prior to this.
- (2) Directorate workers follow the requirements in the ACT Public Service Responding to *Workplace Accidents/Incidents Policy* and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* when reporting and responding to incidents of violent behaviour. Where the perpetrator of violent behaviour is a worker, the issue is managed by the Directorate's Employee Relations section. The *Managing Occupational Violence Policy 2017* and *Occupational Violence Plan 2017* are in development, and will be launched on 26 July 2017. Directorate workers will follow the requirements within these guidance documents once they are established.
- (3) As of 30 April 2017, the total reports of occupational violence in schools for year to date FY 2016-17 were 1,068 compared to 674 in FY 2015-16. This number includes those by a student, a parent or a guardian. Lost time due to incidents of one day or more has remained relatively low at 38 as of 30 April 2017. Data is not readily available at that level of aggregation, for parents and guardians of students. A total of 1,068 reports of occupational violence have been made for all government schools. Disaggregation by school could unfairly and incorrectly lead to assumptions about safety in particular schools.

Schools—illicit substances (Question No 285)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How are reports of use/possession of illicit substances recorded by the Directorate.
- (2) Can the Minister provide the number of reports involving the use/possession of illicit substances by (a) students and (b) staff broken down by school and year.

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

- (1) Reports made to the Directorate's Employee Relations section regarding staff use of illicit substances are recorded on an internal database. Record of illicit drug use by

students is a matter for individual schools and is not held centrally. Suspension records include a classification for drugs but this is a broader category than illicit substances and not all drug incidents would result in a suspension.

(2)

- a) Records of reports involving the use/possession of illicit substances by students are held by individual schools not collected centrally. Suspension records provided to the Directorate contain a category for “drug use” however this is not exclusive to illicit substances.
- b) During the period of 1 December 2014 to 31 May 2017 the Employee Relations section received one allegation related to illicit substance use. The allegation was unable to be substantiated.

Government buildings—electrical switchboards (Question No 286)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 12 May 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

Can the Minister provide, for switchboards located on properties owned by the ACT Government (a) what inspections WorkSafe ACT has done on switchboards on ACT Government owned properties, (b) how often are the conditions of switchboards checked, (c) how many inspections on switchboards have been carried out and (d) how many switchboards have failed inspections and where are each of these switchboards located.

Mr Ramsay: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- a) During the period 1 July 2012 to 4 April 2017, WorkSafe ACT undertook the following inspections on switchboards on ACT Government owned properties.
 - 7 September 2012: Improvement Notice No. 5826 issued directing The Canberra Hospital (TCH) to implement a safe system of work to deal with potentially unsafe electrical installations (switchboards) at the TCH as identified in the Electrical Safety Audit Report dated April 2012, in particular Recommendation No. 1 to undertake immediate repair work – these works were identified as critical.
 - November 2012: various inspections carried out at the TCH relating to the upgrading of identified switchboards requiring residual current devices to comply with section 164 of the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011.
 - August 2015: various inspections of switchboards at 1 Moore Street Civic regarding missing circuit.
- b) For those buildings under the management of Territory Venues and ACT Property Group, a program of thermal imaging of all switchboards is carried out. All major load centres are checked annually.

The nature of the testing is invasive, in that an ACT Property Group’s licensed electrician removes the escutcheon panels to reveal the electrical chassis and associated switchgear (circuit breakers). The electrician will identify any issues with the equipment and any minor problems are rectified during the inspection. A report is

produced and any additional work will be planned and dealt with in a timely manner.

Maintenance for electrical switchboards to Active Canberra buildings/facilities is undertaken as required. Switchboards are regularly checked by electricians contracted to the venues.

Maintenance to Territory Venues is undertaken as required and includes thermal image inspections.

Further, the member may wish to refer to information provided by the Chief Minister in *Question on Notice 205-207 and 209-234*.

- c) Visual inspections of the main switchboards are carried out regularly by ACT Health Facilities Management staff and ACT Property Group contractors.

For further information, you may wish to refer to information provided by the Chief Minister in his response to *Questions on Notice 205–207 and 209–234*.

- d) I have been advised by my directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require considerable resources.

In this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's question. Further, you may wish to refer to information provided by the Chief Minister in his response to *Questions on Notice 205–207 and 209–234*.

Schools—enrolments (Question No 287)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

Can the Minister provide, concerning the technical issues caused by high demand on Canberra's non-government school online enrolment system that occurred on Wednesday 26th April 2017, (a) what was the scope of the technical issues, (b) how many users were affected by these technical issues, (c) how many children were not enrolled due to these technical issues and (d) what has the Directorate done to prevent technical issues like this from happening in the future.

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

- (1) Mr Wall asked a question regarding Canberra's non-government school online enrolment system. As it was Canberra's public school online enrolment application system that opened on Wednesday 26 April 2017, my answers will address enrolment for Canberra public schools.
- a) The technical issues were due to overloading of the server.
- b) Access Canberra identified 169 enrolment applications that were affected by the technical difficulties. Of the 169 applications, 104 connected with the identified technical difficulties subsequently lodged an online enrolment application. Of the

remaining 65, the Education Directorate Liaison Unit is contacting each individual family to offer assistance.

- c) No child will miss out on enrolment due to the technical issues that occurred when the enrolment application form opened.
- d) The Education Directorate is working with Access Canberra to avoid this issue recurring in the future.

Canberra Hospital—emergency codes (Question No 288)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How often have the emergency codes been used at (a) The Canberra Hospital and (b) Calvary public hospital in the period since 1 January 2016, excluding emergency codes relating to clinical situations for individual patients.
- (2) For each incident in part (1), (a) what was the emergency code level used and (b) was a debrief/review session held.
- (3) Does the minister receive reports of the use of emergency codes; if so, what is the nature of the information provided; if not, why not.

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

- (1) (a) There are a number of different emergency response codes used throughout Canberra Hospital consistent with the Australian Standards Australian Standard 4083 - 2010 Planning for emergencies - Health care facilities and the Emergencies Act 2004 and form part of the business as usual operations. These codes can be activated on an almost daily basis. There were a total of eighty two (82) code responses since 1 January 2016, activated not including code black or code blue as these relate to clinical situations for individual patients.
- (b) ACT Health code responses do not cover Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- (2) January 2016 to April 2017:

- **51 Code Yellows**

An Internal Disaster Code Yellow is an emergency response code to deal with any internal incident that threatens to overwhelm or disrupt services. This involves incidents that may interrupt support services or clinical activities due to a failure of key infrastructure, utilities or other internal processes.

- **10 Code Reds**

A Code Red is an emergency response code to deal with any fire or potential fire related emergencies. Within the Canberra Hospital campus there are different types of alarm systems that will notify of a fire or smoke event. When the alarm has been raised, notification will take place through the fire panel system and the fire doors will automatically close.

- **1 Code Purple**

A Code Purple refers to a bomb threat or suspicious package. A bomb threat is a serious public nuisance of modern times. Each bomb threat could be a prank or a warning of an impending bomb detonation. Usually they are created by individuals seeking to cause a state of confusion or alarm. Bomb threats directed at the ACT Health facilities, or suspicious packages received in the mailroom, are handled in accordance with internationally recognised procedures. Response procedures have been developed on the assumption that all threats will be treated as genuine until an investigation proves otherwise.

- **0 Code Browns**

A Code Brown is an emergency response code to deal with any external incident that threatens to overwhelm or disrupt hospital capabilities. An external incident is defined as one that originates outside an ACT Health facility. Canberra Hospital is recognised as a major receiving hospital for mass casualties in the ACT and south - eastern region of New South Wales and, as such, has a major role to play in emergency responses.

ACT Government emergency arrangements are described in a variety of ACT legislation and plans, including the ACT Emergency Plan and ACT Health Emergency Plan. These plans provide an overarching governance structure for large emergencies.

- **20 Code Oranges**

A Code Orange is an emergency response code to manage the evacuation of ACT Health facilities. Evacuation involves the movement of patients, staff, clients, carers and visitors away from areas at risk in a rapid, safe and coordinated manner. Evacuation of health care facilities is a high risk and complicated procedure and is most often precipitated by other events within the hospital. Evacuation of an area or building within Canberra Hospital may be prompted by a range of events, for example: storm damage, local flooding, fire, bomb threat, hostage situations, and any other event that presents an immediate risk to the health and safety of staff, patients and visitors.

As most of these code responses were minor, they did not require a formal debrief session and informal debriefs were carried out after the incidents. There were two significant incidents for this period of time that did require a debrief and these were undertaken.

- (3) ACT Health and the Minister's Office are developing revised protocols for appropriately advising the Minister of significant incidents.

Schools—safe schools program (Question No 289)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Which Government schools in the ACT have used the Safe Schools program between December 2014 to present.

- (2) Which year levels was the program taught to for each of the schools referred to in part (1) which have used the Safe Schools program.
- (3) How many complaints to schools were made about the content or teaching methods of the Safe Schools program.

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

- (1) 26 Canberra public schools have engaged with the Safe Schools Coalition ACT Program that was funded through the Australian Government to August 2016. a) The schools are listed at Attachment A.
- (2) No year levels were taught the Safe Schools Coalition ACT program. The support provided to schools under the Safe Schools Coalition program was designed to better equip school communities to provide supportive and respectful environments. This included professional learning to teachers about the program, sexuality, gender diversity, advisory support for school welfare teams information sessions to school communities and engagement with parent peak bodies.
- (3) Schools have not reported any complaints about the content and teaching methods of the Safe Schools Coalition program to the Education Directorate.

ATTACHMENT A: LIST OF SCHOOLS

	School
1.	Alfred Deakin High School
2.	Amaroo School
3.	Campbell High School
4.	Canberra High School
5.	Caroline Chisholm School
6.	Dickson College
7.	Florey Primary School
8.	Gold Creek School
9.	Gungahlin College
10.	Hawker College
11.	Hughes Primary School
12.	Lanyon High School
13.	Lyneham High School
14.	Majura Primary School
15.	Melba Copland Secondary School
16.	Melrose High School
17.	Namadgi School
18.	Narrabundah College
19.	Telopea Park School
20.	The Canberra College
21.	The Woden School
22.	University of Canberra High School
23.	Wanniassa School
24.	Belconnen High School
25.	Kingsford Smith School
26.	UC Lake Ginninderra Secondary College

**Canberra Hospital—electrical systems
(Question No 293)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) In relation to The Canberra Hospital electrical switchboard that was the subject of the fire on 5 April 2017, when was it first determined there were problems with the switchboard.
- (2) Since then, how many times has the switchboard either broken down or been at the root of any other electrical problems at the hospital.
- (3) What was the nature of those breakdowns or other causal problems.
- (4) What was the impact of those breakdowns or other causal problems on hospital operational areas.
- (5) What remedial action was recommended when problems with the switchboard were first determined.
- (6) Was that remedial action carried out; if so, when, by whom and under what arrangement.
- (7) If there was a delay in remedial action, why.
- (8) What remedial action is being taken following the fire on 5 April 2017.
- (9) Does that remedial action include an upgrade to the switchboard and associated electrical systems.
- (10) Will those upgrades be “state-of-the-art”.
- (11) When will the upgraded switchboard and associated electrical systems be fully operational.
- (12) What backup systems are in place to ensure continuity of power supply in the event of electrical breakdowns.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) A decision to replace the Building 2 electrical main switchboard facilities was formalised in the 2016/17 Budget Appropriation Upgrading and Maintaining ACT Health Assets, following consideration of facility condition assessments commissioned in the second half of 2015, to inform business case development.
- (2) A subsequent incident on 9 April 2017 occurred where the back-up power arrangements for the Cardiac Catheterisation Lab (CCL) failed as a result of the power outage. There have been no further breakdowns or incidents with the main electrical switchboard.
- (3) With regard to the 9 April 2017 incident a fault arose with the batteries that are incorporated into the CCL equipment’s back up power supply system.

- (4) Replacement and recertification of new batteries prior to reinstatement of the CCL service was required. As a result, business continuity processes were put in place on 6 April 2017 to manage all emergency procedures at the National Capital Private Hospital (NCPH). The CCL returned to 50 per cent capacity on 14 April 2017 with some procedures continuing to be performed at NCPH and full service normal operations resumed at Canberra Hospital from 20 April 2017.
- (5) Planned replacement of electrical main switchboard and increased maintenance activity on the main switchboards.
- (6) In March 2016, Brooks Marchant Industries Pty was engaged under a Facilities Management work order to conduct thermal scans and inspections on the main electrical switchboard every three weeks. Additionally, Martin Donnelly Pty was engaged under a Facilities Management work order in October 2016 to carry out several maintenance items including technical cleaning of switchboard rooms, emergency lighting testing and repairs, reviewing and updating the technical switchboard drawings and labels as necessary, checking safety equipment and signage within switchboard rooms and reviewing, updating and replacing required labelling to switchboards, while simultaneously reviewing and attending to minor open cable penetrations in the main electrical switch boards.
- (7) There was no delay in remedial action associated with the planned replacement of electrical main switchboard.
- (8) Works have been completed to restore the main electrical switchboard to its pre-fire configuration. This has involved repairs to some damaged sections of the switchboard and the installation of a new switchboard to replace the section that could not be repaired. All works have been implemented by the appointed Head Contractor as part of site preparation to deliver the replacement main electrical switchboard.
- (9) No, the remedial works have repaired or replaced the sections of the switchboard that were damaged in the fire.
- (10) When the switchboard is replaced, it will be with the newest technology available within the electrical industry.
- (11) The planned project completion date for the upgrade of the main electrical switchboard is June 2018.
- (12) ACT Health has established additional back-up switchboard and associated cabling infrastructure, including dedicated generator supplies, to ensure continuity of power supply. The existing backup generator arrangements are still maintained. A comprehensive electrical redundancy system is being installed, which includes dual electrical supplies to critical business areas.

Canberra Hospital—electrical systems (Question No 295)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

In relation to the contract (“the main contract”) signed on 7 April 2017 for replacement of the main electrical switchboard at the Canberra Hospital (a) when did the scoping work

for the main contract begin, (b) who did that scoping work, (c) what were the procurement arrangements for that scoping work, (d) when was the scoping work completed, (e) when were expressions of interest in the main contract called, (f) what was the closing date, (g) how many expressions of interest were received, (h) what was the range of prices quoted, (i) when were the expressions of interest assessed, (j) when was the decision made as to the successful tenderer (Shaw Building Group), (k) when was that communicated to the successful tenderer, (l) what were the reasons for awarding the contract to the successful tenderer, (m) what were the differences between the successful tenderer's original offer (16 September 2016) and their revised offer (7 April 2017), (n) why was a revised offer required, (o) when will work on replacement of the switchboard begin, (p) how long will it take and (q) what electrical supply back-up arrangements will be operational while the switchboard is being replaced.

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

- (a) The scoping work for the Electrical Main Switch Board project commenced on 11 January 2016.
- (b) Performance specifications were developed by Barry Tam. Design Development was prepared by Steensen Varming PTY LTD.
- (c) The procurement of the Electrical Consultant was undertaken via a Select Tender process.
- (d) On 12 July 2016 the Electrical Consultant delivered the technical specification documentation for the main electrical works.
- (e) The Expressions of Interest were called on 24 March 2016.
- (f) The closing date for the Expressions of Interest was 28 April 2016.
- (g) Six Expressions of Interest were received.
- (h) Prices were not required for the Expression of Interest stage of the procurement. Where pricing information is requested in tenders, this remains commercial in confidence and cannot be disclosed.
- (i) Assessment of the Expressions of Interest commenced on 28 April 2016 and approval of the shortlist was provided on 9 June 2016.
- (j) The decision around the successful tenderer was made on 15 December 2016.
- (k) The decision was communicated to the successful tenderer on 16 December 2016.
- (l) Shaw Building Group's Request for Tender submission represented the best value for money for the Territory, following an assessment against the below threshold and assessable criteria:

Threshold Criteria

- Prequalification Level
- Industrial Relations and Employment Obligations
- Construction Industry Compliance
- Quality Management

Weighted Assessment Criteria

- Work Health and Safety Management
- Past Performance
- Technical, Managerial Skills and Resources to complete the project
- Contractor Knowledge of Contract, Construction Methodology, Program and Design
- Financial

- (m) This information is commercial in confidence.
- (n) The revised offer was required to include post tender negotiations items.
- (o) Early works on the main contract scope commenced in March 2016 with the introduction of regular thermal imaging conducted by Brooks Marchant Pty on behalf of ACT Health. Additionally interim works were conducted by Martin Donnelly Pty in October 2016 and by Shepherd Electrical (ACT) Pty on the Building 12 Electrical Main Switchboard between January and March 2017. Formal main contract work with Shaw Building Group and their electrical subcontractor team (Shepherd Electrical (ACT) Pty) commenced on 7 April 2017
- (p) Completion of the Building 2 Main Electrical Switchboard Replacement works is scheduled for June 2018. Completion of Building 12 Main Electrical Switchboard Replacement works is schedule for February 2019.
- (q) It is a contract requirement that Canberra Hospital remain fully operational during these works. Current back-up arrangements such as back-up generators and use of back up switchboards will be utilised throughout the switchboard replacement project.

**Canberra Hospital—auxilliary
(Question No 297)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) How long has The Canberra Hospital Auxiliary shop operated at The Canberra Hospital.
- (2) How much money has the Auxiliary raised through its shop at The Canberra Hospital since it opened.
- (3) How much money has the Auxiliary donated in cash to The Canberra Hospital since it opened its shop at the hospital.
- (4) What is the value of donations in kind the Auxiliary has made to The Canberra Hospital since it opened its shop at the hospital.
- (5) What assessment has the government made as to the contribution the Auxiliary has made as to social capital to hospital patients, their families and hospital operations since it opened its shop at The Canberra Hospital.
- (6) In the design for the redevelopment of the main foyer at The Canberra Hospital, why was the space allocated to The Canberra Hospital Auxiliary shop reduced.

- (7) What efficiencies will be gained from the relocation of the shop's storage facility to the floor below.
- (8) What assistance and equipment will the government provide to the shop for moving stock to and from the relocated storage facility.
- (9) Why did The Canberra Hospital Auxiliary only find out about the changes to their facilities and operations through a third party.
- (10) Why did the government not consult with The Canberra Hospital Auxiliary on the plans to redevelop the main foyer, including the Auxiliary's shop.

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

- (1) The Canberra Hospital Auxiliary has been operating since 1973.
- (2) The Auxiliary is an incorporated business. This information is not held by ACT Health.
- (3) As at 30 April 2017, the Auxiliary has donated \$3,747,436.99 in cash to Canberra Hospital.
- (4) This figure cannot be estimated. Donations in kind from the Auxiliary are used for a range of items, including:
 - Emergency packs for patients
 - Funding to Aged Care on request
 - Christmas Party funding & gifts to Aged Care
 - Guiding (no monetary funding)
 - Flowers (no monetary funding)
 - Library (no monetary funding)
 - Shop Trolley to Wards (no monetary funding)
- (5) The Government highly values the contribution the Auxiliary has made and continues to make to the social capital of the patients, visitors, staff, and the broader hospital community. A thankyou breakfast and a formal Christmas dinner is provided to volunteers, including the Auxiliary, annually and awards of recognition are also presented.
- (6) The proposed concept plans offer the Auxiliary back of house storage in a location separated from the Auxiliary Shop, increasing their number of lease spaces from two to three. There is a slight reduction in total floor space from 258sqm to approximately 216sqm. However, when reviewing the proposed spaces, the Auxiliary members noted that the space allocation for the shop itself is similar in size to their current allocation, and that the size of the area behind the shop can be incorporated into the storage allocation.
- (7) All spaces in the main entry reception to the hospital are for the benefit of patients, staff and visitors to the hospital. Moving storage spaces to the floor below allows for the space to be efficiently utilised for public services.
- (8) ACT Health will provide the Auxiliary with motorised assisted trolleys and other equipment to assist with moving stock to and from the relocated storage area.

- (9) ACT Health cannot definitively answer this question as this information is not known to ACT Health.
- (10) As the case with most projects, stakeholder consultation can only be undertaken following the development of a clear plan and/or proposal. All key stakeholders were engaged in late 2016, after the relevant internal planning stages had occurred, enabling a high level, concept design to be the basis of discussions.

**Health—abortion
(Question No 298)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Does the Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic (“MSAC”) hold a lease or licence to occupy ACT Government premises in Moore Street, Canberra City; if so, what are the terms of that lease or licence, including, but not limited to, rent payable, and responsibility for repairs, maintenance, utilities and other outgoings; if not, under what arrangements, including the terms thereof, does MSAC occupy those premises.
- (2) What reporting is MSAC required to make to (a) ACT Health, (b) any other ACT Government agency, (c) agencies of any other government and (d) otherwise, of any other regulatory nature.
- (3) Are those reports available publicly; if so, where; if not, why not.
- (4) What functional area of the ACT Government is responsible for oversight of the MSAC facility and what interaction does that functional area have with MSAC.
- (5) How frequently is MSAC inspected for compliance with relevant legislation, including, but not limited to, the Health Act 1993.
- (6) When was the last compliance inspection made and by whom.
- (7) Has any inspection revealed any issues of non-compliance at MSAC; if so, (a) what were the issues of non-compliance, (b) for each issue, how long did it take MSAC to rectify the non-compliance and (c) for each issue were inspectors satisfied as to the standard of rectification.
- (8) What does ACT Health do to satisfy itself as to the qualifications and experience of medical practitioners and other health professionals practising at MSAC.
- (9) What are the standards, regulations or other guidelines that govern the conduct of abortions, including, but not limited to, the conduct of late-term abortions, and whether abortions are conducted surgically or by the administration of drugs.
- (10) What pre- and post-abortion counselling services are offered to patients.
- (11) Are counselling services mandatory; if not, why not.

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) ACT Health has a License with Marie Stopes International to occupy premises at 1 Moore Street, Canberra City. The terms of this Licence include:
- a. Peppercorn rent;
 - b. Use of the premises to provide sexual and reproductive health care, including but not limited to pregnancy counselling, medical and surgical abortion, contraception, sexually transmissible infections testing and treatment, cervical screening and vasectomy;
 - c. ACT Health has responsibility for repairs and maintenance, except in circumstance where the repair or replacement is as a result of negligence on the part of Marie Stopes International; and
 - d. Responsibility for Utilities and other outgoings with ACT Health.

In addition, ACT Health licenses Marie Stopes International – Canberra (Marie Stopes) International as a Type 2, Accredited Health Care Facility (HCF) under the *Public Health Act 1997*.

- (2) As a HCF, Marie Stopes must comply with the *ACT Health Care Facilities Code of Practice 2001* (Code of Practice). As part of this, all facilities must produce an annual report which contains:
- a. the name and location of each health care facility;
 - b. the number of professional staff employed at each health care facility;
 - c. the number of non-professional staff employed at each health care facility;
 - d. the number of patients treated at the facility;
 - e. the number of notifiable incidents (if any) reported to the Chief Health Officer;
 - f. performance measures of morbidity and mortality;
 - g. the Quality Systems used by the health care facility to protect public safety and ensure compliance with this Code;
 - h. any structural changes made to the facility;
 - i. the number and type of records kept by the health care facility;
 - j. the number and type of complaints received; and
 - k. steps taken to reduce and resolve complaints.

ACT Health received the 2015-2016 annual report from this facility.

- (3) Yes – on the Marie Stopes International Australia website at <https://www.mariestopes.org.au/about-us/impact/>
- (4) Not applicable to ACT Health as this is a privately run HCF.
- (5) Under the Code of Practice, Type 2 facilities are accredited with a recognised accreditation system. As part of the accreditation process, the facility is required to participate in facility wide inspections. No inspection is required by ACT Health as part of the Health Care Facility licence.
- (6) Marie Stopes undergoes accreditation through the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards, and was granted reaccredited on 16 February 2017.

- (7) Refer to the answer to question 4 above.
 - (8) Refer to the answer to question 4 above.
 - (9) Refer to the answer to question 4 above.
 - (10) Refer to the answer to question 4 above.
 - (11) Refer to the answer to question 4 above.
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Questions without notice taken on notice

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staff training

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mrs Kikkert and Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 10 May 2017*):

1. In 2013, the Community Services Directorate introduced a schedule of skills maintenance sessions, which includes the Responding to Critical Situations skills maintenance session. The skills maintenance sessions commenced in 2014.
2. Since 2014, the Responding to Critical Situations skills maintenance session has been held on the following dates:
 - 26 November 2014
 - 2, 16, 17, 19 December 2014
 - 28, 29 September 2015
 - 1, 20, 30 and 31 October 2015
 - 10, 22 and 23 November 2015
 - 4 and 5 December 2015
 - 17 and 18 May 2016
 - 3, 10 and 31 July 2016
 - 7, 14 and 30 August 2016
 - 30 September 2016
 - 7, 16 and 21 October 2016
 - 18, 21 and 25 November 2016
 - 28 April 2017
3. Since the opening of Bimberi in 2008, Use of Force training occurred on the following dates:
 - 9 June 2008
 - 11 August 2008
 - 19 October 2009
 - 3 May 2010
 - 1 November 2010

From 2011, staff accessed the Responding to Critical Situations training, which includes Use of Force training, as part of Induction training to the Centre. This training is also accessed by staff requiring refresher training. Induction training was scheduled on:

- 31 Jan 2011
- 4 April 2011
- 23 Jan 2012
- 10 Sept 2012
- 3 Jun 2013
- 28 Oct 2013
- 16 Oct 2014
- 18 Apr 2016

Maintenance sessions were also scheduled as outlined in response to question 2.

Canberra Hospital—electrical systems

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Ms Lee and Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 10 May 2017*):

1. Yes.
2. Operations at Canberra Hospital were disrupted by electrical faults on two occasions between September 2015 and April 2017, on 9 September 2015 and 5 April 2017.
3. In November 2012 a circuit breaker overheated within the Building 2 Main Switchboard. The circuit breaker was replaced, using an available spare circuit breaker without adverse disruption to hospital services.

Canberra Hospital—electrical systems

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mr Coe and Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 10 May 2017*):

1. Following an incident with the Building 2 electrical main switchboard in September 2015, an inspection report identified issues with the Building 2 and Building 12 main electrical switchboards. A decision to replace the Building 2 and Building 12 electrical main switchboard facilities was formalised in the 2016/17 Budget Appropriation Upgrading and Maintaining ACT Health Assets, following consideration of facility condition assessments commissioned in the last quarter of 2015, to inform business case development.
2. Visual inspections of the main switchboards are carried out regularly by Facilities Management staff and any repairs that are required are performed at that time. In March 2016, a contractor was engaged to conduct thermal scans and inspections on the main electrical switchboard every three weeks. Additionally, a contractor was

engaged in October 2016 to carry out several maintenance items including technical cleaning of switchboard rooms, emergency lighting testing and repairs, reviewing and updating the technical switchboard drawings and labels as necessary, checking safety equipment and signage within switchboard rooms and reviewing, updating and replacing required labelling to switchboards, while simultaneously reviewing and attending to minor open cable penetrations in the main electrical switch boards.

Planning—Phillip

Mr Gentleman (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Ms Le Couteur and Ms Lawder on Wednesday, 10 May 2017*):

Ms Le Couteur's Questions:

In regard to Ms Le Couteur's specific question relating to the multistorey car park at Block 54 and 84 Section 8 (49 Furzer Street) Phillip, the Development Application (DA) for this proposal (DA No. 201629116) was approved with conditions on 8 May 2017. The DA was carefully considered by the planning and land authority, particularly in relation to issues such as potential overshadowing impacts on Woden Town Square.

While the new car park will be higher than the existing building (Borrowdale House) located on this site by approximately 4 metres, there may be a slight increase in the overshadowing of the Woden Town Square, particularly during the winter solstice on 21 June. However I understand one reason the owners of the nearby Lovett Tower, which is largely vacant, are struggling to find new tenants is the lack of existing car parking spaces for the building. The approval of the DA assists in addressing this concern and the wider context of trying to attract new employment opportunities to Woden Town Centre.

I also note that the new multistorey car park will also consist of 425 square metres of commercial space at ground level which will provide for active frontages to open out to Woden Town Square. Accordingly, there is no need to amend the approved Woden Town Centre Master Plan or Draft Variation 344 in regard to offset any minor adverse impacts of this particular DA.

In relation to Ms Le Couteur's second question, about what changes the ACT government is considering to the Woden Town Centre Master Plan and Draft Variation 344 to make sure the Woden Town Square and other open spaces are not surrounded by multistorey car parks, it is not intended to have the Town Square and open space areas solely surrounded by multi storey car parks.

The intention is to attract a mix of uses and employment opportunities to the Woden Town Centre, and a proposed new building may consist of a car parking component depending on individual design proposals. Any new development in the town centre will be subject to assessment, and approval by the planning and land authority. While the variation is in draft form, it includes a Criterion, C16 in relation to solar access, which requires that any proposed development retains reasonable solar access to the town square and the main pedestrian spine.

Ms Lawder's Question

In relation to Ms Lawder's question as to whether there is any commitment from Westfield about undertaking any external or off-site capital works in the area, I'm not sure specifically which area Ms Lawder is referring to, however I understand Scentre Group (i.e. Westfield) has lodged a Development Application (DA201731575) to undertake alterations to an existing car park at Westfield Woden (Block 10 Section 19 Phillip). Some of this work involves off-site works located on the Bradley Street road reserve, including an outdoor dining area and landscaping. This Development Application is currently being assessed by the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Electricity—blackouts

Mr Barr (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Wednesday, 7 June 2017*):

ActewAGL Distribution has confirmed the unplanned interruptions experienced in the Gungahlin area during May and June 2017 were not related to the light rail construction. These occurred due to a number of separate issues including three underground cable faults, a third party digging into a cable, and two related instances of network protection settings operating.

ActewAGL Distribution has advised additional load requirements form an integral part of ActewAGL Distribution's (AAD) design and development process, including works associated with the light rail.

Canberra Hospital—dermatology services

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 7 June 2017*):

1. ACT Health recognises that similar to many specialties, there is a shortage of dermatology consultants in Australia, particularly in regional areas.

ACT Health is currently in consultation with the existing group of public dermatologists about a new Model of Care that would increase service activity and address succession planning, including in-principle support for an additional dermatology trainee. Canberra Hospital is an accredited training site and currently has one Advanced Trainee Registrar in dermatology.

Crime—parole review

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Hanson on Thursday, 8 June 2017*):

Parole

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) has considered multiple aspects of the ACT parole system in recent years. This has included consideration of

the 23 recommendations made in Ian Callinan's *Review of the Parole System in Victoria* and also the operation of the Sentence Administration Board (SAB). Regular examination of aspects of the criminal justice system provides reform opportunities to ensure the ACT is in line with other jurisdictions. It also enables contemporary best practice.

In March 2015, The Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety tabled the *Inquiry into Sentencing Report* (the Sentencing Report). The Report contains 55 recommendations of which seven relate to parole orders.

In response to the Sentencing Report, the Government:

- agreed to one recommendation
 - making technical amendments to s149 of the *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005*
- agreed in principle to two recommendations
 - requiring the SAB to publish its decisions
 - resourcing the SAB to support the publication
- did not agree to four recommendations
 - a public interest test for parole
 - giving courts powers to make parole orders
 - providing for SAB discretion to determine the balance of a sentence in regards to breach actions
 - setting out circumstances to revoke parole in legislation

Bail

In relation to the Minister's comments on bail reviews, the Government remains up to date with bail reviews in other jurisdictions and considers whether any issues arise for the ACT from those reviews as they are made public.

On 14 February 2017, a motion was passed in the Legislative Assembly committing the Government to continue to monitor developments, including inquiries and reports, around Australia for ways to improve the ACT's bail legislation.

In the ACT the *Bail Act 1992* operates effectively and appropriately within the criminal justice framework.

Remanding people in custody should be used as a last resort in carefully confined circumstances, with a focus on reasonable and proportionate risk management.

Short of remanding every alleged offender in custody, there is always a risk that the alleged offender will reoffend. This risk is controlled by our bail laws including presumptions in relation to bail and the conditions of bail imposed by the court, and the role ACT Policing plays in ensuring that offenders comply with those conditions.