



# Debates

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Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**NINTH ASSEMBLY**

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**Thursday, 24 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.

## **Petition**

*The following petition was lodged for presentation:*

### **Safe schools program—petition 21-17**

*By Mr Wall, from 998 residents:*

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

This petition of certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory draws to the attention of the Assembly that:

- Many ACT residents and their families have serious concerns about the political and social agenda of Safe Schools Coalition (SSCA), the Safe Schools Program (SSP) they have created and materials children will be exposed to.
- We have concerns about the veracity of the research presented to justify the use of SSP in ACT Schools.
- We feel greatly concerned that SSCA materials & associated resources are inappropriate and could lead to more identity confusion and anxiety in developing children.

Your petitioners therefore request the Assembly to call on the ACT Chief Minister and ACT Education Minister to stop any and all current and future ACT Government support and funding to the Safe Schools Coalition program. We further request the removal of the SSP and associated resources from ACT Schools where it may already be in use.

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

*Pursuant to standing order 99A, the petition, having more than 500 signatories, was referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs.*

**MR WALL** (Brindabella) (10.04), by leave: The petition I have presented today is from 998 Canberra residents who continue to hold severe concerns around the appropriateness of the safe schools program being rolled out across ACT schools. The concern that is demonstrated in this petition highlights what I believe is a lack of

leadership on the part of the education minister and the Chief Minister to take the whole community along with them on the need and the requirement for these types of programs to be rolled out in schools across the ACT.

The petitioners have called on the ACT government to stop and suspend any further engagement in the safe schools program or any associated resources in ACT schools where it is currently in place.

The government's attitude to this program, like the government's attitude to same-sex marriage, is that if you are with them, things are fine and they will agree with you, but their attitude of belittling anyone who disagrees with their point of view on these sorts of issues is disenfranchising many Canberrans who do not see the world through the same lens. It is not about inclusive government for all Canberrans with a mixed range of views; it is about inclusive government for the few who agree with them. And that is not leadership in anyone's book.

I commend the 998 Canberrans who have put their names forward on this petition. I look forward, as a member of the education committee, to inquiring into this matter and putting a robust response back to the Assembly. I also await the education minister's response to this petition.

**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) (10.05), by leave: I am deeply saddened but not surprised that Mr Wall has activated and presented this petition to the Assembly today. In fact, I am appalled, and I think Mr Wall should be ashamed of himself.

What this petition says to LGBTIQ kids in our community is that there is something wrong with you and that you are not welcome, you are not to be included in our schools, and you are not to be supported in our communities.

We know that LGBTIQ kids are more likely to harm themselves or to take their lives. This petition says, through Mr Wall, that that is okay; that we are not going to support you through what I could only try to understand would be a particularly difficult time.

I am sure that Mr Wall has been very clear and sure about his own sexuality for all of his life. But imagine if you were a 12-year-old kid, the world is saying that you are either a boy or a girl, and everything inside you says that you are something other than that, but there is nowhere for you to go. Mr Wall is saying, through the presentation of this petition today, that that is completely okay, and that he and the Canberra Liberals are not prepared to support children in that circumstance.

*Mr Wall interjecting—*

**MS BERRY:** Mr Wall can try to make comments and try to intimidate adults here in this Assembly, as he is doing just now, by calling out across the chamber, but I will not tolerate children in our schools who are LGBTIQ being intimidated, treated differently or excluded. I will stand by them and I will support them in every possible

way that I can, in every single one of our schools: in our public schools, in our independent schools and in our Catholic schools. I will stand by every LGBTIQ kid, and the ACT government will not be changing its mind about safe schools. I will not be changing my mind about safe schools, and I will make sure that the duty of care that each of us has in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of every child is met. I take that very seriously, and Mr Wall should as well. Shame on you, Mr Wall, for bringing this petition into the Assembly today.

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (10.08), by leave: The timing of this petition is very unfortunate. At the time of the same-sex marriage voluntary postal survey, the LGBTI community already feels under fire, and it is really unfortunate that this is the time that has been chosen to decry the one program that we have in our schools that addresses the bullying that these young people face.

This should not be a political issue. It is a human issue. It never ceases to amaze me that those against LGBTI equality do not understand that it is the lack of acceptance and legitimacy of being same-sex attracted, intersex or gender diverse that simply perpetuates the harm and discrimination that these young people feel and experience.

This is what leads to the increased prevalence of mental health issues amongst these young people. I know this on a personal level from contact with kids and adults who are in that situation, and I feel I have to make a brief acknowledgement of Karl, now known as Karli.

There is certainly evidence to suggest that where efforts are made to reduce discrimination, bullying and abuse, students have better educational and mental health outcomes. Of course, I support, as Ms Berry so eloquently does, the ACT government's commitment to deliver safe schools education in ACT schools. It is the least that we can do for these children. As far as I am aware, the original education package has in fact been changed to suit the ACT context, and links to certain websites which were seen as objectionable have been removed.

I fear that many in the community, unfortunately, are subscribing to mistruths about this program because they really know nothing about it. I suggest to those people who are concerned about it that if they have a minute, to go to the website. I have been to the website. It is really not that intimidating and scary. The fact of the matter is that we have LGBTIQ people in our schools and/or kids who are not in that cohort but who live with parents who are in that cohort.

These young people deserve to feel that they are accepted and okay. Their families and friends deserve to know that when they go to school they will be accepted for who they are. This constant attack on a program that is designed to reduce and prevent bullying is simply wrong. I quote from the safe schools website:

The program offers approved support services and resources to educators to equip them with knowledge and skills to create safer and more inclusive school environments. All resources have been deemed age-appropriate, educationally sound and have been reviewed by an expert panel of educators for use in secondary schools.

I can understand why parents and carers would like to know more about safe schools and seek clarification about its aims and methods. Gender, as I mentioned, is a fairly fundamental part of the construct of ourselves, and the idea that it may not be what we think it is is scary and confronting in many instances. But if you are someone who finds the program worrying, I suggest you look at the website or talk to your school community and get clarity about the content of the program.

On that note I am a little confused about what exactly the problem is for Mr Wall. I understand that on radio this morning he said that parents were concerned because they did not know what content was being delivered, but he also said they felt there was explicit content in the program. It is kind of one or the other; you do not know.

**Mr Wall:** There are 1,000 signatures, Caroline. They can have different views.

**MS LE COUTEUR:** There are 1,000 signatures. Can I suggest to those 1,000 signatories that they might wish to, as I said, look at the website or talk to their school community. This is a human problem. It is a human issue; it is not a political issue. These young people deserve our support, and I am very glad that the ACT has the safe schools program to help support the young people, their parents, their family, their carers and their community.

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (10.13), by leave: First of all, I thank my colleague Andrew Wall for bringing forward this petition. Secondly, I want to say: shame on the Deputy Chief Minister for condemning my colleague Andrew Wall here in the Assembly for being a voice for almost 1,000 Canberrans. He has done the right thing. He is a representative of Canberrans. They wanted to have their voice and their opinion heard in this chamber, and you have condemned him for doing that. It is his role to do that. So shame on you. You have silenced almost 1,000 Canberrans out there.

**Mr Gentleman:** A point of order, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mrs Kikkert, can you resume your seat, please? A point of order.

**Mr Gentleman:** The standing orders require members to address the chair or the Speaker, and not members across the chamber.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr Gentleman. I uphold the point of order. All comments should be made through the chair, Mrs Kikkert.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Thank you. I will continue with my speech. Keeping our youth safe is one of the greatest priorities for governments and every single child in our schools deserves this protection. I am concerned, however, that this government has tunnel vision with regard to the current safe schools program. While I wholeheartedly support all efforts to create a safe and supportive environment in schools, we need to be more inclusive in our efforts. So many of our youth are vulnerable and they likewise deserve their schools to be safe places for them. The government needs to be as fair and inclusive as it can be.



Our Indigenous youth consistently face disadvantage and racism. In the ACT more than six per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are in out-of-home care. This is 12 times the rate of their representation in the community generally. This territory now has Australia's highest percentage of Indigenous kids receiving child protection services, having recently overtaken the Northern Territory.

Despite lacking the regional disadvantage of other jurisdictions, the ACT is currently ranked fifth amongst states and territories in school attendance rates for Indigenous students, behind New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. Where is a safe schools program for our Indigenous youth?

Between 2008 and 2016 the proportion of Indigenous students achieving national minimum standards in Canberra's schools decreased in five of the eight areas measured, and the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students actually widened in six of the eight areas. Supporting the territory's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children should be a priority.

Students from other cultural backgrounds can also face racism or feel that they do not belong in schools. I was saddened to read recently about a Sikh youth being bullied in Melbourne. A group called his turban a "worthless towel" before hitting him and trying to remove it. This young man rightly considered this an attack on both his faith and his identity.

I remember vividly what it was like attending high school as a student from a Pacific Islander background. I have spoken to a number of Pacific Islander youth here in Canberra who have told me that they are not taken seriously in our schools and are expected to be good only at sports. When they are not interested in sports, they are left feeling that they do not belong in their own schools.

There are many reasons why a student might be bullied at school. Some might be bullied because they do not seem smart. Others are bullied because they are too smart or because they are socially awkward. Where is the safe schools program for these kids? Youth from homes that experience domestic violence are particularly likely to become disengaged from school. I have personally seen this. All of these vulnerable youth should be the focus of any safe schools program.

I call upon this government to broaden its scope so that we can make our schools safe and supportive for all vulnerable youth. Any anti-bullying program should focus on and be appropriate for all youth. The Safe Schools Coalition resources that have been used in some ACT schools have made those schools harmful for some kids.

We have heard repeatedly from the other side how the safe schools program is necessary to protect lives. Let me be blunt and speak from the perspective of the students whose voices have never been heard in this debate and who also deserve to be protected. I have personally met with youth in Canberra who have gone home from their classes in tears, so upset that they could not sleep for several nights, all because of the resources of the safe schools program.

These are not the children of bigots or homophobes. In fact these students were given written permission by their parents to participate in discussions of safe schools material in their school, specifically because the parents strongly believe in accepting everyone as they are. These students, however, have refused to return to their classes because they feel unsafe there, and rightly so.

When a teacher asks a 13-year-old girl to fantasise about being sexually attracted to another girl, this is overt sexualisation. One could even accurately call it grooming. This is not an issue of same sex versus opposite sex. Requiring young people to experiment with sexual attraction of any kind has no place in our classrooms. I ask members of this Assembly to consider carefully these words of one student:

I have been told my whole life that people don't have a right to touch my body in a way that makes me feel uncomfortable, so why is it okay for a teacher to touch my mind in a way that makes me feel uncomfortable in the exact same way?

The Safe Schools Coalition's resources violate young students. The Crimes Act makes sexual intercourse with a person who is under 16 years of age a punishable offence specifically because we believe children should have a right for their innocence to be protected from overt sexualisation. And then we let teachers in our schools ask 13-year-old girls to fantasise about having sexual intercourse. This does not add up.

Clearly, the government needs to respect children's rights and the role of parents by seeking parental consent in regard to any such programs or resources. Parents have a right to know in detail the content of any resources used. They cannot protect their children without knowing. Only by following these principles will we have a program for all of our Canberra youth, and only then will we truly have safe and inclusive schools.

## **University of Canberra—annual report**

Motion (by **Mr Pettersson**, by leave) agreed to:

That, noting the standing order 246A statement of the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs on 8 June 2017, the resolution of the Assembly of 16 February 2017 which referred specified annual and financial reports for the calendar years 2015 and 2016 and the financial year 2015-2016 to standing committees be amended by omitting all references to the University of Canberra.

## **Total facilities management contract 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) (10.22): On 9 June 2016 I tabled the government's response to the Auditor-General's report on the maintenance of public housing, report

No 2 of 2016. The ACT Auditor-General made 18 recommendations to improve the management and oversight of the total facilities management contract which focused on the quality and the cost of planned and responsive maintenance activities and to the suitability and effectiveness of the governance and contract management arrangements set up by Housing ACT. In making these recommendations the Auditor-General considered the volume, size, complexity and governance arrangements established by the contract. Importantly, the Auditor-General found that the contract and its accompanying government structures were sound and that Housing ACT was well positioned to manage the \$48 million annual contract.

That said, the Auditor-General posed a number of recommendations regarding improvements to the structure and management of this contract. These included quality assurance improvements; refinement of performance management systems; improvements to work order audit processes; and enhancements to information technology connectivity and improved contract management activities, particularly in the area of contract variations, the enforcement of contractual obligations and risk management. Today I can inform the Assembly that the government has implemented all 18 of the Auditor-General's recommendations. In addition to following through with all the recommendations, government has taken the opportunity to adopt a stronger focus on the tenant experience and has consulted with key stakeholders, including the tenants consultative group, to see what improvements could be made beyond the recommendations of the audit report.

I also asked Housing ACT to talk with subcontractors, trade unions and other stakeholders to make sure that all perspectives were heard in working towards a new contract. The government's actions and proposed changes were broadly welcomed and stakeholders successfully contributed improvement ideas, including a new responsive repairs matrix designed to provide a more equitable service and processes to ensure that tenants receive the right service at the right time. The government will realign control points to place key decisions in the hands of those responsible for the outcomes and reinforced quality mechanisms through a risk management approach. Governance structures under the contract have also been strengthened. The performance management system was reviewed and varied, and Housing ACT engaged an external consultant to provide advice on a performance management system for the next iteration of the contract. In line with the Auditor-General's findings, this will have a strong focus on outcomes.

Housing ACT continues to work in close collaboration with Spotless, the total facilities manager, to embed the audit findings in its daily practice and to continually improve its service delivery. In 2016-17 the outcomes from this work have delivered a positive shift in the ratios of planned and responsive work with an additional \$1.3 million able to be redirected into planned works programs. A further 219 properties received planned maintenance work, and Housing ACT has delivered an extra 27 kitchen upgrades and an additional 18 bathroom upgrades than were originally planned for. An additional 65 floor coverings over and above the original target of 551 were delivered in 2016-17. In addition, 30 more internal painting jobs above the 522 that were originally planned were also delivered.

Other works included additional disability modifications and external painting. In comparison to the 2015-16 financial year the changes implemented have resulted in over 600 additional planned maintenance jobs which have a major positive impact on tenants' lives. The government has overseen the adoption of a risk-based approach to its inspection regime. This new system includes lower value, high volume work, ensuring a broader range of works that are scrutinised and that high quality standards are met.

I also inform the Assembly that Housing ACT and Spotless have worked to strengthen quality assurance through stringent controls and re-engineering processes. These changes provide for increased rigour of audits and a broader range of works to be investigated. Under this revised system government is able to ensure that Spotless consistently provides a quality assurance of audit regime of around seven per cent to eight per cent of all completed works orders. This translates to potentially more than 100 additional quality audits each month. These inspections ensure that the quality of works delivered to the tenants is of a high standard and a quality finish.

We have also ensured that Spotless implements a system of root-cause analysis of quality issues, which has involved end-to-end quality audits of subcontractors. This process involves working with subcontractors to look at their systems and ensure improvements in quality and timeliness in delivering services to tenants. Changes to the system that collects condition assessment data will also enable better asset reporting and targeting of planned maintenance activities.

In summary, the government has responded to the audit thoroughly and promptly. Where possible, steps have been taken to make additional improvements and take advantage of the opportunities to improve broader social outcomes for the ACT community. During 2016-17, through the total facilities management service system as well as the subcontractors engaged to work in this system, employment opportunities have been offered to people from a number of disadvantaged groups in our community. A total of 258 people have found new jobs over the past year with Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, people with disabilities, Housing ACT tenants and young people benefitting.

This kind of result would not have been possible without the government actively encouraging and managing partnerships between industry, community and government that underpin this contract. It is in this way that we can ensure that a significant social return to the community can be achieved from large contracts such as this. The government will keep working towards a future arrangement which provides value for the community, quality services for tenants and a safe and sustainable framework for workers and businesses doing their jobs in our community every day.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to provide this information to the Assembly. I present a copy of the statement and move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (10.29): As reflected in the minister's statement, helping people escape the cycle of housing affordability stress and the homelessness trap are not the only challenges we face in this portfolio. We have heard the minister talk this morning about what a wonderful job is being done within this total facilities management contract and, sure, it is up to the minister to optimistically talk up what is going on in her portfolio space. But my email inbox tells a vastly different story. The minister is well aware of many of the problems that have been brought to my office regarding Spotless, and I am sure that there are many others that I have not seen that have gone to the minister's office.

We can see from constituent feedback and from public commentary such as from the Auditor-General that those fortunate enough to be allocated government-funded accommodation still have many challenges. We must concede that it is a difficult job; a vast network of services has to be provided for so many people so I am not for a single moment suggesting that it is an easy job, because it is not.

The safe and sustainable housing aspect of the goals stated for Housing ACT requires the government as landlord to keep its housing stock in good condition. In the last full year for which we have expenditure information, something like \$50.5 million was spent on repairs and maintenance and refurbishments. But, as pointed out by my colleague Ms Lawder, around this time last year, the maintenance expenditure on public housing still left a few things to be desired.

As the minister acknowledges, the Auditor-General pointed out significant problems with the way this government handled its total facilities management contract. The Auditor-General was uncomfortable with quite a few things. I do not want to catalogue the full menu of things that worried the Auditor-General, but there are a few examples that might make the taxpayer feel uncomfortable. These include: inadequate oversight of the total facilities management contract; problematic work order audits with Housing ACT not enforcing the required standards; contract variations and change documentation not effectively managed; lack of transparency on contract variations; no audit trail for decision-making on contract variations; problematic work order audits; timeliness targets for routine tasks not met; and doubts over the reliability of timeliness data.

The Auditor-General's overall conclusion was that this government's management of the contract is not fully effective. To be fair, the Auditor-General was satisfied that there was a sound governance structure, but this had not been fully implemented. There is certainly enough here to get you worried, and it must have got the minister worried because she has agreed to implement, as she said in her statement, all of the Auditor-General's recommendations, and I commend her for that.

The bottom line message is that much needs to be done to tighten management of our public housing asset. This observation is not simply based on the audit report, but also on live feedback from real people who, as public housing tenants, become exasperated and driven to despair by the way they believe their landlord treats them.

The minister said she will adopt a stronger focus on the tenant experience; certainly, I can tell you, as I mentioned earlier, my in-tray is often clogged with the tenant experience; tenants approaching me with pleas for help, along with those from the general public, which is as frightening as it is disturbing. Let us contrast this with the auditor's report and the minister's picture of the situation. Here is a bit of a sample of people's pleas for help: broken windows and locks threatening the personal safety of vulnerable people; lice, vermin and feral animal infestations not attended to; internal water leakages and flooding that threatens personal safety of elderly tenants; rotted framework and leaking roofs; live wiring protruding from electrical switches; accumulation of rubbish and debris within public housing properties to the consternation of the neighbouring public; and, most of all, lack of responsiveness in regard to tenant request, with some forced to lodge the same request or complaint multiple times over lengthy periods. Some tenants are so frustrated that they go to the trouble of getting an independent assessment, and some tenants come to me saying they are at the end of their tether and are suffering extreme depression.

As the opposition, we do not want to be a part of this problem; we genuinely want to help to get to a situation where better outcomes are delivered. Tenants have a strong impression that the government is not listening and, worse still, that it does not want to listen. The sets of performance indicators displayed in the budget say that everything is hunky-dory, but I do not know that this is really the case. You certainly will not see any of these things reflected in the government's performance indicators or the auditor's report.

It is great to see that the minister has asked Housing ACT to talk with subcontractors and trade unions, although I wonder how the unions can solve the problem. We are told that the maintenance request for tender will be put to the market later this year, and this will be a very important process. No doubt the government will have a really good look at contract performance and service delivery requirements, but it should also have a good look at its own shortcomings and come forward with reforms in its own backyard where the contract will be managed from.

In closing, we hope the government will undertake an effective re-tender of total facilities management services that creates an outcome based on learning from past shortcomings. Most importantly, I hope the tenants and Housing ACT staff are consulted in shaping this outcome.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Tree Protection Amendment Bill 2017**

**Ms Fitzharris**, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

**MS FITZHARRIS** (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (10.36): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I present the Tree Protection Amendment Bill 2017 to the Legislative Assembly. The bill makes changes to the Tree Protection Act 2005 about decisions in relation to registered trees. The bill provides the Conservator of Flora and Fauna with discretion to deregister a registered tree that has died from natural causes. The bill also clarifies who has access to merits review of certain decisions made by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

For members not familiar with the Tree Protection Act, the act, amongst other things, protects Canberra's urban forest and the urban forest value from the risk of unnecessary loss or degradation. Urban forest value refers to the amenity, economic and environmental benefits derived from the urban forest and the associated tree canopy. The act also protects the urban forest values that contribute to the heritage significance of an area and ensures that trees of value are protected during periods of construction activity. Further, it encourages the incorporation of these trees of significance and value into the design and planning of development.

As part of the territory's scheme of tree protection, in addition to trees of a particular size being protected under the act, specific trees can be included in a register for additional protection. Anyone can nominate a tree for registration. Decisions about registration, and indeed deregistration, are made by the conservator following extensive consultation as provided for under the act.

The conservator applies statutory approval criteria when making his or her decision about registration. The criteria include reference to the natural or cultural heritage value of the tree, the landscape and aesthetic value and the scientific value of the tree. The natural or cultural heritage value of the tree covers, for example, where a tree may be associated with Aboriginal heritage and culture or is representative of a heritage nominated place and a historical period. The landscape and aesthetic value, for example, might cover circumstances where a tree is situated in a prominent location when viewed from a public place. The scientific value recognises, for example, a tree species that is endangered or otherwise vulnerable.

To register or to deregister a tree is a reasonably lengthy process that involves significant consultation under the act. Although a registered tree which has died from natural causes can be viewed as not fulfilling the criteria for registration, having, for example, no urban forest value, there is no legislative mechanism for removing the tree from the register without potentially following a significant consultation process as outlined under the act.

The bill that I present today proposes a new division 7.4 of the Tree Protection Act. Under the division new section 61B of the act will provide the conservator with the discretion to remove the registration of a tree that has died from natural causes and provide written notice of that decision to relevant people. The decision can be made without following the full consultation process that would normally apply to the cancellation of the registration of a tree. This regulatory reform will remove unnecessary processes and red tape. The conservator is not precluded, however, from

following a full consultation process to cancel registration, despite the death of a tree. This will be appropriate where it is not clear whether the tree's death has been natural.

The second part of the bill makes amendments to the act that are of perhaps greater significance to individuals affected by the act. The amendments correct an anomaly in the act that was identified in a matter heard by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The act currently provides that the person who holds or held registration of a tree can seek a review of a decision to cancel, or refuse to cancel, registration of a registered tree. These words are contained in the Tree Protection Act at schedule 1, part 1.2, item 2.

The presidential member who heard the matter found that the words "the person who holds or held registration" is defective, because registration is not held by anyone. Rather, registration refers to the tree's entry into the register of trees as held by the conservator. The anomaly can be traced to consequential amendments as a result of changes to the hearing of reviewable decisions when ACAT was established. As a result of the defect in the act, there is currently no exercisable right of merits review in reference to a decision made by the conservator to cancel or refuse to cancel registration of a tree. The tribunal found that as no person held or holds registration, there can be no person to whom such rights can be assigned.

The amendment contained in the bill that I have tabled today corrects this anomaly by providing a reviewable right to certain people or entities on decisions about registration. The entities are consistent with the entities that the conservator is required to consult with under section 53 of the act when making decisions to approve or refusing to approve the registration of a tree, and, under section 56, when the conservator makes a decision to cancel or to refuse to cancel the registration of a tree.

Specifically, those entities to which the right of merits review is given are: the person who nominated the tree for registration or the person who proposed the cancellation depending on the decision to which review is sought; the lessee of the land where the tree is located or alternatively the land management agency responsible for the land; if the tree is on leased land, the lessees or land management agency responsible for land that adjoins the land where the tree is located and which is within 50 metres of the tree; and, if the Heritage Council gave advice, the Heritage Council.

The bill does not extend the right of merits review to other people who may provide written comments to the conservator about a proposal to register or cancel the registration of a tree. Nor does it extend to any person that the conservator, exercising their discretion, notifies about such decisions.

It is appropriate that merits review be extended only to those people with a direct interest in the decision and in this case that direct interest can be identified as a proprietary interest in land potentially impacted by the decision. Madam Speaker, I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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



## Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2017

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.42): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to table the Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2017. As is well known, the Planning and Development Act is the principal piece of planning legislation in the ACT. The act sets out, among other things, how land can be used, how environmental matters are managed and how development proposals are assessed.

The bill makes amendments to the Planning and Development Act to provide a planning assessment framework for the storage of dangerous substances as recommended by the review of the 2011 Mitchell chemical fire. The bill also makes amendments to permit a proponent of a development on contaminated land to apply for an environmental significance opinion from the planning and land authority. If the authority provides an environmental significance opinion to the effect that the proposal will not have an adverse environmental impact, the proposal is removed from the impact track. The third major amendment made by the bill is to require that all draft variations to the Territory Plan be referred to the relevant Assembly committee, and for the committee to decide within 15 working days whether it will inquire into the variation.

First of all, I would like to talk about the changes regarding the storage of dangerous substances. I am sure that everyone recalls the Mitchell chemical fire that occurred back in 2011. The government undertook an investigation after that fire, and one set of amendments made by this bill is based on the recommendations of the report on the fire.

At the moment, the storage of dangerous substances may commence on a site without the need for a planning assessment. For example, a warehouse may transition from storing soft drink to storing hazardous materials or goods without consideration of the site's suitability in relation to its surroundings or notification to the planning and land authority. This is because current planning approval only applies to physical on-site works or changes to a lease, such as the actual construction of a warehouse or the addition of a new use to a lease.

There are over 800 leases in industrial zones of the ACT that permit warehousing and storage. There are also leases in other zones, such as commercial zones, that allow these uses. There is potential for the storage of dangerous substances to commence at any of these sites without requiring planning approval. Some of the industrial sites are within 100 metres of residential areas and community uses, such as childcare centres.

For these reasons, it is the ACT government's view that the storage of dangerous substances in the territory needs to be more proactively and appropriately regulated from a planning perspective to prevent injury and possibly even loss of life, and that is what this bill does.

The primary policy outcome the government had in mind was to ensure that the planning process was activated only when the amount of dangerous substances was sufficient to require planning approval. We did not want to regulate, for instance, pool shops that store pool chemicals and those sorts of places. We therefore looked to the territory's dangerous substance legislation, the act and the regulation. This legislation gave us a starting point or threshold that we could use in the planning scheme. The dangerous substance legislation provides for a hierarchy of substances which require certain levels of regulation depending on the level of danger present. We have used this hierarchy to set a threshold for when the planning assessment process kicks in.

I would now like to go into some detail about the proposed amendments. The bill amends schedule 4 of the Planning and Development Act using the threshold of "registrable premises" provided in section 208 of the dangerous substances regulation of 2004 to require a development application in the impact track for the storage of dangerous substances unless the planning and land authority produces an environmental significance opinion indicating that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact. The authority will need to consult with prescribed agencies when doing an opinion, and the opinion is a notifiable instrument.

Section 208 of the dangerous substances regulation requires premises that store the placard amount of dangerous substances to be "registrable premises". Schedule 1 of the regulation sets out what is a placard amount of a dangerous substance.

The amendments mean that a development approval will be required to store a quantity of dangerous substances that would require the land to be a registrable premise under the dangerous substances regulation. This will apply even if such storage is already an authorised use under the lease. The development application will be in the impact track and an environmental impact statement will be required unless the authority produces an environmental significance opinion indicating that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact.

As the placard amount is considered to be the appropriate level at which premises need to be registered under the dangerous substances legislation, this is considered the appropriate threshold for planning matters to be engaged. Storage of dangerous substances below the threshold provided by section 208 of the dangerous substances legislation and regulation will be dealt with under the existing planning scheme. For example, a vet storing chemicals for the business would be covered by a DA to use the premises as a veterinary surgery.

In terms of transitional arrangements, those people already storing hazardous materials above the threshold in accordance with the Dangerous Substances Act who are on the placard quantity register will not be captured by the new provisions. This is because it is considered that these storage sites are appropriately regulated as they are

known sites registered under the act. This also removes any issues with retrospectivity of the new measures.

However, those who are storing certain quantities of dangerous substances and have not registered the premises by the time the amendments commence will be required to lodge a DA to continue storing the substances. The bill also requires a DA to be lodged if a lessee wants to begin storing a quantity of dangerous substances that would require the land to be a registrable premise even if such storage is already an authorised use under the lease. Regulation in these circumstances is considered fair and appropriate because these storage sites are not presently regulated under the Dangerous Substances Act.

The government is of the view that the bill is considered and reasonable and is a way of monitoring, from a planning perspective, the storage of certain quantities of dangerous substances to ensure the safety of the community. Those parts of the bill that regulate and relate to the dangerous substances will be commenced by notice so as to provide the government with the opportunity to ensure that industry and the community are well aware of the new provisions and their obligations before the provisions commence.

I would now like to turn to the other amendments made by the bill. There are two other sets of amendments made to the Planning and Development Act by the bill. The first relates to permitting a proponent to apply for an environmental significance opinion for a development on contaminated land. The second relates to the referral of draft Territory Plan variations to the relevant committee of the Legislative Assembly by the minister.

I would like to talk about the amendments relating to contaminated land first of all. Section 21A of the Environment Protection Act 1997 establishes the register of contaminated sites. Section 123 of the Planning and Development Act provides that the impact track applies to a development proposal if it is a kind mentioned in schedule 4. Item 7, part 4.3 of schedule 4 of the Planning and Development Act lists “proposal involving land on the register of contaminated sites under the Environment Protection Act”. Therefore, any development proposal on land on the contaminated sites register, regardless of the proposal’s potential impact or whether it engages the contaminated land, must be assessed in the impact track and an environmental impact statement prepared, unless an environmental impact statement exemption applies.

An environmental impact statement is the highest level of impact assessment under the Planning and Development Act and it has become apparent that the regulatory burden associated with preparing an environmental impact statement may not always be appropriate for the relatively minor issues that can arise from consideration of a development proposal on a contaminated site. For example, a development proposal to erect a sign on a block containing contaminated land is automatically placed into the impact track by operation of the schedule 4 trigger and requires an environmental impact statement to be prepared. A sign is usually a very minor development and may not even impact on that part of the site which contains the contamination, and requiring an environmental impact statement in these circumstances may be an unnecessary regulatory burden.

The bill provides for a proposal involving contaminated land to be taken out of the impact track if the planning and land authority provides an environmental significance opinion that the proposal is not likely to have an adverse environmental impact. If the environmental significance opinion is provided, the development will be assessed in the merit track or may even be exempt development, if the criteria are met. This process is the same as applies in other impact track matters.

This is a red tape reduction measure. An environmental significance opinion is a less onerous and quicker process than preparing an environmental impact statement but it is considered a process that provides for proper and adequate oversight of the environmental impacts of a proposed development on contaminated land. The authority will be required to consult a number of entities in preparing the environmental significance opinion, including the environment protection authority.

It is important to note that development proposals on contaminated sites could still require assessment in the impact track if they trigger any of the other items in schedule 4 of the act. For example, a development proposal might require an environmental impact statement if it was likely to result in significant impacts on protected matters, such as a matter of national environmental significance. Likewise, if a particular recycling facility was proposed, it might also be captured by one of the waste management triggers in schedule 4 and require an environmental impact statement.

It is the government's view that the bill provides a more appropriate process for the assessment of development proposals on contaminated sites. It is also an example of the government keeping a careful eye on how the planning processes are working out in the real world and making adjustments to the legislation as and when required to reduce red tape.

I would now like to talk about the amendments proposed by the bill relating to the referral by the minister of draft Territory Plan variations to the relevant committee of the Legislative Assembly. At present, after public consultation but before a draft variation to the Territory Plan becomes a Territory Plan variation, section 73 of the Planning and Development Act provides discretion to the minister to refer a draft variation to the appropriate Legislative Assembly committee. If the minister refers a draft variation to the committee, the minister may not take action in relation to the draft variation until the committee reports on the draft variation or six months has passed since the draft variation was referred to the committee.

In accordance with the parliamentary agreement for the Ninth Legislative Assembly, the bill replaces the minister's discretion to refer a draft variation to the committee with a requirement that the minister must refer the draft variation to the appropriate committee within five working days after the day the public availability notice for the variation is notified. If the committee does not notify the minister that it will be reporting on the draft variation within 15 working days, the minister may go ahead with his powers under section 76 of the Planning and Development Act and approve the draft variation or refer it back to the planning and land authority. If the committee notifies the minister that it will be reporting on the draft variation within the required

time period, the minister will not be permitted to take action in relation to the draft variation until either the committee reports on the variation or six months has passed since the referral of the draft variation to the committee, whichever is earlier, as is currently the case under the Planning and Development Act.

The obligation to refer draft variations to the committee will not apply to special variations or to technical variations under part 5.4 of the Planning and Development Act, as these amendments are minor in nature.

This is only a small bill, but it is an important one. It improves the safety of the community by introducing new planning requirements for the storage of dangerous substances if the quantities are sufficient to be a potential hazard to the community and the environment. The amendments relating to the contaminated land reduce red tape without compromising the scrutiny of environmental impacts of a proposal involving contaminated land or a reduction in public safety. The compulsory referral by the minister of draft Territory Plan variations to the relevant committee of the Assembly honours a government agreement. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Casino (Electronic Gaming) 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) (10.57): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Casino (Electronic Gaming) Bill 2017 into the Assembly today. This bill addresses matters that fall within my responsibilities as Attorney-General for racing and gaming policy. The government, through the Chief Minister, is currently considering an unsolicited proposal by Aquis Entertainment to redevelop Casino Canberra. Negotiations on that proposal are ongoing but I want to be clear that today's bill is not based on the outcome of any specific redevelopment proposal.

This bill provides a robust legislative framework, including specific harm minimisation measures, for an increased electronic gaming offering in any proposal for casino redevelopment, whether as part of the existing proposal or a future one. Electronic gaming products include gaming machines and fully automated table games, or FATGs.

The bill provides for an upper limit of 200 gaming machines and 60 FATG terminals. Just like the clubs, the casino licensee will have to undertake a social impact

assessment to determine how many gaming machines and FATGs may actually be operated in the casino. The SIA will need to be made available for public consultation for eight weeks before the commission determines the maximum number of gaming machines and FATG terminals on the casino's authorisation certificates.

Once the casino has its authorisation certificates, it can commence buying authorisations from clubs and hotels. The bill provides that the casino licensee must acquire at least 50 per cent of its authorisations from small and medium clubs and club groups, or hotels. This is in line with this government's recognition of the economic and social contribution of our local community clubs, also demonstrated in recently announced assistance measures, including the gaming machine tax rebate and the community club grant.

Importantly, any authorisations the casino buys will be restricted and there will be no gaming machines or FATG terminals in the casino until redevelopment and harm minimisation requirements have been met. Specifically, the authorisations will not be operational until the Planning and Land Authority has certified that the casino has completed prescribed stages of the redevelopment of the casino and casino precinct. In addition, the Gambling and Racing Commission must be satisfied about the gaming area, gaming rules and control procedures, and that sufficient harm minimisation measures are in place.

This government has committed to reducing the maximum number of gaming machine authorisations in the territory to 4,000 by 2020. The bill provides that any authorisations for electronic gaming products at the casino will be counted as part of the 4,000. For this reason the definition of the maximum number of authorisations will be moved out of the Gaming Machine Act 2004 and into the Gambling and Racing Control Act 1999, the overarching legislation for regulating gaming in the ACT.

This bill will provide access to the gaming machine trading scheme for the casino licensee and will require all authorisations for gaming machines or FATGs to be acquired through the scheme with one in every three authorisations acquired being forfeited. This means that the casino would need to acquire 390 authorisations, and forfeit 130 of these, if the casino is approved to operate the maximum possible 200 gaming machines and 60 FATG terminals. Depending on timing, this forfeiture may assist in reaching the maximum 4,000 authorisations.

The bill will reassure the Canberra community that strong harm minimisation measures will be in place for electronic gaming at the casino. The bill provides that at a minimum the following harm minimisation measures apply: casino gaming machines and FATG terminals must be able to be connected to a centralised monitoring system; the maximum bet limit amount for casino gaming machines is limited to \$5 or a lower amount set by regulation; and casino gaming machines require mandatory pre-commitment to a net loss limit, the amount a player is prepared to lose in a given playing session, with players also being able to set a time limit.

On the maximum bet limit for gaming machines, I want to emphasise that \$5 is a starting point. The reason why this bill allows for lower amounts to be set by

regulation is that I will be undertaking a consultation process. I will be seeking views from the whole community through the your say website beginning today. I will also convene a panel of experts to advise on what the limit should be. Five dollars is only a starting point and this government will be open to lower amounts based on consultation and expert evidence.

Some may say that if we are to have pre-commitment, it should be voluntary. But the problem with that, as an Australian evaluation by Professor Paul Delfabbro in 2012 found, is that many patrons do not see pre-commitment as relevant to them as they do not have a gambling problem in their opinion. But this government is not just focusing its harm minimisation efforts on those who already have a problem with gambling. We are seeking to reduce gambling harm for everyone who interacts with gaming machines.

It will be mandatory for players to set a net loss limit but we have not set a specified limit as to what that will be. The question of whether the system sets a default limit is one that will be considered further by the government as our broader harm minimisation work continues. Mandatory pre-commitment does have human rights and privacy implications. It will be necessary for casino patrons to identify themselves and this information will be stored as part of the pre-commitment system.

The bill includes provisions to ensure that pre-commitment information can only be used or disclosed in specific circumstances and it is an offence to otherwise use or disclose this information. These issues are addressed in the human rights analysis in the explanatory statement for the bill.

I will mention here briefly, however, that engaging with gaming machines is a voluntary activity. There is no compulsion to provide identifying information for inclusion in the pre-commitment system unless a person wishes to play gaming machines at the casino.

While the bill provides the framework for the casino licensee to begin acquiring authorisations, it also provides that the casino bears the risk of doing so. Where a casino redevelopment does not proceed or is not completed for a reason within the control of the casino, the restricted authorisations held by the casino will be forfeited to the territory without compensation. Where the redevelopment does not proceed, despite the best endeavours of the casino licensee, there will be a limited period where the authorisations can be sold back to class C licensees before forfeiture applies.

There are a number of administrative, operational and technical matters that will need to be addressed before any approved redevelopment proposal can be progressed but they are outside the scope of this bill and they will be addressed through future provisions. These include taxation provisions, specific rules and control procedures for operating gaming machines, approval processes and certification and technical standards for gaming machines and FATG terminals, the centralised monitoring system and the pre-commitment system.

This bill sets the legislative framework for electronic gaming products at the casino. Importantly, the protections in this bill mean that we are not going to see gaming

machines operating in the current casino. That will occur only in the context of an approved redevelopment proposal and where key harm minimisation requirements are met.

These requirements include mandatory pre-commitment and a maximum bet limit of \$5 or less for gaming machines. In addition, both casino gaming machines and FATG terminals must be connected to a centralised monitoring system. The bill sends a strong message about the community's expectations that those who would benefit from new or expanded gambling products must take significant steps to minimise gambling harm. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Crimes (Food or Drink Spiking) 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) (11.08):

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I present the Crimes (Food or Drink Spiking) Amendment Bill. This government has been hard at work promoting the development of a diverse, fun night-time economy in Canberra. Canberrans have a right to be safe during a night out. Ensuring that our night economy is safe is key to promoting new business and encouraging people to enjoy all that Canberra has to offer. That is why this government delivered new safety measures in our reforms to the Liquor Act. One of those measures was a clearer and more explicit power to require CCTV cameras to be installed at pubs and clubs. The government also funded the CBR NightCrew program, which provides water and roving safety patrols in Civic to help keep Canberrans safe at night.

In the 2017-18 budget, we provided funding for six additional members of the ACT Policing's regional targeting team. The regional targeting team patrols all areas of Canberra focusing on the central business district and entertainment precincts. The additional officers will increase ACT Policing's presence in these entertainment precincts as well as at major sporting, cultural and music events. One of the most serious crimes that people may encounter in this environment is drink spiking.

Today's bill will strengthen the legislation that criminalises drink spiking. It sends a clear message to the community that this behaviour will not be tolerated and it gives ACT Policing and our prosecutors better tools to hold offenders accountable for this crime. This bill is part of the government's comprehensive efforts to make Canberra safer through support programs, more police and stronger legislation.



Drink spiking is a serious threat to people who are out for a night in Canberra. Statistics on this crime are difficult to gather because victims often do not realise it has occurred. When it does occur, it often seriously impairs the victim's memory. National research in 2004 conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology looked at police reports, compared those numbers with self-reported incidents, and estimated that there were up to 4,000 incidents of drink spiking in Australia in that year.

The study found that between two-thirds and three-quarters of incidents occurred at licensed premises, one-third of those incidents were linked to a sexual assault and four out of five victims of drink spiking were female. There is likely a high level of underreporting, and the number of incidents that get reported fluctuates with public awareness.

There are some existing laws to prosecute drink spiking, and there has been some recent media attention to criminal prosecutions. This bill will introduce two new offences to strengthen our existing legislation. The new provisions will help achieve this by introducing a new definition of what it means to harm someone that better describes the behaviour involved in these cases; ensuring that the type of substance used, whether it is alcohol or any other drug, presents no barrier to prosecuting a serious crime; and ensuring that an appropriate sentence is available to cover the full range of circumstances that this crime can involve.

One of the challenges in criminalising drink spiking is that the behaviour itself can come in an extremely broad range of circumstances. In many cases drink spiking is part of an attempted sexual assault. It could also occur in less serious cases, for example, what friends might mistakenly believe is a prank between each other. Our legislation needs to capture that range and provide for sentences that are appropriate to the particular case.

Currently, a number of different provisions are used to prosecute drink spiking. The Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act, for example, criminalises administering medications without authorisation. The punishment for that crime is up to one year imprisonment. The Crimes Act makes it an offence to administer a poison or other injurious substance with the intent to injure another person. The penalty for that crime is up to five years imprisonment. If the substance was likely to endanger a person's life, the penalty is up to 10 years imprisonment. Because these statutes each target a slightly different behaviour, determining which one applies in a particular drink-spiking incident can be highly technical and it can lead to unintended consequences.

The new legislation in this bill creates a more comprehensive statute that broadly criminalises giving people a substance with the intent to cause harm. Harm has been defined broadly. It is non-exhaustive and will be assessed on a reasonable person standard. It will include an impairment of the senses or an impairment of the person's ability to understand what is going on.

What this new legislation means is that any drink spiking involving alcohol or any other substance, with the intent to cause harm, will be criminal. The maximum

punishment will be up to five years imprisonment, with the sentence to be determined by judges depending on the circumstances. The new provisions have been drafted so that there are fewer legal technicalities to be worked through in these cases. These new provisions will allow police, prosecutors and the courts to focus more on the facts of alleged drink spiking cases and less on legal technicalities about which statute should be applied.

This bill has been subjected to rigorous consultation and analysis. My directorate developed a consultation paper and circulated it to legal experts and to organisations that work with victims of crime. The Director of Public Prosecutions, the Victims of Crime Commissioner, the ACT Law Society and the ACT Human Rights Commission each provided submissions to help craft the provisions in this bill.

This government is working hard to ensure that Canberrans are safe. We recognise that our efforts to promote a diverse night-time economy need to be underpinned by effective safety measures. Earlier this year, we worked with businesses to deliver new laws that made our liquor licensing scheme safer and more business-friendly at the same time. We delivered significant resources in the budget to support that change, with six additional police on the beat to patrol our night precincts.

The new legislation in this bill will specifically target a real and serious safety risk to people enjoying a night out in Canberra. Drink spiking is a crime that this community will not tolerate. This bill will give the police and prosecutors who deal with this crime a better way to hold offenders to account. This legislation is part of a comprehensive approach to building a safer Canberra, through more resources for police, better regulation of our night economy and programs to help people stay safe. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Statute Law 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) (11.16): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

The Statute Law Amendment Bill 2017 makes revisions to ACT legislation under guidelines for the technical amendments program approved by the government. The program provides for amendments that are minor or technical and non-controversial. The program is implemented by presenting a statute law amendment bill such as this in each sitting of the Legislative Assembly and including further technical amendments in other amending legislation, where appropriate.

Statute law amendment bills serve the important purpose of improving the overall quality of the ACT statute book so that our laws are kept up to date and are easier to find, read and understand. A well-maintained statute book is a very practical measure to give effect to the principle that members of the community have a right to know the laws that affect them. Statute law amendment bills also provide an important and useful mode of continually modernising the statute book. It is important to maintain a minimum, consistent standard in presentation and cohesion of legislation coming from different sources at different times so that better access to, and understanding of, the law is achieved.

This Statute Law Amendment Bill deals with three kinds of matters. Schedule 1 provides for minor, non-controversial amendments proposed by a government agency that require approval from the Chief Minister. Schedule 2 contains amendments to the Legislation Act 2001 proposed by the Parliamentary Counsel to ensure that the overall structure of the statute book is cohesive and consistent and is developed to reflect best practice. Schedule 3 contains technical amendments proposed by the Parliamentary Counsel to correct minor typographical or clerical errors, improve language, omit redundant provisions, include explanatory notes or otherwise update or improve the form of legislation.

The bill contains a number of minor amendments with detailed explanatory notes and it is not useful for me to go through them now. However, I would like to take the opportunity to briefly mention a few matters. Schedule 1 of the bill amends the Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004. Section 5 of the act provides that the Head of Service must prepare a state of the service report about the operation of the public service during the reporting year. The act is amended to insert new section 9A in part 3 to provide that the Chief Minister is the responsible minister for a state of the service report.

The City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017, which I will refer to as the CRA act, is amended in schedule 1 to omit references to “Minister” in section 63 and to replace them with references to “Treasurer”. The amendments to section 63 will ensure transparency and consistency with the broader accountability framework established under the CRA act. It is consistent with the Treasurer’s responsibilities in relation to financial matters of the authority and the agency under sections 9 and 39 of the CRA act.

The Residential Tenancies Act 1997 is amended in relation to the installation of smoke alarms. The intention of section 11B when it was included in that act was to allow lessors to install a hard-wired or a battery-operated smoke alarm that meets the relevant Australian standard for smoke alarms. The way this legislation referred to the building code, however, created uncertainty. It could be read to require hard-wired alarms be installed by lessors, which was never the intention behind the legislation. This bill resolves that uncertainty. There is no policy change on smoke alarms as a result of these changes. The legislative machinery that requires them will be easier to understand and clearer as a result of this bill.

Schedule 2 contains minor, non-controversial structural amendments of the Legislation Act initiated by the Parliamentary Counsel’s Office. Structural issues are

particularly concerned with making the statute book more coherent and concise and therefore more accessible. An example of this is the amendment to a reference to “by-law” in the definition of “subordinate law” in section 8 of the Legislation Act.

In the ACT, regulations are the most common type of subordinate law and generally refer to laws made by the executive that set out the detail of a legislative scheme. By-laws typically operate in local governments outside the ACT. In the ACT, no by-laws have been made since self-government. This change will avoid confusion about whether by-laws exist in the territory.

Schedule 3 includes amendments of acts and regulations that have been reviewed as part of an ongoing program of updating and improving the language and the form of legislation. These amendments are explained in the explanatory notes. They include the correction of minor errors, improving syntax and omitting redundant provisions.

Finally, in addition to the explanatory notes in the bill, the Parliamentary Counsel is available to provide any further explanation or information that any members would like about any of the amendments that have been made by the bill. The bill, while minor and technical in nature, is another important building block in the development of a modern and accessible ACT statute book that is at the forefront in Australia.

I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture Bill) 2017**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**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) (11.24): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture) Bill 2017. The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment requires two levels of monitoring oversight: the UN subcommittee and a national preventative mechanism, or NPM.

This bill provides a clear and flexible legal framework for the ACT to meet its obligations for the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture to visit under OPCAT once it is ratified. Recent events across Australia have emphasised the human, financial and other costs of mistreatment in detention. On 9 February this year the

Australian government announced its intention to ratify the optional protocol to the convention against torture by December 2017.

The ACT government welcomes the commonwealth's announcement that it intends to ratify the optional protocol and has begun engaging with other jurisdictions to prepare for its implementation. OPCAT, as it is known, establishes a monitoring system to ensure that all governments are observing their obligations under the United Nations convention against torture and are taking effective legislative, administrative and judicial measures to prevent acts of torture in their territories.

In pursuit of this objective, OPCAT mandates regular visits by both independent international and domestic bodies to places where people are deprived of their liberty. In the ACT, these places include the Alexander Maconochie Centre, juvenile detention, secure psychiatric units, court cells and prison transport. The purpose of the visits is to make recommendations that strengthen safeguards against torture or other mistreatment in detention environments.

OPCAT recognises that the prohibition on torture and other mistreatment is a fundamental right that must not be limited. This is especially true in places where people are involuntarily deprived of their liberty and so may be more vulnerable to abuse. Once it is ratified, OPCAT will immediately require the ACT to grant the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture unrestricted access to any place of detention in the territory and any relevant information the subcommittee requests to fulfil its mandate.

As an expert inspection body, the subcommittee draws on diverse cultural insights and professional experience to inform its recommendations. I anticipate such insights about global best practice may offer improvements to ACT safeguards against mistreatment.

The bill I am presenting today supports subcommittee visits to places of detention within the ACT. It does this by creating a flexible system where responsible ministers will be empowered to make arrangements to accommodate particular subcommittee visits to places of detention within their ministerial portfolio. Such arrangements will clearly authorise ACT officials to satisfy the territory's obligations under OPCAT for these visits, including to allow the subcommittee unrestricted access to places of detention and relevant information, and to conduct private interviews with detainees.

The bill also provides privileges and immunities for officials that provide information or access to subcommittee members acting in accordance with their mandate. This is not the first time that a bill of this kind has been introduced in this Assembly. The ACT previously introduced national model legislation in March 2013 to support visits of the UN subcommittee to ACT places of detention. Because ratification was not progressed, the legislation was not debated and the bill lapsed.

The bill largely mirrors that previous bill but with some important minor changes to better preserve detainees' rights to privacy. I am advised that UN subcommittee visits will not involve significant costs for the territory. The subcommittee's accommodation, insurance and transport costs are borne by the United Nations, and

the commonwealth has agreed to coordinate and accompany visits. Despite this, where the subcommittee elects to visit an ACT place of detention, there may be some small costs in arranging access to facilities and relevant information. Responding to the subcommittee's recommendations may also involve some work by ACT public service officials. However I am confident that these costs will not be a significant impost on government.

As for timing, the subcommittee's usual practice is to visit a country every five to 10 years for a period of approximately two weeks. Given the international significance of Australia's ratifying OPCAT, I think it would be reasonable to expect a subcommittee visit fairly soon after ratification, likely within the first 12 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate this government's support for ratification of this important treaty. The ACT's support for OPCAT ratification speaks to our proud history of legislating to protect the human rights of ACT citizens, including our most vulnerable. Ratification of OPCAT does not just reflect a further commitment to the prevention of all forms of torture and other forms of mistreatment, it allows scope for international perspectives to inform the continuous improvement of oversight of ACT places of detention.

I look forward to working with the commonwealth government further in the coming months on other aspects of OPCAT, particularly the national preventative mechanism, or NPM, which is not dealt with by this legislation. The NPM will be a domestic network of Australian oversight bodies responsible for inspecting places of detention regularly and engaging with places of detention to improve treatment and conditions. The commonwealth has announced that it will fund the Commonwealth Ombudsman to fulfil a coordination role for the NPM. I expect that each state and territory will be responsible for deciding on an NPM, or NPMs, in their own jurisdiction.

By introducing this bill now the ACT will be ready to accommodate the subcommittee's visit that chooses to inspect any of the territory's places of detention once OPCAT is ratified. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Assembly business—notice No 1**

### **Lapse of notice**

*Upon notice No 1, Assembly business, being called on and the member not being present, pursuant to standing order 127, it was withdrawn from the notice paper.*

## **Executive business—precedence**

*Ordered that executive business be called on.*

## **Refugees and asylum seekers—settlement**

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (11.31): I move:

That this Assembly:

- (1) acknowledges the ACT Government's ongoing commitment to upholding the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers, by reaffirming that:
  - (a) the ACT is the only Australian State or Territory to have declared itself a Refugee Welcome Zone, and is one of 148 Refugee Welcome Zones across Australia—including councils and shires from every State. As a Refugee Welcome Zone we welcome refugees in our community, act to uphold their human rights, demonstrate compassion for refugees, and work to enhance our cultural and religious diversity; and
  - (b) the ACT is proud to be part of the Safe Haven Enterprise Visa Scheme. This underlines the commitment of both the ACT Government and the broader community to welcoming and supporting refugees and asylum seekers;
- (2) notes that:
  - (a) the Manus Island detention facility and the Nauru Regional Processing Centre have been unequivocally shown, via multiple reports from reputable sources, including the United Nations, to be extremely unsafe and inappropriate places, yet over 2000 refugees—including 169 children—have been imprisoned for four years in these inhumane and degrading conditions;
  - (b) refugees in these processing centres have been subjected to violent attacks, sexual violence, inadequate medical care, and harassment of mothers, fathers and children as young as six;
  - (c) the United Nations has repeatedly criticised Australia's treatment of refugees and asylum seekers including by saying: "The consensus among medical experts is that conditions of detention and offshore processing do immense damage to physical and mental health" and "[T]he Rapporteur concludes that there is substance in the allegations ... that the Government of Australia, by failing to provide adequate detention conditions; end the practice of detention of children; and put a stop to the escalating violence and tension at the Regional Processing Centre, has violated the right of the asylum seekers, including children, to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment ...";
  - (d) on 8 August 2017, the UNHCR said it "is gravely concerned by deteriorating conditions at the Manus Island 'Regional Processing Centre', as authorities seek to relocate people to Lorengau or elsewhere in Papua New Guinea. The announcement of the closure of the Centre, in the absence of appropriate alternatives, is causing acute distress among refugees and asylum-seekers"; and
  - (e) it is past time for this damaging, cruel and inhumane policy to end;
- (3) writes to the Federal Government, requesting that it:
  - (a) immediately removes all refugees and asylum seekers from Manus Island and Nauru; and

- (b) brings all refugees and asylum seekers to Australia to be resettled in Australia's 148 Refugee Welcome Zones where they can build new lives within this network of compassionate and caring communities committed to upholding their rights; and
- (4) declares that the ACT Government is willing and ready to settle refugees and asylum seekers from Manus Island and Nauru in Canberra as part of a national program of resettlement.

The situation for refugees and asylum seekers on Manus Island has reached crisis point. For this reason I have brought this motion to the Legislative Assembly calling on the Australian government to immediately remove all refugees and asylum seekers from both Manus Island and Nauru and to resettle them here in Australia, including here in Canberra. The Greens believe that seeking asylum is a humanitarian issue that obliges us all to treat people seeking asylum with compassion and dignity. The Manus Island and Nauru offshore detention centres are unsafe and inappropriate places to house refugees, including children. This situation is cruel and it is unsustainable. It is well past time for the federal government's damaging and inhumane policy to end. We believe there is a better way to deal with this situation.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN's refugee agency, there are currently 773 people who remain on Manus Island. The centre is being progressively closed down and services are being withdrawn while refugees and asylum seekers are still inside it, removing the little essential support available to them. The scheduled closure of the regional processing centre on 31 October is occurring because last year the Papua New Guinean Supreme Court found that detention of refugees and asylum seekers on Manus island was illegal and in breach of the country's constitution. According to the UNHCR the closure is causing acute distress amongst the refugees and asylum seekers currently housed there. The men living in the centre were given only 159 days notice that the centre would close. They have been told that water, power and cleaning services will be cut imminently from the centre. The gym has been closed, generators removed, the canteen destocked and English classes and other activities discontinued while buildings are being progressively shut down and cordoned off.

Medical care and torture and trauma support will also cease by the end of October. Refugees have reported that the conditions inside the detention centre have become more oppressive, presumably a deliberate attempt to force the refugees to move. The men will be forced to move to the Australian-built East Lorengau refugee transit centre on the outskirts of the Manus province's main town of Lorengau. Some men have already moved to the transit centre but the facility was not built to house 700 people and is only insured to house fewer than 300. There is no medical centre and the local hospital is not equipped to deal with the complex medical needs of refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom have suffered and fled torture and persecution in their country of origin. The UNHCR has expressed significant concerns about refugees and asylum seekers going to the transit centre.

On 8 August the UNHCR said:

To prevent further tragedies ... the planned closure of the Manus Island "Regional Processing Centre" must only take place in the context of continued



critical services, and in line with Australia's ongoing responsibility for refugees and asylum-seekers it has transferred to Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Any further reduction of fundamental support for refugees and asylum-seekers transferred by Australia to Papua New Guinea would add to the serious health and security risks of people who have been in detention over the last four years.

Although it is hard to believe, life at the transit centre is likely to be even worse for the refugees and asylum seekers than what they have been experiencing. At the transit centre the men are given an allowance of about 100 kina per week, \$A40, hardly enough to pay for their daily needs including medication, phone calls to their families and clothing. The men live in constant fear for their lives and many are reluctant to even leave the transit centre. The men have been subject to numerous violent attacks and have had their phones and other personal belongings stolen. For safety they usually travel in pairs and avoid leaving the compound on Fridays and Saturdays, when they consider themselves to be more at risk because of alcohol consumption by locals. During one weekend earlier this month, there were five separate attacks on refugees and asylum seekers within 48 hours. Two men were attacked with machetes and knives and ended up in hospital. Another man, who almost had his arm severed, required emergency surgery in Port Moresby. Local police have clearly been unable to protect the men from these violent attacks.

The operators of the regional processing centre, the Australian and PNG governments, have made it very clear that there is no alternative but for the centre to close. The contract for the operation of the centre expires on 31 October and no new contract will be signed. The men have been given the option of moving to the transit centre, moving into the PNG community or returning to their country of origin. None of these options is viable. I have already outlined why moving to the transit centre or into the PNG community would be extremely difficult; and for many of the men a return to their country of origin is an even more dangerous and traumatic option. A refugee, according to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion" is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin.

Under international refugee law a refugee cannot be forcibly returned or coerced to return to their country of origin. This also extends to asylum seekers who are still awaiting a determination on their refugee status, of whom there are many on Manus Island. The UNHCR uses a process known as voluntary repatriation to enable refugees and asylum seekers to return voluntarily to their home country. This usually happens when there has been a change of circumstances in the home country which now makes it safe for an individual to return, for example, the ending of a war or a change of government. It is, however, clearly illegal for refugees to be coerced into returning to their home country. But this appears to be the aim of the Manus Island policy and offshore processing more generally.

The fact that most people on Manus Island and Nauru have chosen to remain there in such horrendous conditions rather than returning to their home country shows how unimaginably bad the situations in their home country must be, never mind the fact that some countries, such as Iran, do not even accept back any refugees or asylum

seekers; and never mind that some who do return are arrested as soon as they set foot on the soil of their homeland or, worse, simply disappear.

We heard last week that even those who could legally be sponsored by family members in other countries are being stopped by Australia from taking up that option. How can we, in all conscience, believe that this is the way to treat fellow human beings? They have committed no crime. They are not illegal. They are simply fleeing persecution. We have a responsibility to respond humanely. We have a responsibility to no longer sit back and ignore what is going on and being done, apparently in our name.

Perhaps one of the most tragic aspects of this whole policy is the impact that indefinite detention has on people's mental health. The research clearly demonstrates that keeping people in indefinite detention can cause irreparable damage. Refugees and asylum seekers are often already in a state of extreme vulnerability as a result of fleeing their country of origin for fear of persecution. Many suffer from undiagnosed mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Conditions on Manus Island and Nauru can only exacerbate such conditions.

It was with great sadness that I read about the death of Hamed Shamshiripour, a 31-year-old Iranian with a history of mental illness. He was found dead on 7 August near the refugee transit centre in East Lorengau. Initial reports suggest he may have taken his own life. Fellow refugees had asked that he be provided with urgent mental health support, yet claimed he was beaten by guards instead. He had previously been jailed several times after suffering severe mental episodes and behaving unpredictably or aggressively. His death has been aptly described as "entirely preventable" by Doctors for Refugees. This system is designed to break people, and it is doing just that.

The situation is particularly precarious for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex refugees and asylum seekers on Manus Island. Refugee advocates know of several gay men who live in fear of their lives. Homosexuality is illegal in Papua New Guinea, and simply being gay can result in a 14-year jail sentence. Many of these men have already been persecuted for their sexuality. They have likely fled their country of origin because similar laws with respect to homosexuality exist in their home country. The federal government has mandatorily detained gay asylum seekers on Manus Island and Nauru, and is now forcing them to consider unbearable options which will result in more persecution and possible death.

The ACT is, thankfully, the only Australian state or territory to have declared itself a refugee welcome zone. It is one of 148 refugee welcome zones across Australia, including councils and shires in every state. Today we are calling on the federal government to resettle refugees and asylum seekers in Australia's 148 refugee welcome zones, where they can build new lives among compassionate and caring communities that have committed to upholding their rights.

Canberra is proudly a progressive and caring community. We have a Human Rights Act and we have fought long and hard to legislate for marriage equality. What is happening on Manus Island and Nauru is not in line with our community standards and expectations. I know that many in our community are appalled by what is

happening there. As an elected representative, I feel it is my duty to represent the views of the community, and I know that Canberrans would welcome those who are currently on Manus Island and Nauru into our community.

I would like to end with a few words from the men on Manus Island. On 24 July the men wrote a letter to “the Australian government, the Labor Party, the Greens, the independents and all who exert some power in Australia.” I believe that this includes members here in this place. The letter says:

There is no safety and security for us in the town as we have experienced time and time again. We have been beaten up, robbed, humiliated and insulted by locals almost every single day ...

We are not going to fight and we are not going to cause any unrest. We are powerless and weak. Our souls and bodies are destroyed under your cruel regime of ... torture and trauma by your offshore detention.

You have the army, the police and all of the necessary manpower and equipment. Bring them here and we will line up so you can shoot us to end our misery if you want to force us out.

Please ... do not scapegoat and use the argument that PNG is responsible for us. You are Australians, and we are not cattle ...

You are funding this cruel inhumane system and your money is giving the orders here.

From all of us on Manus who [you] are using as ununiformed soldiers to so called protect your borders.

It is well beyond time that Australian policy changed when it comes to those in detention on Manus Island and Nauru. The federal government should immediately remove all refugees and asylum seekers from these detention centres. Bring them to Australia, where we know there are communities across this country willing to accept them. I commend this motion to the Assembly.

**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) (11.44): I thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing this motion to the Assembly today, a motion which, of course, ACT Labor will support. The ACT government stands firm on its commitment to uphold the human rights and dignity of people arriving here as refugees, humanitarian entrants and asylum seekers. We do this by recognising the plight they have endured and advocating for a swift and measured response to their settlement needs in partnership with service providers and stakeholders.

I am happy to get the chance to speak to the motion as a past Minister for Multicultural Affairs but saddened that there continues to be a need to do so. I also want to acknowledge the ongoing work in this area being led by Minister Rachel

Stephen-Smith. This government also stands firm on our commitment as a refugee welcome zone, the only Australian state or territory to do so along with 148 local governments across Australia. Through the process of becoming a refugee welcome zone the ACT has formally continued to support the settlement of people from refugee backgrounds. In signing the refugee welcome zone declaration, a declaration I made in 2015, the ACT government gave a commitment to provide a welcoming and safe space in our community, to uphold the human rights of peoples from refugee backgrounds, to demonstrate compassion and to enhance cultural and religious diversity in our city.

The declaration builds on existing ACT government programs and initiatives which demonstrate our support and raise further awareness about the issues affecting Canberrans from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. The ACT's refugee welcome zone status has served to encourage the development of a more coordinated approach to settlement services and to motivate local organisations and support groups to work together to improve settlement outcomes. Last year I was also very happy to oversee the ACT becoming a safe haven enterprise visa zone. This provided formal recognition and much greater security for those from asylum seeker backgrounds living and working in our community.

Another part of the ACT government's commitment to Canberrans from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds has been to address barriers to economic participation by facilitating pathways into training and the security of a job. The ACT government continues its efforts to engage more employers in supporting potential employees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, specifically refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds, through programs delivered directly by ACT government directorates, such as Skills Canberra, and through our community-based partners. Additionally, the ACT government has committed \$1.2 million as an election commitment to a job pathway program. The program will support job seekers becoming job ready and provide job placement assistance specifically for people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.

Since 1 July 2015 around 390 humanitarian entrants have settled in the ACT. Of these, 180 were from Syrian and Iraqi backgrounds, which includes around 100 people granted visas as part of the additional 12,000 humanitarian places made available by the Australian government in 2016-17. ACT service providers and community organisations including Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services, Red Cross, Multicultural Youth Services and Companion House also do great work to support these people, develop their life skills, improve their emotional wellbeing and allow them to find their way in Australian society.

I also want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of hundreds of volunteers who work with these services and in other multicultural and community organisations to create a welcoming environment in the often difficult landscape of navigating myriad new experiences and cultural differences. I have spoken often about my disagreement with the federal government's offshore detention policies. They have removed themselves from important ethical and legal judgements on this issue by saying that the end justifies the means, that the high human cost of indefinite detention is warranted in order to send a message of deterrence. Exactly what is it that they are deterring: some

desperate families and individuals seeking to access asylum, their international legal and human right?

ACT Labor does not support this policy. Our view is that the concerns outlined by the UNHCR earlier this month, combined with the record of events built up over years now, warrant the end to this policy. We support a return to a political consensus—which existed up until two decades ago—that the safe settlement of refugees in Australia is something that we are not only obliged to offer but from which we greatly benefit. The ACT government will continue to work where we can to advocate this position and provide a safe and welcoming space for peoples from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. I support the motion and thank Mr Rattenbury again for bringing it to the Assembly.

**MR COE** (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (11.50): The Canberra Liberals are proud of our commitment to freedom, fairness, justice and the rule of law. We seek to apply these principles in our work in the Assembly for the people of Canberra whom we represent. We are all elected to ensure that the territory's laws and the territory's government are working for the best interests of all Canberrans. On this side of the chamber we are very proud of our commitment to a multicultural Canberra, and we are very proud of the diversity that we bring to the Assembly. On this side we have someone born in Tonga, someone born in Korea, someone born in the UK, someone born in Hungary, and two second-generation Italians. By all accounts that is regarded as a pretty diverse team. And it is this experience that I think ensures that our team remains absolutely committed to the principle of multiculturalism here in the ACT. It is certainly something we strive to live out in the policies that we bring to this place.

Whilst the subject of today's motion is an extremely important issue—nobody would deny that—it is almost entirely a federal issue. The constitution is pretty clear about that. We on this side sympathise with the plight of those in detention, wherever they are. We also acknowledge that successive governments have had a policy in place which has led to where we are today, but those are federal governments. These are federal Liberal and federal Labor governments. Whilst we all have personal views about federal issues and, indeed, international issues, we in this place are not kept abreast of all the facts and details to make fully informed decisions on everything.

Whilst there might be sniggering in the gallery by people who claim to be tolerant, I think there is a fact here that we have a prime responsibility to the people of Canberra to ensure that we are doing all we can within the ACT. That is why I want to bring forward a few issues today where this territory, this jurisdiction, has got it wrong with regard to detention. Right now we have a prison not far from here that has accommodation for 29 women. It was planned for 29 women, but there have been 45 women crammed into that space. Women have been detained in the management unit and in the health unit for several days or weeks at a time.

In the past year and a half we have had two deaths at our very own prison here in Canberra. Two deaths. Under the territory's watch, two people have died. We have had a successful escape and we have had a couple of other escapes from the hospital in recent weeks. Just yesterday it was reported in the paper that two Aboriginal men were bashed and that the department did not notify their families until the next day. It

is for that reason that the CEO of Winnunga Nimmityjah wrote a letter to the editor in today's paper saying:

While disappointing, it was no surprise to read that the Minister for Corrections would not provide any detail of the circumstances of the bashing or of the response of AMC management to its failure to once again keep Aboriginal detainees safe.

The Minister's Office is reported as saying that there will be no further information provided because the matter is subject to a police investigation.

How convenient.

Ms Tongs goes on—

**Mr Gentleman:** A point of order, Madam Assistant Speaker, I am listening to Mr Coe's debate and reading through the motion and his comments seem to have little relevance to the motion. Standing orders call for debates to be relevant to the motion. I ask you to ask him to be relevant to the motion at hand.

**MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER** (Ms Lee): Minister Rattenbury's motion is about detention, and Mr Coe is addressing that as well. He has addressed comments to the international issues and is now going on to detention generally. There is no point of order.

**MR COE:** Thank you, Madam Assistant Speaker. Of course if we are going to discuss relevance, surely the issues I am discussing today are of prime relevance to the ACT Assembly.

Ms Tongs, the CEO of Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service, concluded her letter in today's paper saying:

Despite the damning report of Phillip Moss into the bashing of Steven Freeman, it seems nothing has changed.

These are people in detention under our watch here in the Assembly.

Further to that we have the outrageous situation in Bimberi, again, a detention facility under our watch here in the Assembly. Somehow we are in a situation in the ACT where we cannot keep a dozen children safe in our own facility. That has to be a cause for reflection. On 15 March it was reported in the *Canberra Times* that three young people attacked youth workers, with three youth workers being sent to hospital. We heard there was a brawl in Bimberi on 16 July this year that saw a youth worker who intervened being injured. We also heard Amnesty International calling for the minister to take responsibility. We also heard that staff have been gagged and are not able to speak out about this. All this is in our youth facility.

Of course, as I have already said, we sympathise with the plight of all those in detention. It is a serious issue. But we have to make sure we are also doing what we can a little bit closer to home. We have a responsibility to all those in detention here

in the ACT, a direct responsibility. Whilst the issues raised in this motion are very serious, the constitution makes it very clear that they are federal issues. But what is not a federal issue is the welfare of detainees in AMC and in Bimberi.

I very much hope that in the next executive members' business in the next sitting week in September Mr Rattenbury comes back with a motion about how he is going to address the serious issues at AMC and Bimberi, because I believe the people there and their families are being let down. These institutions unfortunately are not a place of rehabilitation as they currently stand; they risk simply being a school of crime.

With all the wealth we have in Canberra and all the compassion we have, we owe it to the detainees and their families to ensure that we have a positive intervention in these peoples' lives. But at present we risk the situation becoming even worse. The Canberra Liberals are proud of our commitment to justice and to fairness, and we will continue to litigate that for all Canberrans, because that is what we have been sent to the Assembly to do.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (12.00), in reply: The issue I have brought before the Assembly today is simply a human issue. Sadly in this country for well over the last decade it has become much more of a political issue as various political forces have sought to use refugees and asylum seekers for political advantage. We need to move past that; we need to have a policy focused on compassion and respect for human dignity and human decency.

I acknowledge the many Canberrans in the gallery who have shown great compassion and commitment to come here today to witness this debate and who have worked for an extended period to bring about a change in Australian federal policy. I acknowledge members of the Refugee Action Committee, particularly Michelle Dunne Breen and John Minns, who sought to encourage this motion to be brought before the Assembly and approached various members of the chamber to encourage support for this sort of statement being made by the ACT Assembly.

It is entirely appropriate that this Assembly canvasses these sorts of issues—

*Mr Hanson interjecting—*

**MR RATTENBURY:** It is entirely appropriate that this Assembly canvasses these sorts of issues because the ACT can play a part in this solution and members of our community are interested in these issues. This Assembly can canvass many issues at once, and this is the time and the place to canvass this one. There are times and places to canvass the other issues Mr Coe has raised today, and he has raised some important points. I think he has misrepresented some of those points, as he and his colleagues continue to do. He has today insinuated, as Mrs Jones has done on repeated occasions—

*Mr Hanson interjecting—*

**MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, that is multiple times you have interjected now. Please.

**MR RATTENBURY:** I make it perfectly clear that came under female accommodation pressure at the AMC, but Mrs Jones continues to suggest—and Mr Coe has picked up her baton today and run with it—that there are 45 women in a space designed for 29. That is simply not true. The AMC management responded to that pressure by opening additional areas for female accommodation. My colleagues are right to be concerned about these issues; they are issues I take very seriously and spend a lot of time working on. But let's have a little bit of honesty and a little bit of integrity in how we approach these issues. Members of the opposition continue to try to imply that people are sleeping on floors or in corridors. That is simply not the case; we have the space for all of those detainees at the AMC.

Yes, we have a job to do. It is a challenge as to why so many women are suddenly coming into custody. We have real problems with the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in our corrections system. But this is a problem that we face across the country and it is a problem that we have faced for decades. That is why the ACT government is putting resources into justice reinvestment strategies, like the Yarrabi Bamirr program that we are running in partnership with the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal health centre: to avoid people coming into custody. These things have been cultural problems for decades and we are striving to work on them.

I do not come into this place claiming we have got it right either. There is more work to be done, and that is why we are actively working on implementing all of the recommendations from the Moss review, despite Ms Tongs's letter in the paper today. I think she was wrong about that, and I will have that conversation with her. Things are changing at the AMC. We continue to strive to do better for our people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and I am happy to have that discussion.

But today I thank Ms Berry and Labor Party members for their support for this motion. It is important that as a community we are able to canvass a range of issues of concern to Canberra citizens. It is well and truly time that we saw a change in policy by the Australian government when it comes to dealing with people in detention. Keeping them in places like Papua New Guinea is not acceptable. I have spent a bit of time in Papua New Guinea and I know the cultural homogeneity of Papua New Guinea and the fact that these refugees will not be welcome in those communities, yet here in Australia we have communities that are willing to welcome them. That is what we should be focused on: getting the right outcome here for people who are fleeing persecution and who have taken dangerous journeys because they believe they have no other option.

I commend this motion to the Assembly. I thank members of the Labor Party for their support, and I encourage all members of this place to continue to advocate for a better policy by the Australian government.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee Report 2**

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee) (12.06): I present the following paper:



Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee—Report 2—*Inquiry into the Employment of People with Disabilities*, dated 24 August 2017, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

I am proud to table the report of the inquiry into the employment of people with disabilities on behalf of the health, ageing and community services committee in the Assembly today. The committee received 19 submissions from a range of peak bodies, individuals with disabilities who have struggled to find and maintain employment and the ACT government.

The committee also held two public hearings and was privileged to hear from 10 groups who gave evidence relating to a range of matters, including the need for a clear definition of disability for employment matters, options in relation to employment pathways and ways to build inclusive workplaces. I would like to sincerely thank everybody who contributed to the inquiry.

The committee heard very clearly in the course of the inquiry that the foundation for improvement in employment rates of people with a disability is an inclusive workplace. The committee heard about programs that are working well and strategies that could be implemented to ensure that people with disabilities do not experience discrimination in employment matters. The committee also heard about the need for a clear definition of disability in this regard.

Acknowledging this, the report makes 32 recommendations, including that all staff in leadership and HR positions attend compulsory disability awareness training to enhance inclusion, as well as ensuring that diversity is a performance requirement of senior managers in the ACT public service. This works in partnership with other recommendations concerning the establishment of new disability employment targets to guide the ACT government's performance.

There is a role for all employers to improve inclusion in the workplace but the committee has focused its recommendations on the ACT public service. The committee has recommended that the ACT government should include a stand-alone disability employment strategy, disability action plans in each directorate, as well as disability employment champions and the establishment of a disability employee network.

The committee would also like the ACT government to continue its existing disability employment initiatives and look at new pathways, such as paid internships and the recruitment of people with a disability into dedicated positions in the ACT public service, including senior leadership roles. The committee has also recommended establishing a disability employment register to match people with a disability with board and committee positions.

At the heart of it is having high expectations of people with a disability, who, with the right adjustments and a flexible employer, can be just as productive as other employees, if not more productive.

To conclude, the committee understands that people with disabilities make fantastic employees, and we strongly encourage all organisations in the ACT to consider how they make employment opportunities accessible to all members of the Canberra community. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all members of the committee for their contributions to this report, and also our secretary, Kate Harkins, for her work in putting it together. I commend the report to the Assembly.

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (12.09): Very briefly, I wish to note this report. I was part of the committee. It is certainly an important issue, and I thank very much the range of people and organisations who came to talk to the committee about their issues, particularly those with a lived experience of disability. That is the issue that I will briefly talk about. The learning that I got from this was that we do not have very good, clear definitions of disability. I asked every witness a question about what the definition was and whether they personally felt that it applied to them. It was clear that we do not have consensus on the subject.

The ABS has a definition which in some ways is particularly unhelpful with respect to these sorts of issues. I will read it out. The ABS defines disability as:

... a limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities.

On that basis I would hazard a guess that there is more than one disabled person in this Assembly. Maybe not most, but many of us have some. After we went through this, I went back to my office and discussed it with my staff, and I am able now to say that I have a disabled member of staff. I never realised that I did, and the staff member does not identify as a person with a disability. I believe that 50 per cent of the people defined as disabled are in fact over 65, showing, as I was illustrating before, that disability and ageing are related in many cases.

Where this relates to disability employment is that I think it is very hard to talk about needs for someone who has a very minor issue. They might need a better chair with decent support or they might need to stand up every so often so that their back does not hurt, and travelling along the spectrum possibly to physical or mental disabilities.

One of the things that we need to do to advance the debate is to be clearer about what we are talking about. I am pleased that this was the first recommendation of the committee's report.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee**

### **Statement by chair**

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (12.12): Pursuant to standing order 246A I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Education, Employment

and Youth Affairs 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 30 June 2017—the standing committee considered a total of 14 appointments and reappointments to the following bodies: the ACT Teacher Quality Institute; the ACT Work Safety Commission; the governing board of the Canberra Institute of Technology; and the University of Canberra Council.

I present the following schedule of the statutory appointments considered by the committee during this period:

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—9<sup>th</sup> Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2017.

## **Executive business—precedence**

*Ordered that executive business be called on.*

### **Appropriation Bill 2017-2018**

[Cognate bill:

Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018

Cognate papers:

Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee report

Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee—government response]

Debate resumed from 23 August 2017.

### **Detail stage**

Schedule 1—Appropriations—Proposed expenditure.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—Part 1.15.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I remind members that in debating order of the day No 1, executive business they may also address their remarks to executive business order of the day No 2, and Assembly business orders of the day relating to the report of the Select Committee on Estimates 2017-2018 and the government response.

**MR RAMSAY** (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (12.14): I am pleased to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 and, in particular, the measures in the ACT budget to improve the crucial services available to our community's most vulnerable residents. Through these measures the ACT government is investing in greater access to justice, increased community safety and appropriate regulation of the racing and gaming industries.

The 2017-18 budget invests \$13.6 million for an accessible, transparent and timely legal system to ensure that all have access to the protections of the justice system.

Last year we announced the safer families initiative to respond to domestic and family violence. This year we are building on the progress already made by providing increased funding to support community legal centres. CLCs provide essential legal services for people facing family and domestic violence.

This budget gives \$2.48 million over four years to support our community legal centres. This funding will provide four years of funding to Canberra Community Law and the Women's Legal Centre and two years of funding to the Environmental Defenders Office. It will also provide four years of funding to Street Law, Canberra's only early intervention legal outreach service for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This marks the first time that any government has provided recurrent funding to Street Law, and it is a testament to the outstanding contribution that Street Law has made to our community in its seven years.

Of all Australian states and territories, the ACT is already one of the highest financial contributors to its legal assistance sector, contributing approximately 60 per cent of the government funding provided to Legal Aid ACT and ACT community legal centres in 2016-17. In 2017-18 we increased this margin through this budget initiative. The accessibility of our justice system is also improved by the funding of \$400,000 for scoping and design of a drug and alcohol court in collaboration with the justice, drug and alcohol support sectors.

The government has committed to establishing a drug and alcohol court and associated support programs for the ACT as part of a goal to reduce recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025. The effectiveness of drug and alcohol courts in achieving long-term behavioural change in offenders is supported by a substantial body of evidence.

A well-resourced Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is also a critical component of our justice system. In this budget the government will provide funding to increase the capacity of the office of the DPP to better support prosecutions in the territory. This funding will assist the office to keep pace with demand and respond to the needs of the court, police, other investigative agencies and the criminal justice sector more broadly.

This builds on previous investment in the Office of the DPP. In the 2016-17 ACT budget the DPP received funding of \$1.363 million over four years through the safer families funding package to strengthen criminal justice responses to alleged perpetrators of family violence. In the 2014-15 budget the government provided \$1.158 million over four years to establish a work safety prosecutions unit.

In addition to this funding, the government has agreed to undertake a review of the Office of the DPP's resources. This review will provide advice to government on a way forward in supporting the office and will be considered in the context of future budget processes.

In addition to our investment in the justice system, this budget supports the government's commitment to support a diverse and vibrant night economy. There are initiatives to cut unnecessary red tape, improve the vibrancy of Canberra's night-life

and keep people safe. To support these initiatives, the 2017-18 budget provides \$4.866 million over four years for extra police patrols to support safer night-life precincts in the city. The funding also covers a 2017-18 education campaign for the responsible consumption of alcohol. The additional police resources will provide greater coverage of the broader ACT, focusing on regional centres and entertainment precincts.

The government is also committed to developing a regulatory regime that supports this community's vibrant night-life while ensuring public safety. That is why the government brought forward legislation which the Assembly passed in April to improve our regulations around alcohol. The new laws include a statutory right for licensees to evict or refuse entry to people who are intoxicated, violent, quarrelsome or disorderly, and power for the Commissioner for Fair Trading to impose specific conditions, such as requiring venues to install CCTV.

In addition to having a robust, sensible regulatory scheme for alcohol, this government is focused on harm minimisation in regulating the gambling industry. As part of this we are committed to helping community clubs to diversify their revenue streams away from gaming revenue. In the 2017-18 budget there is \$0.2 million to support Canberra's small and medium clubs. This commitment will see the government deliver a 50 per cent gaming tax rebate to small to medium clubs and club groups, which are those clubs with gross gaming revenue below \$4 million a year.

In addition, small to medium clubs will be eligible to apply for the \$10,000 community club grant to assist them to diversify away from gaming machine revenue. Both of these measures will help support clubs to focus on community service and to reduce their reliance on gaming machines.

It is with great pleasure that I speak in support of these initiatives in the appropriation bill, which on all fronts support and progress the government's commitment to an accessible, transparent and timely justice system and increased community safety and participation for all. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (12.21): I speak today specifically about the budget's investment in family violence. The Greens are very pleased at the significant increased investment of \$21.4 million in 2016-17 in addressing domestic and family violence.

There are a number of initiatives in the safer family packages that have changed, and will continue to change, the way we respond to this issue in our community. I will talk about some here. By far, these initiatives are positive and welcome and I support them, but there are a few areas I would like to comment on.

It is a shame that the integrated case management and training in domestic violence for front-line workers has had to be postponed, but I very much trust that it will occur in this current year and those funds will not be reallocated.

While I acknowledge that there has been an injection of funding to front-line services, I note that women's refuges are not included. To me, this is a significant and

concerning oversight, particularly because we know that women and their children are, in Canberra, resorting to sleeping in their cars because emergency accommodation cannot be found. I cannot understand why dedicated and specialist women's accommodation services, designed to accommodate women and their children escaping violence, with decades of experience—experience of the services, not the women, I hope—are not receiving increased funding in line with the increased demand that they are dealing with.

The safer families grants program, which provides financial assistance to women fleeing violence, is a welcome initiative. I note that recently the new assistance beyond crisis facility, to be administered by the Care financial services groups, has been established in partnership with philanthropic groups such as the Snow Foundation and Capital Giving.

The therapeutic residential behaviour change program for men, room4change, is an innovative approach which I hope results in the reduction of violent behaviour by men. I would be very keen to see future evaluation of this innovative initiative.

I am also pleased to see the dedicated case analysis team in children and youth protection services and hope that this will bring forward specific expertise and specific responses for children living in families where there is violence. All too often the victim of violence is made responsible for ensuring the safety of children. I hope that this new case analysis team will not only inform training procedures and the development of new policies and procedures, but prioritise the safety of children by providing, or referring to, appropriate supports for the non-offending parent, to reduce the likelihood of the removal of children.

I am equally pleased to see that the trauma, understanding and sensitive teaching project will be expanded, because it is vital that the impacts of trauma and adversity on behaviour, mental health, wellbeing and school retention are considered in the school context.

The justice reinvestment trial will go some way to delivering a family-focused approach to reducing the over-representation of ATSI people in the justice system. I will be very interested to learn about how this has addressed family violence perpetrators as it progresses.

The increases in family violence victim liaison officers and in funding for legal aid are very welcome initiatives. I am particularly pleased to learn that an additional 100 victims have been supported in the first three quarters of 2016-17. Similarly, strengthening the criminal justice response through enabling the DPP to respond better to family violence matters is a welcome advance, as was the funding for interpreters in the court process. I note that not all of the funds for interpreter services were expended on this, while at the same time front-line services are struggling to pay for interpreter services to support victims of family violence. It would seem to me to be to be an appropriate diversion for some of those surplus funds to move from front-line services for the same translation purpose.

I welcome, and will be very interested in, the pilot being undertaken by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association and trust that, if it is successful, funds will be allocated in the next budget for its continued rollout.

I am pleased that the ACT government is committed to supporting its own employees who are experiencing family violence through leave provisions which I note the federal government has not agreed to. The family violence toolkit is a useful resource for employees and is a reminder that family violence can happen in any family context, even including the families of our public servants. The coordinator-general and safer families team was a welcome development in 2016-17. Promotion of new cross-directorate ways of working is necessary if we are to regard family violence and sexual assault as whole-of-government and community issues.

I welcome the additional resources for the Public Advocate's office to better protect children and young people and deliver enhanced monitoring of the provision of statutory services. This is much needed for them to be able to undertake their role effectively.

Whilst all these initiatives, including various legal reforms, are welcome and positive, I note that the additional funding of \$2.2 million in 2017-18 is to be allocated to progress the development of the family hub. I would like to emphasise that the family hub must focus on a better connected system, including with community and homelessness organisations, for it to be fully effective or meet the vision that was outlined in the various reports that instigated the \$21.4 million investment in this area in the previous budget.

I appreciate that there are a lot of initiatives in this area. Obviously, I cannot speak on them all, but I note, and support in this instance, the estimates committee call for a detailed breakdown of expenditure in the safer families package in terms of what funds are used for prevention and early intervention and crisis responses. I am pleased that this has been agreed to in principle in the government's response to the report. I am very pleased at this continuing expenditure.

**MS CODY** (Murrumbidgee) (12.29): I am very pleased to be speaking about the government's safer families package, which is supported with additional funding this year for the co-design of the family safety hub. This package takes concrete steps to address family violence and build support services across both government and community organisations.

The ACT government and the wider community continue to keep the horror of family violence in their line of sight. I am proud of how this measure will improve the lives of many in our community. By bolstering awareness of family violence and the capacity of local services, the ACT is bringing family violence, in all its forms, out of the shadows. The government recognises that death, trauma and serious injury caused by a loved one cause emotional, economic and social havoc. The death of each victim from family violence is a loss to our society. So long as it continues to linger, it undermines our position as caring, respectful and engaged people.

Family violence crosses socioeconomic and cultural boundaries and imposes an economic burden on the whole community. One-third of women have experienced violence by someone who is known to them. One in four Australian women have experienced emotional abuse by a partner from the age of 15. The national focus on recognising and responding to family violence has created an increased demand on support services across Australia, including in the ACT. This budget provides an unprecedented commitment to improve the lives of, and safety and support for, many in our community.

Through the territory-wide safer families levy, introduced in the 2016-17 budget, we are signalling that all Canberrans have a role to play in ending family violence. This is a community problem that has a significant impact on everyone and therefore requires community awareness and consultation to deliver meaningful change. Coming to just 58c a week for a Canberra household, the levy directly assists those in perilous circumstances and supports victims of family violence. It also makes every Canberran a stakeholder in the solution. We on this side will continue to reject calls to eliminate the funding method for this levy, which provides a sustainable revenue source to act on this national problem in our community.

I commend the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister and the Attorney-General for their leadership and foresight in this critical policy space. I am heartened by those budget measures which aim to build awareness amongst the general population and resilience amongst those experiencing family violence and amongst support and service providers in the ACT.

*Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.*

**Sitting suspended from 12.32 to 2.30 pm.**

## **Questions without notice**

### **Budget—pensioner concessions**

**MR COE:** My question is to the Treasurer. An elderly couple, Reg, who retired as a TAFE teacher 29 years ago and celebrated his 88th birthday yesterday, and his wife Naysin, who is 84 years old and a former Cambodian refugee, have been married for 17 years and live in a unit in Braddon. Reg and Naysin this week received the rates assessment for their unit. Last year their rates were \$959; this year their rates have skyrocketed by over 50 per cent to \$1,464. As a second hit, Reg and Naysin were previously eligible for an \$898 utilities concession. In an undated letter from the ACT Commissioner for Revenue—

**Ms Fitzharris:** A point of order, Madam Speaker. Again I remind members, through you, of standing order 117, that questions shall be brief.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, minister. As I indicated yesterday, I will allow the question, but over the break we may have a discussion with the Clerk and members around the construction of questions, on both sides.



**MR COE:** In an undated letter from the ACT Commissioner for Revenue, the constituent was advised that his concession would be reduced to \$604 per year, down \$300. In the letter it was explained that “this change will make assistance available to more Canberra households”. The letter went on to explain that some concessions had not previously been available to pensioners who rent. Treasurer, can you please explain to Canberrans such as Reg and Naysin, who are here today, why you are removing these concessions?

**MR BARR:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Yes, the government commissioned a review of all concessions in the territory. That looked at ensuring that concessions were being delivered to those in the greatest need. That review concluded that the energy concessions would be best delivered through a combined concession rather than the previous arrangements where there was a separate concession for water consumption and sewerage and a concession for electricity consumption. The water and sewerage concession went to property owners, thereby excluding all of those who did not have an income sufficient to be a property owner.

The conclusion of the concessions review was that it would be fairer to combine the two concessions, to deliver them by way of the concession for electricity usage, as, whether you were renting or a property owner, you would be utilising electricity. The result of this change in the concession program saw a greater concession offered to even lower income earners in the territory, who were previously missing out on receiving any concession in relation to their water and sewerage use.

**MR COE:** Treasurer, do you think it is fair for pensioners such as Reg and Naysin to have their rates increased by \$500 or 50 per cent this year alone?

**MR BARR:** The government has made changes to our territory’s taxation system in order to abolish and phase out a series of very bad taxes and make the transition towards the fairest, simplest and most effective way of raising revenue. So we have a change in the tax mix, not a change in the tax take.

The process ensures that everyone makes a contribution. Those who are eligible for concessions receive concessions. It is open to anyone who qualifies to defer their rates payments entirely to the sale of their property, not related to how long they may or may not live but to the sale of their property. That is an option that is available. Those opposite might seek to continue that line of argument but they know they are wrong and we know they are wrong.

**MS LE COUTEUR:** Minister, what modelling does the government do about the impact of rates in particular on different demographics such as older and low income Canberrans?

**MR BARR:** The modelling that was undertaken at an ACT level was contained within the tax review that was undertaken about six years ago. Modelling has been undertaken and commissioned by the Australian government over the past 40 years. That has outlined why the tax reform approach being undertaken by the

ACT government is the right approach. It has been advocated at a national level for about four decades now. The most recent comprehensive review of Australia's tax system was undertaken by Dr Ken Henry earlier this decade and made a series of recommendations.

The ACT then commissioned its own tax review that made a series of further recommendations. We have implemented those recommendations. There was a five-yearly review of that particular reform process, released in last year's budget, that has informed the next stage of tax reform.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—assaults**

**MRS JONES:** My question is to the Minister for Corrections. Minister, I refer to a report in the *Canberra Times* today which reveals that the mother of two Aboriginal brothers who were severely bashed in the Alexander Maconochie Centre was not told of their hospitalisation until a day later. Minister, why did it take so long for this mother to be notified?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I can confirm to the Assembly that the report in today's paper is accurate. It is normal procedure that the next of kin should be notified immediately. In this circumstance, they were not; they were notified the following day.

This is a failure to meet normal standards. I am bitterly disappointed by that because we have these standards in place, in particular in recognition of the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our corrections system, and being mindful of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which took place 25 years ago. These policies are shaped by that. In this circumstance, normal procedure was not followed. Staff have now been reminded of their responsibilities to ensure that these procedures are followed because of their importance.

Corrective Services takes these matters very seriously. Around two years ago, as a proactive measure, I had Corrective Services undertake an own-initiated review of our performance and compliance against recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. We take these things seriously. It has not worked on this occasion, but that does not undermine the fact that we are committed to doing the best possible job we can in this space.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, what have you done precisely to deal with this failure, this bitter disappointment of this mother and her two sons, and to address what might happen the next time such an event occurs?

**MR RATTENBURY:** As I indicated in my previous answer—which I trust Mrs Jones was listening to—staff have been reminded of their responsibilities. These are not optional guidelines; these are the rules we expect to be followed. These procedures are there for important and good reasons. The executive director of corrective services will continue to follow up on that as part of staff training.

**MR MILLIGAN:** Minister, how many times has the protocol on notifying the next of kin of an incident at the AMC been breached since you became the responsible minister?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I cannot think of any other circumstances where it has arisen; but I will reflect on that and double-check. If I am incorrect about that I will come back to the Assembly, but I cannot think of another occasion.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—Indigenous health care**

**MR MILLIGAN:** My question is to the Minister for Corrections. Minister, I refer to the letter in today's *Canberra Times* by the CEO of Winnunga, saying that they are still not involved in the prison. This is despite the recommendations of the Moss report that Winnunga be integrated into prison health care. Minister, when will the recommendations of the Moss report be implemented?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I am aware of the letter to the editor in today's paper. I disagreed with some elements of that letter, and I will have that conversation with Ms Tongs when the opportunity arises. I can inform the Assembly that Winnunga is involved in implementing the recommendations of the Moss review. There are nine recommendations in the Moss review. Each of them is in different phases of implementation. There has been solid progress on some of them; others have work to go.

The one that Mr Milligan is referring to is recommendation No 5, around Winnunga being involved in the delivery of health services inside the AMC. There has been a working group established on that. There has been a series of meetings to agree what the parameters for that will be. Some areas have been agreed. With that working group process between the government and Winnunga, there was an independent chair brought in to facilitate those conversations. There is now a set of agreed outcomes, and areas where there is not agreement. Now that work is focusing on the areas where there is not agreement.

It would be fair to tell the Assembly that this is not an easy case. At the moment we have justice health services providing health services for detainees. Winnunga is proposing to operate health services inside the AMC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, and they have quite a different model. As the government, we have a duty to make sure that that matches the standards this Assembly will hold us to. At the same time I am extremely keen for Winnunga to participate in the delivery of health services to help us improve the delivery for Indigenous detainees.

**MR MILLIGAN:** Minister, how many months will it be until Winnunga is fully integrated into the prison system?

**MR RATTENBURY:** That will depend on how the discussions go. I have had this conversation with both Winnunga and my directorate. I expect this to happen in a timely manner. That means that both sides are going to need to reflect on what is their bottom line, because if either side insists that they will not move on something we will never get an outcome.

We have a duty here, first and foremost, to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees. This means that both the ACT government and probably Winnunga are going to have to compromise. The government has certain responsibilities that it will be measured against. But I am also very keen to give a high degree of autonomy to Winnunga in that space to operate the model they have proposed because they are telling us that they can provide services that are more culturally appropriate.

I am very keen for that to happen inside the AMC. I think there is a real opportunity here to do something very important for the health of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, and I am determined to get that deal done.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, what will you do to rebuild the trust of the Indigenous community, Winnunga Nimmityjah and corrective services?

**MR RATTENBURY:** The way you build trust is through your actions, and we are following through on the Moss review recommendations. As I indicated earlier, some of them are already well underway; others have more work to be done. But through actions is how you convey the strong sense of conviction the government has.

#### **Floriade—local content**

**MS LE COUTEUR:** My question is to the Chief Minister and relates to this year's Floriade festival. Given that Floriade is one of Canberra's most recognisable tourist events and the celebration of our unique city in the spring, will the government commit to supporting and showcasing local performers by setting a minimum local content target for Floriade this year and every year?

**MR BARR:** Floriade has a number of different elements within it. The local content components—

*Mr Coe interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** The entertainment elements of the event take many different forms. Some are within the free daytime events; others relate to paid performers associated with the night-time or ticketed events. I can advise Ms Le Couteur that a new event for Floriade 2017 will be a twilight opening concert. That concert will feature the Canberra Symphony Orchestra performing with a David Bowie tribute band to do the songs of Bowie. We can all be heroes, Madam Speaker, by attending. Some of us will even be rebels. A rebel rebel might be found.

I can assure Ms Le Couteur that there is a considerable amount of local content. I do not think setting quotas is particularly useful, but I note that in the context of Floriade there has been a regular and consistent element in the event over many years where local schools and performers have had their own stage. In the context of the different elements of the event, every effort is made to support local performers, but it is also appropriate for an event of that scale and status to welcome those who come from outside our fair city to perform at the event.

**MS LE COUTEUR:** How did the government seek applications for the Floriade Fringe? In particular, how did the government consult with the arts sector on this event; how was it advertised; how many applications were received; and why did it not follow the standard tender process?

**MR BARR:** In relation to the Floriade Fringe, this is a new initiative of my government. I committed to trialling a fringe event for Floriade for 2017 as part of the 30th anniversary celebrations. Due to the tight time frames between the re-election of the government in November last year and the need to have a fringe event ready in the context of Floriade 2017, there was some compression of time frames.

There was a public call for a content director for the event. I understand that that process has concluded and there will be further announcements made in relation to the Floriade Fringe in due course.

**MS CHEYNE:** Chief Minister, how else will this year's Floriade festival appeal to a new generation of visitors as well as older generations?

**MR BARR:** Our research into Floriade has demonstrated that it has a broad appeal across a wide variety of different demographic groups. It would be fair to say that the NightFest component has a greater interest amongst a younger demographic whereas the daytime events are particularly popular with both a very young demographic and our seniors. The overall mix of events contained within the festival over the course of a month plus the fringe element aims to cater for the widest possible range of demographic interest and community interest. As well as maintaining the event's longstanding record and reputation as Australia's premier celebration of spring, it is, of course, the city's single biggest tourism event; although I might add that the Enlighten Festival is rapidly catching Floriade in terms of visitor attendance.

### **Domestic and family violence—government initiatives**

**MS CHEYNE:** My question is to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Minister, can you update the Assembly on how the new program, room4change, will support families impacted by or escaping family and domestic violence in the ACT?

**MS BERRY:** I thank Ms Cheyne for her question. Domestic and family violence continues to be a major driver of homelessness, with around 30 per cent of people who access homelessness services stating that this is the reason for seeking assistance.

In 2016-17 the ACT government announced funding for the innovative room4change pilot as part of the safer families package. A fundamental element of this pilot program is to provide support to assist women and children to stay in the family home where it is safe to do so. The ACT government has committed a total of \$2.7 million and the provision of nine properties over three years for the room4change program.

Men participate in the program for up to six months, including a 20-week behaviour change program. These men have the option to stay in room4change accommodation or reside within their own homes.

I can confirm that the service delivery for this innovative program commenced in April this year, with case management group work and support programs for male participants and their families. A residential component commenced in early May. Early feedback has been very positive.

These are early days for the program, and it stands alongside only a couple of programs like it. We are looking closely at it to monitor its future success.

**MS CHEYNE:** Minister, what are the difficulties and challenges for new models such as this one?

**MS BERRY:** Room4change is a unique program that builds on a similar project in Western Australia. Challenges are always present for new and innovative programs like this one but as much as there is caution, there is a strong desire to create real change in our community to make our community even safer. It is a first in the ACT because the pilot works not only with perpetrators but also with their families to provide holistic tailored support.

I should also say that in the first three months of the program it has already supported 21 men. Five of these men are being accommodated in the residential component and are participating in the 20-week behaviour program and six men who are not residing in house are participating in the 20-week program. Twelve families are receiving case management support.

Given that the nature of the program means that we are working closely with perpetrators, it can present difficulties and challenges. The DVCS reports that the approach has been positively received and is providing a great opportunity to understand the complexities of domestic violence in our community.

Although there have been some early difficulties with referrals, the DVCS has used this as an opportunity to refer men to more appropriate support services. Housing ACT is working in close partnership with DVCS to deliver the programs through a phased implementation approach. Room4change will continue to be phased in over the next year, before reaching full service capacity from 1 July 2018.

**MR PETTERSSON:** How will the model be evaluated and when will this occur?

**MS BERRY:** Reportable outcomes for room4change will be available once the first tranche of participants graduates from the program in September-October this year. The DVCS is also conducting an expression of interest process with subject matter experts to develop an evaluation framework for room4change.

The evaluation will focus on the effectiveness of room4change and therapeutic interventions in achieving behavioural change for perpetrators of domestic violence, and assisting women and children to stay at home. The evaluation will be an iterative process throughout the life of room4change and will be completed by June 2019.

It is important to acknowledge the skilled workers who are involved in this project. I am sure it has not been easy for them to navigate the way for a new program of this kind. I also want to wish the participants all the best as they tackle the challenges and new opportunities in seeking a new way forward.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—assaults**

**MRS KIKKERT:** My question is to the Minister for Corrections. I refer to a report in the *Canberra Times* today which reveals that two Indigenous inmates were bashed in the Alexander Maconochie Centre. Minister, was this incident captured by CCTV, and has that footage been provided to police?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Yes, there is extensive CCTV footage of the incident and it has been provided to ACT Policing, who are now using it, I imagine, as a basis for their investigations.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Minister, are there any parts of the AMC that are not covered by CCTV?

**MR RATTENBURY:** After the recommendations of the Moss review, which recommended improvements to the CCTV scheme in the AMC, there have been additional CCTV cameras installed. There is now extensive coverage right through the centre. In terms of Mrs Kikkert's question: what does she mean by the "AMC"? Does she mean all of the yards and the like? Perhaps we can have a discussion later. I would be happy to get you a definition of what is covered, and I can give you some further feedback.

**MRS JONES:** What steps are you taking as minister to ensure that there are not blind spots of CCTV or obstructions to cameras at the AMC?

**MR RATTENBURY:** As I indicated, following the recommendations of the Moss inquiry, the number of cameras inside the AMC has increased, I think in the order of around 20 additional cameras. I do not have the number to hand at the moment. There has been additional training for staff on the use of cameras, and a number of other measures have been put in place seeking to improve both the coverage and the operation of CCTV inside the centre.

### **Crime—anti-consorting laws**

**MR HANSON:** My question is to the minister of police. On 6 March this year, the Chief Police Officer said:

I think the key benefit of anti-consorting laws, noting that's not the only solution, is that it's a preventative tool.

She went on:

So what it means is people can't wear their colours and they can't congregate in groups, which allows them to undertake their planning and preparation and potentially criminal conduct.

It's about dismantling, disrupting and preventing rather than responding.

Minister, isn't it a better policy to prevent shootings and fire bombings rather than simply to respond to them?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** Yes, I agree with Mr Hanson: it is better to be preventative than responsive. That is why we are working with ACT police on new legislation and providing them with extra resources. As I have said, during this budget we have provided ACT Policing with additional resources to provide them with the tools that they need to operate in this space. They are doing that job. As I said, on the weekend, in regard to the drive-in with the Comancheros, ACT police did a fantastic job. They stayed with them all weekend, issued the appropriate infringements when needed and acted on the spot when they were needed at the Fyshwick event.

**MR HANSON:** Minister, is the Chief Police Officer wrong when she says that anti-consorting laws are an important tool to dismantle, disrupt and prevent OMCG crime?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** The CPO is referring to the operation of these particular laws in other jurisdictions. We have looked at how they could operate in the ACT. We have concerns about the human rights component of them. Of course, we are not alone. In fact, in New South Wales the Ombudsman is looking at these particular laws, has some concerns, and has written to the authorities on those concerns. We will be looking at those outcomes as well.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, do you have evidence that recent bkie gatherings in Canberra were not used for planning and preparing criminal conduct by gathering in a way that they were prohibited from in other states? And if they are not a risk to the ACT population, why do police meet them every time they come here?

**Ms Fitzharris:** Madam Speaker, I believe there was a significant preamble to that supplementary question.

**Mrs Jones:** On the point of order, Madam Speaker, the question began: "Minister, do you have", which does not mean there is a preamble.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs Jones. Do you want to repeat your question in whole so the minister can hear it?

**MRS JONES:** Yes. Minister, do you have evidence that recent bkie gatherings in Canberra were not used for planning or perpetrating or preparing to perpetrate criminal conduct by gathering in a way that they are prohibited from doing in other states? And if they are not a risk to the ACT, why do police meet them every time they come here?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** There is no evidence that has been put to me that shows that these groups were coming to prepare for any criminal activities in relation to the ACT.



*Mrs Jones interjecting—*

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I can say—as I have said—we will support ACT Policing in both resources and legislative terms to ensure they do the best job on the ground.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR GENTLEMAN:** It is important to congratulate ACT Policing on the work they do.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR GENTLEMAN:** The reason they meet motorcycle gangs when they come to the ACT is because we have asked them to do that work.

*Mrs Jones interjecting—*

**MR GENTLEMAN:** We have asked them to interfere. The CPO has asked her officers to intervene, and that is exactly what they are doing.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Before I go to Mr Pettersson, I say to members opposite that if you ask a question I imagine you would be interested in the answer, and I do not know how you hear the answer with your constant interjections. I again refer people to standing order 117 around the construction of questions without notice.

**Ms Lawder:** Is there a standing order about non-answers?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** There is also standing order 118. I suggest to all members that perhaps in the break between now and September they can get a handle on both of them, particularly the one about interjections: when someone is on their feet they should not be interrupted. I think the members on that side would be most interested in that.

### **Access Canberra—assistance to business**

**MR PETTERSSON:** My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Can the minister outline what the government is doing to promote the diverse nightlife in Canberra?

**MR RAMSAY:** I thank the member for his question.

*Mr Hanson interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, you are warned. I have been clear this week about the interjections from that side of the chamber.

**MR RAMSAY:** I note his recent engagement with the nightlife economy in Canberra through his encouraging young people to enrol in the upcoming postal survey. It is amazing what we can do with the nightlife here in Canberra.

This government is getting on with the job of making it easier to do business in the city. The Access Canberra liquor team is poised and is ready to help new liquor businesses in Canberra get their new and innovative business ideas over the line to help increase the diversity and vibrancy of this city's nightlife. They provide a case managed service to help ensure that businesses have everything they need to open a safe and compliant business.

The team works with venues and events of all sizes which require a liquor licence to ensure that all needed government approvals are secured in a timely manner. This includes liquor licensing, compliance with building, gas and electrical codes, food safety and other governmental approvals or permits.

By providing this service, the government is helping innovative businesses to better understand how the regulatory regime applies to their particular idea and location. This service is saving businesses time and effort by making the government do the running around. They work to ensure that businesses have all the information that they need. They work with businesses to check that they have applied for all the relevant licences and permits. The team can even schedule joint inspections when they are needed.

The result of this is that business owners can spend less time searching for information and more time opening and running the next new business here in Canberra.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Can the minister advise how the government is reducing red tape and compliance costs for the small businesses that contribute to Canberra's night-time economy?

**MR RAMSAY:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the supplementary. As part of the recent reforms to the liquor industry, we have reduced liquor licensing fees for smaller, low-risk venues, that is, those with lower occupancy levels and earlier closing times. This government strongly supports the development of small businesses in unique boutique-style venues in Canberra. We know that this approach has already been shown to be effective in other Australian cities and we are confident that that will be the case here too.

We have also introduced perpetual liquor licences. Under these liquor licences, businesses will not be required to go through a whole new application process every one to three years, saving those running businesses time and effort in reapplying, as well as bringing us into line with a number of other states.

We are also promoting a diverse and vibrant sector by providing all on-premise licensees six extended trading authorisations per year. These authorisations will allow these licensees to trade outside their standard licensed hours for special events such as to show overseas sporting matches, host visiting bands or DJs, or put on special events such as on New Year's Eve.

We have also modernised the liquor laws to remove old requirements that do not necessarily apply in modern innovative businesses. These include the requirement for coat racks in toilets, the provision of telephone services or regulations about where to position glass washers.

This government is constantly working to create an environment where innovative businesses that provide a good experience, are low risk and are compliant with the law are able to flourish and grow so that we can continue to build a more vibrant Canberra.

**MR STEEL:** Minister, can you advise how the government is helping to ensure that people out enjoying our diverse night-life remain safe?

**MR RAMSAY:** I thank Mr Steel for his question and also acknowledge the work that he has been doing in helping to encourage people to enrol to vote in the upcoming optional postal survey.

Ensuring that our night economy is safe is key to promoting new business and encouraging people to enjoy what Canberra has to offer. Canberrans have a right to be safe and to feel safe during a night out. This government is delivering a range of new services and regulations to ensure safety in our night precincts.

One example is the CBR NightCrew program, which the government has funded for 12 months. The CBR NightCrew program offers chairs for people to rest, water for hydration, basic first aid, advice and assistance for safe transport options, and mobile phone charging so that young people can contact their friends or arrange a lift home. Roving NightCrew teams also move around the Canberra city centre to assist where necessary.

In addition, the government has delivered stronger legislation this past April to help keep licensed premises safe. For example, the law now gives licensees a statutory power to evict or refuse entry to intoxicated, violent or disorderly patrons. The new legislation and safety measures will be supported by the ACT government's commitment to fund six additional police officers for night-time patrols. People who want to enjoy a safe night out will be supported by teams of people watching for those who need help, by legislation to help venues manage their safety, and by more police to enforce the law. The government is and will remain committed to promoting a safe, vibrant night-time economy.

### **Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—aluminium cladding**

**MS LAWDER:** My question is to the minister for health. Minister, on what date were you, or your directorate, first made aware of the fire risk posed by the cladding at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I thank Ms Lawder for the question. I may have to take the specific dates on notice, but of course I note that, immediately following the Grenfell fire tragedy and Mr Gentleman's subsequent statements around the work that the ACT government was doing, a significant desktop audit was commissioned. That

audit then followed on with subsequent work. I will take the precise detail of the question on notice.

**MS LAWDER:** On what date was the decision made to replace the cladding?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I thank Ms Lawder for the supplementary. I will take the specific date on notice; but of course I emphasise that the cladding will be replaced.

**MR COE:** Minister, how will you guarantee that the replacement cladding is safe, and what changes are in place to the procurement process to ensure that no dangerous materials are again used in hospital constructions?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I note that the material that was used in the construction of the Centenary hospital was safe and compliant at the time of construction. I understand it remains compliant, and, as has been confirmed by ACT Fire & Rescue, the building is safe.

### **ACT Health—data management**

**MR WALL:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, I refer to a *Canberra Times* report published online on 23 August that the cost to date of fixing the serious problems with health data is \$1.2 million. Minister, what will be the final cost of fixing the serious problems with health data?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I thank Mr Wall for the question. I will not know the answer to that until the review is completed in March next year.

**MR WALL:** Minister, how will the data in the 2016-17 Health Directorate annual report be verified?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I am tempted to refer again to the standing order which asks that members do not ask questions that have been previously answered—117, I believe, Madam Speaker—but, to reiterate, as I said yesterday and in previous sitting weeks, next month I will table the next quarterly update on the ACT Health system-wide data review. In that quarterly report I will provide further information based on recommendations from the panel overseeing the data review—which includes representatives from the national health funding body and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare—on how ACT Health will report on data during the conduct of the review. That will include how ACT Health reports on data in the context of the annual report.

**MR COE:** Minister, will any of the rectified data that will get passed on to AIHW and the commonwealth Department of Health have an impact on past funding or the current national partnership?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I have answered this question previously. To my knowledge, and to ACT Health's knowledge at this stage, there will be no impact on past funding.

**Renewable energy—review**

**MS LEE:** My question is to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability. Minister, the Jacobs Group, which was engaged by the ACT government to review the next generation renewables auction process, found that while value for money was achieved in the outcome of the auction, the energy storage contribution, or the ESC arrangements, costed at \$25 million and payable over four tranches, is not value for money. The government's response to the review's recommendations agreed that "it is appropriate for other sources of finance to be considered by the government. However, it is important to note that the ESC amounts were set by a highly competitive process and therefore reflect the efficient cost of capital for renewable energy developers delivering energy storage capacity". Minister, how much of the \$25 million has been committed?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I will have to take that question on notice. What has been committed already is the rollout of the 5,000-household battery scheme. Not all of that has been spent. At this point I think a bit over 200 people have signed up for that scheme and there 5,000 batteries available through to 2020, or 5,000 financial packages through their service providers. I am happy to provide a detailed answer to Ms Lee on notice.

**MS LEE:** Minister, has the government given any thought to changing the contribution, given this finding from the Jacobs review?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Not at this time.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, what is the government doing or will the government do to ensure value for money for ACT energy consumers?

**MR RATTENBURY:** The government has got a range of measures in place to ensure value for money for ACT consumers. The large-scale feed-in tariff, which is where the question started, is considered, nationally and internationally, to be highly successful. I was very pleased that the public service team responsible for that recently won an award for the design of that program. What we saw through that auction process was the lowest prices ever achieved at the time for renewable energy being supplied to ACT households.

The government has been very successful in achieving value for money for ACT consumers. What the Jacobs report showed was that the ultimate cost of the scheme will be even less than the government envisaged when the legislation was brought before this chamber. Again we have seen an even better value for money outcome than this chamber anticipated and that this chamber supported the legislation for.

In addition, there is a range of programs such as the energy efficiency improvement scheme, which is delivering savings to households through a range of energy efficiency improvements, and the smart energy program. There is a whole series of programs designed to ensure that Canberrans can have the best possible financial

outcome when it comes to heating and cooling their households, to running their small businesses and to the running of this city.

### **Trade unions—government contracting**

**MR PARTON:** My question is directed to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, earlier today, in a ministerial statement, you said you had asked Housing ACT to talk with, among others, the trade unions in working towards a new contract. What roles do trade unions perform in relation to the Spotless contract for public housing maintenance and facilities management services?

**MS BERRY:** In response to the question by Mr Parton, trade unions represent workers who are employed by employers who work on the maintenance contract. So, yes, they will be part of the stakeholder group that will be consulted during the process that will be involved in a new contract for maintenance in public housing.

**MR PARTON:** What consultative processes, though, are unions involved in within the framework of the total facilities management contract? Do they have power of veto as per the MOU?

**Ms Berry:** Madam Speaker, sorry—

**MR PARTON:** It is your contract.

**Ms Berry:** I just did not hear it because right at the time he was asking the question—

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I thought that may be the case. I am sure, Mrs Jones, it was unintentional, but, Mr Parton, can you ask again.

**MR PARTON:** What consultative processes are unions involved in within the framework of the total facilities management contract? Does the union have the power of veto as per the infamous MOU?

**MS BERRY:** As I referred to in the statement I made today, unions, along with other stakeholders, including tenants, will be involved in conversations leading up to a new maintenance contract for ACT public housing.

**MR WALL:** Minister, do unions offer or provide advice either to you or to Spotless on how services for public housing might be undertaken or improved going beyond workers' rights?

**MS BERRY:** I can confirm that unions in the ACT, including Unions ACT, have publicly supported tenants in public housing in the ACT. So if it is about providing advice, then certainly I would take their comments in support of public housing tenants as very important in the process of making sure that tenants in the ACT get the best possible support from their community but also in the maintenance of their homes.

## **ACT Fire & Rescue—international deployment**

**MR STEEL:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Could the minister please update the Assembly on the current deployments of ACT firefighters to support firefighting efforts in Canada?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Mr Steel for his question and his interest in supporting our front-line services. As members of the Assembly may be aware, Canada continues to suffer from the worst forest and wildfires in 60 years. More than 860 wildfires have burned across Canada during the northern summer, many of which are still burning.

An estimated 4,910 square kilometres have burned to the ground since the beginning of April. Natural Resources Canada's national wild land fire situation report indicates that there are currently 138 uncontrolled fires and 151 controlled fires. Over the past few weeks Canada has requested four Australian deployments, which include ACT Parks and Conservation Service staff, ACT Fire & Rescue staff and ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers. At any one point, a maximum of 41 ACT personnel will be deployed to Canada.

ACT remote areas firefighting teams, or RAFT crews, are working on the fire-line edge, predominantly using hand tools and manual firefighting methods. Some crews may be winched in and out of remote areas. RAFT work is physically demanding on the crews, but an essential component in suppressing the fires.

These requests for Australian personnel show both the scale of the fires Canada is facing and the respected reputation of our experienced and well-trained crews.

**MR STEEL:** Minister, could you also update the Assembly on how this support has been received by the Canadian government and affected communities?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Mr Steel for his supplementary. We have been informed that Canadians are very grateful for the assistance from Australian firefighters. Many locals living near the fires where ACT personnel have provided assistance have only recently re-entered their communities after being displaced for over a month. Sadly, some found out only on the weekend whether their homes were saved or lost.

I have been advised that the presence of all Australian personnel has been a welcome distraction to what has become a very long and personal fire for those affected. On behalf of the ACT government and this Assembly I extend my thanks to the ACT personnel who have made both a professional and personal contribution to Australia's support for our Canadian friends in their time of need.

**MS CODY:** Minister, can you inform the Assembly how we ensure that the lessons learned from emergency incidents overseas and interstate are put into practice in the ACT?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Cody for her supplementary question. The ACT regularly provides assistance to other jurisdictions in times of emergency as part

of a national and international response. The rapport established with other jurisdictions in all types of emergencies will assist the ACT in seeking support when faced with major emergencies of its own in the future.

Deployments such as these also provide personal and professional development to personnel who are exposed to the new environment and firefighting practice. Simply, the deployment personnel will come back better firefighters. They will have enhanced remote firefighting skills and enhanced ability to lead and train local teams.

This ensures that the experience gained in international deployments benefits not only the individuals who participated in the deployment but also their colleagues back here in the ACT. The experience gained is invaluable in enhancing individual skills, developing long-term response capabilities within the ACT and adding to our numbers of highly skilled and experienced senior bushfire personnel.

### **ACT Health—policy framework**

**MS CODY:** My question is to the minister for health. Minister, what impact will the territory-wide health services framework have on health services in the ACT?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I thank Ms Cody very much for the question. As with everything we do in health, our aim is to keep Canberrans healthy and well. The territory-wide health services framework will have a positive impact on health services in the ACT. It will focus on the integration of services across three key areas of health care: prevention, community-based care and care in the hospital and acute setting.

As our city and surrounding region continue to grow, demand for health care is rapidly increasing, creating some challenges. The framework acknowledges the demand for health services on the horizon and provides the strategic direction and key priority areas for ACT Health to focus on. It also focuses on the opportunities in healthcare services and delivery.

It sets the scene for an innovative and genuine territory-wide approach to health service delivery, with health services being delivered across the continuum of care through partnerships and collaboration with the private community and broader health sectors.

It will allow patients to access and understand care at every stage of their health needs, a journey that is easier to navigate with multidisciplinary teams coordinating the delivery of care to the patient. A patient can enter care at any stage of the healthcare continuum and receive services that are coordinated, responsive and accessible, resulting in the best possible patient outcomes.

The development of an integrated healthcare system is a dynamic process that will continually evolve to adapt to new challenges and accommodate advances in medical technology, research and best practice. The outcome is a redesigned health system able to provide coordinated and accessible care to patients across all health settings. This will mean there is no wrong door for consumers or patients in our health service. Ultimately, it will help to improve their health and wellbeing.



**MS CODY:** Minister, can you provide an update to the Assembly on progress on the territory-wide health services framework?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I am pleased to advise the Assembly that much work has been underway already on the territory-wide health services framework. The framework itself will soon be released. It has been developed from extensive research and input from internal and external stakeholders. The framework will guide the establishment of a number of centres through which we will provide an integrated and person-centred approach to the delivery of health care. The centres will ensure specialty services are integrated across the continuum of care, which includes prevention in the community, care in the hospital and the management of care back in people's homes.

The centres will enable care to be delivered in a coordinated way across health facilities in the ACT by encouraging and facilitating collaboration between related specialties across public and private sectors and community-based services. This will make it easier for patients to navigate the health services they need.

As we develop and finalise the centres' specialty service plans and models of care over the next 12 to 18 months, we will have extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and the broader community in a range of different ways. We will continue to draw on expert advice from clinicians, health personnel and relevant healthcare consumers, incorporating established best practice, advancement in medical technologies and innovation.

ACT Health has also commenced the more detailed health service planning process to support the development of specialty service plans with initial consultations, commencing last month. Underpinned by the principles of quality and safety, this important health services planning work will transform our health system to better connect health services and to deliver better outcomes for patients and ensure the sustainability of our services.

**MS ORR:** Minister, how will feedback be incorporated into the development of the territory-wide health services framework?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary. It will be incorporated in a multitude of ways. We will use existing channels as well as encouraging the broader community to engage. We have strong existing relationships with staff and stakeholders including private and community health organisations, higher education institutions, private operators, the royal colleges and employee organisations. They will provide ongoing, important input, and I look forward to making further announcements and continuing to work with them on the very important territory-wide health services framework.

### **Environment—community gardens**

**MS ORR:** My question is to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability. Minister, how is the ACT government enabling local communities to get involved in community garden projects?

**MR RATTENBURY:** The ACT government recently announced a new program of \$40,000 in grants for community gardens. I was very pleased to go with Minister Gentleman to Belconnen recently, during the Belconnen pop-up cabinet, to visit the Canberra City Care centre in Charnwood. They were one of the recipients in the last round of grants. They have put an excellent community garden out the back of their facility, which they then use to supply the community pantry that they support, for the community in the Charnwood and west Belconnen areas.

The new round of grants is, as I said, \$40,000 with a maximum of \$10,000 per grant. One of the new features of this program is that it has been made available to bodies corporate. It is still available to community groups, community organisations, neighbourhoods and the like, but I think that with the increasing number of people living in body corporate situations in the territory, and the very idea of a community garden being one of community building, of people working together to have a spot to grow produce, and because people in bodies corporate generally do not have their own open space, the opportunity for people to work together in bodies corporate is a very good one. That is why I am pleased to extend the grants round to those groups on this occasion.

**MS ORR:** Minister, how can community groups such as the Belconnen and Gungahlin community councils in my electorate of Yerrabi apply for these grants?

**MR RATTENBURY:** The grants round is open until 8 September; so there is still time for the groups that Ms Orr has described and for any other groups that want to get in. They can simply go to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development website. The application form is there. It is not designed to be very onerous but there are certain requirements that people are expected to go through.

I think it is a wonderful opportunity for organisations to develop or to enhance community gardens and community spirit by people working together but also to produce fresh produce and to share the knowledge of growing. I think that is for me one of the very enjoyable parts of watching these community gardens unfold. It is people coming together, sharing their knowledge, sharing their expertise and ultimately sharing the harvest.

**MS CHEYNE:** Minister, can you provide an example of a community garden project in my electorate of Ginninderra and the benefits that it has provided for local residents?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Yes, I can think of two in Charnwood. The day we went out to the cabinet meeting Minister Gentleman and I went to separate community gardens in Charnwood. There are actually two there. The one I referred to at Canberra City Care is a great example. They received a grant of \$3,572. What they have done out there is to put together a number of elements of the garden: they have got the composting heap of course, they have got fruit trees and then they have got the more seasonal fruit and vegetables growing.

What is very nice about that is that a community member has volunteered; someone with some expertise is the garden leader, for want of a better description. He is

actually using his skills to teach others. One of the features I particularly like, as I touched on earlier, is that the harvest from the garden goes into Canberra City Care's community pantry, which provides low cost food and vegetables to those in the community who are perhaps doing it a little tough.

Certainly the day I was there they were very busy. They have expanded their facility. It is a really inspiring operation they have out there, and the linkage of the community garden into that is a particularly positive element.

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

### **Supplementary answer to question without notice** **ACT Health—data management**

**MS FITZHARRIS:** In reference to a question I was asked by the opposition—I cannot recall if it was by Ms Lawder or Mr Wall—about any funding implications from the data review, I want to clarify that I have certainly not been advised that there will be any impact on funding past, current or future.

### **ACTION bus service—flexibus** **Statement by member**

**MS LEE** (Kurrajong), by leave: I wish to make a response to an assertion made by Minister Fitzharris yesterday arising out of question time on Tuesday. On Tuesday I asked the minister a question in relation to the inner south flexible bus service and the fact that it did not stop in Manuka. Yesterday the minister stated that at that time she could:

... confirm that the inner south flexible bus service does include the Manuka and Kingston shopping precincts, and the flexible bus service regularly takes passengers to those shopping centres

I just want to explain that that question came about because of two reasons. One is that we have had some constituents who have provided some feedback that that is not the case. No 2, the government's own website, Transport ACT, does not actually list Manuka as a stop on the route. I have a copy of that here if the minister would like to have a look at it. The minister went on to say:

I would like to remind those opposite of standing order 117(b), which says that questions shall not contain statements of fact that cannot be authenticated.

The fact that the minister said that is something that I take offence at because of the implication that I had deliberately tried to introduce statements of fact that were not authenticated. Perhaps if the minister does not accept—

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Perhaps your colleagues could allow you to be heard.

**MS LEE:** If the minister does not accept that the feedback that I have had from constituents satisfies standing order 117(b) then perhaps she would also like to at least accept that her own directorate's website does. I seek leave to table this paper.

Leave granted.

**MS LEE:** I present the following paper:

Accessible transport options—Screenshot from Transport Canberra's website.

## **Papers**

**Madam Speaker** presented the following paper:

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee—Report 1—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016*, Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 1—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016* and Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 1—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016*—Speaker's response, dated 23 August 2017.

**Mr Barr** presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 21(1)—Auditor-General's Report No 3/2017—2015-16 Financial Audits—Computer Information Systems—Government response.

Financial Management Act, pursuant to subsection 30F(3)—2016-17 Capital Works Program—Progress report—Year-to-date 30 June 2017.

## **Schools for all—quarterly report Paper and statement by minister**

**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): I present the following paper:

Schools for All—Implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour—Report—May 2017, dated June, 26 June and 17 August 2017.

I ask leave to make a brief statement.

Leave granted.

**MS BERRY:** I am pleased to share the schools for all program progress report for May 2017 with the Assembly. As members are aware, in November 2015 the schools for all expert panel handed down the report on students with complex needs and challenging behaviour. The report contained 50 recommendations to build on our

existing work and improve the way we support the diverse learning and wellbeing needs of children and young people.

In 2017 the ACT education sector, through the schools for all program, remains committed to system reform. The program has entered a consolidation phase with a focus on strengthening a whole-of-systems response to create and sustain safe, supportive and inclusive school environments for every child and young person. Over the past months the emphasis has been to build the capacity of our schools for inclusive and student-centred education through professional learning, readily available resources and support and mentoring by the network school engagement team and Catholic education wellbeing and diversity officers.

Our partnerships across the education sectors, government and non-government agencies, have continued to strengthen wraparound support services for our children, young people and their families. While progress continues in implementing the remaining expert panel recommendations, the program acknowledges a number of recommendations depend on cross-government initiatives or other reform projects currently being undertaken by the directorate including the resourcing of schools through the student resource allocation model.

This is particularly relevant in meeting the needs of students with a disability. Within the Education Directorate the schools for all program is seeking to catalyse cultural change so that all children and young people in the ACT's public schools are placed at the centre of all decision-making to enable their social, academic and wellbeing needs to be met. The directorate believes in a diverse and creative school system that embraces difference in our children and young people, empowers our school leaders, teachers and education support staff and fosters excellence. Achieving a thriving and inclusive education community where no-one is excluded because of their background, culture, gender, class, religion, sexuality, wealth or ability is vital, and everyone benefits when we achieve this equity.

I am pleased to inform members that, since commencing the implementation of the expert panel recommendations just 18 months ago, the schools for all program is having a positive impact on the culture, programs and approaches within our Canberra schools.

I have presented the schools for all report for May 2017 for members' consideration. This report was endorsed by the schools for all program in July 2017 and is published on the Education Directorate website. The Education Directorate has completed 34 of the 49 expert panel recommendations that relate directly to our Canberra public schools, and the Catholic Education Office has completed 15 of the 26 recommendations.

Our partners in the Association of Independent Schools ACT are working with each of their member schools through their executive committee and schools for all committee. The recommendations are providing each independent school with further opportunity to refine and reflect on their approaches to support their students' wellbeing and learning needs.

The achievements of the schools for all program outlined in the May progress report can be summarised under three key themes: building capability, collaborating with partners, and being informed. In 2017 we are building our capability by investing in our school leaders, teachers and education support staff through professional learning and ongoing coaching and mentoring support through the engagement teams.

Catholic education continues to financially support their classroom support assistants who undertake courses of study as part of completing a certificate IV in education support. Twenty-nine public schools are implementing the positive behaviour for learning framework. This is a whole-of-school approach to create a positive behavioural environment for learning and wellbeing and decrease the frequency and severity of problems in challenging behaviours.

We are building on our capability at a system level with our public schools supported by network school engagement teams as well as the Catholic schools wellbeing and diversity officers. These teams comprise educators in positive behaviour support, disability education, and allied health professionals including psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists and physiotherapists. They coach and mentor teachers and build school capacity to support all students including providing targeted support for children and young people with complex needs and challenging behaviours.

As one parent said of the support that they have received:

I have really felt that everybody including the teachers and specialists are working with us, with the interests of my daughter at the centre. I think that this is because we all understand the part that we all play. My daughter says that she thinks everyone is listening to what is important for her.

We are making it easier to be informed, to challenge our culture, and change attitudes towards inclusive education. Across the education sector policies have been reviewed and updated in line with the expert panel recommendations. The new directorate policy webpage simplifies and improves access to policies, procedures, guidelines and other supporting implementation materials.

The directorate also developed a policy development guide to provide guidance to all staff on the development and/or review of policies and procedures. The guidance ensures new or reviewed policies and procedures consider the impact on, and the needs of, students with complex needs and challenging behaviour or disability.

In March 2017 the ACT education inclusion and wellbeing staff intranet site was launched. It provides schools with information and access to innovative, neuroscience-informed wellbeing for learning programs including positive behaviour for learning, neuroscience in education, and trauma responsive education. The site is easy to navigate with clear and easily accessible information on support and referral pathways, both within the education support office and for the wider education community for children and young people with complex needs and challenging behaviour. It also provides comprehensive access to resources and programs to support staff health and wellbeing. Based on the success of the intranet page, the

Education Directorate are developing an external inclusion and wellbeing web page for use by the wider education community.

To further support inclusive practice in our schools, the award winning everyone, everyday program is being implemented through cross-sectoral collaboration between ACT Education, Catholic education and the Association of Independent Schools ACT. This program was developed by Disability ACT's community development team and won the National Disability Award in 2014. It is a comprehensive teaching resource for mainstream primary schools and focuses on the concept of inclusion. The program was developed by educators, following extensive consultation with people with disability, family members, advocacy groups, curriculum advisers and academics. The program aims to create a cultural shift in community attitudes towards disability, with the underlying assumption that we all benefit when the environments in which we work, live and play are inclusive and that we all have a role to play in creating inclusive communities.

This cross-sector work initiative has seven facilitators and 80 trained staff from across the ACT, and new facilitators will be identified from these trained staff to extend the reach of the program. We are collaborating with our partners across the sector, government and community to jointly support better outcomes for our students and their families. Acknowledging the challenges that face our students, the Association of Independent Schools of the ACT is partnering with CatholicCare to provide counselling and psychology support to their schools that need it.

To support children and young people in out of home care at school a collaborative agreement between the Community Services Directorate, ACT Education, Catholic education, the Association of Independent Schools of the ACT and ACT Together has been established. This agreement provides a framework to establish communication channels and promote effective information-sharing between each organisation. This in turn will help to meet the child or young person's wellbeing and educational needs and improve their educational outcomes.

From these examples, members can see the significant progress made to implement the schools for all recommendations. This is to be the final progress report presented in the Assembly. Future schools for all reports will still be made publicly available on the ACT education website. Our focus is now on the future.

The government is committed to an equal chance for every child to have a great education and to be prepared for a bright future regardless of their circumstances, characteristics or background. As members would be aware, the government has been facilitating grassroots community conversation about the future of education in the ACT to make Canberra's education system even better. This stems from a fundamental belief that every child deserves a great education and the life chances which flow from it. My particular focus is on improving equity. Like other high-performing education systems, we must make clear our goal of improving equity and access to quality education for each and every student.

The consultation is happening in a number of ways including sitting down with students, parents, teachers and the community to listen to their views about what they

think our education system should look like. The response to date has been very encouraging and the findings will inform the future of education strategy expected to be released in 2018.

Over the coming year I want to take our education system even further and use these conversations with the community to build on the lessons we have already learned from the schools for all expert panel report. At the heart of the schools for all program of cultural reform is the core value of equity in our education system and the fundamental belief that every child in Canberra should have access to high quality education and care and the benefits that come from that.

## Papers

**Ms Berry** presented the following paper:

Vacant Properties in the ACT—Taxation, dated August 2017, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 22 March 2017.

**Mr Gentleman** presented the following papers:

ACT Heritage Council Assessments, dated August 2017, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 22 March 2017.

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Statement of leases granted for the period 1 April to 30 June 2017.

**Mr Ramsay** presented the following paper:

Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee—Report—*Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) 2017-2018*—Response to Recommendation 85—Update on Progress of the Courts Construction Project, dated August 2017.

**Mr Rattenbury** presented the following paper:

Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee—Report—*Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) 2017-2018*—Answer to Recommendation 79—Structure of the Human Rights Commission.

## Appropriation Bill 2017-2018

[Cognate bill:

Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018

Cognate papers:

Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee report

Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee—government response]

Debate resumed.

**MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER** (Ms Cody): I remind members that in debating order of the day No 4, executive business, they may also address their remarks to



executive business order of the day No 5 and Assembly business orders of the day relating to the report of the Select Committee on Estimates 2017-2018 and the government response.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—Part 1.15.

**MR MILLIGAN** (Yerrabi) (3.46): We now come to what will be my last appearance in these debates for this year.

*Members interjecting—*

**MR MILLIGAN:** I know; it's a bit of a shame, isn't it? That is what comes with the portfolios, isn't it? I will send you all a link. After reading the budget leaflet relating to Indigenous families you would almost think that this was an area of major concern for the government. It refers to a drug and alcohol court, extended through care and investment in the community legal centres. As with all matters in this budget, closer inspection shows that the promises do not deliver on the expectations.

Let us begin with the establishment of the drug and alcohol court, which it is claimed will improve justice outcomes for Indigenous communities. However, in response to a question on notice, Mr Ramsay revealed that the money allocated is for a scoping study to develop a model for a drug and alcohol court, not for an actual court. Minister, is this like the model of care for the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm, which we are still waiting on nine years later?

This court, when it is fully established, will be available to all offenders, not just the Indigenous community. We are told that specific support available for Indigenous offenders will depend on the model of care that is ultimately chosen. In other words, this is all smoke and mirrors and, yet again, no substance, no action.

Let us now look at the Yarrabi Bamirr trial. This trial is about delivering a culturally-aware and family-centred justice reinvestment program. The money is mentioned on the leaflet and the explanation of the budget papers would lead one to believe that almost \$400,000 will be allocated to this initiative. This is, of course, not the case. In fact, just over half that is allocated to this initiative.

Let us now move on to the issue of through care. A further \$5.3 million was to be delivered to improve outcomes when offenders transition back to the community to help reduce the rates of recidivism. The ACT has some of the highest rates of recidivism among Indigenous communities in Australia. Further investigation throughout the estimates hearing revealed that only Indigenous women who engage with the program benefited from it. In fact, only sentenced males had access. Remanded males did not. The only specific Indigenous money to be spent from the \$5.3 million is the employment of a level 5 Indigenous through-care officer.

Whilst we acknowledge that the Indigenous community has access to a range of non-Indigenous programs also offered as part of through care, we also know that the best outcomes for change are when Indigenous organisations work with Indigenous inmates. We would agree with the estimates committee's recommendations that the

ACT government set targets for, and report on, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants in the through-care program. But we would add that they also report on those successfully repatriated, report on the recidivism of Indigenous males and females, and prioritises the reduction of Indigenous recidivism in our jails.

Finally, we come to an area where the government is prepared to spend some money on specific Indigenous programs: community legal centres. Here, 37.5 per cent of the \$2.5 million stated will be spent on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's access to justice program, the Canberra community law Aboriginal human rights program and the Munjuwa Aboriginal corporation. It is good to see that some money, just under \$1 million, will be spent in this important area.

To conclude, if we add together the actual money being spent this financial year on Indigenous matters, \$1 million is going to Winnunga to begin their new building works. The remaining will hopefully be made available in the coming years. There is a spending commitment of \$25,000 this year for seed funding grants for new and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled organisations. But there is a lack of clarity and transparency about what is intended with this money or when these grants will be offered. There is \$100,000 on the arts; about \$50,000 on the employment of a level 5 administrative officer in through care; and about \$1 million on legal fees. If we add these together, the final spend is actually closer to \$2 million, which is a far cry from the \$45 million spruiked in their glossy brochure. In fact, it is about five per cent of the promised money for this year.

In closing, I want to reiterate the important recommendation made by the estimates committee for this portfolio area. This is to call on the government to provide a separate and detailed annex to the budget papers that details specific Indigenous funding, progress made against targets, and outcomes reached for relevant output classes and accountability indicators.

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (3.51): I rise to speak to this line item and the area of domestic and family violence. I know from personal experience the importance of family safety and I add my voice to the growing chorus of voices around the nation and across this territory in support of the principle that all people have the right to feel safe in their personal relationships and in their homes.

In 2008 the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children was established to develop an evidence-based plan to address personal and domestic violence. After much consultation the result was the national plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010–2022, developed in partnership with all states and territories. This plan was endorsed by COAG and released in February 2011. The plan has two focuses: first, to stop violence before it happens; second, to support those who have experienced violence and to hold perpetrators to account. It also seeks to build the evidence base so that we can learn more about what works in reducing personal and domestic violence.

Under the plan each jurisdiction funds and administers its own programs and services. The national plan was designed to cover 12 years divided into four three-year action plans. We are now more than halfway through with the third action plan having been

launched last year. The first priority area in this action plan is prevention and early intervention. The document itself states:

Under the Third Action Plan, primary prevention activities will address attitudes and behaviours that excuse, justify and promote violence against women and their children. Early intervention activities will help improve identification of and early responses to violent behaviours.

The focus on prevention and early intervention in this action plan is of prime significance. On this point I wish to quote from a discussion paper prepared by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety and released last month:

Early governmental responses to domestic violence focused on providing support for individuals who had experienced domestic violence, and strengthening legislation and the justice system to punish perpetrators and protect victims. Prevention of domestic violence was an underlying goal, but often did not receive the same level of attention and resourcing as victim support and perpetrator prosecution. The Victorian Royal Commission found that for too long, the overwhelming and necessary demand for family violence response and crisis services had eclipsed efforts in prevention.

As I have before noted in this chamber, I spent my early years in a home that was characterised by daily acts of violence. I agree that it is absolutely necessary to provide crisis services to respond to these kinds of situations. I also know that I would have much preferred some kind of prevention or early intervention regarding what was happening in our home. We must always be careful that crisis intervention and support services do not overshadow the equally necessary measures to prevent violence before it occurs and to intervene before it goes too far.

This concern was brought up during budget estimates hearings by Frances Crimmins, executive director of YWCA Canberra. After having reviewed the proposed 2017-18 budget she told the Select Committee on Estimates:

... our concern remains that the safer family package only addresses the end of the domestic violence spectrum by responding to crisis. These measures must be complemented with investment in primary and secondary prevention strategies to tackle the root causes of domestic violence.

YWCA Canberra's firm stance on investing in primary and secondary prevention initiatives is backed by international and national evidence demonstrating that violence is preventable ...

Sharing Ms Crimmins's concerns, I took the opportunity during estimates hearings to query the most important primary prevention and early intervention measures funded by the government in this budget, including the level of funding and how clients are first identified and engaged. I was shocked when the response from the Coordinator-General for Family Safety focused almost exclusively on awareness raising as a prevention measure. A strong focus on preventing violence by raising awareness comes straight from the first action plan 2010–13. Four years and two action plans later, I expected a far more developed and substantive answer from this government.

I was therefore satisfied when the estimates committee made three important recommendations. First, that the government support specific primary and secondary prevention strategies; second, that the government establish accountability targets for specific prevention and early intervention measures and report on these quarterly; and, third, that the government provide a detailed breakdown of expenditures clearly identifying funds used for prevention and early intervention and those used for crisis response.

The government agreed to the first recommendation, which it certainly should have. Regarding the second recommendation, the government has agreed only in part, rejecting the requirement to report to the Assembly quarterly in favour of an annual report. I look forward to seeing these accountability targets for prevention and early intervention and I hope that they will be prepared with reasonable haste. I also remind this government that these targets will need to be robust in their explanatory power.

The third recommendation was agreed to in principle. I thank the government for providing in its response a reasonably detailed breakdown of expenditures. I understand the government's explanation that creating such a breakdown can be a complex process since prevention measures may, for example, be embedded as a small part of other initiatives. At the same time, I wish to point out that according to the breakdown provided, specific prevention and early intervention initiatives currently receive only one-fifth of the entire funding in the safer families package.

On this point, I wish to remind this Assembly what the government stated in its May 2016 response to family violence report:

The ACT Government's response to addressing family violence needs to shift from being largely crisis-driven to prevention and early intervention ... The Glanfield Inquiry, Death Review and Gap Analysis identified—

They all identified—

the need to shift the focus of the service system to prevention and early intervention.

I would say that this budget suggests we are not there yet. In fact, it would seem to both the YWCA and to me that we have a very long way to go. As in a number of areas, including those I addressed last week, it appears that this government finds it much easier to talk about prevention and early intervention measures than it does actually to shift its focus there. At least now we have the data and the promise of accountability targets. I will be keeping my eye on both to make sure that this government does not fail in its stated promise to make prevention and early intervention a priority in the area of family safety.

**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) (4.00): I too take the opportunity to speak on this item, particularly around domestic and family violence and the ACT government's

commitment to addressing that issue over the coming years. Of course, in the 2016-17 budget the ACT government announced a family safety package that included funding of \$21.42 million, the first time that this kind of funding has been applied to such an important issue in our community.

Last year I had to write to the estimates committee to ask for the domestic and family violence levy and the issues around domestic and family violence to be included in the estimates committee's hearing. We were given 30 minutes to discuss the considerable amount of work that is happening in the ACT to address domestic and family violence here.

In this year's estimates committee hearings we were allowed 25 minutes to discuss this very important issue. So I put on the record now that I will be again writing to future estimates committees to urge that we have a very strong focus during estimates hearings on this issue so that we can inform the community, the committee and members of this Assembly about all of the work that is being done to address domestic and family violence in the ACT, because it is considerable and the funding that is going towards it is significant. The funding in 2016-17 is \$21.42 million.

In the 2017-18 budget, this year's budget that we are talking about now, that funding has been increased by \$2.2 million over four years for the safer families initiatives, to bring the total of the package for the 2017-18 budget to \$23.5 million over four years. For a small jurisdiction like the ACT, that is a significant amount of money.

You would be naive to say that that was going to solve these issues overnight. This is very complex. Everybody understands that. The work that has been done by the coordinator-general in working with the stakeholders and the community about the co-design of the family safety hub has been vital in identifying the people at risk and looking at how we create opportunities for early intervention as a government and as a community as well.

The co-design process is continuing. I have invited all members of the Assembly to attend a walk-through with the coordinator-general so that they can properly understand the work that has been done in the development of the family safety hub to improve responses by the community and the government on how we address domestic and family violence in our city.

The role of the hub before the co-design is completed pre-empts all the processes that are in place and values that have been gathered from the insights of people: victims who have experienced domestic and family violence but, importantly, also the people who are providing support services to those victims. The insights gathered through the co-design process have been shared widely with all the stakeholders involved through a series of insight walk-throughs, which I mentioned earlier. I hope members take the opportunity to attend one; we have provided the opportunity for that to occur on 26 July.

All the front-line services have provided some detailed feedback to inform the development of the hub and front-line services have highlighted that the current system is not offering the same sorts of supports that we should for the safety of

women and children. The stories that we have been hearing through the co-design process have identified a number of complex issues that families are wrangling with as they try to work their way through a system that is not one that supports families well enough. The design of this safety hub will absolutely improve the experiences of women and children.

I talked earlier today about the design and work going towards room4change, which is a very new way of providing support to families here in the ACT. It is designed loosely based on a program in Western Australia. The idea is that the family—the mother and the children—can stay safely in their home and the perpetrator can leave, be at another home and be provided with intensive support to help change their behaviour.

That is a much better circumstance for the women and the children. They are able to stay at home rather than having to leave and then end up in our housing system. That is not a great outcome for anyone. I am really looking forward to seeing how this program goes as it moves forward. I particularly take some pride in the ACT adopting the initiative and trying out some different things to make sure that we can actually make a difference around domestic and family violence in our community.

As I said, the co-design of the family safety hub is being led by the coordinator-general. The design is being directly informed by the experience of people affected by domestic and family violence. It gives priority to people who are most vulnerable. It focuses on early intervention, pre-crisis and non-justice responses to domestic and family violence. It will explore how existing services and government investment can be better integrated. It recognises that those affected by domestic and family violence will receive help through services that they most trust. We need to work out better ways that we can bring those services together to better support people in our community.

I am the first Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence in the ACT. I take that role very seriously. I look forward to working within our city, but also with the federal government about how we can better address domestic and family violence as a serious issue within our country.

**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) (4.07): As members know, I have a number of areas of responsibility that fall under this portfolio topic. I will speak briefly on a few of them this afternoon.

In the area of justice, in particular, I would like to talk about the Public Advocate. The budget provides \$0.6 million of funding over four years for increased resources for the Public Advocate, who is now also the Children and Young People Commissioner.

The Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner advocates for and supports a range of people, including children, young people and adults, in the ACT community whose condition or situation makes them potentially vulnerable to abuse, exploitation or neglect: people living in the community as well as those in care

arrangements, such as people in mental health facilities or supported accommodation, children living in out-of-home care or people in custody; and people experiencing vulnerability whose ability to pursue their own interests is diminished, either temporarily or permanently.

It is a very important role and one that I am pleased there is additional funding for this year. As the independent statutory office holder, the Public Advocate monitors the provision of services for people experiencing vulnerability, provides oversight of the systems that support these people, gives a voice to people experiencing vulnerability and holds the government to account.

This initiative will provide funding for an additional senior advocate to respond to recent and anticipated changes to legislative and service systems within the territory. These include increased family violence awareness, the implementation of the reportable conduct scheme, the review of the working with vulnerable people checks, and recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. An additional resource will assist the Public Advocate in meeting its statutory obligations by not only responding to increased demand but also analysing emerging themes and promoting systemic improvements in a more proactive way.

Being able to advocate for improvements to services and facilities for children and young people has the potential to alleviate pressures on the care and protection system, while also providing benefits for the children and young people of the ACT more generally.

In response to the Glanfield review, the ACT government committed to reviewing the resources of the Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner as well as the resources in the Community Services Directorate required to respond to oversight requests. I note that this review has also been subject to a motion in the Assembly. I will work closely with Minister Stephen-Smith to clarify the scope and method of the review, and will contribute to Minister Stephen-Smith's report back to the Assembly. This review will be undertaken in advance of the broader review of protection of rights services legislation, which is required by legislation as soon as practicable after 1 April 2019, to see if the new structure is effective in delivering the objects of the act.

In that regard, members will note that I tabled a response to recommendation 79 of the estimates committee today, which goes to the specific question of executive salaries under the new structure. It indicates that there is a smaller proportion of the budget now being spent on executive salaries, which was one of the intents of the restructure. The restructure of the Human Rights Commission was also aimed at ensuring that the functions of the commissioners could be undertaken in the most efficient manner and freeing up resources for service delivery. The answer I have provided indicates that that is being successful.

The changes also included moving the previous guardianship functions of the Public Advocate to the new Public Trustee and Guardian. The Public Advocate's remaining functions are transferred to the position of a Human Rights Commission. I am

working with the Public Advocate to determine how to further support her ability to deal with increasing work demand and expanded functions resulting from recent government reforms.

I am keen in this budget discussion to talk about justice reinvestment. It is a very important premise that we seek to spend money up-front before people end up in the corrections system or to invest it in a way that for those who have been involved in the corrections system we minimise the chance of them going back. This budget will continue the high-density housing, safety and security project which facilitates programs to prevent and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour through community-building and high-density housing on Ainslie Avenue. It will continue for one more year with the injection of \$160,000. The program has been shown to prevent and reduce opportunities for crime, promote community safety and security, develop prosocial and law-abiding community engagement and facilitate access to services related to justice, health, mental health, education and employment.

Mr Milligan spoke about the Yarrabi Bamirr cross-government trial supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to prevent contact with the justice system and improve life outcomes. This is a partnership with Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service. I am very enthused about this project. It has the potential to be very successful and make a significant contribution in the justice reinvestment space.

Let me turn to corrections. We had quite some discussion about it in question time today. I am happy to talk about it at length but, in the spirit of getting on with the debate this afternoon, I will limit my remarks, given that we have also debated it several times in private members' business recently.

I am pleased that the appropriation bill provides important foundations in the government's commitment to reducing recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025. I make no bones about the fact that this is an incredibly ambitious goal. At the recent corrections ministers' meeting the New Zealanders discussed their experience of trying to achieve a similar goal, and I know that they found it very challenging. They had some good success but they also had some things they thought would work that did not. We will be watching their experience very closely.

There are a number of initiatives in the budget, including the expansion of employment opportunities for detainees through the establishment of a bakery at the AMC. That is in addition to the additional laundry employment opportunities that have already been provided under previous budgets. This will provide employment and educational opportunities for detainees, both male and female. I think this will go some way to addressing key concerns raised by the Auditor-General in 2015 and in other reports about the lack of a structured day with purposeful activities. I have been very pleased in my time as the minister to be able to secure the funds to build industry opportunities at the AMC and to now start rolling those out in a practical, ongoing way.

As Mr Milligan mentioned, the budget contains more than \$5 million over four years to fund the expended through-care program. Until now, the funding has been year



upon year. The findings of the recent evaluation have confirmed the value of this program. I am pleased that it now gets a period of funding over four years, which will provide stability and, in light of the findings of the evaluation, not only continue the success that has already been achieved but also drive further improvement in that program, because the evaluation highlighted areas where improvements continue to be made and I welcome those findings. Extended through-care has been very successful. The numbers of return to custody episodes of clients have reduced, and those returning to custody are remaining in the community for longer periods on average. That is a very significant outcome.

The funding in the 2017-18 budget provides for a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander transitional coordination officer. This officer will deliver targeted support for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees exiting the AMC and will be required to work closely with families to develop stronger supports upon release. That is an important feature of the extended through-care program going forward.

The budget provides more than \$3 million over four years going forward to implement the recommendations of the Moss review following the death in custody of Mr Steven Freeman. This is essential work for ACT Corrective Services and, as I flagged in question time today, a high priority for both me and the government. The Moss review has given us important recommendations. The independent oversight group is following the implementation of those very closely. I am scheduled to give a detailed report to the Assembly in February 2018. I anticipate being able to indicate very significant progress on those recommendations at that time, because there is a strong focus on delivering those outcomes.

There is also funding provided in the budget for the establishment of a new prisons inspectorate to provide strong oversight and make informed recommendations with regard to continuous improvement and best practice within ACT Corrective Services. I anticipate bringing forward legislation for that later this year.

There are a number of other features around corrective services in the budget. I am pleased that we have a new executive director in place for Corrective Services. This brings a renewed opportunity to get going on the next chapter in Corrective Services' history. We now have a jail that is moving past its infancy. There have been, no doubt, some issues arising. They have been well canvassed both in this place and in the media. I think it would be fair to say that running a corrections system is not an easy thing to do, but it is important that we strive to get it right. Things will go wrong in Corrective Services from time to time. In an environment in which people are there who do not want to be there and people who are conditioned to resolving issues through violence, challenges do arise. Our job is to continue to improve things both proactively and reactively. That is the job that I am committed to doing when it comes to Corrective Services. I look forward to voting in support of this budget at the end of this debate.

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (4.18): As Minister for Police and

Emergency Services, I am pleased to support the 2017-18 budget. As part of the 2017-18 budget, the ACT government has announced a number of initiatives for the police and emergency services portfolio which will enhance emergency service capabilities and reshape its services.

In addition to the other commitments made over the term of this government, the ACT 2017-18 budget provides funding of \$11.3 million over four years for the ACT Emergency Services Agency to build operational capability and delivery against the ESA's strategic reform agenda. New initiatives supported over the four years include \$6.6 million to employ professional call takers and dispatchers in the emergency 000 communications centre; \$147,000 for a recruit college for 16 firefighters and actively encouraging female participation in line with the women in emergency services strategy; \$821,000 to improve mental health services for front-line ESA personnel; \$220,000 for ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers to keep fit and healthy; \$576,000 to enable a second crew to be deployed at the Ainslie Fire & Rescue station; and \$2.9 million to relocate the ESA's backup communications centre and the ACT Ambulance Service's non-emergency patient transport facilities.

The government announced comm cen reforms in June 2016. That was made following extensive consultation and consideration of all the issues and feedback received. The announcement proposes to realign the roles of ACT Fire & Rescue officers who currently work in the comm cen. It will also put additional firefighters on the road to assist in preventative and community work, improve response times, give firefighters the opportunity to provide shift relief for each other and help to reduce overtime rates.

The government announcement in June 2016 advised of an implementation date of 1 July 2017. The funding approval in the 2017-18 budget, and the implementation of the upgraded computer-aided dispatch system on 16 May this year, allowed the comm cen project to commence as planned. How calls are answered and resources are dispatched did not change on 1 July 2017. The ESA did, however, issue a commissioner's guideline on that date which clearly states how the comm cen project will progress. I would encourage interested members to view the commissioner's guideline, which is available on the ACT legislation register.

As I announced on 10 May this year at the ESA training centre in Hume, another 16 firefighters will be recruited and trained as part of the funding provided in the 2017-18 ACT budget. While the exact timing for this training program is yet to be finalised, it will see the additional firefighters in operation by May 2018. This recruit training will meet the ACT government's commitment to recruit additional firefighters to address current shortages and replace staff likely to leave the service. The ACT government also remains committed to the women in emergency services strategy and supports fifty-fifty recruitment in ACT Fire & Rescue to improve workforce diversity.

The operational work undertaken by emergency services staff, commonly referred to as first responders, is challenging and places a high demand on the welfare of staff. The government has recognised that emergency services staff are regularly exposed to traumatic events and announced it would deliver enhanced mental health services for

emergency services personnel as part of a package of commitments in the 2016 election.

The successful applicant for the position of manager, welfare programs, ESA, commenced on 13 February this year. The position was initially funded through existing resources. The 2017-18 budget provided for an extra \$821,000 over four years, fully offset, to provide improved mental health services for front-line ESA staff to better protect the wellbeing of our first responders. The manager of welfare programs is supporting the delivery of emergency services to the ACT community by ensuring that ESA staff and volunteers have access to coordinated, high quality welfare-related services. The manager of welfare programs is also coordinating the delivery of welfare programs under the ACT Ambulance Service's blueprint for change. A peer support program is being funded within existing ESA resources. The manager of welfare will be responsible for developing, implementing and coordinating the peer support program.

The 2017-18 ACT budget includes a \$100 annual subsidy for ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers for fitness programs and gym memberships. This initiative will provide a positive impact on the cost of living for firefighting volunteers by reducing their out-of-pocket expenses for fitness-related activities. ACT RFS require all active volunteers to undertake an annual standardised fitness test to ascertain their fitness for duty. In line with the 2016 election commitment, this announcement is a tangible means by which the ACT government will encourage more support volunteers to maintain the required fitness standard to perform their important role.

Significant works will be undertaken at the Ainslie Fire & Rescue station to allow a second crew to be based at the station. This includes the refurbishment of bathroom and locker areas in line with the women in emergency services strategy; a refit of the recline area and office area, including two additional desktop PCs; and the installation of additional racking in the engine bay area for additional crew to house their personal protective equipment. This initiative supports the ESA comm cen reform initiative, which allows for firefighters to return to front-line duties and for the WIES, which actively supports the recruitment and advancement of women firefighters.

Under the Emergencies Act 2004 the ESA requires a business continuity emergency 000 communication centre in the event that primary comm centre, ESA headquarters in Fairbairn, is not operational. The E000 comm cen handles 000 calls for ambulance and fire response and provides overflow capacity for police 000 calls as required. This initiative will provide fit-for-purpose facilities to ensure that the ESA can continue to meet its obligations under the Emergencies Act 2004. The government will relocate the existing backup comm centre from Curtin. The government will also relocate the ACT Ambulance Service's non-emergency patient transport service from its current location at Curtin to another location.

I thank all the staff and volunteers who work across each of the services within the ESA. The announcements in the 2017-18 ACT budget provide further government support that will assist them in their efforts to protect and care for the ACT community.

Let me go to policing. The ACT 2017-18 budget provides funding of \$12.3 million over four years to better support ACT Policing's operations. New initiatives supported over four years include \$4.9 million over the four years to employ an additional six officers to support safer nightlife and entertainment precincts; \$2.7 million over the years to provide ACT Policing officers with greater access to tasers; and \$2.6 million over the years to implement a number of security enhancements at ACT Policing facilities to improve safety for its staff and the visiting public. There is also \$2.1 million over two years to undertake a review of ACT Policing's current operating model and infrastructure requirements to define a future service delivery model and master accommodation plan. The cost of some of these initiatives will be partly offset by ACT Policing redirecting some of their existing resources.

In addition to these new initiatives, the 2017-18 budget supports a safe and secure community through a \$6.9 million investment over four years from the budget for additional resourcing for ACT Policing to strengthen responses to outlaw motorcycle gang activity in the ACT. This initiative was announced by the ACT government in August last year and provides extra resourcing for Taskforce Nemesis, ensuring that ACT Policing can effectively target organised crime without diverting existing front-line police resources.

An increase in funding to provide for a new AFP enterprise agreement and for a contribution to the fit-out of the modern maritime facility for ACT Policing to support water operations also supports a safe and secure community through the 2017-18 budget.

The government is committed to building a safer community, with a strong focus on promoting a safe, diverse and vibrant night economy. This includes initiatives to cut unnecessary red tape, improve the vibrancy of Canberra's nightlife, reduce alcohol-related harm and keep people safe.

To support these initiatives, the 2017-18 budget provides \$4.9 million over four years for extra police patrols to support safer nightlife precincts in the city. The funding also covers an education campaign for the responsible consumption of alcohol. The additional police resources will provide greater coverage of the broader ACT, focusing on regional centres and entertainment precincts; increase proactive liquor licensing enforcement activities and programs, including enforcement of new offences and increased enforcement of existing offences; increase collaboration with Access Canberra liquor enforcement teams; develop targeted campaigns with key ACT government stakeholders; and support the regional targeting team officers being deployed to major ACT events as experts in liquor legislation enforcement.

The government is committed to the safety of the public and police officers, with additional funding to provide significantly more police with greater access to tasers. This equips more police with a less lethal use of force option and added personal security while they are protecting our community. This proposal implements the publicly announced election commitment made by Minister Barr to equip front-line police with tasers, including specialist training, governance and reporting arrangements.

The government has also invested funding in the 2017-18 budget to implement a number of security enhancements at ACT Policing facilities to improve safety for its staff and the public. This initiative will deliver physical hardening strategies across a number of ACT Policing facilities. It will enhance and implement remedial reforms required to limit risks to ACT Policing facilities, its members and the public. These remedial measures will provide greater protection in response to the threat of terrorism and other security risks.

In planning for the future and in addition to these current community safety initiatives, the government is investing in the future to ensure that ACT Policing has access to appropriate resources, facilities and capabilities. The additional funding in this budget will support ACT Policing to undertake a review of its current operating model and infrastructure to define a service delivery model and accommodation requirements for the future. This will help define the future requirements for ACT Policing. It will provide a strategic investment plan for ACT Policing and the ACT government, outlining the accommodation footprint and informing the operational service model to best meet the needs of the growing ACT population.

This plan has the potential to enhance capability and deliver savings and efficiencies to the ACT government by setting the strategic direction for ACT Policing's accommodation, identifying options for streamlining police services to the ACT community, and clearly articulating where strategic investment could harvest savings to ensure best economic value is achieved. The master accommodation plan will determine the most effective use of expenditure for accommodation and support a more effective and efficient employment of policing resources for future years.

I am pleased to have recently signed the purchase agreement with the AFP Commissioner and the Chief Police Officer for the ACT for the provision of policing services to the ACT for 2017 to 2021. The purchase agreement outlines the total ACT Policing budget appropriation of \$161.3 million for the 2017-18 financial year and the significant investments in the new initiatives. This demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring that ACT Policing is well resourced to keep the Canberra community and our police officers safe, and we are adequately planning for the future of policing in the ACT.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Legal Aid Commission—Part 1.16.

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (4.32): There is no doubt that the Legal Aid Commission often has to take on some difficult cases, and I think that this year is going to be potentially again a difficult year for the Legal Aid Commission, based on the funding.

I note that there is extra funding being provided for the potential retrial of Mr Eastman. I make no judgement on that case, and I will not refer to it, but I note the significant funding that has been put towards that as part of the extra work that the Legal Aid Commission is required to do.

Beyond that significant piece of work that the Legal Aid Commission will be conducting, I was disappointed to see that there were a number of people turned away who do not meet the criteria when requiring legal representation. As I understand it from a response to a question on notice, Legal Aid does not have data on the number of people who go to court unrepresented after being refused a grant of legal assistance. This goes to a broader point about our justice system, a point that I raised yesterday about bail. If we are to make the necessary improvements to our legal system, be it DPP, the bail system or, in this case, Legal Aid, it is very important that we collect the statistics, particularly, in this case, for people that essentially did not get representation and why they did not get that representation.

Beyond that point, I commend the Legal Aid Commission for the hard work that they do in often difficult circumstances.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Public Trustee and Guardian—Part 1.17.

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (4.34): This area is one where we have seen the blending of various different functions of the Public Trustee and the Guardian. This has been subject to debate in this place and to extensive review through estimates and annual reports hearings. We will continue to review this area. These functions essentially have morphed together. It is a new area, and, I understand, subject to some internal review of these processes.

I note that the Public Trustee has implemented the latest version of the trust accounting software Tact, and I hope that will help with transparency and accountability.

I note that the Public Trustee has gone through a couple of difficult years due to some internal issues. I am optimistic and hopeful that those are now behind for what is a very important area of government. I again commend those that work in the public trustee and guardianship area, which can be difficult and complex. I commend them for the work that they do.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Superannuation Provision Account—Part 1.18.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (4.36): The SPA recognises and accounts for the defined benefit employer superannuation liabilities of the territory and the financial investment assets for funding these liabilities. The defined benefit employer superannuation liabilities include past and current ACT public service employees who are members of the Australian government's commonwealth superannuation scheme and public sector superannuation scheme, and eligible members of the Legislative Assembly defined benefit superannuation scheme.

The government maintains the financial objective of fully funding the territory's defined benefit superannuation liabilities by 2030. The annual budget appropriation to the SPA is used to extinguish the territory's employer share of employee superannuation benefits.

Over the past 21 years, to 30 June 2017, the SPA investment portfolio has achieved a long-term investment return of the consumer price index plus 5.1 per cent per annum. The funding objective remains on target, and I commend this appropriation to the Assembly.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—Part 1.19.

**MS CHEYNE** (Ginninderra) (4.37): Canberra's smaller population, thoughtful town planning and our good roads and cycleways have all contributed to the relative ease of our daily commute. However, with Canberra growing by approximately 5,000 new residents each year, transport infrastructure must keep pace.

Canberra's growth is no more apparent than in my electorate of Ginninderra, particularly in the booming Belconnen town centre. There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to how people travel around the town centre, so this budget improves all modes of transport. We will get a new bikeway, a new rapid bus route and upgrades to pedestrian facilities.

For cyclists, \$4.7 million will build the Belco bikeway to close the gaps in the cycle routes around the town centre and surrounding suburbs. The Belco bikeway will help link Bruce, Aranda, Macquarie, Lawson, Page and Florey with the town centre, and will provide an easy route between key areas in the town centre, including the University of Canberra and then beyond to Bruce, with Radford College, CIT Bruce and the Bruce stadium.

The bikeway will make cycling safer and more accessible by separating the cycleway from traffic and pedestrians, as well as building new pavement, kerbing and line marking. The bikeway will build on the considerable work previously conducted to improve the cycle paths across Belconnen. It is great news not only for those who already cycle around the town centre, but also for those of us who would like to get into cycling, but maybe have not felt safe to do so with the existing infrastructure.

For public transport users, the new black rapid bus route will make it quicker and easier to travel between Belconnen and Gungahlin. Last year I heard from Sarah, who works in Belconnen and catches the bus daily from her home in Harrison. The new black rapid bus route will be great for people like Sarah, with buses running at least every 15 minutes on Monday to Friday between 7 am and 7 pm. Even better, for the first two months travel on the black rapid service will be free.

The existing rapid bus routes around Canberra are extremely popular, and it is exciting to see them extended further into Belconnen. Mr Acting Speaker, as you

know, I am a regular user of the 300 blue rapid. This new black rapid bus will make it quicker and easier to travel along an increasingly popular route, so that people like Sarah can spend less time on the bus each day and more time with their families and friends.

This budget also contains transport measures aimed at pedestrians and our elderly residents. Simple things like well-constructed footpaths, places to rest and kerb ramps all make it easier for older residents to stay healthy and maintain their independence as well as their connections to their local communities. Over a quarter of the residents of the Belconnen suburb of Page are aged 65 or older, one of the highest proportions in Canberra. So it is really important that the infrastructure in Page supports older Canberrans in getting around their suburb. This budget expands the age-friendly suburbs project to Page to upgrade walking infrastructure. The suburb will share \$1.5 million with Hughes, in your electorate, Mr Acting Speaker, to improve things like footpaths, road crossings and traffic islands. Consultation with the community will help to guide this spending.

I am also very pleased that there is investment in the feasibility of looking into upgrading roads like William Hovell Drive, which is an incredibly important connection, as well as Bindubi Street.

This budget will improve transport infrastructure across all of Canberra. I know I have touched upon only a few measures today which are going ahead in my electorate of Ginninderra. However, I have no doubt that my constituents will also benefit from significant transport spending in other regions across Canberra as they travel across town for work, shopping, socialising and sport. And whether they are travelling by car, bus, bike, foot or light rail, this budget will make their transit an easier, more enjoyable ride.

**MR COE** (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (4.42): The work undertaken by TCCS has a very real impact on the everyday lives of people in the territory. The directorate has responsibility to provide high quality services to the community, putting Canberrans and their needs first. In 2017-18 the duties of TCCS include handling all municipal services including waste, parks, sportsground facilities and tree management, infrastructure maintenance such as footpaths, cycle networks and roads, provision of library services, acting as caretakers of our cemeteries, and the delivery of public transport infrastructure and the actual network itself.

The Canberra Liberals have a pretty clear stance on light rail. At \$1.78 billion as the nominal cost, it is pretty hefty, when you consider that the BCR included only 49 cents in the dollar for transport benefits. However, of course, it is happening now. There is no doubt about that, as today's paper demonstrates, with the rubber-epoxy installed on the first test track.

The agency has responsibility for stage 2 as well, and we want to do all we can to make sure that there is a sufficient level of scrutiny attached to that project. There are some significant threshold issues that have to be resolved. I touched on these last week, most notably, whether it is actually a commuter service which is trying to optimise the transport time for people travelling the full length of the route from



Woden through to the city or whether, in effect, it will be a “stopping at all stations” type service and therefore diminishing the transport benefits for people who are travelling the full route. One way or another, we hope that the ACT government will make it very clear as to which of these they are going to run with and, importantly, how they are going to demonstrate benefits of that service over the existing bus, travelling pretty much non-stop down Adelaide Avenue.

In the 2017-18 budget the Labor-Greens government committed to spending \$53.5 million on design and procurement for stage 2. This initiative is to fund a business case to be prepared following investigations into route selection, design and procurement methodology. It also includes associated works such as an urban renewal strategy and how it will get the relevant uplift.

To date we are yet to see the business case for stage 2, but we hope that it will be as thorough as the business case for stage 1. When I questioned whether the results of the economic viability studies for stage 2 would be released, the minister responded that “decisions regarding the light rail stage 2 business case have yet to be made by the ACT government”. Perhaps the minister can shed some light on the situation as to whether the full business case and all associated documents are actually going to be made public or not.

I believe the need for a public and comprehensive investigation into the benefits of the entire light rail network cannot be underestimated. The necessity for due diligence and release of critical information has come to light, especially during this consultation phase for stage 2.

The ACT government presented four route options to Canberrans, with the majority voting for route 2b, which had stage 2 terminating at the Canberra Hospital. The government have now said there are technical constraints that prohibit the public’s favoured route from being chosen, which begs the question: what was the point of doing that whole exercise if, indeed, one of the options—in fact, the preferred option—is not even feasible? Perhaps they could have said, “We’re going to extend it down to Tuggeranong,” and then, “Oh, by the way, it’s not feasible.” Or, “It’s going to go over the lake.” “Oh, by the way, it’s not feasible.” Who knows? The details remain to be seen.

The ACT government presented the four route options, as I mentioned. The light rail update released this week stated:

Further investigation of the possible route to the Canberra Hospital has identified potential technical constraints to the future southern expansion of the network and potential operational and hospital access issues.

That does not bode well for Tuggeranong, does it? It does not bode well for anybody that lives south of Woden. I repeat:

Further investigation of the possible route to the Canberra Hospital has identified potential technical constraints to the future southern expansion of the network and potential operational and hospital access issues.

Perhaps that is just clumsily worded. Perhaps there is not an actual issue with going to Tuggeranong and it is just an issue with going to the hospital. The fact that they say the “future southern expansion”—because really it would be an eastern expansion if it was to go from Woden to the hospital, or a western continuation if it was to go to the hospital first and then kick on to Woden—probably warrants some further questions from members of this place.

The government raised unrealistic expectations in the consultation process. Investigations along the rest of the routes are still “underway”, apparently. They have already found “constraints imposed by heritage buildings, existing sensitive landscape, radii of bends, gradient over the bridge and in other parts of the route”. Maybe they are actually referring to difficulties in going from the city down south in general. Who knows? One way or another, hopefully, the minister can clarify exactly what advice she has received as a result of this. We might just have to wait until six weeks before the next election to actually get a commitment as to what the plan is.

It is only after consultation that “the light rail stage 2 project team and the specialist technical advisory team are now performing more detailed investigations on a range of issues relating to urban design, constructability, planning, transport, economics and land use”. It is interesting that all of this is done now rather than before. You would think they would have done a preliminary level of investigation prior to doing the consultation so that they could at least try to manage expectations. Especially, if they were going to assess all the options anyway, you would think they would have done so before having gone public with the options. Either the government was reckless and irresponsible in pursuing stage 2 without finalising their investigations or the consultation was a sham. Both of those are pretty plausible, unfortunately. On behalf of Canberrans, I put the question to the government: why did they begin the consultation if all the options were not actually on the table? It is an insult to the Canberrans that took part in this process.

While money is poured into light rail, we can look at the budget expectations for ACTION buses. In 2016-17 only 72 per cent of buses ran on time: three in 10. Three in 10 are late—or early, which is even worse. Instead of addressing the issue, the government has continued its normal practice of ignoring community expectation and has actually reduced the target for buses running on time to 75 per cent. That is the target. The target is 75 per cent. The target is to have one in four buses running early or late. That is the aspiration that we have in this government: that one in four buses will be early or one in four buses will be late.

This is a government with a broad view. Instead of improving the service to meet the target and standards of Canberrans, which, as you would hope, would be a 100 per cent target, you would hope they would actually be improving to get to that 100 per cent. Especially with the level of technology that is available these days with regard to dynamic timetabling and the information that they can get about route performance, they really should be able to ensure that the timetables genuinely reflect what is possible. But, as anyone who rides on ACTION would know, so often the timetable slips, especially in the latter part of journeys. *(Second speaking period taken.)*

Budget statement H states that “there are a number of factors that affect reliability, the condition of the bus fleet is the key factor”. Of course, this means that we have old buses. “The condition of the bus fleet is a factor”: so we have old buses. Given that we have DDA compliance obligations, the government will have to put the foot to the floor in order to actually meet those.

Approximately one-quarter of the buses in the fleet are between 15 and 30 years old, with 91 buses between 20 and 30 years old. A total of 99 buses in the Transport Canberra fleet do not have climate control and 93 buses, or over 20 per cent of the fleet, are not currently wheelchair accessible. The minister said in her statement last week:

The transportation field is rapidly changing in areas of technology, business models and customer expectations.

However, it would be fair to say that the government has not met customer expectations with regard to the age of the fleet. Of course, it is an expensive operation, but given the commitment they have to light rail, you would hope that there is the same level of resolve to ensure that the bus fleet meets our DDA obligations.

The government says it will deliver 80 new buses over the next two years. That still leaves over a dozen buses that will not be wheelchair accessible and that also assumes, of course, that those 80 buses are going to replace 80 buses. I would appreciate it if the minister could clarify whether they will have a “one in, one out” process for those buses as they are delivered or whether they will be keeping some of the older buses in the fleet in order to expand the fleet.

With regard to roads, we have seen significant allocations for road expenditure this year. The Canberra Liberals are relieved that the government is finally investing in some road infrastructure. There is work being undertaken at the moment on Gundaroo, on Horse Park and numerous other roads in and around the Gungahlin town centre. We eagerly await news about various other road projects, not the least of which is William Slim Drive, which we touched on yesterday during question time.

There are specific issues relating to the maintenance of the existing road network. These have been highlighted in the report by the Auditor-General entitled *Maintenance of selected road infrastructure assets: Report No. 5/2017*. In effect, she came to the conclusion that the roads are not in a good state and there is not a good process in place for how we manage this very important asset.

It is one of those assets that, unless you get it right in terms of maintenance, will end up costing you far more in the long run. I think I speak for many Canberrans in expressing concern about the use of chip seal right across the ACT. It seems that the government has listened to some of these concerns and they are exploring different options. The application of chip seal is, of course, necessary in some circumstances, but there are some low-volume roads where chip seal has been applied and because it does not have the compaction with lots of vehicles travelling over it, it never really

does, from what I gather, provide a particularly good seal. That is what engineers have told me.

The backlog has grown by over 400 per cent since 2010-11. In 2015-16 the backlog was counted at more than 2.1 million square metres, which is equivalent to nine per cent of the total road pavement in the territory. In effect, one in 10 roads in the territory needs work but it has not happened as yet. It is predicted that the cost to repair the backlog will rise to \$71 million by 2019-20. It is only going to increase, of course, as construction costs increase as well.

This year the government has allocated \$1.5 million under the initiative “building a better city—fixing local roads”. The commonwealth provides funding for roads. However, the budget states that there is uncertainty and shows reductions in the funding. That is in budget paper 3, at pages 236 and 364. The Labor-Greens government need to start making significant investments towards the maintenance of public roads. They cannot purely rely on the commonwealth to prop them up. The commonwealth funding for roads is meant to be supplementary, not the only pool of funds that are used.

With the limited number of school places in the Gungahlin region, it is not uncommon for constituents to be travelling in the opposite direction to their work to complete a school run, a childcare run or the numerous other things that people do before and after work. Having access to a car is the only reasonable way for some people to travel in Canberra. Whilst it is all very well to have aspirations for everybody to be using light rail or other forms of transport, for the time being and for the foreseeable future, the car is the only way that most families will be able to do all that they need to do, according to the layout of our city.

As the city keeps growing, not just in population but geographically, the task does not get any easier in terms of public transport. It is all very well for the government to talk about having a spine for public transport, but it is not going to do a great deal for you if you happen to live in Denman, or if you happen to live in Taylor—

**Ms Lawder:** Banks.

**MR COE:** or in Banks or Evatt. That is true for the vast majority of Canberrans. So whilst we always need to make sure that we are investing in reasonable public transport, we have to be mindful of the fact that, for the vast majority of Canberrans, the car will be the only option they have in order to maintain their current lifestyle.

There are serious questions surrounding the current spending on transport and road infrastructure. The budget, of course, demonstrates big spending on light rail, but I think that there are some serious shortcomings with regard to other areas of the portfolio, especially with regard to the maintenance of infrastructure.

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (5.00): Transport Canberra and City Services is clearly core business for the ACT government, so I am very pleased to have the opportunity to reflect on some of the things the government is spending or not spending money on. First off I will look at our management of public open space of

territory unleased land. This is an area where obviously there is a very high and unmet demand for facilities. There are two communities in my electorate both looking for increased playground expenditure, and I am sure there are many more throughout Canberra. I believe we currently have about 500 playgrounds, and we are not in a position to adequately maintain them. This is an area where we need a better solution. Public toilets: I was in Downer when the one and only public toilet in Downer was closed. Local shop upgrades: there is a huge demand for those. Some of our local shops are looking pretty tacky.

I do not know exactly what the solution is, but I will put forward two ideas because I think it is a multipronged solution. The first solution is the one I put forward yesterday: participatory budgeting. Minister Fitzharris is nodding that TCCS expenditure was one of the areas identified as probably an easy place to start. There is clearly a lot of community interest in it; there is clearly demand for vastly more than the ACT government is currently providing, and I think vastly more than anybody would reasonably expect the ACT government to provide. We are not all going to have Chifley-level playgrounds in our suburbs. As nice as that may be, it is very much gold plating. We have to make some hard decisions about priorities in this budget area because the demands are very great.

The big advantage of participatory budgeting is that the community has to make some of these hard decisions. When we are lobbied by community members they all assure us that their particular thing is absolutely brilliant, is absolutely what is needed and will absolutely be great for their suburb. Of course they are 100 per cent correct in that. The problem the government has is that there are lot of things that it would be absolutely brilliant to do that would be great additions to the city. If our rates are to stay in any way manageable, not all those things are going to happen. I am very pleased that yesterday there was tripartisan support for this as being one of possibly many ways we can look at better allocating our money to the Transport Canberra and City Services budget.

Something else that may be part of the solution is more encouragement of local communities where they want to do something positive that will not cost the government money. The government gets concerned about potential risk issues. Currently TCCS is seen in many instances as a blocker. I give the specific example of the Fox and Bow, the cafe in Farrer which both you, Mr Assistant Speaker, and I have visited. It came to fame in the *Canberra Times* because the owners put up a basketball hoop opposite the cafe. If you were going more than 10 kph on the road it is on the side of you would be driving dangerously; there are two distinct 90-degree turns. But TCCS rangers said it was dangerous because it was next to a road, and the hoop has been removed. That is an unfortunate result. A speed hump and a sign saying "Kids playing slow down" would have been a better solution, but I use that as an example.

I am aware of a number of instances where community members have successfully done things in their local communities without bothering to consult the government on the grounds that they figured it was a low-risk, safe activity and it would be the best thing to do. I am aware of a few little book libraries dotted around the suburbs that people have put up. They are great additions to our community, and we need to have some processes that make it easier for community members to do things without

feeling that the government is blocking them. Equally, it is not reasonable that the government takes on liability for unsafe constructions that people may randomly do. I am very pleased that the minister is working on some better process for this.

Next I will move on to transport. Of course, the Greens have a strong commitment to a more sustainable city, and that means a more sustainable transport system. It also means a more sustainable city form, a more compact form, if we are going to have a transport system that has any chance of working. As I have said before, I am very pleased that this is the first budget where there is more money for public transport than roads. It has taken a while to get there, but I am ecstatic about that.

I have to agree with Mr Coe's comments about buses running on time. It is very frustrating to turn up on time and find that the bus was early or did not run at all. We can do better than we are doing at present and I look forward to improvement. The other perennial thing with the bus system where we have been looking forward to improvement for the last 10 or 20 years is having the same routes for the weekdays and weekends. Some people use buses both on weekdays and weekends and it is incredibly confusing. I am in the fortunate position where my 300 bus turns into a 900 bus and I do not have to worry too much about the other bits. But if you live in any suburban areas it is really unclear what to do. We should be able to achieve rationalisation of routes between weekends and weekdays.

I appreciate we will not have the same timetables; there is not the same level of demand. But it would make it a whole heap easier for anyone who is not a really regular user of buses and who has had to work it out. I admit that Google Maps has made it easier but, nonetheless, it is still nice to know what number should be on the bus, particularly when it is very hard to read that number until the bus is virtually there, and then they do not stop if you do not wave for them in enough time. I could rabbit on for ages about buses, but I had better move on a bit.

We are very pleased about the \$300 million in the parliamentary agreement for active travel. Some of this has been delivered in this budget. I note particularly that we need expenditure on footpath maintenance. That is the first part of transport; once you get out of your house, you will be on a footpath almost certainly. I also note in terms of public transport that around a third of people in Canberra do not drive: they are too young, they are too old, they have got disabilities or they just do not like it. Public transport and active transport are a vital part of our transport system. Almost everybody is a pedestrian at some stage.

I am also pleased with the funding for safer walking and cycling around schools. We will for the first time have school crossing supervisors. I understand there will be some small infrastructure upgrades around schools. This is really important to encourage kids to walk and cycle to school. That sets them up for the rest of their lives knowing this is how you can get around and that our city is safe to get round walking and cycling. It also makes life a lot easier for their parents if they do not have to be driven to school. This is how it used to be when I was a kid in Canberra, and that is how it should be for our children and our grandchildren.

Next I turn to the issue of waste. The ACT Greens would like to see a waste management system that results in a lot less material going to landfill. We believe waste should be treated as a resource and processed in a way that achieves maximum economic and environmental benefits. But the ACT's recycling rate is not increasing and the amount that goes to landfill is not decreasing. What we are doing is not working.

The ACT Greens strongly support the container deposit scheme funded in the budget, and we have called for this for a very long time. We are pleased it will be established early in 2018. According to the Boomerang Alliance, every year Australians consume drinks from around 13 billion containers, but only about 40 per cent of these are recycled. (*Second speaking period taken.*) I understand the South Australian container deposit scheme has approximately an 80 per cent return rate for drink containers, and I am hopeful our scheme will be just as successful. Importantly, with New South Wales doing it as well, it will bring us into line with the bigger area around us.

While the container deposit scheme is important, the ACT needs a holistic waste strategy. I am looking forward to the ACT waste feasibility study which is due later this year. Hopefully it will provide a clear, overarching strategy about how our waste is managed. In particular, the ACT needs to develop systems to divert organics, including food waste, away from landfill. As our population grows and more people live in apartments, the rate of organics going to landfill is likely to increase. I hope the waste feasibility study will identify systems for the collection of organic waste and propose marketable uses for the compost and methane gas produced.

The management of this waste stream is vitally important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring the ACT can meet its climate change targets. On this, I will be very interested to hear more about the results of the first rollout of the green waste bins in Canberra: what is actually going into them, what is actually being produced out of this really valuable organic waste and will they be extended to food waste.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is that of the generation of energy from waste, and this is a live issue in the ACT at this point of time. I have asked questions about it in this place. The ACT Greens have said we will not support mass incineration projects that increase the risk of harm to health or the environment and do not represent high value uses of resources. We also very much do not want to create a perverse incentive to generate more waste to feed a waste to energy plant to ensure its financial viability.

It is important that any future technology considered by the ACT is scrutinised with regard to emissions, its ability to maximise the recovery of high value resources, and even more important than all of this possibly is strategies to reduce the production of waste. I agree that is probably outside a lot of the remit of city services, but, nonetheless, in terms of making Canberra more ecologically sustainable, this is one of the principal things we need to do. Our rate of consumption is driving our environmental impact. If we can reduce that, we can reduce our environmental impact and almost certainly at the same time save money, so a win-win.

I would like to talk about a few city services budgets items in Murrumbidgee. One of the issues the budget addresses is the problem of city services in new suburbs. There has been a gap in the handover from the LDA or the other developers to TCCS. This has particularly been a problem in my electorate in the suburb of Coombs. The budget has \$5.2 million over four years to fix this. This is not just an issue in Coombs; it has been an ongoing issue. I have heard from a number of developers about how they have been constrained in what they deliver for the new residents. They have said they could deliver a high quality public open space but TCCS has said to them, “Our budget is X, Y and Z and therefore we are not prepared to take on anything which could potentially increase the maintenance budget.”

This is also a significant issue in terms of planning. What size roadside verges do we have? Are they big enough for trees, for instance? TCCS has a big say in this where the main thing seems to be making sure there is enough space for the garbage trucks to get in. While that is important it should not be one of the major determinants of how our multi-unit developments are built—I am told it is—or how our roads are laid out. Again, I have been told it is.

A really good news story is Woden Library. I am very pleased there is funding for the heritage library to move to Fyshwick. Undoubtedly it needs more space, and this will give more space in the Woden Library, which I have been told is the most used library in the ACT. It will be great to have the meeting spaces upstairs which we used to have a, long time ago and which we have all been missing.

I will briefly move on to one of the things where I have a real concern about the city services budget: trees. Trees are highly valued by the Canberra community because we all know they are very good things for us. First off, of course, they look really nice. It is calming and it is good for our souls to spend time in the natural environment and to see trees. But also they are very good for ameliorating urban temperatures in the summer and reducing the heat island effect. As climate change increases, trees are going to become more and more important to us.

It is not just from a temperature point of view; it is also reducing wind speeds. I used to live in Downer and I have done a lot of letterboxing in Gungahlin. I would go out to Gungahlin and I would say, “It is a really windy day.” I would come back to Downer—I am talking about moving four or five kilometres—and it was not windy there. That is because Downer has trees and the newer areas of Gungahlin do not.

**Mr Coe:** Were you inside?

**MS LE COUTEUR:** No, outside. It was noticeably different. Downer is blessed with beautifully treed streets. It really makes a difference. I have been shocked at the difference between the two. So that is part of the ecological value. Trees, of course, are places where animals and insects live. If we want to have biodiversity in our city—and hopefully we all do—trees need to be part of it. It is part of our feel as a bush capital to have trees. For some of the inner areas of Canberra which have been laid out with beautiful deciduous trees, it is part of the formal majesty and formal beauty of our city. Of course, trees have a measurable economic value in terms of higher property values and lower summer heating costs.



After this bit of praise for trees, I am trying to say from a budget point of view that I am concerned about lack of funds to increase our tree cover and to adequately maintain the trees we have got. I think we all get complaints from constituents about trees being cut down by TCCS. I appreciate that in most cases it is probably necessary, but there does not appear to be a maintenance program enough to avoid these cut downs or to make sure that trees are planted to replace them.

In conclusion, in general I am pleased with the direction that we are going, particularly from a transport point of view. But I would like to see more green environmental things so that we are building a more sustainable city for us now and into the future.

**MR PETTERSSON** (Yerrabi) (5.18): I am proud to be part of a government that is and always has been committed to the future of Canberra. This budget demonstrates that commitment and continues in the great Labor tradition of investing in infrastructure. Our government is investing in high quality infrastructure. These are measures that we campaigned on in the 2016 election and they are a large part of the reason why Canberrans voted for this Barr Labor government. Our government is delivering on the promises we made to the community, justifying their support and trust in our vision for Canberra.

I spoke yesterday about how Canberra is growing and how this budget ensures that Canberra will be prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities that the next decade will bring. This budget is about positive outcomes for Canberrans today as well as futureproofing for tomorrow. We will continue to invest in our suburbs and upgrade our roads to ensure that Canberra remains the liveable city it is today.

This government is delivering the largest ever infrastructure investment program this city has ever seen. Over the next four years this government will be investing over \$2.9 billion in new facilities and services for Canberrans. This infrastructure program will include upgrading our roads to make sure that Canberrans continue to have a range of transport options available. The budget includes \$54 million in road upgrades across the ACT.

I am very pleased to see that \$35 million will be going towards roads in my own electorate of Yerrabi. The huge population growth in Yerrabi has tested our existing transport infrastructure. This new funding includes stage 2 of the Gundaroo Drive duplication, along with the replacement of the roundabout at the intersection of Gundaroo and Mirrabai drives, a particularly hot topic for certain residents.

The government will also be investing \$57 million to complete the duplication of Horse Park Drive between the Federal Highway and Mulligans Flat Road. We are also allocating \$9.8 million to duplicate Aikman Drive between Ginninderra Drive and Emu Bank, an investment that will facilitate greater connectivity with the new public hospital at the University of Canberra. And we are just not upgrading roads; we are also committed to making them safer. That is why we have committed \$8.4 million in road safety and maintenance measures, including \$6.9 million for road maintenance and landscape features on Majura Parkway and Gungahlin Drive.

Of course, roads are only one part of an effective transport system. Public transport is also vital for a liveable city. We can all see that the construction of stage 1 of light rail is well and truly underway. It is great to see this budget provides \$53.5 million for the planning of light rail stage 2 to Woden town centre. Stage 2 will obviously benefit the residents of Woden, but Gungahlin residents will also benefit by being connected to another town centre. I look forward to having my colleagues Ms Cody and Mr Steel take the tram up to Gungahlin and join me for a coffee one day on Hibberson St when it is complete.

**Mr Parton:** Can I come, too?

**MR PETTERSSON:** When we get to Tuggeranong, Mark, which is coming. The government is continuing to add extra bus routes along with improving passenger facilities for the rapid bus network. The budget provides for our town centres. Gungahlin in particular will benefit from a \$3 million investment to further improve the Gungahlin town centre. This will include an upgrade to Hibberson Street between Gungahlin Place and Gozzard Street that will improve access for pedestrians and cyclists. This will also include landscaping in the town centre to further improve the visual amenities of Gungahlin.

By investing in transport today, we will see a social and economic benefit in the future. Canberra will not suffer the congestion plaguing cities like Sydney and Melbourne. Our city is growing and we must prepare for the challenges and opportunities that growth brings. The people of Canberra understood last year that a vote for Labor was a vote for a long-term plan, and once again a Labor government will deliver on that promise. I am proud to be a part of a Labor government that is focused on the future of Canberra. Those opposite took a backwards and negative plan to the people of Canberra and it was rejected. Canberrans have shown they want a positive and comprehensive plan for the future. Our Labor budget is ensuring that Canberra is a liveable and inclusive city. Our investments in transport infrastructure and our public transport network will ensure that Canberrans have access to a range of reliable transport options now and into the future.

**MS ORR** (Yerrabi) (5.23): Earlier this year I sponsored two petitions with over 180 signatures that called on the government to deliver on its election commitment to fund a community park for Giralang. Through the support shown by the residents of Giralang, funding for the park was secured in this year's budget, which is why I rise today in support of the appropriation bill. Following the funding announcement, I have already begun a conversation with the residents of Giralang about what they would like in their park. I conducted a survey on my website and sought comments through social media. I have also been out doorknocking Giralang for suggestions on what the community would like in their park. This semester, students from the University of Canberra will include these suggestions in designs for the park they will develop as part of their degrees.

The delivery of the Giralang community park offers a model for public engagement where the community are asked what they would like rather than asked for comment on what is proposed. I am a firm believer in community engagement. The specific

elements of the park should be based on what the community wants. I am proud to represent Giralang and thank residents for their trust and willingness to get on board and participate in this process.

This is a great way to be encouraging more nature in our suburbs. It is important that we do this, as the natural environment has a great capacity to enrich the built environment of our city. Integration between these two elements can be done through well-considered planning and engagement with the community.

Giralang is a Radburn suburb, one that was designed for community use, for the environment and for pedestrians. The footpaths in Giralang, like many Belconnen suburbs, lead to a central point where the community can come together. In Giralang this central area is currently home to Giralang Primary School, the preschool and the Chabad centre, with the community centre and playing fields nearby. This park provides a focal point at the heart of Giralang for everyone to come together. I am glad to see it funded in this budget.

**MS FITZHARRIS** (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (5.25): Mr Assistant Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today about the 2017-18 budget and the important work the ACT government is doing through Transport Canberra and City Services. As members have mentioned, it is a directorate whose work is of much interest to the community and, of course, to members in this place. Through this budget TCCS is focused on investing in city-shaping infrastructure and community-focused services for all Canberrans. Many of Canberra's major infrastructure projects and essential community services are delivered by TCCS. These projects and services have the potential to profoundly impact the amenity and liveability of our city both now and into the future.

There are more than 3,000 kilometres of roads across Canberra which support the social, economic and transportation needs of our city. In 2016-17 the ACT government started, and this budget continues, work on several major road projects to improve performance, safety and access for people living in each region across the city. These projects include the duplication of Ashley Drive, Aikman Drive, Gundaroo Drive, Horse Park Drive and Cotter Road.

While I have been pleased with the progress our road network made last financial year, over the next 12 months work will both start and finish on a range of significant projects which will future-proof the ACT against traffic woes and congestion for many years to come. In this budget the ACT government has provided a further \$54 million to upgrade, build and plan for better roads, improving Canberrans' ability to safely and easily move round the city. Our roads package will upgrade, build and plan for eight important roads, including the duplication of Gundaroo Drive through to the Barton Highway and, very importantly, signalling the intersection of Gundaroo Drive and Mirrabai Drive. A number of other significant roads projects will be delivered by the new Suburban Land Agency.

Improving the ACT's public transport infrastructure is also vital in our plans to create a more livable city. We have spoken often in this place—at least on this side of the

chamber—about the importance of integration of our transport network. Over the 2016-17 financial year we exceeded our patronage targets by about 200,000 boardings. On an average day, the ACT's ACTION buses carries 75,000 passengers. In 2016-17, buses were boarded 18.3 million times. Our aim is to improve these numbers every year.

The 2017-18 budget will contribute to the rejuvenation of the Transport Canberra bus network, with \$43.8 million towards new buses. They will replace some of the oldest in the fleet, creating a more comfortable ride for passengers and a better overall customer experience. This budget also establishes two new rapid routes, linking Woden to the city via Manuka and Barton, and Belconnen to Gungahlin.

Advancements in ticket technology have changed the way transport users engage with public transport around the world. As I noted in my statement earlier this month, TCCS is currently examining options for next-generation ticketing systems. They have been adopted in public transport systems globally and are being considered in other Australian cities, including in Sydney.

In 2016-17, \$3 million was allocated to progress an integrated bus and light rail ticketing system; \$2.5 million of this has now been rolled into this year's budget to align with planned equipment supply, with a further \$2.1 million in this budget to enable the project to progress. An integrated ticketing system will mean that customers of light rail will be able to transfer between light rail and buses and vice versa. We are also exploring other opportunities to use this integrated ticketing system more broadly across Canberra.

As we know, the construction of Canberra's light rail network is the most significant transport infrastructure project our city has ever embarked upon. As Mr Pettersson noted, anyone driving along Northbourne Avenue, Flemington Road or the Federal Highway will note that stage 1 is well underway. With completion on track for late 2018, we are seeing test tracks being laid right now and look forward to the first permanent tracks being laid next month.

The light rail project is already presenting opportunities for people wanting to expand their professional capabilities in Canberra. Indeed, today we were very thrilled to announce and reveal the artists who will provide their artwork for the seating on both light rail and new Transport Canberra buses, as well as for the light rail stops. Another example of the opportunities for Canberrans is the exciting memorandum of understanding between the ACT government and the Department of Defence. Later this year engineering students from the University of New South Wales Canberra at ADFA will start work placements with Canberra Metro.

I am also pleased to say that the 2017-18 budget will see us move ahead with our plans for light rail stage 2 from the city to Woden. As we know, Woden is an important town centre, a key growth area in Canberra forecast to have an employment population of more than 120,000 along the route and almost 90,000 residents and students within one kilometre of the city-to-Woden corridor over the next 20 years.

Planning for Woden's population growth and urban renewal is a priority. We know that light rail will reduce congestion on our roads and provide commuters with a quick, practical and efficient alternative to driving their cars. Since our re-election we have invested \$3.5 million in early planning, and a further \$16.5 million to carry out detailed scoping and route planning, just a part of the investment in stage 2 light rail in this budget.

As I noted in my statement just a couple of weeks ago, multimodality is critical to fully functioning public transport in cities. The ACT government is committed to continuing investment in a range of active travel infrastructure and initiatives to provide more opportunities to walk, cycle and scoot, and to improve the health and wellbeing of all Canberrans.

We have allocated \$4 million over four years to improve Canberra's community path networks and identified high-priority areas. They will include pedestrian refuges, pram crossings, cycleways and age-friendly walking and cycling improvements. The budget will also extend Canberra's 3,500 kilometres of footpaths and cycleways by starting work on the Belconnen bikeway to link a range of important institutions around the Belconnen town centre and within the town centre itself.

As we know, and as many members have noted, we understand the importance of Canberra's amenities to residents and families. That is why we have committed more than \$23 million in this budget to provide better suburbs for Canberra under a range of initiatives. They will include better road maintenance, better safety in school zones, better weed control, graffiti prevention, and better playgrounds and sporting facilities.

We will also soon start a broader engagement with the Canberra community about how we deliver better suburbs. Encouraging more children to walk, ride or scoot to school has many benefits, including better health and wellbeing, reduced traffic congestion, particularly around school zones, increased safety and more active communities. I was pleased last month to host a forum at TCCS with a range of stakeholders looking at the design of our school crossing supervisor program and also the range of other activities we have underway around school zones. The government will spend around \$3.2 million to implement these safety measures.

We are also investing in our town centres. As members have noted, there is \$3 million to continue the upgrade of the Tuggeranong town centre, building on the work that was recently completed; \$3 million for the Gungahlin town centre, particularly to pedestrianise the lower end of Hibberson Street, which is a great project for the Gungahlin Town Centre, in addition to the many other exciting upgrades underway in the town centre itself; and \$2 million for Kambah Village. I have to note Mr Steel's fantastic efforts with all the residents of Kambah in promoting and encouraging their involvement in the design of this really important infrastructure upgrade at Kambah Village. The combined works will provide Canberrans in these regions and town centres with improved safety, access and amenity: improved access for pedestrians, lighting, seating, playgrounds and a range of other infrastructure.

Over two years we have also funded two important and major improvements to the Woden Library, as Ms Le Couteur noted. The Heritage Library, currently located

within the Woden Library, will be relocated to a new purpose-built facility in Fyshwick. The new area will provide the important heritage collection with a higher level of protection to ensure that our important history is preserved. The Woden Library will then have the vacated spaces revamped with new contemporary library spaces and other facilities, including meeting facilities.

The need to place Canberrans at the heart of decisions is something TCCS and the ACT government have adopted as part of our core values. The budget announcements made to provide Canberra with better suburbs will deliver projects and services the community has asked for.

The budget includes funding to implement election commitments relating to waste. Importantly, this also includes the container deposit scheme. The scheme will remove used drinking containers from landfill and waterways while providing a valuable revenue source for small clubs, community groups and charities. I look forward to further announcements about the container deposit scheme, scheduled to start operating here in early 2018.

We will also, through this budget, establish a community program to donate unwanted goods to people in need, including people whose lives have been disrupted by domestic and family violence or natural disasters.

As at 1 July 2017, over 7,500 homes have registered for the green bin pilot currently operating in Weston Creek and Kambah. We know that green waste is an important issue for most Canberrans, which is why we have committed to making this service available to all ACT households by 2020. In addition, this budget makes significant investment in waste infrastructure, including for the rehabilitation of the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre and new cells at Mugga.

These are some of the great initiatives the 2017-18 budget provides for Canberrans. As we know, Canberra is a growing city. An increasing population is great for economic growth, and the government is taking action now to plan for the future so that we have sustainable services and facilities available for all Canberrans. I thank members for their comments. I note that we will continue other important work in a range of areas, including animal welfare, responsible pet ownership and, importantly, the waste feasibility study which Ms Le Couteur noted. The directorate will continue their customer focus, broad-ranging engagement, and new approaches for Canberrans to provide input into budget processes. I commend this TCCS budget to the Assembly.

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee) (5.36): This is a budget that delivers for the south side and I am pleased to stand and support it and particularly comment on the transport and city services output. This budget delivers the infrastructure investment needed to bring renewal on the south side and support the growth occurring in the Molonglo Valley. I have already spoken this week and last week on how the budget helps to deliver an integrated, city-wide transport network as well as building our active travel connections.

I want today to address some of the other measures in the TCCS portfolio for Murrumbidgee, particularly infrastructure investments that are funded in the budget.

Although Murrumbidgee residents will be aware of some of the budget's key transport and city services items from press coverage. There are so many important projects across the board and it is the funding of these small but important measures that I want to touch upon today.

One of the Barr government's central focuses this term is the renewal of our urban centres. In the budget, the government is continuing to build in this area through funding upgrades to many of the group centres across Canberra, particularly in Murrumbidgee. I am of course very delighted to see stage 2 of the upgrades to the Kambah village group centre funded in the budget. The \$2 million will be invested to provide new toilets, an upgraded playground with shading and an extension of the central courtyard including new paving and seating areas. There will also be additional shade trees and deciduous plantings, along with a formalised waste collection shelter.

These build on stage 1 of the works which have recently been completed at the centre and have made a huge difference to the courtyard. We are already seeing the benefits of that translate through some of the private businesses there also upgrading their facades. Capital Chemist in particular has done a great job and we hope that, combined with the private developments happening at Kambah village, the whole centre will be transformed into something special, particularly with the upgrade and expansion of Woolies and with extra retail. Some shuffling of shops there has already started to occur, with the newsagent moving into the old TAB site. On behalf of the people of Kambah I applaud the government for these initiatives and I would like particularly to put on record my thanks to the minister and the government for working hard to deliver this commitment in the budget.

I know that many residents of my electorate, particularly those who live in Kambah, also use the Tuggeranong Hyperdome in Greenway for their shopping, and I am very supportive of the investment in this budget for upgrades to Anketell Street, including money for a raised pedestrian zone and a low-speed traffic environment, new on-road cycle lanes, tree replacements, improved lighting, street furniture and additional landscaping. I note Ms Lawder's comments yesterday about wanting to see some more art in Anketell Street. I did find those comments ironic, I have to say, given the Liberals' complete rejection of our public art program in the past.

Earlier this year the government hosted a Woden roundtable to talk about how we can spur urban renewal in Woden as well. I have been running a survey asking residents who live in Woden for feedback and suggestions about what they would like to see for Woden's future. One of the most consistent things that I have been hearing from nearby residents is the need for more community facilities and improved community facilities in and around Woden. That is why I am very pleased that the government is improving access to community facilities in Woden in the budget, in addition to future planning for community facilities through the Territory Plan process.

The government is investing \$1.5 million to move the ACT Heritage Library from the Woden library site to Fyshwick and that will enable us to retrofit the existing site to community learning facilities including venues that can be booked out by community groups and the public. I am sure that they will be well used, given today's

announcement about the Woden Tradies closing. It, of course, also provides community meeting rooms as well.

In the Molonglo region the government is continuing to build a world-class recreational precinct. In the budget I was very pleased to see an investment of \$200,000 to help fund improvements at Stromlo district park, soon to be the new home of the container village, to refresh the area. Many Canberrans will use this space on weekends and during the week. This is fantastic for the Molonglo Valley, which is growing fast. In the past five years it has been one of the fastest growing suburban areas in the country. In 2020 it will house almost 2½ thousand additional dwellings, according to the budget papers.

The Molonglo Valley does need more schools, more community facilities and more dwellings. The budget delivers in all these areas. But it also requires more road infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the population. There is almost a million dollars in total for early planning works on the extension to Bindubi Street, upgrade to William Hovell Drive and funding for early work on a new major road, which is the east-west arterial road which will connect John Gorton Drive to the Tuggeranong Parkway and provide a new important connection directly into the Molonglo Valley. I look forward to work on that piece of infrastructure progressing and the consultations associated with that.

Lastly, in the lead-up to light rail stage 2, Woden is going to become a public transport hub in the same way as Greenway and Belconnen are right now. The government is investing in a new bus depot in Phillip which will accommodate up to 120 buses, including undercover parking, administrative facilities and offices, maintenance, refuelling and bus washing facilities. This will create more local jobs over the course of the construction and operation of the project.

The depot will also help to augment the government's expanding bus network which also received additional funding in the budget, particularly the new black rapid service from Gungahlin to Belconnen and the new green rapid service which will support more people to get from Woden to the hospital, over Hindmarsh Drive to Barton, Manuka and through to the city every 15 minutes. I certainly encourage members of the community to use that service, particularly as it will be free for the first few months.

In conclusion, I stand here today to support the government's budget. It is delivering on Labor's commitment, which we brought to the election, to build a better city, whether improving our group centres, designing and building new road infrastructure or building an integrated transport system for our growing city. The government is investing in better suburbs, including on the south side, and I commend the budget to the Assembly.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Total appropriated to territory entities—agreed to.

Treasurer's advance—Part 1.20.



**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (5.43): Section 18 of the Financial Management Act provides the Treasurer with the authority to authorise appropriation if there is an urgent or unforeseen need for expenditure during a financial year. The Treasurer's advance must not exceed one per cent of the total amount appropriated by all appropriation acts for that year. In the 2016-17 fiscal year a total of \$33.958 million was expended against the Treasurer's advance of \$47.6 million. In 2017-18 an amount of \$49,471,930, representing one per cent of total appropriations for the financial year, has been included in the Appropriation Bill 2017-2018. I commend the Treasurer's advance to the Assembly.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Total appropriations—agreed to.

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

Title agreed to.

Question put:

That this bill be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 13

Noes 9

Mr Barr	Ms Le Couteur	Mr Coe	Mr Milligan
Ms Berry	Ms Orr	Mr Hanson	Mr Parton
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mrs Jones	Mr Wall
Ms Cheyne	Mr Ramsay	Mrs Kikkert	
Ms Cody	Mr Rattenbury	Ms Lawder	
Ms Fitzharris	Mr Steel	Ms Lee	
Mr Gentleman			

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to.

## **Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018**

Debate resumed from 6 June 2016, on motion by **Mr Barr**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (5.50), in reply: The Office of the Legislative Assembly established by the Legislative Assembly (Office of the

Legislative Assembly) Act provides procedural and administrative advice and support to the Assembly and its committees. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

**MR COE** (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition), by leave: Madam Speaker, you in particular will be reassured to know that we are supporting supply to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and all associated offices

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

### **Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee Report**

Debate resumed from 1 August 2017, on motion by **Mr Wall**:

That the report be noted.

Question resolved in the affirmative

### **Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee Report—government response**

Debate resumed from 15 August 2017, on motion by **Mr Barr**:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (5.52), in reply: Very briefly, I thank all members for their contribution to the budget debate in this new format, with the budget debate occurring over two sitting weeks. That certainly avoided the need for 4 or 5 am finishes. I am certainly interested in members' feedback in relation to debating the budget over a two-week period. The initial feedback to me has been that this has been a very positive way to conduct the debate. Subject to there not being violent disagreement from other parties, I would intend that this be the future format for the budget debate: two weeks in this period in August.

I thank all those who were involved in the production of the budget this year. It is the most significant piece of legislation that this Assembly debates. I particularly thank the team in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate as well as my own office who work incredibly hard on the budget each year. I commend the budget, the government response to the estimates committee report, the work of the estimates committee, to the Assembly and thank everyone for their engagement in the process.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Adjournment**

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

### **Ms Fiona Richardson**

**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) (5.53): Madam Speaker, along with many people across Australia, I was deeply saddened last night to learn about the death of Fiona Richardson, Victoria's Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and Minister for Women. Despite the fact that her illness was well known, Fiona had fought it so bravely for so long that her passing still came as a shock. I am sure I speak for all members in saying that our thoughts and sympathies are with her family, friends, colleagues and all those who are mourning the loss of a fine leader.

Fiona was a giant for women's progress and for the elimination of domestic and family violence. She took these causes forward in Victoria with a commitment that set her apart, particularly through her leadership around the Royal Commission into Family Violence and, more recently, the Victorian gender equality strategy. Fiona also shared her own experience of family violence publicly, with courage and with a willingness to show how indiscriminate this violence can be.

Through this leadership, she helped build momentum behind national movements of change which also touched us here in Canberra. As a fellow minister for women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I was lucky to develop a friendship with Fiona over the past few years. Some members will be aware that the ACT and Victoria have shared extensively in the development of our responses to domestic and family violence. I am also willing to admit that Fiona and I have shared a few exasperated text messages over the course of what can be very frustrating national teleconferences. Neither she nor I had a lot of time for the jargon which can echo through some of these conversations. Her attitude was just to get on with it. She saw her chance to make a difference for many women, she took it, and that is what is being remembered today around Victoria and Australia.

Madam Speaker, despite great sadness at her passing too young, Fiona leaves behind countless women more empowered to demand equality, victims of violence more empowered to speak up, and young feminists who will follow in her footsteps. I pay tribute to her contribution, and my thoughts are with everyone grieving today on her passing.

### **Marriage equality**

**MRS JONES** (Murrumbidgee) (5.56): I wish to put on record a few thoughts on the postal vote on the same-sex push to redefine marriage and the public vote now to take place starting in just a few weeks time.

Firstly, I have listened very carefully to a lot of criticism from those opposite about the upcoming survey. I would note that we could have had a plebiscite back in February if the federal Labor opposition, colleagues of those present, had not opposed it in the federal parliament.

Secondly, I agree in part with Brendan O'Neill, a well-known left-wing activist, who says that he fears the totalitarian streak of those behind the push. The call for the federal parliament to get on with voting on the matter ignores the 12 or so times same-sex marriage has been put to the federal parliament already and been rejected.

Thirdly, I would like it on record that it is okay to say no. Plenty of good Australians and Canberrans have a reason to say no. It does not make them intrinsically bad, unkind or bigots; in fact, in the face of the kind of attacks that those on my side of the debate come under on a regular basis, you could argue that those people are going over and above what can reasonably be expected of anybody.

Marriage is based, in my view, on the concept of the Latin word "matrimonium". "Matrimonium" means the making of a mother, the state of becoming a mother. Marriage is intrinsically about getting men to grow up and take responsibility for the women that they get pregnant. It is an essentially feminist or female focused concept for the sake of women and the children who grow in their wombs. Children deserve, wherever possible, to know their identity: who is their father and who is their mother. Marriage should mean that fewer women have to parent alone; it is a huge load for one person to carry. Nothing in the same-sex rights movement changes the biological reality that women bear babies, they grow them in their wombs, and society can support with structures that get men to grow up and take their roles seriously.

Over the past few years, and the past few weeks in particular, I have been inundated by representations from a large number of different ethnic and faith groups as well as people I know through other meetings, too frightened to voice their view for fear of being ridiculed or bullied by proponents of the change. People who have come to me are terrified that if they express their view they will be socially isolated and economically impacted because of their view. They fear being mocked and called names. It happens a great deal. They fear intolerance of their views.

I hope that in this place we encourage everyone to vote along the lines of their own faith and cultural and personal preferences, and not to be afraid but to have courage. There is nothing wrong with you if you think that marriage is an important institution as it is, that it is for the purpose of encouraging the keeping together of couples who produce children or who have children, to keep men with the mother of their children wherever possible, and wherever possible for those men to be present in those children's lives. I just want to say that it is okay to say no.

### **Safe Schools program**

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee) (5.59): I unfortunately rise to speak in response to matters aired earlier in today's proceedings. Canberra is an inclusive city, but if you heard the comments made earlier today by those opposite, you would be forgiven for getting a different impression.

Mrs Kikkert has come into this place and tried to undermine the safe schools program again. I am not sure whether it is because she does not understand the safe schools program. Her comments give me the sense that she does not understand the nature of the program and how it supports high schools to make them more inclusive for LGBTIQ students. She has never pointed out any specific issue with the safe schools resources; so it is difficult to know what her issues are with the program.

Mrs Kikkert has also made some specific comments that I find to be shocking and that do not reflect the safe schools program. Her claim that teachers are grooming children for sex is deeply disturbing. If what she says has any basis in evidence, then it is incumbent on her to go to the appropriate authorities with the information that she has. It is simply untenable to hang such serious matters out in the Assembly under privilege and not to have them addressed. If she is not willing to refer those matters to the appropriate body, then I respectfully ask her withdraw her comments in this place in the adjournment debate this evening.

This is a very serious accusation of criminal conduct which she has an obligation to raise with the police immediately. If she has not raised this with the police, then she must be obligated to retract this disgraceful comment. If there is no evidence, then this sort of conduct in the Assembly I believe is unbecoming of a member of this place.

I also call on the Leader of the Opposition to counsel Mrs Kikkert on this matter. This incident is a poor reflection on the Canberra Liberals and the opposition leader must come out and address this matter. Using children's safety and inclusion in government institutions for political pointscoring is not acceptable and bringing the reputation of teachers in schools which are part of the safe schools program into disrepute without sufficient evidence is also totally unacceptable.

We all in this place have a leadership role in the community. Chief among our responsibilities is not to politicise children's safety and also not to peddle hatred against the most vulnerable in our society. The Deputy Chief Minister put it perfectly this morning when she said that we stand by every LGBTIQ kid. That is what leadership looks like. I hope that Mr Coe shows his leadership and brings his MLAs into line.

### **Australian public service—impact of relocations Assisted dying**

**MS CHEYNE** (Ginninderra) (6.02): I want to take a few moments to update the Assembly on two important petitions I am running. We have heard a lot over the past two weeks about the ACT government's investment in this city and I am incredibly proud of this work. Regrettably, though, despite his own citizenship being in doubt, Barnaby Joyce's idea of the decentralisation of the Australian public service out of Canberra remains a live threat for many Canberrans and their families.

Almost 500 Canberrans have now signed my petition supporting APS jobs remaining in Canberra, the capital of Australia and the heart of the Australian public service. Almost 500 Canberrans have made clear that any proposed decentralisation is not good for them and it is not good for Canberra.

There is less than a month left for Canberrans to make their views known so that we can inform the House of Representatives committee that is inquiring into this about how strongly we disagree with the proposal to decentralise away from Canberra. Through you, Madam Speaker, I encourage all Canberrans to make sure they have their say by visiting my website and adding their name to my petition.

I also wanted to update the Assembly about the petition that I and a number of other Labor MLAs, including Mr Steel and Mr Pettersson, are running on restoring the territory's rights to determine our own laws regarding voluntary assisted dying. Almost every single state in Australia now is seriously considering voluntary assisted dying but we simply cannot do that in the ACT. This is because of the outdated Andrews legislation, made by federal politicians who do not represent us, 20 years ago.

We should have the same rights as other state parliaments. In the past month alone almost 300 Canberrans have agreed with us by putting their name on this petition. I strongly encourage the Canberra community to have their say, to sign the petition, so we can keep the pressure on our federal colleagues to give us back our right to debate these laws in this place, just like the other states have.

### **Budget—Brindabella electorate**

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (6.04): Tonight I would like to speak about the budget as it relates to the people of Brindabella, just to summarise for them. Tonight the Legislative Assembly has passed the ACT Labor government's budget for 2017-18, concluding two weeks of budget debate and following on from the budget estimates hearings. Through this period it has become clearer and clearer to me that the government do not care much for the people of Tuggeranong. It has become clearer and clearer to me that they take them for granted.

In the budget we have seen the government continue to ignore the people of Tuggeranong. Once again the people of Tharwa have been crying out for good consultation on the development of the Tharwa village master plan. The draft has just come out after quite some time of waiting. Finally we see some provision made for water supply for firefighting at Tharwa, after years of lobbying. A problem is that this budget removes the accountability indicators in relation to the master planning process, despite the fact that some master plans are not yet completed.

In this budget we have seen the government increase your cost of living. We see this through the ridiculous rates rises that we have all been receiving, through the increase in utility costs, and through the removal of many utility concessions that pensioners rely on. We see it in the increase in the lease variation charges.

In this budget we have seen the government try to take away our recreational facilities, attempting to close one of the gates at Googong foreshore and with the removal of mountain bike trails at Sparrow Hill and Kowen forest. We have seen the Gartside Street restaurant precinct delayed over and over again, despite being promised for years, only starting in the past week.

This budget shows that the government is not listening to the people of Tuggeranong. We have seen a sculptural lighting feature that has been placed in the Greenway area at the Tuggeranong town centre. Is it some form of artwork? Not in the view of Tuggeranong residents. We have seen many comments on a Facebook site called My Tuggeranong, hundreds of comments, about this sculptural lighting feature.

We have seen changes to traffic calming measures without proper consultation, such as the proliferation of speed humps on Bugden Avenue in Fadden. We have seen this through the failure to make changes to Coyne Street in Macarthur, where there has been an accident just this week. We have seen this through previous budget commitments to duplicate Ashley Drive. The government tried to avoid duplicating the last section between Ellerston Avenue and Johnson Drive but was eventually shamed into it by the Liberal commitment to duplicating the entire stretch of Ashley Drive.

At the last election, the people of Brindabella overwhelmingly supported the Canberra Liberals. At the last election, the people of Brindabella overwhelmingly asked us to represent them. As a member for Brindabella, I am making this promise to the people of Tuggeranong: while we did not win the election, we are certainly here for you. I made a commitment to be the best possible local member that I can be. I say to the people of Brindabella: I am here; I am listening to you; I hear your concerns. That is why I am here in the Assembly: to raise your concerns. In raising your concerns, I hope that this government hears your concerns.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**The Assembly adjourned at 6.09 pm until Tuesday, 12 September 2017, at 10 am.**

## Answers to questions

### Roads—projects (Question No 181)

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

- (1) When was the Traffic Warrants System (TWS) was last updated.
- (2) When is the next update to the TWS scheduled.
- (3) Can the Minister provide an update to the status of the following possible future works listed on the online version of the TWS (a) Ranking 1 – Maribyrnong Avenue (Baldwin Drive to Baldwin Drive), Kaleen, (b) Ranking 5 – Hambridge Crescent (Isabella Drive to Goldstein Crescent), Chisholm, (c) Ranking 8 – Heagney Crescent (Hambridge Crescent to Clift Crescent), Chisholm, (d) Ranking 10 – Castleton Crescent (Bugden Avenue to Bugden Avenue), Gowrie, (e) Ranking 17 – Copland Drive (Moynihan Street to Owen Dixon Drive), Evatt, (f) Ranking 18 – Ashley Drive (Erindale Drive to Sternberg Crescent), Wanniasa and (g) Ranking 19 – Gilmore Crescent (Kitchener Street to Kitchener Street), Garran.
- (4) Will implementation of works be accordance with the Master Plan developed after consultation with the community for the possible future works listed on the online version of the TWS and referred to in part (3).
- (5) If implementation of any works in part (3) above varies from the Master Plan, will further consultation be undertaken with the local community.
- (6) Can the Minister list the 100 streets in the ACT in terms of priority for traffic management measures and the date each street was added to the priority list.
- (7) Further to the motion passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 2 May 2012 regarding the traffic conditions on Coyne Street in Macarthur, Fadden and Gowrie, what is the status of the works to improve the conditions on Coyne Street and surrounding streets in the area.
- (8) Are traffic calming devices being installed on Castleton Crescent in the vicinity of the Gowrie Primary School; if so, outline the nature of that work and any consultation that may have taken place with local residents.

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

1. The TWS was last updated in February 2016.
2. The next update to the TWS is scheduled to be completed in 2020.
3. Status update as follows:
  - a. The majority of high priority works were implemented in 2015. The outstanding roundabout at the intersection with Ashburton Circuit and other lower priority works will be considered under a future capital works program.



- b. The roundabout at the intersection with Goldstein Crescent will be considered under a future capital works program. In the interim, the master plan for the street will be reviewed in 2017 and any warranted cost effective measures will be implemented.
  - c. The outstanding roundabouts at the intersections with Clift, Deamer, Henry Melville and Louisa Lawson Crescents will be considered under a future capital works program. In the interim, the master plan for the street will be reviewed in 2017 and any warranted cost effective measures will be implemented.
  - d. The master plan for the street was reviewed in 2016 and some warranted treatments were implemented in April/May 2017 on Castleton Crescent, Gowrie.
  - e. The majority of high priority works were implemented in 2016. The roundabout at the intersection with Verbrugghen Street will be considered in a future capital works program.
  - f. The outstanding roundabout at the intersection with Sternberg Crescent was implemented in July 2017 under the Federal Black Spot program.
  - g. The outstanding pedestrian crossing was implemented in January 2017 on Gilmore Crescent, Garran.
4. No. The outstanding works will be considered under future capital works programs.
5. Yes. Consultation will be undertaken with all directly affected residents as well as with relevant stakeholders.
6. The top 100 streets in the 2016 TWS are listed below:

<b>2016 Rank</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Suburb/s</b>
<b>1</b>	Maribyrnong Av	<b>Kaleen</b>
<b>2</b>	Denison St	<b>Deakin</b>
<b>3</b>	Carruthers St (east)	<b>Deakin/Curtin</b>
<b>4</b>	Theodore St	<b>Curtin</b>
<b>5</b>	Torrens St	<b>Braddon</b>
<b>6</b>	Hambidge Cr	<b>Chisholm</b>
<b>7</b>	Brigalow St	<b>Lyneham/O'Connor</b>
<b>8</b>	Heagney Cr	<b>Chisholm</b>
<b>9</b>	Were St	<b>Calwell</b>
<b>10</b>	Castleton Cr	<b>Gowrie</b>
<b>11</b>	Tillyard Dr (south)	<b>Charnwood</b>
<b>12</b>	Box Hill Av	<b>Conder</b>
<b>13</b>	Boddington Cr	<b>Kambah</b>
<b>14</b>	Captain Cook Cr	<b>Griffith</b>
<b>15</b>	Wattle St (south)	<b>Lyneham</b>
<b>16</b>	Kosciuszko Av	<b>Palmerston</b>
<b>17</b>	Copland Dr	<b>Evatt</b>
<b>18</b>	Ashley Dr	<b>Wanniassa</b>
<b>19</b>	Gilmore Cr	<b>Garran</b>
<b>20</b>	Tillyard Dr (north)	<b>Fraser</b>
<b>21</b>	Ellerston Av	<b>Isabella Plains</b>

<b>2016 Rank</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Suburb/s</b>
22	Beasley St	Torrens
23	Wanganeen Av	Ngunnawal
24	Streeton Dr	Stirling
25	Namatjira Dr (north)	Weston
26	Ratcliffe Cr	Florey
27	Mildura St	Kingston/Fyshwick
28	Marconi Cr	Kambah
29	O'Halloran Cct	Kambah
30	Bindel St	Aranda
31	Eardley St	Bruce
32	Wisdom St	Hughes
33	Langdon Av	Wanniassa
34	Casey Cr	Calwell
35	Kitchener St (south)	Garran
36	Melbourne Av	Forrest
37	Heydon Cr	Evatt
38	Kitchener St (north)	Hughes
39	Cowper St (south)	Ainslie
40	Kelleway Av	Nicholls
41	Francis Forde Boulevard	Forde
42	Knoke Av	Gordon
43	Perry Dr	Chapman
44	Beaurepaire Cr	Holt
45	Krefft St	Florey
46	Antill St (east)	Hackett
47	Hardwick Cr	Holt
48	Palmer St	Garran
49	McCaughey St	Turner
50	Starke St (west)	Holt
51	Lawrence Wackett Cr	Theodore
52	Hodgson Cr	Pearce
53	Catchpole St	Macquarie
54	Deamer Cres	Richardson/Chisholm
55	Battye St	Bruce
56	Burrinjuck Cr	Duffy
57	Elouera St	Braddon
58	MacFarland Cr	Pearce/Chifley
59	Redfern St	Macquarie
60	Knox St	Watson
61	Heard St	Mawson
62	Starke St (east)	Higgins
63	National Cct	Barton/Deakin
64	David St	Turner/O'Connor
65	Nudurr Drive	Palmerston
66	Windeyer St	Watson
67	Springvale Dr	Weetangera
68	Parkinson St	Weston
69	Outtrim Av	Calwell
70	Morphett St	Dickson

<b>2016 Rank</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Suburb/s</b>
<b>71</b>	McBryde Cr (west)	<b>Wanniassa</b>
<b>72</b>	Sternberg Cr	<b>Gowrie</b>
<b>73</b>	Lawson Cr	<b>Acton</b>
<b>74</b>	Ross Smith Cr	<b>Scullin</b>
<b>75</b>	Flinders Way	<b>Griffith</b>
<b>76</b>	Hobart Av	<b>Forrest</b>
<b>77</b>	Bandjalong Cr	<b>Aranda</b>
<b>78</b>	Carruthers St (west)	<b>Curtin</b>
<b>79</b>	Kerrigan St	<b>Charnwood/Dunlop/Fraser</b>
<b>80</b>	Manuka Circle (east)	<b>Griffith</b>
<b>81</b>	Kitchener St	<b>Phillip</b>
<b>82</b>	Lambrigg St	<b>Farrer</b>
<b>83</b>	Chippindall Cct	<b>Theodore</b>
<b>84</b>	Ipima St	<b>Braddon</b>
<b>85</b>	Coyne St	<b>Fadden</b>
<b>86</b>	Groom St	<b>Hughes</b>
<b>87</b>	Blamey Cr	<b>Campbell</b>
<b>88</b>	La Perouse St (south)	<b>Red Hill</b>
<b>89</b>	Katherine Av	<b>Amaroo</b>
<b>90</b>	Fremantle Dr	<b>Stirling</b>
<b>91</b>	Abena Avenue	<b>Crace</b>
<b>92</b>	William Webb Dr	<b>Evatt</b>
<b>93</b>	Dalley Cr (north)	<b>Latham</b>
<b>94</b>	Donaldson St	<b>Braddon</b>
<b>95</b>	Beasley St	<b>Mawson</b>
<b>96</b>	Marr St	<b>Pearce</b>
<b>97</b>	Bugden Av (north)	<b>Fadden</b>
<b>98</b>	Railway St	<b>Oaks Estate</b>
<b>99</b>	Masson St (east)	<b>Turner</b>
<b>100</b>	Thynne St	<b>Bruce</b>

The initial TWS was approved for use in March 2000. It has been updated in 2004, 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2016 with up-to-date traffic data and activity generators, and the addition of more roads for which data has been collected. The current TWS contains data for over 500 residential streets.

The updates often result in the ranking of streets changing in priority, mainly due to changes in traffic volumes and the addition of new streets, and to a lesser extent changes in speed, traffic crashes and activity generators. We do not keep a record of when a street moves into the top 100 priority list.

7. The master plan for Macarthur, Fadden and Gowrie and current traffic data in the area were reviewed in 2016. The review's high priority measures for Bugden Avenue, Castleton Crescent and Bramston Street were implemented in April/May 2017.
8. Yes. A set of speed cushions was implemented on Castleton Crescent between Jeffries Street and Coningham Street in May 2017. Consultation was undertaken by letter to all directly affected residents.

**Criminalisation of a non-consensual sexual image  
(Question No 267)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 12 May 2017:

- (1) Has the Directorate undertaken any research or studies into giving effect to Recommendation 3 of the 2016 Senate Report titled “Final Report of the Senate Inquiry into the Phenomenon colloquially referred to as ‘revenge porn’”; if so, what was the outcome of those studies.
- (2) What data does the Directorate hold on the prevalence of the behaviours colloquially known as ‘revenge porn’ in the ACT.
- (3) How does the Government respond to the 2016 report titled “More than Revenge” authored by Drs Flynn, Henry and Powell that notes the inadequacy of the current ACT legislation.
- (4) Noting your comments that “some offences can be and are prosecuted under existing legislation”, how many instances of charges being brought under existing legislation against the behaviours colloquially known as ‘revenge porn’ in the ACT, and specifically under (a) section 61B of the Crimes Act 1900 being “intimate observations or capturing visual data etc”, that we understand was introduced in the aftermath of *R v Daniel McDonald and Dylan Deblaire* [2013] ATSC 122 and similar reforms in other jurisdictions to combat unlawful “sexting” and the phenomena colloquially known as “upskirting” and “downblousing”, (b) section 35 of the Crimes Act 1900 being “stalking”, that we understand has elements of intent or recklessness and of repetition of the subject behaviour, (c) section 342 of the Criminal Code 2002 being “blackmail”, that we understand is the relevant charge in the “Grindr” matter currently before the ACT Supreme Court, (d) section 474.17 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) being “using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence”, that we understand was the relevant charge brought in *R v Daniel McDonald and Dylan Deblaire* [2013] ATSC 122 and is, by the admission of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, ineffective and poorly enforced and (e) what other sections are these subject behaviours penalised.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government is actively considering criminalising intimate image abuse in the ACT, as recommended in the Final Report of the Senate Inquiry into the phenomenon colloquially referred to as ‘revenge porn’. The ACT Government does not support the use of the term ‘revenge porn’ as it mischaracterises the nature of this conduct. The preferred term is ‘intimate image abuse’.
- (2) Data on the number of charges laid in the ACT does not identify or classify the factual scenarios which might constitute intimate image abuse.
- (3) The ACT Government acknowledges community concern that ACT Legislation does not sufficiently cover instances of intimate image abuse. The Government has been actively participating in national work on this area of reform through the Law, Crime, and Community Safety Council. The Government is committed to enacting legislation that is effective, and consistent with the National Statement of Principles Relating to the Criminalisation of the Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images. The “More

than revenge” report refers to an ACT prosecution under Commonwealth legislation, which is only one of a range of statutes that could be used in the ACT.

(4) For the reasons explained above at (2), a breakdown of charges according to different statutes is not available. Other legislative sections which may be used to charge these behaviours include:

I. Section 67 of the *Crimes Act 1900*, which provides a non-exhaustive list of grounds on which it may be established that consent is negated for section 54 (sexual intercourse without consent), section 55(3)(b) (sexual intercourse with a young person), section 60 (act of indecency without consent) and section 61(3)(b) (act of indecency with a young person). One of these grounds includes “by a threat to publicly humiliate or disgrace, or to physically or mentally harass, the person or another person”.

II. Section 60 of the Crimes Act provides for an act of indecency without consent. This may cover instances where intimate images are shown to a person or young person. See for example, *Thomson v The Queen*; *The Queen v Thomson* [2015] ACTCA 16 per Murrell CJ, Burns and Ross JJ.

III. Section 64 of the Crimes Act contains the charge of using a child for production of child exploitation material.

IV. Section 64A of the Crimes Act contains the charge of trading in child exploitation material.

V. Section 65 of the Crimes Act contains the charge of possessing child exploitation material.

VI. Section 66 of the Crimes Act contains the charge of using the internet, etc, to deprave. This section provides two offences directed towards criminalising ‘grooming conduct’:

a. a person must not, using electronic means, suggest to a young person that the young person commit or take part in, or watch someone else committing or taking part in, an act of a sexual nature;

b. a person must not, using electronic means, send or make available pornographic material to a young person.

In relation to the number of charge laid, please refer to the response to question 2.

### **ACTION bus service—ticketing system (Question No 337)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

(1) Was the Transport Canberra’s MyWay ticketing system affected by an outage on 12 April 2017; if so, (a) was the outage unscheduled, (b) what was the cause of the outage, (c) did the outage affect the entire ticketing system across the Transport Canberra network, (d) how long was the MyWay system affected by the outage,

(e) did the outage have any other impact on Transport Canberra's operations, (f) was the NXTBUS system operational during the period of the outage, (g) how much revenue was foregone because of the outage, (h) when did Transport Canberra become aware of the outage, (i) was consideration given to advising passengers of the outage, such as by social media, or responding to queries made over social media about the MyWay system, (j) were drivers of Transport Canberra buses advised of the outage before commencing their shifts and (k) what measures have been put in place to limit the possibility of another outage occurring.

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

(1) Yes.

- (a) The outage was unplanned.
- (b) An overnight software download to apply a special event ticket type failed to load correctly on the Bus Driver Consoles (BDC) affecting the operation of the MyWay fare collection equipment in bus. The cause of the error was identified as a spurious character in the software that resulted in the product update failing between the test and live environment.
- (c) The outage affected the BDC operation on all buses. A number of buses however were able to be rectified prior to going into service.
- (d) The outage was largely resolved by midday on 12 April 2017 and only a small number of buses were not able to collect fares in the afternoon peak services.
- (e) The outage did not have any other impact on Transport Canberra's operations, all buses operated to schedule.
- (f) NXTBUS was fully operational during the outage. Drivers were instructed to log into NXTBUS manually.
- (g) Revenue forgone was estimated to have been \$37,354 GST exclusive.
- (h) Transport Canberra became aware of the incident at approximately 5:00am on 12 April 2017.
- (i) Consideration was given to advising passengers of the outage via social media, but it was determined the best method of communication for passengers was via the bus drivers upon boarding noting that the provision of bus services was not affected.
- (j) Drivers of Transport Canberra buses were advised of the outage before commencing their shifts.
- (k) Procedures have been put in place with the MyWay Ticketing contractor to address the risk of a future reoccurrence of this issue.

(2) (a) None.

(b) None.

(c) One.

**ACTION bus service—online trip planner  
(Question No 338)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) When will the Transport Canberra Trip Planner public education and awareness campaign commence.
- (2) What is the expected duration of the Transport Canberra Trip Planner public education and awareness campaign.
- (3) What was the total cost of the campaign to date broken down into (a) development and design, (b) production, including printing and (c) proposed distribution.
- (4) Was an external organisation engaged to develop the Transport Canberra Trip Planner public education and awareness campaign; if so, provide the names of the organisations involved.
- (5) What types of promotional material were produced for the Transport Canberra Trip Planner public education and awareness campaign and the quantities of material produced.
- (6) Was the promotional material for the Transport Canberra Trip Planner public education and awareness campaign produced in the ACT.
- (7) Will an evaluation be conducted of the Transport Canberra Trip Planner public education and awareness campaign once it has been completed.

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

- (1 & 2) In the first quarter of 2017, a TCCS working group was established to improve customer experience in relation to accessing and using online tools to plan their bus journey.

Website enhancements to the Transport Canberra Trip Planner were made and these changes went live on 6 April 2017.

Promoting public awareness of the Trip Planner is an ongoing activity for TCCS. It is incorporated, where appropriate, into each bus campaign. Use of the trip planner is promoted to customers when communicating any route or timetable change or event travel.

The Trip Planner will promote new timetable changes, major events, accessing bus timetable information and be promoted as an added benefit for new passenger acquisition.

- (3) Existing capabilities and expertise within Transport Canberra and Shared Services were utilised to develop and design, produce, print and/or otherwise communicate these improvements. The TCCS working group is continuing to work on journey planning improvements for passengers including raising awareness through social media platforms. This will be at a total cost of \$200.

- (4) The Trip Planner was an existing feature of the Transport Canberra website. Work was undertaken with Shared Services to enhance appearance on the site and to make it more prominent on both the Home page and Routes and Timetables page.
- (5 & 6) Designed as an online journey planning tool, there have been no promotional material produced specific to the Trip Planner.
- (7) Ongoing evaluations and improvements of the Trip Planner are being monitored and evaluated within Transport Canberra. Since implementation there has been a 24.5 per cent decrease in Access Canberra calls in relation to timetables and route/service enquiries.

### **ACT Health—notifiable invoices (Question No 339)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

What is the breakdown of goods or services and costs comprising the following notifiable invoices listed on the Notifiable Invoices Register for January 2017: (a) 3 January 2017 - American Express Australia Limited – ACT Health Travel Account (including itineraries, classes of travel and standards of accommodation) - \$34, 249.32 and (b) 24 January 2017 - American Express Australia Limited – ACT Health Travel Account (including itineraries, classes of travel and standards of accommodation) - \$164, 328.95.

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

- (1) These invoices are travel related expenses for conference attendance, to provide continual medical education and professional development and for Visiting Medical Officer Anesthetists, for the Gastroenterology & Hepatology Unit to assist in reducing the wait lists. The remainder of the invoice is allocated to the Private Practice Fund which is further explained in Part B of the question.

a)

Type	Business Air	Economy Air	5 Star accom	4 Star accom	3 Star accom	Agency fees	Private Practice Fund	TOTAL	Total Credits	TOTAL PAID
AMEX account Nov 2016	\$1666.36	\$4256.68	\$265.19	\$18465.17	\$504.01	\$363.59	\$10,886.55	\$36407.55	\$2158.23	<b>\$34249.32</b>

- b) These invoices are from the Private Practice Fund which is used for the payment of domestic and international flights and accommodation for staff specialists who have been appropriately approved for Training Education and Study Leave. This Private Practice money is considered third party money, as it is based on the Private Practice earnings of the staff specialists and the Medical Education Expenses contribution from ACT Health, under Section 105 of the Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement.

The Private Practice Fund supports staff specialists and non staff specialists for training and education costs. Travel and accommodation is booked in accordance with the ACT Health Travel Policy via QBT and LIDO in accordance with the Whole of Government (WoG) travel contract. Amex is the centralised invoicing section for the WoG contract and as such all costs are paid monthly to Amex.



The breakdown of the goods/services provided is as follows:

Goods/Services	No of staff	Cost
Domestic Accommodation	26	\$ 14,548.50
Domestic Flights	36	\$ 10,029.52
International Accommodation	18	\$ 46,909.67
International Flights	22	\$ 92,841.26
		<u>\$ 164,328.95</u>

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### **Chief Minister—notifiable invoices (Question No 340)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 9 June 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Tourism and Major Events*):

What is the breakdown of goods or services and costs comprising the notifiable invoices listed on the Notifiable Invoices Register for 9 January 2017 - Theater TOL VZW – Enlighten 2017 Feature Event Performer Airfares (including itineraries, classes of travel and standards of accommodation) - \$35 230.75.

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

- (1) The services provided by Theatre TOL VZW were for the headline performance act for Enlighten 2017. The costs associated with this included return airfares from Brussels and one domestic flight from Perth to Canberra, Australia.
- (2) These costs represented a reimbursement to the performers for economy class airfares. Breakdown of economy class flights are per below:
  - a. Flights for 17 persons Brussels-Canberra €23,800; and
  - b. Flight for 1 person Perth-Canberra €400.
- (3) The invoice was converted from EURO to AUD and represented \$35,230.75 at the time of conversion.
- (4) Arrival in Canberra on 9 March 2017 and departure on 12 March 2017. Accommodation was not part of these costs.

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### **Mental health—child and adolescent services (Question No 341)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) When did you first become aware of gaps in child and adolescent mental health services in the ACT and what triggered that awareness.
- (2) What specific gaps have you identified.
- (3) What has been the nature of discussions you have had with representatives of non-government organisations (NGOs) about child and adolescent mental health services in the ACT.

- (4) With which NGOs did you have those discussions and on what dates.
- (5) To what extent did those discussions inform you as to the need for new treatment facilities for adolescent mental health patients announced in the ACT Government budget for 2017-18.
- (6) What is your plan, including (but not limited to) the timetable, for attracting more child and adolescent mental health specialist service providers, both public and private, to the ACT.

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

- (1) ACT Health's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) has identified gaps in the provision of outreach services and after hours support for 12-18 year olds who are experiencing serious mental health issues with barriers to accessing office base treatment or have been discharged from hospital.

In February 2016, the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services was tasked with holding an inquiry into Youth Suicide and Self Harm in the ACT. This inquiry examined ACT Government roles and responsibilities in regard to youth mental health and suicide prevention. It also examined the role of ACT government-funded services, agencies and institutions in promoting resilience and responding to mental health issues in children and young people. This process identified gaps in child and adolescent mental health services in the ACT.

- (2) CAMHS identified a gap in outreach services for 12-18 year olds with moderate to severe mental health issues.

Money has been committed in the 2017/18 to provide a dedicated adolescent inpatient unit in the ACT.

Access to mental health services for young people, including gaps and limitations of service provision was a key theme of the inquiry into Youth Suicide and Self Harm in the ACT and subsequent final report. ACT Government operated services and possible gaps for young people were discussed regarding the following domains:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Hospital Based Services
- Community Based Services
- School Based Services
- Research

- (3) The initial consultations undertaken as part of the inquiry into Youth Suicide and Self Harm in the ACT informed the ACT Governments pre-election commitment to significantly expand mental health services in the ACT.

Following on from the inquiry and as the ACT's first Minister for Mental Health, I have met with a range of relevant organisations and individuals in order to discuss their services and the implementation of my planned reforms around the provision of mental health services in the ACT. These meetings have covered a broad range of issues in relation to mental health.

ACT Health regularly converses with representatives of government funded NGOs about concerns and issues regarding mental health services. Funded NGOs are contractually required to raise any current or emerging policy issue that may be relevant to their core activities with ACT Health.

(4) The following NGO's were consulted as part of the 2016 ACT Government's inquiry into Youth Suicide and Self Harm in the ACT:

- Youth Coalition of the ACT;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body;
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT;
- Carers ACT;
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists;
- Menslink;
- Supportlink Australia;
- Australian Education Union – ACT Branch
- Beyondblue; and
- National Institute for Mental Health Research

I have personally met with

- Mental Illness Education ACT (mieact)
- Headspace
- Suicide Prevention Australia
- Oz Harvest
- Woden Community Services
- Mental Health Community Coalition
- Mental Health Foundation
- Menslink
- Carers ACT
- St Vincent De Paul
- DUO
- Belconnen Community Services
- Anglicare
- Wellways
- Catholic Care
- Richmond Fellowship

(5) The inquiry into Youth Suicide and Self Harm in the ACT included detailed discussions around ACT Government operated mental health services for young people. The final report handed down by the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services as well as the accompanying Government response have greatly informed the ACT Government on the need for new treatment facilities for adolescent mental health patients.

In particular the report identified that in the ACT there is no specific hospital facility for young people with mental health needs. The ACT Government has acted to

address this issue through the 2017-18 *Better care when you need it – Expanding Centenary Hospital* initiative which will improve mental health services for young people through the provision of a new adolescent mental health unit. Planning for this initiative commenced prior to my appointment as Minister for Mental Health.

- (6) There are ongoing challenges in the recruitment and retention of psychiatrists including those with specialisation in child and adolescent psychiatry both nationally and in ACT. ACT Health has regularly undertaken national and international recruitment, advertising widely in all possible forums including through recruitment companies to meet the demand. There is a commitment to ‘growing our own’ psychiatrists with an initial cohort of these psychiatrists ready to practice in the near future.

Through the *Better care when you need it – Supporting mental health for vulnerable Canberrans*, the ACT Government will support the enhancement of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service which provides specialist assessment, therapeutic interventions and clinical case management for children and young people presenting with moderate to severe mental health issues.

Headspace received \$400,000 in the 2017-18 budget to attract and increase mental health specialist services for young people with mild to moderate mental health concerns.

More work on childhood/adolescent mental health models will be done through the Territory-wide Health Services Plan.

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### **Clubs—assistance package (Question No 342)**

**Mr Parton** asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 9 June 2017 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

- (1) Will he list the clubs that will be the beneficiaries of the clubs assistance package announced in the Budget.
- (2) What milestones are you setting for clubs diversification objectives.
- (3) How will this assistance be monitored and evaluated by the Directorate to ensure its appropriate use.
- (4) What representative bodies will the Government consult and coordinate with to monitor and evaluate the assistance package.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) The package will be available to clubs and club groups with gross gaming machine revenue under \$4 million.
- (2) The 2017-18 Budget offers support to small to medium clubs to begin diversification programs within the current year.

- (3) The Government is developing criteria for the \$10,000 grants that will require eligible clubs to apply and demonstrate how grant funds will be used to support diversification.
  - (4) The Government's consultation will be focused on diversifying club income away from gaming machine revenue, in order to support an overall policy of harm minimisation. Individual clubs, and peak bodies with a demonstrated commitment to harm minimisation and reducing the impact of problem gambling, will be the basis of this engagement. The Government will also consult with Canberra Community Clubs on the basis of its demonstrated ability to represent its members' views, its commitment to implementing harm minimisation measures, and its commitment to assist its members in diversifying away from gaming machine revenue.
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### **Infrastructure—planning (Question No 343)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) What plans have been made to maintain and repair ageing footpaths in (a) Hawker, (b) Page, (c) Scullin and (d) Weetangera.
- (2) When will any plans in part (1) be put into action for (a) Hawker, (b) Page, (c) Scullin and (d) Weetangera.
- (3) What plans have been made to deliver better quality resurfacing of roads within the Ginninderra electorate.
- (4) What plans are there to ensure that the resurfacing of roads is performed by qualified, competent contractors.
- (5) What plans have been made to repair all current potholes within the Ginninderra electorate and (a) when will repairs commence, (b) how much funding has been allocated for repairing potholes in 2017-18, (c) what has been the average expenditure of repairing a single pothole of average size, (d) what plans are there to prevent the reappearance of potholes that have only been repaired a few months ago and (e) what plans are there to ensure that pothole repairs are performed by qualified, competent contractors.
- (6) Is there a plan to provide bus shelters (a) along Coulter Drive and (b) Gillespie Street, northern side, near the intersection with Springvale Drive; if so, when will construction of these bus shelters commence; if not, what is the reason for the lack of planning for the construction of these bus shelters.
- (7) Is there a plan to provide public toilets in local shop at (a) Weetangera and (b) Page; if so, when will construction commence; if not, what is the reason for the lack of planning for public toilets in these local shops.
- (8) Is there a plan upgrade playground equipment in Ellen Clark Park, Weetangera (between Belconnen Way and Smith Street); if so, when will upgrades commence; if not, what is being done to encourage greater use of this playground.

- (9) Is there a plan to improve the green area behind the Hawker toilet block at Hawker Centre; if so, what does the plan entail and when will improvements commence; if not, what plan is in place to provide a green area at Hawker Centre that can be enjoyed by public, and when will that plan be actioned.
- (10) Is there a plan to replace the concrete monolith for public notices at the Hawker shops to a structure that is located more centrally and also more functional and sheltered from the weather; if so, what will be the nature of the structure that will replace the concrete monolith and where will it be located; if not, what is the plan to address effective delivery of public notices at Hawker shops.
- (11) Is there a plan to establish a Community Planning Advocate; if so, (a) how much funding has been allocated for the establishment of such a role, (b) when will such an appointment be made and (c) what powers and responsibilities will be given to the Community Planning Advocate; if not, what plan is in place to provide for full and fair community participation in planning and development proposals.

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

- (1) Replacements undertaken in Hawker, Page, Scullin, and Weetangera in 2016-17 are as provided below:

<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Approximate quantity of panel replacement (square metres)</b>
Hawker	305
Page	160
Scullin	265
Weetangera	35

- (2) Footpath replacement and repairs across Canberra are ongoing.
- (3) Information on the TCCS Roads Resurfacing program is available on the TCCS website at the following link [http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths/Road\\_Infrastructure\\_and\\_Maintenance/roadworks-roadresealing](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths/Road_Infrastructure_and_Maintenance/roadworks-roadresealing)
- (4) Road resurfacing contractors are selected through a tender process outlined in the ACT Procurement Guidelines. Contractors meet all required qualifications.
- (5)
- Repairs to potholes across Canberra are ongoing.
  - Funding for pothole repairs is allocated from the roads maintenance budget. Repairs are made as required and in the volume and location depends on determination and climate factors.
  - The approximate cost for the repair of a pothole is \$47 in materials.
  - Care is taken in the preparation and application of pothole repairs to maximise durability. Potholes are generally indicative of the weakening of the underlying structure of the road, resulting in a higher risk of recurring failures in the surfacing.
  - Patching is undertaken by experienced TCCS staff.
- (6) There no plans for additional bus shelters (a) along Coulter Drive and (b) Gillespie Street, northern side, near the intersection with Springvale Drive at this time. In regard

to Gillespie Street, a shelter is located at the next stop, less than 300 metres from the stop identified. In relation to Coulter Drive there are currently two shelters located on this road (one in each direction).

- (7) Toilets are generally not provided at locals shops.
    - (a) There are no current plans for toilets at Weetangera local shops.
    - (b) There are no current plans for toilets at Page shops.
  - (8) There are no current plans to upgrade Ellen Clarke Park. Upgrades are prioritised as a result of the annual audits of all ACT's public playgrounds. High risk works, which are non compliant with the Australian Standards, are prioritised, however the playground continues to be inspected regularly as part of a preventative maintenance program.
  - (9) No. There are no current plans to develop a green area behind the toilets at Hawker shops.
  - (10) There are no plans to upgrade the bill poster silo at Hawker shops as the current bill poster silo is fit for purpose.
  - (11) There are no current plans to establish a Community Planning Advocate by Transport Canberra and City Services.
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### **Ginninderra electorate—maintenance (Question No 344)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) How often does each suburb in the Ginninderra electorate receive public maintenance work for (a) street sweeping, (b) weeding in cracked footpaths, (c) tree cutting, (d) lawn mowing, (e) playground maintenance and (f) picking up litter.
- (2) What has been the expenditure for each type of maintenance work in part (1) for each suburb of the Ginninderra electorate, each year for the past 5 years.
- (3) What other maintenance work is undertaken to maintain the Ginninderra electorate in addition to the work in part (1) and (a) how often is each type of maintenance work carried out in each suburb of the Ginninderra electorate and (b) what has been the expenditure for each type of maintenance work that has been carried out in each suburb of the Ginninderra electorate each year for the past 5 years.
- (4) What public maintenance work must be regularly undertaken to maintain public land, for example, lawn mowing.
- (5) Is this work allocated a budget for regular and timely maintenance, or is such maintenance work placed in a priority listing and undertaken in turn with other prioritised maintenance work that is required.
- (6) What has been the total expenditure for public maintenance work in each suburb of the Ginninderra electorate each year for the past 5 years.

- (7) What is the total budget allocated for public maintenance work in the Ginninderra electorate for 2017-18.

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

NOTE: Data is recorded on regions and not electorates. The Belconnen region is bounded by the Barton Highway to the north and Gungahlin Drive to the east.

- (1) a. Information on the street sweeping program is available on the Transport Canberra and City Services website (TCCS) at the following link:  
[http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths/Road Infrastructure and Maintenance/street-sweeping](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths/Road_Infrastructure_and_Maintenance/street-sweeping)
- b. Weeding in cracked footpaths is undertaken every six months, or more often as required. Weeds in footpaths along major arterial roads are treated every three months.
- c. Tree maintenance work is undertaken following public enquiries or as identified by TCCS officers.
- d. Information on the mowing program is available on the TCCS website at the following link  
[http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/public\\_areas/grass-mowing](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/public_areas/grass-mowing)
- e. Playgrounds are inspected fortnightly and maintenance work is undertaken at the time of inspection or programmed as required. Information on the playground inspection program is available on the TCCS website at the following link:  
[http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/public\\_areas/act-playground-safety-inspections](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/public_areas/act-playground-safety-inspections)
- f. TCCS has a regular litter-picking program in place. Litter-picking along the main arterial roads is carried out at least monthly ahead of mowing; town and district parks are cleaned weekly; shopping centres, including car parks, are inspected at least weekly and any litter found is removed.
- (2) A regular maintenance budget is allocated each financial year. The budget is not broken down by electorate.
- (3) Maintenance work is undertaken on all TCCS assets as stated in scheduled programs or as required.
- (4) Maintenance work is undertaken on all TCCS assets. Specific information on maintenance activities is available on the TCCS website.
- (5) A regular maintenance budget is allocated each financial year. The budget is not broken down by electorate.
- (6) A regular maintenance budget is allocated each financial year. The budget is not broken down by electorate.
- (7) A regular maintenance budget is allocated each financial year. The budget is not broken down by electorate.
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**Roads—Tillyard Drive  
(Question No 345)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) When did Stage 2 of the Residential Street Improvement Program for Tillyard Drive (to seek feedback on the proposed options to address the community's concerns and the results of the technical analyses) commence.
- (2) If Stage 2 has not commenced, what is the date of commencement and what are the reasons for the delay.
- (3) When will Stage 3 (to inform the community about the outcomes of the study, the final scheme for improvement, and the priorities for implementation) of the program be delivered.
- (4) If Stage 3 is anticipated to not be delivered by mid 2017, what are the reasons for the delay.

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

- (1) Stage 2 of the Residential Street Improvement Program for Tillyard Drive has not been progressed to date.
- (2) TCCS is currently progressing investigations of these locations. The implementation of recommendations for improvements to these locations will be considered.

A study on other streets within the area is currently being finalised based on community feedback received to date and technical analysis of traffic data. Further consultation on the recommended measures will be undertaken prior to any future implementation.

- (3) The outcomes of the study, including the traffic management Plan for the study area, should be delivered by September 2017.
- (4) Please refer to the previous answer.

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**Roads—Kuringa Drive  
(Question No 346)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) Have there been studies undertaken to measure current traffic load, traffic capacity and to assess future traffic demand for the intersection of Kuringa Drive and Owen Dixon Drive; if so, what were the findings relating to this intersection, in terms of current traffic load and capacity, as well as future traffic demand; if not, are there any plans to undertake studies and when will it commence.

- (2) Are there any plans to construct a bicycle lane along Kuringa Drive; if so, when will construction commence; if not, what measures will be taken to ensure the safety of cyclists and other road users travelling down Kuringa Drive, and when will these measures be put in action.
- (3) How many reported accidents have occurred at this intersection, or in the vicinity of this intersection for each year for the past 10 years.
- (4) What plans for the future have been made to ensure safety of all road users who utilise this intersection or interact with road users who utilise this intersection (drivers, cyclists and pedestrians).

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

- (1) A feasibility study was completed in April 2016 in response to community concerns regarding traffic volumes and safety at the intersection of Kuringa Drive / Owen Dixon Drive. The study investigated traffic volumes, movements and crashes at this intersection. The recommended solution was to provide traffic signals at the intersection.
- (2) The above mentioned feasibility study also investigated the provision of a new shared path facility from the Barton Highway to the intersection of Kuringa Drive / Owen Dixon Drive. The signalisation of the Kuringa Drive / Owen Dixon Drive intersection and the provision of a shared path from Barton Highway to Kuringa Drive / Owen Dixon Drive are being considered.
- (3) The following table presents the reported accidents at this intersection, or in the vicinity of this intersection, over the last 10 years:

Year	Total number of crashes
01/01/2007 – 31/12/2007	5
01/01/2008 – 31/12/2008	1
01/01/2009 – 31/12/2009	1
01/01/2010 – 31/12/2010	4
01/01/2011 – 31/12/2011	3
01/01/2012 – 31/12/2012	8
01/01/2013 – 31/12/2013	2
01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014	7
01/01/2015 – 31/12/2015	6
01/01/2016 – 31/12/2016	11

- (4) The improvements to the Kuringa Drive / Owen Dixon Drive intersection and the provision of a shared path from the Barton Highway to Kuringa Drive / Owen Dixon Drive are being considered. The implementation of these projects will be linked with the proposed CSIRO development, and will be subject to the timing of the proposed development.

Roads ACT will continue to monitor and repair any wear and tear to the road shoulder adjacent to the intersection to make the intersection safer for all road users.

**Multicultural affairs—government policy  
(Question No 347)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) What plans are there to better understand, as well as meet the needs of a (a) changing and (b) maturing multicultural community.
- (2) Are there any plans to develop an inclusive community-consulted and led, multicultural policy that listens to, understands and commits to addressing the priorities and needs of newly arrived migrants, refugees and established multicultural communities; if so, what do the plans detail and when will they be implemented; if not, what is being done to ensure that the needs of the multicultural community are being met.
- (3) What plans are there to address unique needs for (a) health and (b) pastoral care for an ageing multicultural community, and when will they be implemented.
- (4) Is there a plan to consult and cooperate with the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) to (a) identify targeted services to vulnerable members of our community and (b) undertake community consultation for the development of comprehensive policy framework and programs; if not, what arrangements are in place to ensure that comprehensive policy frameworks and programs are being developed for the most effective benefit of the multicultural community.
- (5) Is there a plan to fund more multicultural events throughout the year in addition to the annual National Multicultural Festival; if so, (a) how much funding has been allocated and (b) what are the details of the plan; if not, (c) what is the reason for the rejection of such funding and (d) what is being done to address the growing need for more ways to celebrate multiculturalism in the ACT community.
- (6) Are there any plans to fund youth multicultural events; if so, (a) how much funding has been allocated and (b) what are the details of the plan; if not, (c) what is the reason for the rejection of such funding and (d) what is being done to address the growing need for more ways to celebrate multiculturalism amongst youth in the ACT community.
- (7) What plans are there to nurture a deeper understanding of the diverse culture of the ACT community at the annual National Multicultural Festival.
- (8) Is there a plan to collaborate with the CMCF to identify and implement ways to improve the annual National Multicultural Festival in 2018; if not, what plans are being made to ensure that there is proper consultation with the multicultural community, in order to address their needs and advice in regards to improving understanding and appreciation of a diversity of cultures in the ACT community.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) (a)-(b)  
The new Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) will provide the Minister with direct and well informed advice on matters relating to culturally diverse communities in

Canberra. The MAC will be responsible for ensuring that the experiences and circumstances of culturally diverse communities, both changing and maturing, are reflected in advice to the Government.

The establishment of the MAC will augment current communication and consultation processes between members of multicultural communities and the ACT Government, by:

- Providing members of the ACT's CALD communities with opportunities to take a leading role in participation and consultation activities on issues that affect their lives;
- Providing an effective conduit for the Minister for Multicultural Affairs to be informed about the individual and collective views of members of the ACT's culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
- Raising awareness on the aspirations, needs and concerns of the ACT's CALD communities, within government and the community; and
- Facilitating interaction between members of Canberra's CALD communities, the ACT Government and the wider community.

The MAC will also assist in convening and facilitating an ACT Multicultural Summit (the Summit) during the second year of the Council's three year term. The Summit will enable Canberra's culturally and linguistically diverse communities to provide advice to the Government on the issues impacting them and participate in the development of initiatives to address these issues.

The Summit will inform the ongoing implementation of the *ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-2020* (the Framework). The Framework sets out the ACT Government's continued commitment to valuing, strengthening and protecting the multicultural community.

Actions detailed in the Framework, together with input from the new MAC, will play a crucial role in ensuring that the ACT Government responds appropriately to the needs of our multicultural community.

- (2) The ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-2020 sets out the ACT Government's vision for an inclusive and cohesive society which draws on people's cultural and linguistic diversity to enhance the social, economic, cultural and civic development of the ACT and the wellbeing of all Canberrans.

The Framework also provides specific guidance for a cross directorate response to the needs of newly arrived migrants, refugees and established CALD communities, including their unique needs across Government services.

The Framework was developed as a result of extensive consultation with the ACT multicultural community.

- (3) (a)-(b)

Aged care policy is the responsibility of the Federal Department of Health. As part of this responsibility they have established a *National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from CALD Backgrounds*.

In the ACT the *Towards Culturally Appropriate and Inclusive Services, A Coordinating Framework for 2014-2018* (the Coordinating Framework) provides

guidelines on delivering culturally appropriate and inclusive health services, including for the ageing population.

The Coordinating Framework can be accessed at:

[http://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policy\\_and\\_Plan/Multicultural%20Co-ordinating%20Framework%20-%20Towards%20Culturally%20Appropriate%20and%20Inclusive%20Services%202014-2018.pdf](http://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policy_and_Plan/Multicultural%20Co-ordinating%20Framework%20-%20Towards%20Culturally%20Appropriate%20and%20Inclusive%20Services%202014-2018.pdf)

In addition to this, the ACT Government has established *The Active Ageing Framework 2015-18* (the Active Ageing Framework) to address the diversity of needs within the ageing population in our community.

The Active Ageing Framework can be accessed at:

<http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/wac/ageing/active-ageing-framework>

Actions under the Active Ageing Framework include:

- the provision of cultural and diversity awareness training for ACT Government staff and volunteers who are working with age friendly initiatives;
- the hosting of computer training course for seniors from multicultural communities; and
- the identification of opportunities for intergenerational collaboration, via bodies such as the ACT Ministerial Council on Ageing, the ACT Ministerial Council on Women, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

KPIs under the Active Ageing Framework include:

- an increased number of ACT Government staff and volunteers who participate in cultural and diversity awareness training; and
- increased participation by Advisory Council and Elected Body members in cross portfolio senior initiatives, including Refugee Week, Harmony Day, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and Multicultural Festival Seniors Sanctuary.

Reporting on progress against the above actions will be made available later in 2017, in a Ministerial Statement to the Assembly.

(4)

- (a) The ACT Government takes seriously its responsibilities to engage with multicultural communities about the identification of targeted services to vulnerable members of our community and about the development of policy frameworks and programs. All ACT multicultural groups, including the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF), have opportunities to participate in community engagement and consultation, including providing input and feedback. The soon to be established ACT Multicultural Advisory Council will provide further opportunities for the CMCF to be involved in consultation and cooperation.
- (b) The ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-20 was developed as a result of extensive consultation with the ACT multicultural community. Many multicultural community groups, including the CMCF, were invited to participate in this consultative process.

The establishment of the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council will augment current communication and consultation processes between the ACT Government and members of multicultural communities including the CMCF.

The Council will assist with the ongoing implementation of the Framework and convene a Multicultural Summit in 2018 to provide advice on issues affecting CALD communities in Canberra.

(5) (a) – (d)

The ACT Government provides funding and support to a wide range of multicultural events, celebrations and related activities throughout the year. Community groups may access funding for multicultural events from the Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program.

A total of \$260,000 (GST exclusive) is available in the 2017-18 funding round.

It is the intention to ensure as many multicultural organisations as possible benefit from the funds available.

The Grants Program highlights and promotes community participation, cultural diversity, and inclusion in the ACT. Eligible organisations can apply for funding for the:

1. 2018 National Multicultural Festival;
2. Community Radio Stations and Multicultural Community Broadcasters; and
3. Multicultural community participation, social harmony and inclusion initiatives.

Applications opened on 17 July and close on 27 August 2017.

Grant guidelines are provided at:

[www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/programs/grants](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/programs/grants) and applications are submitted via the online Participation (Multicultural) Grants Application Form at <https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/PMG2017-18>

Information on successful applicants from previous years can be accessed at:

[http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/programs/grants/participation\\_multicultural\\_grants\\_program](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/programs/grants/participation_multicultural_grants_program)

(6) (a) – (d)

The ACT Government provides funding of approximately \$36,000 a year, to support the Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre Inc (Multicultural Youth Services) to provide services to young asylum seekers, migrants, refugees and people from CALD backgrounds living in the ACT in the form of:

- information sessions in the areas of young women, health, mental health, relationships, employment, and business opportunities;
- referral to mainstream services;
- the provision of activities increasing awareness of consumer protection and financial literacy;
- coordination of participation in tailored school holiday programs, including Youth Week and the National Multicultural Festival;
- coordination of volunteer activities and playgroups for young parents; and
- development of relationships and active partnerships with key youth stakeholders, including the Youth Coalition of the ACT and the ACT Government's Youth Advisory Council.

Each year, the ACT Government encourages all young Canberrans aged 12 to 25 years, including those from multicultural backgrounds, who have ideas for projects,

events or activities that strengthen social inclusion within the ACT community, to apply for grants, up to \$1500, under the Youth InterACT Grants Program.

In the 2016-17 Youth InterACT Grants round, a total of \$6,800 was allocated in grants funding to five multicultural organisations to undertake youth-related projects and events, including:

- Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre – for mentoring Hindu youth
- The Tongan Association of Canberra and Queanbeyan – seminars with Tongan youth leaders to improve youth participation and support links with adults
- ACT Pacific Islands United Council – Pacific Youth Connection Day
- Sauiluma Samoan Cultural Group – Samoan Youth Cooking Skills and Contest
- Hajira Mohammed/Multicultural Youth Services – Building positive social connections for young multicultural women.

Applications for the current Youth InterACT Grants round close Sunday 3 September 2017. Information is available online at: <https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/2017-18YouthInterACTGrants>. The Youth InterACT team can also be contacted by email at [youthinteract@act.gov.au](mailto:youthinteract@act.gov.au) or by telephone on 6207 8698.

Youth groups can also apply for funding under the ACT Government's Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program, Participation (Digital Communities) Grants Program and the Community Support and Infrastructure Grants Program for multicultural events and activities supporting young people.

- (7) The annual National Multicultural Festival provides a platform for all manner of community expression of multiculturalism. ACT multicultural communities and diplomatic missions use this opportunity to represent and celebrate all aspects of Canberra's rich and diverse multicultural community. The ACT Government reviews and amends the organisation and conduct of the Festival on an ongoing basis, to improve its effectiveness, using information such as demographics, visitor and stakeholder satisfaction surveys and volunteer feedback.
- (8) The National Multicultural Festival Steering Committee provides regular feedback and advice to CSD to inform the planning and implementation of, the National Multicultural Festival. The Steering Committee meets monthly from August to March each year and consists of one or more representatives from each community group with a presence on the National Multicultural Festival footprint.

The Steering Committee has direct involvement in the following areas:

- (a) Finalising the footprint
- (b) Identifying Showcase performers
- (c) Stall layout
- (d) Stall allocations (for showcases only)
- (e) Communication with other communities
- (f) Briefing and debriefing sessions
- (g) Footprint walk prior to bump in

For the 2018 Festival the group has changed its name to the Showcase Coordinators Group to better reflect its role and input.

The ACT Government welcomes feedback on the Festival from all stakeholders in the ACT multicultural community, including the Canberra Multicultural Community

Forum (CMCF), which is an active stakeholder. An online booking system is planned for the 2018 Festival, to improve equity and ease of access for performers.

In addition, the establishment of the Multicultural Advisory Council will provide further opportunities for communication and collaboration with stakeholders from the broader multicultural community.

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**Westside village—costs  
(Question No 348)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 9 June 2017 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Urban Renewal*):

- (1) How many containers are being relocated from Westside Container Village to Stromlo.
- (2) What other infrastructure is being relocated to Stromlo.
- (3) What is the cost of relocating the containers currently at Westside Container Village.
- (4) How many containers are being placed in storage.
- (5) What will be the cost of that storage and where is it located.
- (6) What is the cost of remediation of the Westside Village site.
- (7) When will the work be completed.
- (8) What is the overall financial cost of the Westside Container Village from initial planning to deconstruction.
- (9) How long will the containers be used as temporary retail space in Stromlo Forest.
- (10) Will the Government be constructing any additional infrastructure in the Stromlo Forest Park to support the relocated container village, such as additional parking, or installing new utility connections; if so, how much will the Government be spending on this infrastructure.

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

- (1) Two 40 foot containers will be relocated as part of the visitor facilities hub. One 20 foot container, which is fitted out as an office, is also being considered for relocation for use by Stromlo Venue Manager.
- (2) Five of the seven roof bays and most of the top podium decking are being relocated. The deck will be re-constructed about half a metre above existing ground level and not at the height of three containers, as is currently the case.
- (3) The LDA Board approved a budget of up to \$813,000 to deconstruct the container village, reinstate the Westside area in accordance with NCA requirements and re-establish part of the facility at Stromlo Forest Park.



- (4) No containers are expected to require storage. Containers will be relocated to Stromlo, returned to private owners or re-used by other Territory agencies.
  - (5) Storage is not applicable.
  - (6) The budget includes an allowance of \$240,000 for deconstruction, cartage and landscape reinstatement at Westside.
  - (7) The work at Westside should be completed by end of August 2017. Works related to Stromlo project are scheduled to be completed by mid October 2017. Timing of works is subject to required planning approvals.
  - (8) The total forecast cost of Westside, from its inception to deconstruction, is approximately \$2.33 million (ex GST). This excludes the \$573,000 budget allowance for reconstruction at Stromlo Forest Park.
  - (9) This has not been determined. The proposal to construct a temporary facility at Stromlo is subject to planning approval. Replacement of the temporary structure with a permanent facility will be subject to a future Government decision.
  - (10) The installation of the structure is planned to include: connection to existing services; the new deck; landscaping; an accessible ramp; hard stand; bike racks; and improved pedestrian connections. The venue may also connect a security alarm and CCTV. These costs are included in the budget allowance of \$573,000 for the reconstruction.
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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees  
(Question No 349)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) How many (a) male and (b) female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people are currently accessing services under the Throughcare program.
- (2) How many (a) male and (b) female ATSI people were repeat offenders in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013, (iii) 2014, (iv) 2015 and (v) 2016.
- (3) What percentage of (a) male and (b) female ATSI people are repeat offenders in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013, (iii) 2014, (iv) 2015 and (v) 2016.
- (4) What Throughcare services are provided for ATSI peoples.
- (5) What funding is put aside for the support of ATSI peoples utilising Throughcare services.
- (6) How many of these services are specific for the ATSI people and run by ATSI people.
- (7) What are those services.

- (8) What education programs are available for ATSI people at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (9) How many (a) male and (b) female indigenous people accessed the education programs in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013, (iii) 2014, (iv) 2015 and (v) 2016 including (A) total number, (B) as a percentage of all ATSI people at the AMC and (C) as a percentage of the prison population.
- (10) What is being done to support ATSI people accessing the education programs.
- (11) What Vocational Education Training (VET) programs are available at AMC and what are they.
- (12) How many (a) male and (b) female ATSI people are accessing VET programs at AMC in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013, (iii) 2014, (iv) 2015 and (v) 2016 including (A) total number, (B) as a percentage of all ATSI people at the AMC and (C) as a percentage of the prison population.
- (13) What support is available for ATSI people accessing VET programs offered at AMC.

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

- (1) There are (a) 62 males who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and (b) 22 females who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander currently accessing services under the Extended Throughcare program.
- (2) ACTCS cannot provide this data. 'Repeat offenders' would require definition.
- (3) ACTCS cannot provide this data. 'Repeat offenders' would require definition.
- (4) Extended Throughcare program support is determined according to need. The way in which this support is provided will vary between clients, and a client's individual needs may change over time leading to changes in the type of support to meet the changed needs. The Extended Throughcare Program is administered to clients who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and to clients who do not identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

The funding allocated from the 2017-18 Budget will provide for a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Transitional Coordination Officer. This Officer will deliver targeted support and services for each of the detainees exiting the AMC that identify as being an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons are overrepresented in the Justice Sector and account for 23% of the AMC population.

Services for all Extended Throughcare program clients include:

- Pre-release planning
- Provision of clothing for release
- Provision of release pack containing essential items
- Provision of food bank vouchers and bus tickets
- Referrals to appropriate services according to identified need eg mental health, accommodation, assistance to address alcohol and other drug dependencies, gender specific services and culturally specific services

- (5) Extended Throughcare program funding is used to administer the program as a whole and in response to the needs of individual clients.
- (6) Service providers for all clients including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander include:
- Wellways (Detention Exit Mental Health Community Outreach Program)
  - EveryMan Australia
  - St Vincent de Paul
  - Woden Community Services
  - Toora Coming Home Program
  - Karinya House
  - OneLink

The Extended Throughcare program links Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients in with and liaises with specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffed services including:

- Yeddung Murra
- Habitat
- Yurana Centre at CIT
- Connections Aboriginal AOD counselling service
- Gugan Gulwan
- Winnunga Nimmitijah Aboriginal Health Service
- Aboriginal Legal Service
- Northside Community Services ConnXtions program

In the wake of Inanna folding, support to clients who may have been referred to Inanna is now being provided by Toora and EveryMan Australia who have specified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander case workers.

- (7) This is outlined at part 6.
- (8) Detainees who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander have access to the same education programs in the AMC as detainees who do not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. In addition, they have access to:
- Culture and Land Management (CALM) Program
  - Indigenous Traditional Culture Healing Yarning (ITCHY) Arts Program
  - Winnunga Social Well-Being Program
  - Elders and Community Leaders Visitation Program
  - Indigenous Pastoral Care
  - Relationships Australia – Dhunlung Yarra Counselling Service
  - NAIDOC Week Family Day
  - NAIDOC Community Art Exhibition
- (9) ACTCS does not disaggregate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data by male and female for Report on Government Services (ROGS) reporting. The data is available however it would place an onerous burden on ACTCS to compile and quality assure.

Year	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainee enrolments in education programs [each detainee counted once only]		
	Total number	As a % of eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees	As a % of total eligible detainees*
2011-12	30	76%	12%
2012-13	30	67%	12%
2013-14	44	80%	15%
2014-15	50	80%	17%
2015-16	63	76%	18%

\*In line with ROGS counting rules, detainees who by virtue of their situation are precluded from participating in education have been excluded from the denominator when calculating the percentage of total population. This figure also needs to be interpreted with caution as the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees eligible to participate in education is also low, ranging from 16% to 23% over the five years.

- (10) All detainees are supported in attending education and programs. Detainees who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander receive additional support from the Indigenous Liaison Officer and their Indigenous Case Manager.
- (11) VET Programs available at the AMC for all detainees including detainees who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander include Occupational Health and Safety, Horticulture, Hospitality, General Construction, Information Technology and Certificate I and II in Business.
- (12) ACTCS does not disaggregate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data by male and female for ROGS reporting. The data is available however it would place an onerous burden on ACTCS to compile and quality assure.

Year	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainee enrolments in VET programs		
	Total number	As a % of eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees	As a % of total eligible detainees*
2011-12	20	51%	8%
2012-13	26	58%	11%
2013-14	32	58%	11%
2014-15	27	44%	9%
2015-16	24	29%	7%

\*In line with ROGS counting rules, detainee who by virtue of their situation are precluded from participating in education have been excluded from the denominator when calculating the percentage of total population. This figure also needs to be interpreted with caution as the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees eligible to participate in education is also low, ranging from 16% to 23% over the five years.

**Transport—light rail  
(Question No 350)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) Will the Light Rail Network feature any advertising or commercial signage; if so, which sections of the Light Rail network will feature advertising or commercial signage.
- (2) What are the details and parameters for advertising or commercial signage (a) inside the vehicle, (b) outside the vehicle, (c) at stations and (d) along the route.
- (3) Given the business case did not appear to factor in revenue from advertising or make mention of advertising or commercial signage (a) when was the decision made to add advertising or commercial signage and (b) what is the forecast revenue from potential advertising or commercial signage.

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

- (1) There is no advertising or commercial signage planned for the Light Rail Network at this time.
- (2) There are no current plans for advertising.
- (3) As no decision has been made to include advertising or commercial signage, no revenue is forecast.

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**Planning—entertainment precincts  
(Question No 351)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) What is the status of the development of Entertainment Precincts (EPs).
- (2) What is the expected timeline for the implementation of EPs.
- (3) Will the EPs be implemented through the Territory Plan; if so, how.
- (4) What potential EPs been identified.
- (5) What are the expected purposes for EPs.
- (6) Will EPs address broader issues or be restricted to dealing only with noise restrictions.
- (7) Will EPs address (a) exclusion of residential development, (b) restrictions on forms of commercial enterprise, (c) urban design and (d) future investment in landscaping and urban activation.

- (8) Are all urban planning decisions, including development approvals and new urban renewal strategies like Kingston Arts Precinct or Woden Town Centre, being made in preparation for or in consideration of EPs; if not, what impact will the failure to consider EPs have on future entertainment options and business development in these areas.

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

- (1) The Urban Sounds Discussion Paper that was released for public consultation in 2016 put forward 11 options for managing noise in mixed use precincts. Two of these options related to the creation of entertainment precincts – Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs) and Exclusive Entertainment Precincts (EEPs). A SEP could be established in a mixed use area in a central location and would cater for activities and events with higher noise levels. An EEP would exclude residential and other noise sensitive uses that could be impacted by events and entertainment, particularly at night time.

As the recommendations resulting from the public consultation process are still being finalised, no entertainment precincts have been designated at this time.

- (2) Recommendations are being developed on the options in the Urban Sounds Discussion Paper, including some on investigating entertainment precincts.
- (3) Yes - A Territory Plan variation would be needed to implement entertainment precincts. Noise Level Standards will also need to be amended in creating entertainment precincts, with regulatory change occurring through the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2005*.
- (4) At this stage, no SEP or EEP locations have been selected by the Government.

Public engagement through the Urban Sounds Discussion Paper included the ability for visitors to the *Your Say* website to drop pins in an interactive map on possible locations where SEPs could be established. Suggested locations included Woden/Phillip, Kingston, New Acton and Civic.

- (5) Entertainment precincts will contribute to the diversity of economic activity in Canberra, particularly for the entertainment, leisure and hospitality sectors. Special entertainment precincts which incorporate residential developments would add to the housing mix available in urban areas.
- (6) The focus of the Urban Sounds Discussion Paper was managing noise in mixed use precincts. Thus, the recommendations for creating entertainment precincts will primarily address noise.
- (7) The details of entertainment precincts are yet to be finalised.
- (8) There is no interim effect of possible locations of entertainment precincts in planning approvals. This should not diminish current opportunities for business development of potentially noisy uses in any future entertainment precincts. Compliance with the current noise provisions in the *Commercial Zones Development Code* enable such uses to take place.
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**Disability services—funding  
(Question No 352)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, upon notice, on 9 June 2017 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Disability, Children and Youth*):

- (1) How many organisations applied for the ACT ILC funding under the NDIS.
- (2) What was the total funding amount requested? (noting that \$2.9 million was allocated).
- (3) Does the difference between what was applied for and what was granted indicate the real cost and demand for services in the ACT.
- (4) How many organisations and/or projects were unsuccessful in securing ILC funding.
- (5) How many of the unsuccessful organisations are ACT based.
- (6) Are there services that will now not be available to people with disability in the ACT as a result of the outcomes of this funding round.
- (7) How will people of the ACT get access to low cost custom built mobility aids into the future, such as those that are provided by TADACT.
- (8) Will the ACT Government be considering additional assistance for Radio 1RPH, now that they have been unsuccessful in securing ILC funding.
- (9) How many disability service providers were registered in the ACT prior to our transition to NDIS and how many are registered now.
- (10) How many of the services registered in the ACT are delivering services in the ACT.

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

- (1) The Community Grants Hub, on behalf of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) received 99 applications for the 2017-18 Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Jurisdictional Based Grants – ACT round. Of the 22 successful applicants, 16 organisations were from the ACT. More information is available from the Community Grants website at [www.ndis.gov.au/communities/ilc-home](http://www.ndis.gov.au/communities/ilc-home).
- (2) The ILC grants were administered by the NDIA and the ACT Government is unable to answer this question.
- (3) The NDIA has responsibility for monitoring and addressing any identified gaps in services for ILC service provision. The ACT Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth to ensure that important and valued community supports and investments are not lost. The ACT Government will continue to advocate for an adequate resourcing and mix of ILC services in the ACT.
- (4) Seven organisations that received ILC transitional funding were unsuccessful in the 2017-18 ILC Jurisdictional Based Grants – ACT. The ILC grants were administered by the NDIA and the ACT Government is not able to comment on any other organisations that may have applied.

- (5) All seven of the organisations that received transitional funding are based in the ACT. The ILC grants were administered by the NDIA and the ACT Government is not able to comment on any other organisations that may have applied.
- (6) The Commonwealth investment of \$2.9 million into ILC brings a new mix of programs that build capacity of people with disability across the board. This is an additional \$1.6 million in resources on previous funding for these programs of \$1,304,406.

Seven organisations that received ILC transitional funding were unsuccessful in the 2017-18 ILC Jurisdictional Based Grants – ACT. While the NDIA has responsibility for monitoring and addressing any identified gaps in services, the ACT Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth to ensure that important and valued community supports and investments are not lost.

Four ACT organisations which were not successful in the Commonwealth's first ACT ILC grant were identified for further transitional funding. This funding takes them to 28 February 2018; the organisations were:

- Pegasus Riding for the Disabled
- Technical Aid for the Disabled ACT
- Epilepsy Association ACT
- Radio 1RPH.

The ACT made a small number of Business Investment Package (BIP) allocations available to impacted organisations with non recurrent costs associated with continuing, adjusting or winding up programs. The BIP funding provided small one off grants to affected providers, including Radio 1RPH.

Successful recipients from the ILC funding round offer a broad spectrum of innovative and creative projects including using technology, reaching outside the traditional boundaries of the disability sector and building capacity. More information is available at [www.ndis.gov.au/communities/ilc-home](http://www.ndis.gov.au/communities/ilc-home).

- (7) People with disability can access mobility aids, including custom built and modified aids, via their National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan.
- (8) The ACT Government was successful in negotiating with the NDIA to secure additional one-off funding to take Radio 1RPH through to February 2018. This will enable Radio 1RPH to continue to provide services and it is actively seeking to reposition itself to apply for the next ILC funding round, which is due to open in early October 2017. The Office for Disability has facilitated feedback from the NDIA on the last ILC grant round.

Radio 1RPH also received significant assistance from the Royal Society for the Blind to reform its governance and marketing capacity to be better placed under the ILC. This was funded by an NDIS Business Investment Package.

- (9) Prior to the ACT's transition to the NDIS, 64 disability service providers were in contract with the ACT Government at 1 July 2014. This does not include disability services delivered by Disability ACT, the Health Directorate and the Education Directorate. At 31 March 2017, 687 approved providers were registered with the NDIA to provide services in the ACT.



(10) This information is owned by the NDIA and is not publicly available.

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**Government—taxes and charges**  
**(Question No 353)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) How many charities are currently seeking or being granted an exemption their rates.
- (2) How many properties in the ACT are exempt from paying land tax due to their charity status.
- (3) How many properties does this apply to.
- (4) Do any of these properties belong to churches.
- (5) Have any charities been excluded; if so, why.
- (6) Are there any specific exemptions or additional benefits for churches that do not fall under the definition of “charity”.
- (7) As many of their tenants would at least qualify for a concession, is there any consideration for allowing rates exemption or concession for community housing.
- (8) Has the Commissioner for ACT Revenue made any beneficial organisation determinations to reinstate tax exempt status; if so, how many times and for which organisations.

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

- (1) There are currently 162 charitable organisations that have properties which receive a rates exemption.
  - (2) If a charity is exempt from rates, it is also exempt from land tax.
  - (3) There are 245 properties owned by charitable organisation that receive a rates exemption.
  - (4) The numbers in answers (1) and (3) include religious orders.
  - (5) All charities are afforded an exemption from rates.
  - (6) No.
  - (7) The government is working on a range of initiatives to improve housing affordability. This includes examining the role of community housing and the regulatory and taxation environment it operates in.
  - (8) No.
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**Planning—entertainment precincts  
(Question No 354)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 9 June 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Planning and Land Management*):

- (1) What is the expected timeline for a Government response to the Cool Little Capital Live Music Action Plan presented to the Government in November 2015.
- (2) Will the Government commit to responding to each of the 25 recommendations in the Action Plan by November 2017.
- (3) Notwithstanding the Action Plan and the Urban Sounds Report, will the Government undertake to, as a matter of priority, implement reforms as necessary to permit live music operators performing publicly in mixed-use development zones, primarily Braddon and New Acton.
- (4) Are these mixed-use development zones, including Braddon, New Acton, and Kingston Arts Precinct, being developed in a way that is consistent with their potential future status as Entertainment Precincts.
- (5) What is the status of the implementation of Entertainment Precincts as part of the whole-of-government strategy, and more specifically, their implementation in the ACT's planning system.

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

1. The Government has welcomed the Cool Little Capital Live Music Action Plan as valuable input by Music ACT into several policy development processes being undertaken by the Government, including the development of an ACT Events Policy, the recent reforms to the Liquor Act and the Urban Sounds discussion paper.

The Government's Urban Sounds Discussion Paper, which was released in 2016 to inform an extensive consultation process with industry and the community, is responding to the Cool Little Capital Live Music Action Plan. I (Minister Gentleman) expect to announce the final package of reforms in response to the Urban Sounds Discussion paper by the end of 2017.

2. The majority of the 25 recommendations in the Cool Little Capital Live Music Action Plan will be addressed through the Urban Sounds, Event Policy, and liquor reform processes. The Government will review if any further response is required following the completion of these processes.
3. Under the *Territory Plan*, live music is currently permitted in mixed use developments as long as the development generating noise complies with the relevant planning provisions and EPA restrictions.
4. There is no interim effect of possible locations of entertainment precincts in planning approvals. This should not diminish current opportunities for business development of potentially noisy uses in any future entertainment precincts. Noisy uses are permitted in suitably zoned locations in accordance with planning provisions and EPA rules.

5. As the recommendations resulting from the public consultation process are still being finalised, no entertainment precincts have been designated at this time. Territory Plan variations and changes to noise level standards in the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2005* would be needed.

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### **Planning—transport (Question No 355)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) Does the Government plan on urban renewal and subsequent zoning changes along Light Rail Stage 2 other than at Woden Town Centre.
- (2) What plans for urban renewal and densification are planned along the proposed stage 2 routes in the next five, ten and twenty-five years.
- (3) What consultation is planned with the surrounding community regarding future development along the proposed stage 2 routes.
- (4) Why do the intertown public transport routes on the Territory Plan map not align with the publicly-available Light Rail Master Plan.
- (5) What timeframe does the Directorate have for the completion of updated intertown public transport routes for the Territory Plan map.

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

- (1) The Light Rail Stage 2 project team have been investigating future land use scenarios and urban renewal opportunities along the corridor to inform the development of the Stage 2 Business Case. These scenarios are being developed with other stakeholder Directorates and will consider both opportunities and constraints for renewal.

The extent of any potential urban renewal and subsequent zoning changes along the corridor has not been determined at this stage.

Any planned or potential changes resulting from this decision would be subject to the requisite evaluation, community consultation and approval processes of the Territory (as conducted by EPSDD) at that time.

- (2) The ACT Government's indicative land release schedule identifies potential land release sites across the Territory between 2017-18 and 2020-21. Some of these sites do fall within the Light Rail Stage 2 corridor and are being considered in the future land use scenarios for the Business Case.

The extent of any potential urban renewal and subsequent zoning changes along the corridor has not been determined at this stage.

- (3) In the event future land use changes are identified as part of the Light Rail Stage 2 project, these would be subject to the necessary evaluation, community consultation

and approval processes of the Territory at that time. As details of the extent of any potential change is unknown, community consultation processes are also not determined at this time.

- (4) The inter-town public transport routes overlay (IPT) shown on the Territory Plan map reflects the Rapid Public Transport Corridors identified in Transport for Canberra (2012). The IPT routes represent the long term mass public transport corridor locations for Canberra and do not identify particular mode choice in these locations. Canberra's light rail network plan largely reflects the rapid corridors identified in Transport for Canberra. This network plan was prepared as part of Light Rail stage 2 Prefeasibility Study 2016.

The light rail network map represents the locations where light rail may progressively replace current bus services.

- (5) The inter-town public transport routes overlay (IPT) was updated by a technical amendment to the Territory Plan on 2 June 2017 to bring it into line with the National Capital Plan. Detailed planning for stage 2 light rail - City to Woden is underway. Transport for Canberra 2012-2031 is planned to be reviewed in 2017/18 and any future change to the IPT would be informed by the findings of this review.

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### **Government—land purchases (Question No 356)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) Which valuers were used for LDA land purchases of (a) Lands End, purchased on 30 June 2015, (b) Milapuru, purchased on 31 July 2015, (c) Fairvale, purchased on 24 November 2015 and (d) Huntly, purchased on 8 April 2016.
- (2) What role, if any, did Knight Frank play in any of these purchases.
- (3) What role, if any, did Knight Frank play in advising the LDA on acquisitions of rural land generally, e.g. strategic advice.

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

- (1) (a) Lands End – Knight Frank, Specialised Valuation Services.  
(b) Milapuru – Knight Frank.  
(c) Fairvale – Colliers International.  
(d) Huntly – Knight Frank.
  - (2) Knight Frank was engaged to undertake valuation services on Lands End, Milapuru and Huntly.
  - (3) Knight Frank had no role in providing strategic advice to the LDA.
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**Planning—future urban areas  
(Question No 357)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 9 June 2017:

- (1) Further to the answer to Question on Notice Number 27 to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal Inquiry into referred 2015-16 Annual and Financial Reports, in relation to investigations into future suburban growth options was it stated that “Six (6) localities were examined. Four of the localities were already identified in the ACT Planning Strategy 2012 as future urban areas as part of the Western Edge investigation area (Central Molonglo, Stromlo Valley, Bulgar Creek and West Murrumbidgee). Kowen and nearby areas of NSW were also considered”; if so, which page of the ACT Planning Strategy 2012 are Central Molonglo, Stromlo Valley, Bulgar Creek and West Murrumbidgee identified as “future urban areas”.
- (2) Which parts, and on what basis, of the Western Edge study area on page 40 of the ACT Planning Strategy 2012 are considered to be “future urban areas”.
- (3) On what basis have some individual areas been selected as “future urban areas”, which agency or Minister made this decision and on what date.

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

- (1) Page 40 of the ACT Planning Strategy maps ‘future areas’ including the *western edge study area* in the context of managing growth in the ACT. Page 43 also calls for the preparation of structure/concept plans for greenfield areas on the urban edge that appropriately add to the efficient use of existing infrastructure of Canberra. By definition, a *Structure Plan* sets out principles and policies for development of future urban areas (Section 92 Planning and Development Act) while a *Concept Plan* applies the principles and policies in the structure plan to future urban areas (Section 93 Planning and Development Act 2007).
- (2) All areas within the defined Western Edge Study Area on page 40 are considered to be potential ‘future urban areas’ pending further detailed environmental and infrastructure capacity investigations. However, the Government has made clear its opposition to land west of the Murrumbidgee (i.e. in Paddys River, west of Tuggeranong) being developed for residential use, and this will be reflected in future planning documents.
- (3) Presently, no areas within the Western Edge Study Area have been selected as future urban areas. The selection of areas will be informed by future detailed environmental and infrastructure capacity investigations.

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**Government—notifiable invoices  
(Question No 359)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

In relation to (a) two payments totalling \$432,309.42 made to Eighth Day Sound Pty Ltd on 7 February 2017 and listed in the Notifiable Invoices Register for February 2017 as

“theatre public address system – design and acquisition” with ACTP as the reporting entity and (b) the further single payment of \$432,309.43 made to the same company, for the same purpose, and with the same reporting entity, on 28 March 2017 and listed in the Notifiable Invoices Register for March 2017, (i) at what location is the theatre public address system to be installed, (ii) what procurement process was followed, (iii) do the amounts in (a) and (b), totalling \$864,618.85, comprise the total contractual amount; if not, what is the total amount, (iv) has the work required under the contract been completed; if not, when will it be, (v) given the descriptor is “design and acquisition”, does the contract include installation and commissioning; if not, what are the contractual arrangements for installation and commissioning, (vi) who is contracted to do the installation and commissioning, (vii) what is the contractual cost and (viii) what is the timeline for installation and commissioning.

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

With reference to points a) and b) above, we confirm that three progress payments were made to the supplier during the course of the works. Progress payments are standard practice for infrastructure projects, reflecting the progression of the works.

- (i) The Canberra Theatre.
- (ii) Public tender.
- (iii) Yes.
- (iv) Yes. The project is currently in the defects liability period.
- (v) Yes. The project included installation and commissioning.
- (vi) Eighth Day Sound Australia Pty Ltd.
- (vii) Original contract amount: \$796,927.68 incl. GST.  
Final contract amount including variations: \$864,618.85 incl. GST.
- (viii) Jan/Feb 2017.

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### **Government—screen arts funding (Question No 360)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) In relation to the payment of \$33,000 to Bower Bird Films Pty Ltd on 7 February 2017 and listed in the Notifiable Invoices Register for February 2017 as “contribution to film production – ‘Oyster’” with CMTEDD – ED as the reporting entity, under what CMTEDD program was the funding provided.
- (2) What is the nature of this contribution.
- (3) What in-kind recognition will the ACT Government receive as a result of this contribution; if none, why.
- (4) What direct financial benefit will flow to the ACT Government as a result of making this contribution.
- (5) How will that financial benefit be calculated.

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

- (1) The Screen Production Fund. This is a program that provides co-investment funding, alongside other investors, in commercially focused projects that are wholly or partly undertaken in Canberra, and with significant Canberra elements or Canberra-based production content.
- (2) The Screen Production Fund made a \$50,000 co-investment to the \$500,000 production of 'Oyster', a single documentary film directed by Canberra's Kim Beamish and produced by Pat Fiske, trading as Bower Bird Films Pty Ltd.
- (3) Bower Bird Films is required to acknowledge the ACT Government and ScreenACT as contributors in the opening and end credits of the film, as well as in the marketing material of the film in all territories, and on its release on DVD.
- (4) Direct financial benefits do not flow, per se, to the ACT Government. The funding agreement with Bower Bird requires local production expenditure of \$166,000 in Canberra to produce the film.

This also leverages a range of non-financial and industry development benefits – building enterprise capacity, skills, production credits, and experience in commercial cinema photography. In addition, a growing repertoire of Canberra content-rich films is promoting Canberra to external audiences.

- (5) Formal calculations of an individual production's financial benefit – covering direct and indirect benefit – are not routinely calculated. However, a 2015 Deloitte Access Economics report provided detailed quantification of the sector's economic contribution at a national and state/territory level. In 2012-13, the sector was responsible for around \$70 million in industry value added and supported 579 jobs in the ACT. Since 2012-13 there has been a threefold increase in the number of film productions in the ACT. The Deloitte Access Economics report also quantifies the tourism visitation link to Australian film content. Canberra rich content has been a feature of a number of projects supported by the Screen Production Fund.

### **Health—surgical training (Question No 364)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) Has the Minister failed to answer my letter dated 5 April 2017 about the business case for surgical education in the ACT submitted to it by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons; if so, why.
- (2) What is the Government's response to this business case.

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

- (1) The response to your letter dated 5 April 2017 was returned by my office in early August 2017. I would like to apologise for the delay.
- (2) Representatives from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) met with the Director-General ACT Health in June 2017 to re-visit the surgical education centre being developed within the coming months.

The Director-General continues to meet with RACS representatives on a regular basis and this item will be retained as an agenda item for discussion.

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### **Canberra Hospital—trauma services (Question No 365)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) Has the Minister failed to answer my letter dated 6 April 2017 about the status of The Canberra Hospital (TCH) trauma services verification by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and my follow-up letter of 15 June 2017; if so, why.
- (2) In relation to trauma services at TCH, (a) how much ACT Government budget funding was allocated for establishing suitably verified services in 2016-17.
- (3) How much of the budget allocation was expended during 2016-17 and on what (please provide details of line items and cost for each).
- (4) If there was no budget allocation, why, and is there a funding allocation in the 2017-18 budget.
- (5) Has ACT Health finalised a model of care for trauma services at TCH; if not, why, and when will it finalise the model
- (6) If ACT Health has finalised a model of care for trauma services at TCH, has ACT Health submitted the model of care to the RACS for verification; if not, why, and when will it submit the model of care; if so, when did ACT Health submit the model of care for verification, what was the outcome and what action did ACT Health take in response.
- (7) How are current trauma services delivered and managed.
- (8) What is the management structure for the services.

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

- (1) A response to your correspondence of 6 April 2017 was directed to your office in early August 2017. I would like to apologise for the delay, additional time was taken to finalise the trauma model of care.
- (2) The ACT Government allocated \$2.181 million in the 2016-17 financial year for Trauma Service delivery.
- (3) As at the end of June 2017, \$1.263 million on labour and operating expenses.
 

Nursing salaries	\$0.483 million
Medical salaries	\$0.524 million
Other labour expenses	\$0.130 million
Operating expenses	\$0.126 million
- (4) The response to this has been provided in the previous two questions.



- (5) The Model of Care (MoC) for the ACT Trauma Service was endorsed by the Chair of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Trauma Committee Chair, Mr John Crozier in December 2016.
- (6) In order for verification to occur the MoC has to be embedded within the organisation for a 12 month period before the RACS Trauma Verification Sub-committee will consider review. This will not take place until late 2018.

The review process can take a further 6-12 months dependant on the availability of the RACS Trauma Verification Sub-committee, the number of patients admitted under the MoC to allow assessment and for the outcome to be returned to RACS. It is anticipated that this process will be finalised within the next 12-18 months.

- (7) The Trauma Service is staffed with:
- four trauma surgeons;
  - one Trauma Nurse Practitioner Coordinator;
  - two Resident Medical Officers; and
  - 1.5 full time equivalent Trauma Case Managers (Registered Nurses).

Each consultant works a 1:8 on-call commitment as the Trauma consultant. From 7:00am until 5:00pm Monday to Friday, the Trauma consultant is occupied with handover meetings, ward rounds, inpatient consultations, responding to trauma alert codes, attending outpatient clinics for their dedicated specialty and undertaken education, research and assisting in the development of activity-based-funding pathways and protocols.

- (8) I can advise that the Clinical Director of the Trauma Service reports to the Executive Director, Division of Surgery and Oral Health at Canberra Hospital. Trauma Service medical officers report to the Clinical Director and nursing staff report to the Director of Nursing Division of Surgery and Oral Health. The Executive Director Division of Surgery and Oral Health reports to the Deputy Director-General Canberra Hospital and Health Services.

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### **Government—notifiable invoices (Question No 366)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

For each of the payments made for grants to non-government organisations listed in the Notifiable Invoices Register for April 2017, (a) what services will be provided, (b) what period does the payment cover, (c) is a services contract in place; if not, why and when will there be and (d) when is the acquittal deadline.

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

- (a) The service provided by each of the 77 listed organisations is outlined in their individual Service Funding Agreements (SFA) under Schedule 2. The Service funding agreements are public documents and can be viewed on the Procurement and Capital Works, Tenders ACT website.

- (b) The majority of the payments are paid quarterly. There is a small number of invoices that are paid annually, these are generally for the smaller funded amounts.
  - (c) All funded service provisions for ACT Health organisations (SFA or grants) have a contractual agreement in place.
  - (d) Audited financial statements are submitted annually by 30 November. Six monthly financial statements may be requested where required.
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### **Children and young people—playgrounds (Question No 367)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) Has the Minister failed to answer my letters dated 2 November 2016 and 6 April 2017 about whether the Government has any plans to upgrade the playground on Bingley Crescent in Fraser; if so, why.
- (2) Does the Government have a plan to upgrade the playground; if not, why not; if so,
  - (a) what consultation has been or will be undertaken with local residents on the design,
  - (b) what is the budget and (c) when will the works be completed.

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

- (1) A response to your letter of 2 November 2016 regarding various matters was sent to you on 16 January 2017. Our records indicate that correspondence dated 6 April 2017 was not received.
  - (2) No. Play spaces are prioritised for upgrade utilising recommendations from annual safety audits along with current demographic, spatial and social information. This process ensures that safety standards are maintained and public investments are suitably targeted. The most recent safety audit found that the playground at Bingley Crescent remains fit for play.
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### **Art—public (Question No 369)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) Is the Government installing a closed circuit television (CCTV) system near the Belconnen Owl on the corner of Belconnen and Benjamin Way; if so, (a) how many cameras will be installed and (b) what will be the installation costs.
- (2) How often will the CCTV system be monitored, who will monitor it and how much will it cost to monitor the CCTV cameras.
- (3) What will be the total capital and recurrent cost of running the CCTV system.

- (4) How much has it cost to remove graffiti both last year and in total since the Belconnen Owl was built.
- (5) What other options were considered to protect the Belconnen Owl and why were they considered to be not as good as the installation of CCTV cameras.

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

(1) Yes.

- (a) Two cameras are planned for installation on the owl artwork itself. One camera is also planned for installation on the corner of Belconnen and Benjamin Way as part of a trial of new CCTV technology.
- (b) Installation of the single camera will be approximately \$750 excluding GST. Installation of the two cameras is included in the capital cost advised in (3).
- (2) The CCTV system on the owl artwork will constantly be monitored by a third party provider at a cost of \$32 excluding GST per month.
- (3) Total capital cost is \$6,305 excluding GST. Recurrent cost \$78 excluding GST per month which includes monitoring and services.
- (4) \$3,050 excluding GST was spent to remove graffiti in 2016-17 and in total.
- (5) Other options to protect the Belconnen Owl included increased ACT Policing patrols of the area to reduce the likelihood of vandalism on the artwork. Local street artists were also contacted however, these artists were not aware of the responsible person so diversionary measures have not been actioned.

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### **Arts—funding (Question No 372)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Tourism and Major Events*):

- (1) Further to the answer to question on notice No 340 concerning a payment to Theater TOL VZW for airfares, (a) what was the cost for accommodation and (b) where was accommodation provided.
- (2) In relation to the payment referred to in part (1), what was the cost for (a) performance fees, (b) meals and incidentals and (c) other expenses.
- (3) Where and on what dates did the company perform.
- (4) How many people attended each performance.
- (5) Were tickets sold; if not, why not; if so, how much revenue was raised from ticket sales from each performance.
- (6) How many complimentary tickets were issued for each performance.

- (7) What procurement process was followed.
- (8) Were local companies considered in that process; if not, why not.
- (9) Why was a foreign company considered to be superior to local companies.
- (10) What criteria were considered in deciding upon the engaged company.
- (11) Were local “guest” performers included in the performances; if not, why not.
- (12) Do any “local content” rules apply in performances such as those the subject of this question; if so, did the ACT Government comply with those rules.
- (13) On what basis is compliance asserted.

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

- (1) a) Accommodation costs for a touring party of 17 people staying 4 nights (twin-share) was \$8,460.00; and  
b) Pavilion Hotel, Capital Hotel Group.
- (2) a) \$23,500 AUD;  
b) \$3,268.00 AUD; and  
c) \$9,000 AUD for Freight.
- (3) The Company performed as the feature spectacle of Enlighten 2017. They performed on 10 March 2017 and 11 March 2017.
- (4) An estimated 25,000 people viewed their feature performance on 11 March 2017.
- (5) No tickets were sold. It was the feature performance for the free program at Enlighten 2017.
- (6) N/A.
- (7) Artist selection is at the discretion of and contracted by the Creative Producer. Artists are chosen on the basis of the specific performance they can provide.
- (8) The performance involved a choreographed aerial performance hung from a large crane. There is no local company that offers this type of performance.
- (9) Theater Tol is a renowned international theatre company that creates unique performances in unconventional spaces. They perform at international festivals worldwide. This performance was an Australian premier and reinforces Enlighten’s emerging reputation as a world class arts and cultural festival.
- (10) The performance was selected by the Creative Producer for its uniqueness and international appeal.
- (11) No. Theater Tol provide the show in its entirety and comes complete with a cast and performers. Theater Tol are responsible for providing performers.

- (12) No. The ACT Government is committed to supporting local performers at its major events. It is difficult to set targets or minimum levels as the nature and drivers of each event is different. However, organisers actively seek to achieve an appropriate balance in event programming that drives attendance from local, interstate and overseas audiences. Central to this is a desire to include local content as a means of showcasing the best of the Canberra region. At Enlighten 2017 one in four performers were local artists.

(13) N/A.

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### **Environment—carbon emissions (Question No 374)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) What policies does the Government have to ensure all wood heaters and pot belly stoves in the ACT adhere to new national emission standards.
- (2) What grants are available to help residents upgrade old wood heaters and stoves to meet new emissions standards.

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

- (1) The emission standards for wood heaters sold in the ACT are regulated under the *Environment Protection Act 1997*.

The Access Canberra, General Environment Protection Policy 2016, Environment Protection Compliance Framework and Environment Regulation & Protection Compliance and Enforcement Guidelines 2016 provide the compliance policy framework for activities regulated under the *legislation*.

Access Canberra undertakes risk based compliance inspections to ensure compliance with activities regulated under the legislation.

- (2) There are no rebates to upgrade wood heaters however, the Actsmart Wood heater replacement program provides financial incentive to replace an old wood heater with an energy efficient alternative. See [actsmart.act.gov.au/what-can-i-do/homes/wood-heater-replacement-program](http://actsmart.act.gov.au/what-can-i-do/homes/wood-heater-replacement-program)

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### **Transport—infrastructure (Question No 376)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) Did the ACT Auditor-General recently publish a report called Maintenance of Selected Road Infrastructure Assets that was critical of the Government's performance in maintaining infrastructure; if so, did the report note that the backlog of

maintenance will build up to \$71 million worth of work in 2019 20 even though the Government's maintenance budget for roads, paths, streetlights and traffic signals is about \$31 million a year.

- (2) How does the Government aim to maintain services regularly when it cannot afford to fix the backlog.
- (3) How can the Government explain this backlog and how does it intend to fix it.
- (4) Did the report referred to in part (1) note that the Government does not have a systematic approach for inspections of community paths in areas that are not high priority and that they are not regularly inspected; if so, why is this the case given that 77 percent of community paths in Canberra are in such locations.

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

The Government is currently considering its response to the recommendations in the Auditor-General's report. The response will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in October 2017.

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### **Transport—infrastructure (Question No 377)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) Why has the Government not improved pedestrian access as per the ACT Government's 2013 Pialligo Master Plan given that The Canberra Times recently reported that pedestrians in Pialligo are concerned about the lack of footpaths on Beltana Road and Kallaroo Road and that the master plan considers a suggested action that could include incorporating a new continuous shared path along Beltana Road.
- (2) What will the Government do in the short term to ensure the safety of pedestrians in Pialligo.
- (3) What parts of the master plan have been implemented.
- (4) Has the Government held any consultations with the residents and business owners about the changes to the Pialligo area since the master plan's release.
- (5) How much would a shared path along Beltana Road cost.
- (6) How much funding is available for infrastructure like paths in the ACT Budget.

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

- (1) The ACT Government has been working to improve walking and cycling facilities in and around Pialligo, in line with the 2013 Pialligo Master Plan. The following improvements have been implemented:
  - a. A new path between Pialligo and Brindabella Park (shown on figure 7 of the Master Plan);

- b. Connection of Beltana Road to the wider cycle/pedestrian network through improvements to the network as part of Majura Parkway (Action 5.1 of the Master Plan); and
- c. Improvements to the wider network, connecting Pialligo and the Majura Park Shopping Centre, with a new path provided along Fairbairn Avenue and Majura Road.

In addition to this, the ACT Government continues to support the delivery of the Pialligo Master Plan by allocating funds in the 2017/18 Budget to construct the culvert upgrade to Pialligo Creek (Action 6.1 of the Master Plan) to help prevent flooding of land and properties in the future.

- (2) TCCS will continue to monitor and progress implementation of the Master Plan.
- (3) In 2015, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate implemented key planning recommendations from the Pialligo Master Plan, through a variation to the Territory Plan (TPV321). Variation 321 introduced a revised Precinct Code to provide clear planning and design guidance for future development in Pialligo, while protecting the agricultural character and activities that exist in the precinct.
- (4) The draft variation to the Territory Plan (DV321) that implemented the key planning recommendations from the Pialligo Master Plan was released for community engagement between May and June 2014. This included engagement with local residents and stakeholders in Pialligo.
- (5) An estimate of costs has not been developed at this stage.
- (6) In the 2017-18 Budget, the ACT Government allocated an additional \$4m over the next four years to provide footpath and cycling improvements. This is in addition to ongoing funding for path upgrades and maintenance.

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### **City Renewal Agency—projects (Question No 378)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) Why was In the City Canberra's funding transferred to the City Renewal Agency.
- (2) What role will In the City Canberra now play following the transfer of its funds to the City Renewal Authority.
- (3) How much has been raised by the City Centre Marketing Improvements Levy and how much is currently available for distribution.
- (4) What areas will be the beneficiaries of this levy.
- (5) How will it be disbursed.
- (6) What percentage of current funds have been paid by Braddon property and business owners.

- (7) What percentage of current funds are likely to be directed to improvements in the Braddon area.
- (8) What consultation process will be used for funding projects under this levy.

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

- (1) The management of the proceeds of the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy (CCMIL) was transferred to the City Renewal Agency to streamline activation in the city and reduce administrative costs associated with managing the levy. This will result in better return on investment for the levy area.
- (2) After In the City Canberra's (ITCC) existing Funding and Performance Agreement with the ACT Government expires on 31 December 2017, the future role and function of the ITCC will be a matter for its Board and management.
- (3) Forward estimates for the CCMIL are published as part of the Territory Budget. In 2016-17 the estimated outcomes was \$1.986 million. In 2017-18 revenue from the CCMIL has been forecast at \$1.989 million. The amount less an administrative fee of \$25,000 is available for redistribution.
- (4) Funds raised through the CCMIL will be expended in the levy area.
- (5) Decisions about future disbursement will be made by the City Renewal Authority Board with advice from an appropriate stakeholder reference group and in consultation and with oversight from the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD).
- (6) Annually the Braddon property owners contribute approximately 15 per cent of the total CCMIL charges. In 2016-17 this was \$282,724.47 of \$1,861,400.68.
- (7) The objective is for CCMIL funds to be expended evenly across the entire levy area over a two year period. The City Renewal Authority is currently awaiting a business plan from ITCC regarding the planned expenditure of current CCMIL funds.
- (8) The detail of how the proceeds of the levy will be managed will be a decision for the City Renewal Authority Board with advice from an appropriate stakeholder reference group and in consultation and with oversight from EPSDD.

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### **Transport—flexible bus service (Question No 379)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) How are the zones for flexible bus services devised and what criteria are used to determine the drop off points on these services.
- (2) How often are flexible bus services routes and destinations revised.



- (3) What were the outcomes of the last review of the flexible bus services in (a) Belconnen, (b) Inner South/Woden/Weston Creek, (c) Tuggeranong and (d) Gungahlin.
- (4) Has there been any consideration into providing separate services for Woden, Weston Creek and Inner South Canberra to improve the networks for residents of those three areas.

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

- (1) The zones for the flexible bus service were devised after consultation with stakeholders including the Council on the Ageing (COTA).

This process identified areas with population target groups who were at risk of social isolation because of a lack of accessible transport.

The location of major shopping centres and medical facilities were a factor in determining drop off points on these services. For example, the major shopping centres identified in Tuggeranong were the Hyperdome, the Erindale Centre and Lanyon Market Place.

- (2) Flexible bus service routes and destinations are continually monitored in terms of demand for services.

Destinations such as medical/health facilities, large shopping centres, grocery chains, financial institutions, post offices, pharmacies and hospitals are the most popular and form part of the review process.

- (3) A review of the flexible bus services in (a) Belconnen, (b) Inner South/Woden/Weston Creek and (c) Tuggeranong identified a steady increase of patronage in these zones. The table below identifies the increase in patronage for the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
Belconnen	3,492	5,014
Inner South/ Woden/Weston	4,884	6,151
Tuggeranong	3,310	5,178
Gungahlin	33	246

- (4) No. The current operation is working well and there is no evidence that patrons are being disadvantaged by the existing network.

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### **ACT Policing—missing persons (Question No 382)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) What is the standard operating procedure for dealing with a report that a person is missing.

- (2) If a person is believed to be missing by the police, what is the timeframe for the public to be alerted through (a) a press release, (b) social media and (c) a news conference.
- (3) What other policies are in place to engage with the community to assist in the search for missing persons.

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

- (1) The Better Practice Guide provides guidance for AFP appointees for the management of obligations and responsibilities when dealing with missing persons reported in the ACT.

AFP appointees can be notified of a missing person via telephone, however an appointee will take the full report in person

AFP appointees use a Missing Person Risk Assessment as a guide to assist in determining the level of risk and police response strategy.

A person is not considered missing if the report is made wholly to facilitate occurrences such as:

- reuniting families or friends
- debt collection
- Family Court matters including custody arrangements
- persons absent from work.
- absconders

- (2) There are no set time frames. Factors which AFP appointees consider if involving the media to assist in locating a missing person include: age, vulnerability, and physical or mental state.
- (3) The AFP's National Missing Persons Unit coordinates communications campaigns to draw attention to missing people. These campaigns strongly encourage anyone with information about missing people to contact Crime Stoppers. Additionally, states and territories conduct media activities specific to each jurisdiction. The AFP Commissioner recently launched the annual Missing Persons Week in Brisbane to highlight the ongoing search by families and authorities for missing people. The National Missing Persons website and social media sites support this messaging and engagement.

Furthermore, AMBER Alerts were recently introduced to ACT Policing and are intended for time critical situations and should be considered for abducted or high risk missing children.

An Amber Alert will lead to the urgent broadcast of relevant information through the media and other means to the public to facilitate the search for, location and the safe recovery of an abducted or high risk missing child. This can include broadcast by Radio and TV media, Print media, e-mail, Police radio communications, inter agency communications and social media.

## ACT Policing—media (Question No 383)

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) How many people are employed within ACT Policing to produce and provide media content and support.
- (2) How many people are employed within ACT Policing's social media team.
- (3) What is the exact policy timeline for making a (a) social media post and (b) media release in relation to an open investigation.
- (4) How many levels of approval must be sought before a (a) social media post and (b) press release is made public and from whom are these approvals sought.
- (5) What, if any, are the key performance indicators of the social media team.

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

- (1) ACT Policing's Media team is comprised of 17 members, consisting of:

Team	Function	Number of Staff
<b>Coordinator</b>		1
<b>Media and Public Relations</b>	Media	5
	Social Media	1
	Production	1
<b>Strategic Communications and Operational Support</b>	Video Operations	4
	Strategic Communications	4
	Events	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>

Note: Staffing numbers as at 27 July 2017.

The Media and Public Relations team operates on a seven day roster providing a 24/7 on-call capacity. The team develops and implements media strategies and liaises with media outlets in support of ACT Policing's operational efforts. The team also provides media training, media monitoring and media reporting services.

The Strategic Communications and Operational Support team provides communications support to ACT Policing and ACT Government in developing and implementing communications strategies to support policing and community safety priorities. The team is also responsible for management of the ACT Policing website and attendance at community events, such as the Royal Canberra Show and Multicultural Festival. The Constable Kenny Koala program sits within this team.

The Video Operations Team provides technical support to investigations through the supply of digital and video related services and produce content for communication activities.

- (2) There is one person dedicated to managing ACT Policing's social media.

- (3) There is no exact time frame when ACT Policing issue a media release or social media post.

The timing of the media release and/or social media post is based on operational relevance and discussed between investigating officers, ACT Policing Media and when necessary ACT Policing Executive.

- (4) At a minimum, operational media releases are approved by Station Sergeants (General Duties) and Crime Managers (Criminal Investigations), and in some instances may require approval by ACT Policing Executive.

An operational social media post will follow the same approval protocols as a media release. A proactive social media post will be approved by the Social Media Manager at a minimum, but more commonly a Station Sergeant.

- (5) ACT Policing Social Media has no specific key performance indicators.

However, the team develops content in line with broader ACT Policing priorities, crime trends, whole of government road safety messaging and key performance indicators.

ACT Policing uses its social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) as a two-way communication tool to assist in investigations, gather intelligence, provide educational and crime reduction advice and share information with the Canberra community and create a human side to the organisation.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—women detainees (Question No 384)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

Since prisoners were first accepted into the Alexander Maconochie Centre what was the maximum number of women being detained at any given time in (a) 2009, (b) 2010, (c) 2011, (d) 2012, (e) 2013, (f) 2014, (g) 2015 and (h) 2016.

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

Below are the maximum number of women detained at the Alexander Maconochie Centre from 2009 -2016:

- a) 2009 – 18 women
  - b) 2010 – 21 women
  - c) 2011 – 17 women
  - d) 2012 – 19 women
  - e) 2013 – 20 women
  - f) 2014 – 25 women
  - g) 2015 – 22 women
  - h) 2016 – 32 women
-

**ACT public service—payroll services  
(Question No 415)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) How many contractors engaged by the ACT Public Service used Plutus Payroll (Aust) Pty Ltd for payroll services, such as wage and salary payments and taxation and superannuation contributions.
- (2) Has any analysis been undertaken to determine if those contractors engaged by the ACT Public Service who used Plutus Payroll (Aust) Pty Ltd received all wage and salary payments and that taxation and superannuation contributions were correctly made.
- (3) Are representatives of the ACT Public Service liaising with representatives of the Australian Taxation Office to check that all taxation and superannuation obligations have been met.

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

- (1) Through the Territory's Contractor Central system, we are aware of nine Contractors within Shared Services who engaged Plutus Payroll for services. However, the Contractor Central system has not been implemented in all areas of the Territory, therefore, this figure may be subject to change.
- (2) Yes, the Managed Service Provider (MSP) of the Contractor Central system has reported that one Contractor of the nine identified was not correctly paid a minimal amount. The MSP and the Supplier are working closely to rectify the issue.
- (3) The Territory is not party to nor does it have visibility of the contract arrangements between Contractors and their payroll suppliers. As a consequence we are not privy to any discussions between the Australian Taxation Office and those Contractors. The Territory is only aware of anomalies in pay (due to issues with the payroll provider) when advised by our Contractors.

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**Government—open data  
(Question No 416)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) What additional functionality has been incorporated into dataACT as part of the recent update.
- (2) What is the breakdown of the cost of the update including (a) design, (b) software or system upgrades for dataACT, (c) software or systems upgrades for other government websites or systems, (d) external consultant costs and (e) any other relevant categories of cost.
- (3) What feedback has the Government received on dataACT to date, and how has that feedback been addressed in the recent update.

- (4) What is the process that takes place when an individual uses the “Suggest Data” function on the website, including (a) who is responsible for monitoring and responding to dataset suggestions, (b) the timeframe for responses to dataset suggestions, (c) how the responsible directorate evaluates the dataset suggestions, including the criteria used to assess the suggestion, and the timeframe for the assessment, (d) whether the individual suggesting the dataset is notified of the approval or rejection and (e) the process for obtaining and publishing the suggested data.
- (5) What is the Government doing to promote the use of dataACT.
- (6) Are there types of data or datasets that are exempt from being included on dataACT; if so, can the Chief Minister outline the types of data and datasets and why they are exempt.
- (7) If no types of data or datasets are exempt from being included on dataACT, does the Government provide datasets to individuals upon request; if so, can the Chief Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of times a dataset has been requested by an individual each year since 2012 including (a) the directorate to which the request related and (b) whether the individual was provided with the dataset; if not, why not.

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

- (1) Additional functionality that has been incorporated includes:
  - moderation and approval of comments and dataset suggestions submitted by the public
  - approval processes to publish data views created by the public to the data catalogue and mark them with a ‘community’ badge - differentiating them from official government data views
  - the ability to create and maintain visual imagery, feature stories and category tiles on the homepage
  - updating of the search function with predictive dropdown, and
  - introduction of custom categories to separate dataset ownership by directorate.
- (2)
  - a) Design – the look and feel was selected from existing templates. Images were sourced and implemented using internal resources
  - b) Software or systems – upgrades are included as part of ongoing support costs
  - c) Other system upgrades – no additional upgrades were required
  - d) External consultant costs – \$4060.00 USD
  - e) No other costs were incurred
- (3) Whilst there has been no specific public feedback on the site, changes to the look and feel have been made in response to alignment with the whole of government Single Public Face project and to provide consistency across ACT Government websites.
- (4)
  - a) Until the recent upgrade, data suggestions went to multiple registered account holders across the ACT Government. All future requests will be managed from within the Office of the Chief Digital Officer.

- b) Acknowledgement of the request is to be sent as soon as practicable after submission.
  - c) The criteria includes the viability to extract the data as well as any confidentiality and/or privacy considerations. The timeframe is dependent on identifying the correct data owners and the ability to extract data within existing operational requirements.
  - d) The individual should be advised of the request approval or rejection.
  - e) Once identified, the data owner needs to follow the processes required of their individual directorate to approve the release of the data. Once approved the dataset owner can be given access to publish the dataset on dataACT
- (5) The ACT Government was recently a Premier sponsor for GovHack which has local, national and international participation. The dataACT site was advertised extensively leading up to and during the event as the location for GovHack competitors to find datasets to use.
- (6) Data is published in accordance with the **Proactive Release of Data (Open Data) Policy**, which states:  
*The Policy concerns disclosure of de-identified data sets. It does not set any mandates for the release of documents or personal information in any unlawful manner or in any way that is inconsistent with existing legislation, standards, or policies relevant to government data and information.*
- (7) As per 6 above, datasets that include personally identifiable or confidential data are exempt from publication on dataACT. All data published on dataACT is available openly to anyone to access.

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—communications  
(Question No 417)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) What is the role of the Communications Unit in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD).
- (2) What are the titles of each section in the Communications Unit and the number of staff by classification bracket.
- (3) As well as performing a role in CMTEDD, what role does the Communications Unit provide other ACT Government directorates and agencies.
- (4) Does the Communications Unit provide services, including training, to external organisations; if so, can the Chief Minister provide the (a) names of the organisations, (b) dates and (c) nature of the services provided for the years (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16 and (iii) 2016-17.

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

- 1. The Communications division is responsible for directorate and whole-of-government communications, engagement, digital communications, branding and the provision of

public affairs advice and planning. The division also coordinates protocol advice, briefs, ministerial, hospitality and special events for the Chief Minister, and provides secretariat services to the Head of Service for ACT and National Honours and Awards.

2. The Communications Division comprises of core communications delivery teams of Whole of Government Communications, Strategic Communications & Media – Access Canberra and Strategic Communications & Media – Chief Minister & Treasury (referenced in QON 386-414), as well as Strategic Engagement, and Design and Digital. Classification brackets are:

SES Band 1-1; SOG A -5; SOG B-2; SOG C-10; AS06-8

3. CMTEDD Communications provides the following services and tools to ACT Government directorates and agencies including:

- Media monitoring;
- Strategic engagement advice for the Engagement Reform project funded in the 2014/18 budget, including managing the Your Say engagement platform;
- The application and operation of the *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009* and Guidelines, and facilitating reviews through the Independent Reviewer;
- Production of the Our Canberra print and digital newsletter delivered to all Canberra households;
- Managing WHOG emergency and emerging communications responses, including responsibility for the establishment and coordination of a whole of government Public Information Coordination Centre (PICC), and training for staff preparedness in the event of an emergency;
- Professional development opportunities; and
- Management of Community Council grants and acquittals;

4. CMTEDD Communications provided workshops for Community Council members in 2016-17. See Question on Notice 423 for detail. No training was provided to external organisations in 2014-15 and 2015-16. CMTEDD Communications also provides a media monitoring service to the Legislative Assembly Library for distribution to all MLAs. This service commenced in July 2016.

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### **Icon Water—shared services (Question No 418)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

Were the Icon Water and ActewAGL shared services contracts considered under the Memorandum of Understanding with UnionsACT; if so, can the Chief Minister outline the process that was undertaken and the outcome; if not (a) why did these contracts not fall within the ambit of the UnionsACT Memorandum of Understanding and (b) was UnionsACT provided with information about these contracts and the consequential impact on Icon Water's workforce.



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

The Icon Water and ActewAGL shared services contracts were not considered under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UnionsACT.

- (a) The MOU applies to Government agencies subject to the *Government Procurement Act 2001* and does not apply to Icon Water.
- (b) Icon Water has advised UnionsACT was not consulted about the service agreements. However, there was broader consultation with employees and union representatives as part of the transfer of the water and sewerage business back to ACTEW Corporation.

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**Government—grants  
(Question No 419)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) Has the ACT Government issued any rules or guidelines for grants made to non-government organisations, including community groups, similar to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines issued by the Federal Department of Finance; if not, why not.
- (2) What assurance can the ACT Government provide to the ACT community that grants are administered appropriately, that the grants process is transparent and that reporting obligations are met.

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

- (1) Given the diversity of grants programs in the ACT, there are no overarching guidelines. The ACT Government Grants website (<https://www.grants.act.gov.au/>) does, however, contain a broad range of information intended to assist interested parties in applying for grant programs across the ACT Government. Individual ACT Government websites relating to specific grant programs are also available to provide potential applicants with additional information, such as the relevant criteria under which a grant proposal will be assessed.
- (2) As noted above, each grants program has criteria which is used to assess applications. Additionally, the relevant ACT Government websites provide clear guidelines as to what the grant program will and will not fund. They also typically list details of successful applicants from prior grant funding rounds, including the applicant's name (individual or organisation), the grant purpose, and the amount awarded, and details of grants made are also published in directorates' annual reports. Grants, like all ACT Government payments and operations are subject to a range of accountability mechanisms, including internal audit, Estimates Committee examination, and possible scrutiny of the ACT Auditor-General, if she so chooses.

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**Community councils—funding  
(Question No 423)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) Further to Question on Notice 176, how much was allocated to each community council in the ACT for 2017-18 and the forward Estimates years.
- (2) Has a new deed of agreement been put in place for each community council since the expiry of the previous deed on 30 June 2017; if not, when is a new deed expected to be put in place.
- (3) What training workshops were conducted by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate Communications Unit in the first half of 2017 for community council members, including the period of time for each workshop and the number of attendees from each community council.
- (4) What was the cost of developing and delivering the workshops, including any printed material, conducted in the first half of 2017.
- (5) Who approved the content of the workshops conducted in the first half of 2017.
- (6) Were any external organisations involved in the development and delivery of the workshops conducted in the first half of 2017; if so, can the Treasurer list those organisations and outline the nature of their role.
- (7) What other workshops are planned to be held in 2017-18 and who will approve the topics of those workshops.

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

- (1) A total of \$89,747 was allocated to community councils in the ACT for 2017-18. This consisted of \$12,821 in funding for each of our seven community councils including Belconnen, Gungahlin, Inner South Canberra, North Canberra, Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Woden.

Funding for community councils in the forward Estimates years will be determined following the outcomes of the current community engagement reform project, which the community councils have been invited to participate in.

- (2) All community councils were offered a new deed of agreement in July 2017. To date two community councils have signed onto the deed, the Belconnen Community Council and Inner South Canberra Community Council. We expect the deeds to be finalised for all community councils in due course.

- (3) CMTEDD Communications delivered two workshops for community council members on social media and engaging young people to assist councils to reach a wider range of community views.

The first two workshops were held as follows:

- 5.15 pm – 6.45 pm, Wednesday 15 February (6 participants)
- 11 am – 12.30 pm, Monday 27 February (7 participants)

- (4) The workshops were developed and delivered in house using existing resources within the Whole of Government Communications team. Handouts were printed in house.
- (5) The content of the workshops conducted in the first half of 2017 was approved by the Deputy Director, Whole of Government Communications.

- (6) There were no external organisations involved in the development and delivery of the workshops conducted in the first half of 2017.
- (7) The details of future workshops are still being finalised for 2017-18. The Deputy Director, Whole of Government Communications will approve the topics of those workshops.

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### **Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—accommodation (Question No 424)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) When does the lease for the office space rented by the Independent Competition and Regulation Commission (ICRC) expire.
- (2) Will the ICRC be sharing its office space with another ACT government agency in 2017-18; if so, what is the name or names of that body.
- (3) Is the amount of office space leased by the ICRC consistent with the functional space needs set out in the ACT Government's Whole of Government Accommodation Strategy.
- (4) How many days has the Senior Commissioner of the ICRC spent in Canberra on official business since he was appointed on 1 May 2016.
- (5) What is the costs for the Senior Commissioner of the ICRC for (a) travel costs to Canberra and return to home base and (b) accommodation and incidentals costs in Canberra in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.

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

- (1) The ICRC has advised the lease for their current office space rented at 221 London Circuit, Canberra expires on 31 March 2020.
- (2) The ICRC has advised it is not anticipating the office space will be shared during 2017-18, as the office space is currently fully utilised.
- (3) I have been advised the current ICRC office space meets the functional and operational requirements of the organisation, and is consistent with requirements under the ACT Government's Whole of Government Accommodation Strategy.
- (4) The ICRC has advised that from 1 May 2016 till 30 June 2017, the ICRC Senior Commissioner spent 106 days on official business. The ICRC does not separately record the number of days the Senior Commissioner spends in the Canberra office.

It is worth noting the Commissioner role has been appointed on a part-time basis in recent years, and that a considerable proportion of their time is spent working from home. Commissioners will usually only attend the Canberra office to participate in formal consultations and Commission meetings. This has been the working arrangement irrespective of whether the Commissioner has been based in Canberra, or interstate as is currently the case.

(5) (a) The ICRC has advised that during the 2016–17 financial year, the Senior Commissioner's total costs for travel to Canberra, and for travel to return home, were \$16,583.07 (GST exclusive). Accommodation and incidentals costs for 2016-17 were \$4,433.87 (GST exclusive).

(b) In the 2017-18 financial year, to date the Senior Commissioner's travel costs for travel to Canberra, and for travel to return home, have been \$195.91 (GST exclusive). No accommodation and incidental costs have been incurred to date.

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### **Economy—trade missions (Question No 425)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) When is the international trade and investment campaigns and delegations for 2017-18 expected to be finalised.
- (2) Will the international trade and investment campaigns and delegations for 2017-18 be released publicly; if so, when.
- (3) What international trade and investment delegation travel is expected to be undertaken in the remainder of 2017, including (a) expected dates of travel, (b) countries visited and (c) expected participants from the ACT Government and ACT Public Service.
- (4) What funding has been allocated to the International trade and investment campaigns and delegations for 2017-18.

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

- (1) The international trade and investment campaigns and delegations program for 2017-18 is a dynamic process guided by Canberra's International Engagement Strategy ([https://www.business.act.gov.au/resources\\_and\\_networks/business\\_development\\_strategy/international-engagement-strategy](https://www.business.act.gov.au/resources_and_networks/business_development_strategy/international-engagement-strategy)).

Some of the delegations in which the ACT will participate are at the request of the Commonwealth, such as the upcoming Australia Business Week in India (ABWI) (<https://www.austrade.gov.au/local-sites/india/news/australia-business-week-in-india-2017>). Some of the delegations will comprise only the relevant Minister with support provided directly by the ACT Public Service. In other cases the ACT Government will seek participation from the private sector to determine interest and availability of participants. Commonwealth delegations can be open to all who seek to travel or by invitation only, as in the case of the upcoming ABWI.

- (2) The international trade and investment campaigns and delegations program for 2017-18 will be released as required dependent upon the circumstances outlined in part (1).
- (3) Work continues to develop the program of delegations for the 2017-18 year, dependant on the availability of Ministers, wider community participation where appropriate and the opportunity to meet with key individuals and organisations in the ACT's key capability areas and priority international markets as detailed in the International Engagement Strategy.

- (4) Base appropriation for international trade development and investment facilitation activity is contained within the Enterprise Canberra budget. This supports a number of activities including marketing, participation in the Australian Export Awards, trade mission programming and company capability development. In 2017-18, \$1.55 million has been allocated to these activities. In addition, other Directorates may support or contribute to specific delegation activities where it aligns with portfolio objectives and interests.
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### **Trade unions—memorandum of understanding (Question No 426)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) When is the Memorandum of Understanding with UnionsACT due to be reviewed next.
- (2) If no date has been set for the review referred to in part (1), why not.
- (3) If a date has been set for the review referred to in part (1), (a) will the ACT community have an opportunity to participate in the review process, (b) who will conduct the review including the parties and their representatives and (c) will the outcome of the review be made public.

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

The *Agreed Memorandum of Understanding on the Procurement of Works and Services by the ACT Government* (MOU) is designed to ensure ACT Government procurement activity includes fair consideration of the rights of workers, in addition to ensuring providers:

- are accountable to the public;
- promote quality; and
- promote local employment.

The Government remains committed to these principles and has announced that it will legislate a Local Jobs Code, which will ensure Government procurement decisions deliver better outcomes for Canberra workers by encouraging employers to adopt the highest ethical and labour standards. The Code is expected to replace the MOU.

As the Local Jobs Code will be established within the next 12 months and will undergo its own extensive public consultation it would be inefficient to separately review the MOU at this time.

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### **Infrastructure—Black Mountain slipway (Question No 427)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) What was the total cost to develop the Black Mountain Slipway.

- (2) How much has been spent on maintenance of the Black Mountain Slipway in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) What was the nature of the problem with the cradle of the Slipway which caused the closure of the Slipway in June 2017.
- (4) Has the Slipway re-opened for users; if so, (a) when did the Slipway re-open and (b) for how many days was the Slipway closed; if not, when is it expected that the Slipway may re-open.

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

- (1) The cost to design and construct the slipway and associated infrastructure was \$3.04m.
  - (2) (a) For the 2016-17 financial year \$8,796 has been spent on maintenance of the slipway.  
(b) For 2017-18 to date, \$5,975.05 has been spent.
  - (3) It was identified that the rubber spaces on the axle were gripping the wheels, causing the cradle to brake unexpectedly. The issue was rectified by replacing the spacers with metal.
  - (4) The slipway re-opened on 24 July 2017, following its closure on 16 June 2017 (38 days).
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### **Roads—speed cameras (Question No 429)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

What was the total value of speed camera infringements issued in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14, (d) 2014-15 and (e) 2015-16.

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

- (a) \$11,222,123
  - (b) \$12,364,287
  - (c) \$12,739,850
  - (d) \$13,350,572
  - (e) \$16,290,113
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### **Civic—infrastructure audit (Question No 431)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Urban Renewal, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) Further to Question on Notice 321, could the Minister provide an update on the status of the audit of city electrical infrastructure.

- (2) What findings have been determined to date as a result of the audit.
- (3) What is the nature of the work, if any, which will be scheduled as a result of the audit, including in relation to emergency egress points for Civic Square and other locations used in the city for events, and the proposed timing of that work.

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

- (1) The audit of publicly accessible city electrical infrastructure has been completed.
- (2) The finds of the audit identified the location and status of publicly accessible power. The vast majority of publicly accessible power points available are located in Garema Place, City Walk, Petrie Plaza, Civic Square, Ainslie Place and Glebe Park. There are only three (3) city locations (not managed by the National Capital Authority) outside of these with publicly accessible power, Hobart place, Latin American Plaza and Veterans Park. The audit also found twelve (12) maintenance issues.
- (3) Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) commenced repairs during the week ending 11 August 2017. All repairs are scheduled for completion by end of August 2017. This work will not impact on emergency egress from Civic Square.

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### **Government—events policy (Question No 433)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

Further to Question on Notice 124, when will the ACT Events Policy be finalised and released and will a copy be provided to stakeholders who were consulted on the draft discussion paper.

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

It is currently anticipated that a final *ACT Events Policy* will be ready for consideration by Government towards the end of 2017. Over 1,100 responses to the *ACT Events Policy Discussion Paper* are currently being analysed.

Copies of the *ACT Events Policy* would be made available to stakeholders who were engaged during the consultation phase.

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### **Sport—Stromlo Forest Park (Question No 434)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 4 August 2017 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) What was the total cost of developing the Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan.

- (2) What is the timetable for the implementation of the proposals outlined in the Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan of (a) Molonglo District playing fields, (b) enclosed oval, (c) "The Village", (d) tourist accommodation, (e) Stromlo pool, (f) Stromlo Boulevard and access, (g) multi-purpose amphitheatre, (h) finish bowl, (i) gondola to the summit of Mount Stromlo, (j) BMX racecourse, (k) jumping/dirt park, (l) the playground, (m) criterium extension/long board skate, (n) cross country running track, (o) sister pavilion/Link Bridge, (p) Adventure Gravity Sport, (q) improved access to the Bushfire Memorial, (r) link to the National Arboretum, (s) enhancing existing trails, (t) 12km road cycling circuit, (u) new equestrian trails and (v) realignment of the Bicentennial National Trail.
- (3) If there is no timetable to implement any of the proposals referred to in part (2), is there a priority list for possible implementation; if so, which proposals have a higher priority for implementation in the future.
- (4) Have any feasibility studies been conducted into any of the proposals referred to in part (2); if so, what are the findings and cost of those studies.
- (5) Have any environmental studies been conducted into any of the proposals preferred to in part (2); if so, what are the findings and cost of those studies.
- (6) What is the expected cost of (a) constructing and (b) maintaining a gondola to the summit of Mount Stromlo.
- (7) What analysis has been done to determine if a gondola is required and would be patronised.
- (8) Have any studies been done of the number of cyclists who use the bus provided at peak periods at Stromlo Forest Park; if so, what are the findings of those studies.

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

- (1) The draft Stromlo Forest Master Plan was reviewed and finalised in 2014 at an approximate cost of \$120,000.
- (2) Implementation timetables below.
  - a. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - b. Design funding appropriated;
  - c. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - d. 2020-21;
  - e. Construction is to commence in 2017 and be completed in 2019;
  - f. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - g. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - h. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - i. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - j. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - k. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - l. Completed;
  - m. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - n. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
  - o. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;



- p. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
- q. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
- r. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
- s. Ongoing;
- t. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
- u. Subject to consideration in future budget rounds;
- v. Preliminary design works completed.

(3) Priority and funding of projects will be subject to future Cabinet considerations.

(4) Yes, feasibility studies have been conducted for (2)a.; (2)b.; (2)d. and 2e.

2a. - The provision of the District Playing Fields was considered in the completion of the Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan. In development of the Master Plan an appropriate parcel of land was allocated to support the future provision of four basic sport units (equivalent of eight football fields). This assessment was included in a broader package of works and no specific cost is available.

2b. - The provision of an Enclosed Oval was considered in the completion of Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan. In development of the Master Plan an appropriate parcel of land was allocated to support the future provision of the enclosed oval. This assessment was included in a broader package of works and no specific cost is available. Feasibility/design funding to progress the Enclosed Oval has been appropriated with this work to commence in 2017-18.

2d. - A feasibility study for tourist and school excursion accommodation was undertaken by the Tourism Industry Council and included as part of the Draft Master Plan. Additionally, other studies have been undertaken by Parsons Brinckerhoff and the University of Canberra. These studies have identified the significant economic impact of school excursions to the ACT as well the shortage of specialist group accommodation. The cost to prepare the studies is unknown.

2e. - The pool study found that a district level facility located at the gateway to Stromlo Forest Park and near the Molonglo/Coombs community precinct and River Park was feasible. Importantly the facility could be developed as a part of a community and recreational hub for Molonglo by integrating and functionally supporting the other facilities in Stromlo Forest Park. The cost of the study was \$192,000.

(5) Environmental studies for Stromlo Forest Park include:

- a. Ecological Assessment;
- b. Biodiversity Assessment;
- c. Contamination Assessment; and
- d. Conservation Management Plan

Each study has numerous outcomes and findings and cannot be replicated within this response. The cost of these studies was either included in broader project works and cannot be separately identified. Further detailed site assessments would be required as part of any planning approval processes.

(6) The cost of constructing a gondola to the summit of Mount Stromlo and associated infrastructure was identified at \$13 million with a maintenance cost of \$109,000 per annum.

- (7) The feasibility of gondola proposal has always been premised on planning approval by the National Capital Authority and private sector investment. Additionally, the project feasibility relies on the ANU constructing a major visitor attraction on the summit of Mount Stromlo.
- (8) No. The shuttle bus is operated by a private bus company through a licence agreement with Venues Canberra. The service commenced in late March this year and indications to date from the operators are that it is well patronised, and particularly popular with interstate visitors.

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### **Transport—ride-share services (Question No 436)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) What penalties are in place for affiliated providers of on-demand transport who do not comply with the quarterly report process through Transport Booking Services.
- (2) Have any penalties been issued for non-compliance with the Transport Booking Services' quarterly report process since 1 November 2016; if so, what is the (a) body that incurred the penalty and (b) nature of the penalty; if not, why have no penalties been issued for non-compliance with the quarterly report process.
- (3) What is the timeline for Uber's non-compliance with the quarterly report process through Transport Booking Services, including (a) the date the information from Uber was due to the directorate, (b) the date the directorate was aware that Uber would not comply with the quarterly report process, (c) whether Uber has provided any or part of the information requested, (d) the directorate's action to enforce compliance, or actions to resolve the non-compliance, (e) what compromises or options have been offered to Uber to encourage compliance, and why they were rejected and (f) when the issue is expected to be resolved.
- (4) How does the information Uber is being asked to supply as a rideshare provider differ from the information supplied by taxi providers, including (a) whether the information Uber is being asked to supply is more commercially sensitive than the information supplied by the taxi providers, (b) what impact non-compliance on the part of Uber has had on the directorate, (c) what impact non-compliance on the part of Uber has had on the operation of ridesharing regulation, (d) what impact non-compliance on the part of Uber has had on taxi providers and (e) what impact non-compliance on the part of Uber will have on the Government's reform of on-demand transport.
- (5) What alternate data will be relied upon during the Government's on-demand transport reform process if the information is not supplied by the affiliated providers through Transport Booking Services' quarterly reports.
- (6) What is the timeframe for the evaluation of on-demand transport services, including (a) when the evaluation is scheduled to commence, (b) when the evaluation is scheduled to conclude, (c) when the public consultation is scheduled to run, and for how long, (d) whether the all elements of the consultation process will be open to the general public; if not, what elements of the consultation process will only be for selected parties and the criteria to be selected, (e) when the results of the evaluation

will be released, (f) a breakdown of the budget for the evaluation, including promotion of the consultation period and (g) whether any external contractors or entities will be engaged as part of the evaluation; if so, what is the nature of the work that needs to be contracted out and the cost.

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

- (1) Transport Booking Services (TBS) are required to provide quarterly reports under the Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) Transport Booking Services – Service Standards. Failure to comply with a Service Standard has a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units.
- (2) No. The ACT Government, including Access Canberra, is continuing to work with industry on a range of matters related to the reforms, including reporting by TBS. The reforms are significant and Access Canberra's approach is to work with stakeholders and educate where the risk assessment of harm indicates it is appropriate, rather than jump straight to enforcement action.
- (3) (a) Uber was required to report from 1 November 2016. The first quarterly report for 2017 was due to be provided by 14 March 2017.  
 (b) Access Canberra was aware that Uber was not going to comply fully with requirements in January 2017.  
 (c) Yes. Uber has provided data on average fare pricing, average waiting times and average driver ratings to Access Canberra.  
 (d) Access Canberra and Regulatory Reform (Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate) are in ongoing discussions with Uber regarding the reporting of information.  
 (e) Uber has supplied alternate information on active passengers and partner-drivers for its service.  
 (f) Discussions are ongoing.
- (4) The TBS reporting information requirements include performance reporting, market, fare and service quality information. Requirements are detailed in Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) Transport Booking Services – Service Standards 2016 (No 1) DI2016-203.  
 (a) The ACT Government is not privy to the internal commercial considerations of private companies. The ACT Government is consistent with its treatment of information reported and no longer publishes performance data provided by the taxi industry. This is consistent with the approach of the Australian Taxi Industry Association (ATAI) which also no longer updates its statistics (the last data made available from the ATAI relates to 2014).  
 (b) Nil.  
 (c) Nil.  
 (d) Nil.  
 (e) Negligible.
- (5) The ACT Taxi Industry Innovation Reforms, On-demand Transport Industry Evaluation: Summary Discussion Paper available on the Access Canberra website

outlines the Government's approach to examining the impact of these nation-leading reforms (see [https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/4172](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/4172)).

- (6) (a) In announcing its nation-leading reforms on 30 September 2015, the Government advised a two year period of monitoring and evaluation.
  - (b) The evaluation is being undertaken during 2017, with a report to Government expected in late 2017.
  - (c) I announced the public consultation process on 5 July 2017. Public feedback (through surveys and submissions) is open until 5 September 2017.
  - (d) The ACT Taxi Industry Innovation Reforms, On-demand Transport Industry Evaluation: Summary Discussion Paper available on the Access Canberra website outlines the Government's approach to the Evaluation.
  - (e) The Government will decide after considering the evaluation report.
  - (f) The evaluation is being conducted within existing resources.
  - (g) The Centre for International Economics has been contracted to undertake activities to support the evaluation.
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### **Transport—light rail (Question No 437)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) How many people are within the 400 metre catchment area for each Light Rail Stage 1 stop broken down by (a) population, (b) employment and (c) students in (i) 2017, (ii) at the commencement of Light Rail, (iii) 2020, (iv) 2025, (v) 2030, (vi) 2035 and (vii) 2040.
- (2) How many people are within the 800 metre catchment area for each Light Rail Stage 1 stop broken down by (a) population, (b) employment and (c) students in (i) 2017, (ii) at the commencement of Light Rail, (iii) 2020, (iv) 2025, (v) 2030, (vi) 2035 and (vii) 2040.
- (3) What data or studies have been relied upon and what assumptions have been made in relation to the information referred to in parts (1) and (2).
- (4) Was the collecting and modelling of the data and assumptions referred to in part (3) undertaken internally or externally; if internally, (a) what directorate is responsible for the modelling, (b) what is the verification of data and modelling, (c) when was the modelling undertaken and (d) has the modelling been or will it be revised at any time; if externally, (a) what directorate contracted the work, (b) how was the contract procured, (c) who was the successful contractor, (d) what is the value of the contract, (e) what is the verification of data and modelling, (f) when was the modelling undertaken and (g) have the assumptions used in the modelling been, or will be, revised at any time.
- (5) What data collection and modelling has been done on the catchment areas of Light Rail Stage 2.

- (6) Was the collecting and modelling of the data and assumptions referred to in part (5) undertaken internally or externally; if internally (a) what directorate was responsible for the modelling, (b) what is the verification of data and modelling, (c) when was the modelling undertaken and (d) has the modelling been or will be revised at any time; if externally (a) what directorate contracted the work, (b) how was the contract procured, (c) who was the successful contractor, (d) what was the value of the contract, (e) what is the verification of data and modelling, (f) when was the modelling undertaken and (g) have the assumptions used in the modelling been, or will be, revised at any time.

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

- (1) TCCS has not calculated the catchment area to the delineated 400m as noted in the Member's question as part of its analysis of light rail patronage for Light Rail Stage 1.
- (2) The patronage modelling used in the Light Rail Stage 1 Business Case estimated that for the entire Stage 1 corridor by 2031, between 44,000 and 67,000 people will live within 800 metres of a light rail stop.
- (3) The key data used in the patronage modelling for the Light Rail Stage 1 Business Case includes population, employment, household composition, educational enrolments and other data provided by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.
- (4) The patronage modelling for the Light Rail Stage 1 Business Case was undertaken externally:
  - a. Capital Metro Agency contracted the work;
  - b. The contract was procured via a single select exemption in 2013;
  - c. Veitch Lister Consulting undertook the patronage modelling;
  - d. The value of the contract was \$299,450 inclusive of GST;
  - e. The Veitch Lister model was validated against observed travel behaviours in Canberra, to levels within industry norms;
  - f. The modelling was undertaken in 2013-2014;
  - g. The Light Rail Stage 1 modelling has not been revised since the Business Case.
- (5) Patronage modelling for the Light Rail Stage 2 Business Case is currently under development.
- (6) Patronage modelling for the Light Rail Stage 2 Business Case is currently under development.

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### **City services—street sweeping (Question No 438)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) When was the street sweeping schedule, published on the website of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, last updated.

- (2) When will the street sweeping schedule be next updated to include suburbs currently omitted from the schedule such as Pialligo, Fyshwick, Lawson, Casey, Throsby, Jacka, Mitchell, Moncrieff, Taylor, McCubbin Rise, Coombs, Wright and Denman Prospect.
- (3) Are the suburbs not currently listed on the published street sweeping schedule still included in the regular street sweeping program.
- (4) What suburbs are not currently listed on the (a) published street sweeping schedule and (b) street sweeping program.

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

- (1) The street sweeping schedule on the TCCS website was last updated in August 2014.
- (2) The published street sweeping program is currently under review and will be updated in December 2017.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) a) The suburbs not currently listed on the published street sweeping schedule include: Pialligo, Fyshwick, Lawson, Casey, Throsby, Jacka, Mitchell, Moncrieff, Taylor, McCubbin Rise, Coombs, Wright and Denman Prospect.  
  
b) Suburbs not currently listed on the street sweeping schedule are included in the program, except Wright, Coombs, Fyshwick and Mitchell which are swept on request. Construction of Taylor and Throsby is not yet completed.

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### **Transport—light rail (Question No 441)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) What is the performance against each of the commitments in the Canberra Metro, Local Industry Participation Plan.
- (2) How many work packages have been awarded to local businesses to date.
- (3) How many meetings of the subcontractor forum have been held since the first meeting was held in May 2017.
- (4) How many subcontractors attended each meeting of the subcontractors forum.
- (5) How many subcontractors attended the two Master Builders Association information/feedback sessions.
- (6) How many subcontractors have attended each of the Light Rail Business link forums run by the Canberra Business Chamber.
- (7) What forums involving subcontractors will be held in the remainder of 2017.

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

1. Canberra Metro's (CM) performance against each of the commitments in the Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP) as at 31 July 2017 are outlined in the table below:

<b>LIPP Objective</b>	<b>LIPP commitment</b>	<b>Progress Against Commitment @ (31 July 2017)</b>
Apprentices and Trainees	Minimum of 60 apprentices and trainees during peak workforce numbers.	7 apprentices. 31 trainees.
Diversity and Equity	10% diversity and equity representation in overall workforce during delivery phase.	14% of current total workforce (468 total).
Graduates Placements: additional activity	10 placements on Project during delivery phase.	13 engaged.
Local Sustainable Jobs	70% of all jobs in the delivery phase.	78% of workforce from Canberra and surrounding region.
Training (Diversity Related)	100% of the overall workforce during the delivery phase.	CM (SPV staff) have completed training on 'code of business conduct'; 'anti-bullying' and 'unacceptable workplace behaviour'  100% CM (D&C staff) have completed training on 'code of business conduct'; 'anti-bullying' and 'unacceptable workplace behaviour', 72% (D&C staff) have completed training on 'cultural awareness'.
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.	Currently 58% of subcontracts and supply contracts have been awarded to local companies.
Nationally Recognised Training	Minimum 20% of overall workforce to undertake nationally recognised and accredited training per annum.	85% undertaken or undertaking nationally recognised and accredited training per annum.

<b>LIPP Objective</b>	<b>LIPP commitment</b>	<b>Progress Against Commitment @ (31 July 2017)</b>
Education Contribution Program	2% of staff (with 100% staff eligibility) participation in an Education Contribution Program established in accordance with the LIPP.	0.91% of staff. All staff are eligible.
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"> <li>• 10 x Civil engineering students</li> <li>• 5 x Mechanical engineering students</li> <li>• 5 x Electrical engineering students.</li> </ul>	CM not yet able to facilitate any placements. Preliminary work is being undertaken for mid year presentation to engineering students for 2017/18 summer vacation period.
Corporate Office Location	CM will locate its corporate offices in the Operational Control Centre in Mitchell during the Operating Phase.	CM have established their corporate headquarters on Northbourne Ave in consultation and agreement with the Territory.

2. 75 work and supply packages were launched on 24 August 2016 in a local industry forum hosted by the Canberra Business Chamber Light Rail Business Link Program. Since then Canberra Metro have revised a number of these packages to be more reflective of how the project will be delivered, splitting some into smaller packages. Current figures indicate that of the potential total 301 proposed packages, 231 packages have been awarded to date, 134 of which have been awarded to local companies (58%).
3. The subcontractor forum is a quarterly meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 23 August 2017.
4. Three subcontractors attended the forum held on 24 May 2017.
5. 37 people attended the two Master Builder Association information/ feedback sessions.
6. The Light Rail Business Link Program delivered six quarterly forums up to 30 June 2017 with a total of 530 people attending.
7. Canberra Metro will continue to host quarterly subcontractor forums. The next forum will be held on 23 August 2017, with a subsequent forum scheduled to be held in late November 2017.

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### **Civic—infrastructure audit (Question No 443)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:



- (1) Can the Minister provide an outline of the physical audit of city infrastructure conducted between January and February 2017 by representatives from Transport Canberra and City Services City Presentation and City Management.
- (2) Did the audit review the condition of footpaths in the city area, particularly along London Circuit.
- (3) What findings have been determined to date as a result of the physical audit referred to in part (1).
- (4) What is the nature of the work, if any, which will be scheduled as a result of the audit and the proposed timing of that work.

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

- (1) The audit in January and February 2017 involved the physical inspection of all publicly accessible power outlets. No other city infrastructure was audited in this period.
- (2) The audit did not review footpaths. The path along London Circuit within Civic precinct is included in planned inspection programs and inspected every year. This path was last inspected in November 2016 and the next inspection is scheduled for late 2017.
- (3) The audit into publicly accessible power outlets revealed 12 maintenance issues.
- (4) Work to rectify these maintenance issues has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of August 2017.

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### **ACTION bus service—school bus breakdown procedures (Question No 444)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) Further to question on notice 83, on how many occasions has a bus transporting school students broken down in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) For each breakdown of a bus transporting school students referred to in part (1), were the procedures outlined in the "Bus Accident" section of the ACTION Incident Management Manual followed.
- (3) Has any analysis been conducted of the bus breakdowns to determine if there are any common factors, such as the age of the bus; if so, what are those common factors.

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

- (1) Buses transporting school students have broken down (a) 95 times in 2016-17 and (b) 5 times in 2017-18 (year to date as at 10 August 2017).
- (2) Yes.

- (3) TCCS records all in-service breakdowns. The data is sorted into categories for analysis, data collected is circulated and discussed during regular Fleet Services Managers Meetings where trends are examined and preventive action proposed.

Recent data shows that electrical system faults and cooling system faults were the highest percentage of in-service failures of the current fleet during the 2016-17 financial year.

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**Planning—Haig Park  
(Question No 452)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

In relation to the Chief Minister's answer to the Select Committee on Estimates Question on Notice E17-478, when will phase two results/ feedback become available and what has been the reason for the delay in this release.

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

There was a high level of community participation during phase two of the Haig Park community consultation and a significant amount of qualitative information has been collected. The delay in releasing the consultation report is due to the nature and quantum of the information collected and complexity of analysis. The finalised report was released on the Yoursay website on 18 August 2017.

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**Planning—Dickson  
(Question No 453)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) In relation to the Minister's answer to the Select Committee on Estimates Question on Notice E17-511, what community groups did the two individuals who made these request represent.
- (2) In what forum was the request made and to who was this request made.

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

- (1) The requests were verbal discussions. At the time, it would have been expected to be a private discussion, therefore it is not appropriate to release the identity of the community groups involved.
- (2) As per response to question 1.

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**Government—procurement  
(Question No 456)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) In relation to procurement processes, does the ACT Government ask for information regarding diversity, inclusivity and reconciliation strategies from professional services firms engaged to provide services to the Government; if so, what information is asked for and in what form; if not, why is that information not sought from professional services firms, many of which are noted for not being diverse or accessible to marginalised groups.
- (2) Where this information is available, what proportion of professional services firms engaged by the ACT Government have (a) a Reconciliation Action Plan, (b) gender empowerment and mentoring programs, (c) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning empowerment and mentoring programs, (d) unconscious bias mitigation strategies, (e) flexible working conditions and hours, (f) mental health support programs and (g) workplace adjustment policies for accessible and inclusive workplaces.

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

The ACT Government does not as part of standard practice ask for information specifically regarding diversity, inclusivity and reconciliation strategies from professional service firms engaged to provide services to the Government. Upon Tender submission, a firm is assessed to ensure it complies with relevant requirements of the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* (Cth) and if applicable whether an Ethical Supplier Declaration is signed.

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### **Electricity—load shedding (Question No 460)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) What plans does the Government have in place for managing public safety during heatwaves.
- (2) Are new apartment buildings currently required to be designed to keep residents safe during heat waves if air conditioning fails, for example, due to electricity load shedding; if not, is the Government taking any action to ensure they will be in future.
- (3) What plans does the Government have in place for managing residents that need to evacuate their apartment buildings during heatwaves.
- (4) Are these plans public so that the community can find them if they need advice in an emergency.
- (5) Has or will the Government conduct community information campaigns so that apartment residents know what to do in a heatwave if their electricity fails.

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

- (1) The ACT Government's emergency plans are informed by the *Emergencies Act 2004* and the development and implementation of the ACT Emergency Plan and associated sub-plans. The ACT Emergency Plan outlines the core emergency management arrangements across the ACT.

In 2014, the ACT Government conducted a Territory Wide Risk Assessment that looked at how natural, technological, environmental and other disasters could impact on the ACT. The purpose was to create a better-prepared and safer community in the event of major disasters. The Territory Wide Risk Assessment identifies extreme heat as a key risk for the ACT.

The ACT Government also has a hazard-specific emergency plan for heatwaves, 'The ACT Extreme Heat Management Plan', which was last updated in 2015. The purpose of the ACT Extreme Heat Management Plan is to protect the community by:

- promoting individual and community resilience; and
- adapting to extreme heat conditions through delivery of a planned, managed, and effective whole-of-government response.

The ACT Ambulance Service is the lead response agency for extreme heat events in the ACT. ACT Health also has a significant role in the development and implementation of strategies to promote and protect public health under the *Public Health Act 1997*.

- (2) New ACT apartments must be built to comply with the National Construction Code (NCC). The NCC has provisions for occupant amenity, including thermal comfort. Compliance with the NCC does not rely on the use of an air conditioner for thermal comfort, rather it relies on the energy efficiency of the building envelope.

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) is reviewing the energy efficiency provisions of the NCC, including their adequacy in heatwave conditions. The ABCB will consider how projected climate changes may influence heatwaves.

- (3) The ACT Government provides public messaging to the community prior to, and during, a heatwave event. This includes encouraging community members to go to publically accessible buildings with air conditioning, such as shopping centres, libraries, and cinemas.

Apartment building owners are responsible for emergency evacuation plans.

- (4) The *Emergencies Act 2004* and the ACT Emergency Plan are both publically available on the ACT Legislation Register. The Territory Wide Risk Assessment is publicly available on the ESA website at <http://esa.act.gov.au/community-information/publications/>.

The ACT Extreme Heat Management Plan is not available to the public. The ACT Extreme Heat Management Plan focuses on internal ACT Government procedures and is not applicable to how the public should respond during an emergency.

ACT Health has developed heatwave-related fact sheets for the community. The fact sheets are available on the ACT Health public website at <http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/summer-safety>.

The fact sheets provide public health advice, including how to prevent heat-related stress and what to do during planned and unplanned power outages. This information is applicable to residents in apartments, free-standing dwellings, commercial premises, and other buildings.

- (5) The ACT Government conducts regular community information campaigns related to heatwave events and potential power outages. The campaigns are applicable to residents in apartments and other building types.

The Chief Health Officer provides annual pre-summer season messaging, including:

- how to prevent heat-related stress (drinking plenty of fluids, staying in a cool environment, reducing physical activity);
- advice on heat-related stress to at-risk community groups (aged care facilities, childcare centres, schools); and
- how to prevent public health risks during planned and unplanned power outages.

The advice provided in the fact sheets is also used in public health messaging during heatwave events. An example of this was during the recorded heatwave on 10-11 February 2017.

In relation to planned power outages, ACT Health and ACT Ambulance Service work closely with ActewAGL to mitigate risks to affected residents. ActewAGL has established community information protocols that include:

- maintaining a list of high risk sites; for example, aged care facilities and residents with life support systems;
- notifying affected residents by mail at least four days in advance of planned power outages, including a fact sheet for affected residents;
- visiting residents with life support systems on the day of the planned power outage to confirm they have a management plan in place; and
- providing planned power outage data detailing identified life support sites to ACT Health and ACT Ambulance Service when requested, including high risk sites.

In preparation for the 2017-18 summer season, the ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Health, and key stakeholders will review the risk profile of a heatwave event in the ACT. This will inform the 2017-18 community information campaign.

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### **Housing—energy efficiency (Question No 462)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) In relation to the Home Energy Efficiency Program for low income households and the recent welcome announcement of the 1000th home, what is the full range of options and advice the program provides.
- (2) Which of these elements are expected to be the most cost-effective in terms of improving comfort and energy efficiency.
- (3) Does the program include appliance upgrades or installation of heating/ cooling equipment.

- (4) How many of the 1000 homes were private (for example, non-public housing) rental homes.
- (5) How many of the 1000 homes received draught proofing.
- (6) What is the cost of the program (a) per home on an overall basis and (b) for draught-proofing, per home that receives this.

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

- (1) The Actsmart Low Income Household Program is delivered on behalf of the ACT Government by Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP), with the aim of assisting low income households in the ACT to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The program provides a combination of education, support and a range of activities with some activities provided to all participants and others requiring referral from SVDP.

Activities available to all participants include:

- household energy efficiency assessment;
- education supported by a personalised household report;
- draught proofing;
- provision of an energy saving kit, including a heated throw rug; and
- access, if eligible to appliance upgrades (fridge/freezer).

Activities that require a referral from SVDP include:

- i. participation in the Curtain Program;
- ii. participation in the Split System Program (delivered by Affinity Electrical).

Participants not eligible for the appliance or split system programs may be referred onto the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS). NILS is provided through Care Financial and the Salvation Army.

- (2) A cost benefit analysis of all current activities under the Low Income Program has been undertaken. This analysis shows that the elements of the program that are most cost-effective in terms of energy efficiency are the installation of energy efficient split systems and the provision of heated throw rugs. This does not factor in any associated co-benefits including improved comfort and health benefits.
  - (3) The household assessment that is conducted identifies eligible participants who will benefit from additional support, including the upgrade of fridges, freezers and the installation of energy efficient split systems.
  - (4) Of the 1,046 household assessments conducted from 1 October 2015 – 30 June 2017, 64 were private rentals, equating to approximately 6% of households over that period.
  - (5) Of the 1,046 household assessments conducted from 1 October 2015 – 30 June 2017, 826 received draught proofing, which equates to 79% of households over that period.
  - (6) The cost of the program per household on an overall basis is \$1,066.94 (inc GST). This includes activities available to all participants (including fridges/freezers), but does not include referrals to the curtain or split system programs. The average cost of the program per home for draught-proofing is \$213.
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**ACT public service—joint council  
(Question No 475)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 18 August 2017:

- (1) What is the membership of the ACT Public Service Joint Council.
- (2) How many meetings of the ACT Public Service Joint Council were held in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) Where does the ACT Public Service Joint Council usually meet.
- (4) What funding was allocated to the ACT Public Service Joint Council in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.
- (5) How many meetings of the ACT Public Service Joint Council have been attended by a Minister of the ACT Government, and what was the date of each meeting and the title of the attending Minister.
- (6) Are statistics maintained of union membership in the ACT Public Service; if so, what is the (a) total number of union members across the ACT Public Service, (b) total number of union members by each ACT government directorate and agency and (c) number of members by each union represented in the ACT Public Service.

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

1. The membership of the ACT Public Service Joint Council

Name	Position
Bronwen Overton-Clarke (Co-Chair)	Deputy Director-General, Workforce Capability and Governance, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
Alex White (Co-Chair)	Secretary, UnionsACT
Meredith Whitten	Deputy Director-General, Business Services Division, Education Directorate
Jacqui Agius	Senior Industrial Officer, Australian Education Union
Graham Tanton	Executive Director, Shared Services, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
Brook Muscatt-Bentley	ACT Regional Secretary, Community and Public Sector Union
Sue Hall	Executive Director, Corporate, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
Tom Cullen	Industrial Officer, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Patricia O'Farrell	Executive Director, Executive Office, Health Directorate
Mick Koppie	Organiser, Communications, Electrical, Electronic, Energy, Information, Postal, Plumbing and Allied Services Union of Australia
Christine Murray	Director, People Management, Community Services Directorate

Name	Position
Emma Flukes	Director, Corporate Services, Director of Public Prosecution, Justice and Community Safety Directorate
Bert Coquillon	Industrial Officer, Health Services Union
Steven Wright	Director, Human Resources, Transport Canberra and City Services
Erryn Cresshull	ACT Branch Organiser, United Voice
Jaime Elton	Senior Manager, Human Resources, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
Garry Hamilton	Government and Legal Organiser, Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, ACT Branch
Liz Beattie	Senior Manager, Human Resource Operations, Justice and Community Safety Directorate

2. The following meetings have been held in the timeframe specified.

Year	Meetings	Date	Venue
2014-15	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 June 2014</li> <li>23 February 2015</li> <li>25 February 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canberra Nara Centre</li> <li>Telstra Building, Dickson</li> <li>Canberra Nara Centre</li> </ul>
2015-16	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 September 2015</li> <li>10 December 2015</li> <li>12 May 2016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canberra Nara Centre</li> <li>Canberra Nara Centre</li> <li>Canberra Nara Centre</li> </ul>
2016-17	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 December 2016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canberra Nara Centre</li> </ul>
2017-18 to date	Nil	one to be held in Nov/Dec. 2017	

3. The ACT Public Service Joint Council usually meets in the CMTEDD premises in the Canberra Nara Centre.

4. There is no funding directly allocated to the ACT Public Service Joint Council.

5. One. The meeting was on 25 February 2015 and the Minister attending was the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations.

6. No statistics are maintained on union membership in the ACT Public Service.

## Questions without notice taken on notice

### Canberra Hospital—kitchen equipment

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mr Doszpot and Mrs Jones on Tuesday, 1 August 2017*):

1. The Extended Shelf Life (ESL) food storage equipment was procured in 2014. Some of the equipment has been deployed; however:



- Some of the equipment had to be procured and sourced from overseas. Together with the enabling works associated with the installation, a timeframe of 12 months was required. These activities were completed May 2015; and
  - Trading difficulties encountered by the ESL installation company from August 2015 until January 2016 further delayed the project and were required to be managed through normal Territory negotiation processes. From April 2016 to present the ESL installation company has returned on five occasions, with a commitment to complete the installation by the end of September 2017.
2. The project to install the new kitchen equipment has not influenced the management, or contract terms, of any Food Services staff on casual or temporary contracts.
  3. No.

### **Canberra Hospital—procurement**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mr Milligan and Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 2 August 2017*):

1. There were three shortlisted contractors.
2. The expression of Interest (EOI) tendering period was in accordance with industry and Government standards. Given the technical nature of this tender, detailed assessment of the EOI submissions were required in order to ensure that suitable Contractors were shortlisted. Following the approval of the shortlisted respondents, a Request for Tender was released to the three shortlisted respondents for six weeks. When tenders closed, the assessment period of the highly technical documentation included formal meetings, clarification and specialist advice in order to achieve the best value for money outcome for the Territory.
3. All tender communications were made in accordance with the legislative framework, ACT Government tendering protocols, processes and probity guidelines. Standard tendering correspondence that occurred during this tender period included:
  - Addendums
  - Industry briefing
  - Tender clarifications

In accordance with the ACT Procurement Act, the Procurement Regulations and relevant policies and circulars, applicable correspondence is disclosed to all respondents. Sensitive or commercial information is not shared with other respondents.

### **Canberra Hospital—emergency waiting times**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question by Mr Milligan on Tuesday, 15 August 2017*):

During busy periods, patients may be accommodated on trolleys (Emergency Department beds or ambulance stretchers) in the main corridor in the ED, after they

are triaged. When this occurs the patient is allocated to an ED medical team and an ED nursing team, and is appropriately monitored within all clinical guidelines. The patient is moved to a bed space as soon as one becomes available.

In July 2017 there were 23 occurrences of patients recorded as being accommodated in this way.

### **Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing**

**Ms Stephen-Smith** (*in reply to supplementary questions by Mrs Kikkert and Ms Lee on Tuesday, 15 August 2017*):

1. On 29 July 2017, young people were released from their rooms in three wings at 9am and the final three wings at 10am.

On 31 July 2017, young people were released from their rooms in three wings at 9am and the final three wings at 10am.

2. On 29 July 2017, in addition to the on-call duty manager, the Senior Manager attended the Centre from 8:50am to 1:20pm and the Operations Manager attended from 1:30pm to 7:30pm. Management staff attended the centre to fill in for senior officers who were on unplanned leave as is covered in their on-call arrangements.

### **Minister for Health and Wellbeing—ministerial briefing**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Wall on Wednesday, 16 August 2017*):

1. Yes, I did receive an incoming minister's brief as Assistant Minister for Health. This briefing package did not include any information about the AECOM report. My specific portfolio responsibility as Assistant Minister for Health included Population Health and Community Health.

### **Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staff safety**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mr Coe and Mrs Kikkert on Wednesday, 23 August 2017*):

1. I am aware that a Category 2 incident occurred on 16 July 2017 involving six young people. The incident commenced at 11:22am and was contained by 11:26am. A briefing of the incident was provided to Minister Stephen Smith's office on Sunday 17 July 2017. In the course of their duties, four staff were injured. Two sought medical treatment on the day for minor soft tissue injuries, with both of these returning to work on the day. Two followed up with their GPs the following day.
2. I have outlined the injuries in response to the question above. All staff responded appropriately to manage the incident. There is no disciplinary action arising from this incident.

3. In accordance with the operating procedures, a formal debriefing process takes place after every incident. A staff debrief occurred on the day of the incident and welfare checks were performed by management on the day of the incident and on the days after.

As a matter of course for incidents warranting medical assessment, employees are assessed and/or provided treatment by a medical professional either onsite, by their own GP or nearest hospital. If the injury is assessed as minor, with no lost time and without ongoing treatment, or with limited treatment, the Directorate will confirm with employees if any assistance, support or reasonable adjustment is required.

When a workplace injury is reported, the Directorate's Safety and Wellbeing team will contact the injured worker or their manager to ensure that all necessary supports are available as soon as is practicable. As required, case managers from the Whole of Government Injury Management Team are provided to employees and the Directorate regularly arranges the appointment of a personal rehabilitation consultant to support individual programs for employees who may be injured in the workplace.

The Directorate's Rehabilitation Policy provides the framework for rehabilitation management in the Directorate and outlines the commitment and responsibility of both the Directorate and the employee to achieve a safe, sustainable and timely return to work of injured employees. This is actively led by the Directorate's Safety and Wellbeing team.

The Directorate also provides an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is an early intervention program operating in the workplace and is also provided to employees who may have been a part of an incident either through individual or group debriefing.

As part of the six week compulsory induction program at Bimberi, all new employees are provided with Workplace Health and Safety training and specific skills development to enable them to undertake their job in a safe way. In addition to this training, all employees are provided with skills maintenance sessions periodically on this knowledge and these skills.

A Senior Safety and Wellbeing Officer is in regular attendance at Bimberi to offer advice and support to employees in relation to all Safety and Wellbeing matters. Bimberi has a network of Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) and WHS Work Group that meets quarterly as a forum to raise and discuss health and safety matters.

The Directorate has in place a Health and Wellbeing program, Healthy CSD. This is a preventative program that provides support to employees to maintain good health and safety in the workplace. As part of this program, Bimberi employees have participated in online health surveys that provide insights into key Health and Safety issues with the preventative measures addressing these issues included in

the Healthy CSD program for that year. These surveys also provide a confidential/individualised response to employees on their current health status and recommendations for programs for improvements.

The Directorate utilises an online reporting system, Riskman, for the notification and investigation of Workplace Health and Safety incident and accidents. All such incidents are recorded, triggering the initiation of support by the Safety and Wellbeing team and investigations to assess the circumstances of the incident.