



# Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**NINTH ASSEMBLY**

**26 OCTOBER 2017**

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**Thursday, 26 October 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:*

### **Dangerous driving in Gordon—petition 23-17**

By **Mr Wall**, from 163 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: *There is excessive hooning, anti-social and dangerous driving on Preddey Way, Clare Dennis Avenue and Lewis Luxton Avenue in Gordon.*

Your petitioners therefore request the Assembly to: *Take action to ensure the safety of residents and protect them against damage to people and property as a result of hooning, antisocial and dangerous driving on Preddey Way, Clare Dennis Avenue and Lewis Luxton Avenue in Gordon.*

*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.*

## **Petition—ministerial response**

The following response to a petition has been lodged:

### **Higgins playground facilities—petition 20-17**

By **Ms Fitzharris**, Minister for Transport and City Services, dated 24 October 2017, in response to a petition lodged by Mrs Kikkert on 17 August 2017 concerning upgrades to playgrounds in Higgins.

*The response read as follows:*

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 17 August 2017 regarding the petition No 20-17 lodged by Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA and received in the Assembly on 17 August 2017, regarding upgrades to playgrounds in Higgins.

The ACT Government invested \$2.7 million in 2016-17 in recognition of the important role play spaces have in fostering healthy communities. The investment included upgrades to four prioritised playgrounds located in Florey, Gowrie, Gungahlin and Evatt and installation of three natural play spaces in Barton, Tuggeranong and O'Connor.

The ACT Government manages over 500 playgrounds, including four in Higgins. Playgrounds are prioritised for upgrade based on 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 playground audit found that the equipment in the playgrounds on Hudson Street, Rich Street, O'Sullivan Street and Westhoven Street in Higgins remain fit for purpose. There are no current plans to undertake complete upgrades on the playgrounds in Higgins. I have attached a map showing the locations of these playgrounds.

The request in the petition for climbing frames, slides and a shade sail has been noted. A new piece of equipment, such as a spinner, will be installed in the playground at Hudson Street by January 2018. The community will be consulted on the type of equipment, being mindful that it will be required to fit within the soft fall area.

I understand the Rich Street playground was upgraded in 2010-11 with new swings, a spinner and a climbing structure. The pine bark soft fall at the Hudson Street and Westhoven Street Playgrounds was topped up in July and September 2017.

In regard to general maintenance, the playgrounds in Higgins are inspected and cleaned fortnightly. This involves a visual inspection of the playground and a check for vandalism and obvious faults to the equipment. Litter, broken glass and sharps are collected and bark is raked in heavy use areas under swings.

Shade sails are installed in high use district park play spaces and some large centrally located play spaces across Canberra where the frequent visitation rates and longer visits show that they will benefit the greatest number of children.

Public bins are provided in shopping centres, town and district parks and other areas where there are high levels of visitation. Bins are not provided in local neighbourhood parks, instead visitors to neighbourhood parks and other public open spaces are encouraged to take their rubbish with them and dispose of it appropriately.

The aged and decommissioned drinking fountain was removed from the playground located in Hudson Street Higgins in February 2017 and it would require major works to install new underground piping and a water meter. Drinking fountains are generally installed in higher use areas.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

**Petition****Dangerous driving in Gordon—petition 23-17**

**MR WALL** (Brindabella) (10.02), by leave: Today I have presented a petition on behalf of 163 residents of Gordon noting the excessive hooning and dangerous driving on Preddey Way, Clare Dennis Avenue and Lewis Luxton Avenue. This petition calls on the ACT government to take action to ensure the safety of residents and protect them against damage to people and property as a result of hooning, antisocial and dangerous driving on Preddey Way, Clare Dennis Avenue and Lewis Luxton Avenue. It is indeed a shame that residents feel the need to petition the Assembly for basic safety rights and amenity upkeep in their suburban streets; you would expect that that would be covered as par for the course by local government services.

This is not the first time residents have raised this issue. In relatively recent years the government decided that line marking at the intersection of Preddey Way and Clare Dennis Avenue might fix the problem, yet residents waited months for even this tokenistic measure to actually take place. That was in 2013. In actual fact, this has been a much longer running issue and some constituents who live in these streets are no longer shocked when an out-of-control vehicle smashes into a house for the third time. They are not surprised nor shocked when there is yet another near miss from a hooning driver careering out of control along these suburban streets, primarily at those intersections. What is a shock is that, as yet, no-one has been killed.

I quote now from a letter a resident sent the then police minister in 2015, Mr Corbell, recounting their experiences:

On the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 I rang ACT Police to report four utilities speeding up and down Lewis Luxton Avenue. At the time there were a number of children playing in their front yards and members of the public walking along the footpaths. The noise from the vehicles was such that a number of residents came out to see what was happening. I was speaking with my neighbour and we could hear the vehicles coming back turning from Woodcock Drive into Lewis Luxton Avenue. He stood on the footpath and took a video with his mobile telephone which clearly showed the registration numbers of the vehicles. The neighbour banned his children from playing in their front yard as he was concerned for their safety.

I did not receive a response to my call from ACT Police on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. I rang again the following day and was told that there were no traffic police on duty that day so the job was deactivated. I was told that they could re-activate the job ... I had commitments that day and could not hang around waiting at home on the off chance that someone would attend my residence.

I spoke to my neighbour and he said that he had attended Tuggeranong Police Station and showed the officer he spoke to the video footage he had taken ... to cut a long story short no one seemed interested in pursuing the matter. We also had footage on our security camera.

The unacceptable behaviour of the drivers of these utilities, plus sedans, is continuing on a regular basis ... mid to late afternoon, early evening and weekends.



On the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 a red utility with black wheel rims did a donut at the corner of Lewis Luxton Avenue and Preddey Way and almost lost control of the vehicle. I happened to be out in the yard gardening and witnessed the incident. If there had of been anyone on the footpath they would have been hit as the utility went up over the footpath.

That letter was written two years ago and still this issue remains a threat to residents on a daily basis. In July this year I was contacted by residents who had a car end up in their front yard, narrowly missing the house itself and the residents that were inside. This ongoing situation is simply unacceptable.

In an answer to a question without notice in this place on this issue, the Chief Minister stated:

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

This established system that the Chief Minister described is clearly not working and an urgent solution needs to be found. Residents along these three main roads in Gordon are at the stage of having to take matters into their own hands. I spoke to one resident recently who has installed a traffic mirror on the streetlight post opposite his home so that he can be sure that when he is entering and exiting his driveway he is in fact safe. These are not the measures residents should be having to pay for when rates and taxes are paid in this city to provide safe streets and adequate policing. This is the basic amenity residents expect to be maintained by a good government.

I commend the petition to the Assembly and applaud the residents of Gordon for taking the time out of their weekends to talk to their neighbours and assist me in raising this issue to hopefully get some sense from the government and get a response.

## **One year of delivery—health, transport and higher education portfolios**

### **Ministerial statement**

**MS FITZHARRIS** (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (10.07): It is a privilege to have the opportunity to speak in this place about the year of delivery this government has driven since last year's territory election. I think I speak for every member in saying that I feel fortunate every day for the opportunity to represent my community, and it is a particular privilege to be part of delivering an even better Canberra through my roles as Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research.

It has been a very busy year, one in which we have been able to deliver on the commitments we made as a result of our conversations with the community over the

past year. It is also an honour and privilege to be minister in areas that deliver services that tens of thousands of Canberrans use every day. It has been an exciting and fascinating challenge.

The task was made a little less daunting by the fact that this Barr Labor government went to the last election with a clear set of commitments in the health, transport, higher education and city services portfolios to ensure that our growing city not only meets the challenges ahead of us but seizes the opportunities available to our unique city. We also collectively share a strong vision for how to make the services Canberrans rely on even better. The job of my team and our directorates over the past 12 months has been to roll up our sleeves and start getting on with delivering those commitments. And we have been. I would like to spend a few minutes talking about the big things we have delivered in each of my portfolios because there is real progress being made and Canberrans are already seeing some of the benefits.

The government went to the last election with some big commitments in health: to increase Canberrans' access to walk-in centres and GP bulk-billing, expand the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, build the new SPIRE Centre at the Canberra Hospital and invest in more front-line services. We made it a priority to fund work on all these initiatives in the first post-election budget so that delivery can get underway. Projects like SPIRE and the Centenary hospital expansion are big capital projects that will take some years yet to rise out of the ground, but by starting the planning work as early as possible in this term of government we are making sure this new health infrastructure will be ready when our growing population needs it.

During the past year we have also seen the University of Canberra public hospital make rapid progress towards its commissioning in 2018, which will give Canberra a dedicated rehabilitation hospital while also providing a world-class training facility for our future health workforce. Importantly too, we have begun consultation with clinical practitioners and the community about the draft territory-wide health services framework which will inform the strategic direction for ACT Health's clinical and community-based health services over the next 10 years. It is no good making huge investments in health infrastructure if these are not based on a proper understanding of how Canberrans need and want to access health services and a clear plan for delivering them in a way that can meet those needs.

We have also seen a particularly busy and challenging year on a number of issues for which I am grateful for ACT Health's swift and proactive response—notably among them the system-wide data review. This is an important piece of work and is progressing very well. ACT Health responded quickly and professionally to the challenges exposed by the Grenfell Tower disaster and moved quickly to provide robust advice on managing the issue, with the safety of our community forefront in its mind.

We also know that the 2017 flu season impacted so many Canberrans and their families, and of course the health workforce itself is not immune to the flu season. I recognise that it has been a challenging year and thank all those involved in making sure that we provide the best possible health services to those people in our care. I also acknowledge that this season we have seen families across Canberra impacted by

the flu season in the most significant way, through very unwell family members or indeed the loss of family members. It is a reminder to us all of the significant impact that the flu can have on our community.

In June we made it safer for pregnant mums to carry their babies, with whooping cough vaccinations made available, including through approved pharmacies. Whooping cough has devastating effects on small babies and their families, which is why we took steps to make it easier to get immunised without having to make an appointment to see your GP.

It was with enormous pride that in September we opened the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm, which has been designed with our Indigenous community as a place for healing and spiritual growth to help our First Peoples recover, reset their lives and return to their families and community stronger and better equipped to face life's challenges. Seeing the emotion and feeling of achievement on the faces of our Indigenous elders and leaders brought home to me the ability to create real change through this place.

Often within our health system the focus is on what happens in our hospitals and clinics—the tertiary services and community-based services that help people when they are sick or hurt. That is always going to be a focus for government, but we also know that it is important to look more broadly at prevention and lifestyle to help Canberrans live active and healthy lives. My new title as Minister for Health and Wellbeing, announced earlier this year, demonstrates how committed the government is to thinking about the health of Canberrans in a more holistic way. We are backing that thinking up with a \$4 million funding pool for preventative health activities to be delivered as part of our election commitment for a preventative health strategy.

I am excited about this work because I believe it will create more and better pathways for Canberrans to live longer, healthier and better quality lives. Over the next year this work will be a strong focus and I look forward to holding the second preventative health forum in early November. I also look forward to progressing the initiatives noted above, as well as ensuring that our national health reform and funding arrangements, in the interests of Canberrans, are advanced through the COAG health council, which I have the honour of chairing for the next 12 months.

For a long time Canberra has been a city where the majority of our residents get around by car, but I am pleased to say that over the past 12 months we have made great progress towards delivering an integrated public transport system that provides a real alternative as well as better active travel infrastructure to help more Canberrans combine their daily commute with exercise. With tracks being laid on stage 1 of the light rail network as we speak, we have also started the scoping work on stage 2. This has included seeking the community's views and priorities for the proposed routes as well as starting work on the detailed technical and design work that has to underpin a major infrastructure project like this. We have also started discussions with the NCA and other commonwealth stakeholders that will be critical to seeing this important project succeed.

Alongside the start of light rail stage 1, we promised to roll out a new network of rapid buses to get Canberrans where they need to go more quickly and easily. I was very pleased to last week announce that we will have the full network of nine rapids rolled out from mid-2018 and reveal the new-look network that will achieve that. Rapid buses will connect town centres, suburbs and the city, forming the backbone of Canberra's future integrated transport network. Rapids will run at least every 15 minutes along core transport corridors from 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Friday.

We increasingly see active travel having a big role to play in how Canberrans will access the public transport network in the future, and so we ramped up work on infrastructure to support that over the past 12 months. That included upgraded walking and cycling infrastructure around town and group centres like Tuggeranong, Woden and Kingston, as well as opening Canberra's 20th park and ride facility at Wanniasa. Funding has also been delivered and planning is underway for the Belconnen bikeway, which will connect suburbs like Bruce, Macquarie and Florey with the Belconnen town centre and nearby educational institutions.

We heard the community's feedback loud and clear that Canberrans want to live in a clean and well-kept city. It is one of the things that make this place so livable. That is why I have been pleased to see a range of different initiatives get underway in the city services area to deliver just that. For example, we have delivered town centre upgrades to Anketell Street in Tuggeranong, with more works funded through the 2017 budget. The Kambah shops is also in the process of getting a facelift, and Hibberson Street in the Gungahlin town centre has seen work begin on improvements to landscaping as well as pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

One of the questions I have been asked most often over the past 12 months is: when am I getting a green bin? Canberrans are enthusiastic about the green bin rollout and we have been working hard to get that underway. The pilot kicked off in Weston Creek and Kambah in April, with more than 8,000 households taking up the offer of a green bin. We are using the insights gained through the pilot to inform the city-wide rollout of the service, and I will have more to say about the timing of that very soon.

We have also introduced legislation for the ACT's first container deposit scheme and will hopefully be passing it within this fortnight, because we know this is a great way to cut litter and boost recycling while also supporting local community groups. Transport Canberra and City Services provide a wide range of services that keep our city humming along and make it an attractive, livable place. I am pleased with the progress we have made over the past 12 months, but I know there is always more to do to meet the expectations and aspirations Canberrans have for our city.

Finally, I have been pleased to work with, and have responsibility for, the higher education, training and research portfolio since the 2016 election. This sector plays a very important role in shaping people's lives through skills and new knowledge and is also very much part of the government's economic diversification strategy. International education continues to be Canberra's largest export, contributing \$579 million to Canberra's economy last year—an increase of 13 per cent on the

previous year—or, in people terms, one in every nine Canberrans is engaged with a university.

Over the past 12 months the government-funded study Canberra program has been working collaboratively with the universities to grow our profile as a destination of choice for international students and researchers. Through study Canberra we have focused on enhancing the student experience and putting in place coordinated and consistent marketing. Our credentials as an education city were enhanced by our announcement, with the University of New South Wales Canberra, of the possibility of a new and second campus in the city east precinct. This is an exciting development and has the potential to add another 10,000 students over time, further expanding our education base.

We are very fortunate in the ACT to have such a quality public provider in the TAFE sector, the Canberra Institute of Technology. The CIT board has overseen continued reform of the CIT, particularly addressing business transformation and the beginning of the CIT campus modernisation strategy. We recognise CIT as a significant contributor in the education, training and research sector and will continue to support CIT's strategic objectives as the modernisations program rolls out.

In closing, I would like to extend a very warm thanks to a number of different groups of people. To the hundreds of people I have spoken to at stakeholder and community events, experts, residents and more, thank you. The practical insights, advice and knowledge you have shared have been invaluable over the past year.

To the public servants across each of my directorates who have worked so hard over the past 12 months to turn our election commitments into real services and progress on the ground, thank you. I know we have driven a big agenda and at times we have pushed hard to make sure that long-term projects like SPIRE and light rail stage 2 get moving. Both the government and the Canberra community are grateful for the work you do, the hours you put in and the commitment you continue to show to getting things right. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to see the changes we have started together come to fruition.

To all my Labor colleagues: we are a wonderful team and the old adage “the sum of the whole is greater than its parts” is an especially apt one for us, as we share common values about making our city more sustainable, progressive and equitable. To our new members, it is wonderful to have you in the Assembly representing our community, advocating issues and suggesting ideas. It is exactly what this place was designed to do.

Lastly, to my staff, both those who have been with me since the election and those who have joined my office more recently, thank you too. You play a big role in this government's ability to deliver on our election commitments for Canberrans and I am grateful for the tireless way you go about this, in sometimes stressful circumstances.

It is important to take stock at the 12-month mark to see how we are going and to acknowledge the progress that has been made. It is even more important to keep

driving ahead with delivering for Canberra. That is exactly what my team, my directorates and I will be doing over the years to come. I present the following paper:

One year of delivery: Health, TCCS and HETR—Ministerial statement,  
26 October 2017.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**MRS DUNNE** (Ginninderra) (10.19): If the Minister for Health and Wellbeing were honest in her self-assessment of the past year she would not be standing here boasting about things on the never-never. This minister, if she were really worth her salt, would stand here and apologise to the people of Canberra. She would apologise for the switchboard fire at the Canberra Hospital. She would apologise for failing even to have an infrastructure risk register until after AECOM reported that they had found four extreme and more than 140 high risks in health infrastructure. She would apologise for failed data capture and reporting systems that have gone on for years.

She would apologise to the people of Canberra for heading the only jurisdiction in Australia that could not meet its deadlines for the provision of data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and, ultimately, the Productivity Commission. She would apologise for presiding over appalling emergency department waiting times. She would apologise to those in our community who are waiting so long for elective surgery, sometimes even getting shunted further into the distance.

This minister would apologise to pregnant women who had to endure labour in the waiting room at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. She would apologise because, instead of building the Centenary hospital with more capacity than the old maternity wing, this government built it with the same capacity. She should apologise because this government's foresight is such that the new Centenary hospital has to be enlarged after only five years of operation. But this is standard practice for Labor governments over a long period, going back to the GDE, where one lane in each direction did not last very long.

She would apologise for her government's failure in relation to the aluminium cladding on the Centenary hospital. She tells us it is safe but is going to remove it and replace it anyway. If it is safe, why does it have to be removed? The minister needs to be up-front about the issues relating to the cladding.

This minister should be standing here and apologising to ACT taxpayers for the fact that each presentation to a nurse-led walk-in clinic costs more than \$188. This minister should apologise to the people of Canberra for promising to build a new hospital which will open "around 2022"—in other words, on the never-never. Even the minister's own statement puts no certainty on the SPIRE building, which includes the expanded Centenary hospital. She talked about it taking "some years to rise out of the ground". She talked about starting planning "as soon as possible". And finally she said, "We are making sure that this new health infrastructure will be ready when our growing population needs it." Canberra's population is growing now. It is the fastest

growing city in the country and our growing population needs these services now, not sometime in the future.

The minister should be apologising to the people of Canberra because her government abandoned planning for new health facilities to put the money into a tram. This minister should be apologising to Canberra's Indigenous people for its abject bungling of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm, a residential rehabilitation centre that is beautiful but is like the hospital that has no patients of *Yes, Minister* fame.

She says the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm is "a place of healing and spiritual growth to help our First Peoples recover, reset their lives and return to their families and the community stronger and better equipped to face life's challenges". It is going to be a struggle to achieve these ideals when the clients will only have 20 hours of contact per week. And that is on the days that they can get there. On the days of extreme fire danger when they will not be able to use the farm, on the days when the temperature is up, when they will not be able to use the farm, and for the remaining 148 hours each week, what are these clients going to do?

The people in the front line of our health system here in Canberra are amazing. They do their very best to provide the care and understanding the people of Canberra need when they engage with the health system, but they must do that work in the face of a government which keeps saying that the health and wellbeing of all people of Canberra is its top priority, but it has its eyes on other things.

If this government had foresight and if this minister had ability we would not have hospital fires and patient evacuations. We would not have building materials that are not fit for purpose. We would not have facilities that do not meet demand and do not fulfil their intended purposes. We should not have patients on trolleys in corridors. We should not have expectant mums in labour in waiting rooms. We should not have the most vulnerable in our Indigenous community on the receiving end of little more than lip-service. I think it is time for the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to stop boasting and start apologising.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Achievements over the past year**

### **Ministerial statement**

**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) (10.25): I appreciate the opportunity to talk about the achievements in my ministerial portfolios over the last year. The first year of government has seen a vast number of achievements within my portfolios of planning and land management; the environment and heritage; urban renewal; and police and emergency services.

First, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work the ACT police and emergency services do on a daily basis and the commitment of officers to keeping the Canberra community safe. As minister responsible for these services, I am fortunate enough to

see the achievements of the men and women of our police and emergency services on a daily basis, achievements that are not always immediately evident to the community.

I welcome this opportunity to canvass some of the commitments this government has made to support these services and our achievements in the first year of this government. To date, we have introduced the Firearms Amendment Act, through which the ACT became the first jurisdiction in Australia to re-categorise lever action shotguns to align with the COAG commitment and the revised national firearms agreement. We signed a new and enduring police arrangement and a new police purchase agreement, as well as issuing my 2017-18 ministerial direction to ACT Policing. Collectively, these documents set out improved governance arrangements and special areas of focus for ACT Policing throughout 2017-18.

We launched the new Southcare Toll rescue helicopter, fitted with the latest aviation and safety technology available to the new service provider. We completed station upgrades at Fyshwick fire station in June to deliver a more contemporary workplace for ACT Fire & Rescue officers. We also deployed 26 Canberra firefighters to Canada as part of a 100-strong Australian team to battle wildfires in British Columbia, which shows how highly valued their specialist skills are.

Canberra's public safety CCTV system has been improved, with greater coverage areas and clearer recordings, due to a \$376,000 upgrade by the ACT government. The upgraded system now features modern, high-definition cameras. These new cameras are multi-lens, allowing a single unit to cover a much greater area than previous cameras. Additionally, we successfully deployed portable CCTV technology during Floriade and at the National Arboretum, strengthening public safety at both sites.

The ACT government is committed to keeping Canberra safe. We are doing this through ongoing investment in our police and emergency services agencies, in both infrastructure and personnel. Some of the initiatives the ACT government has committed to in the 2017-18 budget include: funding for a new fit-for-purpose centre for the ACT's water police team and \$5.3 million for enhanced protective security measures for ACT Policing, including equipping front-line officers with tasers.

The government has also provided ongoing funding this financial year to increase Taskforce Nemesis by eight additional staff to bolster ACT Policing's efforts against serious and organised crime, and in particular motorcycle gangs. The government has also invested in a firefighters' recruitment college, to start later this year, continuing the government's commitment to recruit more women firefighters and ensuring more firefighters are trained and ready to keep our community safe.

Ensuring the health and wellbeing of officers in emergency services is paramount. The government has allocated \$1 million in the 2017-18 budget, over four years, for mental health services for emergency services personnel and health and fitness subsidies for ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers.

This represents just a handful of examples of the great work our services do and the government's investment in those services. I am committed to working with our law



enforcement and emergency services agencies to ensure that they are effectively resourced to meet the challenges ahead.

In respect of planning and land management, our first area of focus has been to bring people back into planning. The genuine engagement focus has continued to ensure that we do not undertake city planning simply for the sake of creating artistic street layouts. We plan ahead so that we have an optimum chance of meeting the future needs of the people who will live, work and play in our city.

Holding the role of minister for these portfolios from the start of the parliamentary term gives me an opportunity to continue to establish a strong direction, one that recognises that the needs of our city are changing. Consultation strategies that are implemented for major projects and proposals, including exploring innovative engagement tools and seeking input from as wide a range of people as possible, ensure that varied communities across Canberra are heard, including the previously unheard voices. The government strives to make it easier for the public to understand and to have an input into planning processes.

The approach to engagement builds on my work on the statement of planning intent in 2015. In developing my statement of planning intent I spent a lot of time attending community meetings and workshops with groups of all demographics, including our young professionals, and listening to the aspirations that Canberrans have for our city. Madam Speaker, this approach has become the default for talking about planning in Canberra. I continue to support the Chief Minister's ambitions to develop more meaningful ways to engage with our community and to hear community views.

Earlier this year the government welcomed Ben Ponton as the ACT's new chief planner. Mr Ponton has centred his work on quality engagement and has been working tirelessly to find more effective and innovative ways to engage with the community and industry. Mr Ponton has explored opportunities to embrace collaborative conversations and build trust to deliver better outcomes for our city. Mr Ponton's recent work to develop pre-DA community consultation guidelines, which will be finalised and released to the community in the near future, echoes to the community that community engagement is an integral part of the design of major developments.

The government is also working hard to develop policies for housing choices. Affordable housing is an issue that is prevalent not just in Australia but internationally and it is closely linked to my planning portfolio, as many of the potential solutions lie within our planning framework. Madam Speaker, our work on housing choices will look at the issue of what we have been calling the missing middle. This is a particular problem in Canberra, where it sometimes feels like the options are either a stand-alone home or an apartment, with very few options in between. This needs to change and the government is keen to collaborate on options to encourage and deliver innovative, high-quality residential buildings.

There is another project that is a little further advanced, which is the establishment of the capital city design review panel, to be chaired by the ACT government architect, Catherine Townsend and, where appropriate, by the National Capital Authority as

well. The design review panel will be a valuable tool in setting the expectations for improved city-wide outcomes in terms of the built form and its relationship with the landscape, particularly for development along our main avenues. The panel will provide independent expert advice for public and private sector development proposals, including public places.

Establishing a single design review panel in the ACT will ensure that there is consistency in advice and processes. This will provide greater potential to attract the best urban planning thinkers and designers to contribute to significant development proposals across our city. The experience from other jurisdictions demonstrates that there are several benefits to design review for the community, developers, design professionals and government. These include improved design quality, reduced project costs for the developer and faster development application approval time lines.

In June last year I announced the improving the ACT building regulatory system reform program. As a result, the government introduced new legislation last year to help prevent people with poor compliance histories from holding builders licences and to expand statutory warranties for residential buildings to all residences regardless of height.

The government confirmed its commitment to the reforms by including funding in the 2017-18 budget under the building a better city initiatives. The building reform has three components. They are: to implement a full range of reforms in the improving the ACT building regulatory system program over the next four years, including further work and consultation on policy matters not covered in the previous discussion paper; to create a new policy and legislative framework and an administrative program for auditing and inspecting building work in the territory, based on the risks inherent in each project; and to establish an audit system for licensed building surveyors.

Other key achievements in the planning and land management portfolio over these first 100 days include swimming pool safety education, through the backyard lifeguard campaign; the DA finder app version 2 upgrade; community panels established to guide Kippax and Curtin centre planning; the Gungahlin town centre refresh released for consultation, including the first live Facebook engagement; active living principles and draft changes to the Territory Plan released for public comment; end-of-trip facilities draft variation to the Territory Plan also released for public comment; and education and youth engagement planning-related education and consultations at high schools and colleges.

I would like to touch on my commitment to provide Canberrans with healthy waterways. Canberrans are lucky to enjoy an array of natural rivers and creeks and man-made lakes and ponds, but the health of our waterways is not as good as it could be. Over the next four years we will be constructing projects under the healthy waterways project, also known as the basin priority project. This will include new wetlands and bio-retention systems built across Canberra and the restoration of some of our older urban stormwater drains back into more naturalised creek environments. These projects will improve the quality of our water as well as improve amenity for nearby residents and contribute to the health of the broader environment.

Touching on the subject of our bush capital, I am leading a new focus on our environmental assets, building on the best of our natural environment, to develop a modern bush capital. Work continues on micro parks in our inner city areas, ensuring that city workers and residents have access to generous green spaces that are well designed, well built and well maintained. Efforts are being increased to ensure that living assets such as trees, waterways and parklands are carefully integrated into the way we approach planning and development in our city.

Our territory's proud heritage is also a prominent focus. For tens of thousands of years the Ngunnawal people have known this region as their country and their homeland. We are now into the second century of also recognising this place as our home and our national capital. This history means that we have many unique stories to share and many places and objects to protect for future generations to enjoy. The ACT government will finalise a five-year heritage strategy which will determine a range of strategic priorities and actions that will further recognise, protect and serve and promote our heritage assets, thus building on the framework of existing legislation and initiatives such as the Canberra tracks, the Canberra and Regional Heritage Festival and the heritage grants.

In terms of key projects, some highlights of the achievements in the environment and heritage portfolio are: the launch of the H2OK stormwater campaign; the next stage of the Tharwa fish restoration project; the issuing of environmental grants to community groups; the completion of 95 per cent of the bushfire operations plan and new weather recording stations to help improve firefighting ability; the commencement of work on the Mulligans Flat sanctuary extension; and with respect to the Asbestos Response Taskforce, work on the removal program progressing under budget and ahead of time.

There have also been a number of key items of regulatory reform undertaken during the term of the new Assembly, including new governance arrangements for the establishment of the Suburban Land Agency and the City Renewal Authority and the appointment of their governing boards; reform of the Lands Acquisition Act to allow the territory to initiate the compensation process; new statutory planning requirements for the storage of dangerous substances; red tape reduction for assessing development near contaminated sites; and all draft Territory Plan variations being referred to the Legislative Assembly planning committee.

The key achievements I have outlined today in my portfolios for the first year will continue to come in the next three-quarters of this term of government and ultimately help to make Canberra an even better place to work, live and play for all.

Madam Speaker, I thank my staff, both in my office and across all my directorates. They have done a fantastic job in sometimes difficult circumstances. I encourage them to keep up their strong commitment. It is a great benefit to all Canberrans. I present the following paper:

Achievements over the last year—Ministerial statement, 26 October 2017.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (10.39): I would like to make a few very brief comments relating specifically to the planning, land management and heritage aspects of Mr Gentleman's ministerial statement today. One of the points he makes is that the government is exploring innovative engagement tools and ensuring that communities across Canberra are heard, including previously unheard voices.

It is interesting. The best way for the government to engage with the whole community would be to start by involving all groups, even those that disagree with the government. Every individual and group has the right to express an opposite view to the government. Remember, that is what is called democracy. We should not be locking people out of community panels and making community meetings by invitation only. That means that other unheard voices remain unheard.

In saying that, we know that the government do not like to hear the voices of those that disagree with them. They refuse to deal with them. That makes it harder for us to ensure that all voices are heard. Some of the examples we have heard about include the government refusing to attend events and talk with people, including Master Builders, ClubsACT and the greyhound industry. A lot of people do not engage with development in their area until development work begins. That is why it is important to ensure that all voices are heard and not to have closed consultation systems.

Earlier this year we had a new chief planner appointed. The new chief planner is exploring opportunities to embrace collaborative conversations and build trust to deliver better outcomes for our city. That is great to hear. It is great to see that the government has finally realised that the people of Canberra have lost trust and faith in planning in Canberra. Our once great planned city has become a city that is run by and for the benefit of the union movement in many aspects of our work.

The minister also points to his work on housing choices, looking at the issue of what has been called "the missing middle". It is a particular problem in Canberra where it sometimes feels like the options are either a stand-alone home or an apartment and very few options in between. The government talks about the missing middle. Yet this year's budget increased lease variation charges for unit titling by 300 per cent, making it increasingly unaffordable for townhouses to be developed on schedule 1 land. It is a matter of doing one thing but saying another.

I would also like to briefly mention the point about swimming pool safety education. The government had quite a comprehensive 2011 consultation on swimming pools. Yet we have never seen what else is to come out of that. It has been quite a long time that we have been waiting to see the results of that consultation.

The minister makes mention of our territory's proud heritage being a prominent focus. Apparently, it is not so prominent, as there is not one achievement relating to heritage

in the minister's statement today. Obviously, there is a lot more work that needs to be done in that area.

We have heard this government has been in power for quite some time. It now appears they are trying to fix problems of their own making. The missing middle provides more housing choices for people. What have they been doing over the past few years that they now have to address those problems and fix the problems that they themselves have created?

There is still a lot of work to do in the planning area. It is good to see that there are some points for improvement mentioned in the minister's statement. I will look forward to continuing to encourage the minister to consult and communicate more with the community to ensure the best outcomes.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (No 2)**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.44): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I present to the Assembly the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (No 2), which will ensure smooth administration of the barrier free conveyancing model and improve the clarity and quality of the ACT's tax legislation. This bill contains minor policy and technical amendments to support a fair, effective and efficient tax system. It amends the Duties Act 1999 and a number of other taxation acts of the territory.

On 18 September this year the ACT government introduced a revolutionary reform to the collection of conveyance duty—the barrier free model. The model removes barriers to the conveyancing process for the customer by creating a single point of contact with the government, abolishing the requirement for stamping, shortening the turnaround period for property purchases and moving the payment of conveyance duty of a property purchase to after the settlement. For the introduction of the barrier free model, the ACT Revenue Office and Access Canberra have developed administrative processes for handling transitional transactions as well as dutiable transactions outside the barrier free transactions.

This bill will amend the Duties Act. To clarify, the Commissioner for ACT Revenue may use his or her general power of assessment to assess a duty liability in the event of non-registration of a property transfer. It also clarifies that the Registrar-General can collect buyer identification documentation at any time leading up to the property transaction. The Duties Act will also be amended to provide clarification on dutiable

transactions that will not be processed under the barrier free model. Currently, some dutiable transactions, including declarations of trust and grants of a commercial lease with premium, are not registrable or optionally registrable with Access Canberra.

The act currently applies a 14-day period to lodge and pay duty for these transactions, which may be less practical for customers because the period applies from the beginning of the transaction. In contrast, payment for barrier free transactions is not required until registration of the transfer of title. This bill will apply the previous lodgement and payment period of 90 days to these non-barrier free transactions, which is a more practical time frame for these types of transactions.

The bill also amends the legislation to support taxation practices and policies of government. Amendments to the Duties Act will clarify how differential rates of duty can apply when the ownership of an entity with land holdings changes. The current provisions do not allow for the application of the commercial duty rate in such circumstances, which can result in some taxpayers being treated unequally.

As the government has cut the duty rates for commercial transactions under \$1.5 million, there are now just two sets of rates. This could create confusion about whether landholder acquisitions use the commercial or non-commercial rate. The amendment will make it clearer that the correct rate of duty is the commercial rate. Further, the bill will remove provisions for obsolete or ceased schemes, including the motor vehicle dealers authorisation scheme and the first home saver accounts scheme.

The bill will amend the Payroll Tax Act to align the definition of “exempt rate” for motor vehicle allowance with that of New South Wales. The amendment reflects the Commonwealth’s new measure to set the exempt rate by legislative instrument rather than by regulation and is in line with the payroll tax harmonisation initiative. The bill also makes a number of other minor and technical amendments, including inserting definitions of veteran, vintage and historic vehicles, and removing references to repealed acts.

The bill will ensure our new conveyance model is administered effectively and efficiently for the benefit of both taxpayers and administrators. The bill will also provide greater certainty to the operation of the territory’s tax laws by updating legislation to rectify minor errors and clarify processes. The government has a long-term commitment to improving the territory’s tax system through the revenue collection transformation program. This bill is a further representation of how this commitment is being fulfilled. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Education Amendment Bill 2017**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**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) (10.50): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I introduce the Education Amendment Bill 2017. The bill amends the regulation of home education as set out in chapter 5 of the Education Act 2004. Two key changes to the current regulatory approach are made: provisional registration is removed and a new requirement that a home educated child be living, or usually living, in the ACT is introduced.

The bill also improves the management of the home education register, improves home education reporting and supplements the general regulation-making power in the act with specific references to elements of home education registration being prescribed by regulation.

The government recognises that, for a range of reasons, parents will choose to home educate their child. Issues like diverse religious, moral and educational philosophies; individual child needs, interests and aptitudes; or parent and child preferences are commonly relevant. Ultimately, parents have a right to choose the right educational environment for their children. The government respects that, for some parents, this means home education. The government acknowledges the significant commitment and personal effort that this choice involves.

In the ACT over 300 children are currently registered for home education, which takes a range of forms. Some parents choose to register a child for full-time home education across most of the child's schooling. These children may be home educated until they enrol in college or even achieve university admission through portfolios and interviews, rather than through the usual tertiary admission process. Other children are registered for part-time home education and enrolled in part-time schooling, or might be home educated through their primary school years but go on to attend high school. Parents might also register a child for home education for short-term periods.

While parents are entitled to the option to choose home education for their children, the ACT government and community have a justifiable interest in ensuring that parental decisions about child education do not result in a child failing to attain minimum educational standards. Registration for home education is currently a two-step process. Firstly, provisional registration occurs for six months. The act requires the director-general to grant provisional registration on application without discretion. There are no conditions, minimum standards or other requirements during the provisional registration period.

Provisional registration is followed by full registration for up to two years on the condition that parents provide a high quality education, document the educational opportunities offered and the strategies used to encourage their child to learn, and make available for inspection any materials used for home education.

The bill, as set out in clause 4, removes provisional registration. If the bill is passed, registration will involve only one step, providing full registration for up to two years. As it currently stands, a child can be removed from school education with no plan or evidence that education, let alone sufficient education, will be provided in the home during the six-month provisional registration period.

There is also no limit on the number of times a parent may apply for provisional registration, which could be used, in rare cases, to circumvent the purpose of regulating home education. The government is aware of cases where a parent has been denied full registration due to inadequate education being provided in the home but the parent has been able to avoid enrolling their child in school by re-applying for provisional registration, which must be granted without discretion.

At present, 70 of the more than 300 children registered for home education are provisionally registered. There is a clear risk that these children will not attain the minimum educational standards required to participate in and constructively contribute to our community. The government recognises that parents who register their child for home education may need some help and a few weeks or months to develop curriculum material, develop modules for learning subjects and generally learn how best to educate their child before being able to provide documentation supporting their teaching practices. While most new home educators may use the provisional registration period to develop strategies to educate their child, the government is aware that some parents come to the end of the provisional period having made little or no progress towards developing educational strategies and plans.

The government has concluded that the most suitable response to this issue—that will protect the right of a child to receive an education appropriate to their needs—is to remove provisional registration, as proposed by the bill. This change is not intended to deter parents from choosing home education if they decide that that is right for their child but will ensure that there is sufficient oversight to ensure the best educational opportunities for the child.

Flexibility to allow parents the time to develop an educational approach appropriate to their child's needs is retained. The bill provides that regulations may prescribe the information that parents must provide on an application for home education registration, and conditions on registration may be prescribed by regulation. Additionally, the director-general may grant registration for a period shorter than two years.

Relying on these and other provisions of the amended act, should the bill be passed, the government will make regulations that meet the policy objectives of the bill while meeting the needs of new home educators. I have asked the Education Directorate to work closely with existing home educators and representative groups, following introduction of the bill, to draft these regulations.

In removing provisional registration, the bill also streamlines and simplifies the home education registration process. Some parents are confident and able to provide appropriate home education and do not need a provisional registration period. But the



act currently does not allow a child to be registered without first being provisionally registered. Parents may already be home educating another child or may be moving to the ACT from interstate, where they already home educated children, or a parent may be a teacher by profession. Removing provisional registration will improve the process for these parents. Additionally it will reduce a redundant administrative burden borne by parents and the government.

Alongside removing provisional registration, the bill in clause 5 introduces a new requirement that a child registered for home education live, or usually live, in the ACT. This amendment makes clear that the act does not intend to allow home education registration of children who do not live in the ACT. It adds a condition that a child being registered lives, or usually lives, in the ACT and obliges parents of a home educated child to inform the director-general if this stops being the case.

The lack of a requirement that a child live in the ACT means that interstate parents may seek registration for home education in the ACT to avoid educational obligations in their state or territory of residence, because interstate parents perceive the ACT obligations to be less onerous or because another jurisdiction has refused registration of the child.

In making this change the bill intends to provide sufficient flexibility for circumstances where a child who usually lives in the ACT is temporarily living outside the ACT. For example, a home-educated child may accompany their family during travel across Australia for an extended period or a shared custody arrangement may involve a child periodically living with a parent who does not live in the ACT. Examples have been incorporated into both the bill and the explanatory statement with the aim of making clear that the act intends to accommodate a range of circumstances and not be too restrictive.

The bill improves the management of the home education register by expressly providing for the information it contains to be prescribed by regulation—clause 11—and by requiring parents to inform the director-general of changes to information on the register—clause 6. The register allows the government to contact parents about the administration of a child's home education registration. It needs to contain contemporary and relevant information, which is supported by these amendments.

Home education reporting is improved through clause 10, which clarifies that the requirements for home education reports that parents must already provide to the director-general once every year must comply with any requirement prescribed by regulation. These reports allow the government to monitor the educational progress of home educated children. However, the expected content of a report is not currently set out. The bill addresses this weakness.

Clarified in the bill, through clauses 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11, is reference to matters that may be prescribed by regulation. This change will provide greater certainty for home educators and assist the government to oversee education provided in the home setting.

If the bill is agreed by the Assembly it will commence on 1 January 2019, or sooner by commencement notice. This delayed commencement is provided for two reasons:

first, it will allow parents time to apply for registration for children who are currently provisionally registered; and, second, it will allow sufficient time for detailed consultation on the content of the new regulations that will further detail elements of home education regulation.

This bill supports the government's commitment to ensuring all children, school or home educated, are empowered with an education appropriate to their needs that prepares them for the future. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Inspector of Correctional Services 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) (11.01): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I present the Inspector of Correctional Services Bill 2017. The bill establishes an independent inspector of correctional services for the territory. I, along with my colleague the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, am proud to be establishing a new oversight mechanism in the ACT to oversee and critically examine the operations of both adult and youth correctional centres and services through this bill.

In June 2016 I commissioned the independent review by Mr Moss to examine the care and supervision that Steven Freeman received during his time in custody, including whether ACT Corrective Services systems operated effectively and in compliance with human rights obligations. This bill is a significant step towards implementing the recommendations made by Mr Philip Moss following the tragic death in custody of Steven Freeman. I received Mr Moss's report, *So much sadness in our lives*, on 7 November 2016 and publicly released the review on 10 November 2016. On 16 February 2017 the government formally responded to Mr Moss's recommendations. In response to recommendation 8, the government announced the development of an inspectorate of custodial services and critical review function to be operational by the end of 2017.

Since the ACT's only adult correctional centre, the Alexander Maconochie Centre, opened in 2009, a number of reviews have called for the establishment of a similar role or regime, including the 2007 human rights audit of the operations of ACT correctional facilities under corrections legislation; the 2016 justice and community safety standing committee's inquiry into the Auditor-General's report on the rehabilitation of male detainees; and the 2016 Morison security review.

This bill acknowledges the recommendations made in these reports. Our custodial facilities must operate at the high standards that our community rightly expects. The government is committed to implementing transformational change to the way people deprived of their liberty are treated in the ACT. Correctional centres by their very nature cause a power imbalance between the people that maintain the environment and the people detained there. Due to the inability to largely control their day-to-day decisions, those detained in correctional centres are some of our community's most vulnerable.

These vulnerabilities are amplified because of the closed nature of correctional institutions. They pose unique accountability challenges, particularly in relation to public transparency of operations. As a result, the government must ensure that the independent oversight of correctional facilities and services is adequate and effective. While the ACT is still a relatively new and small jurisdiction with regard to managing prisons, our detainee cohort has changed dramatically in just over a decade: detainee numbers have increased, detainee complexities have increased and detainee needs have increased.

The ACT has one of the most comprehensive oversight regimes of correctional centres in Australia. The work of the Human Rights Commission—including the Human Rights Commissioner, the Discrimination Commissioner, the Children and Young People Commissioner, the Public Advocate, the Disability and Community Services Commissioner and the Health Services Commissioner—the Ombudsman, the Auditor-General, official visitors and the adjudicator under the Corrections Management Act is invaluable to ensuring that the quality of decision making and complaint handling by ACT corrective services is adequate, sensitive to individual detainee needs and in accordance with human rights. However, as identified in the Moss review, the importance of a systematic preventive oversight mechanism cannot be overstated.

In order to protect against harm occurring a proactive inspection regime is required. Such a role acts as a more effective prevention measure than simply responding to allegations of harm once they have occurred. The establishment of an inspector of correctional services through this bill aims to meet this need. The role of the inspector of correctional services has been developed following stakeholder feedback and consideration of existing models in Western Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania.

With oversight of ACT correctional centres, youth detention places, court cells and detainee transport, the inspector of correctional services will: undertake inspections of correctional centres and services every two years against a review framework; review critical incidents to ensure that policies, procedures and legislation promote best practice; undertake the review of a particular issue in the youth or adult corrections environment referred by the responsible minister or director-general, to ensure that policies, procedures and legislation promote best practice; be able to conduct an unannounced visit in accordance with the role; provide independent reports to the ACT Legislative Assembly; and, if appropriate and practicable, consult with people or use staff suitable to the cultural background or vulnerability of any detainee involved

in a matter being examined or reviewed. This includes if a review or critical incident relates to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander detainee, a female detainee, a detainee with disability or a detainee from a culturally or linguistically diverse background.

The new role will work with existing oversight agencies to prevent harm and ensure continuous improvement through the systematic and regular review of correctional centres and services. The bill acknowledges the unique and complementary roles each oversight agency plays in the ACT. This includes a requirement for the inspector to ensure that its functions are exercised in a way that does not delay or unnecessarily duplicate the exercise of functions by existing oversight agencies or investigative entities in the ACT. It also allows the inspector to refer matters that it believes can be more appropriately dealt with by that oversight agency and enter into arrangements to efficiently manage the interaction of each of the parties' statutory functions, and it facilitates appropriate information sharing.

In return, human rights commissioners, the ACT Auditor-General and the ACT Ombudsman are required to consult with the inspector prior to undertaking a broad investigation or own-motion investigation relating to a correctional centre or services, and ensure that, when exercising these broad investigation or own-motion investigation functions, they do so in a way that does not delay or unnecessarily duplicate the functions of the inspector. This provision does not provide the inspector with a veto power over an investigation, impact on these existing agencies' abilities to review complaints or alter the mandate of their existing oversight functions. Instead, this is an important mechanism to support the new role and specific expertise of the inspector of correctional services, ensure a coordinated approach to the review of correctional centres and services, and prevent oversight fatigue.

The bill also requires consistent reporting on correctional centres and the delivery of services, including whether the rights of detainees under international and territory law are protected and whether law, policies and procedures applying to correctional centres and services reflect best practice standards. The bill and establishment of the inspector of correctional services aim to meet the expectations of the Moss review and complement existing work underway, including the review of the official visitor scheme and the implementation of the ACT's optional protocol to the convention against torture national preventive mechanisms.

The bill has been designed to allow deferred commencement of certain provisions to accommodate the phased inclusion of youth justice centres. The legislation requires that the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre must come under the inspector's oversight within two years of the bill taking effect. This phased implementation will enable the inspector to accommodate and understand the needs of young people and the operation of youth justice facilities. This is because the youth justice environment in the ACT is very different to that of adult correctional facilities.

The ACT's youth justice centre operates services and programs that are trauma informed, recognising the impact of traumatic experiences on young people's behaviour and capacity to address issues. The inspector must have appropriate

trauma-informed expertise to ensure that the specific needs of young people are met, including young people with disability.

This time frame allows for an inspection framework relevant to youth justice facilities to be developed with suitable standards and in consultation with the ACT Human Rights Commission, youth justice experts and other stakeholders. These standards will be human rights compliant, in line with Bimberi's operating policies and procedures. The phased implementation will also provide time for the identification and passage of any possible additional amendments to the Children and Young People Act 2008 that may be required to support the inspection framework. The government expects that inspectorate oversight will commence as soon as this additional work is complete. It is not expected that this additional work will take two years, but phased implementation will help to ensure that the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre and the ACT have a best practice inspectorate for youth justice.

The inspector of correctional services will focus reform efforts, keep a steady eye on correctional facilities and services and support the implementation of real change. The bill creates a new oversight mechanism to identify achievements, increase staff engagement and lead sustainable change towards best practice. This will increase transparency and accountability and deter mismanagement, unfairness and corruption. This is an important step in the maturity of the ACT's management of correctional centres and services. I thank all stakeholders who contributed to the development of the bill and I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Standing committees—establishment**

### **Amendment to resolution**

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

That the resolution of the Assembly of 13 December 2016 which established the general purpose standing committees be amended as follows:

(1) insert after (1)(e)(i)(A), the words:

“(AA) matters relating to market and regulatory reform (excluding Access Canberra), public sector management, taxation and revenue; and”; and

(2) in paragraph (1)(g), omit the words “market and regulatory reform, public sector management, taxation and revenue”, substitute “Access Canberra”.

## **Annual and financial reports 2016-2017**

### **Reference to standing committees**

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

That:

(1) the annual and financial reports for the financial year 2016-2017 and for the calendar year 2016 presented to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual*

*Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* stand referred to the standing committees, on presentation, in accordance with the schedule below;

- (2) the annual report of ACT Policing stands referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety;
- (3) notwithstanding standing order 229, only one standing committee may meet for the consideration of the inquiry into the calendar year 2016 and financial year 2016-2017 annual and financial reports at any given time;
- (4) standing committees are to report to the Assembly on financial year reports by the last sitting day in March 2018, and on calendar year reports for 2016 by the last sitting day in March 2018;
- (5) if the Assembly is not sitting when a standing committee has completed its inquiry, a committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, publishing and circulation; and
- (6) the foregoing provisions of this resolution have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
ACT Auditor-General		Officer of the Legislative Assembly	Public Accounts
ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority		Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
ACT Climate Change Council		Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability	Environment and Transport and City Services
ACT Electoral Commission		Officer of the Legislative Assembly	Justice and Community Safety
ACT Gambling and Racing Commission		Minister for Regulatory Services	Justice and Community Safety
ACT Human Rights Commission		Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety	Justice and Community Safety
ACT Insurance Authority		Treasurer	Public Accounts
ACT Long Service Leave Authority		Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
ACT Ombudsman		Officer of the Legislative Assembly	Public Accounts
ACT Policing		Minister for Police and Emergency Services	Justice and Community Safety

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
ACT Policing	Surveillance Devices Controlled Operations	Minister for Police and Emergency Services	Justice and Community Safety
Canberra Institute of Technology (2016)		Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Architects Board of the ACT	Minister for Planning and Land Management	Planning and Urban Renewal
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	ACT Compulsory Third Party Insurance Regulator	Treasurer	Public Accounts
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	ACT Construction Occupations	Minister for Regulatory Services	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	ACT Executive	Chief Minister	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	ACT Government Procurement Board	Treasurer	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Default Insurance Fund	Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Director of Territory Records	Chief Minister	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Environment Protection Authority	Minister for Regulatory Services	Environment and Transport and City Services

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Lifetime Care and Support Fund	Treasurer	Public Accounts
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Office of the Nominal Defendant of the ACT	Treasurer	Public Accounts
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Government Policy Reform	Chief Minister	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Public Sector Management	Chief Minister	Public Accounts
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Coordinated Communication and Community Engagement	Chief Minister	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Public Housing Renewal Taskforce and Affordable Housing	Minister for Housing and Suburban Development	Planning and Urban Renewal
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Access Canberra	Minister for Regulatory Services	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Workplace Safety Commissioner	Minister for Regulatory Services	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Superannuation Provision Account	Treasurer	Public Accounts
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Territory Banking Account	Treasurer	Public Accounts



<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Economic Management	Treasurer	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Financial Management	Treasurer	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Workforce Injury Management and Industrial Relations	Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Revenue Management	Treasurer	Public Accounts
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Shared Services	Treasurer	Public Accounts
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Procurement and Capital Works	Treasurer	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Economic Development Strategy and Program Design	Minister for Economic Development	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Economic Development Strategy and Program Design—Land Release Policy	Minister for Planning and Land Management	Planning and Urban Renewal
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Innovation, Trade and Investment—Skills Canberra	Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Innovation, Trade and Investment—Innovate Canberra	Minister for Economic Development	Economic Development and Tourism

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Visit Canberra	Minister for Tourism and Major Events	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Sport and Recreation	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Environment and Transport and City Services
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Venues	Treasurer	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Events	Minister for Tourism and Major Events	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Government Accommodation and Property Services	Treasurer	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Arts Engagement	Minister for the Arts and Community Events	Economic Development and Tourism
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Urban Renewal—Planning	Minister for Urban Renewal	Planning and Urban Renewal
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Urban Renewal—City to the lake project	Chief Minister	Economic Development and Tourism
Community Services Directorate	Disability and Therapy Services	Minister for Disability, Children and Youth	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Early Intervention Services	Minister for Disability, Children and Youth	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Community Participation	Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion	Health, Ageing and Community Services

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
Community Services Directorate	Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Women	Minister for Women	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Veterans and Seniors	Minister for Veterans and Seniors	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Youth Engagement	Minister for Disability, Children and Youth	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Child and Youth Protection Services	Minister for Disability, Children and Youth	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Child Development Services	Minister for Disability, Children and Youth	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Community Services Directorate	Housing ACT	Minister for Housing and Suburban Development	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Cultural Facilities Corporation		Minister for the Arts and Community Events	Economic Development and Tourism
Director of Public Prosecutions		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Education Directorate	ACT Teacher Quality Institute	Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Education Directorate	ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies	Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Education Directorate	Early Childhood Education and Care	Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Education Directorate	Public School Education	Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs
Education Directorate	Non-Government School Education	Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development	Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Conservator of Flora and Fauna	Minister for the Environment and Heritage	Environment and Transport and City Services
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	ACT Heritage Council	Minister for the Environment and Heritage	Environment and Transport and City Services
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Report on the Operation and Administration of the Energy Efficiency ( <i>Cost of Living</i> ) Improvement Act 2012 for 2016-17	Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability	Environment and Transport and City Services
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Planning	Minister for Planning and Land Management	Planning and Urban Renewal
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Heritage	Minister for the Environment and Heritage	Environment and Transport and City Services
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Environment	Minister for the Environment and Heritage	Environment and Transport and City Services
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Climate Change and Sustainability	Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability	Environment and Transport and City Services
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme	Minister for Planning and Land Management	Planning and Urban Renewal
Health Directorate	ACT Care Coordinator	Minister for Health and Wellbeing	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Health Directorate	Calvary Health Care Ltd	Minister for Health and Wellbeing	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Health Directorate	Chief Psychiatrist	Minister for Mental Health	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Health Directorate	Human Research Ethics Committee	Minister for Health and Wellbeing	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Health Directorate	Radiation Council	Minister for Health and Wellbeing	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Health Directorate	ACT Local Hospital Network	Minister for Health and Wellbeing	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Health Directorate	Health	Minister for Health and Wellbeing	Health, Ageing and Community Services

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
Health Directorate	Mental Health	Minister for Mental Health	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Health Directorate	Justice Health	Minister for Corrections	Health, Ageing and Community Services
Icon Water Limited		Treasurer	Public Accounts
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission		Treasurer	Public Accounts
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Sentence Administration Board of the ACT	Minister for Corrections	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Justice Services	Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Protection of Rights	Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Corrective Services	Minister for Corrections	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Courts and Tribunals	Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Emergency Services	Minister for Police and Emergency Services	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Family Safety Co-ordinator-General	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Justice and Community Safety
Land Development Agency (Discontinued)		Minister for Housing and Suburban Development	Planning and Urban Renewal
Legal Aid Commission (ACT)		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment		Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability	Environment and Transport and City Services
Office of the Legislative Assembly		Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT	Public Accounts
Public Trustee and Guardian		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
State of the Service Report		Chief Minister	Public Accounts

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio(s)</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	ACT Public Cemeteries Authority	Minister for Transport and City Services	Environment and Transport and City Services
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	ACT Veterinary Surgeons Board	Minister for Transport and City Services	Environment and Transport and City Services
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	Animal Welfare Authority	Minister for Transport and City Services	Environment and Transport and City Services
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	Transport Canberra	Minister for Transport and City Services	Environment and Transport and City Services
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	City Services	Minister for Transport and City Services	Environment and Transport and City Services

## **Legislative Assembly Sitting pattern 2018**

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

That, unless the Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting on receipt of a request in writing from an absolute majority of Members, or the Assembly otherwise orders, the Assembly shall meet as follows for 2018:

<b>February</b>	13	14	15
	20	21	22
<b>March</b>	20	21	22
<b>April</b>	10	11	12
<b>May</b>	8	9	10
<b>June</b>	5	6	7
<b>July</b>	31		
<b>August</b>		1	2
	14	15	16
	21	22	23
<b>September</b>	18	19	20
<b>October</b>	23	24	25
	30	31	
<b>November</b>			1
	27	28	29

## **Executive members' business—precedence**

*Ordered that executive members' business be called on.*

## **Lease variation charge—proposed review**

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (11.14): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) the 2017-18 Budget increased the Lease Variation Charge on unit titling of residential dwellings on many residential crown leases from a tiered scale of \$7 500 and \$5 000 per dwelling to a flat charge of \$30 000 per dwelling on the grounds that “this will improve consistency with the ‘per unit’ charges which apply to other types of residential lease variations”;
- (b) this charge is primarily paid by new multi-unit residential developments such as duplexes, townhouses and apartments;
- (c) industry groups representing individual developers who will pay the increased charges identified that this change could have unintended consequences for individual developers, housing affordability and the supply of new multi-unit housing and the Government responded to these concerns by announcing transitional arrangements on 19 July 2017; and
- (d) industry groups supported these transitional arrangements but have raised concerns about the impacts of the change beyond the transitional period;

(2) further notes that:

- (a) the Lease Variation Charge system is complex and presents opportunities for rationalisation and improvements in consistency;
- (b) an implementation review of these revised charges is due within the next 18 months; and
- (c) the Government is currently undertaking a substantial review of its housing affordability policies; and

(3) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) review the full suite of Lease Variation Charges and remissions that apply to residential and mixed-use development, with the review to:
  - (i) include consideration of options for simplification of charges, such as consistency across lease types;
  - (ii) consider charges in context with the factors that influence the financial viability of re-development including zoning, allowed plot ratios, gross floor area and the value of the completed dwellings;
  - (iii) be conducted in consultation with the community, industry groups and other stakeholders;
  - (iv) be closely co-ordinated with the review of housing affordability policies;

- (v) seek to align charges with the Government's housing affordability, housing supply and planning policies;
  - (vi) include modelling of the potential impacts of changes on the financial viability of development; and
  - (vii) be conducted on a revenue-neutral basis; and
- (b) introduce any resulting changes to charges by the 2019-20 budget cycle, with appropriate communication and transitional arrangements as necessary.

This motion calls for a review of the lease variation charges and remissions that apply to residential and mixed use development. I will start with a bit of background on this issue, as it is some months since it has been discussed in the Assembly. Members will recall that the 2017-18 budget included an increase in the lease variation charge on unit titling and residential dwellings on most but not all residential crown leases. This charge is typically paid by new multi-unit residential developments such as duplexes, townhouses and apartments. It is incurred when the lease has been changed to specify a maximum number of dwellings that are permitted on the lease.

Previously the charge was levied on a tiered scale of \$7,500 and \$5,000 per dwelling. Now it is levied at a flat charge of \$30,000 per dwelling. Shortly after the budget announcement, the Property Council and other industry groups contacted the government and my colleague Ms Le Couteur, identifying that the change could have unintended consequences. These included the financial impact on individual developers who are close to finalising developments; the potential impact on the rate of urban renewal and the potential impact on housing affordability.

The government responded to these concerns by announcing two tranches of transitional arrangements. These transitional arrangements covered developers in two situations. First, developers who had lodged a development application prior to 30 June 2017 would be charged at the old rate. This gave time between the budget and the end of the financial year for developers who were almost ready to lodge a development application to have it assessed at the old charge rate.

Second, the old charge rate would apply to developers who had purchased land between 30 June 2016 and 30 June 2017 and who then lodged a development application up until 1 October—that is, the first of this current month. This was intended to cover developers who had recently bought a development site at a price reflecting the lower charge and would find their development potentially unviable at the new charge.

The government also announced that it would conduct an internal review of the implementation of the changes within 18 months. Industry groups supported the transitional arrangements but also raised concerns about the broader impacts of the change beyond the transition period. These concerns related mainly to the longer term impact on housing affordability and the supply of new multi-unit housing. The



Property Council in particular is also seeking a broader overhaul of the lease variation charge system to allow it to be simplified.

Having given that background, I turn to the substance of the motion. Housing affordability and urban renewal are both issues that are important to the Greens. As a result my colleague Ms Le Couteur has worked closely with both industry groups and the Chief Minister's office to reach a potential solution. This motion would deliver the solution that Ms Le Couteur has negotiated.

The motion will bring forward the government's proposed review but, critically, will expand it into a broader review. The review will cover the lease variation charges and remissions that apply to all residential and mixed use development. This is important because over the years the system has become extremely complicated. There are now effectively three different systems operating in parallel, and charges are different for identical developments in slightly different circumstances.

I will illustrate this complexity with two examples. First, take two identical developments across the road from each other in an older part of Canberra. They both have a crown lease which is limited to the wording "for residential purposes only". However, one is in a residential zone while the other is in a mixed use zone. The development in the residential zone will be charged \$30,000 per dwelling. The development in the mixed use zone will be charged based on before and after valuations. The charge could be much lower or much higher on a per unit basis. The difference could be tens of thousands of dollars per dwelling.

Take a second example with two identical developments across the road from each other. In this case, instead of being in different zones, they have crown leases with slightly different wording. One is "for residential purposes only" and the other specifies that a maximum of one dwelling is permitted. This is a minor wording difference but has a substantial impact on the charges. Again, one will be charged 30,000 per dwelling. The other will pay a charge based on the suburb and how many dwellings have been added. This charge can range from \$180,000 per dwelling down to \$25,000 per dwelling. There is clearly a lot of room to improve the consistency and efficiency of the system without impacting on the overall revenue raised.

Moving on to other parts of the motion, the government's current commitment is to an internal review. This motion requires the review to be conducted in close consultation with the community, industry groups and other stakeholders. This is an approach that the Greens prefer generally and is also something that the industry groups are very keen to see in this case.

Even though the recent change did not alter the remissions available, I have included them in the motion. The Greens have worked on the remissions with government over many years, because they have great potential to provide incentives for developments that have wider community benefit. We have previously been successful in introducing a remission for developments with a community purpose such as child care, and also a remission for developments with better environmental design.

One other opportunity for remissions worth looking at and specifically mentioned in the motion is affordable housing. The review will consider how lease variation charges and remissions could be better aligned to meet the government's housing affordability policies and objectives. We have a great opportunity to line up the charges and remissions with the outcomes of the government's current work on a new affordable housing strategy. This could see the development industry provided with incentives to deliver substantial quantities of affordable housing.

I would like to finish by highlighting something that this motion is not about. It is not about scrapping the lease variation charge. The Greens clearly support the principle of the lease variation charge that, where a developer receives an increase in value of land from the single act of lease variation, the community should share in those benefits. That is what the LVC does. It captures some of the return for community development. We are absolutely committed to that principle, as we have stated over a number of years. We know that the Canberra Liberals would prefer to scrap the LVC. Nonetheless, I commend this motion to the Assembly and urge all members to support it.

The strength of this motion is that it delivers three key things. It delivers the potential to substantially streamline the lease variation charge system. It delivers the potential to align the lease variation charge with the government's housing affordability work, with benefit for the whole community, and it delivers a process conducted in close consultation with the community, industry groups and other stakeholders.

We believe that this is a positive approach that seeks to follow a very important principle that sits behind the lease variation charge: that the government should derive revenue for the benefit of the whole community from these gains in value but look for constant improvement in that scheme to achieve a number of objectives that I have outlined today. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (11.21): I thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing the motion forward today. The lease variation charge has a very simple premise: that the Canberra community should share in the gains of development. When a developer buys a block of land and receives permission to vary the lease on it to add more residences or add greater commercial facilities, the Canberra community should share some of the resulting increase in value. By capturing some of the unearned windfall gains from a lease variation, the government is better able to fund the increase in services and infrastructure that goes along with the new developments in order to fundamentally protect our city's livability.

As Mr Rattenbury has indicated, there are a number of different LVC schedules dealing with the assessment of the charge for different types of development. The change announced by the government in the 2017 budget updated the schedule 1 charges associated with varying a lease to specify the number of dwellings allowed on a block, which is necessary for unit titling in the case of townhouse and apartment developments. The previous fees were based on the administrative cost of processing schedule 1 lease variation applications. They did not reflect the actual value uplift that

results from these lease variations, as amounts payable under the other LVC schedules do.

For example, in Kingston in 2014 a developer consolidated two blocks and built 30 units on those two blocks, resulting in an increase in land values of \$1.6 million. The LVC payable was just \$165,000, or just 10 per cent of the actual value uplift. Similarly, in Dickson in 2013 a developer consolidated two blocks, this time building 19 units on those two blocks, generating an increase in land values of \$1.5 million. Under the old arrangements the LVC payable was just \$110,000, or 7 per cent of the actual value uplift.

So in updating the schedule 1 codified charge the government's intention has been to better align the LVC payable for these types of developments with that for projects assessed under the other LVC schedules. To the greatest extent possible, we want there to be consistency and clarity in how LVC charges are assessed and determined. Tax policies are one of many factors that impact housing affordability. Along with zoning and planning rules, construction costs and market demand, tax settings locally and, perhaps more importantly, tax settings nationally play a very significant part in determining housing affordability and, clearly, the development mix across Canberra.

Let me be clear this morning that the government does not agree with the view put by the property industry that the LVC prevents development. The number of new developments going on all across our city provides a pretty powerful counterargument to this view. But we do acknowledge that, in a market as complex and significant as the housing market, it is important to continue to review policy settings to ensure that they are properly calibrated and working in the same direction as the government's and community's broader objectives.

That is why we had previously committed to review the schedule 1 LVC changes within 18 months of their implementation in this year's budget. It is also why the ACT treasury and other government directorates are working together to better understand how all of the policies on tax, planning, development and more intersect in the context of housing affordability. So we are indeed open-minded about possible reforms which could simplify or streamline how the lease variation charge works. There is no doubt that those who are planning property developments want increased certainty. That is fair enough. It is also reasonable that there is improved consistency across projects. The examples that I have highlighted this morning and that Mr Rattenbury gave in his contribution go to just that point.

I need to be very clear, as Mr Rattenbury has been, that we are absolutely committed to the principle of the lease variation charge and that the review that we undertake will only consider improvements to the LVC, not its abolition. Nor will we consider opening any new loopholes that would let developers seek to avoid the lease variation charge. The government is happy to support Mr Rattenbury's motion this morning.

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (11.26): I rise today to speak to the motion on the lease variation review. In the 2017-18 budget the lease variation charge on unit titling of residential dwellings was increased from a tiered scale of \$7,500 and \$5,000 per dwelling to a flat charge of \$30,000 per dwelling on the grounds that this will improve

consistency with the per unit charges which apply to other types of residential lease variations. It is an interesting motion that we see here today. It is a bit of smoke and mirrors from Mr Rattenbury because what we see here is Mr Rattenbury standing up in this chamber, calling on himself as a minister in the Barr Labor government to do something.

This is a motion that was originally put on the notice paper by Ms Le Couteur. It is a Greens motion. It sat on the table for the past few sitting weeks in her name. So it is the Greens having a bite of the cherry twice. The lease variation charge is a tax that has never brought in the amount of money that the government expected it to. The lease variation charge stifles growth in Canberra. This is something that has been brought forward by Mr Rattenbury, as a member of the executive, under executive members' business but it is actually a Greens motion that was put on the notice paper by Ms Le Couteur. Mr Rattenbury has obviously already discussed this with the executive and already knows that the government is going to support it.

It is this big new LVC tax which proves that the ACT Labor-Greens government is all talk and no action. There has been silence at budget time, at budget estimates, from the Greens about this. This is a tax that will increase the price of housing in the ACT—and it is important that we review the LVC across the board—but it did not need a Greens motion now dressed up as executive members' business to do that. The government can review the LVC at any time. In fact, you would have thought that the government would have undertaken such a review before making that enormous 300 per cent increase in the LVC on units in the last budget, instead of just apparently randomly and arbitrarily making that increase.

I am a bit gobsmacked. The change, this increase on the unit LVC, encourages people to build and retain; it does not encourage people to build and sell; it does not encourage more land to be put to market. Instead—and I think this is the term used by Ms Le Couteur herself—it encourages the building of McMansions. I think the quote from Ms Le Couteur was in an article in the *Canberra Times*. Many young people especially will be worse off under this particular change.

The government did not consult relevant stakeholders. We heard this in the estimates process. The government did not consult the Master Builders Association. I guess we should not be surprised at that because apparently the government does not like talking to the Master Builders Association at the best of times, unless they have prior approval from the unions to do so. Obviously either they did not ask the unions for permission to meet the Master Builders Association to talk about it or the unions denied permission to talk about it.

The government did not consult the Property Council either, and that was very clear in the evidence given on community day at budget estimates hearings. The government did not bother speaking with those in the know, those on the ground, those who know how these changes will impact on the sector.

Prior to this change, if a builder bought a house block in a suburb such as Dickson or Turner or any suburb built before 1971 to convert to units, they faced a strata title charge of \$7,500 a unit for the first three units and \$5,000 a unit after that. This charge is now hiked to \$30,000 a unit. By anyone's measure, any one of us here

would see that as an enormous increase if that was something we had to pay. From \$7,500 to \$30,000 is just incredible. For a six-unit development, that pushes the cost from \$37,500 to \$180,000. It moves many developments from viable to unviable and, as I said earlier, will contribute to housing unaffordability because if builders go ahead with this they need to factor that cost into the sales price. It is going to affect everyone who wants to buy a unit in Canberra. It just does not stack up.

Prior to the budget a dual occupancy built on schedule 1 land would have incurred a lease variation charge of \$7,500. In the last six years this has seen 1,368 dwellings developed. A dual occupancy built on schedule 2 land incurs a lease variation charge of around \$35,000, give or take. In the last five years 244 dwellings have been built on schedule 2 land. It is clear that by increasing the lease variation charge many of these developments will no longer be viable. Despite this, the government has decided on the creation of a dual occupancy lease variation charge of \$60,000. That will be apportioned on the sale of those units. The price will be driven up. We have already seen the number of rushed development applications that have been put in since this announcement.

Had the government done its job on consultation from the start there would have been no need to backtrack and put in that honeymoon period to allow people who had already purchased their land to have their developments without paying this 300 per cent increase. Good policy happens when there is consultation. This is something that I have said over and over and over again and it is not happening here.

What we have seen is that the Greens supported the budget through the cabinet process and then passed it on the floor of the Assembly to support the increase in the LVC. They are trying to have their cake and eat it too. They are trying to ride in like a white knight on their charger and say, "We're going to call for a review of the LVC." But it was they who supported this increase, this unfair and inequitable increase, in the first place. They supported an increase in the LVC but are now arguing for a review of it here. This is not Greens business time. That was yesterday, when they could have put forward a motion. They put forward a motion about the canopy of trees and having a tree canopy curator, instead of putting forward this motion from Ms Le Couteur which has been on the notice paper for weeks.

What we are seeing here is many bites by Ms Le Couteur in trying to get us to talk about her private members' issues. They are subverting the process in the Assembly by using executive members' business to put forward what was essentially a Greens motion. I can just see now the tweet from Mr Rattenbury: "LVC increase. We voted for it in the budget. Now we are trying to pretend we are going to save you. #sorrynotsorry." It is the kind of thing I would see from Mr Rattenbury. He likes to put forward proposed tweets for other people. There is one for him to put.

The government have already had to backtrack on this change, making conditional arrangements for the next six months and ordering a review in 18 months time. This is policy on the run. They should have done their homework first up and consulted the people who know what needs to be done in this area, the people who are concerned about housing affordability, the people who understood that this increase would contribute to housing unaffordability. Instead we saw the Greens support the budget,

support this through the cabinet process, support it on the floor of the Assembly, and now they try to make out as though they are very, very concerned about the outcome.

This is not the way to develop good policy. The lease variation charge is something that we on this side have often talked about. It is a policy that has never raised the amount of revenue that the government said it would. We have also seen remission of the LVC to certain developers worth millions of dollars, in some cases to people aligned with the Labor Party and the labour movement. The Braddon development is just one example of where the charge was levied based on its current use, not on the future use of apartments. It is just appalling. It is something that is benefiting the union movement here in the ACT.

*Members interjecting—*

**MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER** (Ms Lee): Members, I cannot hear Ms Lawder.

**MS LAWDER:** It is a bad tax. It is not bringing in the revenue. We are giving remissions to certain people who are in the know. They include people aligned with the labour movement. This is where the integrity issues that we have been speaking about for the past few weeks come into play. It is just not good enough that people can subvert the system like this, starting with the Greens bringing on a motion as a Greens motion and then moving it to executive members' business so that they can have a couple of bites of the cherry. "We're going to support LVC in the budget, but now we are going to pretend that we are trying to save everyone in the development sector by bringing forward this motion."

It is absolutely hypocritical to bring forward a motion like this when you have supported it in the budget, and for that reason we will not be supporting this motion today. It is not appropriate for Mr Rattenbury as a Greens member to bring this in. It is walking both sides of the street—approving it in the budget but saying that we need to do a review because it is so unfair. It is supporting the budget but saying that we have to do a review. They are saying one thing and doing another. It is all smoke and mirrors. It is having a bet each way. It is having their cake and eating it too. Basically it is saying to every developer, every potential homebuyer and unit buyer in Canberra, "#sorrynotsorry."

Question put:

That the motion be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 11

Noes 8

Mr Barr  
Ms Burch  
Ms Cheyne  
Ms Cody  
Ms Fitzharris  
Ms Le Couteur

Ms Orr  
Mr Ramsay  
Mr Rattenbury  
Mr Steel  
Ms Stephen-Smith

Mr Coe  
Mrs Dunne  
Mr Hanson  
Mrs Kikkert  
Mrs Lawder  
Ms Lee

Mr Parton  
Mr Wall

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee Report 2**

**MS ORR** (Yerrabi) (11.44): I present the following report:

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Report 2—*Planning, management and delivery of road maintenance in the ACT*, dated 26 October 2017, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

I wish to make several comments highlighting matters dealt with in the committee's report. Following the self-referral of comprehensive terms of reference, the committee commenced its inquiry in March 2017. The committee sought to investigate the current practice of road maintenance in the ACT and to consult the community on their experiences. These matters included the role of the ACT government, procedures for identifying, prioritising, scheduling and then implementing road maintenance, the impact of current and projected road usage and regular wear and tear on road maintenance programs, the technical and structural requirements of ACT road maintenance, traffic management, aspects of current administrative, budgeting and oversight practices, as well as community stakeholder involvement in feedback and the programming of maintenance.

The committee received six written submissions, which were all published. The committee decided to report to the Assembly on matters discussed in the submissions and resulting from the committee's deliberations. The committee makes five recommendations which relate to reviewing the current road signage strategy, providing more information to the community on management and maintenance of older roads, engaging key user groups and user representative groups to align ACT road standards with international standards, considering the feedback received on lack of community awareness and how the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate may address this, and considering road users, surrounding infrastructure and other ACT programs in delivery of Roads ACT road maintenance programs.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee Report 2**

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (11.46): I present the following report:

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee—Report 2—*Inquiry into Billboards*, dated 24 October 2017, together with a copy of extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

Today the planning and urban renewal committee is tabling its second report for the Ninth Assembly. The report presents our findings from the inquiry into billboards, which was self-referred by the committee in March.

The committee was fortunate in receiving a large number of submissions, 166. We held three public hearings, at which we heard from 13 witnesses from the ACT government, the advertising industry and, importantly, the ACT community. The committee would like to acknowledge the contributions made to the inquiry by organisations and individuals who provided submissions and evidence at the public hearings and thank all those concerned.

In particular, I personally would like to thank the other members of the committee: Ms Suzanne Orr, who is the deputy chair, Ms Nicole Lawder, Ms Tara Cheyne and Mr James Milligan. I would also, importantly, like to thank the committee secretary, Annemieke Jongsma.

It is clear to the committee that the issue of billboards is an important one to a range of people in the community, so much so that in fact there was a related petition presented to the Assembly. The majority of evidence submitted to the inquiry was not in favour of the introduction of billboards in the ACT. However, some evidence provided to the committee suggested that properly regulated and enforced advertising on billboards could have positive economic benefits for the ACT.

It was very apparent during the inquiry that the community was not sure what a billboard was or what signage was allowable in Canberra. This highlighted to the committee the inadequacy of, and the lack of consistency in, the interpretation and enforcement of the current rules and regulations for advertising signage.

Evidence received from the community, industry and government leads the committee to conclude that there is a need to holistically review, simplify and update current advertising and signage legislative documents and associated guidelines, regulations and codes of practice and engage in enforcement of these consistently across the ACT. For this to occur, a coordinated and collaborative approach across a number of government agencies and directorates, in conjunction with the ACT community, ACT businesses and industry, will be required.

Therefore the committee's key recommendation, recommendation 1, recommends a review and potential update of the *Signs General Code*, the Public Unleased Land Act 2013, the Planning and Development Act 2007 and associated regulations and codes of practice. This review is to be completed by 2019. The 13 other recommendations concentrate primarily on the issues that the government should consider in this review. They also focus on improvements to the regulatory regime.



The first lot of recommendations looked at how the review should be conducted. Recommendation 2 stated that the review should consider including provisions that apply to advertising on public transport vehicles and public transport stops. Recommendation 3 requested that the ACT government model the economic impact of different regulatory frameworks in the ACT for advertising signage if any substantive changes or additions to signage regulations are proposed following the review. Recommendation 4 recommended that the government consult with relevant road and transport authorities when assessing applications for signs adjacent to and visible from arterial roads and highways when undertaking the review.

Recommendation 5 went through a number of issues for the review, including the need to modernise the content and language of all relevant rules and regulations to accommodate and incorporate digital technology; update the types, definitions, descriptions and criteria for signs that can be displayed in the ACT; incorporate technology-neutral definitions of signage, including billboards; increase the accessibility, transparency and consistency of the relevant rules and regulations; respect the role of the ACT as the national capital; and include specific additional criteria, such as luminance and dwell time for electronic digital signs, particularly when road safety and proximity to residential areas are factors.

Recommendation 6 was that the ACT government consider a precinct specific or zone specific approach to signage, including billboards. Recommendation 7 was that the government fully consult with the community when it undertakes the review. Recommendation 8 was that the ACT government should not grandfather existing signage under any new or amended legislation, regulations or codes of practice.

The community and the committee were also clearly concerned about the regulatory regime, the apparent lack or inconsistent enforcement of existing regulations and the lack of knowledge of how to complain about signage. This was the principal subject of the other recommendations.

Recommendation 9 is that after the review the government should ensure that the regulatory model for signage in the ACT undergoes regular monitoring and review. Recommendation 10 is that the ACT government, after the review, conduct a compliance survey of signage within the ACT in order to address concerns about “sign creep”. Recommendation 11 is that the ACT government conduct and publish annual random compliance surveys of signage within the ACT.

Recommendation 12 is that the ACT government establish clear and accessible reporting avenues for the public to lodge complaints about signage in the ACT, and consider the potential usage of the fix my street portal when doing so. Recommendation 13 is that the ACT government, after the review, establish information and awareness campaigns about how to make a complaint in relation to advertising content, advertising signage and advertising signage locations, and what kind of compliance action can be taken. Finally, recommendation 14 is that the ACT government ensure that advertisers seeking to place advertisements in the ACT have access to appropriate advice and regulatory guidance.

I have now gone through the recommendations of the report of the committee as a whole, and I am pleased to support them. I am now going to speak for myself, as Caroline Le Couteur, because keen readers will find that there are additional comments at the back of the report which I make in my individual capacity. I am speaking because while, as I said, I am in agreement with the committee report, I would like to see it go further.

The community responded overwhelmingly to this inquiry, and the near-unanimous view was that Canberra should not have more billboards; it should have fewer, preferably none. Only six submissions told the committee that they supported billboards. Furthermore, almost 780 people signed a petition calling for the government to “maintain the prohibition on billboard advertising in the ACT and properly enforce the current rules that regulate public advertising in the territory”.

The first submission the committee received was from Craig McGill. It set the tone of the community comment by saying:

Go and find something else to do but we do not want billboards in any way, shape or form. Just stop it.

This view continued. As Mr Chris Endrey noted:

... there was a virtual consensus amongst the ... commenters across all of their platforms: the community is strongly opposed to billboard advertising in the ACT.

The community gave a number of reasons for objections, but the most common reason was concern about visual pollution. And I wonder if the lack of billboards in Canberra may be one of the reasons that Canberra made it to number three in the *Lonely Planet*’s list yesterday. As Jacqui Malins stated:

It is always a relief to come home to Canberra from other capital cities because of the much lower level of visual “noise”. Our natural environment is subtle but stunning, and as “the bush capital”, it sets us apart.

Many other submitters were also concerned about possible negative impacts on drivers. As Neville Hills stated:

Outdoor advertising on highways etc. exists solely to distract drivers, why else would it be there?

Many submitters, I am afraid, assumed that the reason to consider more billboards was government and commercial revenue, and they were offended by this. As Stuart McMillen put it:

I object to billboard advertising because it privatises the public spaces of our city ... We enter a situation where certain advertisers profit, and the rest of the community suffers visual pollution at the expense of a few winners.

This was not the only concern about advertising. As Liam Lilly stated:

Canberra has the biggest ecological footprint in Australia ... We don't need more advertising to promote mindless consumerism and convince us to buy more things ... Advertising is the fuel of the consumer economy; and it has a direct link to rising material aspirations, environmental destruction, consumer debt, and the number of hours we work ... Effective advertising makes us feel inadequate, further adding to rates of depression, anxiety, and mental illness.

There was only one submission from a local business in support of billboards, and none of Canberra's business groups made a submission. This almost total absence of submissions suggests a similar level of interest in having more billboards amongst the Canberra businesses.

Quite a number of submitters raised concerns about the ACT government's growing use of what are effectively mobile billboards to fund transport services. I am referring here obviously to the advertisements on the sides of buses, and most particularly to the full-wrap billboards, such as we have just had with the rainbow one and the Floriade ones, which fully cover the bus. They make it very difficult for passengers to see out of the bus at night and can lead, as I know from personal experience, to passengers missing their stop because they cannot see. The estimates committee was also told:

One of the other things we are experiencing is that some of the all-over bus wraps sometimes block the drivers' ability to see who is there.

It is unacceptable that bus billboards are reducing drivers' ability to safely board passengers and reducing passenger comfort.

In response to the community's overwhelming concerns about billboards and advertising signage more generally, I make the following additional recommendations: that the ACT government respond to the clear expression of community concern by explicitly prohibiting billboards in the Territory Plan; that the ACT government review all billboards and third-party advertising on its property and reduce it, in line with community expectations; that the ACT government phase out bus-wrap billboards which cover the windows of buses, in recognition of the concerns of bus users and drivers; and that the ACT Government tighten advertising signage regulations in the Territory Plan to prohibit third-party advertising on all signage, reduce the maximum permitted size of other business advertising signage and close loopholes that allow billboards and other very large signs on the grounds that they are temporary or ancillary usage. I commend the report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

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

### **Statement by deputy chair**

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (11.59): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Education, Employment

and Youth Affairs. At a private meeting on 22 February 2017 the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the extent, nature and consequence of insecure work in the ACT. At that time, the committee set a reporting date of 31 October 2017.

In light of the breadth of the terms of reference and the high level of interest from the public, the committee has held three public hearings, including one late last week. In order to give the evidence, including the additional evidence from public hearings, due consideration, the committee has resolved to extend its reporting date to the last sitting day in February 2018.

## **Executive business—precedence**

*Ordered that executive business be called on.*

## **Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Amendment Bill 2017**

Debate resumed from 14 September 2017, on motion by **Mr Rattenbury**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

**MS LEE** (Kurrajong) (12.00): The bill before the Assembly has two major impacts: the surrender of feed-in tariff entitlement provisions and the reasonable costs of the feed-in tariff scheme provisions. I will speak to both of these in turn. As it stands, generators who have signed on to the large-scale renewables program have a right to surrender their entitlement to the feed-in tariff, or the FiT, with essentially no reason or consideration. Presumably, this is a possibility in case the market price rises and the agreements between these generators and the government cease to be the highest profit option.

The provisions in clause 4 and the associated regulations require generators who wish to surrender their entitlement to give notice to the minister and give the minister additional powers to set the time of effect of the surrendered entitlement. This allows the minister to consider the circumstances of the original contract and to take steps to source renewable energy from an alternative generator to fill the gap so that the ACT's tripartisan commitment to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2020 is not compromised.

During briefings I was advised that these changes were, in effect, to provide uniformity of conditions in contracts for all generators who had been successful in reverse auctions held for FiT entitlements. Whilst these provisions technically affect all large-scale generators receiving a FiT entitlement, these changes are primarily directed to the first round of reverse auctions. I understand that generators involved in later reverse auctions have these mechanisms entrenched in their contracts.

The directorate confirmed that they are not anticipating any significant changes to the market that might encourage a generator to want to surrender their current entitlements, and the government has not been approached by any generator signalling

an intention to do so, but the introduction of these provisions is a prudent step to protect the ACT in the unlikely event that it were to occur. To ensure that generators do not get wind of this current loophole, for want of a better word, these provisions have retrospective impact in that they commence on 14 September, when the bill was first introduced. I note that the scrutiny of bills committee did not raise any serious concerns about the retrospectivity of these provisions, and the Canberra Liberals support these provisions in the bill.

Moving to the reasonable costs provisions in the bill, this section creates the right of the ACT energy distributor, ActewAGL, to pass on the costs of the FiT scheme and the costs of administering the scheme to energy retailers. The bill has a number of measures to ensure that these costs are reasonable, and there are associated reporting requirements to the minister, who has oversight powers to determine whether they are, indeed, reasonable costs.

The Canberra Liberals do not support section 20A at clause 6 of the bill, which expressly gives the distributor the right to pass on costs to retailers, which we all know will be passed onto consumers. I will speak more on this and move some amendments when we get to the detail stage. Although I acknowledge the reality that any cost of providing electricity is, in one way or another, ultimately passed on to consumers, the government should be looking at every possible way it can to keep energy prices down for all Canberrans.

Including an express right by legislation to allow costs to be passed on from the distributor to retailers flies in the face of the other provisions in this bill, which specifically and carefully purport to prevent the distributor from passing on costs to retailers—and in turn, consumers—willy-nilly. Subject to the amendments I will move in the detail stage, the Canberra Liberals support the reasonable costs framework contained in the remainder of the bill.

**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) (12.04), in reply: I thank Ms Lee for her comments on the bill. The Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Act was passed in 2011 and has worked to secure the supply of all the large-scale renewable electricity needed for the ACT to reach its 100 per cent by 2020 renewable electricity target. Again and again it has been held up by independent reviews, industry and other governments as an example of effective and innovative policy, setting the example for other jurisdictions around Australia to follow.

Today's bill provides important updates reflecting the progress made and the new operational phase of the act as we seek to maintain and secure the achievements this pioneering legislation has delivered. When the ACT's reverse auction scheme was developed in 2011 nothing like this had ever been attempted in Australia and there were no legislative precedents for the government to draw on. The act needed to ensure that the territory's interests were secured while providing compelling commercial opportunities to industry so as to generate competition and reduce prices.

The ACT government was also keen to give industry confidence in the new process. The government did this by extensively consulting about the design of the reverse auction scheme and including a number of confidence-building and flexibility measures into the auction rules and legislation. These included the creation of an independent advisory board that would advise the minister on which auction proposals should receive a feed-in tariff entitlement and which gave industry confidence in the independence and probity of the auction process. The government instituted a limit on the maximum size of proposals, designed to ensure that there would be at least two winners from each auction. A 20-year feed-in tariff entitlement period delivered long-term revenue certainty to a winning proposal.

Chief among these measures was the contract-for-difference FiT mechanism which created complete revenue certainty for bidders, driving down financing costs and driving strong international competition in each of our auction processes. A further flexibility measure was the ability under the act for proponents to surrender or transfer a FiT entitlement to deal with unforeseen circumstances in which it was appropriate for the FiT entitlement to be discontinued. Proponents could apply in writing to the minister for a surrender or transfer of their entitlement, which the minister would then confirm by written notice, with the inclusion of the day and time that the surrender would take effect. The ability to surrender or transfer a FiT entitlement is covered in sections 14 and 15 of the act.

It has now been 3½ years since the commencement of the ACT's first grant of the feed-in tariff entitlement, and the government has learned a lot through the operation of our scheme and about the industry context in which it operates. The government now considers that the right of proponents to surrender their FiT entitlement can be better balanced against the need of the government to maintain its renewable electricity supplies. No-one can predict the future, and market conditions may change in a way that might incentivise an entitlement holder to consider a surrender.

A review by Jacobs Australia, conducted under the act of last year's next generation renewables auction and the act that I tabled in the Legislative Assembly in August, warned about the long-term possibility of FiT entitlement surrenders. The review said that, given that the ACT's FiTs are not adjusted for inflation, the national renewable energy target scheme is due to finish in 2030 and given that, over time, wholesale electricity prices are likely to rise, there is a risk that FiT entitlement holders might contemplate a surrender.

If a surrender of an entitlement is brought forward, it is important that the responsible minister has time to consider and secure alternative renewable energy supplies so as to not put renewable electricity supplies in doubt. It is also important that industry has transparency of the government's interests in this matter and the potential delay that may arise between the offer of an entitlement for surrender and the date set by the minister at which that surrender takes effect.

Today's amendment bill introduces new matters the minister must consider when determining the day and time that a surrender takes effect under section 14 of the act. These new matters include the objectives of the act, other FiT entitlements that have

been granted and, most importantly, how long it would take the territory to secure an alternative source of renewable electricity of equivalent quantity to the entitlement being surrendered.

The intent of these changes is not to empower the minister to deny any entitlement surrender—the right of the FiT entitlement holder remains—but rather to allow the territory enough time to secure an alternative supply of renewable electricity equal to that being surrendered. That way the territory can protect the integrity of its 100 per cent by 2020 renewable electricity target and ACT residents can rest assured that the target is safe. Because the renewable electricity target provides nearly all of the emission reduction required for the territory to reach its greenhouse gas target of 40 per cent reduction on 1990 level emissions by 2020, it is important that it is not jeopardised by FiT entitlement surrenders. This change provides greater clarity for government and industry regarding the operation of section 14 of the act.

The parts of the amendment bill that relate to FiT surrenders—new section 14(4) and the new Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Regulation 2017—have effect from 14 September 2017, while the other provisions of the amendment bill commence on the day after the act's notification day. This is because there is a small risk that a FiT entitlement holder may seek to surrender its entitlement before the amendment bill is passed and notified. This is a precautionary measure and will ensure that all surrenders will be treated equally and operate under the new regulation that prescribes matters the minister must consider when fixing the day and time that the surrender of a FiT entitlement takes effect.

As detailed in the explanatory statement the retrospective provisions in this bill are reasonable and justified, and I refer members to that discussion. All other provisions of the amendment bill commence on the day after the act's notification day.

One of the remarkable outcomes of the contract for different FiT mechanism is that it provides a hedge for the ACT community against rising wholesale electricity costs. As market wholesale prices go up, our feed-in tariff costs go down. In the first half of 2017 Australia's wholesale market achieved record average prices following the closure of Hazelwood power station in Victoria. Average pool prices in Victoria and South Australia, where our current wind farms are operating, rose from \$40 to \$60 to \$80 to \$100 per megawatt hour. When this occurs, rather than the ACT paying money to our contracted wind farms, they pay us and this filters back through to the consumer. This was the outcome for the second quarter of 2017 and this is an occurrence that Jacobs, through its independent review, expects to become more frequent in the medium to long term.

The ACT electricity distributor, currently ActewAGL Distribution, pays the FiT support payments to FiT entitlement holders once they begin generation. The first ACT FiT-supported generator, the 20-megawatt Royalla Solar Farm, began generating in August 2014 and there are now six wind and solar farms generating FiT-supported output, with four more to come online by October 2019. As our renewable electricity percentage increases, so will the value of the FiT support payments paid to or by the electricity distributor. As the value of the FiT support payments increase, so does the need for the ACT government to have a strong oversight of them.

To date, the government has worked closely and effectively with ActewAGL Distribution each year when it determines the cost of FiT support payments that it will pass on in each forthcoming financial year. The amendment bill formalises this process by requiring the ACT electricity distributor to apply to the minister by 31 December each year for a reasonable cost of FiT support to be applied by it in the upcoming financial year. Once the application is received, the minister must make a determination of what exactly the reasonable cost should be within two months. The minister's determination will become the maximum amount that the electricity distributor can pass on for FiT support payments.

The reasonable cost as determined by the minister will also include the ACT electricity distributor's cost of administering the FiT support payment scheme, reflecting the additional requirements imposed by the act for it to effectively administer this important government policy. If the electricity distributor is dissatisfied with the minister's reasonable cost determination, it can apply to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a review. ACAT already handles a wide range of disparate matters. Its decisions are reviewable by the Supreme Court and it has the ability to engage expert assistance and to appoint specialist assessors to assist it in specified cases. It is an appropriate body to undertake such a review.

The amendment bill empowers the minister to require an audit of the FiT support payment cost information provided by the ACT electricity distributor in its annual applications and, if need be, also empowers the minister to determine a methodology to be applied by the ACT electricity distributor when estimating FiT support payment costs in an upcoming financial year. However, it is expected that the minister will use this audit power rarely, as a fallback after other options to resolve any matters have been explored.

In conclusion, the act has provided robust legislative underpinning for the ACT's reverse auction allocations of feed-in tariff entitlements, which, in turn, are driving major reductions in the territory's greenhouse gas emissions. Of this the territory can be very proud. As with any pioneering policy, it is important that governments reflect on new information and respond to new challenges as they emerge. In this regard the act needs updating with respect to the possible surrender of FiT entitlements and government oversight of the FiT support payments costs passed on by the ACT electricity distributor.

After rigorous consideration of all options, the government has developed the amendment bill that addresses the entitlement surrender risk by providing more clarity regarding the time required to secure alternative renewable electricity supplies. The amendment bill also addresses the FiT support payment cost issue by requiring the electricity distributor to make an annual application for the reasonable cost of its FiT support payments that will cap the amount it can pass on for them to ACT electricity consumers via electricity retailers. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.



Bill agreed to in principle.

### **Detail stage**

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

**MS LEE** (Kurrajong) (12.16), by leave: I move amendments 1 to 4 circulated in my name together [*see schedule 1 at page 4502*].

The Canberra Liberals will always stand up and fight against any measure that has the potential of burdening Canberrans with higher energy costs. We have seen numerous reports of Canberrans who are being forced to choose between heating their home in winter or cooking dinner due to the astronomical increases in energy prices. We acknowledge there are a number of factors that the government cannot control when it comes to energy prices. However, this is one factor that it can.

In tabling the bill last month the minister boldly stated in his presentation speech, seemingly on behalf of all Canberrans, that we are willing to pay the associated \$5.50 per week or \$286 per year. The Canberra Liberals have in the past queried the origins of that assessment and remain sceptical about whether the numerous Canberra families seeking concessions in droves agree with the minister's claims.

After all, I am sure he has no problem shelling out an extra \$5.50 per week for the feel-good buzz that he is doing something for the environment and also for the countless Canberrans already doing it tough with this government's exorbitant hikes in rates, fees and charges. An extra \$5.50 per week will make them think twice about whether they turn on the heater in the winter or the air-conditioner or cooler in the summer.

For a government that professes to care for the most vulnerable members of our society, to propose a mechanism which will see potentially even more energy costs ultimately passed on to consumers, by legislation no less, is simply unacceptable.

Of course, this lack of appreciation of costs is not a new theme for this government. Only yesterday, in speaking to Mr Steel's motion on all things renewable and green, I raised a very valid and a very important point about affordability and reliability, a point which resulted in the minister for transport, a very senior member of the government, responding in a way that I found, quite frankly, insulting. She said, "I am still reeling somewhat from a speech from the opposition spokesperson on this matter but I think it stands on its own merits or lack thereof." Madam Speaker, the minister responded to a point I raised about affordability and reliability to say that she was, "Reeling."

I trust that my words will stand on their merit just as this government's record will stand on its lack of merit and lack of integrity across so many areas, not the least of which is the reckless approach to spending ACT ratepayers' money to satisfy sometimes unrealistic and unaffordable demands of their Greens partner.

I return to the need for our amendment which, unsurprisingly, focuses on costs. We do, however, recognise the bill's intent of creating a framework to ensure that costs that may be passed on are "reasonable costs" and "the transparency this scheme creates". Therefore, I am moving the amendment to the bill that removes the express right of the distributor to pass on these costs to retailers but preserves the framework in determining reasonable costs. It is disappointing that, I understand, the government and the crossbench will not support my amendment. It seems that they have their hearts set on achieving an environmental goal at any cost. It is unacceptable that the cost is going to hit the most vulnerable Canberrans most.

The intent of my amendments is to provide a simple but important change to proposed section 20A in clause 6 of the bill in that they seek to remove the express right of the distributor to pass on costs to retailers. The amendments have been drafted deliberately to allow the remaining provision in clause 6—namely, the framework in determining "reasonable costs" and the accountability measures—to be preserved.

This will continue to allow the minister's involvement in the reasonable costs determination but does not expressly bestow on the distributor a right to pass on costs to retailers and, in turn, to consumers. The distributor will still be required to report the payments made under the FiT scheme and associated administrative costs to the minister, as well as historical data and cost recovery data.

It also places an onus on the distributor to forecast costs associated with the FiT scheme, which no doubt is designed to bring more certainty to the scheme generally. The minister will still be able to use this information to determine reasonable costs and request an audit of the information. The offence provisions are also retained.

As the minister has said, this bill will place an obligation on the distributor to make sure that costs are not passed on without a robust framework in which costs are deemed "reasonable". With our amendments we will continue to keep a close eye on the tripartisan support for a renewable, reliable and affordable approach to energy in the ACT. I commend my amendments to the bill to the Assembly.

**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) (12.21): I understand the intent of Ms Lee's amendment, which is about ensuring that we effectively manage costs to households. That is certainly an objective the government has in this scheme as well in seeking to achieve good environmental outcomes and positioning the ACT's energy supply in the future, but at the same time making sure that this is an affordable option for Canberrans.

Unfortunately, the advice given to me is that the wording she has proposed will not work in the legislation as it stands. It is important that the legislation is clear about the ability of the distributor to pass through costs to the consumer as part of the feed-in tariff scheme.

Ms Lee's proposed amendment prohibits the ACT electricity distributor from passing costs in excess of the reasonable costs determination. On the face of it, that is fine. But the wording in the original bill already prohibits this. Ms Lee's revised wording also does not explicitly permit the ACT electricity distributor to pass on the costs of meeting its obligations under the act, as the original bill permits. This is problematic as it does not provide the certainty that the distributor requires to properly operate the scheme.

On the issue of costs, I should note that consumers are currently paying \$2.19 per week for the scheme to deliver 100 per cent electricity from renewable sources. This is something we know the ACT population does support. In 2016 the ACT government commissioned a survey on climate change and energy efficiency. It asked Canberrans how much they would be willing to pay to assist the government to reduce carbon emissions and invest in new infrastructure and technologies. The average daily dollar value response was \$19 per week while the average yearly dollar value response was \$12.67 per week.

If you support that framework whereby some amount of costs is passed through to the community, it is important to be clear and explicit in the wording of the legislation. If you do not support the ability to pass through costs, then there are no 100 per cent renewable and we would need a completely different framework, and the current achievements would be jeopardised.

If we do continue with the system that allows the passing through of reasonable costs, which is currently permitted through the Australian electricity rules, we want that system to be clear and we want it to be consistent. The amendments we are making in this bill are actually an extra layer of oversight to ensure that the distributor does not pass through unreasonable costs.

Already the Australian Energy Regulator reviews costs that are passed through. But the change in this bill will also let the minister make a determination of feed-in tariff administration costs that the distributor may pass on and require an audit of information that the distributor provides to this process.

In conclusion, I understand the point that Ms Lee is making with this amendment. Of course, I support the notion that consumers should not incur unreasonable costs. That is an explicit goal of both the original legislation and this bill. But it is important to be clear in the scheme and avoid uncertainty or we might jeopardise its efficient operation. On the basis of my advice and my understanding that this would introduce a degree of uncertainty into the legislation, the government will not be supporting the proposed amendment.

Question put:

That the amendments be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 8

Noes 11

Mr Coe  
Mrs Dunne  
Mr Hanson  
Mrs Kikkert  
Ms Lawder  
Ms Lee

Mr Parton  
Mr Wall

Mr Barr  
Ms Burch  
Ms Cheyne  
Ms Cody  
Ms Fitzharris  
Ms Le Couteur

Ms Orr  
Mr Ramsay  
Mr Rattenbury  
Mr Steel  
Ms Stephen-Smith

Question resolved in the negative.

Amendments negatived.

Bill, as a whole, agreed to.

Bill agreed to.

**Sitting suspended from 12.29 to 2.30 pm.**

### **Questions without notice**

#### **Land—Dickson purchase**

**MR COE:** My question is for the Minister for Economic Development. Minister, what is the proposed settlement date for the Tradies group's purchase of the car park adjacent to the Tradies club in Dickson?

**MR BARR:** That date will be dependent on the successful completion of the construction of other car parking and supermarket requirements in the Dickson group centre. The site must remain as a public car park until such time as the other development is completed.

**MR COE:** Minister, how much money of the \$3.2 million which has been agreed for this site has been paid by the Tradies club? When did the government receive that amount? When is the remainder due?

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

**MR WALL:** Chief Minister, is there any price adjustment for the purchase of that block of land if it draws out for a number of years? If the Tradies Group does not meet their agreed settlement date, what penalties are available to the government under any existing contract?

**MR BARR:** I will take that on notice.

### **Government—tourism policy**

**MS CHEYNE:** My question is to the Chief Minister: how has the government delivered on its pre-election commitments in tourism and major events?

**MR BARR:** I thank Ms Cheyne for the question. We continue to deliver on our commitments to boost the value of tourism to the territory's economy and to see the number of visitors to our city increase. Our clear and well-supported tourism and major events strategies that we took to the election are obviously working; we have seen all-time record numbers of overnight visitors and expenditure in our economy, both from the domestic and international markets.

The latest tourism statistics for the year ending June 2017 show that the ACT welcomed 2.65 million domestic overnight visitors, a growth of 5.2 per cent on the previous year, and 221,479 international visitors travelled to Canberra during the same period, a growth rate 9.1 per cent. These visitors spent a combined total of \$2.16 billion in the territory economy, and that is an all-time record figures.

Delivering on our commitment to support more flights to Canberra has seen the Chinese market grow by 25 per cent in the past 12 months. The low-cost carrier Tigerair has entered the market offering eight flights a week from Melbourne and three from Brisbane. That means 200,000 seats are now available on Tigerair from Melbourne and Brisbane to Canberra each year.

The government's major event fund is also attracting and acquiring major events and new shows to the territory, along with support to the Canberra Convention Bureau to attract more conventions and high-yielding delegates to Canberra.

**MS CHEYNE:** Chief Minister, how has the government built on its commitments to improve the major events calendar?

**MR BARR:** The government has invested \$1 million a year over three years in the major events fund to position the territory as a leading region for both public and private events. Since the special event fund opened in 2011, 21 exhibitions and events have been delivered, attracting around 3 million attendees and delivering approximately \$636 million in economic return to the territory.

The major events strategy that I launched in July provides a strategic framework for attracting new major events and enhancing existing ones that contribute to our economy and to our broader community. For example, to create an environment that supports event attraction, the ACT government and the National Gallery of Australia recently signed an MOU to enable the parties to collaborate effectively to host several major events and exhibitions over the coming years. *Hyper Real*, which is currently at the National Gallery, is the first major event under this new flagship MOU.

Floriade has concluded for another year. Anyone who attended saw the investments that have been made to ensure that the event continues to evolve and develop by providing engaging experiences and new reasons to visit. This included an opening night concert, expansion of the event's opening hours, expansion of NightFest across two weekends and, for the first time, the Floriade Fringe event.

**MS CODY:** Chief Minister, how has the government delivered on its commitment to attract more airlines to Canberra?

**MR BARR:** The government has a proven track record of attracting airlines to open new routes to Canberra for the benefit of residents and businesses. We have made a commitment to make it easier for visitors to travel to Canberra in the domestic sense and of course internationally.

Along with the successful direct Singapore Airlines flights to Singapore and Wellington, Qatar Airways will commence daily services in February 2018. This will connect Canberra with over 150 destinations in that airline's global network, including more than 40 in Europe. Late last year Tiger commenced low-cost daily services between Melbourne and Canberra and have added an additional service, such as has been the success of that first route on Fridays between the two cities, due to that very strong demand. Last month they commenced services between Brisbane and Canberra three times a week, which provides very affordable access for domestic leisure visitors as well as Canberrans looking for a holiday in Queensland.

Such diverse route offerings are happening because we are putting Canberra in front of airlines and making the case, just as we said we would, and this work will continue next month in New Zealand with a further discussion, an evolution of our discussion with Air New Zealand, in relation to the Canberra-Auckland connection.

### **ACT Policing—gun ownership**

**MS LE COUTEUR:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Minister, according to data from ACT Policing, the ACT government has licensed at least 30 Canberra households to amass private arsenals of more than a dozen firearms each. Does the permit system allow people to use the same reason for owning multiple guns? Is there a limit to how many guns are allowed to be owned for the same reason by one person?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Le Couteur for her question. My understanding of the regulations is that a reason must be given to acquire a permit to acquire a firearm. That reason must be for a fit and proper purpose, usually within a sporting club organisation, and there must be evidence provided for that reason.

I will have to check to see whether that reason can be used additional times but I understand that each time a permit to acquire is applied for, there is a cooling-off period of 28 days; so they must go through that period for each firearm acquired. I do not know, and I will check, whether there is an actual limit to the number.

In regard to the number that Ms Le Couteur talks about, my understanding is that there are some clubs that would have armourers who would hold firearms for their club members who are yet to either get their permit to acquire or for a cooling off period at the end. I will check on that for her and come back to the Assembly.

**MS LE COUTEUR:** Minister, what measures are in place to prevent guns from legally owned stockpiles falling into the wrong hands and becoming a threat to community safety?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** There are detailed regulations and regular checks by police to ensure that firearms owners store their weapons and carry their firearms in the appropriate manner. Some strict regulations about storage include that firearms must be stored in a secure safe that is bolted in a secure area to a strong foundation, and the ammunition for that firearm must be stored in another secure area. When carried to a firing range, the firearm must be stored in a secure carry case and the ammunition must be stored and secured in a separate secure carry case in a vehicle that can be locked and secured at the same time. There are strict regulations in regard to the carriage and storage of firearms.

**MR STEEL:** Minister, what action has the ACT government undertaken to restrict the use of certain guns in the ACT?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Mr Steel for his interest in safety for the ACT. The ACT was the first jurisdiction to move the Adler category firearm into the next category, ensuring that we have the safe use of particular firearms in the ACT. This was part of a COAG agreement. The ACT is on the front foot with firearm safety. We continue to look, as much as we can, to ensure the safety of this particular sport in the territory.

I congratulate the clubs and their members on the way they go about practising their sport. My understanding is that they stick by their regulations at all times. It is very important that they apply those regulations at all times with these particular firearms and their particular sport. Again, I congratulate them. There is always a balance to ensure that we have the right sort of legislation and the right regulations in regard to these sorts of sports.

### **Casino Canberra—development proposal**

**MR WALL:** My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, in question time on October 25 you said that you would table the dates and minutes of meetings between the government and Aquis about their land development and gaming machine proposals “to the extent that that information can be quickly compiled ... in the fullness of time.” Will you table those documents by the close of business on Tuesday 31 October 2017? If not, why not, and by what date will they be tabled?

**MR BARR:** I will endeavour to get that information as soon as possible. I cannot guarantee the time frame requested by the member but I will guarantee that that information will be made available.

**MR WALL:** Chief Minister, has the error in the brief of 21 May 2015 been explained by your directorate, and what date will that be?

**MR BARR:** I understand that the director-general has written to the chair of the public accounts committee providing even further clarification in relation to that matter.

**MR COE:** Chief Minister, what qualification should the people of Canberra put on promises when you say that they will be delivered in the fullness of time? What does that actually mean?

**MR BARR:** It means that the government will endeavour to meet the requests of the Assembly in as speedy a manner as possible but I will not seek to make commitments in relation to time frames that I cannot meet.

### **Land Development Agency—Mr Spokes bike hire**

**MRS KIKKERT:** My question is the Chief Minister. I refer to a report in the *Canberra Times* of 20 October 2017 that claimed that a member of your staff spoke to the owner of Mr Spokes in early 2015 saying, “If you don’t agree to sit down and meet with the LDA, things are going to get a lot tougher for you.” Did this advisor discuss this issue with you or other members of your staff before speaking with the owner of Mr Spokes?

**MR BARR:** I do not believe so, but I will check the record.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Did the member of your staff advise you or other members of your staff after he made the phone call to the owner of Mr Spokes about what had happened?

**MR BARR:** I believe there will be some, at least, verbal briefing in relation to that matter. I think it is important to note that the context of the contact was from the Mr Spokes business to my office; it was not that my office contacted Mr Spokes; it was the other way around, is my understanding. As for the advice that was provided, I am not aware of the exact words that were used but it certainly would be entirely appropriate for my office to not become involved in commercial negotiations and refer the business back to the Land Development Agency. That is entirely appropriate.

**MR COE:** Chief Minister, how common was it for members of your staff to be briefed by the Land Development Agency regarding the negotiations for acquisitions?

**MR BARR:** On an exception basis, I imagine, but I will need to seek some further advice in relation to that. I do not think it would have been a minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour or even day-by-day process. But obviously ministers and ministerial staff receive briefings on specific matters or routine weekly or monthly briefs in relation to certain items. Again, I will have a look at what the historical record shows in that regard.

### **Crime—anti-consorting laws**

**MR HANSON:** My question is to the Chief Minister and relates to Unions ACT opposition to anti-consorting laws. Chief Minister, on 9 June last year the *Canberra Times* reported:



The ACT government released its proposed anti-consorting model for consultation on Thursday, strongly indicating it will follow other states and territories ...

[Unions ACT] Secretary Alex White is understood to be writing to Mr Corbell on the issue.

Chief Minister, will you table by Wednesday, 1 November 2017 any and all correspondence between any minister or department of your government and any union or union group relating to anti-consorting or control order legislation?

**MR BARR:** I may not be able to meet that particular artificial deadline that Mr Hanson has set—

**Mr Wall:** It is not artificial; there's nothing artificial about it.

**MR BARR:** No: artificial deadline, that Mr Hanson has set. I will seek information and provide that information as soon as is practicable. It may well be before that date; it may well be after.

**MR HANSON:** Thank you, Chief Minister. While you are at it, can you provide any other correspondence on this topic between your government and any other groups that has not already been made public and do so either by 1 November or at the earliest opportunity, as you have previously indicated?

**MR BARR:** That could well be a very extensive document search. I do not know. I will seek some advice in relation to that matter and provide what information I can to members as soon as practical.

**MRS DUNNE:** Chief Minister, have you or the government received any correspondence from unions or union groups on the current exposure draft of anti-consorting laws? Will you table those by the close of business on 1 November?

**MR BARR:** That is a very broad question. I will need again to check across seven different ministerial offices over the period. Are you are referring to Mr Hanson's bill?

**Mrs Dunne:** Yes.

**MR BARR:** Right. Yes, I will check to see whether anyone has received any correspondence from anyone in relation to that. Rest assured though, Madam Speaker, that there will need to be, obviously, in light of all these questions, quite a series of document searches, the cumulative impact of which will be that it is unlikely that most of the deadlines that those opposite are seeking will be able to be met, given the number of documents is now accruing into potentially the thousands—

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** across all of the questions you have asked. You are after a lot of documents.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members! Ms Cody is seeking to ask a question without notice.

**Sport—government initiatives**

**MS CODY:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

*Mr Hanson interjecting—*

**MS CODY:** It would be nice if Mr Hanson were to be quiet enough for me to ask my question; miracles may happen one day.

My question is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation: can you update the Assembly on the delivery of the government's election commitments in the sport and recreation portfolio and how these contribute to the key priorities of active living, gender equity and inclusion?

**MS BERRY:** I thank Ms Cody for the question. Some of the key achievements this year included the full funding of all of the election commitment towards gender equity in sport, which included four-year funding agreements for both the Canberra Capitals and Canberra United. I have spoken a lot about those two teams in this place and the significance of the four-year funding to those teams to be able to continue to recruit elite sportswomen to those sports and also improve sponsorship to ensure they are able to provide those sportswomen with the best possible support, but also to give opportunities for young women and girls in the ACT to have role models that live in their community to look up to.

A further \$1 million was also provided for programs which work to encourage and empower women and girls at all levels of sport over the next four year: \$500,000 for female-friendly sports infrastructure; 400,000 in incentive funding for sports to lead on gender equity; and \$100,000 for a new female sport online hub with HerCanberra, which I recently launched.

Some of the other significant projects which have been completed or are progressing include: \$600,000 to local clubs under the community football infrastructure program; redevelopment of Phillip Oval; a new Stromlo aquatic centre; and funding for two new ovals as part of the new Gungahlin primary school.

**MS CODY:** Minister, how were the government's commitments informed by the Canberra community?

**MS BERRY:** I spent much of 2016, in my first year as sport and rec minister, talking with sports communities about their needs. We would all agree that Canberra's sporting clubs are full of community champions and volunteers who make a great contribution to this city. There are also people with great ideas about equity, inclusion and how sport can be used to grow these things even more.

The government spoke extensively with women and girls and men and boys around shaping gender equity commitments and spoke with the Gungahlin sports clubs and participants in relation to growth pressures and their infrastructure needs. Active Canberra has worked with local clubs across the ACT in shaping commitments including lighting at Calwell, rowing in Tuggeranong, upgrades at west Belconnen, motorsport development grants as well as many other commitments.

The Canberra community, through the government, makes a significant contribution to all our sports facilities and my approach will be to continue to work with clubs and sports representatives in making sure that these projects provide the greatest possible benefit for everyone in our community.

**MR STEEL:** Why is an online community important to growing female participation in sport and active recreation?

**MS BERRY:** Thank you for the supplementary. It has probably been one of the strongest themes that has come through as I held different events on women's and girls' sport last year. People at all levels of sport shared the view that we should be taking action and creating a greater profile and more online space for female sport as an important part of improving gender equity in our sports community.

From that evolved a commitment to partner with HerCanberra, a new online platform. I talked about launching that just recently. The government's investment has enabled the promotion and sharing of local female sporting content like never before. HerCanberra has a large and growing audience, including the key age ranges where participation needs to grow.

The next step for the partnership is the first Active Week, which will start on Monday 13 November. What is being asked for in Active week is that sporting clubs provide the opportunity for the readers of HerCanberra and other participants to participate in an activity for free: stage a free come and try day; parade; provide a free class pass; offer a free trial week; or anything else that gives people a chance to get active in a low risk and accessible environment. Indeed, someone like Elizabeth Lee might want to get on board with something like this and encourage a Zumba class for women in the Legislative Assembly to participate in.

**Mr Hanson:** What about men? We're a minority in this Assembly!

**Mr Barr:** Watch out, Jeremy.

**Mr Hanson:** What? I'm not allowed to participate in SH'BAM because I'm a man? That's discriminatory.

**Ms Fitzharris:** Classy!

**MS BERRY:** Oh please! For goodness sake. Seriously?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members please! Minister, your time has expired. I am sure you had more valuable comments to add than what was being exchanged across the floor.

### **Land Development Agency—Williamsdale Solar Farm**

**MS LEE:** This is not a question about SH'BAM, thankfully. My question is to the Minister for Suburban Development. I refer to a *Canberra Times* article of 12 June this year regarding the purchase of the site of the Williamsdale Solar Farm, block 1470 in Tuggeranong. The LDA board minutes did not record the decision to purchase the property. Due to a board member having a conflict of interest, there was scant documentation and there was no written business case prepared. The valuation that the purchase price was based on was 18 months old. Why did the LDA board make this decision without a business case or other relevant documentation?

**MS BERRY:** I thank Ms Lee for the question. I will have to come back to the Assembly with some detail on that one.

**MS LEE:** Minister, why did not the LDA board note its decision to purchase the Williamsdale site?

**MS BERRY:** As with the first question, I will have to get some information for Ms Lee and bring that back to the Assembly.

**MR WALL:** Minister, why did the LDA buy this site based on an 18-month-old valuation?

**MS BERRY:** I will take that question on notice as well and bring back some information for the Assembly.

### **Land—section 72, Dickson**

**MR PARTON:** My question is to Chief Minister: what is the contractual or commercial relationship between the Dickson section 72 sites acquired by the government and the block of land next to the Dickson Tradies that is currently a car park?

**MR BARR:** Block 20 section 34, as it was then known, was put to the market via request for tender as a future development site. Two submissions were received in response to that. One of those was from the Canberra Tradesmen's Union Club; they were the highest bidder. The then Economic Development Directorate negotiated with them as the highest bidder and reached an agreement on a final transaction that involved, as I think members are well and truly aware, the sale of block 20 section 34 as well as the ACT government's acquisition of blocks 25 and 6 in section 72 in Dickson.

The contractual arrangements can be made available; that is not a major issue. The final decision, of course, to proceed with the transaction was made by the

Director-General of the then Economic Development Directorate, and the transaction was completed by the Land Development Agency.

There is a requirement to continue the availability of public car parking, as I have indicated in previous answers to questions on this matter, and the parties agreed to defer settlement on block 20 section 34 so it would remain a publically accessible car park until the supermarket development on the other side of the Dickson group centre was completed. The parties also agreed that the occupant of block 6 section 72 could remain in place with peppercorn rent for 40 months with market rent payable thereafter.

**MR PARTON:** Chief Minister, will you take on notice and provide to me at some stage—I am going to suggest a week as an artificial deadline—a copy of the advertisement or tender for the sale of the block of land next to the Dickson Tradies?

**MR BARR:** By “the block” I presume you mean lot 20 section 34?

**Mr Parton:** Yes.

**MR BARR:** Okay; I think we are talking about the car park on the corner of Badham Street and Dickson Place adjacent to the Tradies Club.

**Mr Parton:** Yes.

**MR BARR:** Yes, we can certainly make that information available. I was asked yesterday about the time frame for when the request for tender for that particular block was put to the market in, I think, September 2012 as a future development site. That is not a problem.

**MR COE:** Chief Minister, are the Tradies or the CFMEU paying the rates on Dickson section 72 property and, if so, how much has been paid and on what dates were those payments made? If you do not happen to have that information in front of you, will you please provide it to me in my office by close of business tomorrow?

**MR BARR:** No, I do not have that information in front of me. I will provide it to the Assembly in due course. I may not be able to provide it by close of business tomorrow. I will not be here tomorrow. I am at the Treasurers ministerial council in Sydney. I will need to see it before it goes to Mr Coe’s office to verify that it is the information that I am being asked about today. It will likely be next week.

### **Disability services—social inclusion**

**MR STEEL:** My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. Minister, can you update the Assembly on the government’s commitment to promoting the inclusion of people with a disability by removing hurdles to social participation?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Steel for his question. As members know, this government is committed to the inclusion of all people, including people with

disability, in our great Canberra community. To achieve this, we must ensure that people with disability can fully participate in the social and economic life of our city.

I am proud to have opened the first round of the new disability inclusion grants on 20 September this year. The grants round is open until 8 November. The disability inclusion grants program delivers on this government's election commitment of \$200,000 over four years to promote the inclusion of people with a disability by removing hurdles to social participation.

I encourage community groups, not-for-profit organisations and small businesses to take a look at the grants and think about how a grant could be used to improve access for people with disability. I encourage potential applicants to engage with people with disability to identify barriers and consider the best way of addressing them. I also encourage Canberrans with a disability who have faced access or communication barriers in getting involved in a social group or club, or who may have experienced challenges accessing a local small business, to talk to these groups or businesses and let them know about the disability inclusion grants.

Grants can be used to provide disability awareness training, infrastructure modifications or the purchase of assisted technologies such as hearing loops. I am sure there are many other innovative ideas to increase inclusion in our community.

I wish to thank the disability reference group for its thoughtful consideration of the grants guidelines and how the disability inclusion grants program was shaped and will complement existing grants.

**MR STEEL:** Minister, what else is the ACT government doing to encourage greater community participation for people with disability and build opportunities for people with disability to connect with community?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Mr Steel for his supplementary. This morning I also announced \$25,000 in community grants to aid celebrations of the International Day of People with a Disability, known as I-Day. I-Day is a United Nations-sanctioned day that aims to promote awareness and understanding of disability issues and encourage support for the dignity, rights and wellbeing of people with disability. I-Day also seeks to increase awareness of the benefits of inclusion of people with disability in every aspect of political, social economic and cultural life. We celebrate I-Day on 3 December each year, and these grants encourage greater community participation for people with disability, showcasing their contributions and achievements and building ongoing opportunities for people with disability to connect with their communities.

Today I was really pleased to be able to announce the recipients of the I-Day grants who have received up to \$5,000 to promote awareness and understanding of disability issues. I encourage people with disability, their friends and family, plus, of course, the wider community to attend as many events as possible around the weekend of 3 December. Some of the events that received an I-Day grant include: a game and panel to talk about health and disability with ACTCOSS; an opportunity to dance like no-one is watching at the no lights, no lycra, lightly lit event—unlike the usual no

light, no lycra nights, some lights will be on for the inclusive dance event to encourage people with disability to attend by providing a little light to see by; a Women with Disabilities ACT event with live music and talks; and an explosion of art, music, film, dance and singing in inclusive, creative programs at Belconnen Arts Centre's three-day event, detonate.

**MS LEE:** Minister, what is the ACT government doing—

*Members interjecting—*

**MS LEE:** Should I prepare one for SH'BAM instead? I don't know; it has obviously got them all riled up. Minister, what is the ACT government doing, or what services is the government providing for the NDIS participants from a non-English-speaking background?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Lee for her supplementary question. I am not sure that I have that information with me but I understand that through the trial period for the NDIS, the initial rollout and the transition, specific information has been provided to support people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate in the national disability insurance scheme and to sign up for that. I will take the detail of that on notice but I note that the funding of advocacy and planning for the national disability insurance scheme is largely the responsibility of the commonwealth and the NDIA at this stage. But of course we do work collaboratively with them, and I will provide some further details.

### **Planning—Federal Golf Club**

**MS LAWDER:** My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. Why did the government undertake pre-DA consultation on behalf of Federal Golf Club only after the club changed affiliation to Canberra Community Clubs?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Lawder for her question. The idea of pre-DA consultation was mine, discussed with my colleagues, in relation to new developments that are coming up across the whole of the ACT. You saw, for example, the announcement, where you joined me, to look at whether or not we could do a suburb on the west of Athllon Drive in Tuggeranong.

It has been used a number of times in other circumstances as well. It is an opportunity for the community to have a say on what a proponent proposes. It is not what the government brings. It is what a proponent brings. So that is why we started that consultation process. We thought at the time that it was a really good idea but obviously—

*Mr Hanson interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, allow the minister to respond to the question, please. Minister.

**MR GENTLEMAN:** But obviously from what we have seen of late, it may not be the best idea. It may be better to go down a simple rigorous track of the normal—

**Mr Coe:** Point of order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, please. Point of order.

**Mr Coe:** Madam Speaker, on relevance, the question was specifically about pre-DA consultation as opposed to pre-Territory Plan variation consultation. I ask the minister to be directly relevant to pre-DA consultation.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I do not believe there is a point of order because I heard the minister say that it was his idea and he has been discussing the pre-DA consultation. Minister, do you want to continue?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I said, we thought this was a good idea to have a panel that was assisted, of course, by the directorate because they have the knowledge in regard to development applications and the planning regulations in the territory.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, is the government planning to conduct pre-DA consultations on behalf of Yowani and Murrumbidgee country clubs?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Lawder for the supplementary. I had a conversation with the director-general of planning this morning in relation to the operation of this consultation we have recently had. It does not appear that it has worked the way we wanted it to. Rather than provide information for the community to have input, it seems that it has been used in a political sense in the chamber. I am not sure whether we should use it at all any more. It might be better to simply use the normal process of putting a DA into ACTPLA and going through that process.

**MS LE COUTEUR:** Minister, given that it was described as a “community panel and consultation”, why was the subject matter of the consultation so restricted as to be just what the Federal Golf Club put forward and why did it not encompass some of the ideas from the community?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Le Couteur for the question. Of course there need to be some parameters around consultation. If the consultation is about that particular development, then that is the topic of discussion. But it goes beyond that, and as we have seen through this process many other issues have been raised. As I said, we will review the process.

We learned on my most recent trip to other jurisdictions that when you try different processes of consultation that do not work, there is an opportunity to try other ones, and we will continue to do that.

### **Mental health—Raphael review**

**MRS DUNNE:** My question is to the Minister for Mental Health. Minister, in 2015 the government commissioned Professor Beverley Raphael to undertake a



review of mental health services. The report was titled *Suicide and Contributing Factors in the ACT* and was to be released in 2015. Two year later, it has not been released. Minister, why has this report not been released two years after it was finished?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I am glad Mrs Dunne asked me about this because it is actually the subject of question on notice No 604 which she asked me about on Tuesday and I was going to give an update after question time. This solves that question.

There were some problems with the preparation of that report. The authors involved in that report were not able to complete their work, for personal reasons. There have been some questions raised about that report; it was drawn to my attention earlier this year.

ACT Health has some concerns with the final form in which the report has been presented but my view on this matter is that it is valuable for the report to be released even though the full analysis was not completed. I have asked ACT Health to prepare that work so that the report can be released. I am hopeful it will be ready very shortly because I think it contains valuable information both for those who were generous enough to give their own personal experiences and views to the consultation process and also for community organisations and academics to take it, with some of the caveats that it will come with, as an important source of information.

**MRS DUNNE:** Minister, how much did the report cost? Why has it taken so long for the government agency to put the report in a form suitable for publication?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I will have to take the first half of the question on notice. I am not sure off the top of my head. In terms of the second half, I think the agency was concerned. When I raised it with them this year, their advice to me was that they were uncertain about whether it was able to be published. But I have formed the view that it should be published, and it will be published shortly.

**MS LEE:** Minister, when will the government respond to the report, and when will it be released?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I had not intended to respond to the report per se. It is a research report. I will have to reflect on whether it contains formal recommendations. I cannot recall if it comes in that form. But it is not a report that I think it was expected that the government would formally respond to.

### **Arts—funding**

**MS ORR:** My question is to the Minister for Arts and Community Events. Can the minister update the Assembly on the outcome of the 2018 project funding round?

**MR RAMSAY:** I thank Ms Orr for the question and her interest in the arts. I was pleased last Friday to announce the outcome of the 2018 arts project funding round. Forty-eight artists, arts groups and community organisations across all forms of arts

will be sharing in more than \$765,000 in arts project funding, which exceeds the \$750,000 of funding that we promised in the budget.

The range of successful applicants this year is impressive. It spans both emerging and established artists, as well as community art projects that will provide Canberrans with an opportunity to participate in the arts. They represent a broad cross-section of art forms and activities, including substantial representation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and a number of projects focused on inclusiveness.

Grants include over \$25,000 to the Canberra Dance Theatre to produce a work for their 40th anniversary celebrations next year; \$15,000 to fund an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth writing workshop called “Blak Writes” coordinated by Hayley McQuire; \$40,000 to support the production of David Atfield’s play *Exclusion*, following funding in 2017 for its creative development; \$29,000 to support musician Chris Latham to record his orchestral work *The Diggers Requiem*, which commemorates the end of World War I; \$9,000 to support local children’s author Tania McCartney to write and illustrate a new junior fiction book series; and \$30,000 to support local artists to present at public art festival Contour 556.

The arts are an integral part of Canberra’s social fabric and economic development. The arts strengthen our community and they are an essential part of our identity. Through this year’s project funding, all Canberrans will benefit from the opportunities to experience and to engage with local art and artists. I can advise the Assembly that there is a full list of the 2018 project funding recipients on the artsACT website.

**MS ORR:** Can the minister please advise the Assembly what other arts and community events have been funded so far this year?

**MR RAMSAY:** I can advise that, in addition to the arts project funding, three organisations will share in \$42,000 of grants which specifically support their access to Llewellyn Hall to stage concert events. These are the Australian National Eisteddfod Society, Music for Canberra, and the National Capital Orchestra.

This year the government has also provided funding for Art, not Apart; the Writers Festival; and for the DESIGN Canberra Festival which will run throughout November, celebrating and promoting Canberra as a global city of design. We have also funded the ACT book of the year prize, nominations for which closed on 28 July. I look forward to announcing the winner in early December.

Government funding to the arts in the ACT in 2017 has also included \$24,000 for various artists’ residencies; \$15,500 for the Arts Law Centre; \$25,000 for the arts in health partnerships; \$100,000 to support specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts initiatives; and \$1.3 million to the ANU to support a range of community outreach programs so that teachers, school students and the broader community can benefit from the university’s music, art and design experience.

The breadth of projects, prizes, services, events and programs funded by the ACT government is certainly helping to ensure that our arts scene is diverse, dynamic and world class.

**MS CHEYNE:** Can the minister please advise the Assembly about what other funding rounds are still to come this year?

**MR RAMSAY:** I thank Ms Cheyne for her supplementary question. Yes, there is more to come. Applications are now open for the ACT Screen Arts Fund grants for 2018. These grants support local screen artists with projects that will take their career development to the next level. The fund supports all narrative screen art forms, including film, television, documentary, short film, games, apps and digital media. There is currently \$90,000 in this funding round pool. Applications close at 5 pm on Monday, 6 November. More information on that can be found on the Screen Canberra website.

We also offer small out-of-round grants of between \$500 and \$2,000 to support individual ACT artists to undertake significant interstate or overseas arts opportunities, for example to help with travel or accommodation and registration costs to participate in prestigious residencies or to attend global conventions. One recent example is a grant to support Canberra photographer Lori Cicchini to take up an invitation to exhibit her work at the Venice Biennale in May this year. In Lori's words, the opportunity "provided me so much inspiration to further my arts practice. It not only gave me further confidence as an artist, but has also given the opportunity to meet and speak with many international artists at the forefront of their practice."

The total available budget for out-of-round funding for the 2017-18 financial year is \$25,000. These are just some of the ways the ACT government is supporting the arts and artists in Canberra, helping to ensure that we have a local arts scene that is both inspiring and inspired.

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

## **Answers to questions on notice**

### **Questions 604 and 619**

**MR RATTENBURY:** As I touched on briefly in Question Time today, on Tuesday Mrs Dunne asked me about two outstanding questions on notice. I can advise Mrs Dunne that question on notice No 619 arrived in my office today. It was submitted to the Clerk just before Question Time, during the lunch break. The reason for the delay on that one was that the directorate was seeking additional information. I think I explained the answer to question 604 in my earlier response to Mrs Dunne today. That one will be replied to as soon as possible.

## **Leave of absence**

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

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

## Visitor

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members, I draw your attention to the fact we have Mr Richard Mulcahy, former member of the Assembly, here in the chamber. Welcome back. Did you enjoy Question Time, Mr Mulcahy?

**Mr Barr:** How could you not?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Yes, thank you.

## Suburban Land Agency—land acquisitions—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) (3.20): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act, pursuant to subsection 43(2)—Suburban Land Agency—Land acquisitions quarterly report—1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017, dated October 2017.

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

Leave granted.

**MS BERRY:** In July this year the ACT government established the Suburban Land Agency under the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017. The Suburban Land Agency was established to deliver greenfield development, and encourage and promote urban renewal outside the defined precinct of the City Renewal Authority.

In accordance with the objects for the agency under the legislation, I provided the agency with authority to exercise its functions to ensure a mixture of public and private housing in new suburbs; increase the supply of affordable and community housing that meets or exceeds the affordable, community and public housing targets set out under section 65 of the legislation; and carry out the development of land in a manner that is environmentally sustainable.

To ensure greater transparency of the activities of the agency, I am committed to creating an environment of clarity and openness, mirroring community expectations. I have stated previously that the ACT government's expectation is that the Suburban Land Agency meet its compliance and accountability requirements, while effectively and efficiently delivering the government's suburban renewal and land development agenda.

To ensure that the government has land available for development, acquisition of privately held leases of land is required from time to time to provide for future development, environmental offsets or other uses. As I have indicated previously, the government is committed to providing certainty, transparency and consistency in the information that is required to inform acquisition decisions, and committed to ensuring that these decisions are aligned with the government's strategic plan for land management and development across the territory.

I committed that, as required by the legislation, I would present a report to the Legislative Assembly after the end of each quarter on any land acquired by the Agency during that quarter, providing any valuations and any other information prescribed by the regulation.

I have received the first quarterly report on land acquisitions from the Suburban Land Agency. During the reporting period, the agency purchased the lease of land for block 1600 Belconnen on Stockdill Drive, Holt. The purchase of this land was settled on 31 July 2007 at a cost of \$4.6 million.

The government identified blocks where a contract for the purchase of land existed at the commencement of the new agency in schedule 2 of the transfer instrument issued by the government on 30 June 2017. This is one of the blocks identified in that instrument.

It is important to highlight that the assessment work and subsequent valuation for this purchase of the block was carried out in April 2017 and was done so under the instruction of officers of the Land Development Agency. The LDA board agreed to purchase the block on 25 May 2017 in accordance with the land acquisition policy framework in force at the time, as exchange of contracts had occurred prior to the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017 coming into effect. When the new Suburban Land Agency was established from 1 July 2017, settlement of that block was finalised.

Madam Speaker, I commend the report to the Assembly.

## **Government buildings—aluminium cladding**

### **Papers and statement by minister**

**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) (3.25): For the information of members, I present the following papers:

Aluminium composite cladding—Report, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 20 September 2017, concerning aluminium cladding on government buildings.

Combustible facade cladding—preliminary fire safety assessment—Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, Garran, ACT, dated 3 August 2017, prepared by Defire.

Aluminium composite panels—Summary of findings—Phase 1 Audit—30 June 2017, Table compiled by ACT Health—

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

Leave granted.

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I table a report in response to the motion of 20 September 2017, on aluminium composite cladding. The report includes, firstly, an update on planning and works to remove and replace aluminium composite panels at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children; a list of ACT Health buildings assessed for aluminium composite cladding and the findings of the ACT Health desktop audit; an update on the audit of ACT government buildings, including findings to date; and a report on issues raised by the ACT government in 2009-10 relating to the non-compliant use of aluminium composite panels and how the ACT government ensures the fire safety of all buildings.

I also table a copy of the report *Combustible facade cladding—preliminary fire safety assessment, ACT Health Procurement and Capital Works Centenary Hospital for Women and Children Garran ACT CA 170095*. As the report outlines, our highest priority to date is to work through the buildings that provide residential accommodation and buildings where it may be difficult for occupants to evacuate on their own, such as hospitals and schools.

The report outlines that ACT Health has identified five additional buildings for further investigations and that there are other government buildings that do have ACPs. The whole-of-government working group is continuing to work through the implications of this type of cladding. The working group, along with expert engineering advice, will assess the suitability of the use of ACP materials on all building types across the ACT government property portfolio.

Where the use of ACP has been identified, current indications are that it is often used as an attachment or on buildings where its use would pose a low risk. Work will be finalised to confirm the type and fire resistance of ACPs used on buildings, and that the use and location of any ACP does not pose a risk to occupants safely evacuating a building in a fire.

When building ministers met early in October we all agreed to use our laws and powers to help prevent the non-compliant use of combustible ACPs. The report I am tabling today outlines the ACT's building approval process and how combustible ACPs are treated under that process. This is a great example of how our laws and regulations continue to be applied to make sure that ACPs are used appropriately in the territory. I thank members for their interest in this matter and look forward to providing further updates as the review progresses.

## Papers

**Mr Ramsay** presented the following paper:

Judicial Commissions Act, pursuant to subsection 61A(5)—ACT Judicial Council—Annual report 2016-17.

**Mr Rattenbury** presented the following papers:

Utilities (Technical Regulation) Amendment Bill 2017—Revised explanatory statement.

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 13—Annual report 2016-2017—ACT Human Rights Commission—Corrigendum.

## **Government—climate change policy status report Paper and statement by minister**

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Mental Health) (3.29): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

ACT Government's Climate Change Policy—Implementation status report, dated September 2017.

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

Leave granted.

**MR RATTENBURY:** I am pleased to table the second implementation status report on ACT government climate change policy, action plan 2, prepared by the office of the commissioner for sustainability and the environment. To maintain accountability and transparency, every three years the government invites this independent audit of government action on climate change and presents the findings to the Assembly.

The first implementation status report was tabled at the beginning of 2015 and looked at the progress of actions of action plan 2 between 2012 and 2014. That report presented the government with 15 challenges and opportunities to improve climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. Since that time, I am delighted to advise the Assembly, all the challenges and opportunities to improve have been adopted by government.

Improvements have been made to the way we gather and report on energy use data. For instance, the ACT government now produces an up-to-date inventory report at the end of each calendar year, covering the previous financial year. By doing this, we ensure greater transparency and accountability in emissions reporting and have a substantially better understanding of the immediate effects of mitigation actions on the territory's emissions and our progress towards the target of 40 per cent emissions reductions by the year 2020.

With the release of the ACT climate change adaptation strategy in 2016, the government can now demonstrate how we are coordinating our actions to help the

ACT community and the government adapt to a changing climate. We also measure ourselves against global standards to ensure that our climate change policies reflect international best practice and report frequently to the community on the implementation of government action on climate change.

In February this year I invited the office to audit and report by 30 September 2017 on the status of actions under action plan 2. The office would define whether actions are completed, ongoing, modified or subsumed through separate policy mechanisms. The office would also report on how the territory is tracking on greenhouse gas emissions reduction and towards our greenhouse gas reduction targets.

I received a copy of this report on 15 September 2017 and, under section 21 of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993, as the responsible minister I am tabling this report within the required six sitting days. The audit found:

... the ACT Government's continued commitment to addressing climate change has ensured the implementation of the 18 actions.

It acknowledged the complexity of a number of actions and determined that six actions are completed, eight are ongoing, one has been modified and one has been subsumed by other work. The office added a fifth status category to those requested in the terms of reference, the category "of concern".

The report identifies two actions as being of concern: action 3 energy efficiency information to tenants and action 5 community engagement strategy. The office has provided suggestions on how these actions may be modified to address the issues of energy efficiency in rental homes and communication between the ACT government and members of the community whom we serve. We will consider these suggestions in the development of our future climate change policies.

I am delighted with the outcome of this audit and thank the commissioner and her office for the hard work involved in preparing the implementation status report. I would also like to thank the local experts who contributed their knowledge to the expert commentary and case studies that are also published within the report. We are proud to have so many experts residing and working in the Canberra region and to be able to showcase their work in the commissioner's document.

I am very pleased with the achievements made through the implementation of AP2 since its release in 2012. I will present to the Assembly a government statement of response to the 17 recommendations of this report in early 2018. I look forward to continuing to update the Assembly on how the ACT can continue to embrace the challenge of climate change and, through action, demonstrate ongoing leadership to communities locally, nationally and internationally.

I commend the 2017 implementation status report on the ACT government's climate change policy to the Assembly.



## **Working with vulnerable people—legislative review**

### **Paper and statement by minister**

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH** (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (3.33): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act, pursuant to subsection 70(1)—Legislative review.

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

Leave granted.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I am pleased to table the report of the first legislative review of the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011. In tabling this review the government meets its legislative requirement to undertake and table a legislative review of the act following the midpoint of its implementation period. This first legislative review of the act provides an opportunity to examine and improve the effectiveness of the act and its administration through the working with vulnerable people scheme. The act aims to reduce the risk of harm or neglect to vulnerable people in the ACT. It requires those who work or volunteer with vulnerable people, including children, to have a background check and be registered under the scheme.

The exclusion of people with a known history of certain behaviour is a fundamental part of creating safe environments for vulnerable people. The premise of background checking under the act is that the past behaviour of an individual can provide an indication of the possible future behaviour of that individual. Examples or patterns of abusive or inappropriate behaviour can sometimes be evident in information available for assessment, which includes an individual's criminal record. This information is used to undertake a risk assessment which informs whether an applicant can be registered under the scheme.

Since the commencement of the scheme in November 2012 there have been more than 140,000 registrations issued by Access Canberra with approximately 95,000 current registrations. This is more than double the initial forecast total of 42,000 registrations over the six-year implementation. Feedback and operational experience suggest that employers have adopted a blanket approach, requiring all employees and volunteers to register, regardless of their role in the organisation.

The comprehensive nature of this scheme makes it a key component of the suite of protective mechanisms put in place by the ACT government to protect children and vulnerable people. This scheme is in addition to the recently established reportable conduct scheme, fit and proper person checks, accreditation and registration.

The terms of reference for the legislative review required the following issues to be considered: whether the operation of the act was fit for purpose, whether the scope of the scheme is appropriate and the regulatory burden is proportionate for protecting vulnerable people, whether the resources allocated to administer the act are sufficient for the scheme to operate appropriately and whether amendments to the act are needed to improve its operation and administration.

Another key consideration of the review has been to respond to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse *Working with Children Checks* report. Key recommendations coming out the royal commission's work are for jurisdictions to harmonise their approach to working with children checks. The ACT has been engaging with all jurisdictions to progress this work. Increased information-sharing between jurisdictions is an important first step towards harmonisation.

Current legislation prevents information-sharing between jurisdictions and the legislative review has recommended to proceed with changes to the act to enable the development of cross-jurisdictional information-sharing provisions. The recommendation to enable the act to share information will prepare the territory for a national approach to sharing and receiving information in relation to background checks for children, noting the ACT's scheme has a broader remit for vulnerable people.

Many of the recommendations of this legislative review position the ACT to deliver on the royal commission's recommendations where no national agreement is required. These changes will be pursued, noting that information-sharing will be enabled once a governance protocol is developed that reflects agreed arrangements between jurisdictions. National harmonisation of working with children checks requires national agreement, and changes to the act will be required in the future. These further changes will be brought forward as part of the second legislative review required under the act following its seventh year of operation.

The review was overseen by an inter-directorate committee comprising the Community Services Directorate, Access Canberra, and the Health, Education, Justice and Community Safety and Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development directorates.

Community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken to inform the legislative review. The Nous Group was engaged to conduct a series of stakeholder consultations and a subsequent targeted survey, distributed via peak organisations. This was undertaken to elicit further feedback from the business community and from vulnerable people and their carers. The findings and issues identified as part of stakeholder consultation have informed the recommendations of the legislative review.

There are 26 recommendations for legislative amendments proposed in this review across five themes. These themes are: increasing protections for vulnerable people, strengthening information-sharing capabilities, relieving administrative burden to

employers and Access Canberra, strengthening compliance and monitoring, and risk assessment guidelines and definitions.

A key recommendation of the review is the extension of the registration period from three years to five years. Implemented in conjunction with increased compliance measures, this recommendation would maintain protections for vulnerable people while significantly reducing the regulatory and administrative burden on applicants, people registered under the scheme, employers and Access Canberra. This proposed change would make the scheme consistent with New South Wales and Victoria, which have recently extended their registration period for working with children checks to five years and will assist in the national work towards harmonisation of working with children check schemes, as recommended by the royal commission.

Throughout the drafting of amended legislation and development of an implementation plan to progress this recommendation, further work with Access Canberra will be required to examine the additional safeguards needed to underpin the extension of the registration period to five years. This work will also include ongoing discussions with ACT Policing, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, the Human Rights Commission and the ACT law courts to examine the potential to achieve live monitoring safeguards.

The second major recommendation proposed in the legislative review is the introduction of disqualifying offences. This is a key measure aimed at increasing safeguards for the protection of vulnerable people by seeking to exclude people with relevant and serious criminal history from the scheme automatically. This recommendation will position the ACT well in relation to national harmonisation of working with children check schemes and provide a greater level of protection to vulnerable people. Importantly, the ACT government will continue to engage with the Human Rights Commission to examine the potential human rights implications and ensure that there are no unintended consequences from this recommendation.

It is important to acknowledge that Access Canberra, which has responsibility for the administration of the scheme, is a key stakeholder in relation to the recommendations contained in this legislative review. Access Canberra has agreed in principle to undertake an operational review of risk assessment and scheme guidelines subject to consideration as part of the 2018-19 budget process to ensure alignment of the scheme's administration with the revised regulatory framework.

The remaining recommendations put forward in the legislative review are administrative and seek to improve the operational efficiency of the scheme, improve information-sharing within the ACT and with other jurisdictions and reduce regulatory burden on applicants and employers.

The act forms an important part of the government's commitment to community safety by legislating to protect vulnerable people. We must continue to review and adapt our approaches to ensure we have the best measures in place to continue to protect children and vulnerable people from the risk of sexual, physical, emotional or financial harm or neglect.

I am pleased to table the first legislative review of the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 today and look forward to bringing forward amended legislation based on its findings in due course.

## **Public transport**

### **Discussion of matter of public importance**

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

The importance of having good public transport for all areas of Canberra.

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (3.42): I rise to speak on this matter of public importance: the importance of good public transport for all areas of Canberra. What I find when I ride the bus in this town, and the feedback that I get from constituents who ride the bus, is that, by and large, if you are going from town centre to town centre the service provided is more than adequate. That is good. That is what we want.

If I want to get a bus from here to Tuggeranong Town Centre, ideally I would stroll out and catch the 314 or the 315, I think, just here on London Circuit. I can do that pretty much every 10 minutes of the day and it will take me about 50 minutes. That is a winner. That is good. I do note that there have been some further improvements in the rapid network and, again, that is exceptional.

Where the problem arises is the inter-suburban travel. Certainly the feedback that I am getting from constituents is that there are some big shortfalls in our transport system in that area, I dare say on a number of fronts. They are things that the minister has heard time and time again, but we are here to mention them again. The great problems in public transport planning seem to be in the area of suburban links.

This came up during evidence in a recent committee hearing into ACT cemeteries. The point was made that if you live in the Lanyon Valley and you have a loved one buried at Gungahlin Cemetery, if you do not have access to a car your journey to Mitchell will be long and arduous.

When I punched the journey into my phone this morning the first option it gave me—we plucked an address out of the blue, I think on Harry Hopman Circuit at Gordon. We had a 300 metre walk to Knoke Avenue before catching the 18 to Lanyon Marketplace, the 313 to the city bus station and then the 56 to Sandford Street before walking for over 1 kilometre uphill to the cemetery. The whole journey was 2 hours and 3 minutes. So we are talking in theory about a four-hour round trip to visit your loved one buried in your own home city. I do not know if that works for me. That seems a bit big. And don't anyone believe for a single moment that the gold-plated billion-dollar light rail line to Gungahlin is going to make any difference at all to that journey. As has been exceptionally well publicised, there is no stop in Mitchell.

The recent changes made to timetables have not assisted. In fact what I am hearing is that for many individuals these changes have made bus travel much more difficult. I ride the bus from time to time. I do not ride it often, so I have to take the feedback that I am getting from constituents as being what is going on.

Alice wrote to me from Bonython to say that the only positive from the bus timetable changes was that it had finally motivated her 18-year-old son to get off his backside and get his licence. Why? Because the new timetable would add hours each week of bus travel time for him to get to his part-time job at Lanyon. He had, on a number of occasions, chosen to walk because it was quicker than taking the bus, and it is quite a walk from Bonython to Lanyon. When the minister gave her ministerial statement on this topic this morning she talked about the government encouraging more active travel. I do not think that that is what she was talking about. I do not think she was talking about making the bus trip so unviable that it forces people to walk.

I heard from James in Calwell, who had this to say:

Hi Mark, can you please get a response from the Minister ... on how they can justify students travel time from Calwell on weekday afternoons have doubled.

I must confess that I have not passed this on to the minister's office. This is the first time, so I will provide some information. James says:

For example my 3 children catch the 71 northbound from Calwell to Erindale at approx 3:30 (school finish at 3:05pm). They then have to wait until 4:25 for the connecting 64. Equating to nearly 1.5 hours to get home. Prior to the timetable change children were home with 30 to 35 minutes (71 at 3.20 and connecting 64 at 3.35pm). How can the minister justify this mess, and reduce services during what would be classed as peak time, and a trip that by car is no more than 11 minutes?

We are getting some feedback, and the overwhelming feedback that we are getting from constituents is that this latest round of changes to the bus network is making their lives more difficult. Rather than working on a single direct bus, the new network forces more transfers. We just do not think commuters should have to continually change buses and modes of transport to make a simple journey or have their journey time unreasonably extended.

This government believes it has a mandate to do anything. That is how it seems; that they do not have to consult, they do not have to comply with parliamentary conventions, they do not have to comply with planning guidelines and they certainly do not have to talk to people about bus routes.

The Canberra Liberals took to the 2016 election a comprehensive transport policy underscored by the principle of putting the passenger first. I get the impression that the vast majority of the focus from the other side in this entire transport space is on the massive infrastructure spend on the massive project that we are seeing unfold down Northbourne Avenue, Flemington Road and beyond.

That particular project will not help the people of Oaks Estate. Did someone mention Oaks Estate? Have a go at catching an ACTION bus to Oaks Estate. Oaks Estate advocate Hugh Griffin has been making some extremely valid points when it comes to public transport. He again highlighted the government's complete disregard for Oaks Estate in his submission to the recent housing and homelessness summit. He points out that Oaks Estate is the poorest community in the ACT, with 54 per cent of public housing, compared to an ACT average of 7 per cent. Car ownership is low, with the proportion of households without any car over four times higher than the ACT average. Despite this there is no ACTION bus.

I look forward to hearing what other members on both sides of this chamber have to say about this subject that is so important to so many of my constituents.

**MS LEE (Kurrajong) (3.49):** I thank my colleague Mr Parton for bringing on this MPI for debate today on the importance of having good public transport for all areas of Canberra. That I rise today to speak on this topic will probably come as no surprise to this government, and in particular to the minister, as it is an issue I have been very concerned about as a result of the new timetable.

Mr Parton has already pointed out the lack of services in his electorate of Brindabella and also the absence of any services, including public transport, for an area in my own electorate of Kurrajong. I refer of course to Oaks Estate, which gets forgotten regularly, not least because it has been presumed to be in New South Wales by one or more government members.

Many constituents have raised various concerns with me about public transport but, given my 10-minute time limit, I will talk about the cancellation of the No 5 bus, which is having a huge impact on the residents of Narrabundah. The first that many residents knew of the impending cancellation of this service was when my team letterboxed households in the affected areas.

I received a huge response—in fact the biggest response I have had on any issue since I have been an elected member—and even a request from Labor member for Canberra Gai Brodtmann's office to explain what was going on, because she had also received numerous complaints about the cancellation of this service. I want to read out some of the comments I received. One resident wrote:

Firstly thank you for your notification by mail advising of the cancellation of bus no 5.

I am writing with deep concern to the proposed discontinuation of the Narrabundah bus No 5 as at 9th October. I live opposite the bus stop on Kootara Crescent and know how many people utilise that bus, including a down syndrome boy who lives in a community group house in Nimbin Street and he has caught that bus into Civic daily for the past 25 years to work at Koomari. There are also a lot of elderly people in my street that depend on that bus and are used to the current route. I am appalled at this decision. The Government encourages people to use buses instead of their own cars (for those who have one) and then makes ridiculous decisions which make it more difficult for people

to get from A to B, Canberra already has a terrible transport system, so why make it worse. There does not appear to have been any consultation between the Minister and the Narrabundah community and quite frankly I am furious about it. My land rates have gone up extensively over the past couple of years and I know this is partly to fund the light rail which only benefits the residents of Gungahlin in its first stage, then to have our bus discontinued is unbelievable.

Another wrote:

Thank you for your concern and efforts relating to the changing bus routes in Narrabundah. Your approach is in sharp contrast to the Chief Minister's dismissive attitude to this issue during his most recent talkback session on ABC Canberra radio.

My husband and I have lived in Narrabundah for the last 20 years. This area was specifically chosen because as non-drivers we have to rely on public transport for work, shopping and leisure. Our closest bus stop is at Kootara and Keira, which gives us (for the next 10 days) all sorts of options and possibilities which cover most of our transport needs and wants. The greatest problem with the new service will be the lack of a direct bus route to/from Woden, which for many Narrabundah locals is the only larger shopping centre accessible by public transport.

Suggesting that a possible 30-minute wait for a connecting bus is improving the service is somewhat close to Winston Churchill's "terminological inexactitude". Imagine doing that with heavy shopping, a pram or a walking frame ... in the rain or heat ...

Another wrote:

I'm new to Griffith and just started catching the number 5 bus to Russell, only for the service to disappear days later. The letter you sent out regarding the changes to the bus timetable certainly struck a chord with me, as the new routes 4 and 6 certainly will not work.

My commute time has gone from 15-20 minutes to 35-40 minutes and now involves swapping buses or a very long walk—despite a reasonably short distance to work.

I have abandoned catching the bus on this basis.

Is there anything that can be done to voice concerns and request reinstatement of previous service?

Another wrote:

Thank you for your letter to Narrabundah residents regarding changes to bus routes. I am dismayed to learn that the ACT Labor Government has decided to cancel Action Buses route 5 and weekend route 938. I ask you to do whatever you can to encourage them to revoke this decision.

The buses servicing Narrabundah are a vital part of the daily lives of the two adolescents living in my house. They are active young people who rely on the bus network to lead fulfilling lives.

I have been a resident of the ACT for 34 years and have watched it grow and develop with a mixture of pride and sadness. At the same time that the government is opening the inner suburbs to higher-density development, it is cutting essential bus services. Downgrading transport options for Narrabundah residents is inconsistent with the objective of accommodating denser housing while protecting the environment.

And it is a decision that directly impacts the young, the disadvantaged and the frail elderly in the inner south.

Thank you for supporting the community.

The Old Narrabundah Community Council wrote to the minister saying, *inter alia*:

We have a high percentage of both ACT Housing and Community Housing properties in our area—30% and rising—providing homes for our most vulnerable. We are concerned that the ACT Government is restricting access for Narrabundah residents to the Rapid Route 6, impacting on residents' access to essential services like physiotherapy, podiatry, scans, blood tests, substance addiction rehabilitation and mental health support.

Since the ONCC was formed we have not fielded as many complaints and cries for help as we have received in the last month over the cancellation of Route 5. We have heard from some families with small children that will now have to purchase a second car to enable them to get to work on time. We have a severely disabled full time resident of a care home who will now need many hours of re-education to be able to access his job in Russell. This has caused much distress for his elderly mother and carers in the home.

A notice I saw taped up on the window at a café at the Narrabundah shops says: "If you don't want our public transport cut off, email the minister."

This is only a handful of the feedback I have received from constituents; there are of course many more. When I asked the minister in question time on 13 September what consultation had been undertaken with bus patrons prior to unilaterally cancelling the service, her response was, "Information is being made available to residents now." First, let us not forget the countless residents who have said the first they heard about the cancellation of the service was through the letterboxing efforts of my team. I am not sure they will agree with the minister's claims that the information is indeed being made available to residents now.

Second, I am not sure that simply telling residents what they have lost constitutes consultation. Certainly telling them when the government has already decided to cut the service does not do much to make my constituents feel valued or that their transport needs are being met.



Third, despite these concerns being raised time and time again—and the minister cannot deny that these have been raised with her, as I have been cc'd in on just some of the complaints made to her office—she has failed to accept that perhaps the government got it wrong, that perhaps she should have consulted with patrons, that perhaps she should have done better.

Time and time again the minister has steadfastly said nothing but to repeat how awesome the changes are, how beneficial the changes are for all Canberrans. This flies in the face of numerous constituents who have pleaded with me to do something to get the minister to listen. Only yesterday the minister boldly stated, “We are delivering a complete redesign of our bus network to deliver a faster and easier seven-day-a-week service for everyone in Canberra” and “One of the major improvements to the 2018 network will be increased frequency and better connections so that Canberrans will be able to just turn up at a bus stop and go where they need to.” I have to ask: Minister, can you look a Narrabundah resident in the eye and say that?

Perhaps if you live in Gungahlin or along the train tracks and close to a tram stop and only want to go to another tram stop, you will be satisfied with what the government is delivering for you. But, as we have heard from Mr Parton, for many residents in Tuggeranong, public transport is not working. As I am sure you will hear if Mrs Kikkert gets a chance, for many residents in Belconnen, public transport is not working. And for many residents in the inner south, public transport is not working. I thank Mr Parton for bringing this MPI today. It is an important issue and one that the Canberra Liberals will continue to advocate for.

**MS FITZHARRIS** (Yerrabi—Minister for Health, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (3.58): I, too, thank Mr Parton for bringing forward this matter of public importance today because, as has been discussed on many occasions in this chamber and indeed across the community, better public transport in Canberra is something that is important to many. As Mr Parton knows, the ACT government is making significant investments in Canberra's future transport network to support our growing city. These investments will help to consolidate the move towards an integrated transport network and achieve the government's vision of a compact, connected, competitive and sustainable city.

The benefits of integrated public transport for our community are substantial and go well beyond getting a person from A to B. They include social inclusion, driving economic development, maintaining livability and, of course, reducing congestion and carbon emissions. An integrated public transport network also makes it easier for Canberrans to take more active transport options between work and home and opportunities for incidental exercise. Linking residential development with areas of employment, retail and entertainment helps build mixed-use precincts and a sense of place for our community. Indeed, it brings people together.

Madam Assistant Speaker, as you know, last year the Labor government established Transport Canberra with a clear mandate: to deliver the ACT government's vision of a quality public transport system. Of course, the first stage of light rail will free up a

million bus kilometres and we are putting these to work to deliver a faster and easier public transport network that will reduce congestion and protect our livability as our city grows.

Transport Canberra introduced a new bus network earlier this month, and many comments have been made which I will respond to in just a moment. The network changes are the first of a series of improvements towards us developing an integrated public transport system and delivering that for the nation's capital. We have altered some of those peak services to allow for considerable roadworks across our city and improved bus frequency to allow for a better journey for passengers.

Comments have been made about the October changes. I note that some of those comments from the opposition did not mention services in your electorate, Mr Assistant Speaker, the green rapid, the first time there has been a third rapid route providing public transport in Canberra. It goes through the inner south and into the city. And the black rapid is the first rapid service between Belconnen and Gungahlin.

In response to the changes for Narrabundah residents, Ms Lee is incorrect. I have acknowledged on a number of occasions, including in emails that I have responded to from people and many members of this Assembly, that such a service change will have an impact and that we could have done a better job communicating those. Perhaps one of the reasons some Narrabundah residents were so confused was because of some of the other information they were receiving in addition to that provided by Transport Canberra. Ms Lee noted in her comments the lack of services along Kootara Crescent. If she looks at the new network she will see that route 4 captures Kootara Crescent. In hindsight, rather than referring to the cancellation of route 5 we should have instead done a better job to inform Narrabundah residents that they were getting an upgraded route 4 and an upgraded route 6 as new services in their suburb providing increased frequency in Narrabundah and significantly increased connections.

We continue to look at ways we can inform the Narrabundah community about the changes. Route 5 has been a service many people have been used to for some time. For many residents, including those on Kootara Crescent—where there is a bus service provided—there has been very little change to their service. There remains a bus service along Kootara Crescent, and I note that Ms Lee mentioned that in her previous comments. Significant information has been provided to Narrabundah residents. As I have said in response to much of the correspondence that I have received, we will continue to work with the Narrabundah community about the changes and how they have affected them.

I also note that I have received a number of messages of gratitude and thanks for the introduction of the green rapid, including from a number of residents of Narrabundah and what I know locals call Old Narrabundah as well. The opposition, as is their job, are inclined to let us know of concerns in the community and may not as often receive those congratulatory messages the government receives. I acknowledge that any network change brings change, and if we can learn anything from this it is that in suburbs where there has been a service for a considerable period of time we can do a better job.

Last week I opened the Dickson bus interchange and I was extremely pleased to mention the nine rapid services the government took to the election. I noted Mr Parton spoke of “a comprehensive public transport plan” that the opposition took to last year’s election. Well, I would argue—as I think most Canberrans would—that that was not a comprehensive plan. It included a number of rapid bus services, which was a tremendous improvement on any previous Canberra Liberals transport plan—apart, of course, from Mrs Dunne’s past keen support for light rail—but it did not provide any costings or any information on how they would achieve that wonderful eight-lane concrete highway along Northbourne Avenue. If the opposition were in government today we would not be seeing work along Northbourne Avenue to deliver a beautiful public transport system; we would see the Canberra Liberals struggling to pay for the \$200 million to \$300 million bill to Canberra Metro for tearing up that contract and to deal with continued ongoing congestion on Canberra’s busiest road.

I certainly welcome the Canberra Liberals’ recognition—in what was probably a step forward for them—that Canberra can be a city for public transport and not just a city built for the car. Public transport is working now and will work even better in the future. One of the reasons for that is because not only will Labor deliver the nine rapid public transport routes across the city but it will deliver them two years ahead of schedule. That is a remarkable achievement. I thank all those people in Transport Canberra who worked very hard to work with the government to find a way not only to deliver those services but to deliver them two years ahead of schedule.

Mr Parton will be pleased to know there will be two rapid services from his electorate along both the eastern and western parts. Mr Parton is looking a bit puzzled over there. If he has not yet seen the new rapid network, I will find a way to drop a copy off to his office. But Canberrans right across the territory will see a rapid bus or a light rail route near them. We have always said that Labor’s commitment was to deliver better public transport no matter where you live in Canberra, and we are going to do that two years ahead of time. In the next week or so I look forward to opening public consultation in a first stage of the new rapid network. We will be seeking Canberrans’ views on how they would best like to connect to our rapid network.

As Ms Lee quoted me, a rapid network is one where you can just turn up at a bus stop or a light rail stop and there will be a service for you within 15 minutes, 7 am to 7 pm, Monday to Friday, as well as increased frequencies of those exact same routes with the exact same numbers on the weekend. The consultation that the government did with the Canberra community last year clearly showed that Canberrans want simple timetables, faster travel between destinations and a simplified network. We look forward to opening that first stage of consultation on how Canberrans would best like to connect to the rapid network. Early next year we will take the results of that consultation and open stage 2 of the consultations, which will more specifically look at each of the local services connecting to the rapid bus routes.

I could talk extensively about the light rail project, but it is very clear that work is well underway. I was thrilled today to join three University of New South Wales second year engineering students who are getting hands-on, real life experience on the light rail project with Canberra Metro as we speak. They have been doing it a couple

of days a week for a few months, and they are going to be working full time on this project with engineers with world-class experience. That is just another part of the light rail project that is bringing so many benefits to our city. I could talk more on active travel—I know Mr Parton has a keen interest in that—but I thank Mr Parton for bringing this motion forward.

**MS CODY** (Murrumbidgee) (4.08): Thank you, Mr Parton; what a fantastic matter of public importance: public transport for Canberra. I am a keen advocate to ensure that Canberra has some of the best public transport, and Ms Fitzharris has just finished saying that we are delivering. I spoke about this yesterday in my motion. Public transport across Canberra has improved dramatically. As I have said numerous times before, I grew up in this city and I remember that the old Woden bus interchange was pretty run down and ordinary. Growing up in Kambah, Woden was our closest shopping centre, and it would take about 45 to 50 minutes, sometimes an hour and a half, to get from Kambah to Woden. That is an awfully long time. Now you can do it in about 15 minutes on a bus, maybe 20, and maybe half an hour on a weekend. That is pretty good to get from Kambah to Woden; it does not take very long.

I thank Mr Parton for all of the positive information he provided about our wonderful Canberra public transport network. Mr Parton has been really positive in what has been a somewhat negative opposition this week, so it was really lovely to hear some great positive stories, particularly about the rapid transport services but public transport in Canberra in general.

Mr Assistant Speaker, you were with me over the weekend when we were approached by many residents in the new Molonglo suburbs who could not thank the government enough for the wonderful new bus services that have made life so much easier for them. Getting from the Molonglo Valley into the city then to Barton has become a much easier option on a bus for many, many residents I know you, too, Mr Assistant Speaker, were given that same feedback over the weekend, which was really encouraging.

It is great that we are working so closely in having Transport Canberra and city services in one portfolio and having the one minister responsible for both areas. Public transport in this city cannot happen on its own; it needs to be planned well and it needs to be included in some of the new design and work that goes along with road maintenance so we have the ability to ensure that our new suburbs flourish. We have seen that a lot over the last little while.

Like Minister Fitzharris, I think light rail is great. I was pleased to hear her talk about the engineering students who have joined from the University of New South Wales. I have been lucky enough to meet with Engineers Australia on numerous occasions, and to offer students the ability to work on such a ground-breaking infrastructure project here in Canberra is fantastic. I applaud the government for doing that; it is wonderful.

Delivering light rail to our area in Woden will help people from further south in the Tuggeranong suburbs by making their travel to the city and Belconnen and Gungahlin much more reliable, faster and more economical.

I was pleased to hear Minister Fitzharris saying we are delivering the rapid transport two years ahead of schedule. I have in my notes that light rail will free up a number of buses, and that is fantastic because it will improve our bus network. But we have not been forced to wait for this. The new buses are here and doing their job. New buses have arrived and new services have been introduced. We have the green rapid, the black rapid, the extended blue rapid to Lanyon Marketplace and the red rapid running all weekend, which are bringing frequency down to every 15 minutes. That is pretty good.

The service improvement on the Weston line has been phenomenal. Patronage has increased by 23 per cent, and that includes the extension to Denman Prospect. So 23 per cent is nothing to be sneezed at in getting more people in cars off the road, making it better for our environment and providing a much faster way to travel. Overall this month patronage is up by three per cent. I know three per cent does not sound like much to some, but that is still an increase and nothing to be sneezed at. We have gone from 17,767,194 boardings in 2013-14 to being on track for 18.4 million boardings this year. That is a pretty impressive number of people boarding buses in the ACT. It is great to see.

I also want to talk about the frequency of the buses and the ease of catching them. I have caught buses a few times to and from work, and it has been wonderful to see. Today I witnessed a group of people getting together in Dickson and jumping on a bus.

**Mr Parton:** Friends of mine.

**MS CODY:** There you go, Mr Parton. They jumped on a bus and, as it turns out they came down here to the city to the Assembly. They wanted to talk to one of our Assembly colleagues who is not actually here at the moment, and he did not appear outside either. It was really interesting because they made it down here, they had a bit of a show out the front I believe, they then jumped back on the bus and headed back up Northbourne Avenue to Dickson and did all of that in their lunch break. These are private industry workers who do not get long lunch breaks like some of us can and do; they have a very limited time for their break. Yet they managed to get on a bus in Dickson, come down to the Assembly, do their business, get on a bus back to Dickson, have some lunch and be back at work in their prescribed lunch break. I reckon that is a pretty efficient public transport system.

I also want to pay tribute to everyone who works to deliver our public transport network, and it is quite an impressive list of people. We have the drivers, and we all know we could not get from A to B without them because they drive the buses. They are wonderful. They have great working conditions: a happy, healthy and safe working environment, which makes for happy bus drivers. The TWU work really hard to advocate for our drivers in Canberra and it is great to know that providing happy, safe and effective working conditions provides us with happy, safe bus drivers. That then means when you get on the bus you get a happy bus driver; it makes your patronage much more fun.

Once again I thank Mr Parton for bringing this matter forward because it is really important to ensure that Canberra has a great public transport network. The government is delivering on that and is working to improve on it by providing infrastructure like light rail. But also it is really important for us to thank Mr Parton for being so positive in some of the earlier comments he was making about the current bus routes. I know in this job it is a little harder to catch a bus than we would all like, but a number of members in this place do get on a bus: I know Ms Le Couteur often catches buses, Mr Gentleman, Mr Parton even said he does, Ms Fitzharris and Ms Cheyne, and I have even gotten on a bus every so often. There you go. Many members of this place get on buses, and I encourage more people both in the public and in the chamber to catch our wonderful public transport.

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (4.18): I must thank Mr Parton for bringing on this MPI. It is great, as always, to have a discussion about public transport in Canberra. It is really great to have such a positive discussion on the basis that we want more of it. I think that would be the universal message of everybody who has spoken today. It is great and we want more.

Before I talk a little more about Canberra issues, I would first like to bring to the Assembly's attention the Facebook group that transport and urban planning nerds like my office manager seem to spend too much of their personal time on. The group is called "New urbanist memes for transit-oriented teens". If you are interested in reading about what thousands of 20-something-year-olds are whining about in respect of the finer points of bus station design, this is the place to go. But if you are—

**Mr Parton:** What is it called, sorry?

**MS LE COUTEUR:** New urbanist memes for transit-oriented teens. It has been recommended to me by my office manager. However, I am afraid that when governments develop public transport plans they cannot take it all from Facebook. The biggest struggle everywhere is to reconcile the inherent conflict between covering everybody so that there is some service at some time but ensuring that there is quality and speed of service.

When you are faced with limited resources, as government always is, you inevitably have to choose between a public transport system that serves everybody poorly or a lesser number of people served well. In the ACT context we talk about the rapid services versus the suburban services. The rapid services are a good service but not for everybody. We can do suburban services that will get close to everybody, but they are not going to get close to everybody very often. This is a choice that every government ends up making. This is a choice clearly where efficiency and equity do not always agree.

If you are talking about the cheapest bums on seats, it is the rapid routes. That gets more of us going places on buses, and that is great. But then there are people, as Ms Lee and Mr Parton have highlighted, who will not be served by this approach.

So most cities like Canberra adopt some sort of multi-modal approach. You have high frequency, high capacity trunk routes—rail or express bus lines—and low frequency support services, which are almost always bus routes. We are making that clearer with the light rail, but we have had the beginnings of the rapid network with the 300 and 200 services for some time.

Unfortunately, it seems the only proven solution to the conflict is to be an older city. If your city was built before, say, 1900, it would have been built with walking in mind. These are the so-called human-scale cities. Places like New York, Tokyo, most European capitals and even inner-city Sydney and Melbourne are built to a certain density with a varied mixed of residential, commercial and industrial zones so people can walk to where they want to go.

Human-scale cities do public transport. Density is high and there are good places you can walk to. Residents are already used to walking and cycling and are more likely to take public transport, especially if they do not own a car. My daughter lived for many years in Hanover in Germany. She did not own a car. Her friends did not own cars. Nobody owned cars.

But Canberra is not a human-scale city. It is basically a car-scale city, which is one of our major transport challenges. We are changing this, however. Some of our developments have not been as good as we might have liked. But the densification of Civic and along the Northbourne corridor should help to get people out of their cars and on to our footpaths. The revitalisation of Haig Park and Garema Place will both help to make a human-scale corridor in the inner north.

Likewise, the \$300 million for active transport—sorry, it is not \$300 million; in my dreams. That is probably what we should spend. The \$30 million for active transport the ACT Greens negotiated in the parliamentary agreement will start to pay dividends over this term by supporting cyclists and pedestrians to get to work, to school and the shops. I was just looking at Pedal Power's newsletter. I think they were looking for \$128 million to address cycling needs. Yes, we need to do more.

Looking at the smaller scale, I, as well as the Liberal members, have been contacted by residents who are concerned about the recent changes to bus schedules, particularly for elderly residents of the inner south. While for many of us a minor scheduling change or route change may seem inconsequential, and it could be inconsequential at the macro scale compared to improving bus reliability or improving access for a majority of potential bus users, these changes can impact people in real and meaningful ways.

I am not advocating for a moment stopping the changes towards the rapid network. The changes proposed are sensible. This is one of the real pluses of the MyWay data. We at last have enough data to see where people start, where they transfer, where they are going to and design a system which is actually going to work for a lot of people.

But we have to acknowledge that these changes will not work for everybody. Even if overall the changes are positive, there are some people for whom the changes are not

positive. In Narrabundah, which we have talked about at some length, the change from a local bus service to the green rapid has left a number of regular bus users—people with mobility issues, children, elderly people, people with a disability—having to walk possibly a lot further, or possibly wait a lot longer, for their bus in terms of transit times between one place and another.

For some people this is not a big issue. They are physically capable of walking or the timetable works for them. But that is not the case for all residents. Some of them cannot walk that sort of distance. For some of them, the wait time becomes prohibitive. For all of us who are bus users, I think we actually need to be considerate about the amount of time that it takes to travel using buses.

Mr Parton's example of 2½ hours each way was extraordinary. I did not realise it would be quite that bad. But we have to take quite seriously how long people take to do a fairly normal bus trip. It is only 3½ hours to take the bus from Canberra to Sydney. That is another way of looking at it. That, of course, is a rapid bus. It only stops at the two ends.

Given that there are reasonable complaints about the reduction of coverage of suburban services, it is important that the government this year, as part of the parliamentary agreement, committed to, and in fact already has, expand the flexi-bus service to the inner north. The flexi-bus cannot replace the independence, regularity and familiarity of the local bus service. Of course, many people, fortunately from their point of view, are not people for whom the flexi-bus service is an option. They are simply not vulnerable enough. They are simply independent enough. But this is an option for our more vulnerable residents. I think it is really great and it is vital that it is available.

I will talk about one very current issue that no-one else has talked about as yet. I am a regular bus user and a regular bus runner too, because I am always running late. I was really pleased when Transport Canberra announced the policy of rear-door boarding. This was announced in estimates. The minister confirmed it. That is great. I observed that this happened for a while. The boarding stickers were slowly being removed.

However, in the past couple of weeks this has changed. I and other passengers have been told that rear-door boarding has been cancelled. I guess this is a question I would like to ask the minister. Unfortunately, she is not here but hopefully one of her staff is listening. What is happening with the rear-door boarding policy? Is it a temporary glitch? Are bus drivers voting with their door controls and saying, "No, we do not want you coming in the back"? Has the policy changed? Please, Minister Fitzharris, let us know the answer to this vital bus question.

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (4.28): I am delighted that Mr Parton has brought this matter of public importance before the Assembly this afternoon. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak to it briefly. Recently I spoke with a 13-year-old girl who is a student at one of our ACT public schools in the Belconnen area. She explained to me that since the latest changes to the Transport Canberra timetables, she now has to walk to school every morning. Previously she was able to take the bus, but now her only choices are an early bus that gets her to the school before the doors even open,



meaning she has to wait around outside regardless of the weather, or a late bus that arrives after her first class starts.

I share with the Assembly the difficulty that this young public school student now faces getting to school each day in order to highlight how essential it really is to have good public transport for all areas of Canberra. I worry that those of us in this chamber who make the decisions sometimes forget what it is like to be completely reliant on public transportation. For very many Canberrans, this subject is indeed a matter of public importance.

To highlight this point further, I wish to share a few more public transportation concerns that constituents have shared with me. A number of residents in Latham have raised with me the difficulty they have accessing Transport Canberra buses on the weekends. On week days the bus route includes Macrossan Crescent, but the weekend service completely skips over this loop. This means that the nearest bus stop to residents who live in or near this crescent is located more than one kilometre away in Onslow Street.

For an older child or younger adult, this is an estimated 16 to 20-minute walk. But a number of older Canberrans live in this area of Latham. They have told me that the hike to Onslow Street is just too far for someone using a walking stick or a walking frame, or even just for someone whose gait is unsteady or whose joints are a bit stiff. Lack of a good public transportation option leaves these seniors socially isolated each weekend. Worries about confusing and often reduced weekend bus services are, in fact, one of the more common concerns that I hear from constituents in my electorate of Ginninderra.

Others have shared with me, for example, their frustration with the fact that the blue rapid 300 bus travels from Tuggeranong to Kippax on weekdays but not on weekends. This exact same route terminates at Belconnen requiring passengers to transfer to another route, including the waiting that that entails. I realise that many of those who work in this building travel reliably Monday through Friday, but many Canberrans do not.

Nurses, shop assistants, servicers, aged-care workers, cooks, disability workers and so many others work across the entire seven-day week, often with rosters that are constantly changing. Many of them have said that the weekday and weekend bus routes and timetables are so different that basically they have to master two different bus networks. Sometimes getting to or from work on the weekends simply is not possible.

One west Belconnen resident said that he had to give up his much-needed weekend shifts because the only way home afterward was in a taxi, which took nearly all of the money he earned by working that shift. Just this morning, I heard from another Canberra resident who has given up on public transportation entirely. She previously used a Transport Canberra bus to get to and from work, a distance of not quite eight kilometres. The trip used to take her a maximum of 20 minutes. Now with the latest network changes, her travel time comes in at just under an hour. This woman thankfully has the option of using private transportation and so can continue working.

But for a number of reasons she would prefer not be adding to the congestion on Canberra's roads or the pollution in our air. This woman wishes to do the right thing.

Bec Cody mentioned before that the public transportation has improved. I wish you to tell these people—all the shift workers and those who work on weekends who struggle with public transportation—that transportation has improved. I wish you to tell the elderly who find a one-kilometre hike to a bus stop just too far.

**MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Mrs Kikkert, the time for the matter of public importance has expired.

*Discussion concluded.*

## **Adjournment**

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

## **Plan Australia #GirlsTakeover**

**MS LEE** (Kurrajong) (4.33): On 11 October I was very proud to participate in Plan Australia's #GirlsTakeover program, where a young future woman leader was able to take over my role as an elected member of parliament. I acknowledge the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Ms Lawder, Mrs Jones, Minister Berry, Ms Cheyne and Ms Le Couteur, who also allowed a girl to take over their role. I know that Ms Cheyne spoke about this in the adjournment debate on Tuesday. It was a speech very beautifully written by Linda, I think her name is, who took over her role. Unfortunately, unlike Ms Cheyne I did not have the foresight to get my speech written for me, so I will try to do my best in my own words.

Ashleigh Streeter, who was with me for the day, along with Caitlin Figueiredo, whom Ms Cheyne and I have previously spoken about in this chamber, were the amazing young women who organised for the girls to take over the ACT Legislative Assembly and Parliament House, starting with breakfast at the Assembly and being put on the spot to make a short speech, preparing a briefing note for a bill coming up for debate, a mobile office at the Narrabundah shops and writing a speech for ANU UniLodge's valet was all in a day's work for Ashleigh.

I also bravely handed my Twitter account over to Ashleigh, who had no hesitation whatsoever in tweeting away everything she was doing that day. I think that as an Assembly we were all proud to be the first parliament in Australia and, indeed, the commonwealth to achieve a female majority and show the world that—as it says on the postcard that hangs on my office pinboard as a daily reminder—a woman's place is in parliament.

I thank Ashleigh and Caitlin for their dedication in creating opportunities, mentoring and inspiring young girls to feel that nothing should be out of their reach. I am glad that Ashleigh and Caitlin also came back to the Assembly on Monday this week for

the CWP step up event hosted by Madam Speaker and Mrs Jones. So it looks like they were not deterred by having played MLA for a day.

On Friday, 13 October, Ms Cheyne and I were also privileged to participate in the Twitter gender chat, where we were asked questions such as “How can we engage young people in the political process and remove token partnerships?” and “What are your top three tips for young women wanting to be a leader?”. It was a fast-moving chat requiring fast-moving fingers and an even faster moving brain. If some of the responses that Ms Cheyne and I provided in that chat inspire even one young woman to pursue life as a parliamentarian, then I think we can be pretty happy with that.

As the oldest of three girls in my family with a feminist father, I know that I am lucky: I am lucky that I was given every opportunity from a young age to reach my fullest potential; I am lucky that it was instilled in me from a young age that nothing is out of my reach; and I am lucky that my good health, access to world-class education and opportunities to engage with my community have allowed me to stand here today. But there are many young girls who do not have those opportunities or encouragement. Programs like #GirlsTakeover are important to reach these girls and young women to show them that they are valued by the community they strive to serve.

I say to any girl or young woman who is even considering dreaming about a leadership role in our community: go for it, because you have so much to give and we as a community have so much to gain from you.

### **Same-sex marriage postal survey**

**MS CHEYNE** (Ginninderra) (4.37): I rise today to encourage any Canberran who has not yet returned their marriage equality postal survey to do so and to do so by tomorrow. There has been an incredible response to the survey, with three out of four Australians having had their say, but we know that younger Australians are under-represented in that figure, and I put a special call out to them.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is frankly abhorrent that we are being surveyed on a fundamental human right: judging other people’s relationships and their right to marry. It has been an incredibly difficult period for a large part of our community—our friends, family and colleagues. But it is happening, and the best response is an overwhelming response of yes.

I have been very clear in my support. I have doorknocked, attended rallies and held street stalls. Sometimes I have been more subtle or symbolic in my support, such as wearing a pin. I have expanded my collections of earrings, stickers, posters, flags, magnets and more. I am very grateful to the marriage equality campaign and especially to the union movement for their support with much of this material.

I accept that on occasion I have pushed the boundaries in my support and my symbolism, but I have always tried to be respectful. However, particularly over recent weeks I have found myself targeted with comments and also the removal without my knowledge, until I later discovered it, of some of my material. I know that it is nothing; it does not even scratch the surface compared to what the

LGBTIQ community is facing every day. But I certainly did not expect that rainbows would cause people so much offence. Frankly, it made me feel like absolute rubbish when I discovered what has been happening.

But in some ways I am glad it has happened, because this small insight and how I have felt about it has given me some understanding of what the LGBTIQ community goes through every day and has been going through for decades. I pay tribute to their resilience, grace and determination for decades but also over this protracted period of debate over this survey.

Amongst the awfulness there have been moments of real beauty. I have spoken about some of them before in this place. I want to mention today something that happened at 8.10 one Friday morning. A group of Canberrans were gathered at the city interchange, not to meet friends or grab a coffee or even to catch a bus; instead, they were waiting to welcome a bus. Qwire is a community choir for LGBTIQ people and allies. The choir brings people together to share the joy of singing while challenging stereotypes. It aims to use music to build a bridge between the queer and non-queer communities in Canberra.

That morning, Qwire were welcoming one of Canberra's two rainbow buses. As the bus turned into the interchange they launched into their incredibly stirring rendition of Phillip Phillips' *Home*. The message of the song is that you are not alone, that you should not pay any mind to the things that fill you with fear, and that we are going to make this place your home.

I imagine it would be quite nerve-racking breaking into song in the middle of the bus interchange, but Qwire's music rang through the streets strong and proud. Passers-by broke into huge grins and many pulled out their phones, as I did, to capture the amazing display. The power and happiness of this song was infectious, as the singers put their arms around each other, danced, clapped and cried, bringing the song to life and brightening a chilly moment.

It made me very proud as a member of this government to see that Qwire could welcome a rainbow bus into the station. It may only be a bus but I think it served as a much greater symbol to the members of Qwire that morning who were brave enough to take to the streets singing. That bus represented the ACT government's support for them and for the marriage equality cause.

Most importantly I want to acknowledge the many people who stopped to talk to me and share their stories: the man who told me he was waiting for his partner to return from a trip so that they could post their yes votes together; the woman who wanted to see her nephew get married but could not because he had to do it overseas; the countless people who have told me about their friend or relative who has been in a same-sex relationship for decades and deserves their right to marry; and the man who follows me on Twitter who stopped me in the street the other day to say he will never forget this government's support during one of the most difficult periods of his life.

To each and every one of these individuals I say thank you. To everyone else I say please post your survey and make it a yes.

**Horseracing—Single Gaze  
Greyhound racing industry**

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (4.42): I wish, in the first instance, as shadow gaming and racing minister, to extend my congratulations and, I would think, the congratulations of the entire Assembly to the connections of the locally trained horse Single Gaze for running second in the Caulfield Cup and wish Nick Olive, Kathy O'Hara and all the connections—I think most of whom are in Canberra—all the best of luck as they take on the Melbourne Cup from here in Canberra, which is just awesome. Congrats to all those involved with Single Gaze.

I wish to also update the Assembly on the progress of the Community Values Syndicate. I announced it in this chamber late in the day on Tuesday. To refresh people's memory, Mr Ramsay, the regulatory services minister, asserts that this Labor-Greens government is banning greyhound racing here in the ACT because it is out of step with community values. This is despite there being no evidence of animal welfare breaches at all involving the Greyhound Racing Club and despite the fact that there is no public money going to greyhound racing. The government will continue to receive an estimated \$220,000 per year from the turnover of greyhound racing but is not directing a single cent to the sport. It is all about community values but there does not seem to be any evidence around to suggest that greyhound racing is out of step with community values.

In the interests of providing clarity and in the interests of assisting the minister on assessing community perceptions towards greyhound racing I announced the opening of the Community Values Syndicate two days ago. The syndicate will race a greyhound in this region. He is adorable. He does not have a racing name as yet. We call him Nugget. He is as black as night and he loves cuddles and watching TV on the lounge. We call him Nugget because he looks like black shoe polish in the shape of a dog—\$300 per share, 20 available.

Surely when you consider the minister's assertions that greyhound racing is out of step with community values the syndicate was going struggle to find those 20 people to put their money where their mouth is. It took less than an hour for Tania, the syndicate manager, to fill the 20 places. My information is that 100 places could have been found.

This is the sort of response that we got from those putting their hand up. This is an email from one of those:

I am 100% on board—never owned a greyhound, never been interested in greyhound racing.

However, totally against what the ACT government has done in this instance and the way they've gone about it. I suppose like many others, I've been one of the silent majority right behind you guys but sitting on the fence. The clincher yesterday was listening to the Union guy on radio, weaselling his way out of doing anything substantial for the workers in the greyhound industry.

That is from one of those who have put their hand up. And that is the sort of feedback that the syndicate is getting. The silent majority has been watching and they do not like what they see. It is my understanding that paperwork has been completed now to register the syndicate. Tania and Lesley tell me that Nugget should be on his way to Canberra by the end of next week. Good job, Canberra.

### **Plan Australia #GirlsTakeover**

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (4.45): I would also like to talk about the International Day of the Girl Child and the takeover of the ACT Legislative Assembly that occurred on 11 October. Five young women took over, attending various meetings and learning from their assigned MLAs. Yes I was one of the people who had the fortunate foresight to ask if my young woman would like to take over speech writing, and she did, which was great. It was absolutely fantastic to see the Greens, the Labor Party and the Liberal Party all take women into their offices. This reflects our strong tripartisan commitment to gender equity, which is also evident from the fifty-fifty representation of women and men in the Legislative Assembly itself.

Bronte McHenry was the young woman who took over my office for the day. Aside from the fact that she has written this speech, our day consisted of various meetings and discussions about the findings of the *Dream Gap* report which Plan International released to coincide with the day. This report investigated girls' experiences of inequality, their ambitions and their views of gender stereo types.

Of the 1,745 girls aged 10 to 17 who participated in the survey, almost all—98 per cent—said they receive unequal treatment to boys. Almost all—93 per cent—said it would be easier to get ahead in life if they were not judged on their appearance. Perhaps most worryingly, the report showed that as girls get older their confidence decreased dramatically. While 56 per cent of girls view themselves as confident at 10, only 27 per cent do when they reach adulthood.

In addition to the three recommendations outlined in the report which are intended to tackle the gender inequity referenced by the 98 per cent of girls who participated, Bronte and I discussed a proposal of hers which related to the Australian curriculum. Currently there are three cross-curriculum priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia, and sustainability. These priorities were identified as crucial if the Australian curriculum is to be relevant to the lives of students and addresses the contemporary issues they face.

Bronte and I discussed the possibility of a fourth priority: a gender priority. This priority, like the other three, would comprise three key concepts. The first key concept would be to explore the history of the women's movement and the current state of girls' and women's rights around the world. The second key concept could explore gender as a concept, unpacking it and presenting it as a social construct. Gender would be shown as useful, especially for identifying inequality, but by no means a determining factor of success. The third key concept could be aimed at building the capabilities for thinking and acting in ways that are necessary to create a more

gender-equitable future. This could link into respectful relationships, consent, debunking gender stereotypes and teaching every child that they are just as capable and entitled to reach their dreams as everyone else.

Over the next year Bronte will be talking with relevant stakeholders about the feasibility of this fourth priority. She will be creating resources and implementing a gender priority into the curriculum of preschools, primary schools and high schools in the ACT that are willing to participate. An independent agency will then be employed to determine whether these changes have had a positive impact. If there is a positive impact, as we expect there will be, Bronte will look for our support in pushing to make gender a nationally implemented cross-curriculum priority.

I do not think there is anyone here today who would not want girls and boys to feel they have been treated equally and to be treated equally well. Making gender a cross-curriculum priority will ensure that each subject, each class, each cohort and each school is influenced by gender positive messages. If we want every young girl to feel she can reach her dreams and then actually reach them, we need learning environments which are equally accessible for all.

I intend to stay in touch with Bronte and support her in any way I can. I wholeheartedly support her proposal of introducing gender as a cross-curriculum priority in the Australian curriculum. I hope that when the time comes we can all come together again, as we did on 11 October, and stand behind a proposal that would foster a more gender equitable Australia.

### **Same-sex marriage postal survey**

**MR STEEL** (Murrumbidgee) (4.50): It is with pride that I rise to speak for the final time before the marriage equality postal survey closes. We are fortunate to live in an inclusive city. I am incredibly proud of the positive stance that our government has taken in supporting inclusion and marriage equality.

Since my election to the Assembly last year, I have stood alongside our government to foster inclusion in our LGBTI-friendly city. During this campaign I have been vigorously campaigning to ensure that people post their surveys and encourage everyone to support marriage equality. I have been to many shopping centre stalls, and made countless calls with hundreds of volunteers from all walks of life who have been involved in this positive equality campaign.

Twice Michael Pettersson and I braved the cold weather and took to Canberra's thriving nightlife in Civic to help enrol some of the almost 6,000 young Canberrans who have enrolled for the first time to vote and to remind them to return their postal survey before tomorrow.

No matter where I have been on this campaign, I have been met with overwhelming support for marriage equality. But now the time is almost up for all Canberrans to have their own say on making Canberra more inclusive. Surveys must be submitted by tomorrow, 27 October.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 74.5 per cent of all Australians have recognised how absolutely important this decision will be and have submitted their survey forms in the post already. But 25 per cent have not. If you know someone who still has their form in their bag and has not yet submitted it, or if it is on the fridge or the kitchen bench ready to post, the time runs out tomorrow. Submit your survey. Visualise your local post box and make a plan to go down there and post it.

Madam Deputy Speaker, 18- to 34-year-olds are the strongest supporters of marriage equality, but we know that 40 per cent of them have not voted. So this is my call out is to young people in Canberra: this is your last chance to make once in a lifetime generational change. Submit your ballot and contribute to a fairer Australia, a place where all Australians can share in the same dignity and status under law as everyone else.

We knew that this postal survey was going to be divisive and hurtful, and it has been. We knew that the no campaign would throw out as many red herrings as they could, and they have. They have talked about everything else but marriage. But they did not really have a rational argument against marriage equality in the first place.

The harmful effects of this debate have been especially felt on the LGBTIQ community. This was affirmed in mid-September when it was reported that there has been a 20 per cent spike in the number of people accessing LGBTI support services since the postal survey began.

As the Chief Minister has previously stated, it is an appalling concept for people to have their relationship open to debate or judgement, but it is something that we must participate in to ensure that we see equality in the ACT and across Australia. We owe these people. They have had their lives, their relationships and their families come under attack. We need to participate—to submit our surveys; to vote yes—and make sure that our relatives, our friends and co-workers vote yes as well.

We must all remain positive that equality will finally come after these past few weeks of the survey. If we win, we must take a moment to celebrate as well. Attention will then turn to the Federal Parliament to get these laws through. Unfortunately the red herrings that the no campaign has been peddling have already turned to the future marriage legislation. We already have a perfectly good bill in the federal parliament that should be supported immediately. We cannot allow the Tony Abbotts of the world—who would not ever vote for marriage equality regardless of the content of any legislation—to entrench discrimination in a bill.

The losers do not get to dictate terms. They outsourced that responsibility when they initiated this wasteful and divisive survey in the first place. I also believe that if we want to send a message to Tony Abbott, all of us must make sure that we submit our survey forms tomorrow.

## **Children's Week**

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH** (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and



Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (4.54): I rise today to speak on the importance of Children's Week. I start by endorsing the comments of my colleagues, Ms Cheyne and Mr Steel.

Children's Week is a national celebration of children's rights, talents and citizenship. We hold Children's Week around Universal Children's Day, which is marked on the fourth Wednesday of October in Australia. This Children's Week, of course, also marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Children and Young People Commissioner in the ACT.

I was very pleased to be able to attend the birthday party at Woden Youth Centre on Tuesday. It was particularly great to be there with a bunch of 10-year-olds, who had a great time engaging in creative activities that expressed their wishes for the future of Canberra and their own lives in another 10 years time.

The theme of this year's Children's Week is that education has the power to transform children's lives. It is an appropriate time to reflect on the programs that enable Canberra's kids to make a great start in their learning journey, to ensure they have the best possible chance of living a great life.

I was fortunate to attend this year's launch of the *On My First Day* book with the Deputy Chief Minister and minister for education, Yvette Berry, a couple of weeks ago. *On My First Day* has been a highly successful ACT government initiative over recent years. We welcomed *On My First Day* being available again to support children who will start kindergarten in 2018.

The *On My First Day* book contains messages and drawings from children to children about what it is like to start school. Around 7,000 Canberra children entering kindergarten in 2018 will get a copy. Children who are quoted in the book say the first day can make you feel "nervous, happy, scared"—"happy because I made new friends"—or you might have "butterflies and feel excited".

There is also great practical advice to help children and parents prepare for the transition to kindergarten. The book is included in the transition pack distributed to government, independent and Catholic preschools; libraries; community agencies; and through child and family centres. The transition pack is a joint project between the Community Services Directorate, the Education Directorate and Libraries ACT. It is a really great example of our directorates working together.

The government continues to support other innovative and useful programs to help kids and their families in moments of transition to education. This month, the prep for pre program is being rolled out across the four ACT school networks. It is a great example of how the ACT government uses data and works collaboratively to deliver better services.

Developed in response to data from the Australian Early Development Census and from West Belconnen Child and Family Centre, the program is a targeted transition-to-preschool program. It is designed to work with those families who may

need extra support to ensure that their kids make the best start in preschool. Drawn from both the Education and Community Services directorates, team members include a child and family worker, two preschool teachers, a speech therapist, a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist.

This multi-disciplinary approach helps children build their understanding and confidence to start school through directly experiencing an early childhood program, whilst parents and carers receive practical advice on how they can support a smooth transition for their children to preschool.

Following a trial last year, the prep for pre program was found to increase families' understanding of preschool; reduce parents and carers' concerns about their children's readiness; and equip parents and carers to make better decisions about starting preschool, amongst other benefits.

Most importantly, the program links parents and carers to appropriate early intervention services, assists therapists to identify possible developmental concerns in a preschool setting, and aligns with the broader goal of ensuring that Canberrans can receive better support when it matters.

I will be attending a final prep for pre session in November. It will be great to hear of the progress kids and families have made through the program. Prep for pre and *On My First Day* are just two ways the ACT government makes a challenging time for kids, parents and carers easier. To all members of the Assembly and the Canberra community: happy Children's Week.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**The Assembly adjourned at 4.59 pm until Tuesday, 31 October 2017 at 10 am.**

## Schedule of amendments

### Schedule 1

#### **Electricity Feed-In (Large-Scale Renewable Energy Generation) Amendment Bill 2017**

##### Amendments moved by Ms Lee

1

Clause 6

Proposed new division 4.2 heading

Page 3, line 16—

*omit the heading, substitute*

#### **Division 4.2 Reasonable costs of FiT support payments**

2

Clause 6

Proposed new section 20A heading

Page 3, line 18—

*omit the heading, substitute*

#### **20A ACT electricity distributor may not pass on costs in excess of reasonable costs determination**

3

Clause 6

Proposed new section 20A (1)

Page 3, line 19—

*omit proposed new section 20A (1), substitute*

- (1) This section applies if the ACT electricity distributor passes on to electricity retailers the distributor's costs in meeting its obligations under this Act—
- (a) to make FiT support payments; and
  - (b) to administer the FiT support payments scheme, including the cost of complying with sections 21 and 21A.

4

Clause 6

Proposed new section 20A (2), except note

Page 4, line 2—

*omit proposed new section 20A (2), except note, substitute*

- (2) In a financial year, the costs mentioned in subsection (1) must not exceed the reasonable costs determined under section 20C for that financial year.

## Answers to questions

### Canberra Hospital—Medihotel (Question No 361)

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) What configurations of rooms are available at The Canberra Hospital Medihotel.
- (2) How many rooms of each configuration are provided.
- (3) Who runs the Medihotel.
- (4) If run by a private service provider, who is it and what are the contractual arrangements.
- (5) What were the occupancy figures for (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016 17.
- (6) What was the tariff revenue in each of those years.
- (7) What were the running costs in each of those years.
- (8) What were the repairs and maintenance costs in each of those years.
- (9) Are there any plans for capital upgrade works; if so, what are they and at what budgeted cost.
- (10) Does the Government's intend to continue to offer the Medihotel service.

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

1. There are single and double rooms available.
2. There are eight bedrooms comprising of six single and two double rooms.
3. The MediHotel is run by the Canberra Hospital and Health Services.
4. Not applicable.
5. The occupancy figures for the MediHotel were:  
2014-15: 434 people  
2015-16: 498 people  
2016-17: 135 people

The MediHotel model of care was designed to alleviate pressure on acute inpatient hospital beds by providing hotel-style accommodation to patients who would otherwise be accommodated in an acute inpatient bed, such as those from regional areas who require care on an outpatient basis. The MediHotel service was provided free of charge.

**2014-15**

A review of the MediHotel in September 2014 demonstrated that the majority of MediHotel guests did not fit that model of care.

**2015-16**

Throughout 2015, the use of the MediHotel was monitored with repeated communications to in-patient services advising of the availability of the MediHotel service for patients who fit the model of care.

**2016-17**

In January 2016, the model of care for the MediHotel was revised and included a reduction in nursing hours from 24 hour nurse coverage to a Monday-Sunday 8am to 5pm service. The new model of care was deemed to provide a service more suitable to the needs of the patients.

From February 2016, guests of the MediHotel who do not meet the eligibility criteria of being discharged from an inpatient unit, are charged the same fee as they would have paid in Residence Accommodation. The decline in the occupancy figures coincides with this determination.

6. Since February 2016 to date, MediHotel clients have been charged a total of \$42,765.20 as follows:

2014-15: \$0.00  
 2015-16: \$9,670.49  
 2016-17: \$27,815.71

The increase in tariff revenue from the MediHotel reflects the introduction of the fee for accommodation introduced from February 2016, as outlined in question 5.

7. The running costs for the MediHotel are:

For YTD June 2015 - Net operating expense of \$498,700  
 For YTD June 2016 - Net operating expense of \$299,380  
 For YTD June 2017 - Net operating expense of \$123,340

The majority of the running costs for the MediHotel are salaries and wages. There are minor operating costs for domestic services.

8. Individual repairs and maintenance costs are not available for the MediHotel or Building 5 (where the MediHotel is located) for 2014-15 or 2015-16. The overall 2016-17 repairs and maintenance costs for Building 5 were \$102,642.47

9. There are currently no planned capital upgrade works for the MediHotel.

10. The Government intends to continue to offer the services of the MediHotel at this time, for appropriate patients under the model of care.

**Government—procurement  
 (Question No 442)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

How many times has a responsible chief executive officer in Transport Canberra and City Services, Territory and Municipal Services, or Capital Metro, exempted the entity from the requirements in section 6 and section 9 of the Government Procurement Regulation 2007 since 1 July 2011 to date including (a) the date of the direction, (b) the procurement proposal to which the exemption applied, (c) a summary of the responsible chief executive officer's reasons for giving the exemption, (d) whether the direction was to seek a stated kind or number of quotations for the procurement, (e) whether the direction was to invite tender for a stated supplier for the procurement, (f) whether the direction was to undertake another action, and if so, the nature of the action and (g) the date the procurement process was finalised.

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

The information requested is available in Annual Reports and on the ACT Procurement website.

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### **Housing—homelessness (Question No 466)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 4 August 2017:

- (1) In regard to One Link centralised referral service for homelessness in the ACT, how many requests for assistance by priority category have been made to One Link (or its predecessor First Point) during the period (a) 2015-16 and (b) period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (2) How many people by priority category were waiting for homeless accommodation during (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (3) How many new requests for homelessness assistance by priority category were made to One Link (or its predecessor First Point) during (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (4) How many placements into homeless accommodation were made during (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (5) How many placements into non-accommodation homelessness services by priority category were made during (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (6) What are the waiting times for vulnerable families and individuals placed into homelessness accommodation by category for (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (7) What is the average waiting time for vulnerable families and individuals placed into homelessness accommodation services for (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (8) What is the number of vulnerable families and individuals receiving brokerage services for (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.

- (9) What is the level of brokerage expenditure for those seeking homelessness assistance for (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (10) What is the number of presenting vulnerable families and individuals waiting for homeless assistance by living arrangement and by sex for (a) 2015-16 and (b) for the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (11) Which specialist homeless services report to One Link on the number of accommodation and non-accommodation vacancies.
- (12) What is the number of homeless accommodation and non-accommodation referrals made and placements accepted by each specialist homeless service for (a) period 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (13) How many people unable to secure accommodation through One Link were accompanied by children for the period 2015-16 and how many children.
- (14) How many people unable to secure accommodation through One Link were accompanied by children for the period 1 January to 30 June 2017 and how many children.
- (15) Where were these people referred to and what provisions were made for those residing in cars or on the streets.
- (16) How many emergency accommodation nights have been provided by Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) for (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (17) Were there any emergency accommodation requests to the DVCS that were not able to be met during (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017; if so, how many.
- (18) How many people exited from homelessness services into secure permanent housing during (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.
- (19) How much of the permanent housing referred to in parts (7) and (8) was provided by Housing ACT during (a) 2015-16 and (b) the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.

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

- (1) Data from First Point and OneLink are not directly comparable:
  - First Point combined all requests made by a client into one single request which was then prioritised (therefore one request equated to one client).
  - OneLink however records and prioritises each request separately. In this reporting, the number of requests will always be higher than the number of clients, as clients often have multiple requests.
  - OneLink also reports separately for accommodation requests and non-accommodation requests.
  - OneLink provides not only homelessness services but also child, youth and family services and access to a range of mainstream services.

Both services report on 'new requests for assistance'.

- (a) During 2015-16, a total of 1,456 new requests were made to First Point. Of these:
- 810 were priority A (high housing need, high support need)
  - 549 were priority B (high housing need, medium support need)
  - 90 were priority C (medium housing need and medium support need)
  - 7 were priority D (medium housing need, low support need)
- (b) During January to June 2017, a total of 752 new requests for accommodation were made to OneLink. Of these:
- 499 needs were assessed as high needs
  - 227 needs were assessed as medium needs
  - 26 needs were assessed as low needs

During January to June 2017, a total of 654 new requests for support services were made to OneLink. Of these new 654 requests for support services:

- 390 needs were assessed as high needs
- 237 needs were assessed as medium needs
- 27 needs were assessed as low needs

(2)

- (a) During 2015-16 an average of 376 First Point clients were waiting for accommodation at the end of each month. Of these:
- 163 were Priority A
  - 182 were Priority B
  - 29 were Priority C
  - 2 were Priority D
- (b) During January to June 2017, OneLink reported an average of 116 requests for accommodation waiting at the end of each month. Of these:
- 71 were assessed as high need
  - 42 were assessed as medium need
  - 3 were assessed as low need

(3) See response to question (1).

(4)

- (a) During 2015-16, a total of 393 placements were made into accommodation through First Point.
- (b) During January to June 2017 a total of 254 placements\* into accommodation were made through OneLink.
- \*The number of clients placed into accommodation is different from the number of placements because some clients can have more than one placement into accommodation within the reporting period (e.g. they may move to more suitable transitional accommodation).*

(5)

- (a) During 2015-16, a total of 412 clients were placed into non-accommodation services through First Point. Of these:
- Priority A: 171
  - Priority B: 226
  - Priority C: 14
  - Priority D: 1



- (b) During January to June 2017, a total of 297 placements\* were made into non-accommodation through OneLink. Of these:

- High needs: 185
- Medium Needs: 91
- Low Needs: 21

*\*The number of clients placed into non-accommodation is different from the number of placements because some clients can have more than one placement into non-accommodation.*

(6)

- (a) During 2015-16, of those who were placed into accommodation, on average 40% were placed within 7 days by First Point. On average:

- 43% of those in Priority A were placed within 7 days.
- 28% of those in Priority B were placed within 7 days.
- 29% of those in Priority C were placed within 7 days.
- 0% of those in Priority D were placed within 7 days.

- (b) During January to June 2017, of those who were placed into accommodation, on average 35% were placed within 7 days by OneLink:

- 40% of high priority were placed within 7 days.
- 23% of medium priority were placed within 7 days.
- 0% of low priority were placed within 7 days.

(7)

- (a) During 2015-16, on average, individuals/families who were placed into accommodation waited for:

- Priority A: 25 days
- Priority B: 57 days
- Priority C: 12 days

- (b) During January to June 2017, on average, individuals/families who were placed into accommodation waited for 26 days.

(8)

- (a) During 2015-16, seven families/individuals received brokerage services.

- (b) During January to June 2017, 49 families/individuals received brokerage services.

(9)

- (a) During 2015-16, the total expenditure for brokerage services was \$747.50.

- (b) During January to June 2017, the total expenditure for brokerage services was \$7,022.

(10)

- (a) During 2015-16, an average of 376 individuals/families were waiting for homelessness assistance at the end of each month. Of these:

- Lone person: 203 (54%)
- One parent with children: 125 (33%)
- Couple with children: 22 (6%)
- Couple without children: 17 (4%)
- Other family: 5 (1%)

- Group: 2 (0.5%)
- Don't know: 1 (0.4%)

(b) During January to June 2017, an average of 116 needs of clients who were waiting for accommodation and an average of 114 needs of clients who were waiting for support services were recorded.

Of those 116 waiting for accommodation, on average:

- Lone person: 61
- One parent with children: 43
- Couple with children: 4
- Couple without children: 3
- Other family or group: 4

Of those 114 waiting support services, on average

- Lone person: 50
- One parent with children: 42
- Couple with children: 14
- Couple without children: 4
- Other family or group: 4

(11)

#	Service report to OneLink on Vacancy Management System	Organisation name
1	Take Hold	Ted Noffs
2	Karinya House	Karinya House
3	Outreach Case Management	Salvation Army
4	Family Service	St Vincents de Paul
5	YEAN Tuggeranong	Salvation Army
6	Our Place	Barnardos
7	CatholicCare (MINOSA House)	CatholicCare
8	CatholicCare (ASSIST)	CatholicCare
9	EveryMan (Early Intervention)	EveryMan Australia
10	Supportive Tenancy - Building Housing Partnerships	Woden Community Service
11	Aleta	Toora Women Inc
12	Beryl Women Crisis and Transitional Accommodation and Support	Beryl Women Inc.
13	Friendly Landlord Service	Barnardos
14	Youth Identified Accommodation and Support Program	Barnardos
15	Toora Women Accommodation and Support Services	Toora Women Inc
16	Young Parent Accommodation	St Vincents de Paul
17	Youth Housing Support Service	Catholic Care
18	Doris Women	Doris Women
19	YEAN Weston Creek	Salvation Army
20	Reach Home Program	Community at Work
21	Women's Supported Accommodation Program	Northside Community Service
22	YEAN Belconnen	Salvation Army

23	YEAN North Canberra	Salvation Army
24	Samaritan House	St Vincents de Paul
25	Supported Accommodation Service	YWCA

(12)

(a)

First Point Services	2015- 2016			
	Homelessness Accommodation		Homelessness Non-accommodation	
	Total Referrals	Referrals Accepted	Total Referrals	Referrals Accepted
<b>Total</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>412</b>
Assist (CatholicCare)	0	0	143	59
Barnardos Friendly Landlord Service	46	14	0	0
Beryl Women's Refuge	30	17	0	0
Canberra Men's Centre (CMC) MASS	8	0	23	2
Canberra Youth Residential Service	75	49	0	0
CanFaCS	9	9	81	40
Communities@Work – Reach Home	12	7	17	5
Doris Women's Refuge	19	14	0	0
Family Services (SVDP)	52	18	62	34
Family Treehouse	0	0	0	0
Inanna	44	28	0	0
Karinya	1	1	14	8
Minosa House (CatholicCare)	44	27	0	0
Northside Women's Supported Accommodation	24	13	0	0
Oasis (Salvation Army)	83	48	7	3
Our Place Accommodation	18	11	0	0
Samaritan House (SVDP)	112	64	0	0
Street to Home (SVDP)	0	0	20	8
Supportive Tenancy Service	0	0	116	77
Ted Noffs Take Hold	0	0	0	0
Toora	99	64	41	27
Y.W.C.A.	9	6	66	30
Youth Housing Support Service (CatholicCare)	0	0	166	89
YIASP - Barnardos Couch Surfer Program	0	0	0	0
Young Parent's Program (SVDP)	8	3	58	30

(b) OneLink (January to June 2017)

This data will be available at a later date as OneLink and homelessness services are currently negotiating information sharing protocols.

(13) Total number of children accompanying clients waiting for accommodation were not reported by First Point during 2015-16.

- (14) Out of an average of 116 clients waiting for accommodation at the end of each month, on average, 48 clients were accompanied by children\*.

*\*total numbers of children accompanying clients are not recorded.*

*\*Not all people waiting for accommodation are sleeping rough. Most people are staying with relatives or friends or in other temporary accommodation (e.g. caravan parks, hostels etc.).*

- (15) When a person calls or visits OneLink, an intake officer assesses and prioritises the clients' needs, provides information about options and connects them to a range of services including:

- Accommodation
- Aged care support
- Assertive outreach
- Access to independent housing
- Counselling services
- Disability support services
- Child, youth and family services
- Family and domestic violence services
- Financial counselling
- Support to sustain tenancy
- Legal services
- Youth support
- Mental health services
- Health/medical services
- Drug/alcohol support

For those clients who need accommodation support but accommodation is not available, OneLink works with the clients to refer them to outreach support services while awaiting accommodation.

The intake officer will stay in touch with clients until they have the supports they need.

- (16)

- (a) During 2015-16, DVCS provided emergency accommodation for a total of 588 nights with 1350 placements (beds) provided.

- (b) During period from January to June 2017, DVCS provided emergency accommodation for a total of 199 nights with 419 placements (beds) provided.

- (17) When clients contact DVCS, DVCS workers assess clients' circumstance and needs. DVCS refers clients to the specialist homelessness sector for accommodation. Where accommodation is not available, DVCS will accommodate women and children at risk in a hotel.

- (a) During 2015-16, DVCS provided emergency hotel accommodation to 294 clients.

- (b) During period from January to June 2017, DVCS provided emergency hotel accommodation to 119 clients.

(18)

- (a) In the ACT, during 2015-16, 977 clients were living in public or community housing at the end of support and 705 clients were living in private housing or other at the end of support.
- (b) Outcome data for individual clients across the homelessness services sector is collected and reported by AIHW through the Specialist Homelessness Collection which is available on an annual basis. 2016-17 data will be available in 2018.

(19) Specialist Homelessness Services data does not separate out public and community housing.

### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—alcohol and drug rehabilitation (Question No 470)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 18 August 2017:

- (1) In relation to the strategic priority for the Minister's directorate (Annual Report 2015-2016) to provide increased tobacco, alcohol and other drug treatment services, including supportive accommodation, with regards to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, what alcohol and drug rehabilitation facilities are available for members of the ACT indigenous community.
- (2) What is the capacity of each facility.
- (3) What is the utilisation of each facility.
- (4) How many of these are specifically and only available for the indigenous community.
- (5) How many are run by the indigenous organisations and registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC).
- (6) Of those not run by indigenous organisations, what level of cultural care is provided in these facilities.
- (7) How many indigenous patients/ clients attend in each facility listed in part (1).
- (8) How many indigenous patients/ clients travel outside of the ACT.
- (9) Where in New South Wales are patients in Canberra referred to, when they cannot attend a centre in the ACT.
- (10) How often are patients turned away from the facilities listed in part (1).

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

- 1. Residential beds and/or and day place rehabilitation facilities are offered by the following non-government specialist drug treatment and support services:
  - Karralika Programs Inc.,

- Directions Health Services,
- Toora Women Inc.,
- Salvation Army Canberra Recovery Service; and
- Ted Noffs Foundation.

2. The capacity of each facility is:

- Karralika Programs Inc.: 44 residential beds for individuals (adults) and families
- Directions Health Services: 8 residential bed and 6–8 day places for adults
- Toora Women Inc.: 12 day places for women (adults)
- Salvation Army Canberra Recovery Service: 55 residential beds for individuals (adults)
- Ted Noffs Foundation: 8 – 10 residential beds for young people

3. The below table shows 2015-16 'closed' episodes of rehabilitation treatment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

Organisation	Episodes — residential bed	Episodes — day place
Karralika Programs Inc.	6	
Directions Health Services	3	4
Toora Women Inc.		19
Salvation Army Canberra Recovery Service	10	
Ted Noffs Foundation	38	
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>23</b>

4. In the ACT, no rehabilitation residential bed or day place is specifically and only available for the indigenous community.
5. None of the rehabilitation facilities in the ACT are run by indigenous organisations.
6. Karralika Programs Inc., Directions Health Services, Toora Women Inc., Salvation Army Canberra Recovery Service and Ted Noffs Foundation are required to continue to develop the culturally sensitive and safe services, with particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and gender responsive practices.
7. In total 64 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people received 80 episodes of rehabilitation treatment in 2015–16.
8. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are referred interstate by ACT agencies, and the number of people who refer themselves interstate, cannot be reported as data is not collected in the ACT.
9. ACT Health Alcohol and Drug Service Police and Court Drug Diversion Services refer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to a number of interstate residential rehabilitations programs (not solely NSW) based on availability of places. These include the following programs:
- Lyndon Community
  - Odyssey House
  - WHO's community
  - Salvation Army programs
  - Triple Care Farm
  - The Glen

- The Peppers
- The Buttery
- Foundation House

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific residential programs referred to include:

- Orana Haven,
- Bennlong Haven,
- Oolong House,
- Weigelli; and
- Percy Green (Victoria).

10. This information is not reported by services to ACT Health.

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### **ACT Health—senior executive positions (Question No 474)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 18 August 2017:

- (1) Is the position of Executive Director, Division of Medicine a new position.
- (2) What is the rationale for creating this position.
- (3) When was it advertised.
- (4) How many applications were received.
- (5) When did, or will, the successful applicant start.
- (6) If it was not advertised, when will it be.
- (7) Why are the selection criteria, personal attributes and qualification requirements no more than the standard set for senior executive positions when the role involves supervision of highly technical and specialist activities.
- (8) Why do the selection criteria not reflect the specific, specialist nature of the role.
- (9) Why do the qualification requirements not include qualifications appropriate to the division being supervised.
- (10) How many senior executive positions were current (whether filled or vacant) as at (a) 30 June 2016 and (b) 30 June 2017.
- (11) How many senior executives resigned from ACT Health in 2016-17.
- (12) How many of those vacancies have been filled.
- (13) How many senior executive positions were identified as redundant during 2016-17.
- (14) Have all redundant senior executive positions been abolished; if not, when will they be.

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

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. The position was advertised as a temporary vacancy (six months) through a whole of government expression of interest process. The position was advertised on 3 July 2017.
4. Five applications were received.
5. The successful applicant commenced on 7 August 2017.
6. Not applicable.
7. The position is not categorised as a medical position. Rather, it is a key senior executive management position within Canberra Hospital and Health Services (CHHS), responsible for providing leadership, strategic, operational and financial management to ensure high quality and effective delivery of services. Mandatory requirements for the position included extensive leadership and management with a substantial record of achievement gained in the provision of health care service delivery. Clinical Directors within each Division across CHHS are responsible for supervision of technical and specialist activities.
8. The selection criteria for the position are consistent with those of other clinical division Executive Directors.
9. ACT Health's view is that the qualification requirements are appropriate to the division being supervised.
10. 42 positions as at 30/6/16, 48 as at 30/6/17.
11. Five resignations.
12. Three.
13. Nil.
14. Not applicable.

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**Transport—traffic management  
(Question No 484)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 18 August 2017:

- (1) What method is used for compiling data on traffic movements in the ACT.
- (2) What was the total number of vehicle trips per day in the ACT in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17.



- (3) What are the peak periods for vehicle trips in the ACT on an average working day.
- (4) Can the Minister provide traffic data showing the number of vehicle trips on an average working day for (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17.
- (5) What are the ten ACT roads with the highest volume of vehicle trips on an average working day.
- (6) What are the vehicle movements on (a) Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and (b) Kings Avenue Bridge in 2016-17 by total trips (i) each day, (ii) morning peak period and (iii) evening peak period.

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

- (1) Data is based on tube counts and traffic signals counts.
- (2) Raw traffic counts data are used as input to the Canberra Strategic Transport Model (CSTM) that is used to estimate and forecast vehicle trips to inform transport planning in the ACT. The CSTM also uses census data and, therefore, only generates vehicle trip estimates for the peak periods for designated years aligned with the Census, i.e. 2011, 2016 and 2021. The model suggests that during the morning peak there were 115,870 vehicle trips each day in 2011 and 128,424 vehicle trips in 2016. Estimates are not available for the specific periods requested.
- (3) The CSTM assumes that on an average working day, the peak periods for vehicle trips in the ACT is between 8am and 9am and between 5pm and 6pm.
- (4) The model only simulates traffic during the peak periods of a working day.
- (5) The CSTM indicates that the ten ACT roads with the highest volume of vehicle trips on an average working morning peak in 2016 are as follows:
  - Parkes Way;
  - Commonwealth Avenue;
  - Adelaide Avenue;
  - Barry Drive;
  - William Hovell Drive;
  - Monaro Highway;
  - Belconnen Way;
  - Tuggeranong Parkway;
  - Northbourne Avenue; and
  - Canberra Avenue.
- (6) Based on the average weekday data:
  - (a) Counts over Commonwealth Avenue Bridge:
    - (i) Each day - 62,001 vehicles per day.
    - (ii) Morning peak – 7,334 vehicles per day.
    - (iii) Evening peak – 6,458 vehicles per day.

(b) Counts over Kings Avenue Bridge:

- (iv) Each day - 35,509 vehicles per day.
- (v) Morning peak – 3,948 vehicles per day.
- (vi) Evening peak – 3,907 vehicles per day.

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**Transport—light rail  
(Question No 486)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 18 August 2017:

- (1) Further to Question on Notice 187, what dates were the (a) two Deeds of Agreement agreed to with Canberra Metro and (b) Deeds implemented.
- (2) What is the process for reviewing Project Plans.
- (3) What is the review period referred to in answer (1)(g) of Question on Notice 187 and how does it impact on rostered days off (RDOs).
- (4) How are RDOs calculated.
- (5) Why does the Industrial Relations Forum meet more frequently than the Subcontractor forum.
- (6) What issues have arisen out of the (a) Industrial Relations Forum and (b) Subcontractor forum.
- (7) How many meetings have been held of the (a) Industrial Relations Forum and (b) Subcontractor forum.
- (8) On average, how many people attend the (a) Industrial Relations Forum and (b) Subcontractor forum.

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

- (1) (a) Deed of Amendment One was executed and implemented on 13 January 2017.  
(b) Deed of Amendment Two was executed and implemented on 10 March 2017.
- (2) During the delivery phase, Canberra Metro project plans are reviewed by the Territory and by the Independent Certifier. The Territory and Independent Certifier review these Canberra Metro project plans in parallel. The Territory have 14 business days to review, and then these comments are provided to the Independent Certifier whom consolidate these comments with their own (the Independent Certifier retains ultimate responsibility for comments) and provides final comments back to Canberra Metro within 16 business days.
- (3) The review period referred to that in 1(g) of QON 187 relates to the commencement or duration of a review period for actions such as design review. As the project has a set calendar of RDO's which is common on large scale infrastructure projects, the action of an RDO is to be treated the same way as a public holiday, and therefore extends the review period by the equivalent timeframe.

- (4) This is a matter for Canberra Metro.
- (5) The forums are scheduled in accordance with the Project Agreement with IR Forum to meet Bi-Monthly and Subcontract Forum to meet quarterly
- (6) Both forums consist of briefing on construction progress and matters regarding safety by Canberra Metro. Attendees have asked questions or sought clarification on matters.
- (7) (a) There have been 8 Industrial Relations Forums held to date. (b) There have been 2 Subcontractor Forums held to date.
- (8) Numbers vary (average would be inappropriate) IR Forum from 2 to max 7 and Subcontract forum 3 to 11 (this excludes Canberra Metro and Territory Attendees).

### **Transport—planning (Question No 489)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 18 August 2017:

- (1) How much was spent by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (including any amounts spent by the former Territory and Municipal Services Directorate and the former Capital Metro Agency) on strategic transport modelling in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) Which contractors or consultants were engaged to provide strategic transport modelling services in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date and what was the nature of the services provided.

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

- (1) The Directorate has spent \$633,431 (GST exclusive) on strategic transport modelling as detailed below:

2014-15	\$124,148
2015-16	\$31,713
2016-17	\$142,471
2017-18 Year to Date	\$335,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$633,431</b>

- (2) Details below :

- a. Veitch Lister was engaged as a sub-contractor by Ernst & Young to undertake transport modelling for the Strategic Blueprint.
- b. Veitch Lister was engaged by TCCS to undertake Strategic Traffic Modelling and Transport Integration Advisory Services for Light Rail Stage 2 definition phase.

**Health—antibiotics  
(Question No 498)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 18 August 2017:

- (1) What is ACT Health's clinical policy in relation to the administration of antibiotic drugs to patients in hospitals.
- (2) What monitoring does ACT Health undertake in relation to trends in the effectiveness of antibiotics used in hospitals.
- (3) Has ACT Health recorded any instances of the overuse or misuse of antibiotic drugs in ACT hospitals in the last three financial years; if so, (a) how many occasions of overuse or misuse were recorded, (b) what action was taken in response and (c) what changes were made to clinical policies as a result.
- (4) What is the Government's response to the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia 2017 report, released by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care as it applies to health services in the ACT.

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

1. ACT Health adheres to the Australian Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic. Canberra and Calvary Hospitals have antibiotic restriction policies that classify antibiotics as:
  - 'green' (no restriction on use),
  - 'orange' (approval to be sought from antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) or infectious diseases (ID) within 72 hours of use) or
  - 'red' (approval to be sought from AMS or ID within 24 hours of prescription).

This policy ensures specialist oversight of antibiotic use, especially antibiotics used to treat infections caused by multi-resistant organisms (MROs) or 'superbugs'.

2. The effectiveness of antibiotics is assessed on a case by case basis at the point of prescription for each patient. The Canberra Hospital and Health Services (CHHS) Antimicrobial Stewardship team (and collaborators including the ACT Pathology Microbiology Department, CHHS Pharmacy Department and CHHS infection Control and Prevention Unit) monitors the appropriateness of antimicrobial prescribing, to enable assessment of local quality of care and to benchmark nationally. This includes where treatments are too broad or narrow, problems with allergies and antibiotics, and any therapies that are not consistent with available guidelines. ACT Health also measures and monitors the bulk usage of antibiotics in the territory on an ongoing basis to ensure continued improvement in the total usage of antibiotics.
3. Yes, which is similar to the experience in every other jurisdiction in Australia.
  - a) Since implementation of the current program of monitoring in August 2016, to June 2017, there were 43 instances where the advice of the anti-microbial stewardship team was not followed by treating teams for a range of clinical and logistical reasons, out of a total of 1632 reviews of restricted antibiotic prescriptions (2.5 per cent occurrence).

- b) Instances of misuse are managed between clinical teams at the time of patient care and noted for review. Incidences of overuse or misuse are also overseen by the Healthcare Associated Infections Standards group within ACT Health as part of its approach to antibiotics governance. Trends in misuse or overuse are collated and addressed in a risk assessed way in line with ACT Risk Management Policy and actioned via the Antimicrobial Stewardship Team's continuous quality improvement cycle. Trends are also highlighted with the relevant Clinical and Executive Directors for appropriate action with their divisions and staff.
  - c) ACT Health reviews its clinical policies and procedures on a regular basis, to ensure they are consistent with best practice and the organisation's needs. Changes to policy and procedure can be the result of the quality improvement process.
4. CHHS response is to continue to:
- (1) participate in Microbiological and Antimicrobial surveillance activities that contribute to ongoing data collection for national analysis and comparison, using the data to help to target key issues for further work.
  - (2) support AMS programs within hospital to reduce antimicrobial usage whilst optimising therapeutic usage and reducing emergence of multi-resistant organisms and *Clostridium difficile*.
  - (3) support Infection Prevention and Control activities to reduce the emergence and transmission of multi-resistant organisms and reduce healthcare associated infections.

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### **Waste—dumping and collecting (Question No 507)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 18 August 2017:

- (1) What compliance and enforcement processes does the ACT Government have to prevent the stockpiling and illegal dumping of waste by private companies in the ACT, noting that The Canberra Times reported on 15 August 2017 that glass from company Group 8 was exported from the ACT in 2014 and dumped on a property off the Federal Highway at Lake George.
- (2) What oversight does the ACT Government have of private companies who are subcontracted by ACT Government contractors to manage ACT waste products.
- (3) What role does the ACT EPA have in preventing the export of waste products from the ACT by private companies.
- (4) What role will the ACT Government play in removing the glass that was reportedly exported from the ACT and dumped by Group 8.

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

- (1) The *Environment Protection Act 1997* (the EP Act), provides a framework for the regulation of activities within the ACT that may result in environmental harm. The *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016* (the WMRR Act) provides management of waste activities, including transporting and depositing waste. Under the Act, all waste transporters and facilities in the ACT must be registered or

licenced, with a requirement to report on the types and volumes of waste moved within the ACT.

- (2) The Territory's new Services Agreement with the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) operator, RDT Operations establishes the requirement to prepare and provide to the Territory all reports as required. Furthermore, the contractor must deliver the services in a manner that maximises recovery of recyclables from the waste and promotes continuous improvement.
  - (3) The movement of non-controlled waste across borders is not regulated by the ACT EPA and is subject to local council approvals and compliance. However, the WMRR Act, as identified under 1 b) above enables, through compliance monitoring the ACT to track the source and destination of wastes and recyclables generated within the Territory, including those transported to interstate destinations. This will provide increased transparency to help ensure best practice is upheld in the ACT waste management sector.
  - (4) Full responsibility lies with Group 8, and Mr Miller of Group 8 has acknowledged this in the media. Action related to the glass stockpile at Bywong is the responsibility of NSW authorities.
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### **Planning—waste facility (Question No 513)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) Given that the Independent Inquiry Panel into the proposed FOY Group plastic to fuel facility concluded that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supplementary material provided by FOY Group did not adequately address the key risks associated with the project and that the Planning and Land Authority would be extremely unlikely to approve a development application that relied on this EIS, has FOY Group responded to the objections identified in the Inquiry Panel's Report; if so, what was that response; if not, will the Government require FOY Group to complete the contract for sale of land at Hume which was due for settlement in July.
- (2) Has FOY Group lodged another EIS with regard to their proposed plant in Hume.
- (3) Has the Government responded formally to the Inquiry Panel Report; if so, so, can the Minister provide a copy of the response; if not, why has the Government not yet responded.

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

- (1) FOY Group expressed its disappointment with the findings of the Inquiry Panel, but has not undertaken any further action to date. The ACT Government Solicitors Office acts for the Suburban Land Agency in this matter and has been in regular contact with FOY to resolve the settlement. The Suburban Land Agency executed a Deed with FOY (now known as Integrated Green Energy Solutions Limited) on 15 September 2017 with a revised completion date of 20 October 2017.

- (2) The FOY Group has not lodged any subsequent EIS with the Authority.
- (3) Once the final report was received, the EIS process is deemed complete. The findings of the inquiry are a mandatory consideration in the development application process and therefore it is up to the proponent to determine next steps.

**Women—safety  
(Question No 514)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Women, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) In relation to question on notice E17-156, what specific actions will the ACT Government take to increase the percentage of women who feel safe when they are by themselves, walking or jogging in their neighbourhood during the night.
- (2) What changes to (a) street lighting, (b) foot and cycle paths, (c) landscaping and (b) police presence, will be made to address this.

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

- (1) The ACT Government is committed to women's safety. In the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan 2017-19* released in March, the ACT Government is currently undertaking a number of actions that are relevant to women's safety. Relevant actions include:
  - Promoting the use of Women's Safety Audits at events run by the ACT Government. Women's Safety Audits help improve safety across a number of areas, such as lighting, signage, visibility, accessibility and parking.
  - The Active Travel Office will engage women's groups prior to rollout of funding for footpath maintenance, cycling and walking route upgrades and age-friendly suburb improvements in shopping centres and existing suburbs.
  - Investigate the use of the Safety Mapping Tool to guide ACT Government planning.
  - Review the 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design General Code' from a safe and inclusive communities perspective (with a focus on women) and review language used in this Code.
  - Determine the process by which women's perspectives can be incorporated into Master Plans, Territory Plan reviews and urban design processes.
  - Review customer service interfaces and how this supports access to planning services for women.
  - Include women, and in particular young women aged 15-21, in the planning and design study of local centres. Study will identify resilience, liveability and accessibility at the local level and provide a comparative basis to test planning and design responses in line with national best practice.

These actions will be supplemented by further work undertaken in the second year of the *First Action Plan 2017-19*.

- (2)
  - a) A Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) was recently undertaken for streetlight maintenance and upgrade services, which has resulted in a

Government decision to proceed with a publicly procured, outcomes focused Energy Performance Contract (EPC). This EPC will require significant LED upgrades to the streetlight network and will involve lighting upgrades resulting in improved safety and energy efficiency. The tenders are currently being evaluated.

- b) Community path upkeep is important to ensure that walking around our suburbs is both easy and safe. Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) has a planned inspection program for the community path network within the ACT and areas are prioritised for inspection based on the usage and pedestrian mix, pedestrian generators such as shopping centre precincts and past compensation claims. In addition to planned inspections, all enquiries through Access Canberra and Fix My Street are inspected. Once reported, safety issues are assessed as soon as possible. Urgent safety repairs will be made within seven working days. Less urgent issues are scheduled in larger contracts for efficiency. As advised in question 1, the Active Travel Office will seek to incorporate a 'gender lens' to review its strategies to ensure paths are looking at safety issues for women in particular.

In addition, Roads ACT is currently reviewing the path inspection and maintenance strategy to improve the safety and sustainability of the network and enhanced preventative maintenance program will be implemented during 2018.

- c) For public space upgrades undertaken by TCCS, the designers and construction contractors are required to incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles into upgrade designs and then implement these during construction. These principles look at lighting, landscaping, paved areas and overall design for secure and safe spaces; whilst maintaining clear lines of sight free of obstruction and increasing opportunities for passive surveillance.
- d) ACT Policing regularly promotes information via social media on the importance of personal safety. These messages include practical personal safety strategies for the community.

Police rely on public willingness to provide supporting evidence in relation to offences against individuals or anti-social behaviour in relevant areas. Once identified, police conduct more frequent patrols as a preventative measure. If necessary, a targeted operation is conducted. The increase in police presence has a preventative effect and increases community confidence.

Police also conduct assessments through the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design program, where locations of interest are assessed to determine if changes to lighting/vegetation levels and other factors may improve safety. The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design assessments are provided to appropriate government agencies to assist them in future planning/urban upgrades.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—methadone program (Question No 520)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:



- (1) Does the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) have a mobile dispensing unit for methadone; if so, (a) is it used on a regular basis, (b) in what sections of the prison is it used, (c) which personnel use and monitor it and (d) is the methadone locked within a safe during this process.
- (2) Once fully functional, will the IDose system be operated from the health unit.
- (3) Will all inmates come to the IDose system for their methadone dose, or will the IDose system be mobile and taken to the inmates.
- (4) Is the safe in which the methadone is stored in the AMC freestanding; if so, does it weigh 350 kg or more.
- (5) If the safe is not freestanding, is it securely attached to, or embedded in, a concrete floor or a concrete or brick wall.

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

1. There is no mobile dispensing unit for methadone at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). There are currently three systems for administration of methadone at the AMC:
  - idose™;
  - Pre-prepared doses of methadone supplied to Justice Health Services by an external pharmacy delivered by nurses on a medication trolley; and
  - Nurses dispense methadone from a dispensing pump.

2. idose™ is currently fully functional in the Hume Health Centre (HHC) and in satellite clinics in the accommodation blocks at the AMC. idose™ is not a mobile dispensing unit, it is computerised method of daily dosing of methadone and subxone which uses iris scanning, and biometric technology to accurately identify people.

In October 2017, idose™ as satellite clinics will be rolled out in the remaining areas within the AMC (Women's, Sentenced Block, Remand Block, and Special Care Centre).

3. idose™ is not a mobile dispensing unit. Detainees will receive their doses from dedicated idose™ points within AMC.
4. The certified medical drug safe in the HHC is free standing and weighs more than 350kg.
5. Not applicable.

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### **Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—aluminium cladding (Question No 521)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) How much did it cost to put aluminium cladding on the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.

- (2) What did ACT Health do to assure itself that it was safe to install this cladding on the building.
- (3) When did ACT Health first have concerns about the safety of the cladding at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- (4) When was the Minister for Health and Wellbeing first advised of concerns over the safety of the cladding.
- (5) When was the decision made to remove the cladding from the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- (6) What proportion of the panels of the cladding is flammable.
- (7) How much will it cost to remove the panels and replace them with safe panels.
- (8) What are the itemised costs of replacing the panels.
- (9) When will this work start and finish.
- (10) What constraints will this process place on the safe and efficient operation of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children when it occurs.

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

1. Approximately \$770,000 (GST Excl).
  2. The building design was in accordance with Building Code of Australia, certified by a Building Inspector and received a Certificate of Occupancy and Use before being occupied.
  3. ACT Health was first made aware of the fire risk posed by the cladding at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children after the completion of the desktop review on healthcare facilities completed since 2008 on 30 June 2017.
  4. The Minister for Health and Wellbeing was first advised on 24 July 2017.
  5. On 3 August 2017 a recommendation was received from the independent fire consultant to replace some of the Polyethylene Aluminum Composite Panels installed on the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children Building. ACT Health decided to remove the panels based on the recommendations.
  6. Up to 10 per cent of the panels on the Centenary Hospital is Polyethylene Aluminum Composite Panels.
  7. The cost will be confirmed through a competitive Tender process.
  8. The cost will be confirmed through a competitive Tender process.
  9. Work is anticipated to commence before the end of 2017 and expected completion in 2018.
  10. There are no constraints.
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## Health—waiting times (Question No 524)

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) Further to the answer to part (1) of question on notice 339, how many patients were on the wait list in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Unit as at (a) 30 June 2016, (b) 31 December 2016 and (c) 30 June 2017.
- (2) For each of the dates listed in part (1), what was the average wait time for patients on the wait lists.
- (3) What is the clinically-acceptable wait time for patients requiring gastroenterology and hepatology treatment.
- (4) How many visiting medical officer anaesthetists were engaged to assist in reducing the wait list in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Unit.
- (5) For how long were they engaged.
- (6) To what extent did their engagement reduce wait lists.

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

1. The number of patients who were ready for care on the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Unit (GEHU) waiting list as at:

30-Jun-16	31-Dec-16	30-Jun-17
3,857	3,988	3,786

2. The average waiting time for patients on the wait list as at:

30-Jun-16	31-Dec-16	30-Jun-17
259 days	321 days	376 days

3. All referrals for GEHU are triaged according to individual circumstances against clinical guidelines into three categories. These are:  
 Category 1 – for treatment within 30 days  
 Category 2 – for treatment within 90 days  
 Category 3 – for treatment within 365 days
4. Two full time equivalent VMO anaesthetists were engaged to do weekend lists, to assist in reducing the wait list in the GEHU.
5. Four months.
6. During the four months, an additional 160 patients had their endoscopic procedures completed.

**Health—private practice fund  
(Question No 525)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) Why was the private practice fund established.
- (2) How is it funded.
- (3) How much money was held in the fund as at 30 June 2017.
- (4) How much money was allocated to the fund for 2017-18.
- (5) Of the total of the amounts disclosed in parts (3) and (4), how much money is available for attendance at conferences held in 2017-18 (a) overseas and (b) in Australia.
- (6) What is the purpose of any remaining amount.
- (7) What is the nature of conferences typically attended and paid for from the private practice fund.
- (8) Who can attend these conferences.
- (9) What is the approval process.
- (10) What classes of travel and accommodation are provided for attendees at conferences held (a) overseas and (b) in Australia.

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

1. The Private Practice Fund (PPF) was established to administer funds related to the employment arrangements of staff specialists which give them a right of private practice, under their Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA).
2. The EBA allows staff specialists a choice of Private Practice Scheme, either a share of the private revenue they generate, or a fixed allowance. ACT Health submits invoices on behalf of staff specialists, to Medicare and private health funds for private patients, or the patient directly if they are non-eligible or compensable (such as worker's compensation and car insurance claims), when they treat these patients while working for ACT Health.

The PPF receives funds based on the scheme choice of each staff specialist. There is no funding to the PPF from the fixed allowance scheme. Under the revenue sharing scheme, a facility fee is deducted and paid to ACT Health, and a payment to the specialist is deducted, consistent with the terms of the scheme. Any revenue remaining is transferred to the PPF. These funds are administered via a bank account that is separate from ACT Health appropriation funds. Interest generated in this bank account also feeds back into the PPF. In addition, Medical Education Expense (MEE) funding, which is a separate provision under the EBA, is funded by ACT Health and administered through the Private Practice Fund.

3. The amount in Note 41 for the 2016-17 annual report \$36.931 million.
  4. The only predetermined amount of money allocated to the PPF is MEE funding, which for the 2017-18 financial year is \$18,098 per one FTE staff specialist, as described in the EBA.
  5. Of the amounts referred to in parts (3) and (4) above, the only pre-determined amount made available for attendance at conferences is each staff specialist's MEE funding. No distinction is made between conference attendance (a) overseas and (b) in Australia.
  6. There is no remaining amount. Apart from conference attendance, PFF money can be used to support research, scholarships, fellow positions and equipment. MEE monies can only be accessed by staff specialists for approved continuing professional development activities.
  7. Conferences are for education and professional development often associated with the Continuing Professional Development obligations of clinical staff as registered health practitioners, or otherwise where there is a clear patient care benefit.
  8. Employed health professionals including doctors, nurses and other clinical staff.
  9. Application to the relevant Private Practice Administration Fund Committee, which must have ACT Health representation in the majority for agreement to approve funding.
  10. Travel and accommodation is in accordance with the ACT Government travel policy and any financial restrictions which may be imposed by the Committee on a case by case basis.
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### **Hospitals—doctors' working hours (Question No 527)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) How many hours do salaried doctors in Canberra's hospitals work in a normal shift.
- (2) During 2016-17 (a) what was the average number of additional hours worked by salaried doctors after their shifts, (b) how many double shifts were worked by salaried doctors in Canberra's hospitals and (c) what was the average number of shifts per week worked by salaried doctors.
- (3) What is the maximum number of hours that a salaried doctor can work without a break of at least four hours.
- (4) In what circumstances would salaried doctors be required to work additional hours to a normal shift.
- (5) What monitoring occurs to ensure that doctors (a) do not suffer fatigue while on duty or (b) do not make clinical mistakes in the treatment of patients.

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

1. As per the ACT Public Sector Medical Practitioners Enterprise Agreement 2013-2017 Para 18.2 ordinary weekly hours for salaried doctors are 38 hours per week. Dependent upon the unit where the doctor is working, shifts can vary between four and 14 hours per day.
2. At Canberra Hospital during 2016-17:
  - (a) The average number of un-rostered hours for salaried junior doctors (interns, residents, registrars) was 3.8 hours per week. Salaried senior doctors (Staff Specialist or Senior Staff Specialist) receive an on-call allowance and are not paid for overtime, so un-rostered hours are not recorded for this cohort.
  - (b) Zero.
  - (c) This is dependent upon the area where the doctor is working, but generally doctors work five shifts per week.
3. As per the ACT Public Sector Medical Practitioners Enterprise Agreement 2013-2017 Para 20.3 doctors are to have a minimum nine hour break between shifts and they are not to exceed 112 hours of work per fortnight.
4. The reasons are varied but generally related to the need to ensure patient safety by attending to critically ill or injured patients prior to ending the shift, extended operating theatre lists, and short staffing due to unexpected illness or absences.
5. In order to ensure that all doctors:
  - (a) do not suffer fatigue while on duty; or
  - (b) do not make clinical mistakes in the treatment of patients

The Canberra Hospital medical roster team carefully scrutinises all junior doctor medical rosters and enforces safe working hours within clinical units, to ensure that all junior doctors maintain safe working hours.

Senior doctors (Staff Specialists and Senior Staff Specialists) are rostered by their respective Clinical Units. The ACT Public Sector Medical Practitioners Enterprise Agreement 2013-2017 covers all medical officers employed by ACT Health which, as outlined above, ensures that doctors have sufficient breaks between shifts and do not exceed safe levels of work per fortnight.

ACT Health is committed to taking a risk-management approach to fatigue management and has a Fatigue Management policy.

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### **City Renewal Authority—administrative responsibility (Question No 531)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

Can the Chief Minister advise why the City Renewal Authority is included in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate instead of Chief

Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate when the Chief Minister has administrative responsibility.

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

As detailed in the *Administrative Arrangements 2017 (No 1)* the City Renewal Authority is a statutory territory authority oversighted by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD).

EPSDD is the administrative unit responsible for advising Government, including the Chief Minister, on land supply policy, planning policy, urban renewal and planning delivery matters. These governance arrangements support a coordinated approach to planning and land development across Canberra.

### **Government—office of LGBTIQ affairs (Question No 532)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) In relation to the purchase of rainbow flags for the ACT, can the Minister advise (a) the number of flags purchased, by size, (b) the total cost of the flags, (c) how the supplier was selected, (d) the date the flags were ordered and supplied, (e) where the flags were manufactured, (f) the dates when the flags have been flown in the ACT in 2016-17 and 2017-18 to date, (g) the schedule for when the flags will next be flown in the ACT and (h) where the flags have been and will be flown.
- (2) Can the Minister list any other rainbow promotional items which have been purchased by the ACT Government and for each item advise (a) the number of items purchased, (b) the total cost of the items, (c) how the supplier was selected, (d) the date the items were ordered and supplied, (e) where the items were manufactured and (f) the proposed distribution of the items.
- (3) How many staff are allocated to the Office for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) Affairs.
- (4) What is the total budget for the Office for LGBTIQ Affairs in 2017-18.
- (5) What amount has been expended by the Office for LGBTIQ Affairs in 2017-18 to date.

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

- (1)
  - (a) 55, size: 1500mm x 2500mm
  - (b) \$3836.80 including GST
  - (c) CMTEDD Communications asked Publishing Services to obtain a quote for production. The selected supplier is a specialist flag printer.
  - (d) Ordered 24 January 2017; supplied 2 February 2017
  - (e) Chester Hill, NSW
  - (f) 13 February 2017 – 24 February 2017 and 11 August 2017 – 14 September 2017

(g) 27 October 2017 – 20 November 2017

(h)

- 13 February 2017 – 24 February 2017: Commonwealth Avenue – North, Commonwealth Avenue – South, Vernon Circle, City Walk – Petrie Plaza; City Walk – Canberra Centre; Garema Place
- 11 August 2017 – 14 September 2017: Vernon Circle, City Walk – Petrie Plaza; City Walk – Canberra Centre; Garema Place
- 27 October 2017 – 20 November 2017: Vernon Circle, City Walk – Petrie Plaza; City Walk – Canberra Centre; Garema Place

(2.1) Rainbow CBR stickers: 9.5cm diameter glossy stickers diecut and printed in full colour

(a)

- Ordered 2 June 2017: 5,000 rainbow CBR design
- Ordered 24 August 2017: 60,000 rainbow CBR design and 15,000 pink, blue and white (transgender flag) design

(b)

- Ordered 2 June 2017: \$998 GST inclusive
- Ordered 24 August 2017: \$5,931 GST inclusive

(c) CMTEDD Communications asked Publishing Services to obtain a quote for production.

(d)

- Ordered 2 June 2017; supplied 13 June 2017
- Ordered 24 August 2017; supplied 30 August 2017

(e) Fyshwick, Canberra

(f) Distributed at ACT Government supported events, and made available to Canberra city ambassadors, and to the community.

(2.2) Rainbow CBR lapel pins: enamel metal lapel pins, multi colour, 25 x 15mm as per previous order

(a)

- Ordered 8 June 2017: 1,000
- Ordered 21 August 2017: 5,000

(b)

- Ordered 8 June 2017: \$2,112
- Ordered 21 August: \$4,796

(c) CMTEDD Communications asked Publishing Services to obtain a quote for production.

(d)

- Ordered 8 June 2017; supplied 6 July 2017
- Ordered 21 August 2017; not yet received

(e) Kunshan Jiangsu Province, China

(f) Provided to Canberra city ambassadors, the community and ACT Government representatives.

(2.3) Rainbow CBR pull-up banners: four printed banners – rainbow artwork, and two printed banners – transgender flag design, two printed banners – purple artwork

(a) Eight

(b) \$1,760 GST inclusive



- (c) CMTEDD Communications asked Publishing Services to obtain a quote for production.
  - (d) Ordered 15 August 2017; supplied 17 August 2017
  - (e) Fyshwick, Canberra
  - (f) Promotional use at ACT Government supported events.
- (2.4) Rainbow CBR bus wraps
- (a) Two
  - (b) \$22,880 GST inclusive
  - (c) Through an exist transit advertising arrangement with Go Transit Australia
  - (d) Ordered 16 August 2017; supplied 28 August 2017
  - (e) Go Transit Australia, Australia
  - (f) The busses will operate regular bus routes.
- (3) Two full time or equivalent staffing positions were resourced in the 2017-18 ACT Budget to deliver the functions of the Office for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) Affairs.
- (4) \$340,000
- (5) For the 2017/18 financial year at 31 August 2017, the Office for LGBTIQ Affairs has expended \$27,082.
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**Business—local industry advocate  
(Question No 536)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister outline the recruitment process which led to the appointment of the Local Industry Advocate.
- (2) What is the term of appointment for the Local Industry Advocate.
- (3) What benchmarks have been set for the work of the Local Industry Advocate.
- (4) What is the remuneration of the Local Industry Advocate.
- (5) Has the Local Industry Advocate been briefed on the problems with the Tenders ACT website, particularly relating to ongoing problems with the search functionality.
- (6) Can the Minister advise the number, by ACT Public Service classification bracket, of staff in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate who are allocated to the Local Industry Advocate and the development of the Canberra Region Local Industry Participation Policy.
- (7) Can the Minister outline the nature of the consultation with local businesses on the Local Industry Participation Policy, including the (a) number of businesses consulted, (b) method of consultation, (c) number of responses received and (d) number of meetings held.

- (8) How many meetings has the Local Industry Advocate had with local businesses.
- (9) What public reporting will be made on the work of the Local Industry Advocate and when will any reports be made available.

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

- (1) In February 2015 I announced the Government's intention to establish the Local Industry Advocate (LIA) position to support local businesses by facilitating clear pathways to participate in government procurement of goods, services and capital works.

As per a Government appointment of this type the recruitment process entailed consultation with stakeholders and a shortlist of potential candidates was put to Cabinet.

- (2) Under the terms of the contract, Ms Lundy has been appointed from 1 February 2016 to 31 December 2017.
- (3) Under the terms of the contract, the appointee performs functions as follows:
  - Ensure local businesses have maximum opportunity to participate in Territory government procurement contracts.
  - Support local businesses by facilitating clear pathways to participate in Territory government procurement of goods, services and capital works.
  - These functions will be achieved through the following duties:
    - identifying opportunities to reduce complexity and red tape in the Territory government procurement processes;
    - supporting implementation of best practice in public procurement with a focus on removing barriers and reducing the costs to business of participation in Territory government procurement processes;
    - working with industry stakeholders to increase capabilities and competitiveness when participating in Territory government procurement processes; and
    - working with industry stakeholders to develop a Local Industry Participation Policy.

In fulfilling the functions and duties the Appointee will devote such time as would be reasonably necessary to discharge the same in a proper and professional manner, whilst maintaining an average work pattern of two (2) days per week.

- (4) Under the terms of the contract, the Appointee is remunerated on a per diem basis (daily or half-daily) at a level equivalent to the salary component of a public service executive level 2.4 in accordance with the relevant determination of the Australian Capital Territory Remuneration Tribunal from time to time. On commencement, the per diem rate was \$942.75 based on 7.35 hours per day.
- (5) Goods and Services Procurement has not explicitly briefed the Local Industry Advocate on issues with Tenders ACT search facility. However, the Local Industry Advocate does meet with Goods and Services Procurement and Infrastructure Finance and Capital Works to discuss tendering more broadly.

- (6) ACT public servants are not directly allocated to the Local Industry Advocate. Ms Lundy interacts with officers across the ACT Public Service pertinent to the issues and outcomes the position has been designed to address. For example, the Small Business Innovation Partnerships team in CMTEDD does work closely with the LIA on industry capability and engagement and provides support by triaging Local Industry Advocate matters. The Canberra Region Local Industry Participation Policy (LIPP) was developed by a staff in Innovate Canberra, with Ms Lundy actively involved in the policy development process.
- (7) During the development of the Local Industry Participation Policy (LIPP) businesses and industry associations were first consulted through industry briefings/forums. LIPP Industry briefings were held with
- Canberra Business Chamber and their kindred organisations with over 26 business and association representatives attending;
  - Master Builders Association and their members;
  - ACT Council of Social Services;
  - Property Council; and
  - CollabIT.

Consultation was conducted through industry briefings, meetings and written submissions after reviewing the draft LIPP.

The ACT Government received eight written submissions in response to the draft LIPP.

Thirty one meetings including training sessions have been held with local businesses or industry associations regarding the LIPP.

- (8) A specific list of businesses Ms Lundy has met with is not maintained, however, the Local Industry Advocate meets with a range of businesses, government officials and organisations on a regular basis.
- (9) The CMTEDD Annual Report provides information on achieving the Government's economic diversification objectives, which includes the work of the LIA/DIA.

### **Access Canberra—data collection (Question No 541)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) In an answer provided to the Select Committee on Estimates 2017-18 (reference E17-379), did the Minister for Regulatory Services advise that Access Canberra and Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) are working on a range of strategies to improve data collection; if so, what are the actions that TCCS is undertaking to improve its data collection and responsiveness.
- (2) When will the improvements in part (1) take place.

- (3) What benchmarks have been set to ensure ACT residents see an improvement in urban maintenance.

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

1. TCCS are working to enhance the ability for customers to provide more detailed requests for trees and shrubs. TCCS are working with Access Canberra to refine the platforms through which the community can request a service.
2. This is an ongoing and iterative program of continuous improvement.
3. TCCS regularly reviews performance data and evaluates improvements on a case by case basis. Formal benchmark targets are set each year as part of the ACT Budget. These targets, also referred to as 'Accountability Indicators' are reported on each year in the Directorate's annual report.

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**Municipal services—street sweeping  
(Question No 542)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) Further to Question on Notice 333 regarding street sweeping services, why was there a shortfall of expenditure of \$631 000 for street sweeping services in 2016-17 from the amount budgeted in 2016-17 of \$1 800 000.
- (2) Did the shortfall in expenditure in part (1) result in a reduced street sweeping service to ACT residents.
- (3) What amount has been budgeted for street sweeping services in the ACT in 2017-18.

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

1. The 2016-17 Street Sweeping Budget was set at \$1.8M due to an expectation that the volume of material to landfill would increase and therefore annual landfill fees for the disposal of material would increase significantly. However, this did not eventuate.
2. No.
3. The 2017-18 budget for the street sweeping services is \$1.8M.

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**Transport—light rail  
(Question No 546)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) What is the status of the light rail driver training program.

- (2) How many people either will be, or have been, selected to undergo light rail driver training overseas.
- (3) What is the process for selecting the candidates for the light rail driver training program.
- (4) What is the light rail driver training program to be undertaken overseas, including the (a) duration that trainee drivers will be out of Australia, (b) duration of the training and (c) countries where the training or any work experience will be conducted.

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

- (1) Canberra Metro is currently in the early stage of its recruitment program and is also further developing its training plan.
- (2) Although not finally determined, Canberra Metro expect that the first group of three drivers, as well as one or two driver trainers, will be training overseas.
- (3) To be eligible, candidates require some minimum competencies to be met, including communication skills, and a motor vehicle driving licence held for a number of years. Candidates would then be given a competency based interview with a score being applied to their interview performance.
- (4) (a) Canberra Metro currently expect between two to three weeks.  
(b) Excluding travel time, the full two to three weeks will be spent training.  
(c) Canberra Metro expect that the trainees will be sent to either Germany or the United Kingdom.

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### **Roads—street improvement plan (Question No 548)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) What is the status of the Residential Street Improvement Plan in (a) Maribyrnong Avenue, Kaleen, (b) Sternberg Crescent, Wanniasa, (c) Macarthur, Fadden and Gowrie, (d) Messenger Street, Trickett Street and Beaurepaire Crescent, Holt, (e) Streeton Drive, Weston Creek, (f) Copland Drive (Evatt, Melba & Spence) and (g) Chisholm, Richardson and Gilmore.
- (2) In what areas has the implementation of the above Residential Street Improvement Plans differed from the original design.
- (3) What are the changes and why were the original plans not implemented as designed.
- (4) Was the community consulted about the changes.
- (5) Are the priority of works being carried out as stated.
- (6) How frequently are the maps of the master plans and priority areas updates on the Transport Canberra and City Services website.

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

1. The options identified are grouped as follows:
  - Measures recommended for immediate implementation are marked as priority 1; and
  - other options identified for consideration post implementation and evaluation are marked as priority 2 and 3.
    - a. Maribyrnong Avenue, Kaleen – all priority 1 measures with the exception of the Maribyrnong Avenue / Ashburton Circuit intersection have been implemented.
    - b. Sternberg Crescent, Wanniasa – all priority 1 measures have been implemented. The master plan is being reviewed.
    - c. Macarthur, Fadden and Gowrie – all priority 1 and some lower priority measures have been implemented.
    - d. Messenger Street, Trickett Street and Beaurepaire Crescent, Holt – all priority 1 measures have been implemented.
    - e. Streeton Drive, Weston Creek – all priority 1 and some lower priority measures have been implemented. The Master Plan is being reviewed.
    - f. Copland Drive (Evatt, Melba and Spence) – all priority 1 measures with the exception of the roundabout at the Copland Drive and Verbrugghen Street have been implemented.
    - g. Chisholm, Richardson and Gilmore – all Priority 1 and some lower priority measures have been implemented. The Master Plan is being reviewed.
2. Implementations have differed from the original concept plan at the following locations:
  - a. Sternberg Crescent, Wanniasa;
  - b. Macarthur, Fadden and Gowrie;
  - c. Streeton Drive, Weston Creek; and
  - d. Chisholm, Richardson and Gilmore.
3. The changes and corresponding reasons are:
  - a. Sternberg Crescent, Wanniasa – the recommended roundabout at the Sternberg Crescent / Langdon Avenue intersection was changed to traffic signals. This was to comply with the recommendations of the Erindale Master Plan.
  - b. Macarthur, Fadden and Gowrie – the recommended concrete raised platforms with pedestrian crossings on Bugden Avenue and Castleton Crescent were replaced with speed cushions. This was because the review of the Master Plan found that pedestrian crossings at these locations were not a preferred option because of the relatively low pedestrian traffic volume.
  - c. Streeton Drive, Weston Creek – the recommended roundabouts at the intersections of Streeton Drive / Fremantle Drive and Streeton Drive / Bangalay Crescent were replaced with channelised right turns. The channelised right turns are a more cost effective measure to improve lane discipline and safety through the intersections.
  - d. Chisholm, Richardson and Gilmore – a pedestrian refuge island and a set of speed cushions were implemented on Norriss Street and Beattie Crescent respectively. These measures were not part of the original Master Plan; however, the review of the Master Plan recommended these additional measures to further improve road safety on the streets for all road users.
4. Yes, all directly affected residents and relevant stakeholders were consulted.

5. The Master Plans provide for a staged implementation based on both the technical assessment and community consultation. Priority 1 works are implemented first. The Master Plan is then reviewed periodically, along with current traffic data, to determine if the outstanding recommended measures are needed. This review can result in a change in priorities from the original plan, to address current and emerging road safety issues in the area or elsewhere.
  6. The relevant web content will be updated by December 2017.
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**Transport Canberra and City Services—same-sex marriage postal survey  
(Question No 551)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) What work or initiatives will Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) undertake or support during the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey to advocate for the “Yes” vote or using rainbow themed designs.
- (2) For work or initiatives referred to in part (1), (a) when will each work or initiative commence, (b) what is the duration of each work or initiative, (c) how many ACT Government employees are working on or associated with the work or initiative and (d) what is the associated cost.
- (3) What consultation has been undertaken in relation to the initiatives in part (1) with (a) the Office of LGBTIQ Affairs, (b) community groups and (c) the wider Canberra community.
- (4) What accommodations has TCCS implemented for those who object to advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or the use of rainbow designs through the course of their employment on conscientious grounds.
- (5) How many buses will be wrapped with designs advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design.
- (6) What routes will the buses identified in part (4) service while displaying the wrap.
- (7) What is the breakdown of the cost of each wrap advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design, including (a) design, (b) fabrication and (c) installation.
- (8) What date were bus wraps with designs advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design first discussed by TCCS.
- (9) What date were bus wraps with designs advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design ordered by the ACT Government.
- (10) What is the expected installation date for buses to be wrapped with designs advocating the “Yes” votes in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design ordered by the ACT Government.

- (11) How long will the bus wraps advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design be displayed.
- (12) Will Transport Canberra bus drivers be compelled to drive a bus wrapped with designs supporting the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design if they object on conscientious grounds.
- (13) Will the bus wraps advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design be sponsored by any community groups or external entities.
- (14) Will the bus wraps advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design sponsor any community groups or external entities.

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

1. Nil, the buses do not advocate for a yes vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.
2. N/A.
3. N/A.
4. No special accommodations have been required in addition to the ordinary bus deployment processes.
5. Two buses have been wrapped in a rainbow design.
6. The buses displaying the wrap will not be servicing any particular routes but may service any route in the Transport Canberra network.
7. The cost of displaying a rainbow design on two buses is (a) \$200 and (b) and (c) \$22,880 (funded through the Directorate’s allocation of free bus wraps as part of its agreement with Go Transit), noting the answer to question 1 above.
8. The rainbow design bus was discussed with the Directorate on 15 August 2017, noting the answer to question 1 above.
9. The rainbow design bus was ordered on 17 August 2017, noting the answer to question 1 above.
10. The rainbow design buses were installed on 28 August 2017, noting the answer to question 1 above.
11. The duration of the rainbow design buses is to be determined, but it will be a minimum of three months, noting the answer to question 1 above.
12. Drivers are not compelled to drive any particular bus as part of the ordinary bus deployment process.
13. No, noting the answer to question 1 above.



14. These buses have been wrapped as part of the ACT Governments support for the LGBTI community, noting the answer to question 1 above.

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**Transport Canberra and City Services—same-sex marriage postal survey  
(Question No 552)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) How will Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) alter roundabouts or garden displays to advocate the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or display a rainbow design.
- (2) What roundabouts or garden displays have been identified for inclusion in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey “Yes” vote initiative or to display a rainbow design and for each roundabout or garden display identified what work will be undertaken.
- (3) What is the breakdown of the budget of each roundabout or garden display advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design, including (a) design, (b) procurement (c) materials, (d) installation and (e) promotion.
- (4) What sites have been identified for murals to advocate the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or to display a rainbow design and for each site what is the approximate area of the mural.
- (5) What is the breakdown of the budget for each mural advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design, including (a) design, (b) artists costs (c) materials and (d) promotion.
- (6) Will the TCCS invite expressions of interest from local artists for murals advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design; if so, (a) how will TCCS promote the expression of interest process, (b) what guidelines, if any, will be given to artists, (c) how will the successful design or artist be selected, (d) what criteria will be used to determine the successful design or artist and (e) what is the timeframe from opening the expression of interest to the work being completed; if not, (a) will designs be sourced internally within the ACT Government, or through invitation to select artists, (b) what guidelines, if any, will be given to artists or employees designing the mural, (c) how will the successful design or artist be selected, (d) what criteria will be used to determine the successful design and (e) what is the timeframe from opening the expression of interest to the work being completed.
- (7) When will each mural advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design be created or installed.
- (8) How long will each mural advocating the “Yes” vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey or displaying a rainbow design be displayed.

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

- (1) There are currently no plans to do this.
- (2) As above.
- (3) As above.
- (4) None.
- (5) As above.
- (6) No.
- (7) As above.
- (8) As above.

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**Government—consultants and contractors  
(Question Nos 553-581)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Urban Renewal, the Minister for Economic Development, the Treasurer, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Minister for Women, the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Minister for Planning and Land Development, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Minister for Regulatory Services, the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, the Minister for Veterans and Seniors, the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, the Minister for Corrections, the Minister for Mental Health, the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 August 2017 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) For each Directorate and each Government agency for which you are responsible, how many consultants or contractors were engaged by that Directorate or agency in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.

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

Directorate expenditure on contractors and consultants is reported in Annual Report Financial Statements, forming part of Supplies and Services in the Operating Statements. This information can be located in Annual Reports available on each directorate's

website. Directorates also publish details of contracts valued over \$20,000 on the ACT Government Contracts Register that can be accessed via [www.procurement.act.gov.au/contracts](http://www.procurement.act.gov.au/contracts).

When a directorate or agency enters into a contract with a company (or other entity) it is a commercial arrangement to deliver a defined product or service. It is generally up to the head contractor to determine the number of workers required to complete the task(s) either through direct employment with the contractor themselves or through sub-contracting arrangements. Unless the contract explicitly specifies the number of staff to be engaged, the number of consultants or contractors engaged by directorates or agencies is not able to be measured.

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### **Parking—enforcement (Question No 585)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 25 August 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Planning and Land Management*):

- (1) Has the Government discussed privatising or any other method of outsourcing parking enforcement on Territory land; if so, has the Government decided to proceed with privatising/outsourcing.
- (2) Has the Government conducted any economic modelling on the privatisation or outsourcing of parking enforcement on Territory land; if so, what are the terms of this privatising/outsourcing.

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

- (1) Yes. The Government does not have plans for privatisation at this time.
- (2) Preliminary analysis has been undertaken. No terms have been agreed as the Government does not have any plans for privatisation at this time.

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### **Housing—Oaks Estate (Question No 586)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) Did the Minister state in the answer to Question on Notice #69 in annual reports in March 2017 that “Housing ACT continues to make these properties [in Oaks Estate] available at a subsidised rate to enable St Vincent de Paul to provide secure housing for vulnerable Canberrans with enduring mental health issues”; if so, does St Vincent de Paul still have the contract with the ACT Government to provide accommodation at Oaks Estate.
- (2) Has the Oaks Estate Progress Association approached the Minister for a meeting to discuss the status of those tenants who were previously supported under the Samaritan Mental Health Accommodation Support Program.

- (3) How frequently does the Directorate inspect its properties to ensure that lessees are adhering to the terms of their contract.

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

- (1) Yes. The ACT Government continues to have individual head lease agreements with St Vincent de Paul for properties at Oaks Estate.
- (2) Yes. On 12 August 2017, the Secretary of the Oaks Estate Progress Association wrote to me inviting me to come to Oaks Estate and meet some of the tenants. Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith subsequently met with a representative of the Oaks Estate Progress Association on behalf of the Government, accompanied by a senior representative of my office.
- (3) All properties under head lease agreements with the Community Sector are on a program of annual inspection. Head lease properties at Oaks Estate with St Vincent de Paul are scheduled for inspection in October 2017, with inspections of all properties to be completed by November 2017.

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### **Planning—transport (Question No 588)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) What is the Government's current position on the location of the future Canberra terminus of heavy rail connections to Sydney.
- (2) Has the Government investigated a heavy rail hub in the City that connects with light rail and bus services; if so, what is the current status of those investigations and what locations were investigated.
- (3) Has the Government investigated a heavy rail hub in another part of Canberra that connects with light rail and bus services; if so, what is the current status of those investigations and what locations were investigated.
- (4) Has the Government investigated the relocation of Kingston Railway Station.
- (5) Is the Government currently intending to relocate the Kingston Railway Station.

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

- (1) The current location of the Canberra Railway Station Terminus is important in supporting heavy rail passenger connections for the foreseeable future. The railway station would be integrated with the future planning of Eastlake, and coordinated with a rapid public transport service along Canberra and Wentworth Avenues.
- (2) The ACT Government has undertaken a number of studies including the Railway Masterplan for the ACT (2009) that proposes direction for rail infrastructure and facilities in the ACT. The Commonwealth High Speed Rail Study Phase 2 also identified a spur line to Canberra on the eastern fringe of Civic that could connect and

integrate with other transport services such as light rail and bus services. The ACT Government will work closely with the Commonwealth and NSW governments on interstate rail matters.

- (3) Past examination of the Canberra Railway Station precinct recommends refurbishment of the existing station location as it provides interchange to other modes of transport including public transport, bicycles, pedestrians complemented by transit oriented supporting facilities such as kiss and ride and bike and ride. This will be part of the broader planning considerations as part of building an integrated transport network for the ACT community, and as part of discussions with the NSW Government on the rail corridor.
- (4) The relocation of Canberra Railway Station was identified in previous East Lake Urban Renewal planning studies (2008, 2010) as an issue requiring further investigation. The ACT Railway Master Plan (2009) identified options for consolidation and relocation of the railway facilities for a more efficient use of the current Kingston site.

There are no immediate plans to relocate the Canberra Railway Station at Kingston. The *ACT Indicative Land Release Program 2017-18 to 2020-21* includes release of land for residential use within East Lake in 2019-20 subject to a Territory Plan Variation. The initial land releases in East Lake could occur while Canberra Railway Station remains in operation, but will require rationalisation of some of the dis-used railway sidings.

### **Government—same-sex marriage postal survey (Question No 592)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) What is the total pool of investment the ACT Government is contributing to support the “Yes” campaign for the Marriage Law Reform Postal Survey.
- (2) What proportion of that pool is “sunk cost” or already allocated as part of the budget for the Office of LGBTI, rainbow comms, or similar existing government programmes.
- (3) What proportion of that pool is new expenditure specifically and exclusively to support the “Yes” campaign.
- (4) What services does the ACT Government currently provide that will assist with the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ Canberrans in this difficult time.
- (5) Is the ACT Government empowered to support better community engagement with the Postal Survey by providing contact points for the ABS to engage with homeless people; if so, will the ACT Government commit to that and how will it be funded.
- (6) Will the Government commit to declaring this period an “electoral period” to enable all campaigns better engagement with ACT residents.

- (7) Will you commit to providing the ACT population clear and detailed breakdowns of expenditure for this, to reassure them that their rates are being spent in a transparent and ethical manner.

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

- (1) ACT Government funds will not be used to advocate for "yes" responses to the Australian Government's postal survey on same-sex marriage. The ACT Government anticipates up to \$55,000 of the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Affairs 2017/18 budget will support community engagement on the issue of LGBTIQ diversity and inclusion during and leading-up to the 2017 SpringOUT Canberra Pride Festival and the Australia postal survey on same-sex marriage.
- (2) All expenses associated with the delivery of additional community supports and promotion of LGBTIQ diversity and inclusion have been funded from the budget of the Office for LGBTIQ Affairs, or provided from existing funding across ACT Government directorates.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) The ACT Government funds a range of community counselling and mental health services that the LGBTIQ community can access. However, the ACT LGBTIQ Community Consortium (the Consortium) and its members deliver specific supports sensitive to LGBTIQ community needs.

The Consortium is led by the AIDS Action Council for the ACT and comprises Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, A Gender Agenda and Northside Community Service.

The Consortium is funded approximately \$110,000 per annum to promote collaboration among and engagement with service providers supporting the ACT LGBTIQ community.

The Consortium will be resourced an additional \$105,000 to deliver additional counselling and wellbeing supports to the LGBTIQ community for a six-month period from September 2017 to February 2018. This support includes additional online and print resources, counselling and therapeutic support, and education sessions.

- (5) The Office for LGBTIQ Affairs contacted the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Electoral Commission on Tuesday, 22 August 2017 to seek advice and offer assistance in facilitating the Australian postal survey on same-sex marriage. The Australian Bureau of Statistics indicated it would contact the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate if it required assistance to facilitate participation in the Australian postal survey process. To date no contact has been made.

The ABS have advised that people experiencing homelessness, can participate in the survey by:

- Collecting a survey form from a pick-up location. In addition to delivering survey materials by post, the ABS will have locations in every capital city, and some regional and remote locations, where eligible persons who cannot receive their materials by post can collect and/or return survey materials from or to an ABS officer.

- Requesting a survey form be posted to the address of a trusted person to hold the form for collection.
  - Contacting the ABS through the Information Line or via the ABS website to request a Secure Access Code to complete the survey online, using the automated telephone service or via a ABS Customer Assistance Team.
  - People experiencing Homelessness who cannot complete a survey form, can authorise a **trusted person** to assist you with your survey, or to complete the survey on their behalf.
- (6) The ACT Government is unable to declare an “electoral period” for the Australian postal survey on same-sex marriage being conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It is also unclear how this type of declaration would enable campaigns to better engage with ACT residents.
- (7) The ACT Government has demonstrated it is open and transparent about how public resources are used to support LGBTIQ diversity and inclusion. I refer to my response to the question on notice no. 532 from Mr Alistair Coe MLA that details expenses during the 2017-18 financial year on community engagement activities regarding LGBTIQ diversity and inclusion.

### **Domestic and family violence—government initiatives (Question No 598)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) Further to the ACT Government’s agreement to support the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022, what specific steps has the Government taken to contribute to the completion of the Building Primary Prevention Capacity action from the First Action Plan 2010–2013 and when was each step completed to (a) encourage the community to prevent, respond to and speak out against violence by implementing social marketing and awareness campaigns to encourage young people to develop healthy and respectful relationships, with the aim of changing attitudes that support violence, (b) embed evidence-based best practice respectful relationships education in schools by working through the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, to support the inclusion of respectful relationships in phase three of the Australian Curriculum, (c) promote positive media representations of women and develop media codes of practice for reporting sexual assault and domestic violence and (d) advance gender equality through the development and utilisation of gender equality indicators.
- (2) What specific steps has the Government taken to contribute to the completion of the Enhancing Service Delivery action from the First Action Plan 2010–2013 and when was each step completed to (a) deliver high quality telephone and online support services which meet nationally consistent standards, (b) expand the availability of professional support and advice to front line workers, (c) develop Community Safety Plans with a specific focus on violence against women and (d) undertake key projects to drive further reforms across governments and sectors to (i) improve responses to children exposed to domestic violence, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children as a priority, (ii) enhance service responses to help women reach more stable circumstances when they are

seeking to leave violence, (iii) improve service delivery for women with a disability who may have experienced, or are at risk of, violence and (iv) undertake effective risk assessment across the health sector.

- (3) What specific steps has the Government taken to contribute to the completion of the Strengthening Justice Responses action from the First Action Plan 2010–2013 and when was each step completed to (a) through the pooling of knowledge, governments will improve the library of perpetrator interventions, identify gaps and create best practice, (b) set and monitor national minimum standards for domestic violence perpetrator programs and ensure programs for sex offenders continue to adhere to evidence-based best practice, (c) improve cross-jurisdictional mechanisms for the protection of women and children through reforming how family and domestic violence orders are recognised and enforced across borders and (d) improve the levels of understanding about the dynamics of family violence and the handling of family violence cases through the development of a multidisciplinary training package which targets professionals working in the family law system.

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

The ACT Government contributed to actions under the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* (the National Plan), *First Action Plan 2010 2013*.

The Government's approach has moved on considerably since the First Action Plan. The Government's previous and current approaches to building primary prevention capacity; enhancing service delivery; and strengthening justice responses, which includes the work ongoing as a part of the Safer Families package are outlined below.

Given the volume of information the responses have been grouped thematically, under historical and current initiatives.

## **1. Building Primary Prevention Capacity**

### **Historical 2010-13**

The ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2010–17, *Our Responsibility: Ending Violence against Women and Children (Our Responsibility)*, was launched on 22 August 2011. *Our Responsibility* is a joint initiative of the Community Services Directorate and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and was the first of its kind in the Australian Capital Territory. *Our Responsibility* provides overarching principles to guide violence prevention activities across government and support the ability of key service providers (government and non-government) to provide flexible and targeted responses to women and children experiencing violence, including support to enable men using violence to change their behaviour.

The ACT Government provided funding to support the initial rollout of the White Ribbon Breaking the Silence program to ACT schools. The program works to inspire principals to strengthen the culture of respect in their schools, in ways that are age-appropriate for their students, and to engage all parts of the school community. This work continues to be implemented by the Education Directorate.

The inaugural ACT Partners in Prevention function was held in November 2012. This brought together leaders from key corporate and industry areas to work together and identify ways to



prevent violence against women, individually, in the workplace and organisationally. The event was a collaboration between community, government, business and media agencies.

In February 2012, the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, with funding from the ACT Government, commenced the Prevention of Violence on Campus program. The program included resources designed to address the causes and consequences of sexual violence. The development of the program was informed by local student focus groups and by the findings of the National Union of Students' Talk About It survey.

The ACT Government developed the Women's Safety Audits Toolkit to assist organisations to identify and address women's personal safety issues when planning public events. The Audits continue to be used and will be promoted for use at ACT Government events as an action under the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan 2017-19*.

The ACT Government provided seed funding for the development of a primary prevention, anti-violence, respectful relationships program. Respect, Communicate, Choose, for 8–12 year olds, builds the knowledge and skills of young people to support the development of relationships based on respect, equality and safety. The funding enabled the YWCA of Canberra to develop a program manual for educators and trainers and an information resource booklet about respectful relationships for 8–12 year olds.

## **Current**

### **Gender equality and community awareness**

Promoting gender equality and raising community awareness of the importance of the issue underpins the ACT Government's approach to prevention of violence against women, including domestic, family and sexual violence. This aligns with the best international evidence.

Prevention work is ultimately about attitudinal and cultural change, which means it is long term and intergenerational. It also requires a multi-faceted approach to effect change across all parts of our community.

As part of the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26*, the Office for Women is working to embed gender analysis in ACT Government decision-making processes. Under the *First Action Plan 2017-19* the ACT Government has committed to researching and developing Gender Impact Statements for use across Directorates. This will be complemented by a review of past training modules on Gender Impact Statements to develop recommendations for implementation.

To engage the community more broadly in a conversation about gender equality and ending violence against women, the ACT Government supports the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. This is an international campaign seeking to galvanise action to end violence against women and girls. It runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, to highlight that violence against women is a human rights abuse.

In 2016, the ACT Government participated in the 16 Days campaign, including through a social media campaign and other community activities. High profile champions of gender equality provided support to the campaign and messages distributed through social media. The ACT Government will again participate in the campaign in 2017.

**Community-led prevention**

Gender equality is not something that will be achieved by government action alone. The Government provides a range of grants, awards, leadership programs and scholarships to support community leadership on gender equality. These include:

- ACT Women's Awards;
- ACT Violence Prevention Awards;
- ACT Women's Safety Grants;
- Audrey Fagan Young Women's Enrichment Grants;
- Audrey Fagan Leadership Program; and
- Audrey Fagan Churchill Fellowship.

Since 2015-16, through the Women's Safety Grants, the ACT Government has been supporting community-led projects to advance the priorities of the *ACT Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Strategy 2011-17*. Examples of activities funded through this program in 2016-17 include:

- lunch time educational sessions within the construction, building and automotive industries in the Canberra region with the aim of preventing domestic and family violence;
- a pilot program to enhance the safety of women with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds following separation due to domestic violence;
- a project targeted towards children and young people to develop skills in communication, problem solving and relationship building with the aim of the prevention of domestic and family violence; and
- the development of a suite of resources to raise awareness of the experiences of older women subjected to family violence in the ACT and to offer practical information to women, support workers, family and friends.

**School-based prevention**

The Education Directorate aims to ensure that approaches to the primary prevention of domestic and family violence occur at all levels within schools—including the universal (school-wide), selected (class or group) and targeted (small group or individual) levels. A primary prevention approach in schools aims to effect long term cultural change, through educating children and young people to: build attitudes, norms and behaviour that do not accept violence; understand the drivers of violence; and be equipped with skills that assist them to form healthy and respectful relationships. Teachers are in a privileged position in their work with students as, in many cases, they have established and positive relationships with their students.

In 2015 and 2016, the ACT Government provided funding to each ACT public school to develop and embed social and emotional learning programs in their schools. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) approaches enable students to acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to manage their emotions and relationships. The Directorate's Safe and Supportive Schools Policy (2016) requires schools to teach SEL approaches.

The Education Directorate is part of the National Respectful Relationships (RRE) Working Group which was established to progress education related Council of Australian Governments (COAG) priorities to address Domestic Violence. The group has representatives from the Australian Government, states and territories, Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), Board of Studies, National Catholic Education Commission, Independent Schools Council of Australia, Education Services Australia and COAG Education Council.

This group are working on initiatives which map existing resources and the needs of school communities and facilitate the sharing of resources between jurisdictions. This work will increase the respectful relationships education materials accessible to schools through resource development and work with members such as ACARA to support initiatives in this area.

The Education Directorate has developed and promoted a webpage with resources for school communities relating to violence and violence prevention. School resources include *The Line* campaign. Funded by the Australian Government, *The Line* is an initiative under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010 - 2022 delivered by Our WATCH. This website discusses relationships, gender, sex, bystander action, technology and communication; and how to keep it healthy and respectful, and avoid “crossing the line” into behaviour that makes someone feel frightened, intimidated or diminished. *The Line* is a primary prevention behaviour change campaign for young people aged 12 to 20 years, encouraging healthy and respectful relationships by challenging and changing attitudes and behaviours that support violence.

## **2. Enhancing Service Delivery**

### **Historical 2010-13**

The ACT Staying at Home Program supported women and children to transfer a public housing lease to their own tenancy following domestic violence. The program was underpinned by the Domestic Violence Policy Manual, which outlined the commitments and principles that inform the work of Housing ACT, including security upgrades on houses, transfers and prioritising applications for women and children escaping domestic violence.

Brilliant Idea was launched in March 2010 and provides ACT women on low incomes with access to interest-free loans of up to \$3,000 to help them establish or further develop a business. The program is administered through the Lighthouse Innovation Business Centre, which provides women with access to mentoring, training and networking opportunities.

The ACT Government Office for Women runs the ACT Women’s Return to Work Program. This provides grants of up to \$1,000 to support women returning to the workforce following time off for caring responsibilities. The money supports them to attend courses, pay for childcare, purchase clothing to attend interviews, undertake education and training, and pay for transport equipment, computers and text books directly related to returning to work. This program helps women that have or are experiencing domestic and family violence, and certain eligibility criteria may be waived in these circumstances. This program has continued.

### **Current**

#### **Support for women and children to leave violence**

The ACT Government’s funding for women’s homelessness accommodation services is a critical part of the crisis support for women and children leaving violence. In 2016-2017, ACT Government funding for women’s homelessness accommodation services was \$4.5 million. All women’s homelessness services are domestic and family violence inclusive with two services, Beryl and Doris, specialising in accommodation and case management to women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Research from the Staying at Home project managed by the Domestic Violence Crisis Service identified a need in the ACT for interventions that assist women who required additional

housing-related support but do not meet the criteria for being accepted into a domestic violence specialist accommodation service or outreach support. The ACT Government has dedicated \$315,000 in funding over four years to assist people with their immediate needs through practical financial assistance to establish a private rental tenancy after fleeing violence to help create stability, independence and avoid homelessness.

The funding is being delivered through a pilot program which is now underway. Under the pilot, applicants who are eligible for the Housing ACT Rental Bonds Loan Scheme and are affected by domestic and family violence are able to apply for a one-off grant of up to \$2,000. The grant can be used to assist with the removal and storage costs, buying furniture and whitegoods, the cost of connecting utilities and services and paying up to four weeks advance rent.

These applicants also receive fast-tracked access to an interest-free loan of up to 90 per cent of their rental bond under the existing Housing ACT Rental Bonds Loan Scheme.

As part of a holistic approach to enhanced service response to Housing ACT clients experiencing or escaping from family and domestic violence, a new 'Domestic and Family Violence Policy Manual' was released in October 2015 for Housing ACT staff along with mandatory domestic and family violence training. Two hour awareness training for non frontline staff and two-day identification and response training for frontline staff was rolled out in late 2015 and early 2016 and is also provided to new starters.

Additionally, the collaborative body for the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector, Joint Pathways Executive, delivered workforce development and training with frontline homelessness workers to maintain a highly skilled workforce with the capacity to respond to emerging needs. Workforce development continues to be an ongoing priority for the Joint Pathways Executive in 2017-18.

In order to help women to access the supports available to them, the Women's Information Service is a free and confidential information and referral service provided by the Office for Women to support women in our community. The Women's Information Officer routinely provides information and referrals to women who have or are experiencing domestic and family violence.

#### **Additional resources for crisis services**

The ACT has a range of services and supports for victims of domestic and family violence and sexual assault. Most of these services and programs experienced significant increase in demand in the five years prior to delivery of the ACT Government Response to Family Violence. For instance, the Domestic Violence Crisis Service reported a significant increase in emergency call outs and in crisis support telephone sessions and emergency accommodation placements between 2011 and 2014-15. The Canberra Rape Crisis Centre also reported an increase in demand across all areas of service provision between 2011 and 2014-15.

To support the vital work these services provide to people affected by family violence, the ACT Government committed \$830,000 to Domestic Violence Crisis Service and \$416,000 to Canberra Rape Crisis Centre over a four-year period, in addition to their baseline annual funding.

The additional funding is assisting Domestic Violence Crisis Service to meet the increased demand to support victims of domestic and family violence in the ACT, including through enhancing Domestic Violence Crisis Service's capacity to provide 24/7 telephone and

outreach supports, information, counselling, advocacy and practical safety supports. The additional funding provided to Canberra Rape Crisis Centre is helping to meet increased demand from victims of sexual assault in the ACT.

### **Early intervention with children**

A key platform for early intervention with children in the ACT is the Child and Family Centres. These centres are ACT Government service providers that aim to:

- positively influence the developmental pathways and life trajectory of children;
- build capacity and resilience of families to support their children; and
- strengthen the linkages and connections of families to supportive communities.

Child and Family Centres are accessible to all families with young children. Child and Family Centres support families to access the services they need, including referral to specialist services. Children and families are supported through a tailored service offer to meet family need through individual, group and outreach approaches. This can lead to ongoing, one-to-one support with a child and family worker.

The Education Directorate is also building the knowledge and capacity of frontline staff to respond to the individual needs of students through a range of professional learning. Compulsory child protection training which includes information about domestic and family violence and responses to students and the impacts of complex trauma on a children's development is an example of this work.

Key elements from the 2015-16 Trauma Understanding and Sensitive Teaching in Schools (TRUST) pilot in Canberra Public Schools are being implemented as part of the Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) project. TRUST was initiated in 2014 and aims to assist schools to increase their skills base in building relationships, creating safe and supportive environments and utilising positive responses to behaviour; increasing children's educational engagement and social and emotional wellbeing. Combining key TRUST elements with PBL allows more schools to participate in applying TRUST principles. Currently, 25 Canberra Public Schools have started their PBL journey.

Outside of government-led approaches, the Domestic Violence Crisis Service runs the Young People's Outreach Program (YPOP). The YPOP is an early intervention program that aims to assist children and their families known to Domestic Violence Crisis Service who have been affected by or are living with domestic and family violence.

### **ACT Health**

ACT Health recognises the perinatal period as one of heightened risk for experiencing domestic and family violence. To this end, staff within the Perinatal Mental Health Service have undertaken domestic and family violence training and subsequently introduced family violence screening. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) have introduced an online domestic and family violence training program with the intention to expand screening to all CAMHS services, ensuring that all young people who access CAMHS services are screened for exposure to family violence. ACT Health will continue to streamline their domestic and family violence screening and risk assessment questions on client assessment forms.

ACT Health has also allocated \$2 million in funding in the 2016-17 Budget to provide more effective responses to people who use alcohol or other drugs (AOD) in harmful ways and who are experiencing, or at risk of family violence. This initiative will increase the capacity of specialist drug treatment services to deliver programs and training that integrate best practice in addressing family violence.

In October 2016, ACT Health underwent a procurement process for the design of a pilot program which recognises the complex relationship between family violence and alcohol and other drug use, to enhance early intervention with victims and perpetrators of family violence. The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) was selected and a pilot project is now in the design phase. The pilot project will build capacity within the AOD sector to deliver programs that integrate best practice in family violence prevention.

### **3. Strengthening Justice Responses**

#### **Historical 2010-13**

The ACT Sexual Assault Reform Program Wraparound approach is a coordinated response to victims of sexual assault reporting, or considering reporting, to the ACT Police. Uptake of the service has been high, with an estimated 80 per cent of victims presenting at the police station consenting to participate in the program.

The ACT Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) provides an interagency response to family violence matters that have come to the attention of police and then proceeded to prosecution. Core components of the FVIP include pro-arrest, pro-charge and presumption against bail, early provision of victim support, pro-prosecution, coordination and case management and rehabilitation of offenders.

In October 2012, ACT Policing agreed to establish a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian Capital Territory Domestic Violence Crisis Service to encompass and strengthen the Family Violence Incident Review (FVIR) originally adopted in 2009. The new MoU builds on many years of close collaboration between these agencies in the collection of information on high-risk family violence incidents to support appropriate future responses. The FVIR is now an agreed means for identifying and addressing training and systems improvement opportunities for both agencies.

In December 2012, with funding from the ACT Government, the Centre published *Your Court Your Safety*—a guide to going to court and getting help with domestic violence. The guide provides victims of domestic violence with comprehensive information about the legal process for domestic violence and the range of support services available in the Australian Capital Territory.

The *Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2012* was presented in the ACT Legislative Assembly in November 2012. The Bill proposes a number of amendments in relation to sexual offences, including:

- creating new offences of sexual intercourse and act of indecency with a young person under special care; and
- bringing important definitions for sexual offences into line with other jurisdictions.

The Bill also continues the work of the Sexual Assault Reform Program by strengthening provisions for victims and certain witnesses who give evidence in sexual and violent offences. Victims who wish to read a victim impact statement aloud, either in court or, in certain cases, by audio visual link, will be given a right to do so.

The ACT Government provided new funding for a specialist intensive supported accommodation, case management and counselling intervention program for men who use violence against women and children. The program works with other support services to assist program participants to achieve long-term behavioural change and reduce re-offending.

## Current

### Perpetrator programs

The *Third Action Plan 2016-19* of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022* has a focus on perpetrator interventions. It is the first plan to focus on holding perpetrators accountable and encouraging behaviour change.

The ACT's approach to working with men who use violence is guided by this framework. The ACT's *Family Violence Act 2016* and other reforms to police and justice system responses to perpetrators, discussed in more detail in the next section, provide a strong framework for increasing perpetrator accountability in the ACT.

Under the Third Action Plan, the ACT has committed to implementing key performance indicators against the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions (NOSPI) and participating in national work to develop an approach to report against these indicators annually to drive further improvements. The ACT is currently preparing to provide data for the development of the NOSPI Benchmark Report. This report will be available in 2018.

### Legislative changes

The *Family Violence Act 2016* (the Act) commenced on 1 May 2017. The Act implements 22 recommendations made by the Australian and New South Wales Law Reform Commissions in their report *Family Violence – a National Legal Response* (the *National Legal Response*).

The Act expanded the definition of family violence to include economic abuse, sexual abuse and emotional or psychological abuse and behaviours that are threatening, coercive or controlling. The Act includes a number of specific examples of emotional or psychological abuse including:

- stopping the family member from visiting or having contact with family and friends; and
- stopping a family member from engaging in cultural or spiritual practices.

The Act made a number of important changes to the process for obtaining a family violence order. For example, the Act contains an express provision conferring on courts a power to make a protection order on their own initiative at any stage of a criminal proceeding.

The Act contains the provisions that relate to the National Domestic Violence Order scheme (the NDVO scheme), which was agreed to by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The NDVO scheme will help domestic violence orders to be recognised across all states and territories and improve information sharing on a national level with the aim of improving safety for women and children escaping domestic violence. The proposed national commencement date for the NDVO scheme is 25 November 2017.

To support the changes made to legislation and to offer more streamlined services for people in crisis needing legal responses, the National Legal Response implementation included the introduction of new registry procedures, major modifications to the Integrated Courts Management System, development of new template orders and other court documents and updating of information products.

Major reforms that improve access to financial assistance for victims of family violence were also enacted. The *Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Act 2016* replaced the *Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Act 1983*. The Victims of Crime Commissioner is the decision maker for the new scheme, which is delivered alongside the Victims Services Scheme. Victims of family violence are now eligible to access immediate needs payments up to

\$10,000 for non-violent domestic and family violence offences including property damage and contravention of family violence orders.

Where a victim has not reported domestic or family violence to police, but they have reported to support agencies and/or professionals, there is scope to access certain payments as a 'special reporting'. Immediate needs and economic loss payments cover expenses such as personal security installations, emergency relocations, medical expenses, psychological support and loss of earnings. During the first year of operation (2016-2017), 22 per cent of applications were made by victims of domestic or family violence.

Changes have also been made to the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* to better protect women and children leaving family and domestic violence. Changes to the Act came into effect in August 2017 and established a 'protected person' as defined under the *Family Violence Act 2016* or the *Personal Violence Act 2016* and allowed a new tenancy agreement to be entered into, in the circumstances of family violence or existence of protection orders and make it easier to transfer a tenancy to a co-tenant or resident. These changes provide the legislative basis for the ACT Government's 'Stay at Home Program' that supports victims of family and domestic violence to stay in their own homes and moves the perpetrators of violence to alternative accommodation.

The *Reportable Conduct and Information Sharing Legislation Amendment Act 2016* commenced in August 2016, making changes to allow better information sharing about children and introducing the Reportable Conduct Scheme. This is discussed further below.

### **Stronger police support for family violence victims**

Addressing family and domestic and family violence within the community is a high priority for ACT Policing. In 2015, the Family Violence Coordination Unit was established to coordinate the ACT Policing frontline response to domestic and family violence and ensure that it is timely, consistent and comprehensive. The Family Violence Coordination Unit enhances the pro-intervention policy of ACT Policing and develops strategies to reduce risk and ensure offenders are held accountable.

In the 2016-17 Budget, the ACT Government committed to providing a further \$1.18 million of funding over four years to ACT Policing to new Family Violence Order Liaison Officers within the Family Violence Coordination Unit to assist victims of domestic and family violence by applying for a Family Violence Order on their behalf. In December 2016, a direct referral process was established whereby the courts can refer applicants to the Family Violence Order Liaison Officers when it is considered necessary to address reports of ongoing victimisation and criminality.

ACT Policing members commenced referring applicants for Family Violence Orders to the Family Violence Order Liaison Officers on 1 May 2017, in line with the new provisions under the Family Violence Act 2016. Since then, there has been a significant increase in referrals for assistance, confirming the importance of this initiative.

Between 1 May and 31 July 2017, Family Violence Order Liaison Officers assisted 123 victims through the Family Violence Order process. As of mid-August 2017, ACT Policing Family Violence Order Liaison Officers have applied for three Family Violence Orders on behalf of victims.

These matters are the first use of this legislation and are all currently before the court. Family Violence Order Liaison Officers have received positive feedback from the victims they assist.



Statistical data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that the number of domestic and family violence related assaults in the ACT recorded by police between 1 January and 31 December 2016 rose to 240 victims per 100,000 persons (a 33 per cent increase from the year prior). The increased victimisation rate between 2015 and 2016 could be driven by a range of factors, including the enhanced police response in the ACT.

**Improved access to legal assistance and court support**

The ACT Government is helping improve access to legal services for victims of domestic and family violence through providing an additional \$1,214,000 in funding over four years to Legal Aid to increase its capacity to represent victims of family violence. This work includes providing family violence victims with expert legal advice and representation in dispute resolution and litigation involving the alleged perpetrator. Without Legal Aid support, these victims would generally go unassisted. Through this funding Legal Aid assisted an additional 141 victims during 2016-17. The outcomes of this initiative will be measured through annual monitoring of Legal Aid's capacity to represent victims of family violence and the number of victims assisted.

The ACT's Women's Legal Centre's federally-funded Domestic Violence Program, launched in November 2016, provides legal advice and representation to women experiencing violence. It aims to provide holistic support across women's experience from crisis (support for family violence and protection orders) through to post crisis and recovery (negotiate custody arrangements for children, division of property and representation at the Family Court). The program was funded as a pilot service under the Commonwealth Government Women's Safety Package and the funding was recently extended to 30 June 2019.

It is essential for the administration of justice that courts and tribunals receive accurate interpretation of any evidence or material presented to them in languages other than English, including sign language. The ACT Government recognises this and has committed to providing \$1,223,000 over four years to support translation and interpreter services (TIS) for people accessing the ACT Law Courts and Tribunal and specialist ACT family violence services, including community legal centres, for domestic and family violence matters. Eligible organisations will be reimbursed for relevant 2016-17 TIS costs and, from 2017-18, have been provided government funded direct access to TIS services for domestic and family violence matters.

The Government also provides funding to the Court Advocacy Program which is a criminal and civil court advocacy service for people who have experienced domestic and family violence.

**Justice system coordination**

The Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) has been ongoing since 1998 and is a multi-agency model focused on responding to family violence incidents that come to police attention and proceed to prosecution.

- The FVIP partner agencies are:
- Australian Federal Police (ACT Policing);
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- ACT Magistrates' Court;
- ACT Corrective Services;
- ACT Health;
- Legal Aid ACT;
- Canberra Rape Crisis Centre;
- Domestic Violence Crisis Service;

- Children, Youth and Families, Community Services Directorate;
- Policy and Regulatory Division, Justice and Community Safety Directorate; and
- The Office of the Victims of Crime Coordinator.

The Family Violence Intervention Program is made up of two core initiatives – a coordinating committee and weekly case tracking meeting program. The FVIP Coordinating Committee works to identify and implement reforms across agencies in the ACT to meet the objectives of the FVIP. This committee is represented by senior staff from key partner agencies. The Victims of Crime Commissioner performs the role of Chair of the Coordinating Committee and Victim Support ACT provides secretariat support. FVIP case tracking is a weekly interagency meeting that seeks to provide coordinated responses to family violence matters that come to the attention of police and proceed to prosecution.

In 2012, the ACT Family Violence Intervention Program Review was undertaken in order to describe the effectiveness of the program including its governance arrangements. The review showed that throughout its operation, FVIP agencies have implemented a range of practices to improve the criminal justice system response to family violence. The review also found that the breadth of services provided by FVIP agencies contributes to the perceived safety and protection of victims of family violence, and that FVIP is effective in establishing relationships between agencies and ensuring they work cooperatively.

#### **Stronger criminal justice responses**

On 4 May 2016, the Family Violence Evidence in Chief (FVEIC) provisions commenced. The provisions allow police records of interview to be admitted as evidence in chief for family violence and all sexual offences. These laws recognise the vulnerability and impediments faced by victims when criminal prosecutions are undertaken in a family violence matter. The legislation has enabled ACT Policing to gather the best evidence as soon as practicable after the alleged family violence offence has occurred. The ACT is only the second Australian jurisdiction to implement this important reform. Analysis with regard to the effectiveness of FVEIC is underway.

Criminal justice responses also have been strengthened through an injection of \$1.36 million over four years to enable the Director of Public Prosecutions to improve its ability to respond to criminal matters related to domestic and family violence.

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### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—grants programs (Question No 600)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, upon notice, on 25 August 2017:

- (1) When will the Seed Funding Grants be made available.
- (2) What is the purpose of the grants.
- (3) Who will be able to apply for the grants.
- (4) What happened to the Seed Funding Grants, then called the Indigenous Enterprise Development Grants, from last year's budget.
- (5) When will the criteria for grants be released.

- (6) What outcomes are being sought from the grants.
- (7) How will the successes of the grants be measured.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The seed funding grants will be known as the *ACT New and Emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisation Grants Program*. The 2017-18 grants round is expected to open in the second quarter of 2017-2018.
- (2) The purpose of the grants is to support new and emerging ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to develop culturally appropriate services for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- (3) Consultations are currently being held with ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and other stakeholders and potential partners on how to ensure the funding is used as effectively as possible. It is expected that funding will focus on sustainably developing new and emerging organisations, including incorporated associations, social enterprises and for-profit businesses.
- (4) The 2016-17 *Indigenous Enterprise Development initiative* is different from the *ACT New and Emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisation Grants Program*.

The *Indigenous Enterprise Development* initiative is administered through Innovate Canberra, in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD). This initiative will provide funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business owners to help them take advantage of opportunities to develop their businesses. Community Services Directorate is liaising with CMTEDD to ensure the two initiatives are complementary.

- (5) Guidelines for the *ACT New and Emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisation Grants Program* will be released when the 2017-18 grants round opens.
- (6) This grants program will seek to support ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in providing effective community-managed programs and businesses.
- (7) The success of the grants program will be measured through:
  - Number of emerging organisations that apply for the grants program
  - Number of emerging organisations successfully acquitting the grant funding
  - Community feedback

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## **Environment—water storage (Question No 601)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 15 September 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) When was it discovered that four of the ACT's dams did not meet the Territory's safety code.
- (2) How often are audits conducted on the ACT's water storages.

- (3) How often are they supposed to be undertaken.
- (4) When was the last one undertaken prior to the most recent audit.
- (5) Whose responsibility is it to undertake audits of ACT water storages.
- (6) Who undertook the most recent audit.
- (7) What prompted them to do it.
- (8) Why has this failure to meet safety standards not been identified before.
- (9) What remediation work, if any, is required to be done.
- (10) Why has a safety audit of the lower Molonglo water quality control centre not been undertaken since it was built 22 years ago.
- (11) What is examined in a safety code assessment.

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

- (1) The Utilities Technical Regulator's Combined Annual Report for 2013/14 and 2014/15 makes this finding. This report was published on the Access Canberra web site in early 2016. Utilities Technical Regulation staff (UTR) raised concerns with Icon Water in relation to non-compliance during the first half of 2015.
- (2) The ACT Dam Safety Code 2014 requires that Scheduled Dams comply with Australian Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) Guidelines and also NSW Dam Safety Committee Technical Guidance Sheets (NSWDSC). These guidelines require implementation of a comprehensive surveillance regime in order to demonstrate dam safety. The required frequency of inspections varies depending on the Consequence (or Hazard) Category of the Dam as noted in Table 1 below.

Icon Water conducts routine inspections for its five Scheduled Dams as required by Table 1 below. However Safety Reviews along with the associated Independent Peer Reviewer Reports have never been conducted for the four dams. This can in part be attributed to the significant changes in approach to risk assessment over the last 15 years. It is therefore more important to focus on how Icon Water is working towards compliance with current regulations. In this respect Icon Water has confirmed that it is implementing a program so that its five 'Scheduled' dams fully comply with the ACT Dam Safety Code 2014 by December 2018.

- (3) The table below outlines the frequency required for a range of surveillance activities for Extreme, High and Low Consequence (or Hazard) Category Dams.

**Table 1: Frequency of required dam surveillance**

Inspection Type	Googong Dam	Bendora, Corin & Cotter Dams	Lower Molonglo Storage Dam
	Dam Consequence (Hazard) Category		
	Extreme	High	Low
Routine Visual inspections	Daily	Daily to Tri-weekly	Monthly
Intermediate Inspections and Reporting	Annual	Annual	5 yearly

<b>Inspection Type</b>	<b>Googong Dam</b>	<b>Bendora, Corin &amp; Cotter Dams</b>	<b>Lower Molonglo Storage Dam</b>
	Dam Consequence (Hazard) Category		
	Extreme	High	Low
Comprehensive Surveillance and Reporting	Five yearly	Five yearly	Not specified
Safety Reviews	15 yearly	15 yearly	15 – 20 yearly
Independent Peer Reviewer report on the Safety Review	Prior to acceptance of a Safety Review by the Utilities Technical Regulator		
Independent audit of dam owner's surveillance program	10 yearly – This is an audit of the type and frequency of monitoring and inspections conducted to ensure the continuing appropriateness of dam monitoring and inspection programs and the adequacy of surveillance evaluation and reporting.		

(4) Surveillance activities have most recently been completed as noted in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Date of most recent audits**

<b>Inspection Type</b>	<b>Bendora Dam</b>	<b>Corin Dam</b>	<b>Googong Dam</b>	<b>Lower Molonglo Storage Dam</b>
Routine Visual inspections	Conducted at the frequency required by Table 1 above			
Intermediate Inspections and Reporting	Conducted at the frequency required by Table 1 above			
Comprehensive Surveillance and Reporting	July 2017	April 2017	May 2014	June 2017
Safety Reviews	Supporting studies have been completed. However Icon Water has not completed formal Safety Reviews for these four dams.			
Independent Peer Reviewer report on the Safety Review	Not completed			
Independent audit of dam owner's surveillance program	June 2015			

Icon Water is working towards compliance with current regulations. In this respect Icon Water has confirmed that it has engaged experts in the field of dam design, construction and safety to complete Dam Safety Reviews and the Independent Peer Reviewer's Reports. Icon Water has advised that these will all be complete by December 2018.

Cotter Dam was commissioned in 2013/14. The designer's Construction Report and Independent Peer Reviewer's Report on the construction report confirmed that the dam was safe at the time it was commissioned. A further Safety Review is not needed until approximately 2028/29.

- (5) As required by the ACT Dam Safety Code 2014, Icon Water is responsible for the program of surveillance needed to demonstrate continuing safety of its dams.
- (6) Icon Water conducts routine inspection using its own staff. However it engages consultants that are recognised experts in the field of dam design, construction and safety to complete Dam Safety Reviews and the Independent Peer Reviewer's Reports.

- (7) Icon Water conducts its surveillance program of dams in order to demonstrate the continuing safety of its dams and also to meet regulatory requirements of the ACT Dam Safety Code 2014. It is required to report to the Utilities Technical Regulator annually on the status of its dam safety management program.
- (8) Icon Water's non-compliance with the ACT Dam Safety Code was first identified by UTR staff in the first half of 2015. In June 2015 Icon Water had its Dam Safety Management System independently audited. Subsequently Icon Water has been working towards full compliance with the Code as reported in recent Utilities Technical Regulator's Annual Reports.
- (9) There is no evidence that remediation work is required.
- (10) The Lower Molonglo Storage Dam is a Low Consequence (or Hazard) Category Dam. The ANCOLD Guidelines allow for periodic Safety Reviews at up to 20 year intervals for Low Consequence Category Dams. The need for a Safety Review of this dam was identified by Icon Water in June 2015 and is now nearing completion.
- (11) As required by the ACT Dam Safety Code, the Icon Water dam safety management program includes surveillance activities as listed at Table 1 above.

A Safety Review is the final step in demonstrating the continued safety of a dam. It is a thorough review of all aspects of the safety of a dam. It typically will comprise a detailed study of structural, hydraulic, hydrologic and geotechnical design aspects of a dam and of the records and reports from surveillance activities. It also assesses the known failure modes and mechanisms for the dam against recognised acceptance criteria (e.g. engineering standards, dam safety guidelines and risk management criteria).

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### **Environment—wood heaters (Question No 602)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 15 September 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In response to Question 374 about wood heaters did you say that Access Canberra undertakes risk based compliance inspections to ensure compliance with activities regulated under the legislation.
- (2) What format do the inspections take.
- (3) How are potential houses selected for inspection.
- (4) How often and how many inspections are undertaken on a yearly basis.
- (5) What suburbs are included in areas of inspection.

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

- (1) Yes, noting that the response to Question 374 is for the sale of new wood heaters.

- (2) Inspections are undertaken at the point of sale i.e. retail outlets. Letters were sent on 3 August 2016 to wood heater retailers advising them of the new standards with visits being undertaken in late 2016 of a number of retailers across Canberra to check compliance.
- (3) Inspections are undertaken on a complaints basis.
- (4) See above
- (5) The standards apply to the sale of new wood heaters and potentially could cover all suburbs.

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—methadone program  
(Question No 603)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 15 September 2017  
(*redirected to the Minister for Mental Health*):

- (1) In relation to the methadone program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre, what is the upfront cost of each IDose machine, broken down into hardware, software and other costs.
- (2) What is the ongoing cost of each IDose machine, broken down into hardware, software and other costs.
- (3) What is the additional cost for the two IDose machines which will be fixed to a trolley, creating a mobile dispensing unit.
- (4) How often are the IDose machines recalibrated after use.

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

- 1. The iDose dosing station at the Hume Health Centre, which has extra equipment, consists of the following: Iris recognition camera (\$5796.00), Webcam for patient photo ID (\$150.00), Ivek pump (\$7600.00), Flatbed prescription scanner (\$250.00), Zebra Thermal Label Printer and extra labels (\$930.00). All other dosing stations have the Iris recognition camera and Ivek pump. The total cost for all hardware, including purchasing an extra Thermal Label Printer is \$74,585.00. The total cost of software, shipping, installation, licence fees and attendance at site is \$50,250.00. Extra costs include CMI Drug safes (\$5594.00), 5 desktop and monitors (\$1400 per annum), methadone takeaway bottles (\$997 per annum).
- 2. The ongoing cost for each iDose station includes the following: monitor and desktop rent (\$1400 per annum), methadone takeaway bottles (\$997 per annum), iDose software support, updates, patent & software licences (\$35,750 per annum). This support includes one 2 yearly pumping equipment loan / regular servicing excluding replacement parts.
- 3. The additional cost for the two idose dispensing stations that will be portable is \$17835.00. This cost is specifically for the portable trolleys. The costs of the idose equipment has already been outlaid in question 1.

4. The iDose Ivek pumps are calibrated daily to ensure that it is dispensing the correct amount. The pumps are serviced every 2 years and an equipment loan pump is supplied to cover the original one when being serviced.

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### **Mental health—patient readmission (Question No 605)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

Further to the answer to QON No E17-561, part 2a, concerning discharge figures provided for each year, (a) how many discharged patients returned to a public health inpatient unit and (b) what was the average time between discharge and re-admission.

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

ACT Health benchmarks both seven day follow up (as provided in response to QON 561) and 28 day readmissions (planned and unplanned) through a national submission to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. For patients who had a planned or unplanned readmission (a) the number of patients and (b) the average number of days are summarised in the following table:

<b>Patients discharged and readmitted to a Mental Health Inpatient Unit</b>		
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Patients readmitted within 28 days</b>	<b>Average time between discharge and readmission</b>
2014-15	144	8.5 Days
2015-16	163	10.7 Days
2016-17	213	11.3 Days

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### **ACT Health—cystic fibrosis treatment services (Question No 606)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Further to the answer to QON No E17-521, when does ACT Health expect it will receive the report and recommendations of Cystic Fibrosis Australia's peer review group in relation to its review of ACT Health's cystic fibrosis treatment services.
- (2) Will ACT Health consult with Cystic Fibrosis ACT before responding to the report and its recommendations; if not, why not.
- (3) Will ACT Health invite a response from Cystic Fibrosis ACT to the report and its recommendations and the Government's response; if not, why not.
- (4) Will the Government release publicly the report and recommendations and the Government's response; if not, why not.



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

1. ACT Health has received this report.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. It is anticipated that the report and recommendations will be publicly released when finalised.

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**ACT Health—identified risks  
(Question No 607)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Further to the answers to parts 13-21 of QON No E17-535, were the high and extreme risks identified in the AECOM report first identified in the Health Infrastructure Services (HIS) risk register.
- (2) If so, (a) when were they identified, (b) when were they entered on the HIS risk register and (c) what remedial action was taken.
- (3) If not, had any of the following first identified those risks, the (a) HIS Safety & Risk Manager, (b) risk owners, (c) Health Infrastructure Operations Working Group or (d) Infrastructure Executive Committee; if so, (i) when did they identify them, (ii) what remedial action did they take and (iii) why were the identified risks not recorded in the HIS; if not, what procedural improvements have been made for stakeholders to be more pro-active in identifying infrastructure risks.
- (4) Why did the Government have to engage AECOM to undertake a review, with such extensive and comprehensive processes and high-level stakeholders involved in assessing and managing risks associated with health infrastructure services.
- (5) Did the HIS identify, at any time, any risk associated with the aluminium cladding on the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children; if so, (a) when was the risk identified, (b) what is the risk and (c) what has been done to mitigate that risk during the period since the risk was identified; if not, does it now.

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

1. No. The AECOM report predates the Health Infrastructure Services (HIS) risk register which was initiated following the creation of the HIS group as part of ACT Health Corporate Division in July 2016.
2. Not applicable.
3. The HIS risk document is an active document that is reviewed monthly at the Health Infrastructure and Operations Working Group and the Business Support and Infrastructure Executive Committee. As new risks are identified, or existing risks are

closed, the register is updated and plans are instigated to develop Risk Action Control Plans for each risk. The risk register is used as a tool to prioritise work activity within the HIS group and also inform future project submissions for consideration. All ACT Health stakeholders through Executive leads are encouraged to proactively identify infrastructure risk in a consistent/objective manner using a risk matrix approach based on likelihood and consequence.

4. AECOM were engaged in 2015 to undertake a high level desktop review and visual inspection of the ACT Health facilities with the purpose of developing an asset condition report for the ACT Health Facilities. The consultant resource provided by AECOM enabled ACT Health to develop a consolidated and contemporary status update on the condition of ACT Health facilities.
5. The risk associated with Polyethylene Aluminum Composite Panels (ACPs) was added to the HIS risk register following receipt of the Defire Report into the use of ACPs on the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children (CHWC). Planning work is underway to address the risk associated with the CHWC building with an expectation that work will commence before the end of 2017 and be completed by June 2018, subject to the outcome of an open tender process. In the interim, steps have been taken to increase the frequency of fire system checks within the building as well as additional emergency management drills/awareness for CHWC staff.

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### **ACT Health—opioid treatment review (Question No 608)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What is the Government's response to the Penington Institute's 2017 Overdose Report and its claim that "Fentanyl, a dangerous drug 100 times more potent than pure morphine is at the forefront of Australia's drug overdose crisis", and that "diverted fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is killing hundreds of Australians amid the country's escalating overdose problem".
- (2) Is fentanyl used in the ACT's opioid treatment program; if so, how many patients have died as a result of overdoses.
- (3) Will the new opioid treatment guidelines rule out the use of fentanyl in the program; if not, why not.
- (4) Has or will the Government consult with the Penington Institute in the development of its opioid treatment guidelines; if so, (a) what were the outcomes or recommendations and (b) will the recommendations be adopted in the guidelines; if not, why not.
- (5) If the Penington Institute is not to be consulted, why not.
- (6) What other opioids will be ruled out for use under the opioid treatment guidelines.

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

1. Any death resulting from a drug overdose is a tragedy. According to table 4 on page 19 of the Pennington's Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2017, the ACT (combined

with the Northern Territory (NT) and Tasmania (TAS)) has not had the increase in fentanyl deaths experienced in other states.

**Table 4: Increase in deaths due to fentanyl, pethidine and tramadol, by jurisdiction, 2001-05 VS. 2011-15**

	<b>2001-2005</b>	<b>2011-2005</b>	<b>ratio</b>
ACT, NT, TAS	7	19	-
QLD	11	212	19.3
NSW	25	233	9.3
VIC	23	153	6.7
SA	15	72	4.8
WA	21	107	5.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>7.8</b>

For the ACT, TAS and NT deaths associated with fentanyl (and also includes deaths from tramadol and pethidine) increased from 7 deaths in 2001-2005 to 19 deaths in 2011-2015. The increase in ratio of deaths (the Ratio) as outlined in Table 4 for ACT/NT/TAS was not outlined in the report. ACT Health calculated the Ratio to be 2.7. The Ratio nationally is 7.8, with Queensland experiencing the highest increase with the Ratio of 19.3.

The ACT and TAS over this period have implemented new drugs and poisons information systems (DAPIS) allowing each jurisdiction's health departments to better monitor the supply of controlled medicines for potential misuse, abuse and/or diversion.

ACT introduced new regulations and the Controlled Medicines Prescribing Standards (the Standards) in September 2016 to improve the ACT's regulatory framework for minimising harms with controlled medicines prescribing, such as fentanyl. The Standards include criteria for prescribing opioids for chronic pain and for opioid maintenance treatment. The standards have been well received by prescribers and assist their prescribing of opioids to patients.

2. No. Fentanyl does not have marketing approved in Australia to treat opioid dependency.
3. The ACT is currently reviewing its opioid maintenance treatment guidelines with a view to adopting the 2014 National Guidelines for Medication-Assisted treatment of Opioid Dependence (the National Guidelines). The National Guidelines do not reference or recommend fentanyl as a treatment option for treatment of opioid dependency.
4. No, the Penington Institute has not been consulted.
5. No. Consultation with the Penington Institute is not required assuming the ACT adopts the National Guidelines. The Penington Institute responded to the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs analysis of arrangements and changes to the opioid maintenance therapy provisions in the National Guidelines during their development in 2014.

Local stakeholders including the ACT Opioid Treatment Advisory Committee are being consulted as part of the ACT's current review of local opioid maintenance treatment guidelines.

6. The Guidelines only outline the use of buprenorphine tablets or sub-lingual wafers (with or without naloxone) and methadone liquid. No other opioids are recommended for use in treatment of opioid dependency.

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### **ACT Health—invoices (Question No 609)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

Why did it take the Directorate from 11 May to 13 July 2017 to pay invoices for \$306 396.20 and \$470 250 from Orion Health.

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

The standard payment term for Orion invoices is 30 days. Prior to payment of an invoice ACT Health goes through a process of confirming the goods and services being invoiced were received. The timeframe for the goods receipting activities was slower than usual due to discussions between ACT Health and Orion Health relating to contractual matters. ACT Health maintained communication with Orion Health about the delays in payments of the invoices.

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### **Drugs—pill testing (Question No 610)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Further to the answer to QON No E17-553, is the Government negotiating or intending to negotiate with the Ted Noffs Foundation or any other NGO to conduct pill-testing at the Spilt Milk Festival.
- (2) What funding is allocated for pill-testing at the Spilt Milk Festival.
- (3) What services will be available for any person who takes a tested drug but suffers adverse effects.
- (4) What legal indemnity protections will be put in place for the Government or any person or organisation associated with the pill-testing service.
- (5) What counselling services will be available or given to persons wishing to take tested drugs.
- (6) What psychological screening services will be available for persons wishing to take tested drugs, to determine the likelihood of them entering a psychotic state after taking stimulants (refer to Chapter 7 National Drug Strategy).
- (7) What psychological screening services will be available for persons with an existing psychotic disorder, to determine whether their condition will be exacerbated by taking tested drugs (refer to Chapter 7 National Drug Strategy).

- (8) What services will be available to protect the personal safety and security of other attendees.
- (9) Will the location of a pill-testing service concentrate drug-taking in the vicinity of that location; if so, what additional security services will be provided in the area.
- (10) Will the availability of pill-testing services increase and intensify the availability of drugs at an event; if not, what evaluation methodology drew that conclusion; if so, what anti-drug-trafficking security arrangements will be put in place.
- (11) Will the availability of pill-testing services increase the scope of the drug-trafficking market more generally in the ACT; if not, what evaluation methodology drew that conclusion; if so, what strategies does the Government have to combat a potential increase in drug-trafficking more generally in the ACT.
- (12) If a person consumes tested illicit drugs, does it remain open to police to make an arrest if they observe the activity at the Spilt Milk Festival.
- (13) Notwithstanding the presence of pill-testing facilities, will illicit drug trafficking remain illegal if conducted at the Spilt Milk Festival.

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

- 1. The ACT Government has considered the proposal as part of a cabinet submission and has agreed to allow STA-SAFE to provide pill-testing at the Spilt Milk Festival on 25 November 2017.
- 2. No ACT Government funding will be provided.
- 3. ACT music festivals, such as Spilt Milk or Groovin' in the Moo, currently have volunteer welfare services, First Aid (Private) and Ambulance (Govt) services available to provide assistance to people who suffer adverse effects from illicit drugs regardless of whether a drug has been tested.
- 4. Not applicable.
- 5. Pill testing will provide an opportunity to give face to face education and advice to young people about the harm and risk of consuming illicit drugs and the potential toxicity of any unknown substances.
- 6. Pill Testing does not provide screening for the likelihood of a person entering a psychotic state after taking stimulants.
- 7. Please see answer to question 6.
- 8. Security and law-enforcement presence are a routine part of event planning for ACT music festivals.
- 9. Available evidence and expert opinion does not indicate that the presence of these services increases the availability of illicit drugs. Possession and supply of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT.

10. Available evidence and expert opinion does not indicate that the presence of these services increases the availability of illicit drugs. ACT Policing will be deploying police members to deter anti-social behaviour. This includes drug trafficking.
11. Available evidence and expert opinion does not indicate that the presence of these services increases the availability of illicit drugs. ACT Policing will continue to target drug traffickers both at festivals and in the broader community.
12. Security and law-enforcement presence are a routine part of event planning for ACT music festivals regardless of the presence of pill-testing. While law enforcement supports the conduct of pill testing at the Spilt Milk festival, possession and supply of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT and at the festival. As it is an offence to possess and/or consume illicit substances in the ACT, police actions including the arrest of individuals committing an offence may occur.
13. Yes.

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### **Crime—antisocial behaviour (Question No 613)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Has the Minister answered my letters of 6 April 2017 and 19 July 2017 about an untidy block, anti-social behaviour and barking dogs at a residence in Macquarie; if not, why not.
- (2) Why has the Government allowed these issues to continue for 14 years.
- (3) What does the Government intend to do to resolve the issues.
- (4) When will the Government take action to resolve the issues.
- (5) What are the rights, including but not limited to human rights, of neighbours who have had to endure these issues for 14 years.

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

- (1) A response has now been provided. The delay was a result of the ongoing investigation and interactions with the residents of the property to seek rectification of the state of the block.
- (2) Access Canberra (and its predecessors) and other ACT Government Directorates have been aware of issues relating to the residence over the years and have attempted to address them whenever possible to do so. During this period, there have been various points where the issues at the property have been addressed and compliance action was no longer required. However, following on from these periods of compliance the situation has deteriorated and the issues have once again arisen – this cycle has been repeated several times. It should also be noted there are mitigating factors which have contributed to the occurrence of the issues raised.

- (3) The Government has undertaken many inspections at different times and has followed up with action to address the issues as they have arisen in order to secure compliance. At this point in time, no notices are in effect and the lessees are not considered to be in breach. The lessees' compliance was achieved after Access Canberra issued a Rectification Notice (the Notice) to the lessees in relation to the untidy state of the block and the management of vehicles being stored on it. Access Canberra also conducted an inspection on 30 August 2017 to ascertain the current state and condition of the block. The inspection showed the Notice had been complied with and it was subsequently revoked. In addition, the lessees have provided a written assurance to Access Canberra that they will maintain the residence in a tidy state. Access Canberra will continue to monitor the situation.
  - (4) Access Canberra has taken regulatory action in relation to the untidy state of the block and has resolved these issues. Advice has been provided to residents who have written to the Government about what they should do in the event of nuisance dogs or the occurrence of anti-social behaviour. In relation to the latter, any person concerned about such behaviour should ring ACT Policing in the first instance.
  - (5) Advice has been provided to residents who have written to the Government about what they should do if they are concerned about nuisance dogs or anti-social behaviour. In the event of nuisance dogs, Transport Canberra and City Services advise Domestic Animal Services should be contacted on 13 22 81. Any person concerned about anti-social behaviour should ring ACT Policing in the first instance on 131 444 or 000 in emergency situations.
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### **Building—aluminium cladding (Question No 615)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Do all aluminium panels in the ACT meet today's building and fire standards; if not, did the aluminium panels meet the relevant standard at the time of installation.
- (2) Will the Government require any of the cladding/panels in use in the ACT to be removed/replaced given the high fire safety risk; if so, at whose expense and in what timeframe; if not, what other mitigations will the ACT Government put in place to ensure the safety of ACT citizens.
- (3) Are there codes/regulations that limit the use of aluminium cladding to buildings of a particular height; if so, what are the current building codes/regulations/rules/guidelines that regulate the specifications applicable to the use of aluminium cladding in the construction of buildings in the ACT.
- (4) Has the cladding been used on buildings higher than this; if so, (a) how has this occurred, (b) how has a Certificate of Occupancy etc been issued if this is the case and (c) have retrospective Development Applications been granted in these cases.
- (5) Since 1 January 2008, how many (a) Development Applications have been approved using aluminium cladding, (b) Development Applications have been rejected which included aluminium cladding and (c) retrospective Development Applications have been approved which included aluminium cladding.

- (6) Are there building products used in Canberra that may be fraudulently badged/sold as something else, which might actually be this type of aluminium cladding.
- (7) What is being done to ascertain if residential and ACT Government buildings have fraudulently badged cladding.
- (8) Have retrospective Development Applications been granted in relation to changes to the use of aluminium cladding in construction materials.

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

- (1) The compliance of a material depends on a range of factors, including the properties of the material, where and how it will be used and the type of building it will be used in. This will indicate whether the material poses or contributes to an undue safety risk for occupants. The review of cladding seeks to identify where cladding has been used in a way that is not compliant with the building code.
- (2) Replacement of panels and the responsibility for their replacement will be determined on a case-by-case basis in consideration of the level of risk, including whether the building complies with fire safety standards. Other risk mitigation measures to reduce high safety risks will also be considered. The review is to identify buildings that may pose a higher risk than anticipated by the building code and determine how best to manage those risks.
- (3) The building code is performance based. There is no one prescribed way to comply with the code. The building code also does not single out particular products, but rather requires that certain building elements perform in a way to minimise the risks of occupants being injured or killed in a building fire and allow them to safely evacuate the building.

In certain buildings where occupants are at a higher risk of not being able to safely evacuate, the Code also requires that tenable conditions are maintained and the building's materials and assemblies must resist the spread of fire and limit the generation of smoke and heat and any toxic gasses likely to be produced for an appropriate time to allow safe evacuation.

The larger and more complex a building, or the more difficult a building would be to evacuate – for example, due to its height, the greater the fire protection and suppression required to meet the performance standard.

The Australian Building Codes Board advisory note explains the requirements relating to cladding in detail. It can be found on the ABCB website [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au) at <https://www.abcb.gov.au/Resources/Publications/Education-Training/Fire-performance-of-external-walls-and-cladding>

- (4) (a) & (b) The use of ACPs is not restricted to buildings of a certain height. All buildings must meet minimum fire safety standards regardless of the material used on the building.
- (c) If a building does not meet the building code, a Development Approval (DA) does not authorise or regularise the non-compliance. There would be no reason for, or benefit in, granting a DA relating to the use of particular cladding materials not in



accordance with building laws. Only a Building Approval (BA) is relevant to compliance with building standards. A BA cannot be granted retrospectively because it is for proposed rather than completed work.

- (5) Compliance with building standards is assessed at the building approval stage, at which point the building as a whole is assessed against fire safety standards. A development approval does not approve the use of specific products and materials for compliance with the building code and *Building Act 2004*.

A development approval (DA) confirms compliance with planning requirements under the Planning and Development Act 2007. The notice of decision for each DA reminds proponents that the DA is not an approval under all Territory laws and the development must also comply with other relevant laws, including the building code and Building Act.

Please see also the response to question 4 and to your Question Taken on Notice on 17 August 2017.

- (6) It is possible there are building products used in Canberra that may not meet the standards or have the properties they claim to.
- (7) The focus of the review is on determining non-compliant use of cladding. While false claims about products will be identified and referred to the appropriate authorities where possible, determining whether products that claim to meet a standard or have certain properties do perform as claimed would require removal and destructive testing of the products. The review does not include a wider program of product testing at this stage.
- (8) A change in façade materials does not generally require a Development Approval. However, in most cases it will require a Building Approval (BA), at which stage compliance with building standards is checked. A BA cannot be granted retrospectively.

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### **Building—aluminium cladding (Question No 616)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What are the Aluminium Cladding Working Group's Terms of Reference.
- (2) What was the official start date of the Working Group.
- (3) What Directorates and /or ACT Government Agencies are represented on the working group, including the name and position of each representative.
- (4) Does the Working Group include representatives specifically from ACT Fire and Rescue; if so, what (a) is the name and position of each representative and (b) discussions has the Minister or the Directorate/Working Group held with ACT Fire and Rescue with regard to aluminium cladding.

- (5) Is anyone from the building industry, eg MBA, part of the Working Group; if so, what  
(a) is the names of the peak bodies and the position each representative holds and (b)  
discussions has the Minister or the Directorate/Working Group held with the MBA  
and other building industry representatives.
- (6) When will the Working Group report back to you.
- (7) When will that report be made public.
- (8) What ACT Government buildings have been audited to date.
- (9) Which of these buildings have been constructed with aluminium cladding.
- (10) How many ACT Government buildings remain un-audited.
- (11) What is the timeline for completion of the audit.
- (12) Will the Government require any of the cladding/panels in use in the ACT to be  
removed/replaced given the high fire safety risk; if so, at whose expense and in what  
timeframe; if not, what other mitigations will the ACT Government put in place to  
ensure the safety of ACT citizens.

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

- (1) The Inter-agency Building Cladding Review Group (the Review Group) has been established to determine fire safety risks associated with the non-compliant use of external wall cladding including Aluminium Composite Panels (ACPs) and potentially combustible claddings and wall systems on privately owned buildings in the ACT, and buildings owned or leased by the ACT Government. It will work with ACT Directorates to facilitate review of ACT Government buildings.

The Review Group will provide expert advice to the ACT Government on the scale of the use of non-compliant cladding in buildings in Canberra and on specific measures to manage any risk of rapid, external structure fires that may prevent safe evacuation of a building or buildings.

The review will initially include all buildings with National Construction Code classifications of Class 2-9 buildings in the Territory covered by the ACT Building Act, with priority for buildings including classes 2,3,4 and 9 classifications of two storeys and higher, and buildings with other classifications of three storeys and higher.

The Review Group will:

1. As far as practicable, identify buildings on which ACPs or other materials have been used as external wall cladding in a way that is not, or may not be, compliant with the building code. Identification methods may include assessment of building documentation and visual verification of the presence of cladding.
2. Undertake a risk assessment and prioritisation of identified buildings for further audit, inspection or remediation.
3. Provide advice to the Minister, other directorates, building owners and occupants on managing any identified fire safety risks, including temporary fire safety precautions.

4. Report to the Minister on findings of the identification and risk assessment and priorities for further work including short- and long-term management of buildings for which non-compliant cladding poses an unacceptable level of risk.
5. Coordinate communications, briefing and reports in relation to the review and any identified safety risks.

The full Terms of Reference will be published on the EPSDD Planning website shortly.

- (2) The group's first meeting was on 19 July 2017.
- (3) The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), the Emergency Service Agency (ESA) and Access Canberra (AC) are represented on the group. The current members are:
  - Ms Erin Brady, Deputy Director-General, Land Strategy and Policy, EPSDD
  - Ms Vanessa Morris, Coordinator and Senior Manager, Building Policy, EPSDD
  - Mr Mark Brown, Chief Officer, ACT Fire & Rescue, ESA
  - Mr David Foot, Director, Risk and Planning, ESA
  - Mr Craig Simmons, Director, Regulatory Compliance, AC
- (4) ACT Fire & Rescue is represented by its Chief Officer on the group and have been present at all meeting of the group.
- (5) The group does not include members of the building industry.
- (6) The group will report back to me when they have completed the work required under the terms of reference. As the work involves review of a large number of buildings, I am expecting the work will extend into 2018.
- (7) The report will be reviewed before it is made public to remove any private information not suitable for public release. I will update the Assembly on the progress of the work.
- (8) I will be providing an update to the Assembly on the audit of ACT Government buildings in the October 2017 sittings.
- (9) See question (8).
- (10) See question (8).
- (11) See question (8).
- (12) Please see response to QON 615 Question 2.

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### **Bushfires—preparedness (Question No 617)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) In relation to maintenance of suburbs and impending bushfire threat, what is the cost of mowing and fuel load reduction in the Gungahlin district.

- (2) Who has the contract(s) for this work.
- (3) What schedules exist for ongoing and urgent work by depots in the district.
- (4) Do schedules exist for clearance of fuel loads in adjoining bushlands.
- (5) Can you advise the process (and amount) of allocation of funds per depot.
- (6) What plans are in process for the maintenance of bushland reserves.

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

- (1) The 2017-18 suburb mowing budget for Gungahlin region is \$807,103. This excludes overheads and the contract price for Gungahlin arterial roads mowing. The arterial roads mowing contract does not break down the contract price of mowing for individual regions, e.g. Gungahlin. In addition to suburban amenity mowing described above, an additional \$9,700 is identified in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's (EPSDD) Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP) for 2017-18. This funding provides for mowing to reduce fire fuels in parks and reserves within the Gungahlin district.
- (2) The majority of suburb mowing is undertaken by ACT Government employees within Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS). Urban arterial road mowing in Gungahlin is undertaken under contract by Canberra Mowing Pty Ltd. EPSDD works with TCCS to utilise the services of Canberra Mowing to also deliver the BOP mowing described in question one.
- (3) Urban mowing in Gungahlin is undertaken in accordance with the regular suburb and arterial road mowing programs delivered from the Nicholls Depot. Other unforeseen/urgent works are prioritised based on risk and resource availability.
- (4) The draft 2017-18 BOP outlines the schedule of work to be undertaken in bushland reserves – see the response to question six below for more detail.
- (5) Budgets are built around known factors, such as wage price index, fleet lease rates, fees and charges and contractual agreements. Previous data such as mowing programs, asset growth and decline, risk management and long range weather forecasts inform funding allocation for the coming financial year. Resources are reallocated for unforeseen/urgent works.

The 2017-18 urban mowing budget by region is provided below. Budgets exclude the cost of mowing by contractors and overheads.

The draft 2017-18 BOP outlines the schedule of work to be undertaken in bushland reserves – see the response to question six below for more detail.

Region	Mowing Budget
Belconnen Region	\$ 1,644,012.68
Gungahlin Region	\$ 811,796.72
Tuggeranong Region	\$ 1,915,343.14
Woden Weston Region	\$ 875,332.79
City Region	\$ 606,440.86
Inner North Region	\$ 285,945.35
Inner South Region	\$ 678,158.67

- (6) The BOP describes the range of fire fuel management actions that government land managers in EPSDD and TCCS are to undertake over a 12 month period. The 2017-18 BOP currently lists over 250 specific tasks to address bushfire fuel management and ensure the Territory will be well prepared to manage bushfire risks. Tasks can be summarised as:

- 4,700 ha of mowing in protected areas and unleased Territory land.
- 2,400 ha of fuel reduction burning in parks and reserves.
- 6,000 ha of stock grazing to create fuel reduced areas in strategic parks and reserves.
- 300 ha of targeted vegetation removal to improve fire breaks.
- 500 km of fire trail related maintenance across all parks and reserves to maintain emergency vehicle access.

Once approved by the ESA Commissioner, the BOP is published on the ACT Government website at [http://www.environment.act.gov.au/ACT-parks-conservation/bushfire\\_management/fuel\\_management/bushfire-operations-plan](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/ACT-parks-conservation/bushfire_management/fuel_management/bushfire-operations-plan). EPSDD is also responsible for the development of protected areas management plans. Such plans exist for all established parks and nature reserves in the ACT and for Googong Foreshores. Management Plans outline the means by which the government works with the community to manage protected areas and includes details on recreational opportunities, endangered species management and control of pests and weeds. All current plans are available at: [www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/plans-of-management](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/plans-of-management).

## **Health—patient care (Question No 620)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Further to the answer in QON No E17-520, in relation to (a) part (3), what is the reporting deadline for the work the Health Care Consumers Association is doing to develop a model for patient care navigators and (b) part (4), how many new nurses under the “More Nurses for Canberra” initiative will be engaged each year in each of the categories given in the answer.
- (2) Has the grant of \$100 000 been paid to the Health Care Consumers Association to develop the model for patient care navigators; if not, when will it be.

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

### **1. (a) part (3) Patient Care Navigator Project**

On 7 September 2017, ACT Health and Health Care Consumers’ Association (HCCA) have signed an agreement for HCCA to implement the Patient Care Navigator project from 2 October 2017 to 30 September 2018.

HCCA is required to provide a Final Performance Report and Financial Report to ACT Health by 30 September 2018.

(b) part (4) **More Nurses for Canberra**

Two x Maternal and Child Health Nurses (MACH)  
Six x Roving School Nurses  
12 x Nurse Navigators

2. As outlined in the Agreement between ACT Health and HCCA, \$100,000 is available over 2017-18 financial year, payable in quarterly instalments of \$25,000. These are scheduled for payment on 30 September 2017; 31 December 2017; 31 March 2018; and 30 June 2018.

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**Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—aluminium cladding  
(Question No 621)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) In relation to the Ministerial Statement, Update on the Aluminium Cladding Working Group, tabled in the Assembly on 17 August 2017, what action did the Government take to ensure ACT Health was aware of the concerns, held since 2009, about the fire safety risks associated with aluminium composite panels before it took the decision to install polyethylene panels on the exterior of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- (2) What action did the Government take to ensure all ACT Government directorates and agencies were aware of these concerns.
- (3) Did ACT Health seek the advice of the planning and land management agency and the police and emergency services agency before deciding to install these panels at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- (4) How do fire services inside the building mitigate the (a) risk of external cladding catching fire and (b) risks to the safety of people and property in the building's external precinct.
- (5) What technology or other warning systems inside the building are triggered if external cladding catches fire.
- (6) What emergency systems and procedures on the building's exterior will be triggered to ensure the safety of people and property in the building's external precinct in the event of external cladding catching fire.

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

- (1) The focus of relevant Government agencies was on alerting and educating those directly involved in specifying, designing and certifying both private and public buildings about potential non-compliant use of different aluminium composite panels – such as fire engineers, builders, architects, designers and building certifiers, who usually determine and approve the materials to be used in a building. ACT officials have met with a wide range of local private sector building certifiers and fire engineers about possible non-compliant use of combustible ACP on multi-storey

buildings. ACT Fire & Rescue has reminded industry members of the requirements under the building code in meetings and seminars in subsequent years.

- (2) As above. In general, when any form of potential non-compliance is identified, education is primarily aimed at those responsible for ensuring compliance with building standards.
- (3) The project was subject to the approval, inspection and certification processes under the Building Act. Consultants contracted through ACT Government, including the building certifier, ensured that the proposed building work was referred to ACT Fire & Rescue for advice as required and that the approval was not inconsistent with their advice.
- (4) ACT Health has comprehensive safety measures and emergency procedures in place at the Centenary Hospital, together with a robust fire suppression system which includes internal sprinklers throughout the building, fire drenchers over windows within three meters of a fire compartment, passive fire and smoke compartments such as fire doors, spray fireproofing and ventilation are in place and smoke alarms, fire hose reels and fire extinguishers.
- (5) The fire services inside the building are compliant and have been recently tested and confirmed to be in fully functional and in good working order. These services include smoke detection, Wet Fire Sprinkler systems, Fire compartmentalisation, Fire Extinguisher systems, and robust planned evacuation procedures. The risk to the safety of people on the external of the building is low to negligible. ACT Fire & Rescue is aware of the risk and can attend a call within minutes to protect the spread of external proliferation. In the event of a fire ACT Health have reactive procedures in place to ensure immediate evacuation of internal and external areas of all buildings.
- (6) ACT Health does regular fire system checks on the Centenary Hospital and is in regular contact with members of the ACT Emergency Services Agency and the Access Canberra building regulator. Fire System testing has been increased from annual testing to testing conducted every 8 weeks. This additional regime will continue until the panels are removed.

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### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (Question No 622)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What is the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm Advisory Board.
- (2) What is the function of the Board.
- (3) Who is on this Board.
- (4) How were the members of the Board selected.
- (5) What is the tenure of those on the Board.
- (6) What are the terms of reference for the Board.

(7) What is the duration of the Board?

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

1. The Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF) Advisory Board is a consultative forum of ACT Health designed to seek the input of key stakeholders in relation to the development of the NBHF.
2. The function of the Board is outlined in the attached Terms of Reference (**Attachment A**).
3. Membership of the Board has varied over time to reflect contemporary needs of the NBHF. The current Membership is:

**Chairs**

- Executive Director, Policy and Stakeholder relations, ACT Health
- Ms Roslyn Brown, Co-Chair, United Ngunnawal Elders Council

**Founding Members**

- Mrs Agnes Shea OAM, Senior Ngunnawal Elder
- Mr Fred Monaghan, Co-Chair United Ngunnawal Elders Council

**Members**

- A member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
  - A member who identifies as an Ngunnawal person
  - A Torres Strait Islander consumer representative (Vacant)
  - A representative of the CIT Yuruana Centre
  - A representative of Habitat Personnel
  - A representative of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate
  - A representative of Winnunga Nimitiyjah Aboriginal Health Service (Vacant)
  - A representative of Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation (Vacant)
  - A representative of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Service, Canberra Hospital Health Services
  - A Mental Health Liaison Officer, Mental Health ACT, ACT Health
  - A representative of the Alcohol and Drug Service, ACT Health
  - A representative of the Healing Foundation
  - ACT Health NBHF project officers (Observers)
4. In 2008, the NBHF Advisory Board was first established. A series of letters were sent out to various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander key stakeholders to seek their interest to join the membership of the NBHF Advisory Board.

Additional members may be invited to the Board with the approval of the chair(s).

5. The tenure of the Board is for the duration of the project to open the NBHF.

As a result of the opening of the NBHF on 4 September 2017 the terms of reference and function of the Advisory Board are being reviewed.

6. The Terms of reference for the board are at **Attachment A**.



7. Please see answer to question 5.

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

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**Asbestos—removal  
(Question No 623)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 15 September 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Environment and Heritage*):

- (1) Have the immediate neighbours of the Forrest Fire Station Museum received information regarding the asbestos works, including the (a) safety precautions being taken by the asbestos taskforce throughout the works, (b) safety precautions neighbours should take during the works and (c) timeframe over which the asbestos management will be completed.
- (2) How does the asbestos management work fit with the other maintenance works for the preservation of the Forrest Fire Station Museum.
- (3) Has a conservation management plan been implemented for the Forrest Fire Station.
- (4) Are contractors required to consider heritage issues for the replacement of the roof; if so, what consideration has been shown.
- (5) Has the Forrest Fire Station heritage unit been consulted about the asbestos works and their impact upon the building and its heritage value.

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

- (1) On this occasion, the immediate neighbours of the Fire Station building were not formally advised of the planned works, as the works were considered to be minor in nature and low risk. The works were low risk as there were no loose fibres that could become airborne during works, and as works were being undertaken by a licensed A Class asbestos removalist registered with WorkSafe ACT and in accordance with relevant ACT asbestos legislation and work health and safety regulations. As the works were also exempt from requiring development approval, as they only involved the exterior refinishing of buildings and structures, there was no public notification requirements of the type usually associated with a development application.
- (2) The Justice and Community Safety Directorate is responsible for the maintenance of the Forrest Fire Station, being an Emergency Services Agency property; and has a contractual arrangement with a qualified maintenance provider to provide preventative maintenance services. All maintenance works are undertaken with reference to the ACT Heritage Register entry for the place, which sets out heritage guidelines for the conservation of the Fire Station building and associated heritage precinct.
- (3) Under the *Heritage Act 2004*, the role of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is to ensure the conservation and responsible management of a particular heritage place. For heritage precincts, such as the Forrest Fire Station Precinct, heritage guidelines are considered to be the most appropriate way of achieving conservation and

responsible management outcomes. While no CMP has been prepared for the Fire Station building or associated heritage precinct, heritage guidelines have been made under Part 5 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. These guidelines set out requirements for the conservation of the Fire Station building and associated residences and landscaping. These heritage guidelines have statutory effect, and are described in the ACT Heritage Register entry for the Precinct.

- (4) Works were planned with reference to the heritage significance of the Fire Station building, and were undertaken in accordance with the heritage guidelines set out in the ACT Heritage Register entry. In this instance, consideration included selection of replacement materials that closely reflected the colour and form of the original roof, gable ends and gable end capping.
- (5) The Justice and Community Safety Directorate sought preliminary advice on asbestos removal works from ACT Heritage in May 2017. No Heritage Act 2004 approval was sought prior to the commencement of works, as it was considered that works would not diminish the heritage significance of the Fire Station building or the associated heritage precinct.

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### **Planning—Kingston shops (Question No 624)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Were any conditions regarding the completion of the development of Kingston Block 50 Section 19 placed upon the developer of that block; if so, what date for completion was stipulated.
- (2) Were any conditions placed upon the lease purchased by Supabarn regarding the establishment of the full-line supermarket in Kingston.

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

- (1) The development approval for Block 50 Section 19 Kingston (DA201528018) includes a standard condition that the development has to be completed within two years from the date of commencement of works. As works have not commenced to date, it is not possible to provide a specific completion date.

Under section 184 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, the proponent may apply to the planning and land authority to extend the two year timeframe to complete works.

The Crown lease for Block 50 Section 19 Kingston stipulates a completion date for the development within 48 months from the date of commencement of the lease, which would be 18 June 2019. This timeframe can be extended on application to the planning and land authority.

- (2) The Crown lease for Block 50 Section 19 Kingston limits the development to a single supermarket with a minimum gross floor area of 3,500m<sup>2</sup> restricted to the ground level. A number of other uses are also permitted, in addition to the supermarket use, such as residential use.
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### **Planning—community facility zoned land (Question No 625)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a consolidated list of the blocks and sections in Gungahlin that are classified as community-facility zoned land.
- (2) For each location in part (1), can he identify whether the land has been allocated towards a specific purpose; if so, what is the purpose.

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

- (1) The following blocks and sections in Gungahlin are community-facility zoned land.

**Table 1:**

<b>Block(s)</b>	<b>Section</b>
1, 2	20
3	28
1, 2	29
8	58
1, 2	59
2, 3	60
7	200
6	223
2	235
1, 2	246

The following blocks in Gungahlin are under the future urban area (FUA) overlay.

**Table 2:**

<b>Block(s)</b>	<b>Section</b>
1	228
1	229
1	230
4	233

- (2) None of the blocks in Table 1 have been allocated for a specific purpose.

Components of the future urban area blocks listed in Table 2 have been identified as community facility zone, and one site (section 233, block 4) has been allocated for aged care release in 2018-19 (targeting high care).

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### **Government—land purchase (Question No 627)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Does the Lands Acquisitions Act 1994 cover all acquisitions where the ACT Government acquires an interest in land or property, including leases; if not, what is the legislation and sections (a) that set out any exemptions and (b) which subsequently govern the ACT Government when undertaking acquisitions exempt from the Lands Acquisitions Act 1994.
- (2) What acquisitions of an interest in land or property by the ACT Government require a pre-acquisition declaration prior to purchase.
- (3) Are any acquisitions of an interest in land or property by the ACT Government exempt from the pre-acquisition declarations; if so, what legislation and section sets out the exemption.
- (4) When the ACT Government acquires a lease of land, does it acquire any legal or equitable estate or interest in the land.
- (5) Do acquisitions of leases of land or property fall within the scope of “interest” as defined by the Lands Acquisitions Act 1994; if not, why not and what legislation and section sets out the exemption.
- (6) Does the ACT Government need to make a pre-acquisition declaration before acquiring a lease of land; if so, what legislation and section sets out the requirement; if not, what legislation and section sets out the exemption.

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

- (1) The requirements of the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994* (the Act) apply to all compulsory and non-compulsory acquisitions of land by an acquiring authority, other than acquisitions covered by section 18. Under section 18, the requirements of the Act do not apply to:
  - a. acquisitions made in circumstances prescribed under the *Lands Acquisition Regulation 1999*. There are currently no prescribed circumstances (section 18(1)(a));
  - b. acquisitions by an acquiring authority under another law if the other law meets the criteria in sections 18(1)(b), 18(1)(c) or 18(2) of the Act;
  - c. acquisitions made by agreement (such as a mutually agreed sale/purchase) (section 18(1)(d)); and
  - d. the withdrawal by the Executive from a lease of Territory land of all or part of the land comprised in the lease where the withdrawal is made in accordance with the provisions of the lease (section 18(3)).
- (2) Acquisitions of interests in land under the Act require a pre-acquisition declaration, subject to the exception in section 21 (urgent acquisitions). In addition, acquisitions by agreement under section 32 of the Act do not require a pre-acquisition declaration if the interest to be acquired is already held by the Territory or a Territory authority (section 32(2)(c)). Acquisitions to which the requirements of the Act do not apply as a result of the operation of section 18 (refer to answer number (1)) do not require a pre-acquisition declaration under the Act.

- (3) Yes, refer to answer number (2).
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Yes, subject to sections 18, 21 and 32(2)(c) of the Act noted above.

**Transport—bike stop program  
(Question No 628)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) How many businesses had registered for the Bike Stop program as of close of business Tuesday, 29 August 2017.
- (2) How many registrations were received in (a) Inner South, (b) Inner North, (c) Gungahlin, (d) Belconnen, (e) Tuggeranong and (f) Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo Valley.
- (3) What criteria are used to determine if a business which has registered would be a suitable Bike Stop program participant.
- (4) When will businesses be advised of the outcome of their registration.
- (5) Will the business's participation in the program be ongoing or will it be necessary for a registration to be renewed periodically once it has been accepted as a Bike Stop program participant; if so, how long will a registration be valid.
- (6) What is the cost of the Bike Stop program in (a) 2017-18 and (b) 2018-19.

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

- (1) As of COB 29 August 2017, 15 businesses had registered to participate in the program. An additional business also registered for the program after the 29 August 2017.
- (2) The geographic coverage of businesses is:

a.	City	4
b.	Inner South	3
c.	Inner North	1
d.	Gungahlin	0
e.	Belconnen	2
f.	Tuggeranong	
g.	Woden	

h.	Weston Creek	2
i.	Molonglo Valley	
j.	Fyshwick	3
k.	Mitchell	1

(3) The criteria used to determine suitable businesses are:

a. At least one of the following services is provided:

- Bike parking
- Undercover
- Lockers
- Showers
- Change rooms
- Regular bathrooms
- Hair dryer
- Water refills
- Ironing board
- Tyre pump
- Leave clothes one day and access them the next
- Bag storage
- Bike rider discounts
- Other

b. The business agrees to advise all staff working on their premises that they are participating in the program and to allow cyclist access to those facilities;

c. businesses agree to provide the facilities free of charge;

d. businesses are located in areas likely to be of use in offering their services to cyclists; and

e. following a site inspection by Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) staff, the premises are of an appropriate state.

(4) All businesses have been advised of the outcome of their registration. All businesses who expressed interest have been accepted into the program.

(5) In signing up to the program, each business agreed that 'the ACT Government may conduct monitoring of the program, and that the ACT Government reserves the right to remove any business from the program at their discretion. This might include where complaints or concerns are received, or where the facilities are no longer offered, or not up to a standard deemed suitable by the ACT Government'.

(6) The Bike Stop Program in 2017-18 has cost under \$5,000 for online mapping, bike pumps and identification shopfront window stickers. These funds have been drawn from the existing budget allocation for active travel programs within TCCS. No specific funding has been allocated for the program in 2018-19.

**ACTION bus service—MyWay card  
(Question No 630)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What is the total number of MyWay cards which are active by category of card.
- (2) What is the total number of MyWay cards which have been registered by category of card.
- (3) What is the total number of MyWay cards which have been set up with Auto Load by category of card.
- (4) Does adding additional value to a MyWay card by a MyWay Recharge Agent or other payment cancel an Auto Load which may have been associated with a MyWay card; if so, why is that the case and what is being done to address this problem.
- (5) How many complaints regarding the process to recharge or add value to a MyWay card have been received in the financial years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (6) Why does it take five days before funds are applied to a MyWay card following a B-Pay transfer and does the transfer occur after five business days or five calendar days.
- (7) Is anything being done to speed up the timeframe for funds to be applied onto a MyWay card following a B-Pay transfer.

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

- (1) See table below.
- (2) See table below.
- (3) See table below.

<b>Token Description</b>	<b>All Active</b>	<b>Registered</b>	<b>Autoload</b>
Standard	266,895	152,811	12,807
Student	54,392	38,386	4,316
Student SSTP	1,163	1,068	25
Tertiary	28,575	11,455	868
Seniors	96,622	96,622	1,026
Pensioners Concession	6,882	3,101	205
Employee	1,560	1,560	0
Employee Spouse	94	93	0
Past Employee	1,446	1,430	0
Seniors >70	27,444	27,444	171
Interstate Seniors	1,028	1,028	3
Vision Impaired	118	118	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>486,219</b>	<b>335,116</b>	<b>19,421</b>

- (4) BPAY payments will cancel the Autoload as a different discount is applied to the card. A cash payment applied to the MyWay card at any Recharge Agent or Access Canberra Service Centre does not cancel the Autoload. Transport Canberra is currently investigating further advancements in account management to align with recent updated payment technology for future ticketing systems.

(5)

2015-16	95
2016-17	105
2017-18	21

- (6) It can take up to five days for BPAY transactions to apply on MyWay cards because BPAY transactions can take up to three days to be received from the customer's bank.
- (7) Transport Canberra is currently investigating further advancements in account management to align with recent updated payment technology for future ticketing systems.

### **Waste—smart bins (Question No 632)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Has the smart (solar) bin trial concluded.
- (2) What was the total cost of the smart bin trial.
- (3) What is the status of the analysis into the smart bin trial.
- (4) Will the outcome of the smart bin trial be released publicly; if so, when.
- (5) Will the smart bins currently located at Campbell, Kingston Foreshore Wright be (a) retained or (b) removed; if so, when.
- (6) Will any other smart bins be installed around Canberra; if so, what is the (a) cost of any additional smart bins and (b) proposed location of the new additional smart bins.

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The total cost of the solar bin trial from 15 May 2016 to 28 February 2017 was \$24,254.40 ex GST. This includes the installation of the three solar bins (\$21,860.00) and advertising wraps (\$2,394.40).
- (3) An internal review has been conducted.
- (4) Yes. The brief summary of the outcome of the trial is available on the TCCS recycling and waste webpage: <http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/recycling-and-waste>



- (5) The bins at these locations will be retained.
- (6) There are currently no plans to install further smart bins.

**Transport Canberra and City Services—employee stress  
(Question No 634)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) How many Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) employees have taken stress leave, or provided as a reason for leave work-related stress during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) How many days have TCCS employees taken in stress leave, or leave due to work-related stress during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) What strategies or support mechanisms does TCCS have in place to assist employees (a) managing stress and work pressures and (b) returning from stress leave.

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

- (1) TCCS is unable to accurately provide details on employees who have taken leave for work-related stress, nor the number of days taken. Employees are granted 18 days personal leave each year (or pro-rata for part time employees). This may be taken for any reason including carer's purposes, colds and flus etc. In many cases doctor's certificates state 'medical condition' and do not provide detail on specific illnesses or injuries.
- (2) See response to Question 1.
- (3) a) TCCS supports employees to manage stress and work pressure through a number of mechanisms:
  - all employees have access to Respect, Equity & Diversity (RED) contact officers;
  - TCCS supports the 'Open Door Protocol' under the RED Framework;
  - all TCCS employees and their families have access to support through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP);
  - TCCS employees may access the New Start program through the Capital Health Network for assistance;
  - the TCCS intranet contains links to information on mental health issues, relationships, addictions, grief and loss, resilience and work related matters through the Employee Assistance Provider and other resources; and
  - TCCS supports activities such as R U OK Day, Movember as well as health and wellbeing activities.
  -
- b) TCCS supports and complies with the ACT Government Work Health and Safety Policy Statement and the ACT Government Managing Injury or Illness in the Workplace Policy.

TCCS supports all employees returning to work by implementing structured return to work programs within the *Safety Rehabilitation & Compensation Act (1988)* for work related injuries and illnesses, or under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* for personal injuries and illnesses. Return to work programs are based on medical advice from treating practitioners or independent assessors. These programs are negotiated on a case by case basis with the employee, their workplace and medical practitioners.

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**ACTION bus service—advertising  
(Question No 636)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) When was the policy applying to advertising on Transport Canberra buses last revised.
- (2) If the policy applying to advertising on Transport Canberra buses has been revised since October 2016, when was the revised policy published on the Transport Canberra website.
- (3) Who is responsible for assessing on a case-by-case basis proposed advertising related to a specific subject or issue that could be political in nature.
- (4) Is there any independent mechanism for assessing proposed advertising that may be regarded as political in nature or appealing against decisions which may have been made regarding bus advertising.
- (5) What advice has been provided to Go Transit by the ACT Government since October 2016 regarding material that may be displayed on Transport Canberra buses.

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

- (1) The Services Agreement with Go Transit came into effect on 19 December 2016 and included criteria that listed suitable advertising material. This criteria can be found on the Transport Canberra website.
  - (2) The criteria have been updated to reflect the Services Agreement on 19 December 2016.
  - (3) Where the Territory's advertising service provider requires guidance as to the application of the Services Agreement, it is referred to the Director of Transport Canberra Operations or their delegate prior to booking.
  - (4) Determinations regarding advertising are made within Transport Canberra.
  - (5) Go Transit have been provided with the ACT Healthy Food and Drink Marketing Criteria and Guideline for Marketing on ACTION Buses. This document was prepared by ACT Health. ACT Health also prepared a Guide to Advertising on ACTION Buses for use by individuals, businesses or other organisations seeking to advertise on ACTION buses. A document for the process for assessing advertising proposals on ACTION buses has also been provided to Go Transit for reference.
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**Electricity—outages  
(Question No 637)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Further to Question on Notice 326, has the ACT Government sought updated information from ActewAGL on the progress of work to reduce the possibility of further unplanned interruptions to Gungahlin's power supply.
- (2) Has ActewAGL completed the upgrade of its protection system; if not, when will this upgrade be completed.
- (3) When is the feeder extension work to manage future growth in the Gungahlin region expected to commence.
- (4) Has a decision been made on additional feeder augmentation to further secure supply in the Gungahlin region.
- (5) Has ActewAGL completed the review of its maintenance program; if so, what changes have been made to ensure any power outages are limited to the shortest possible time period.

**Mr Barr:** The following answers to the member's questions have been sought from ActewAGL, which is managed and oversighted independently of the ACT Government:

- (1) A new 11 kV feeder is at Development Application stage and is scheduled to be installed and commissioned by 31 March 2018. This 11 kV cable feeder will run from Gold Creek Zone Substation to the Gungahlin Town centre. This feeder will offload and relieve heavily loaded feeders in the area and will reduce the increasing demand on other feeder cables and improve the security and reliability of supply to the Gungahlin area.
- (2) To date ActewAGL has completed six 11 kV feeder protection replacements at Gold Creek Zone Substation. There are a further seven replacements programmed for delivery in the 2017-18 program. These have been delayed for implementation until spring 2017 when there is low demand, outside the peak winter demand, in order to minimise the possibility of outages. The remaining five 11 kV feeder protection replacements are planned for delivery in the 2018-19 program. These works will be carried out without interruption of supply to customers.
- (3) An additional two 11 kV feeder cables to the Gungahlin Town Centre area are currently at planning stage. Subject to load growth scenarios meeting forecast these feeders are proposed to be installed in 2018-19. These feeders will supply capacity to proposed new loads in the Gungahlin area, including the Infinity Apartments complex, Capital Metro traction power station, Gungahlin cinema, Eastlake Football Club commercial development, new medical centre and commercial developments in the town centre, and Throsby residential estate.
- (4) Longer term capacity requirements to the whole northern Canberra area are being developed for inclusion in the ActewAGL Distribution 2019-24 Regulatory Revenue Reset Submission to the Australian Energy Regulator. These plans include potential

for capacity upgrades at Gold Creek and Belconnen Zone Substations and additional 11 kV feeders to meet load growth in the Gungahlin District. ActewAGL is also exploring how customer demand response might be potentially utilised to address requirements for demand reduction if necessary.

- (5) Maintenance activities that were scheduled to be undertaken during winter 2017 have been deferred until the spring period when demand is lowest, in order to minimise the possibility of outages. This included the upgrade of protection equipment at Gold Creek Zone Substation. Power outage duration time is planned to be as least disruptive to customers as a matter of course.

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### **Stockade training centre—funding (Question No 638)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

How much funding was provided to the Stockade Training Centre by the ACT Government during (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2015 16, (d) 2016-17 and (e) 2017-18 to date.

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

The Government has not provided any funding to the Stockade Training Centre over the nominated time period.

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### **Water—dam safety reviews (Question No 640)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What is the status of the safety reviews of the dams and when are the reviews expected to be completed (a) Googong, (b) Bendora, (c) Corin and the (d) Lower Molonglo.
- (2) Are the reviews being conducted two years after an audit found that the dams did not meet the Territory's safety code; if so, why did (a) it take a further two years for the safety of the dams to be reviewed and (b) each dam not meet the Territory's safety code.
- (3) Why has a safety review of the Lower Molonglo water quality control centre not been undertaken since it was constructed in 1995.
- (4) What action was taken after the receipt of the August 2014 letter from the NSW Dams Committee in which concerns were raised about the safety of the Googong Dam and when was that action taken.
- (5) What is the estimated cost of the safety reviews.
- (6) Are the reviews being conducted independently of Icon Water; if so, what are the names of organisations participating in the reviews.

- (7) Will the outcome of the safety reviews be made public.
- (8) Are the monitoring and inspections routine and reviews set out under the Australian National Committee on Large Dams' standards being met for each of the dams servicing the ACT; if not, why not and what is being done to ensure the appropriate standards are being met.

**Mr Barr:** The following answers to the member's questions have been sought from Icon Water Limited (Icon Water), which operates as an independent corporation:

1. Comprehensive Dam Safety Reviews for Bendora dam were undertaken in 2008 and 2012 and peer reviewed in 2017. Identified risks were negligible. The next review is scheduled for 2020-21. Comprehensive reviews are currently in progress for Googong, Corin and Lower Molonglo dams. Expected completion dates are detailed below:
 

(a) Googong	June 2018.
(b) Corin	September 2018.
(c) Lower Molonglo	June 2018.
- 2a. The Icon Water Dam Safety Management System Audit was completed by GHD in June 2015. There was no delay in responding to audit findings as preparation for the Safety Reviews commenced immediately in 2015. The schedule was agreed with the ACT Utilities Technical Regulator. These reviews require engagement of independent specialist dam safety experts and the collection of technical information for analysis by a team of dam design professionals.
- 2b. Icon Water's surveillance procedures for their dam structures provide for all levels of surveillance and monitoring in accordance with the Dam Safety Management guidelines agreed with the Utilities Technical Regulator. The June 2015 audit identified that 20 year comprehensive dam safety reviews were now due to be undertaken to completely satisfy all technical requirements of the guidelines.
3. The Australian National Committee On Large Dams (ANCOLD) guidelines recommend Safety Reviews be carried out at 10-20 year intervals. Icon Water prioritises these safety reviews based on risk (as per ANCOLD Guidelines). As the Lower Molonglo Bypass Dam is a "Low" consequence category dam, completion of a safety review had been planned for 2017-18. The safety review is currently underway.
 

The Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre Bypass Dam is used to store excess effluent if the sewage treatment plant is not able to process all of the inflow, for example during wet weather events. The Bypass Dam does not hold water permanently and is generally kept empty.
4. Following receipt of correspondence from the NSW Dams Committee in 2014, inspection procedures were immediately updated. This included a detailed work instruction for daily dam inspection, an updated inspection check sheet and daily leakage monitoring.

The Googong Dam Safety Emergency Plan (DSEP) was approved by the then Director General, Environment and Planning Directorate in September 2014. The DSEP is reviewed and updated annually as required under the ACT Dam Safety Code.

Recommendations to carry out further studies have been incorporated into the scope of the Googong Dam Comprehensive Dam Safety Review, planned for completion in June 2018.

5. Each consultancy is in the order of \$300,000 - \$450,000 and reviews take many months to complete. The scale of the reviews is dependent on dam size, type, geology and complexity.
6. Yes. The Safety Reviews are being conducted by independent professional consultants recognised as leaders in the dam management industry in Australia, companies known as AECOM and SMEC. Each consultancy was engaged through a tendering process as per Icon Water's standard procurement procedures.

The completed Dam Safety Review reports will also be reviewed by an independent peer reviewer who is a recognised dam safety expert and is independent of Icon Water and the consultants, as required under the ACT Dam Safety Code. Appointment of the peer reviewer for each Safety Review was endorsed by the Utilities Technical Regulator.

7. Icon Water reports on dam safety compliance to the ACT Utilities Technical Regulator. Progress against compliance is reported in the annual report published by the Utilities Technical Regulator which is available on their website at the following link:  
[https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/2203/~/utilities-technical-regulation#!tabs-1](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/2203/~/utilities-technical-regulation#!tabs-1)

8. Yes, the standards are being met.

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### **Housing—rates (Question No 641)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Further to Question on Notice No. 319, can the Treasurer provide an update on the number of rateable dwellings in the ACT.
- (2) How many of the total number of rateable dwellings are (a) single dwellings and (b) residential units.

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

- (1) As of 18 September 2017, there were 161,548 rateable dwellings in the ACT.
  - (2) Of these rateable dwellings
    - a. 112,441 were single dwellings; and
    - b. 49,107 were residential units.
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### Housing—rates (Question No 642)

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017 (*redirected to the Acting Treasurer*):

For each of the last four years for the suburb of Mitchell (a) how many ratepayers are there, (b) how much has been collected through rates, (c) what is the minimum, median and maximum charged for a single property, (d) what is the average amount charged, (e) how many properties are in arrears and (f) what is the total value of the arrears.

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

(a) How many ratepayers are there?

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Rateable Properties	485	490	503	512

(a) How much has been collected through rates?

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Rates	\$6,182,014.24	\$6,729,592.19	\$7,226,038.75	\$7,673,637.92

(b) What is the minimum, median and maximum charged for a single property?

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Minimum	\$2,226.08	\$2,464.11	\$2,588.69	\$2,571.83
Median	\$5,778.53	\$6,259.23	\$6,705.96	\$7,064.91
Maximum	\$103,747.47	\$112,234.60	\$119,477.95	\$124,697.92

(c) What is the average amount charged?

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Average Rates	\$12,746.42	\$13,733.86	\$14,365.88	\$14,987.57

(d) How many properties are in arrears?

86 (Arrears Reported in total, not by year). The data for arrears in each particular year is not easily accessible and would have to be manually calculated.

(e) What is the total value of the arrears?

\$660,280.13 (Arrears Reported in total, not by year). The data for arrears in each particular year is not easily accessible and would have to be manually calculated.

### Housing—rates (Question No 643)

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) When was modelling last undertaken of the possible impact on Canberra households of escalating rates.
- (2) When will modelling or research next be commissioned to determine the impact on Canberra households, particularly low and fixed income households, of escalating rates.
- (3) Will the criteria for any future research include households (a) case studies and (b) community consultation to assess the actual impact of Government policies on Canberra.
- (4) Will the next round of modelling or research on the impact of escalating research be made publicly available in its entirety.

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

- (1) A detailed analysis on the impact of the first five years of the tax reform was undertaken as part the 2016-17 Budget development process. The analysis includes the average increase in general rates for houses and units by district (with and without tax reform) and is presented as part of the Tax Reform budget booklet on the ACT Treasury website ([www.treasury.act.gov.au](http://www.treasury.act.gov.au)).
- (2) The Cost of Living Statement prepared and updated as part of each Budget round provides analysis on the impact of taxes and charges on a range of low income households.
- (3) The Cost of Living Statement includes five different scenarios of low income households.
- (4) The Cost of Living Statement is provided as part of the Budget every year.

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### **Housing—rates (Question No 644)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) How many rateable dwellings are (a) single dwellings and (b) residential units at 30 June in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009, (iv) 2010, (v) 2011, (vi) 2012, (vii) 2013, (viii) 2014, (ix) 2015, (x) 2016 and (xi) 2017.
- (2) Further to Question on Notice 319, why is the growth in rateable dwellings not specifically forecast by the Treasury.

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

- (1) As noted in response to Question on Notice 319 of 6 July 2017, the rates IT system will only produce the number of rateable properties on the day the query is raised – historical numbers are not available unless previously recorded. Table 1 below includes the number of dwellings that were houses and units in around March each year from 2007 to 2017.



- (2) General rates revenue is set in aggregate taking into account the expected growth in the overall number of dwellings. The actual release dates for each type of dwelling are difficult to predict with any certainty and hence Treasury does not specifically forecast the growth in rateable dwellings throughout the year.

Table 1: Number of houses and units from 2007 to 2017, around March each year

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Houses	98,814	99,373	99,578	102,648	104,383	106,574	108,356	109,679	110,499	110,417	111,452
Units	28,004	29,285	29,708	30,722	32,430	34,083	36,329	38,906	41,164	44,035	45,796

### **Taxation—land tax (Question No 645)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What is the average land tax increase in dollar figures for (a) single dwellings and (b) residential units, for each suburb in the Australian Capital Territory in 2017-18 from 2016-17.
- (2) What is the average land tax increase in the form of a percentage for (a) single dwellings and (b) residential units, for each suburb in the Australian Capital Territory in 2017-18 from 2016-17.

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the member's question is provided under Table 1: Estimated average increase from 2016-17 to 2017-18 in land taxes by suburb and dwelling type (**Attachment A**).

Note: Suburbs with a low number of land tax payers have been excluded to retain privacy of tax payer information.

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

### **Housing—rates (Question No 646)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

Does the information on average rates in 2017-18 in the answer to Question on Notice 318 include the Safer Families Levy and the Emergency Services Levy; if so, what is the average rates for 2017-18 for (a) single dwellings and (b) units for each suburb in the Australian Capital Territory without the levies; if not, what is the average rates for 2017-18 for (a) single dwellings and (b) units for each suburb in the Australian Capital Territory including the levies.

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

The information provided in response to Question on Notice 318 included the average 2017 18 general rates only, for single dwellings and units. It did not include the Safer

Families Levy (SFL) and the Fire and Emergency Service Levy (FESL).

The SFL and the FESL are \$30 and \$294 respectively for residential properties in 2017-18. The combined cost of these two levies is \$324. The average general rates for each suburb provided in Question on Notice 318 will increase by this amount if the SFL and FESL are included.

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### **Waste—recycling (Question No 648)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) Has SSWR provided a volumetric survey of the Recycling Facility at Block 66 Section 22 Hume to the EPA which identifies all material on the site in accordance with the Environmental Authorisation (EA); if so, can a copy of this survey be provided so the public can be informed of what materials are on the site; if not, why not, and when will this survey take place.
- (2) When is SSWR required to have installed permanent height markers on the site so that a visual check can be made of the stockpile in accordance with the EA.
- (3) Is SSWR required, under the EA, to ensure that all reasonable and practicable steps are undertaken to prevent litter escaping from the site; if so, have neighbours of the site reported that litter and dust is regularly escaping onto their properties and causing distress.
- (4) Will the Government require SSWR to build a more substantial barrier around the facility to prevent the escape of litter and dust from the property.
- (5) Has a development application been lodged for this process, noting SSWR's advice that it would like to build such a barrier.
- (6) Will the Government assist with the cost of erecting this barrier noting the significant impact that litter and dust are having on surrounding businesses.
- (7) Is the Government considering placing a prohibition order on SSWR to prevent the receipt of any additional waste until the stockpile has been reduced to the level required in the EA (4200 tonnes); if not, why not.

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

- (1) Section 18 of SSWR's Environmental Authorisation (EA) required them to undertake a volumetric survey on granting of the EA and thereafter twice yearly. To date two surveys have been completed. These are not public documents but under Section 19 of the *Environment Protection Act 1997* they are available for inspection upon request.
- (2) The EA holder has placed numerous markers around the site to enable a visual inspection of the stockpiles.
- (3) Yes. These measures are set out in the Environment Management Plan which was approved by the EPA on 27 June 2017. Access Canberra has received complaints

from neighbours alleging dust and litter leaving the SSWR site and has investigated on a number of occasions. Access Canberra has worked with SSWR to limit this.

- (4) The Government supports the establishment of a more substantial barrier around the site as one of the several mechanisms that would assist SSWR meet its environmental responsibilities.
- (5) No.
- (6) No. The obligation will be on SSWR.
- (7) The EPA will take the most appropriate action. One such action may be an Environment Protection Order, which could include a prohibition or restrictions on waste acceptance until such time as SSWR is compliant with the stockpile limits. Any action taken will be based on evidence and determined by the results of the volumetric survey.

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### **Municipal services—footpaths (Question No 649)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What is the total pool of funds used each year on the upkeep and maintenance of footpaths in the ACT.
- (2) How is this distributed geographically.
- (3) Approximately how much would it cost to bring all footpaths in the ACT up to a usable condition.
- (4) What is the standard width of footpaths.
- (5) What variance is there for width of footpaths.
- (6) What is the ideal width of shared “community route” footpaths that safely accommodate regular cyclists and pedestrians.
- (7) Noting advice we have received from community organisations that paths are being replaced at a width of 1.5 metres in Theodore and that this is more narrow than the standard used in the TCCS Municipal Infrastructure Standards, what justification is given by the Government for laying paths that are more narrow than the safe and usable width detailed in your own documentation.

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

- (1) Based on the last five years, an average of \$4.0m per annum has been spent on footpath operation and maintenance.

Activity	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
	Budget \$'000	Budget \$'000	Budget \$'000	Budget \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Community Path Maintenance</b>	3,324	3,776	3,310	4,511	5,265

Footpath cleaning and weed control is not costed separately. \$114,713 has been allocated in the 2017-18 budget for the cleaning of "Underpasses".

- (2) Maintenance expenditure is not distributed geographically. It is based on inspections of the condition of assets and community requests. The maintenance budget is then allocated by the class of asset and function according to technical demand, prioritising safety, serviceability, rather than regionally.
- (3) The footpath network within the ACT is generally serviceable. Community survey results outlined in the TCCS 2015-16 Annual Report indicate the community have a high level of satisfaction with the cycling and walking paths. Ongoing inspection programs (assisted by feedback from the community) detect, and maintenance programs correct, damage and deterioration on a continuous basis. Repairs are prioritised according to the degree of hazard they present. Repair of defects that do not present lower risk to path users are held in a database and considered for inclusion in larger packages of work for efficiency.
- (4) The current widths of footpaths vary dependent on the type of route, usage and the function they provide on the network. The current minimum width for new paths is 1.5m.
- (5) Community path widths vary according to the standards that applied at the time of their construction.
- (6) The current design standards reflect national and regional best practice, and are consistent with Austroads guidelines which are the principal reference design standard.
- (7) New paths are constructed to the Municipal Infrastructure Design Standards.  
[https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/Development\\_and\\_Project\\_Support/standards-codes-and-guidelines/municipal\\_infrastructure\\_design\\_standards](https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/Development_and_Project_Support/standards-codes-and-guidelines/municipal_infrastructure_design_standards)

Maintenance work that replaces damaged sections match existing widths at a minimum, and provide improved width where feasible.

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## Arts—policy framework (Question No 650)

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What consultation has been done with the ACT arts community regarding the establishment of a new Canberra Arts Biennial event and a new festival, announced in

the new 2025 Major Events Strategy for the ACT, that directly impact their industry and compete with or compliment their own existing events.

- (2) What was the outcome, if any, of that consultation.
- (3) How might these new festivals achieve the stated objective of showcasing Canberra's "cultural and creative industries".
- (4) Will this involve establishing a quota for local artists and producers.
- (5) Will this involve a policy of preferential hiring of local companies or festival directors.
- (6) Would the ACT Government consider providing additional arts project funding specifically for local artists to produce and promote their work at these new events, if the Government recognises the opportunity for such a festival to promote Canberra artists on a national or international stage.
- (7) What metrics or models are used to measure the purported social and cultural benefits, noting the ACT Government is able to measure the economic benefit of potential events/festivals for the ACT economy.
- (8) Is modelling undertaken to measure cultural benefits by quantifying the year-on-year increase in artists or artist opportunities/arts events/public image of Canberra as a "creative city".

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

- (1) There has not yet been any consultation regarding an Arts Biennial, however the ACT Government will consult with the arts and events community regarding the event.
- (2) N/A
- (3) The stated objectives will be achieved through engagement with Canberra artists and arts organisations. The ACT Government is committed to supporting events that are vibrant, diverse, engage with the community, bring life to the city, and showcase our talent.
- (4) There have been no decisions made regarding the establishment of a quota for local artists and producers. That said, the ACT Government is committed to supporting local artists and producers at its events and has done so in a number of local events and festivals.
- (5) There have been no decisions made regarding a policy of preferential hiring of local companies or festival directors.
- (6) There have been no decisions made regarding a funding model for the festivals or the commissioning/selection process for art elements.
- (7) There have been no decisions made regarding metrics for social and cultural benefits.

- (8) There is currently no modelling work undertaken regarding cultural benefits, specifically year on year increase in artists or artist opportunities/arts events/ public image of Canberra as a 'creative city'.

### **Housing—rates (Question No 652)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What were the average rates in 2016-17 for (a) single dwellings and (b) residential units, for each suburb in the ACT, excluding the Fire and Emergency Services Levy.
- (2) What amount was charged, per household, for the Fire and Emergency Services Levy for each financial year since 2009.
- (3) What was the total amount of revenue collected through the Fire and Emergency Services Levy for each financial year since 2009.
- (4) What amount was charged, per household, for the Safer Families Levy for each financial year since 2009.
- (5) What was the total amount of revenue collected through the Safer Families Levy for each financial year since 2009.

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

- (1) Average rates in 2016-17 for (a) single dwellings and (b) residential units, for each suburb in the ACT, excluding the Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL), are as follows in Table 1 (where sufficient data is available to ensure privacy of rate payers).
- (2) to (5) The FESL and Safer Families Levy charges and total revenue collected are contained in the Revenue and Forward Estimates chapter of each budget of the relevant period.

**Table 1: Average residential general rates for 2016-17 by suburb and dwelling type.**

	(a) Single dwellings	(b) Units
<b>INNER NORTH</b>		
AINSLIE	\$3,215	\$1,910
BRADDON	\$3,480	\$1,056
CAMPBELL	\$3,651	\$1,235
CITY		\$922
DICKSON	\$2,637	\$1,131
DOWNER	\$2,606	\$1,288
HACKETT	\$2,722	\$1,200
LYNEHAM	\$2,421	\$1,029
O'CONNOR	\$3,328	\$1,328
REID	\$4,469	\$1,182
TURNER	\$4,491	\$1,138
WATSON	\$2,299	\$1,021
<b>INNER SOUTH</b>		
BARTON	\$5,375	\$1,193
DEAKIN	\$4,263	\$1,390

	(a) Single dwellings	(b) Units
FORREST	\$8,737	\$1,731
GRIFFITH	\$4,656	\$1,176
KINGSTON	\$3,151	\$1,155
NARRABUNDAH	\$2,959	\$1,193
PIALLIGO	\$5,477	
RED HILL	\$4,666	\$2,082
YARRALUMLA	\$4,682	\$2,277
<b>WODEN DISTRICT</b>		
CHIFLEY	\$2,473	\$1,265
CURTIN	\$2,770	\$1,228
FARRER	\$2,623	\$1,301
GARRAN	\$3,382	\$1,189
HUGHES	\$2,885	\$1,267
ISAACS	\$2,459	\$1,510
LYONS	\$2,463	\$1,105
MAWSON	\$2,552	\$1,262
O'MALLEY	\$4,132	\$2,141
PEARCE	\$2,630	\$1,227
PHILLIP	\$1,678	\$1,089
TORRENS	\$2,408	\$1,300
<b>WESTON DISTRICT</b>		
CHAPMAN	\$2,637	\$1,247
DUFFY	\$2,133	\$1,191
FISHER	\$2,128	\$1,112
HOLDER	\$2,070	\$1,186
RIVETT	\$1,951	\$1,222
STIRLING	\$2,062	\$1,155
WARAMANGA	\$2,050	\$1,239
WESTON	\$2,088	\$1,172
<b>BELCONNEN DISTRICT</b>		
ARANDA	\$2,874	\$1,471
BELCONNEN	\$1,727	\$971
BRUCE	\$2,428	\$1,084
CHARNWOOD	\$1,541	\$1,062
COOK	\$2,423	\$1,270
DUNLOP	\$1,540	\$1,105
EVATT	\$1,752	\$1,113
FLOREY	\$1,865	\$1,192
FLYNN	\$1,759	\$1,224
FRASER	\$1,793	\$1,186
GIRALANG	\$1,858	\$1,226
HAWKER	\$2,620	\$1,238
HIGGINS	\$1,845	\$1,255
HOLT	\$1,626	\$1,032
KALEEN	\$2,004	\$1,193
LATHAM	\$1,703	\$1,157
MACGREGOR	\$1,519	\$1,093
MACQUARIE	\$2,239	\$1,149
MCKELLAR	\$1,902	\$1,253
MELBA	\$1,888	\$1,197
PAGE	\$1,980	\$1,196

	(a) Single dwellings	(b) Units
SCULLIN	\$1,822	\$1,160
SPENCE	\$1,738	\$1,219
WEETANGERA	\$2,678	\$1,428
<b>TUGGERANONG DISTRICT</b>		
BANKS	\$1,653	\$1,230
BONYTHON	\$1,750	\$1,135
CALWELL	\$1,802	\$1,078
CHISHOLM	\$1,779	\$1,186
CONDER	\$1,685	\$1,131
FADDEN	\$2,017	\$1,381
GILMORE	\$1,787	\$1,211
GORDON	\$1,691	\$1,081
GOWRIE	\$1,736	\$1,257
GREENWAY	\$1,640	\$1,093
ISABELLA PLAINS	\$1,686	\$1,092
KAMBAH	\$1,831	\$1,153
MACARTHUR	\$1,905	\$1,192
MONASH	\$1,863	\$1,121
OXLEY	\$1,878	\$1,169
RICHARDSON	\$1,663	\$1,110
THARWA	\$1,572	
THEODORE	\$1,677	\$1,091
WANNIASSA	\$1,894	\$1,195
<b>GUNGAHLIN – HALL DISTRICT</b>		
AMAROO	\$1,690	\$1,240
BONNER	\$1,422	\$1,027
CASEY	\$1,528	\$1,009
CRACE	\$1,627	\$911
FORDE	\$1,707	\$1,088
FRANKLIN	\$1,685	\$883
GUNGAHLIN	\$1,663	\$1,023
HALL	\$3,271	\$1,019
HARRISON	\$1,660	\$914
JACKA	\$1,464	\$964
MONCRIEFF	\$1,478	
NGUNNAWAL	\$1,547	\$1,083
NICHOLLS	\$1,948	\$1,259
PALMERSTON	\$1,693	\$1,284
<b>MOLONGLO DISTRICT</b>		
COOMBS	\$1,888	\$982
WRIGHT	\$2,080	\$889
<b>JERRABOMBERRA</b>		
JERRABOMBERRA	\$5,362	
OAKS ESTATE	\$1,569	\$874
SYMONSTON	\$8,478	

### Housing—rental bonds loan scheme (Question No 653)

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:



- (1) What is the income test used to determine eligibility for the Rental Bond Loan Scheme.
- (2) How do people demonstrate they are capable to satisfy the obligations under the Scheme.
- (3) What is the take-up of the Scheme.
- (4) How many applications have been made under the Scheme in the last three years.
- (5) How many applications have been rejected under the Scheme in the last three years.
- (6) What are the most common grounds for rejecting applications.
- (7) How many current loans are outstanding.
- (8) How many loans in the last three years have folded.

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

- (1) Income test for bond loan assistance:
  - a. single applicant with no dependants - \$1766 gross per week
  - b. family of two persons - \$2354 gross per week
  - c. family of three or more persons - \$2354 gross per week plus \$235 each for the third, fourth, fifth person, etc.

Eligibility is assessed on the gross income of the applicant/joint applicants, plus 20% of the incomes of any other household member whose income is equal to or greater than \$100 gross per week.

- (2) To qualify for the Rental Bond Loan Scheme applicants must:
  - a. be in Australia lawfully,
  - b. their presence in Australia is not subject to any time limit imposed by law,
  - c. be resident in the ACT (or at least one applicant if a joint application), or
  - d. be employed in the ACT, or
  - e. be enrolled to study in the ACT, or
  - f. be enrolled in a course of study of at least one year duration with an education provider in the ACT,
  - g. meet the income test,
  - h. not have cash or convertible assets valued at over \$10,000 (excluding ordinary household goods and personal effects),
  - i. have no interest in residential property in Australia,
  - j. not have any outstanding debts with Housing ACT (this goes to demonstrating capability to sustain a private rental tenancy),
  - k. be applying for an affordable rental (a maximum rent payment of up to 50% of all assessable income less the loan repayment amount), and
  - l. be living full-time in the residence.
- (3) Over the last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17) a total of 928 Rental Bond Loans have been issued.

- (4)
  - a. in 2014-15 there were 650 applications
  - b. in 2015-16 there were 480 applications
  - c. in 2016-17 there were 459 applications
- (5)
  - a. in 2014-15, 47 applications were rejected
  - b. in 2015-16, 45 applications were rejected
  - c. in 2016-17, 29 applications were rejected

A number of applications were not progressed by the applicant or cancelled.

- (6) The most common grounds for rejecting applications are:
  - a. documentation not being provided within the required timeframe
  - b. applicant did not meet the residency requirements
  - c. applicant did not meet the income and/or asset barriers
- (7) There are currently 956 active loans that are being paid off.
- (8) Over the last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17) 112 applications folded.

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### **Rural fire services—volunteers (Question No 655)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

What training is (a) available and (b) compulsory for volunteers to undertake in order to be a volunteer rural firefighter.

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

- a) The list of training courses available to ACT Rural Fire Service members is available at the following link: <http://esa.act.gov.au/actrfs/publication-and-links/standard-operating-procedures/> (in particular Standard Operating Procedures 6.2 and 6.5).
- b) In order to be a volunteer Rural Firefighter, members must attain the Bush Firefighter qualification (minimum requirement to be on the fire ground).

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### **Canberra Airport—firefighters (Question No 656)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What are the hours for which the Canberra Airport is manned with firefighters.
- (2) How many firefighters are rostered at any given time during the operating hours of the Canberra Airport.

(3) Do these numbers change during different periods of the day.

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

Firefighters at the Canberra Airport are not ACT Government employees.

These questions should be directed to Airservices Australia.

### **Housing—rates (Question No 658)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 15 September 2017:

- (1) What is the average rate increase in dollar figures for (a) single dwellings and (b) residential units, for each suburb in the Australian Capital Territory in 2017-18 from 2016-17.
- (2) What is the average rate increase in the form of a percentage for (a) single dwellings and (b) residential units, for each suburb in the Australian Capital Territory in 2017-18 from 2016-17.

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

The average changes in general rates in 2017-18 from 2016-17, in percentage and dollar terms for single dwellings and residential units, for each suburb in the Australian Capital Territory are at Table 1 (where sufficient data is available to ensure privacy of rate payers).

On average, general rates for houses in 2017-18 increased by seven per cent, in line with the 2016 17 Budget commitment for Stage Two tax reforms. The increase for units was higher due to the 2016-17 Budget measure to change the calculation methodology for general rates, to base it on the total Average Unimproved Value (AUV) of the land rather than the individual AUV of the unit. This change took affect from 1 July 2017.

**Table 1: Changes in average residential general rates in 2017-18 from 2016-17 by suburb and dwelling type.**

	Houses (\$)	Units (\$)	Houses (%)	Units (%)
<b>INNER NORTH</b>				
AINSLIE	\$308	\$411	10%	22%
BRADDON	\$407	\$186	12%	18%
CAMPBELL	\$475	\$305	13%	25%
CITY		\$84		9%
DICKSON	\$349	\$218	13%	19%
DOWNER	\$224	\$252	9%	20%
HACKETT	\$319	\$301	12%	25%
LYNEHAM	\$274	\$177	11%	17%
O'CONNOR	\$316	\$287	10%	22%
REID	\$480	\$265	11%	22%
TURNER	\$565	\$235	13%	21%
WATSON	\$223	\$137	10%	13%

	Houses (\$)	Units (\$)	Houses (%)	Units (%)
<b>INNER SOUTH</b>				
BARTON	\$627	\$315	12%	26%
DEAKIN	\$396	\$284	9%	20%
FORREST	\$674	\$408	8%	24%
GRIFFITH	\$435	\$270	9%	23%
KINGSTON	\$369	\$284	12%	25%
NARRABUNDAH	\$267	\$275	9%	23%
PIALLIGO	\$240		4%	
RED HILL	\$475	\$467	10%	22%
YARRALUMLA	\$554	\$598	12%	26%
<b>WODEN DISTRICT</b>				
CHIFLEY	\$195	\$299	8%	24%
CURTIN	\$247	\$260	9%	21%
FARRER	\$220	\$295	8%	23%
GARRAN	\$190	\$203	6%	17%
HUGHES	\$236	\$257	8%	20%
ISAACS	\$132	\$449	5%	30%
LYONS	\$180	\$203	7%	18%
MAWSON	\$194	\$390	8%	31%
O'MALLEY	\$296	\$703	7%	33%
PEARCE	\$168	\$319	6%	26%
PHILLIP	\$111	\$216	7%	20%
TORRENS	\$176	\$299	7%	23%
<b>WESTON DISTRICT</b>				
CHAPMAN	\$211	\$118	8%	10%
DUFFY	\$117	\$251	6%	21%
FISHER	\$114	\$137	5%	12%
HOLDER	\$129	\$306	6%	26%
RIVETT	\$114	\$283	6%	23%
STIRLING	\$105	\$291	5%	25%
WARAMANGA	\$120	\$243	6%	20%
WESTON	\$124	\$299	6%	26%
<b>BELCONNEN DISTRICT</b>				
ARANDA	\$253	\$306	9%	21%
BELCONNEN	\$60	\$112	4%	12%
BRUCE	\$198	\$189	8%	17%
CHARNWOOD	\$81	\$196	5%	19%
COOK	\$202	\$376	8%	30%
DUNLOP	\$75	\$167	5%	15%
EVATT	\$115	\$153	7%	14%
FLOREY	\$107	\$303	6%	25%
FLYNN	\$114	\$166	7%	14%
FRASER	\$106	\$232	6%	20%
GIRALANG	\$149	\$301	8%	25%
HAWKER	\$199	\$327	8%	26%
HIGGINS	\$93	\$241	5%	19%
HOLT	\$77	\$172	5%	17%
KALEEN	\$152	\$183	8%	15%
LATHAM	\$94	\$200	6%	17%
MACGREGOR	\$90	\$228	6%	21%
MACQUARIE	\$163	\$175	7%	15%

	Houses (\$)	Units (\$)	Houses (%)	Units (%)
MCKELLAR	\$119	\$339	6%	27%
MELBA	\$137	\$259	7%	22%
PAGE	\$140	\$274	7%	23%
SCULLIN	\$89	\$264	5%	23%
SPENCE	\$86	\$175	5%	14%
WEETANGERA	\$236	\$292	9%	20%
<b>TUGGERANONG DISTRICT</b>				
BANKS	\$68	\$223	4%	18%
BONYTHON	\$104	\$253	6%	22%
CALWELL	\$104	\$215	6%	20%
CHISHOLM	\$102	\$306	6%	26%
CONDER	\$105	\$169	6%	15%
FADDEN	\$154	\$419	8%	30%
GILMORE	\$118	\$182	7%	15%
GORDON	\$115	\$160	7%	15%
GOWRIE	\$128	\$313	7%	25%
GREENWAY	\$149	\$197	9%	18%
ISABELLA PLAINS	\$107	\$237	6%	22%
KAMBAH	\$139	\$276	8%	24%
MACARTHUR	\$147	\$222	8%	19%
MONASH	\$128	\$239	7%	21%
OXLEY	\$134	\$345	7%	30%
RICHARDSON	\$112	\$134	7%	12%
THARWA	\$96		6%	
THEODORE	\$100	\$250	6%	23%
WANNIASSA	\$65	\$242	3%	20%
<b>GUNGAHLIN – HALL DISTRICT</b>				
AMAROO	\$102	\$277	6%	22%
BONNER	\$113	\$159	8%	16%
CASEY	\$109	\$93	7%	9%
CRACE	\$117	\$42	7%	5%
FORDE	\$156	\$154	9%	14%
FRANKLIN	\$111	\$23	7%	3%
GUNGAHLIN	\$93	\$93	6%	9%
HALL	\$187	\$108	6%	11%
HARRISON	\$101	\$25	6%	3%
JACKA	\$98	\$101	7%	11%
MONCRIEFF	\$77		5%	
NGUNNAWAL	\$75	\$179	5%	17%
NICHOLLS	\$185	\$346	10%	28%
PALMERSTON	\$95	\$348	6%	27%
<b>MOLONGLO DISTRICT</b>				
COOMBS	\$130	\$144	7%	15%
WRIGHT	\$118	\$37	6%	4%
<b>JERRABOMBERRA</b>				
JERRABOMBERRA	\$235		4%	
OAKS ESTATE	\$66	\$0	4%	0%
SYMONSTON	\$378		5%	

**Schools—sports facilities  
(Question No 659)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 22 September 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development*):

- (1) How many schools have now been made available as indoor sporting facilities by the Directorate.
- (2) Can the Minister provide (a) a list of those schools, (b) a list of what courts are available each day and (c) what the hire cost is for each facility.
- (3) Who sets the cost for each facility.
- (4) Where does the money go.
- (5) How does a sporting club get access to the facilities.
- (6) How many are currently being used by non-school based sports.

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

- (1) The Education Directorate's community use of schools policies and procedures place a positive obligation on all schools to make their facilities available for public use outside of school hours. In 2016-17 there were approximately 500 community use hirers across ACT public schools. These groups range from sporting groups to multicultural groups and other community groups. To date, the Indoor Sports Facility Working Group (the Working Group) has undertaken additional works to increase access at five ACT public schools and work continues to increase access where capacity exists.
- (2)
  - a) The sites that have had works undertaken to improve access include Alfred Deakin High School, Wanniasa High School, Lyneham High School, Lake Tuggeranong College and the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning.
  - b) Details of facilities available for hire at each school site and direct contact details for each school can be found on the Education Directorate's website at [https://www.education.act.gov.au/about\\_us/A-Z](https://www.education.act.gov.au/about_us/A-Z). Additional assistance to potential hirers of facilities in ACT public schools is provided through the Education Support Office at [etdstrategicfinance@act.gov.au](mailto:etdstrategicfinance@act.gov.au)
  - c) The Directorate provides indicative community and commercial guideline rates of hire for schools in line with the annual fees and charges review process. However, individual school principals have the discretion to reduce and/or waive hire rates based on the marginal costs of usage or in consideration of non-cash benefits to their individual school, students and the community.
- (3) Please refer to response 2c).

- (4) Hire fees for school facilities are retained by each individual school site, and are used to offset the cost of operations, such as utilities and cleaning.
  - (5) Sporting clubs are able to access school sites by contacting each school directly. Details of facilities available at each site and direct contact details for each school can be found on the Education Directorate's website at [https://www.education.act.gov.au/about\\_us/A-Z](https://www.education.act.gov.au/about_us/A-Z). Additional assistance to potential hirers is provided through the Education Support Office at [etdstrategicfinance@act.gov.au](mailto:etdstrategicfinance@act.gov.au)
  - (6) The Directorate does not hold this level of detailed data. The request would require contact with every school and considerable time to collate the information.
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### **Emergency services—helicopters (Question No 661)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) What are the details of the contract between the NSW and ACT Governments to house and operate one of the Toll Rescue Helicopters.
- (2) Does this service accommodate volunteer staff; if not, why not.
- (3) Is the current facility in which the helicopter is housed fully appropriate for the size and capability of the new helicopter.
- (4) What is being done with the facility in which the previous Snowy Hydro Southcare helicopter was housed.
- (5) How long does it take for a doctor to arrive at the facility in which the helicopter is housed once being alerted to an emergency situation.

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

- (1) A Heads of Agreement between the NSW and ACT Governments details the funding arrangements under a 90/10 split to support the provision of aeromedical services and medical crewing of the aircraft.
- (2) Sponsorship and community support (volunteer) arrangements are a matter for Toll Helicopters.
- (3) Yes. The aircraft is housed in the ACT Rural Fire Service hanger pending upgrades to the SouthCare hanger being completed.
- (4) The hanger that will house the Toll aircraft is currently undergoing capital works to make a number of improvements to the engineering annex, hanger doors, a new helicopter landing site that enables the use of night vision equipment technology and crew amenities. The ACT Government provided \$0.395m in funding in the 2016/17 ACT Budget to support base improvements.

- (5) Response times for the rostered doctor vary depending on whether the doctor is on base or on-call at the time of mission activation. Between 8:00am and 6:00pm the medical crew are required to be available to depart the base within 15 minutes. This increases to 30 minutes between 6:00pm and 8:00am.

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**ACT Ambulance Service—staffing  
(Question No 663)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) In the event of ambulance officers calling in sick or taking flexible time off on short notice, (a) what steps are taken to ensure that the ACT Ambulance Service does not fall below the minimum working crew amount and (b) how often does this situation occur.
- (2) What is the total number of overtime hours worked by qualified ambulance officers this financial year to date.
- (3) What were the total number of overtime hours worked by qualified ambulance officers in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2015-16.
- (4) What additional loadings and other pay is added to each overtime hour, compared to regular working hours for qualified ambulance officers and how does this change for day shifts and night shifts.

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

- (1)(a) ACT Ambulance Service actively rearranges its workforce to provide adequate staffing to fulfil its operational and legislative priorities. In situations where crewing levels are impacted by unforeseen absences, such as sick leave or other unplanned leave, resources can be re-deployed or managed through overtime shifts.
  - (1)(b) Providing a response to this question would require a considerable amount of staff time and resources to answer, and unreasonably redirect ESA personnel away from important functions. As such, I have determined it is not appropriate to provide a response to this question.
  - (2) As at 26 September 2017, 9,529 hours of overtime has been worked in the 2017-18 financial year, for all qualified ambulance officers, for all purposes.
  - (3)(a) 35,923 hours of overtime was worked in the 2016-17 financial year, for all qualified ambulance officers, for all purposes.
  - (3)(b) 33,948 hours of overtime was worked in the 2015-16 financial year, for all qualified ambulance officers, for all purposes.
  - (4) Details of overtime payments are publically available in the *ACT Ambulance Service Enterprise Agreement 2013 – 2017* at [https://www.jobs.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/530048/JACS-ACTAS-Agreement.pdf](https://www.jobs.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/530048/JACS-ACTAS-Agreement.pdf).
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**ACT Ambulance Service—staffing  
(Question No 664)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) What is the growth in demand for service that the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) has experience over the past five years.
- (2) In its last two budget submissions, has ACTAS requested another crew(s) or resources for another crew(s); if so, were these requests accepted or rejected.
- (3) How many ACTAS staff are currently on Comcare and how many have been on Comcare for over four weeks.

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

- (1) Demand for ambulance service figures are publically available in the Report on Government Services (ROGS) at <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services> and in Justice and Community Safety Annual Reports at <http://www.justice.act.gov.au/page/view/197/title/annual-reports>.
- (2) Deliberations and decisions on Budget matters are Cabinet-in-Confidence. The Budget Papers provide details of approved initiatives, and are publicly available.

The Government has committed to recruit an additional ambulance crew during this term of government.

- (3) As at 1 September 2017, 33 ACTAS staff members are in receipt of either medical or incapacity assistance from Comcare. Of these, all have been on Comcare for over four weeks.

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**Firearms—national gun amnesty  
(Question No 665)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) How many guns have been handed in, to date, as part of the ACT's involvement in the national gun amnesty.
- (2) Are there any plans to extend the amnesty period in the ACT beyond three months; if so, what are the plans.
- (3) Are any personal or contact details collected by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) or other government officials when a gun owner hands in their firearm(s) at the AFP Firearms Registry.
- (4) Once a firearm(s) is handed into the AFP Registry, what is done with it.

- (5) Can gun owners hand in their guns to their local gun shop(s) in the ACT; if not, why not.
- (6) How does the policy referred to in part (5) differ to the NSW policy.

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

- (1) The National Firearms Amnesty (NFA) was conducted between 1 July and 30 September 2017. In total, 699 firearms were surrendered in the ACT during the NFA. The total number of firearms and related articles surrendered in the ACT was 794.
- (2) The NFA was not extended.
- (3) The terms of the NFA allowed for the anonymous surrender of firearms. A significant majority of those people surrendering items did so anonymously. Typically, people who did provide relevant details were those seeking to register and retain the firearm/s. Those details were recorded in accordance with standard protocols. No deviations from this protocol occurred during the course of the NFA.
- (4) Most of the firearms surrendered to the Firearms Registry will be destroyed. However, firearms of potentially historic significance will be assessed for inclusion in the collections of various interested organisations such as the Australian War Memorial, museums and other state and territory Police forces. Additionally, firearms which may hold forensic and/or intelligence significance will not be destroyed until relevant analysis has been carried out. Destruction of all other firearms will commence later this year. In the interim, surrendered firearms are being held in a secure AFP facility.
- (5) Section 38(4) of the *Firearms Act 1996 (ACT)* provides that a proceeding does not lie against a person in relation to the possession of a firearm surrendered to a *police officer* during an amnesty period. This provision therefore precludes firearms being surrendered to other members of the firearms community, such as firearms dealers, as part of the NFA.
- (6) In New South Wales, all firearms, firearm parts, ammunition and prohibited weapons could have been surrendered to participating firearm dealers and police stations during the NFA period.

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### **Ginninderry—advertising expenditure (Question No 666)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) Why did the Government approve expenditure of \$821 038.90 in February 2017 for advertising for the Ginninderry development, when the development application for this project was not submitted until March 2017;
- (2) Why did the Government approve further expenditure of \$28 600 in March 2017, when the development application for this development was not approved until August 2017;

- (3) Did these amounts comprise the total cost for the subject advertising, under the joint venture agreement; if not, (a) what is the total cost, (b) what is the Government's share of that total cost and (c) under what process will any additional amounts be approved.
- (4) What contribution has the Government's joint venture partner made to the total cost.
- (5) When was that contribution paid or reimbursed to the Government;
- (6) Did the joint venture partner pay their share in cash; if not, (a) in what form was it paid, (b) how was that form valued and (c) by whom was it valued.
- (7) Is the Government in a conflict of interest in this project as both regulator and profit-making developer; if so, how is that conflict managed so that full accountability, transparency and probity is preserved; if not, on what basis was that assessment made.

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

- (1) Ginninderry is a joint venture (structured as 60 per cent Suburban Land Agency on behalf of the ACT Government, and 40 per cent Riverview Developments Pty Ltd) to deliver ultimately 11,500 dwellings over a 30 year plus timeframe. It includes four suburbs, shopping areas, recreation, sport and community facilities, and almost 600 Ha of conservation corridor.

The Joint Venture (JV) is a commercial agreement and is not funded by appropriation. The JV Board determines and approves the budget requirements for the project. It has funded necessary and important advertising and promotional material to promote this new development. This included building awareness of the Ginninderry project and associated services, its location, underpinning values and its position as an emerging development front in Canberra's north.

The campaign included three key components funded by the Joint Venture:

- Brand launch and associated production of materials including a new website, signage, advertising and events;
- All internal and external signage of Ginninderry's multi-purpose centre (The Link); and
- Promotion and registration of the first sales release including detailed information relating to Flexi Living (a new affordable housing product).

- (2) See answer to question 1 above.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The JV funds all project costs to which the joint venture participants share a proportionate liability. The respective interests of the participants are 60 per cent for the Suburban Land Agency representing the Territory and 40 per cent for Riverview Developments. The Government does not fund Ginninderry's advertising costs.
- (5) As part of the project funding, the former Land Development Agency and Suburban Land Agency is providing funding in the form of approved borrowings at a

commercial rate to the Joint Venture to fund initial project costs. The borrowings will be paid back as the project becomes cash flow positive.

- (6) As (5) above states, total payment for the expenses was made by the Joint Venture with borrowings from the Suburban Land Agency. These borrowings provide operating revenue for the Joint Venture and will be repaid once the project becomes cash positive, primarily through land sales.
- (7) No. The respective roles of developer and regulator are separated through the application of relevant legislation and Ministerial responsibilities. The *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017* provides the authority for the Agency to exercise its functions, including those related to a Joint Venture. The *Financial Management Act 1996* also sets out a range of requirements for the operations of the Agency. Planning related decisions are made by the Chief Planning Executive or their delegate under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*. The *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009* is to prevent the use of public funds for advertising or other communications for political party purposes. This Act sets out the role of the Reviewer, including the requirements for the Reviewer to be independent of Government.
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### **Transport—light rail (Question No 668)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) In relation to the Minister's answer to the Select Committee on Estimates 2017-2018 question on notice No 505, can the Minister provide, as a percentage, the value of work that has been awarded to local businesses in comparison to all contracts that have been awarded for light rail stage 1.
- (2) Are ACT businesses given any loadings when tendering for light rail work.

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

- (1) Approximately 58% (by number) of contracts awarded up until 31 May 2017 under the Light Rail Stage 1 Project by Canberra Metro were awarded to businesses that are local to the Canberra Region. The value of subcontracts awarded is not required to be provided by Canberra Metro.
- (2) Canberra Metro are required to comply with the requirements of the Local Industry Project Agreement. This provides targets for contracts awarded to local entities but no weighting is applied.
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### **Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—aluminium cladding (Question No 669)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

Did the Minister state on 13 September 2017 that she had received expert advice saying it would be irresponsible to remove the cladding from the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children building; if so, can the Minister provide a copy of this expert advice.

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

1. Summary of the advice provided by ACT Health below:

Potential risks of removing the identified polyethylene filled ACP panels in advance of the replacement panels being installed include potentially compromising building water tightness, voiding building warranties, reduced operational efficiency of the building and increased risk of vermin entering the building. The two step approach to removal and replacement may have an operational impact on the building function due to prolonged periods of scaffolding erection and removal including the additional cost associated with double handling materials and equipment.

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### **Planning—master plans (Question No 670)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

In relation to the answer to the Select Committee on Estimates 2017-2018 question on notice No 153, will the Minister be continuing to report on master plans in the 2018-2019 Budget.

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

No, as the remaining master plans for the Kippax, Curtin and Tharwa centres are expected to be completed within the 2017-18 financial year.

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### **Planning—reviews (Question No 671)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) What has the Minister's agency done since 2013 to implement the recommendations in the Lloyd review.
- (2) Why has it taken over five years to make legislative changes to implement the recommendations in this review.
- (3) Are there any other reviews that the Government has received but has not legislated or implemented the recommendations; if so, what reviews.
- (4) Are there any reviews that the Government has received but have not publicly responded to.

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

- (1) In 2013 a cross-directorate working group was established to consider actions to respond to the review. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) also strengthened its referral process to Worksafe ACT and the Emergency Services Agency for matters relating to hazardous chemicals and waste.

In 2014, model harmonised regulations were adopted under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and a rigorous interrogation of all leases in industrial zones in the ACT commenced to identify high risk sites where potentially hazardous activities could occur. The leasing review, completed in 2015, was an essential precursor to the recent amendments to the *Planning and Development Act 2007* to provide for more rigorous planning assessment of the storage of dangerous goods.

- (2) The Government has progressed a carefully sequenced series of actions in response to recommendations in the Lloyd Review. Some actions and consultation needed to take place before legislative changes could be progressed.
- (3) The Government has not received any other reviews on hazardous industries.
- (4) The Government has not received any other reviews on hazardous industries that have not been publicly responded to.

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### **Planning—Curtin master plan (Question No 673)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) In relation to the Minister's answer to the Select committee on Estimates 2017-2018 question on notice No E17-515, what were the unexpected challenges faced by the Government in producing the Curtin Masterplan.
- (2) Are these unexpected challenges continuing.
- (3) What additional challenges have arisen.
- (4) What steps has the Government undertaken to resolve the challenges faced.
- (5) Have these unexpected challenges meant that there has been a delay in the Curtin Masterplan processes.

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

- (1) The challenges included increased and changed development and redevelopment proposals which had not been developed or presented as part of the Curtin Group Centre Draft Master Plan. A number of long term lessees indicated they had new ideas for their properties and that these ideas had not been considered in the draft master plan process.

- (2) No. The ACT Government is facilitating discussions, through a community panel process, so that the proponents of all development and redevelopments in the centre can address and respond to community and business concerns and needs.
  - (3) No other additional challenges have arisen.
  - (4) As described in the above response, the community panel process is being undertaken to facilitate discussions between proponents and key community members.
  - (5) Yes, however the extension of time will be beneficial as it provides businesses, charity organisations, community and government time to strongly engage in the current and future possibilities for the Curtin Centre. The Master Plan is expected to be completed in early 2018.
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### **Planning—Greenway lighting (Question No 674)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 22 September 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) How much did the erection of the lighting feature at Anketell Street, Greenway cost.
- (2) How was this lighting feature chosen.
- (3) What consultation was undertaken prior to choosing the lighting feature.
- (4) How many people were consulted on choosing this lighting feature.
- (5) How long was the consultation period.
- (6) What methods were undertaken to consult on choosing this lighting feature.
- (7) Who was commissioned to produce this lighting feature.
- (8) Were local businesses/ individuals engaged.
- (9) What was the total cost of the lighting feature, including (a) costs of any scoping study undertaken, (b) community consultation and (c) commission fees.
- (10) What is the purpose of the lighting feature.
- (11) Who installed the lighting feature.

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

- (1) The manufacture and erection of the feature lighting installed on Anketell Street was delivered as part of the project's overall construction contract with an item cost of approximately \$64,000.
- (2) The design of the feature lighting was developed to achieve a range of functions to improve this key intersection of Anketell Street and the laneway link to the lake whilst

also conforming to a number of operational constraints. Design choices were made to achieve a relatively visually unobtrusive element that marked the laneway entry point, allowed adequate height and width for service vehicles and to meet operational maintenance standards and requirements.

- (3) The Anketell Street (North) public space upgrade project undertook a consultation process that engaged with key community and government stakeholders in the early design stages and then on the draft concept design via a six week period of public consultation. The public consultation was on the concept design that proposed changes to the whole area of Anketell Street from Reed to Pitman Streets and included the proposal for a feature light.
- (4) The full public consultation received 482 participations. To call for review and comment on the proposals 4,200 nearby residents and businesses were sent letter box notifications of the consultation.
- (5) The full public consultation period was six weeks.
- (6) Refer to question three.
- (7) The project's lead construction contractor was RAM Constructions who engaged Pro Metalwork to manufacture the feature lighting and assist with onsite installation.
- (8) Both RAM Construction and Pro Metalwork are local ACT businesses.
- (9) The feature lighting installed on Anketell Street was delivered as part of the project's overall construction contract with an item cost of approximately \$64,000. Design development and consultation work in relation to the feature light formed part of the broader consultancies contract prices and was not broken down into an individual item for this specific work.
- (10) The feature light was designed and included as a bespoke structure primarily to light the junction of the laneway to the lake on Anketell Street and to act as a beacon/marker for this space so as to attract pedestrian attention to the area, especially at night. Part of the feature's function is to attract and allow space for a range of uses such as night markets, weekend markets and community events, as well as ease of maintenance and operations.
- (11) The lead contractor was RAM Construction with assistance onsite from Pro Metalwork.

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### **Planning—Kippax master plan (Question No 675)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) In relation to the Minister's answer to the Select committee on Estimates 2017-2018 question on notice No E17-515, what is the current status of the Kippax Master plan.
- (2) When does the Minister expect it to be finalised.



- (3) Has the Woden Master plan been finalised; if not, when does the Minister expect it to be finalised
- (4) When does the Minister expect the Tharwa Master Plan to be completed.

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

- (1) Given the strong interest from businesses and the community in the Kippax group centre, the Government has adopted a community panel process to further engage through informed discussions about the future of this centre. The Kippax Community Panel is currently under way and will inform the finalisation of the Kippax Group Centre Master Plan.
  - (2) The Kippax Group Centre Master Plan is anticipated to be finalised in the first half of 2018.
  - (3) The Woden Town Centre Master Plan was finalised in November 2015.
  - (4) The Tharwa Village Plan is anticipated to be finalised in early 2018.
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#### **Planning—lease variation charges (Question No 676)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) When did the Minister's Directorate first become aware of the proposed changes to the Lease Variation Charges for unit titling.
- (2) What advice did the Minister's Directorate provide to the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate in relation to the increase in the Lease Variation Charges.

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

- (1) The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate was involved in the proposed changes for Lease Variation Charge (LVC) for unit titling as part of the budget consultation process.
  - (2) The Directorate administers LVC but is not responsible for setting the LVC charges, which is a Treasury responsibility. It provided data to Treasury about LVC determinations.
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#### **Sex industry—registered operators (Question No 688)**

**Mrs Kikkert** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 22 September 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to registrations under the Prostitution Act 1992 in the ACT, how many brothels are currently registered.

- (2) How many brothels were registered each year for the last 10 years.
- (3) How many escort agencies (a) are currently registered and (b) were registered each year for the last 10 years.
- (4) How many sole operators working as prostitutes (a) are currently registered and (b) were registered each year for the last 10 years.
- (5) How many adult stores (a) are currently registered and (b) were registered each year for the last 10 years.

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

- (1) As at 28 September 2017 there are currently:
- 16 brothels registered, all of which are also registered as an escort agency.
  - 1 escort only agency.
  - 12 Sole Operators.
  - Four adult store (X18+ Film) licences.
- (2) The following table identifies the total number registered across each licence/registration category for the period 2013 to 2016.

Year	Total Registered			
	Brothel & Escort	Escort Only	Sole Operator	X18+ Films
2016	15	0	11	4
2015	14	0	7	5
2014	17	1	10	6
2013	18	2	10	7

Data collected prior to 2013 is not comparable as records were not broken down into registration type.

- (3)
- (a) See response to question 1.
- (b) See response to question 2.
- (4)
- (a) See response to question 1.
- (b) See response to question 2.
- (5)
- (a) See response to question 1.
- (b) See response to question 2.

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### **Housing—multi-unit complexes (Question Nos 731 and 732)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

What is the total number of unit complexes in Canberra, broken down by (a) 2 units, (b) 3-5 units, (c) 6-10 units, (d) 11-25 units, (e) 26-50 units, (f) 51-100 units and (g) 100 plus units.

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

While the planning and land authority does not record the precise information requested, the breakdown for units plans recorded is as follows:

- (a) 2 units = 1546 unit plans
- (b) 3-9 units = 962 unit plans
- (c) 10-19 units = 725 unit plans
- (d) 20-29 units = 220 unit plans
- (e) 30-39 units = 95 unit plans
- (f) 40-49 units = 68 unit plans
- (g) 50- 99 units = 136 unit plans
- (h) 100+ units = 84 unit plans

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**Government—office accommodation  
(Question No 734)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

- (1) Further to question on notice 481, is the 56 percent occupancy rate at the Callam Offices inclusive of the refurbished areas.
- (2) In relation to the refurbishments being undertaken at the Callam Offices in 2017-18, what is the (a) number of offices being refurbished, (b) total amount of office space in square metres being refurbished, (c) nature of the refurbishments within the offices and (d) nature of the landscaping.
- (3) What is the total amount of office space at the Callam Offices.
- (4) Are the office spaces in the Callam Offices being refurbished into active work spaces.
- (5) Will the refurbishments increase the available office space at the Callam Offices.
- (6) When are the refurbishments at the Callam Offices scheduled to be completed.
- (7) What date do the tenancy agreements with (a) Woden Valley Community Services and (b) Wellways Australia Limited expire.
- (8) What date do the memorandums of understanding with the (a) Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Security Service ICT, (b) Education Directorate and (c) Health Directorate expire.

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

- (1) The 56 percent occupancy rate does not include all of the refurbished areas in the Callam Offices.

Current tenants, Woden Community Services, the Health Directorate and Wellways Australia Limited have had partial refurbishments carried-out prior to and following occupation. ICT Shared Services will have their office space refurbished when it is convenient for their operations.

- (2) Refurbishments being undertaken at the Callam Offices in 2017-18:
  - a. Five (5) offices/pods are being refurbished
  - b. The total amount in square metres of office space being refurbished is 3140.5m<sup>2</sup>
  - c. Refurbishments within offices/pods comprise: window treatments, replacement of carpet, painting, removal of internal walls to support active work spaces, lighting/heating upgrades.
  - d. The design of the landscaping features outdoor seating areas for staff and visitors, new paving and plantings, trees in poor condition replaced.
- (3) Total amount of office space at the Callam Offices is:
  - 9,389m<sup>2</sup> gross floor area
  - 7,210m<sup>2</sup> net lettable space.
- (4) The removal of internal walls within the pods supports active work spaces.
- (5) No. The refurbishments are upgrades to existing spaces within the building.
- (6) The refurbishments at Callam are scheduled to be completed within the following timeframes:
  - Office space (February 2018)
  - Internal walkways, electrical/lighting upgrades (End of financial year 2018)
  - Landscaping (End of financial year 2018)
  - Exterior wall cleaning (February 2018)
- (7) Dates for the expiry of tenancy agreements with Woden Valley Community Services and Wellways Australia Limited are as follows:
 

• Woden Valley Community Services	31/08/2021
• Wellways Australia Ltd	30/06/2022
- (8) Dates for expiry of memorandums of understanding are as follows:
 

• CMTED Security Service ICT	14/11/2021
• Education Directorate	30/06/2018
• Health Directorate	30/06/2020

## **Housing—multi-unit complexes (Question No 764)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 22 September 2017:

Has the ACT Government been working with the Owners Corporation Network on a guide for Body Corporates of multi-unit residential buildings to assist them with

managing their legal responsibilities; if so, (a) what has the Government's involvement been, (b) what is the current status of this work and (c) will the Government be releasing the guide; if so, when.

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

1. Yes

- (a) Access Canberra has been working with the Owners Corporation Network as well as other key stakeholders on the development of a number of resources to support multi-unit living.

The resources will be launched by the end of 2017 and include a general guide which outlines legal and other responsibilities as well as a guide supporting understanding around the maintenance responsibilities in multi-unit residential settings.

The guides will be informative as well as engaging and targeted at: those already living or renting in multi-unit settings, prospective buyers or renters and Executive Committees and Owners Corporations.

It is expected real estate agents, property managers and legal services will also find the guides useful.

(b) See above.

(c) See above.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—methadone program (Question No 769)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 22 September 2017 (*redirected to the Minister for Mental Health*):

- (1) In relation to the Minister's answer to question on notice No 273 which was placed on the Notice Paper on 12 May 2017, how exactly are newly inducted detainees to the methadone program reviewed by nursing staff at three to four hours after dosing.
- (2) What act(s) by nursing staff meet the requirements as being a "review".

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

1. Nurses review newly inducted detainees to the methadone program three - four hours after dosing which includes the following:
- Checking pupil size
  - Recording heart rate, respirations and blood pressure
  - Assessing level of consciousness
  - Assessing speech and
  - Assessing gait.

2. The above meets the requirement as being a review as it is a clinical assessment of the person. These 'acts' or clinical assessment and observations done by nursing staff inform whether the person is intoxicated or affected in an abnormal way from the methadone.

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## Questions without notice taken on notice

### Health—Mental health staffing

**Mr Rattenbury** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Thursday, 3 August 2017*):

The medical cover at the AMHU comprises of three full-time Consultant Psychiatrists, one Clinical Director/Consultant Psychiatrist who works clinically 0.5 full-time equivalent, three Psychiatric Registrars and two Medical Interns.

In June 2017, due the two unexpected resignations and personal leave, the lowest number of psychiatrist rostered at the Adult Mental Health Unit (AMHU) was two. Although there were only two psychiatrists rostered, there were still three Psychiatric Registrars and two Medical Interns rostered to the unit at the time.

Since 4 August 2017, with the exception of three days where 2.5FTE consultant psychiatrists were rostered, there have been at least three consultant psychiatrists rostered to work at AMHU. The consultant psychiatrist staffing cohort has been comprised of permanent staff specialists as well as locum Visiting Medical Officers.

### Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—complaints

**Ms Stephen-Smith** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mrs Jones on Tuesday, 15 August 2017*):

1. The Directorate has formed a reasonable belief that it has identified one possible author.
2. The identity of the email correspondent and investigation of the concerns they expressed are separate matters. As noted in my response on 15 August 2017, the statement that Ms Jones quoted related to contacting the correspondent to seek further details on the allegations, not on his or her identity.

The Community Services Directorate engaged with the anonymous correspondent and offered appropriate protections with Public Interest Disclosure coverage. The Directorate also encouraged the correspondent to raise their concerns through appropriate channels, including the Human Rights Commission.

At the time that the Directorate was receiving correspondence from the anonymous complainant, it became aware of emails sent to a number of people that may have disclosed the identity of a young person. This is a potential breach of the Criminal

Code, which prohibits the disclosure of information which could identify a young person who has been subject to criminal proceedings. Relevant emails were therefore referred to ACT Policing.

Bimberi staff are obligated under the *Children and Young People Act 2008* not to disclose protected information obtained in the course of their duties. All staff have a number of mechanisms and avenues to make disclosures and complaints, which include the internal complaints process, the Human Rights Commission, the Public Advocate and the Official Visitor.

### **Hospitals—bullying**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Lawder and Ms Lee on Wednesday, 16 August 2017*):

1. The detailed results from ACT Health's Workplace Culture Surveys (conducted in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2015) are not made public. The basis for not releasing results publically are:
  - a) assurances made to staff regarding the confidentiality of their responses and the risk of undermining staff confidence and participation in future surveys if results are made public;
  - b) the commercial value and intellectual property of Best Practice Australia as the survey provider could be compromised;
  - c) the nature of the reports, which are designed to be used as working documents by executives and managers within the organisation.
2. The disciplinary sanctions available, following an investigation of the facts, under the enterprise agreements are as follows:
  - a) a written warning and admonishment;
  - b) a financial penalty which can:
    - i. reduce the employee's incremental level,
    - ii. defer the employee's incremental advancement,
    - iii. impose a fine on the employee,
    - iv. fully or partially reimburse the employer for damage wilfully incurred to property or equipment;
  - c) transfer the employee temporarily or permanently to another position at level or to a lower classification level;
  - d) remove any monetary benefit derived through an existing Attraction and Retention Incentive (or existing SEA);
  - e) termination of employment.

During the last three years ACT Health has utilised the disciplinary sanctions when dealing with misconduct matters.

### **Canberra Hospital—patient flow management**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to supplementary questions by Ms Lee and Mr Coe on Wednesday, 16 August 2017*):

1. Canberra Hospital and Health Services no longer refers to Code Yellow for patient flow pressures. Instead, a numerical escalation that is represented as Level 1 to Level 3 is outlined in the Capacity Escalation Procedure. The Capacity Escalation Procedure was issued on 5 December 2016.
2. Doctors are working extra clinical shifts during the current busy period.

### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—rehabilitation facility**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Tuesday, 22 August 2017*):

1. Works required for facility compliance and functionality include; the construction of a secondary emergency egress track and enhancement of the internet service capability on site.
2. These matters were outside of the Head Contractor's scope. The original Head Contractor Scope was for the construction of the Facility and direct access track.

The secondary egress track was a requirement of the Emergency Management Plan for the entire Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm site (including the Facility) and not included as part of the initial Head Contractor's scope.

### **Canberra Hospital—bed availability**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lee on Tuesday, 22 August 2017*):

- Canberra Hospital Emergency Department (ED) has the following spaces:
- Acute treatment area (30 beds) and main waiting room
- Fast track area (13 treatment spaces) and waiting room
- Paediatric treatment area (eight treatment spaces, which includes six beds and two consultation rooms) and waiting room
- Emergency Medical Unit (12 beds), which is a short stay admission unit
- One triage assessment room
- Five resuscitation bays
- One decontamination room
- Four de-escalation rooms
- Forensic and Medical Sexual Assault Care unit (one treatment space, not counted as an emergency department space).

In 2014 ACT Health reviewed the ED activity projection model for both hospitals which suggested that on average the capacity created in the new ED would meet demand until 2022.

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

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Thursday, 24 August 2017*):



1. ACT Health was first made aware of the fire risk posed by the cladding at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children after the completion of the desktop review on healthcare facilities completed since 2008 on 30 June 2017. As Minister for Health and Wellbeing I was first advised on 24 July 2017.
2. On 3 August 2017 a recommendation was received from the independent fire consultant to replace some of the Polyethylene Aluminum Composite Panels installed on the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children Building.

### **Greyhound racing—transition package**

**Mr Ramsay** (*in reply to a question by Mr Parton on Tuesday, 12 September 2017*):

As of 20 September 2017, I am advised that twenty five individuals have made direct contact with the Greyhound Industry Transition Taskforce.

These individuals represent a wide cross section of those with an interest in transition support, including racing industry employees and contractors, suppliers, greyhound re-homers and those working in the animal welfare sector.

### **Health—code of conduct**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Le Couteur on Tuesday, 19 September 2017*):

1. The Government intends to adopt the Code for unregistered health workers in the ACT, this will involve amendment of the ACT *Human Rights Commission Act 2005*. Preliminary work has been progressed in consultation with the Health Services Commissioner.
2. If a person is practising in a field outside of the 14 registered health professions covered by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) and regulated by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), then there is currently no statutory scheme that regulates his or her conduct. The conduct of these practitioners may, of course, become the subject of criminal or civil action where relevant grounds exist.

If a person purports to hold themselves as being a registered health professional and they are not actually registered then this is a criminal matter under the National Law.

The National Law Part 7 indicates the protected titles of the 14 registered health professions. AHPRA takes primary responsibility for the enforcement of the offence provisions set out in Part 7 of the National Law.

### **Greyhound racing—transition package**

**Mr Ramsay** (*in reply to a question by Mr Parton on Tuesday, 19 September 2017*):

Eight.

### **Canberra Hospital—bed occupancy rates**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to supplementary questions by Mrs Dunne and Ms Lee on Wednesday, 20 September 2017*):

1. During the winter season between 1 July and 10 September 2017, Canberra Hospital has recorded zero days at more than 100 per cent bed occupancy.

The occupancy rate does not directly correlate with patients being in corridors.

There were 18 days recorded during this period where patients were placed in a corridor in the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department.

2. The Canberra Hospital occupancy rate for 20 September 2017 was 93 per cent.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—CCTV surveillance**

**Mr Rattenbury** (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mrs Jones and Mr Parton on Thursday, 21 September 2017*):

1. The methadone dosing area in the women's cottages at the AMC is monitored by a CCTV camera which captures detainees waiting in line to receive their methadone. There is no camera located at the dosing window which is incorporated into the corrections officer's station.

Detainees are under the supervision of ACT Health staff members and corrections officers at all times while dosing, the methadone is provided to the detainee by an ACT Health staff member. A corrections officer then observes the detainee to prevent misuse and diversion of the drug.

Women who are accommodated in the Management Unit or the Crisis Support Unit dose at the Hume Health Centre which is covered by CCTV. The methadone is provided to the detainee by an ACT Health staff member. A corrections officer then observes the detainee to prevent misuse and diversion.

2. CCTV monitoring is one aspect of the AMC's security system. Staff observations and monitoring is the primary method for ensuring detainee safety.

The cottages for female detainees have complete CCTV coverage in all common areas. The cells in the women's high needs cottage are monitored by CCTV.

3. The common areas of the cell blocks that accommodate male detainees have complete CCTV coverage. The exterior of cottages that accommodate male detainees are covered by CCTV. The cottages that accommodate females have complete CCTV coverage in all common areas. The cells in the women's high needs cottage are monitored by CCTV.

**Crime—anti-consorting laws**

**Mr Barr** (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mr Hanson and Mrs Dunne on Thursday, 26 October 2017*):

Answer to Mr Hanson's question:

Attachment A – Letter from Mr Alex White to Minister Gentleman

Attachment B – Letter from Minister Gentleman to Mr Alex White

Attachment C – Letter from Dr. Kristine Klugman OAM to Minister Gentleman

Attachment D – Letter from Minister Gentleman to Dr Kristine Klugman OAM

*(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).*

Answer to Mrs Dunne's question:

Nil.