



# Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**NINTH ASSEMBLY**

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**Thursday, 22 March 2018**

**MADAM SPEAKER** (Ms J 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.

**Privileges 2018—Select Committee  
Proposed establishment**

**MR WALL** (Brindabella) (10.01), by leave: I move:

That:

- (1) pursuant to standing order 277, a Select Committee on Privileges be established to examine whether there was improper influence of a member, in relation to threats made by the Chief Minister, Mr Barr MLA, during a public hearing of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism on 6 November 2017 and any other relevant matters;
- (2) the Committee shall report back to the Assembly by the last sitting week in June 2018; and
- (3) the Committee shall be composed of:
  - (a) one member nominated by the Government; and
  - (b) one member nominated by the Crossbench; and
  - (c) one member nominated by the Opposition;to be notified to the Speaker by 4pm today.

Madam Speaker, this motion is not brought forward lightly. As you are aware and as members are aware, I wrote to you earlier in the week asking whether or not this matter deserved precedence over other business in the Assembly, given the serious nature of the behaviour exhibited by a member. Your decision at that time was that it did not warrant precedence, but you reminded the Assembly that that decision did not in fact make any ruling over whether the matter at hand did or did not constitute a contempt of the Assembly. The matter is still a matter that needs to be looked at seriously. My interpretation, the interpretation of the opposition, is that a clear-cut breach of what the standing orders outline may constitute a contempt of this parliament.

Madam Speaker, the behaviour exhibited by the Chief Minister, primarily during the annual reports hearings of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, can only be described as completely unacceptable. The level of bullying and intimidation that was displayed in any other workplace in our city would cause serious reprimand, if not termination of employment. It is a very serious matter to make threats to colleagues or co-workers, and it is a gross overreach of the Chief Minister's position to threaten a member of a committee, more so when he is the chair of a committee, essentially the equivalent to you as Speaker in the committee process, for simply seeking to do their job.

We all understand that in this place there is a clear cut and thrust of debate. Things often get heated. But there is a line, and that line should never be crossed. The standing orders, which are the rules by which debate and inquiry in this place are governed, are clear outlines of where those lines and boundaries are and what falls outside acceptable behaviour. The threats made by the Chief Minister towards the chair of that committee in a clear-cut manner are outside the realms of what is deemed acceptable behaviour.

Madam Speaker, standing order 277 outlines what constitutes a contempt. Specifically, standing order 277(b) refers to the improper influence of a member. The standing order says:

A person shall not, by fraud, intimidation, force or threat of any kind—

I repeat that: of any kind—

by the offer or promise of any inducement or benefit of any kind, or by other improper means, influence a Member in the Member's conduct as a Member or induce a Member to be absent from the Assembly or a committee.

The opening part of that standing order makes this a fairly clear case:

A person shall not, by fraud, intimidation, force or threat of any kind ...

Clearly, Madam Speaker, threats were made to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism during the annual reports hearings. The exchange was fairly short, but it is fairly clear. The chair, after a heated exchange, as is the nature of debate in this place often, said:

I get to run this committee and I am asking you—

At that point he was cut off by the Chief Minister, saying:

For the time being, yes.

The chair asked:

Was that a threat?

The Chief Minister replied:

It is, yes.

So a threat was made as to whether or not the chair of that committee would remain. And then, when questioned as to whether or not the Chief Minister, Mr Barr, was making a threat to that chair, he confirmed that yes, he was.

From reading that exchange in the committee, in unison with the standing orders, quite clearly there is a case to be examined as to whether or not the Chief Minister has

stepped outside the bounds of acceptable behaviour. Bullying, cowardice and intimidation should not be accepted in any workplace, be it retail, the construction industry or, dare I say it, the city's parliament. It is quite clear that on that occasion the Chief Minister showed the true measure of the man and overreached. As yet, he has not been forthcoming with an apology or even any semblance of admission of wrongdoing. That is the reason this motion is being brought on today by the opposition, to examine those actions.

Madam Speaker, in your ruling yesterday on whether or not this matter had precedence, you noted correspondence from the chair of the standing committee in which the chair had written to you and said that the committee considered this to be an appropriate course of action and did not believe further action was desirable, given their decision to simply publish the transcripts and the advice that the committee had received on this matter.

In a committee system that is deadlocked, with two members of the government and two members of the opposition, there is very little that any member, regardless of which side of the chamber they come from, can do to address these kinds of privilege matters. The appropriate place, the appropriate venue, for it to be discussed, examined and then further referred is here in the chamber, where all 25 members of the Assembly have the opportunity to have their say, cast their vote and actually decide unequivocally what is and what is not acceptable behaviour in a parliament.

As I said, our view is that this is a very clear-cut case of an abuse of position and threats being levelled against the chair of the committee. In a unicameral parliament, when the Chief Minister of the government levels a threat of whether or not a chair will remain in their position, that is a threat that cannot be taken lightly. There is no house of review. There is no other chamber to litigate these matters through. If an individual wants to throw their weight around and use the numbers that they control in the Assembly to achieve an outcome, they can. That is why provisions like this in the standing orders exist, to ensure the safe, effective and prudent administration of the functions of the parliament. The role of the committee and the role of an opposition is to scrutinise. As uncomfortable as that may become for some individuals of the executive particularly, at various times, the role of this place is to scrutinise.

We have seen outbursts in the past week. This week we have already spent a considerable amount of time on the Chief Minister's attitude to other areas of the scrutiny establishment. Clearly he has some very firm views on that. This is another example where the scrutiny got a bit too much and the Chief Minister resorted to personal threats and attacks—behaviour, Madam Speaker, that I would characterise as purely cowardly. As I said—

**Mr Barr:** Point of order, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Point of order, Chief Minister.

**Mr Barr:** The use of the word “cowardly” has been ruled unparliamentary on numerous occasions, Madam Speaker, and it should be withdrawn.



**MADAM SPEAKER:** This is a serious matter, Chief Minister. I know it is on record that it has been withdrawn. I do find the word difficult. I will let it stand this time, but I will be very conscious of the language that is used in this debate from here on. Please, Mr Wall, be very mindful of the serious matter that you are bringing on and use your words carefully.

**MR WALL:** I will endeavour to do so, Madam Speaker. As I said earlier in my opening remarks, this level of behaviour in any other workplace would be deemed unacceptable. It should not be tolerated in a workplace. It should not be tolerated in the territory's parliament. And, most importantly, it is not tolerated by the voters who put us here. I would encourage all members to support this motion and do the right thing in drawing a clear line in the sand as to what behaviour is acceptable in this place and what behaviour is not.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.11): I thank Mr Wall for bringing this matter forward today, because there are a number of issues that this chamber does need to deal with in relation to this incident. I will go through each of those as they relate to the standing orders, gaps within the standing orders, and what standards we are going to set in terms of the use of particular language in this place.

The context for this particular matter relates to hearings held on 6 November 2017. During an exchange in relation to revenue, the chair of the committee, Mr Hanson, said on a number of occasions that money had “gone into your pocket”, meaning mine, rather than ratepayers’. I corrected that on at least four occasions, Madam Speaker, and yet the chair persisted in suggesting—and it is there in the *Hansard* for all to see—that money was going into my pocket. I repeatedly said, “No, not into my pocket; it goes to the Revenue Office.”

Mr Hanson went on to say:

But while you are Chief Minister, it all goes into your pocket rather than ratepayers’.

For the fourth time, I corrected that:

No, it is not going into my pocket, Mr Hanson.

It then continued, to the point where I asked for that to be withdrawn, that imputation, which was in my view a personal reflection and certainly invoked standing order 55, which says:

All imputations of improper motives and all personal reflections on Members shall be considered highly disorderly.

The difficulty in this context, in a committee hearing, is when the chair, effectively the Speaker, the presiding member of that committee, makes the offensive remark and refuses to withdraw. I asked for it to be withdrawn, I think, 13 times, Madam Speaker. It was very clear that I took offence at that, and I think I have every reason to take offence at that.

I note that, in the history of this place, in terms of words that have been asked to be withdrawn, when the matter relates to particular suggestions of hands in pockets, having hands in someone's pocket or trousering things, it has been a very clear imputation. I would challenge anyone in this place, if that accusation was made of them, to not react in the way I did, to not take offence, Madam Speaker.

This whole issue could be addressed in a quite straightforward manner if Mr Hanson would simply withdraw that unparliamentary allegation. They think that is unreasonable. I think that if he had said it in this place he would have withdrawn it. He would have been asked to withdraw it by the Speaker and he would have withdrawn it.

The substantive issue we have in terms of the standing orders now is what happens in this circumstance, when there is no one to appeal to, when there is no Speaker, because the Speaker or the chair of the committee has made the offensive statement that a member seeks to be withdrawn. The standing orders offer no resolution and no way forward for a member, or indeed any witness before an Assembly committee, who feels that the line of questioning or the nature of questions or personal reflections is unparliamentary. There is no way forward. There is no way to resolve that other than to bring them into this chamber, which is exactly what I said in that hearing would be my only course of action.

It is very clear, Madam Speaker, that I have no power other than as a member of this place in relation to who chairs Assembly committees. It is open to any member of this place to bring forward a resolution in relation to the chairing of a committee or a substantive resolution before this chamber in relation to the behaviour of an individual. That is open to them and that is obviously the context in which matters can be pursued.

Standing order 117, when it relates to rules for all questions, says that questions shall not contain imputations. It is very clear from what Mr Hanson said, and repeated on multiple occasions, that this was not just a one-off, casual slip. It was a direct and continuous line of imputation that I was trousering taxpayers' money. That is what it was. That was exactly what it was designed to do, and it was repeated time after time. I corrected him four times and asked that he withdraw on 13 occasions—13 occasions.

As I say, if that were to occur in this place, in this chamber, the matter would have been resolved. My only option, and indeed the only option for anyone appearing as a witness before a committee where the committee chair undertakes or says something that they view as a breach of the standing orders, is to bring it back into this place. It is good that today we can debate this issue. I think the Assembly should not only give very serious consideration to a review of standing orders in relation to how matters like this should be dealt with but also give serious consideration to whether Assembly members consider it is appropriate for that language to not be unparliamentary.

I go through the list of rulings over nearly 30 years in this place on words like “allegedly”, “amateur hour”, “arse about”, “back door”, “back to the schoolyard, plonk”, “conned”, “conspirators”, “cowards”, “cowardly”, “having hands in everyone's pocket”, and the list goes on. All of these things have been withdrawn or

members have apologised. If it is allowed to stand that members can suggest that whoever is the Treasurer of the day is pocketing ratepayers' revenue, I think it sets a very low benchmark for parliamentary debate.

This is an issue that requires clarification, and it should be dealt with in the Assembly. It is the only place that it can be dealt with. I would challenge any member in my position, having that accusation repeatedly made—repeatedly made, Madam Speaker, not a casual throwaway line but a direct line of attack on multiple occasions—to not react and seek for it to be withdrawn. It is highly offensive, I think the worst slander you could make on anyone who holds the position of Treasurer, or indeed any position in public administration where you are in one way or another responsible for revenue, to say that you are pocketing, trousering, money. Yes, I do take a huge amount of personal offence at that, and I suspect everyone would if they were in my position.

I think it is important, Madam Speaker, that we resolve this issue. The appropriate course of action today is, firstly, for the administration and procedure committee to consider the standing orders as they relate to the rights of members and witnesses when a committee chair or the Speaker makes a statement that a member takes offence at and considers a breach of the standing orders. What is the resolution process for that? That is something that I think should be considered in a standing orders review.

If it helps resolve this matter today, I withdraw any inference. But I will seek to move a resolution to remove Mr Hanson as the chair of that committee. It is, of course, open, as I say, to any member to bring forward such a resolution, but if this matter can be resolved today with a withdrawal by Mr Hanson of that allegation I will take no further action and will not endeavour to move any motions in this place regarding his chairmanship of that committee. That would be, I think, a sensible and mature way to resolve this matter. If he withdraws that allegation, I do not need to pursue it any further. I think the committee has reached that conclusion as well. That would be perhaps the most sensible and practical way that we could proceed.

Beyond this particular incident, Madam Speaker, it is very clear to me that we as an Assembly also need to have a look at what sort of language we are prepared to accept. The list of Speaker's rulings is extensive. Over a 30-year period there have been quite a lot of words and imputations that have been either withdrawn or seen as unparliamentary. But, in my view, if this Assembly accepts that allegations of trousering money are acceptable to be made in hearings on the budget and on revenue, we will have hit a new all-time low.

Madam Speaker, I do not support the establishment of a privileges committee. I believe the appropriate way to resolve this matter is for both Mr Hanson and I to withdraw our comments. I withdraw mine. If he withdraws his, there is no further action required.

**MR COE** (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (10.22): I appreciate Mr Rattenbury giving me this opportunity to speak ahead of his remarks because I think it is important that I correct the record based on Mr Barr's speech. Of course, he has done

what he did on Tuesday in the censure motion—that is, he has gone on the attack. Rather than be humble, rather than be contrite, he has once again gone on the attack. It is, in effect, the bully's playbook that he is putting in place right now.

He blamed the rules; he blamed the man; and then he claims to be a victim. He took no responsibility for his actions. It seems his entire defence was based on the fact that what Mr Hanson did was somehow unparliamentarily and it provoked him. Somehow, he does not have the self-control. When provoked, he just lets rip. He seems to think it is reasonable, when you are provoked, to become a bully. Imagine if this happened in schools. Imagine if this happened in workplaces. Imagine if this happened anywhere else in our society. The Labor Party would be condemning it. Instead, you have the leader of the Labor Party justifying bullying. The very basis of Mr Barr's defence was the fact that Mr Hanson had been offensive and that he had been unparliamentary. Of course, this is totally wrong.

If Mr Barr had actually read the annex to the report published on Tuesday, he would note that page 36 states in regard to Mr Hanson:

... with your immediate clarification upon your first usage of "pocket" that you were referring to Mr Barr in his role as Treasurer (ie the money goes to the ACT Budget) not in a personal capacity, it is reasonable to hold that the language was not unparliamentary.

It was not unparliamentary. This is the advice that the committee has received. This is the advice the committee received from the committee secretary and it states that the advice has been cleared by the Clerk. So the entire basis of Mr Barr's defence is either based on an untruth or it is from the bully's playbook. But one way or the other it is unbecoming for a member of this Assembly, let alone the Chief Minister, to make these kinds of remarks.

It is simply unacceptable in any workplace that you would have someone say, "Let's take it outside. Let's take it outside." It is totally inappropriate. The advice from the Clerk, or the advice approved by the Clerk, clearly states that Mr Hanson's language was not unparliamentary. Given that the committees are an extension of this chamber, that advice is pretty solid.

Is Mr Barr really going to rest his entire defence on something which is contradicted by the Clerk and is based on being a bully? Of course, the ball is once again in the Greens' court. Once again, are they going to double-down on this coalition or are they actually going stand up with some integrity? Sending the matter to a privileges committee is not even really standing up for integrity. It is at least standing up for the processes that are put in place for this very instance.

They have an opportunity here. The Greens have a clear opportunity to actually take on board the advice of the committee secretary that was approved by the Clerk not to accept the bully's defence and to allow the parliamentary process to run its course through a privileges committee. I think we owe it to all members of this place to have these sorts of processes upheld and not to tolerate this kind of behaviour.

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (10.27): I thank the Greens for allowing me to speak next. I was contemplating whether or not to speak on this motion because I have endeavoured throughout this process to maintain my integrity in the position of committee chair. But, following the Chief Minister's comments, I thought it would add to the debate if I were to come down here and clarify my actions and how this matter unfolded.

At the outset, I address Mr Barr's point that the right course of action with this language was perhaps to refer it to this place for consideration as to whether it was unparliamentary. It could have been a course of action, but that is not what happened. What happened was the threat. So Mr Barr is saying in his speech, "This is what should happen." That is not what he did. What in actual fact happened is that he went on to make a threat.

As has been identified, it is a difficult job to be a committee chair because you have two roles: one is to litigate the argument in question; the other is to adjudicate. There is no question that I was following a difficult line of conversation or questioning with the Chief Minister because we wanted answers. But I did so within the rules of this place. That has been confirmed by the advice from the committee secretary and the advice from the Clerk—that I did so within the rules. I accept that Mr Barr did not like it, but I did it within the rules. My comments were not out of order and it was within my discretion as to whether or not I chose to withdraw them.

The issue was that the aggressive approach from Mr Barr, the belligerent manner in which he was conducting himself, made it very difficult for me to do so, or to consider doing so, without the clear inference that the chair was being intimidated. The decision I made was that as I had not said anything unparliamentary, as has been clarified by the advice, the appropriate course of action was to continue.

Madam Speaker, language in debate is always a matter for consideration. I note that in this debate you yourself had to consider the use of the word "cowardice". You ruled that that was a debating point, in essence, and to be cautious. You did not rule it out of order. If someone had then questioned that ruling 32 times and threatened you, should you not withdraw that, how would you feel? That is exactly what happened to me.

I make the point that the language I used is used frequently in this place. As I did in the committee hearing following this exchange, I went at the lunch break and looked at the language to see whether I had made an error. I looked and I found numerous examples to confirm that I had not. I then came back to the committee and clarified that.

Let me cite some examples. On 5 May 2015, the words "filling the pockets" were ruled by the Speaker to be a debating point. Their use was ruled to be a debating point because they had been used frequently, including by Mr Barr. Mr Barr said, "Mr Hanson wants his hand in your pocket then for \$25,000 or \$30,000." Mr Barr said on 11 August 2015, "That is the Jeremy Hanson way. He wants his hand in your pocket every time you transact on a property."

**Mr Barr:** That is different from—

**MR HANSON:** No, it is not.

**Mr Barr:** That is very—

**MR HANSON:** That is exactly the same. On 19 February 2015 Mr Rattenbury said, “Today the Labor Party and the Canberra Liberals will team up to deliver more cash into their pockets.” The Speaker’s ruling that was made on these matters said:

I will take the point of order on notice and I will look at the context. I am loath to make rulings that expressions like “in the pocket” might be considered unparliamentary.

There are numerous examples of this sort of language, including one dating back to Mr Berry. I will not quote them all. The point is that the language that was used was not unparliamentary. It was then a matter of what followed next, whether or not that was appropriate.

I do not resile from the fact that it was a robust line of questioning, but it was nothing dissimilar from what has been used in committee hearings, including, as I have just instanced, in this place by Mr Barr on numerous occasions. But the actions that followed—to refuse to accept my ruling, I believe, 32 times and then to make a threat—are what is before this Assembly today.

I had the option of closing down the hearing. That was something I considered. But, unfortunately, to do so, to eject the Chief Minister, would have meant the end of that hearing, which was not in the committee’s interests. I believe that I conducted myself in that committee hearing and subsequently in the best interests of the committee and at the will of the committee. That is what I have endeavoured to do.

It was an unfortunate incident, but it was Mr Barr who decided to litigate this further. He wrote to the Speaker. That then required me to seek advice which, at the committee’s behest, was tabled in the report. That led to our being here today. As I said before, the committee supports my position. If the advice had come back to the contrary, if the advice had said I had erred, then I would have apologised. But that is not what the advice said.

Fundamentally, the question is: did I feel threatened? Was I threatened? Fundamentally, the answer to that is yes. I am a robust individual. I can take it and I did. I am able to deal with it. However, the question is: although I am used to standing up to this sort of behaviour, I am used to these sorts of words, I am used to these sorts of threats from people, is that appropriate? Is that consistent with standing orders? Just because I can take it and move on does not necessarily mean that that is the standard that should be set by this Assembly.

The advice is there for members to read in the committee’s report. I suggest that you do so, because we as members do rely on advice. We do rely on precedent in this

place. These are the two things I have done. I have relied on the precedent of previous rulings and previous language in the Assembly. I have relied on the advice that has been provided to me by the Clerk and by my committee secretary.

Therefore, in listening to this debate it is difficult for me to hear Mr Barr try to present himself as somewhat of a victim when this is not the case. The reality is that there will be robust debates in this place. But, Madam Speaker, the authority of the chair, the authority of the Speaker, is sacrosanct. The reality is that if we decide to ignore rulings and if we decide to threaten chairs or the Speaker after they have made a decision that is consistent with standing orders, this place will fundamentally break down.

There have been many times that I and others in this place have not necessarily agreed with or liked the rulings made by people of all political parties sitting in that chair, but we respect them. We accept them and we respect them. What we do not do is then refuse to accept them 32 times and then threaten the chair with their job, because to do so would make this place fundamentally unworkable. It would break down the very fabric of what we all do here, which is agree to a set of rules, a set of standing orders, that uphold our democratic principles.

It is a fact on the record that I was threatened. Mr Barr clarified that he had threatened me. The threat was that I would lose my job. Madam Speaker, if that is the standard of behaviour towards Speakers and chairs that we will accept in this place, I think that is a very sad event. I debate robustly in this place. But since you have been in that chair, I have respected your rulings. I have not always liked your rulings, but I have done so. I have respected those ruling and I have complied with those rulings.

I support the motion from Mr Wall. It is difficult for me, in my position as the chair. I wish to remain somewhat separate from this because clearly I am involved in this process. But it is important that the facts of the matter—the advice, the precedent and actually what happened—be laid out rather than essentially trying to accuse the victim of being to blame.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (10.37): Madam Speaker, I seek your advice and perhaps a ruling. As best I could hear it from the back of the chamber, I understand Mr Barr withdrew his remarks during his speech. I therefore seek your advice on the status of a privileges motion now that the comments have, in fact, been withdrawn.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Give me a moment on that one, Mr Rattenbury. Mr Rattenbury—and you can see that I had a very quick bit of advice there—my advice on Monday was that there was no precedence because I believed the matter was dealt with. The privilege matter today is in relation to comments and threats made by the Chief Minister. He has, without doubt, withdrawn them now. So you are right; there is a point that there is no substance to the privilege motion because those offending comments have been withdrawn. Mr Rattenbury.

**Mr Coe:** Madam Speaker, on your ruling, to withdraw something is largely a symbolic gesture. The comments have been propagated in the community—they are in the media today, they are available on the on demand service, they are in *Hansard*,

so they cannot actually be removed from the record. They are there; the standard has been set. Surely it sets a terrible precedent that anybody can say anything at any time and then come into this place months later and say, “I withdraw,” and you get away with it. I ask for your ruling.

**MR RATTENBURY:** Madam Speaker, on Mr Coe’s point of order, that is what happens all the time. I have been pulled up once or twice and forced to withdraw, and I have an entire lists of comments that have been withdrawn. Members come in here, they make comments, they are withdrawn and that is the end of the matter. That is why I am seeking your clarification, Madam Speaker, on the status of this motion. If Mr Barr has withdrawn, is there still a question of privilege before the chamber?

**Mr Coe:** Madam Speaker, I accept Mr Rattenbury’s comment that this happens on a regular basis for lesser crimes. However, a privileges committee could still be set up for those remarks. The fact that it is not set up is a separate issue. This is a serious matter. We cannot have a precedent whereby anybody can say anything in this chamber or in a committee and then come in here and say, “I withdraw,” and get immunity from a privileges committee. That is, in effect, what could happen if this precedent were to be established today.

**MR RATTENBURY:** Madam Speaker, the standing orders—and certainly looking through the list of unparliamentary terms—do not have a grading by seriousness over the years. In terms of Mr Coe’s point, for 30 years in this place members have come in here and said all sorts of things then withdrawn them, and that has been the end of the matter. That is the question I am seeking to explore.

**Mr Coe:** Madam Speaker, the issue of whether something is unparliamentary is certainly relevant to this. However, we are also talking about contempt of the Assembly. We are also talking about the intentions and the personal threat. It goes beyond the actual words. It goes beyond the dictionary definition; it goes to the intent of what the Chief Minister was actually saying and doing. I think it is a very dangerous precedent that we could establish today if we are not careful. It would be much better that, if such a ruling were to be made and such a precedent were to be installed, at least there was time to reflect on it.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members, I think the way forward through this is this: the words and language used have been asked to be withdrawn, and they have been withdrawn. We know the consequences—if they are not withdrawn then the person is named and warned and dealt with.

In this case, matters have been worked through by a committee and the committee has provided an outcome. That was tested on Monday, when the matter was brought to me for my consideration of precedence. That was put aside because I believed, and the advice states, that the committee had dealt with it.

You, Mr Wall, as is your right, have brought on a motion today. But the motion is about the language and words used, and that offending language and those words have been clearly withdrawn today.



As a way through this, I ask members to reflect on the fact that the offending words have been withdrawn. I think it is best to deal with this motion because the advice is that the easiest way is to put the question as to whether there is a need for a privileges committee, knowing that the offending words have been withdrawn. That is the question I am going to put now to the chamber.

So what I am saying is that the way forward—and this is the advice I have had in the last few minutes—is to put the question as the motion stands, in the knowledge that the offending words on which the motion is anchored have been withdrawn.

**MR RATTENBURY:** Madam Speaker, we may need to adjourn so that you can seek further advice on this. My question is: can the question be put? If the question is put, it is a different discussion. So my question actually is: can the question be put now that the words have been withdrawn? Is the motion now null and void?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I ask the Assembly to adjourn this and give me a few minutes to consult with the Clerk. Mr Rattenbury has raised a question and nothing that has been put to me in the last few minutes can help me resolve that.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Fitzharris**) adjourned to a later hour.

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

### **Reporting date**

Motion (by **Ms Orr**), by leave, agreed to:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 26 October 2017, which referred specified annual and financial reports for the calendar years 2016 and 2017 and the financial year 2016-2017 to standing committees be amended at paragraph (4) after “standing committees are to report to the Assembly on financial year reports by the last sitting day in March 2018, on calendar year reports for 2016 by the last sitting day in March 2018” by inserting “except the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services which is to report to the Assembly by the last sitting day in April 2018,”.

## **Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee**

### **Report 2**

**MS CODY** (Murrumbidgee) (10.46): Pursuant to order of the Assembly of 26 October 2017, I present the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 2—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-17*, dated 15 March 2018, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

I am pleased to speak to the report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety on annual and financial reports 2016–17. As members are aware, annual reports are the principal and most authoritative way in which directors-general and chairpersons account to the Legislative Assembly and other stakeholders, including the public, for the ways in which they have discharged their statutory and other responsibilities and utilised public funds over the preceding 12 months. They also provide an opportunity for agencies to advise all major stakeholders of their major plans and themes for the immediate future. The provision of meaningful operational and financial information by government to parliament and the public is a fundamental component of the accountability process.

On 26 October 2017 the Assembly referred the annual and financial reports of all government agencies for the calendar year 2016 and the financial year 2016–17 to the relevant standing committees. The annual and financial reports for 2016–17, or parts thereof, considered by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety as part of its inquiry were: the ACT Electoral Commission; the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission; the ACT Human Rights Commission; ACT Policing; the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, parts thereof relating to the Attorney-General's portfolio, specifically racing and gaming policy, and parts thereof relating to the portfolio of the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, specifically Access Canberra and the Commissioner for Fair Trading; the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions; the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, relating to the portfolios of the Attorney-General, corrections, justice, consumer affairs, road safety, police and emergency services; Legal Aid ACT; and the Public Trustee and Guardian.

The committee held public hearings on 6 and 8 November 2017. At these public hearings the committee heard from ministers, accompanying directorate and agency officers and members of governing boards. The committee thanks directorates and agencies for providing responses to questions taken on notice at its public hearings and questions submitted on notice following its hearings. This information assisted the committee in its understanding of the many issues it considered during the inquiry.

Annual reports as key accountability documents are one of the main ways for agencies to account for their performance, through ministers, to the Legislative Assembly and the wider community. They are a key part of the historical record of government and public administration decisions, actions and outcomes. They are a source of information and reference about the performance of agencies and service providers, and a key reference document for internal management.

The committee's report includes discussion of significant issues raised during its inquiry and makes 30 recommendations. I conclude by thanking the committee chair, Ms Giulia Jones, and my committee colleagues Mr Chris Steel and Ms Elizabeth Lee, as well as relevant ministers and accompanying directorate and agency staff, members of governing boards, and anyone else that appeared, for providing their time, cooperation and expertise during the inquiry process. I commend the report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Ministerial delegation to Washington DC**

### **Ministerial statement**

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.51): It gives me great pleasure to report to the Assembly on my visit to Washington DC last month. The importance of the relationship between Australia and the United States was reaffirmed during this visit in a meeting of both national and subnational leaders from each nation. This year, 2018, marks 100 years since Australian and US military forces first cooperated on the battlefields of the Western Front, during the First World War. The Australian Ambassador to the United States, Mr Hockey, in his unique style, branded the occasion “100 years of mateship”.

The United States of America remains Australia’s leading source of foreign investment, valued at \$860.3 billion in 2016, with US majority-owned companies employing around 310,000 Australians across all sectors. This represents the United States’ largest investment in the Asia-Pacific region and is \$345 billion more than that of the next closest investor, Great Britain, and, interestingly, 10 times greater than that of China.

Strong and consistent diplomatic engagement at all levels is essential in maintaining this vital economic partnership, valued friendship and important alliance. The United States, and in particular Washington DC, with its governance and knowledge industry similarities to Canberra, is also identified as a priority market for the ACT, as outlined in our international engagement strategy.

The invitation to attend the United States equivalent of COAG, the National Governors Association, for their winter session, along with the Prime Minister and other state and territory leaders, presented an unprecedented opportunity to engage with the most senior members of US government and business to further raise awareness of Canberra as a great place to invest, to do business, to visit and to study.

The program offered excellent opportunities to engage not only with national government and business leaders but also with local government, national cultural institutions, peak industry bodies and educational establishments located in the Washington DC area.

The development of the visit program was led by the Commissioner for International Engagement, with significant input from the Australian embassy in Washington, particularly around activities associated with the National Governors Association winter session. Other bilateral meetings were supported by agencies within Enterprise Canberra, Transport Canberra and City Services, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and the Australian National University.

Over the three-day period from Friday, 23 February to Sunday, 25 February the United States National Governors Association held its 100th winter meeting in DC, the US national capital. More than 40 governors attended the meeting, which focused on how elected officials can partner with other nations to strengthen

American ties, as well as how emerging and future technologies will shape the world we live in. The meetings commenced on Friday, 23 February with a number of roundtable discussions attended by Australian premiers and chief ministers, along with senior US and Australian business leaders.

I had the opportunity to participate in two roundtable discussions on the intersection of innovation and international partnerships, moderated by the Prime Minister, the trade minister and Ambassador Hockey. The discussions explored ways of deepening business links between the two countries. Later in the day there was a reception, hosted at the Australian embassy, honouring the centenary of Australia's bilateral relationship with the United States.

Saturday, 24 February saw the continuation of discussions surrounding the Australia-US bilateral relationship, with the opening ceremony of the National Governors association winter session and a keynote address to the national governors by our Prime Minister. I then had the honour, as the current chair of the Council for the Australian Federation, of signing a memorandum of understanding between the Council for the Australian Federation and the United States National Governors Association, drawing our bilateral relationship closer, particularly at the subnational level.

Australian leaders were then given a chance to discuss their home state or territory, to better inform our American subnational partners of the attributes of their respective jurisdictions. It would be fair to say that whilst the Northern Territory Chief Minister, Michael Gunner, had the opportunity to remind us all about another infamous Michael, one who hunts crocodiles, I took the opportunity to profile Canberra as Australia's national capital, taking responsibility for reflecting the best aspects of Australia to the world. I outlined our city as a small, open economy welcoming new investment and being home to Australia's best educated, wealthiest, healthiest, longest living and happiest citizens. I explained our significant advantages associated with being the seat of Australian government, having fewer layers of government in the territory, being Australia's education capital, home to five universities and a range of vital public sector research institutions like the CSIRO.

Our American subnational partners are now better informed about the city of Canberra and its ability, thanks to these attributes, to quickly implement best practice public policy. A notable interest was expressed with regard to asset recycling as it relates to infrastructure and the lessons that can be learned from projects like Capital Metro, which is delivering Canberra world-class transport infrastructure. There was a great deal of interest in the United States at a state level around Australia's infrastructure program and policies. These are important lessons for American state leaders that also demonstrate to business more broadly that Canberra is an attractive place in which to invest.

Other meetings held during the winter session included one-on-one discussions with the chairman of Qantas, the chief executive of the Queensland Investment Corporation and the Governor of Colorado.

It was clear that over this weekend the topic of gun control was at the forefront of many US leaders' minds, and we joined all Australian state and territory leaders, the Prime Minister and the ambassador in offering the Australian example of bipartisanship in the wake of tragedy as a model for the Americans to consider.

I was also joined on the mission by a delegation from the Australian National University, headed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Shirley Leitch. The depth of engagement between the ANU, the ACT government and the Canberra community was evident in the range of joint engagements undertaken in Washington, from the Smithsonian institute to renewable energy and cybersecurity.

Bordering the District of Columbia, the University of Maryland works closely with the US defence community and is recognised for its strength in areas such as engineering and computer science, which are also priorities for the ANU and the ACT. I was fortunate to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the University of Maryland and the Australian National University which strengthens Canberra's credentials as a leading city for defence and cyber-related industries.

Northrop Grumman, who are a partner with the University of Maryland in the development of cyber capabilities, discussed with our delegation what the company does to promote innovation within the cyber community and outlined its plans to expand its successful cyber schools program into Australia, beginning with a trial here in Canberra. These relationships work to put Canberra at the forefront of emerging policy and capabilities in the field of cybersecurity. Being a leader in this rapidly evolving and growing industry means Canberra is in a position to reap the benefits of investment and jobs growth that this industry will bring.

During the visit to Washington DC I had the opportunity to meet with a number of American national institutions and industry peak bodies, including the American Public Transportation Association, various elements of the Smithsonian institute, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association. Discussions with the American Public Transportation Association, the peak body for public transport organisations, centred on issues associated with the implementation of autonomous vehicle technology and their impacts on public transport and road user safety.

Engagement with the Smithsonian institute, which, while being known for its museums, is also one of the world's most significant research institutions, presented opportunities for the exchange of knowledge, staff, students and collections between the Australian national institutions and their respective equivalents in the United States. The meeting with the National Air and Space Museum, in partnership with the Australian National University, is likely to lead to future exchanges between these institutions—exchanges that date back to the role of the Smithsonian in the foundation of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory on Mount Stromlo in the early 1900s, through to work looking at collaborating on the future of the new Australian space agency.

In my meeting with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, I was again joined by a delegation from the Australian National University. We discussed the latest research on renewable energy being conducted in the United States. I also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the ANU's Energy Change Institute. This agreement places Canberra in a prime position to realise the benefits from the joint research programs, innovative energy policies and new energy products and devices being developed through the NREL-ECI coordination.

Rounding out our meetings with peak bodies was one with the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association, representing leading companies and organisations in advancing fuel cell and hydrogen energy technologies. The association operates a number of working groups and committees, collaborating with members on specific initiatives and technologies to develop the hydrogen industry. It is worth noting that their membership includes Hyundai, who have partnered with the ACT government to develop a demonstration and research program on the use of hydrogen for transport.

In relation to direct city-to-city relations, on 26 February I met with the Secretary of the District of Columbia, Ms Lauren Vaughan, who, amongst other tasks, holds responsibility for establishing and maintaining Washington's numerous sister city relationships. The notable similarities between the District of Columbia and the Australian Capital Territory provide fertile ground for both districts to work together in a direct government-to-government relationship. I am pleased to report to the Assembly that the government of the District of Columbia are keen to work collaboratively on such an arrangement. This will be explored in the coming months and years.

Also present at the meeting with the Secretary of the District of Columbia was Ms Polly Donaldson, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, with whom I spoke at some length about affordable housing and homelessness. This is an area where both districts can work together to discover and implement mutually beneficial policy options.

The primary objective of this mission was to further deepen our national and subnational bilateral relationship with the United States. The relationships formed and the agreements made will promote opportunities to work together across a range of government to government and business connections. Being uniquely positioned as the nation's capital, seat of the Australian federal government and home to numerous national institutions, Canberra stands to realise significant benefits in collaborating with the United States, and particularly with Washington DC based organisations.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the support provided to the Washington DC mission by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, particularly Mr Rory Linehan. I would also like to acknowledge the Australian National University, and particularly Mr Paul Harris, who is the university's representative in North America, based at the Australian embassy in Washington. I also thank the National Governors Association for their invitation to participate in their winter session.

## Homelessness data

### Ministerial statement

**MS BERRY** (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Women and Minister for Sport and Recreation) (11.05): On 14 March this year the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the homelessness data for the 2016 census. I want to share the key results with the Assembly today in order to highlight how much progress we have made with regard to homelessness in recent years and how the government's programs are working. I will also talk about those areas where we still need to do more work and what we are doing to make progress where we can.

The most significant outcome is that the census data reveals that there has been a major reduction in the number of people who are homeless in the ACT. On census night there were 142 fewer people homeless in the ACT than in 2011. This is a decline of eight per cent over a period in which the population of the ACT grew by more than 11 per cent. It also bucked the national trend over the same period, where homelessness grew by more than 13 per cent.

We now have the fourth lowest rate of homelessness of all Australian jurisdictions, at 40.2 homeless persons per 10,000 head of population. In 2011 we were the second highest. This has come on top of the *Report on government services* data released in January that showed that in 2016-17 the ACT had the strongest results in the area of employment and labour force participation for clients of specialist homelessness services.

After receiving support, 32.1 per cent of all clients were employed, or enrolled in education or training, and 26.3 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients were employed, or enrolled in education or training. This was compared to the national rates of 20.4 per cent for all clients and 14.3 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander clients. The ROGS data also showed that 68 per cent of people who sought government assistance to either remain in or gain independent housing were successful, through the help of a specialist homelessness service. This result was second only to South Australia's.

How is it that, at a time when homelessness is growing in Australia, the ACT is achieving such positive results? Why is the ACT bucking the trends? The answer is that our focus on a single human services gateway, early intervention, sustained support and ensuring sustainable housing outcomes is working.

The human services gateway provides a common assessment and referral system that works across service needs. It has therefore increased the scope for social housing and homelessness services to work together with other services, such as disability services and family services, to provide person-centred support. The mantra of this approach is "the right service at the right time for the right duration". It focuses on building the strength and capacity of families and individuals. In the ACT we now call this central intake model OneLink.

OneLink is the central information and access point for human services, including homelessness, disability and family support services. OneLink replaced First Point and the Child Youth and Family Gateway in 2016 and is operated by Woden Community Services. The advantages of the OneLink human services gateway approach have been enhanced through an intentional change in policy direction to support a greater focus on intervention.

Since early 2015, government and community service providers have been working closely together in the interest of achieving the best possible outcomes. Through this collaborative approach, specialist homeless services have greater flexibility to assist people in all forms.

Under these arrangements, specialist homelessness services provide assistance to people with tenancy issues and can tap into additional support as part of their flexible case management approach. Additional support can be provided through the supportive tenancy service, which specialises in providing assistance to those people whose residential tenure is at risk, including people with mortgages, in private rentals and in public or community housing.

This means that specialist homelessness services are assisting not only people who are homeless but also people who are at imminent risk of being homeless. They work to help people in these situations achieve as much self-reliance and independence as possible by helping them to resolve crises, re-establish family and community links where appropriate and re-establish their capacity to live independently and achieve sustainable housing and social inclusion.

The ACT specialist housing sector works intensely with Canberrans, working with them for up to twice as long as the national average in order that they sustain the changes that deliver better housing outcomes. All up, the ACT government spends \$20 million a year on a range of programs to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As a consequence, ACT homelessness services are achieving great outcomes by ensuring that more people are in independent housing at the end of support, have an income to enable them to sustain this housing and have improved employment or training circumstances.

In these areas we are ahead of most jurisdictions. These are great outcomes. It is the great work of the ACT homelessness services that has brought about this reduction in homelessness, and I thank them for the important work they do for the community. But there is another area of the census data where more work needs to be done: rough sleepers. The 2016 census data shows that there has been an increase in rough sleepers, from 28 in 2011 to 54 in 2016. While the ACT still has the lowest rate of rough sleepers in Australia, this is a substantial increase.

It is important to be clear on what is meant by rough sleeping. Rough sleeping is a type of homelessness where you are living on the street and sleeping in places that are not designed to be slept in, such as in parks, building doorways, bus shelters and cars. Most people who are homeless in the ACT do not sleep rough. They are supported in



crisis or transitional accommodation by the ACT specialist homelessness sector or are staying with friends and family.

Census data indicates that about 3.5 per cent of the ACT's homeless population sleep rough. Rough sleepers can face additional challenges in reaching out to services trying to assist them. They may have had different experiences with services previously and may have a level of mistrust that needs to be overcome. They may also be highly vulnerable people with complex mental health and social issues which they are having to grapple with on a daily basis.

Some rough sleepers are not ready to receive support. Our services are continually reaching out to rough sleepers. It is important to do it in a gentle, non-threatening way, to let them know that there are services that can help them into long-term housing. But we understand that for some people it may take some time to be ready to accept more formal services such as accommodation and wraparound support.

Nevertheless, in a wealthy city like Canberra it is concerning that we have people sleeping rough on the street. Quite rightly, the government is making considerable efforts to address rough sleeping in the ACT. There are many support services available that are designed to address immediate and critical needs, including crisis accommodation and support for people sleeping rough. These include not only the OneLink services but also the Street to Home service and the night patrol run by St Vincent de Paul, which actively seek out and support people. Street to Home is particularly important as a service specifically designed to assist rough sleepers into accommodation through persistent and ongoing outreach to rough sleepers.

There are a number of free food services funded by the government, including the Blue Door drop-in centre at Ainslie Village, the Roadhouse, which is coordinated by the Australian Red Cross at the Griffin Centre, and the soup kitchen in Garema Place. There is the early morning centre run by UnitingCare in Civic. The early morning centre supports people sleeping rough, with breakfast, lockers, computers, showers, medical and vet services and information. The centre provides supports to sustain those sleeping rough but in doing so allows an opportunity to work with them to assist the transition into housing.

The ACT spends around \$1 million a year providing critical and immediate support services for those sleeping rough on the street. But in 2017-18 we are doing more in order to respond to the increase in numbers. The government has provided an additional \$100,000 to the early morning centre for an expansion of its operational hours and scope of services, as well as another \$50,000 for business development.

The government is also looking to identify and address systemic issues in housing and homelessness service provision. We are undertaking a cohort study, at a cost of \$350,000, into the long-term accommodation models and support requirements of people who are chronically homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The study researchers are now working on the ground in the ACT with our sector partners and the homeless, including rough sleepers. The government is well progressed in its plans to establish a second common ground in the ACT. Common ground is a social

housing model which provides accommodation and additional support services for homeless people.

The ACT government also continues to lobby the federal government for both additional funding and funding certainty to address homelessness across all jurisdictions. We are now asking individual members of the Canberra community to assist. Helping vulnerable members of the community is everyone's business; it is not something the government can fix alone. If you are concerned about someone you see sleeping rough, contact Street to Home or OneLink. It is important that you treat rough sleepers with dignity and respect.

On a broader front, the government is working towards a new ACT housing strategy which will include a focus on addressing homelessness. The housing and homelessness summit held in October 2017 was a critical step in the development of the strategy, and we continue to progress the strategy towards completion in 2018.

Today we have explored an issue that reflects the challenges faced by the government and the community. The government is achieving very positive outcomes for Canberra by reducing the prevalence of homelessness. We have worked in close partnership with the community sector and we have made a difference. I would like to thank the Assembly for the opportunity to bring this important information to its attention. I present the following paper:

Homelessness data—Ministerial statement, 22 March 2018.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### **Our Booris, Our Way—review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children involved with child protection Ministerial statement**

**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) (11.16): Before I make my statement I do need to clarify that I am actually presenting a statement in my role as Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, not as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. I am pleased to update the Legislative Assembly today on Our Booris, Our Way. Our Booris, Our Way is the review into the number of and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in contact with the child protection system in the ACT.

The review has been named by the wholly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander steering committee that is overseeing this important work and reflects the fact that the review is being conducted in accordance with the principle of self-determination. The

ACT, like all jurisdictions across Australia, must grapple with over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care. This is a national challenge that requires local solutions.

In the ACT 26 per cent of children in out of home care are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. This is despite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children making up only three per cent of the ACT's entire child population. This is not acceptable. Our Booris, Our Way will help us understand the reasons for children and young people entering care. Importantly, the review will also develop recommendations to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care, improve their experiences and outcomes while in care and find ways for children to return home safely.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are central to this review—their health, education, cultural security, life opportunities and outcomes. I announced this review in June 2017 with a commitment that the governance and methodology were to be co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts and key Indigenous organisations.

The first meeting of local and national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives occurred in October 2017. This group included representatives of Winnunga Nimmityjah, Gugan Gulwan, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, Beryl Women's Refuge, SNAICC and the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

As a result of this co-design process, the review is now being overseen by the steering committee I mentioned earlier, a committee with strong cultural intellect and capability. The steering committee includes people with expertise in holistic service delivery and integrated care as well as legal and community experience.

Following the completion of the co-design phase, the first meeting of the entire steering committee was held in February, and a second meeting earlier this month. The steering committee is chaired by Ms Barbara Causon. Ms Causon recently retired from the Australian public service and has a strong track record of achievement in challenging positions. The other members of the steering committee are Natalie Brown, deputy chair; Jo Chivers, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body; Alana Harris, Winnunga Nimmityjah Health and Community Services; Caroline Hughes, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body; Robyn Martin, Beryl Women Inc; Leo Nickels, Aboriginal Legal Service; Peter Williams, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation; and Sharon Williams, carer.

The steering committee is supported by a project team that will undertake individual case analysis of the approximately 350 individual cases of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the out of home care system. A focus of this analysis will be evaluating whether the Aboriginal child placement principles of prevention, partnership, placement, participation and connection are being upheld.

The team is led by skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with experience in child protection. The review will of course be informed by consultation

with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, their families, carers and communities, the community sector and the child protection workforce. As the terms of reference state:

There are high expectations from the community that this review will lead with self-determination and deliver a break in the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage by ensuring children are able to stay connected to culture and community throughout their life.

The steering committee will deliver a preliminary report later this year. A final report is due in September 2019. The reason for the time line for the review is that the review methodology is based on in-depth case analysis. We cannot rush this complex work. We are seeking to address a challenge that reflects the impacts of intergenerational trauma resulting from past practices that saw Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people displaced and disconnected from family, community and culture. As other jurisdictions have recognised, it may take a generation to close the gap that this history has created. But we must act now.

The ACT government is committed to reducing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care and we will not stand still while Our Booris, Our Way is underway. We will continue to implement early intervention and prevention strategies while this work is underway, in close collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This includes the early intervention work that is built into our out of home care reform strategy, A step up for our kids.

It also includes piloting the restorative practice of family group conferencing in partnership with the Aboriginal owned organisation Curijo, empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to find solutions to the challenges they face and keep their children safe at home. Curijo is a Canberra-based, Aboriginal-operated organisation with extensive experience in family group conference facilitation and also currently conducting family group conferences in New South Wales. As Belinda Kendall, CEO of Curijo, has explained:

Family Group Conferencing enables families to take responsibility for their situation while providing children and young people the opportunity to be heard.

In closing, I would like to express my thanks to Ms Causon and to the other members of the steering committee for their willingness to devote their time and expertise to this critically important review. The steering committee's first communique was circulated on 16 March 2018 to stakeholders including members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The communique and terms of reference developed by the steering committee will be available shortly. I look forward to the findings from Our Booris, Our Way and will keep the Assembly updated as this vital work progresses.

I present the following paper:

Our Booris, Our Way—Ministerial statement, 22 March 2018.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Domestic Animals Legislation Amendment Bill 2018**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MS FITZHARRIS** (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (11.24): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Domestic Animals Amendment Bill 2018 to the Assembly today. This bill aligns the dangerous dog and racing greyhound amendments that were passed by the Legislative Assembly in November last year and makes a number of other minor amendments. This bill builds on the government's commitment to contemporary and robust animal management laws that achieve improved public safety outcomes, promote the welfare of dogs in our community and ensure responsible pet ownership. This bill will result in a comprehensive and consistent approach to managing all dogs in the ACT, including greyhounds that are kept in the ACT for racing in another jurisdiction, and will ensure that racing greyhounds are managed with community safety, animal welfare and responsible pet ownership in mind.

Madam Assistant Speaker, as you know, the government introduced a comprehensive suite of amendments to the Domestic Animals Act late last year to strengthen dangerous dog laws and improve public safety and animal welfare outcomes. These amendments came into effect on 14 December 2017. At the same time, the government introduced legislation to end greyhound racing in the ACT. This comes into effect on 30 April this year.

This bill makes minor changes to align the dangerous dog and racing greyhound amendments. For example, the bill will ensure that the principles of responsible pet ownership and public safety that were introduced through the dangerous dog amendments equally apply to the new racing greyhound provisions that are set to take effect on 30 April. This will make the act robust and consistent in ensuring that people and dogs are protected in our community.

The ACT has some of the strongest legislation in Australia in relation to the management of dogs, including dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs. The government takes the regulation of dogs and animal welfare offences very seriously, with heavy penalties available for people who do not follow the rules.

This bill tightens up penalties and offences in the act, following the work done last year on dangerous dogs. It will allow for fines to be issued in a greater range of circumstances to people who clearly breach the law and are acting irresponsibly or unsafely in respect of their dogs—for example, by breaching a condition of a dog control order.

The bill also introduces a definition of breeding into the Domestic Animals Act which captures the whole process of breeding dogs from insemination to the weaning of pups. This will mean that there are no loopholes in the law and illegal breeding and puppy farming can be targeted and stamped out, regardless of where puppies are actually birthed. For example, a person can no longer take a dog into New South Wales to give birth and bring those puppies back into the ACT to wean and sell without a breeding permit.

The bill will allow for carers of dogs, as well as keepers of dogs, to have dog control orders and restrictions placed on them. There are cases where it is more appropriate that a carer look after a dog for a period—for example, where a dog harasses a neighbour's chickens but can be housed with a carer who has a fenced yard while the keeper finds alternative housing—rather than having that dog being placed in the pound. It also recognises that carers have a responsibility when they are looking after someone's dog.

Importantly, this bill also allows for dogs to be impounded in animal rescue facilities and not just the pound. For example, if newly born puppies are seized as a result of action to stamp out puppy farming the puppies can be placed in an animal rescue facility that is more suitable and humane and leads to better animal welfare outcomes, rather than the pound. This will support the government taking action to stamp out puppy farming, among a range of other offences, and also uphold the highest animal welfare standards.

As I have said on many occasions before, it is important to regularly review animal management and welfare laws in the ACT to ensure that they are up to date and relevant. This is also a key commitment in the recently released ACT animal welfare and management strategy. This bill ensures that the ACT has contemporary, up-to-date and best practice laws for managing all dogs, including racing greyhounds. It makes minor changes to the existing Domestic Animals Act to give effect to the intent of the legislative amendments passed by the Assembly last year for dangerous dogs and to end greyhound racing. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2018**

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

Title read by Clerk.

**MR RAMSAY** (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (11.29): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, or the JACS bill. This JACS bill continues the tradition of making technical and tangible amendments to improve the operation of the territory's legislation. The amendments in this bill make adjustments to ACT legislation to ensure that there are minimal gaps in the application of interstate regulatory schemes in the ACT. The bill also makes improvements to our justice system by correcting inconsistencies, reducing the burden for victims of family violence and acknowledging the increasing demand for restorative justice services in the ACT. These amendments will help ensure that our justice system is accessible, transparent and timely for everyone.

One key amendment in this bill is the amendment to the Family Violence Act 2016. The intention of that new Family Violence Act was that the court could make a declaration under division 9.6 that a family violence order is a recognised family violence order. Under the new act it is only necessary for a person to make an application for recognition once. The intention of this legislation was that, once a declaration was made in a jurisdiction, the family violence order would be treated as a recognised family violence order in all participating jurisdictions.

However, while the intention of section 199 of the Family Violence Act was that orders made under the old act were treated as orders under the new act, it was also the intention not to automatically recognise all old orders under the national recognition provisions. As drafted, the provision prevents these older orders from being registered. This amendment will correct that inconsistency and clarify that division 9.6 is intended to apply to orders made under the new act as well as the old act.

This amendment ensures that, whether a victim has an order under the old scheme or under the new scheme, they will be able to apply to have that order declared as a recognised family violence order without having to travel interstate. This will better protect victims of family violence and reduce the burden of applying for declarations, making family violence orders more accessible across Australia regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Addressing the issue of family violence remains a high priority for the government. These amendments contribute to that response.

The amendment to the Crimes Act 1900 corrects a drafting inconsistency. The Crimes Act provides for special hearings for those accused who are unfit to plead. The purpose of a special hearing is to make sure that a person is not detained for a long period of time simply because they are unfit to plead. Section 316 currently allows the Supreme Court to direct the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal to appoint a guardian for an accused with a decision-making disability where that accused is unable to decide for themselves whether they want to have a special hearing. That guardian, or a guardian the accused may already have, can then notify the court that they think it is in the best interests of the accused to have a special hearing.

However, some of the provisions say that the guardian notifies the court of the accused's best interests, while one of the provisions says that the guardian makes an election on behalf of the accused. This amendment will correct the inconsistency between the use of the terms "notify" and "elect" and will align the Crimes Act and the Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991, which requires that the powers given to a person's guardian are to be no more restrictive of the person's freedom of decision and action than is necessary.

This bill also seeks to amend the Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004. The Restorative Justice Unit, or the RJU, delivers an inclusive, culturally appropriate and safe restorative justice scheme and receives referrals from a number of referring entities. Referring entities include the Magistrates Court, the Supreme Court, the Victims of Crime Commissioner and the Director of Public Prosecutions. Part of the RJU's role is to make reports on behalf of the director-general to these referring entities on the progress of matters that they have referred. Given the increase in workload due to the RJU's expanded jurisdiction, the time frame of seven days to provide those quarterly reports is no longer practicable. This amendment will increase the reporting time frame to 14 days.

The ACT is a party to a number of national schemes which help to promote regulatory consistency across jurisdictions. Professional standards schemes are legal instruments that monitor, enforce and improve the professional standards of members of particular industries and protect consumers of the professional services provided by those members.

To apply an approved interstate professional standards scheme in the ACT, notice must be given via a notifiable instrument. An interstate scheme remains in force in the ACT until the period of the scheme ends, unless the scheme is extended. If an interstate scheme is extended in its originating jurisdiction it must also be extended in the ACT via a notifiable instrument. However, if there is a gap between the expiry of the original scheme and the notification of a new instrument extending application of the scheme in the ACT, the scheme is taken to have expired and cannot be retrospectively extended.

This amendment to the Civil Law (Wrongs) Act 2002 ensures that, if a scheme has been extended in the originating jurisdiction but there is a gap between the expiry of the original scheme and the notification of an instrument extending that scheme in the ACT, an instrument may still be made to extend the period for which that scheme is in force. This amendment will help protect consumers of professional services and uphold the professional standards of members of interstate schemes by ensuring that there are no gaps in the application of these schemes in the ACT.

The ACT has adopted the Heavy Vehicle National Law. This law ensures that laws regulating heavy vehicles are consistent across participating jurisdictions. The Heavy Vehicle National Law (ACT) Act 2013 requires national amending regulations under the Heavy Vehicle National Law to be tabled in the same way ACT regulations are under the Legislation Act 2001—that is, within six sitting days after their notification.



As these regulations are notified in New South Wales and there is no automated system to advise the ACT of their notification, applying the same time frame to present these regulations as the time frame for ACT subordinate legislation raises practical difficulties. To address this issue, this bill extends the time frame for presenting Heavy Vehicle National Law regulations from six to 20 sitting days.

This bill is the result of suggestions from the justice sector and demonstrates that the government listens to good ideas for improving the operation of our legislation. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Road Transport Reform (Light Rail) Legislation Amendment Bill 2018**

**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) (11.37): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Road Transport Reform (Light Rail) Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 into the Assembly today. This bill is the second stage of reforms required to the ACT's road transport legislation to support the operation of light rail in the ACT. This stage of reforms is focused on regulating the operation of light rail as a public passenger service and ensuring the safety and amenity of light rail passengers.

This bill addresses ticketing, passenger conduct and behaviour, enforcement and revenue protection. This bill also takes the first steps in regulatory reform to create a seamless customer experience across the territory's public transport network. In order to operate a light rail service in the territory, the bill requires an operator to be accredited under the Rail Safety National Law and enter into a contract with the territory. The Rail Safety National Law was adopted in the ACT in 2014. It provides a regulatory framework for the safety of the Australian railway industry, including light rail, in the territory. It is administered by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

The Rail Safety National Law provides a comprehensive accreditation scheme for rail operators. With accreditation come a number of obligations, including driver management and reporting requirements, particularly with respect to incidents. Accreditation occurs on an annual basis. The bill requires a light rail service operator to report any incidents it is required to report under the Rail Safety National Law to

the territory at the same time as it reports them to the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator. This includes incidents that involve death, serious injury or significant property damage.

As set out in the first stage of reforms for light rail, light rail drivers are required to hold a current valid full car licence or a licence of a higher class. This bill places an obligation on a light rail service operator to ensure that its drivers, including driving instructors and assessors, hold the required licence to operate a light rail vehicle. The light rail service operator will monitor its drivers to ensure that their licences are valid before they operate a light rail vehicle. The light rail service operator must keep records for every driver. These records must be kept up to date and provided on request to the Road Transport Authority, a police officer or an authorised person. The bill compels the Road Transport Authority to provide a light rail service operator with information with respect to any suspension or cancellation of a licence of a driver when requested by the light rail operator.

Since 8 November 2017, all public vehicle drivers who are issued with a public vehicle driver authority card have been required to hold a working with vulnerable people registration. The bill will amend the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 to require all light rail drivers, including instructors and assessors, and light rail service operator staff who are appointed as authorised persons to also hold a working with vulnerable people registration. This amendment ensures consistency in requirements across public passenger services. Given the regular interactions authorised persons will have with members of the public—for example, when inspecting tickets—this is considered a necessary and appropriate step to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable people.

The outlined regulatory requirements for a light rail service operator are essential to establishing and maintaining a safe, efficient, effective and affordable light rail service. They are in the interests of everybody's safety and the integrity of the public transport industry in the territory. The bill creates a number of criminal offences relating to ticketing, passenger conduct and public conduct at light rail premises. These offences are important to ensure that the light rail service is safe and accessible to all.

The light rail service will be integrated with the ticketing system used for ACTION buses, enabling convenient connections for commuters between light rail and bus services. Any existing concession entitlements or free travel arrangements will apply across public transport modes. A passenger must have a valid ticket to travel on a light rail service. Two types of tickets will be available: a cash ticket, which will be available for purchase from ticketing machines at light rail stops; and an electronic ticket, currently the existing MyWay card.

A person can be asked to present their ticket for inspection by an authorised person or police when they are in a light rail vehicle, have just alighted from a light rail vehicle or are at a light rail stop having just alighted from a light rail vehicle. The minister will also have the power to declare a place connected to a light rail service where a person must produce a valid light rail ticket. The declaration is via notifiable

instrument and must include a description of the place, the circumstances in which a ticket is required, the reasons for the declaration and when the declaration operates.

This legislative mechanism protects against fare evasion and protects the security and safety of passengers and light rail premises. The territory's light rail contract has very clear performance targets, with notable levels of abatement if fare compliance levels are not reached. The bill has been drafted so as to support the light rail service operator to meet these targets while ensuring that there is no unreasonable intrusion on passengers and the public.

To enable commuters to move seamlessly from one public transport service to another, noting that the light rail service will utilise the same ticketing system as ACTION buses, the bill specifically provides that a person cannot be prosecuted for ticketing offences on both the light rail and an ACTION bus during the same journey. A journey covers the transition from a bus to a light rail vehicle and vice versa, with a 90-minute window.

This bill contains provisions to promote the safety, security and comfort of all passengers and the public engaging with the light rail service and protect light rail equipment. The matters addressed in these provisions affect public safety and the accessibility of the service and support matters of compliance and enforcement.

The bill ensures that there are effective means to address unacceptable passenger conduct as a measure to protect fare revenue and encourage patronage of light rail. Unacceptable passenger conduct is known to make people less willing to use public transport services. We want to deter unacceptable behaviour. Police and authorised persons will have the power to direct a person to leave a light rail vehicle or a light rail stop in specified circumstances.

The power to direct a person to leave a light rail vehicle or light rail stop is limited to circumstances where the person has committed or is in the process of committing an offence or there is an undue risk posed by a person to other people, revenue or property. This includes when a person is under the influence of liquor or a drug and is causing nuisance to someone else.

Only police have the power to remove a person from a light rail vehicle or a light rail stop when the person has been directed to leave the light rail vehicle or light rail stop and has failed to comply with that direction. A public education campaign about the regulatory framework for the light rail service will be run by the light rail service operator and the territory to inform the community of its obligations when using the light rail service.

The light rail service is designed to be accessible by all members of the community, in accordance with current disability standards. The bill makes it clear that where a person requires the assistance of a mobility aid or assistance animal these can be brought onto the light rail service.

Police, territory staff and specified employees of the light rail operator will be authorised to perform functions and exercise powers under the light rail legislation,

including the issuing of infringement notices. This bill is an important step in the government's commitment to ensuring that Canberra has a modern, sustainable and safe public transport network. The light rail system will play a key role in making Canberra a sustainable, vibrant and accessible city. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

### **Estimates 2018-2019—Select Committee Establishment**

Debate resumed from 15 February 2018, on motion by **Mr Wall**:

That:

- (1) a Select Committee on Estimates 2018-2019 be appointed to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2018-2019, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2018-2019 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2018-2019 Budget and prepare a report to the Assembly;
- (2) the Committee be composed of:
  - (a) two Members to be nominated by the Government;
  - (b) two Members to be nominated by the Opposition; and
  - (c) one Member to be nominated by The Greens; andto be notified in writing to the Speaker by 12.15 pm today;
- (3) an Opposition Member shall be elected chair of the Committee by the Committee;
- (4) funds be provided by the Assembly to permit the engagement of external expertise to work with the Committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and the preparation of the report of the Committee;
- (5) the Committee is to report by Tuesday, 31 July 2018;
- (6) if the Assembly is not sitting when the Committee has completed its inquiry, the 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
- (7) the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

**MS CHEYNE** (Ginninderra) (11.46): The government welcomes the establishment of the Select Committee on Estimates. Admin and procedure, as was anticipated in the last sittings, has been looking at ways that the appropriation bills could be examined through this process—perhaps not just by a select committee, noting that, in particular, there are numerous standing committees in existence which are well versed in the matters that the appropriation bills cover.

I put on the record—and I hope I can speak on behalf of the opposition and the Greens whips as well—that the establishment of this select committee is being done in good faith, in that admin and procedure will continue to consider options available to the Assembly in future years. I am sure that the select committee will reflect on this throughout its run as well.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Privileges 2018—Select Committee Proposed establishment**

Debate resumed.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I remind members that a question that was put to me before the debate was adjourned was about the impact of the Chief Minister having withdrawn his comments on the intent of the motion. The advice is that the question needs to be put, and, as I said before the debate was adjourned, the withdrawal effectively is an apology. The Chief Minister made that this morning, very clearly. I ask members to reflect on that when I put the question, as I do now, that the motion be agreed to.

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (11.48): This is not a good thing to have to be debating in the Assembly. I am not saying this in light of it not being something that is worthy of consideration by the Assembly. That is not where I am trying to go. I am saying that the behaviour which led to it is not a good thing.

I am not a member of the relevant committee, but I was a member of the estimates committee and there was a fairly similar exchange between Mr Barr and Mr Hanson in that committee, which struck me very much as being inappropriate on many grounds. I characterised it, when I spoke to people afterwards, as two alpha males butting up against each other. This is absolutely not the way that we should behave in this place or in the adjacent committee rooms.

Speakers so far have made many comments about how this is not the sort of behaviour we should have in this place. I agree with that 100 per cent. Regardless of whatever happens in this particular instance, I would like us all to reflect on the statements that have been made about how we should behave in this place, take them to heart and basically stop being so aggro and rude at times. There is no other description for it. There is no point in it.

We should be here for the good government of the ACT; we should not be sometimes yelling abuse across the chamber. It is unparliamentary. It cannot always be stopped by the Speaker. There is too much of it, and I think it is very much not the way that any of us should be behaving. I hope that one good thing that comes out of this particular debate is that we all commit to not using unparliamentary language, to actually respecting the other people in this chamber, listening to them and treating them as adult human beings, because sometimes that really does not happen.

In terms of the particular instance, the first part of the exchange involved Mr Hanson saying words around, “You’re getting the money.” But he was saying this to a person who is the Chief Minister and Treasurer of the ACT. I think that, in that context, what he meant was abundantly clear, particularly as the Chief Minister on a number of occasions asked him to clarify. And when he did clarify, Mr Hanson was clear that he was not suggesting that Mr Barr personally was receiving the money. There was only what I could say was the suggestion or the imputation—but it was not a suggestion or imputation but a clear statement that the ACT government was receiving this money, which, of course, is reasonable. That was what was being talked about.

If there is anybody in the world who could be regarded as the personification of the ACT government, I would have thought that the Chief Minister came pretty close to being that person. Outside this place sometimes people refer to me as a member of the government. It depends a bit on the context as to whether I draw any distinctions with regard to my role. Sometimes when they are talking about some of the more egregious planning decisions, I say that I am a humble crossbencher and that if I had been the planning minister that decision would not have been taken.

We all know that we are often addressed as “the government”, regardless of our actual role in this Assembly. I think that Mr Barr should have been capable of determining that Mr Hanson was addressing him in his role and position as Chief Minister and Treasurer. So I really could not agree with Mr Barr when he said that threatening the chair was his only option. Very clearly, that was not his only option. It is not appropriate, when you think that someone is not describing you in the way you would like to be described, to threaten them. It is inappropriate. There is no real way around that. It was particularly inappropriate that when Mr Hanson sought to clarify what Mr Barr was actually saying, Mr Barr doubled down on his threat. Clearly, it was not just a matter of saying, “I’ve got upset. I don’t know how to deal with this.” He doubled down on it.

There were some things in Mr Barr’s statement earlier today that I would have to agree with, around the need for a standing orders review and that this should encompass the committees. I have been on a number of estimates committees in this Assembly, and in the Seventh Assembly. With respect to the majority of them, at least once they have degenerated into a slanging match between the minister at the time and one or more members of the committee—usually only one member of the committee. The whole behaviour is unparliamentary and it is very difficult to know what to do about it. The committees that I have been a part of clearly have not been able to deal with that sort of behaviour particularly well or appropriately. From that point of view, I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Barr’s comments that we do need more clarification of how committees work.

This must be particularly hard for those committees—none of which, of course, I am a member of—which are two-two, where it is abundantly clear that anything of a political nature potentially cannot be determined by the committee. That is one of the problems with looking at the determination that the committee made in this instance. It is a two-two committee. Obviously, I was not a part of the committee. I am not privy in any way to what may have been said there. My assumption would be that

there was possibly a division along party lines as to what was the most appropriate way to deal with this.

With the estimates committee that I was a part of last year, where there was a similar exchange, it was not brought up by the committee in its deliberations. All those concerned decided to let it go through to the keeper. Quite possibly, that would have been a better option here, but it is not the option that was taken.

Clearly, more has to be done in order to have greater civility within this Assembly and within the committees. There are no two ways about that. The debate that the Greens are having is not around whether or not this is an issue. Clearly, it is an issue. The issue for us is in working out the best way forward so that we do not end up spending time debating things when there is no real need for a debate.

There is one thing that we can say about this particular instance: the facts of the discussion are abundantly clear. Hansard has a recording of it. There are not, to my knowledge, any factual issues about this. The only issues are issues of interpretation of the standing orders and potentially the thoughts of the participants in the discussion. Actually, I am not sure that what their thoughts were is relevant, given that Mr Hanson asked about it and it was made abundantly clear what Mr Barr's thought processes were.

I very much hope that this very unfortunate episode will lead to greater civility for the whole Assembly—not just in our committees but in the Assembly as a whole—and that we will consider an outcome.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (11.59): It is a fast-moving morning in which we seek to work this matter out in a way that is fair and sensible for this chamber. I echo the comments of Ms Le Couteur. I think this is a very tawdry affair. I think that it is an unfortunate reflection on the Assembly. The fact that we are having to spend a whole lot of time debating this matter in this chamber because of the culture that takes place in some of these committees is regrettable.

I was particularly struck by Mr Hanson's speech this morning. Mr Hanson walked into this chamber and gave a "butter would not melt in my mouth" speech which completely defies the character that he so regularly displays in this place. To have a member come in here and say that he felt threatened defies the very conduct that that member exhibits in this chamber on a regular basis.

Mr Hanson and I came to this place at the same time, in 2008, so I have had a lot of opportunity to watch Mr Hanson's conduct in this chamber. It would be fair to say—and I am mindful of the unparliamentary language provisions here—that Mr Hanson, to put it most politely, is the most robust member of this chamber. I have watched him over 10 years repeatedly belittle members in this chamber, both in his comments and in the underhanded comments he makes across the chamber just quietly enough so that the Speaker does not hear them and they are not forced to be withdrawn. I have heard him humiliate people in this chamber repeatedly. I watch him operate in the way that bullies do in the old schoolyard, where they go around and needle people

behind the teacher's back until finally that person retaliates; then they run to the teacher and say, "Such and such just hit me, ma'am, it's not fair."

This is Mr Hanson's style of conduct in this chamber. To have him walk in here today and say he felt threatened by Mr Barr in what he himself would describe as a robust exchange in this chamber reflects poorly on him. Equally, Mr Barr's comments were clearly not appropriate with respect to both the position that he holds and the rules under the standing orders. That is the challenge that we find ourselves facing. I note that the Chief Minister has withdrawn those statements, and I welcome that he has reflected and has done that. But we are, as I tested earlier, still required to progress this motion.

I am proposing to move an amendment. Given the hour and the fact that I have not circulated this, I will test with members how they would like to proceed. I will circulate the amendment as soon as I practically can, but obviously members will not have seen it. It does seem that Mr Barr wants to continue to prosecute this matter and that he remains dissatisfied with the outcomes through the committee process and the inability for him to pursue the matters that he has sought to pursue.

On that basis I am proposing to amend the privileges referral so that we also insert, after the words "November 2017", "as well as issues relating to the conduct of the chair, and the ability to resolve disputes in the committee process, and any other relevant matters".

If both members want to double down on the questions that are before us today then we will have a privileges committee and we will open it up to all of the matters that both members want to discuss, and we can find a forum outside this chamber to continue that conversation. I move the following amendment:

In paragraph (1), omit all words after "November 2017", substitute "as well as issues relating to the conduct of the Chair, and the ability to resolve disputes in the committee process, and any other relevant matters."

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (12.03): While I appreciate Mr Rattenbury's intent, in terms of broadening the issues, I do remain offended by the imputation in Mr Hanson's line of questioning. That is a fact. I have asked for a withdrawal, just as I have withdrawn my comments. I think that would be the end of that matter. But I am not going to get a withdrawal. Such is life; I am happy to let that lie. I do not wish to pursue a withdrawal from Mr Hanson any further than I have this morning, in asking him to do so. He is not going to; clearly that is the end of the matter.

The remaining issues of substance in this debate that Ms Le Couteur touched on, as did Mr Rattenbury in his remarks, relate to the review of standing orders. The standing orders are entirely silent when it comes to committee hearings. In this place, if a member wishes to dissent from the ruling of the Speaker, they can do so by way of a formal motion. If that formal motion is upheld, it then falls to the Speaker to



consider his or her position, but it is quite a grave thing, obviously, for a Speaker's ruling to be dissented from and for the Assembly to pass a motion to that effect.

There is not an option in a committee hearing for a witness to move for dissent from a committee chair's ruling on a matter of whether a line of questioning or a statement is unparliamentary. There is just no way to resolve that. The ability to have your ruling dissented from is a very important check and balance for whoever sits in the Speaker's chair—the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker or an Assistant Speaker. Anyone who is in that role has a check and balance on their rulings—that is, the membership of the Assembly. That does not apply to witnesses appearing before an Assembly committee.

I think the review of standing orders needs to consider that. In my view, the appropriate place for the review of standing orders to take place is through the process that has already been established. I do not think you need to establish a privileges committee to look into that particular matter.

To clarify things for Mr Rattenbury and Ms Le Couteur, the only avenue that I wish to pursue in relation to this is the review of the standing orders, and that that review examines the issues that I have raised. It will happen in the future that a witness before an Assembly committee will take offence at the imputation of a question. It is certainly within my rights to take offence at being told repeatedly in a line of questioning that I was personally trousering taxpayers' money. That remains an issue for me—an issue of grave concern. All I can do is ask for that to be withdrawn. I have again. It appears it will not be, so that is the end of that matter. The question of the standing orders is appropriately dealt with through the process that is underway with the standing orders review.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Coe**) adjourned to a later hour.

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

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

## **Refugees in the ACT**

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (12.08): I move:

That this Assembly:

- (1) acknowledges that the ACT is a Refugee Welcome Zone and has a well-established commitment to support and encourage refugees to settle here, and over the past ten years Canberra welcomed over 2000 refugees;
- (2) welcomes the Federal Government's positive decision to support refugees coming to Australia by announcing a Community Support Program (CSP), with an intake of 1000 from 1 July 2017;
- (3) notes with concern that:
  - (a) there are strict priority criteria for refugees applying for the CSP which includes the following:

- (i) be aged between 18 and 50;
  - (ii) have an offer of employment (or a pathway that leads to employment);
  - (iii) have personal attributes that would enable them to become financially self-sufficient within 12 months of arrival; or
  - (iv) be willing to live and work in regional Australia;
- (b) in addition to this strict criteria, community sponsors of applicants to the CSP are required to fund:
  - (i) visa application charges of \$2680 at the time of application, with no guarantee of success;
  - (ii) an additional \$16 444 for the primary applicant and \$2680 for each other family member before the visa can be granted; and
  - (iii) airfares, medical screening and settlement costs; and
- (c) although the CSP is a step in the right direction, we are concerned that:
  - (i) the rigid criteria will discriminate against those who are most in need; and
  - (ii) high fees, upwards of \$19 000 per first individual, may be prohibitive for potential community supporters;
- (4) further notes that:
  - (a) there have been significant changes to eligibility for the Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) payment—a reduced payment of 87 percent of Newstart that can be paid to those waiting for processing of their applications;
  - (b) community groups, such as Canberra Refugee Support (CRS) are already stretched to provide support to fill the gap left by the changes made to the SRSS payments late last year; and
  - (c) there is little transparency about the new eligibility criteria for the payment—the Federal Department of Home Affairs states simply that eligibility for the SRSS is “determined by Department of Home Affairs”; and
- (5) calls on the Assembly to write to the Federal Government to:
  - (a) adopt a more humane and affordable visa fee structure for the CSP, to make the program fairer and more accessible;
  - (b) make the cap on the Refugee Community Sponsorship program additional to our existing humanitarian intake, in order to recognise the generosity and care of our communities rather than shifting both the costs and the burden of responsibility to them for meeting our international human rights obligations; and
  - (c) explain these changes to the SRSS payment and to make criteria transparent.

I start this morning by recognising and celebrating people who have come to Canberra as refugees and recognising their contributions to building our community, be it through sporting teams, volunteering, community groups, local small businesses and the other myriad ways they contribute to our city. I note that the ACT is a refugee

welcome zone and that we have a well-established commitment to supporting and encouraging refugees to settle here. In fact, over the past 10 years in Canberra, we have welcomed over 2,000 refugees to the territory. We are a proud multicultural city. I note the large proportion of the Canberra community that came together last month to celebrate the annual and very popular Multicultural Festival in the city.

I also acknowledge yesterday as the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, ahead of the nationwide Palm Sunday rallies for refugees this weekend, organised in Canberra by the Refugee Action Committee.

The Greens remain committed to supporting refugees who have lost their own homes, loved ones and livelihoods and yet remain hopeful and show great courage in seeking new opportunities, new communities and new foundations on which to rebuild their lives and those of their families.

I want to start with a recap of the current circumstances for asylum seekers in Australia. Based on data from the Department of Home Affairs, the Refugee Council of Australia has calculated that on 31 January this year there were 1,287 people in detention facilities. I have previously spoken in this place about the need to bring refugees to the ACT and the other 148 welcome zones across Australia. I think it is important to acknowledge that the ACT Assembly last year supported my motion calling for the federal government to close the offshore detention centres on Manus Island and Nauru and instead support refugees and asylum seekers being processed in the community where we know that there are communities across this country willing to accept them.

I think the ACT community would be pleased to know that these are the kinds of issues on which this Assembly can work together to truly represent our local community on. In fact, some of these advocates are here in the chamber today, and I welcome them to the Assembly and thank them for their ongoing support in this matter. Over many years now I have advocated on behalf of refugees seeking asylum in Australia.

I am heartened that the community support program may offer additional means to bring refugees to Australia, including to Canberra. As I have clearly stated in my motion today, the community support program needs to be additional to the 16,500 places already allocated to Australia's broader humanitarian intake program. The Greens want to join Amnesty International in calling out this clear flaw in the program which essentially sees it as an opportunity to shift costs, rather than the far more positive potential to encourage and facilitate individuals and community groups to support refugees to join their communities.

A four-year pilot of the community support program has demonstrated unwavering demand, in spite of costs and strict criteria, successfully reaching its yearly intake capacity of 500 people. A backlog of applications from the pilot alone are expected to fill 40 per cent of the quota for this year's maximum intake of 1,000 refugees. In practice what is happening is that families, often newly arrived in Australia themselves, are willing to go into debt to afford the exorbitant fees in their desperation to be reunited with family members. Although this program is considerably more

affordable than the family reunion visa program, which is substantially oversubscribed, it is important to note that the family reunion program is open to all migrants and the community support program is intended to target those who are most in need.

As I said earlier, the Greens wholeheartedly support the community support program, but the criteria are alarming and the fact that refugees in this program are being included in Australia's humanitarian intake limit is simply inequitable. It is creating classes of refugees—those who can afford to apply, those who have found sponsors who can afford to pay and those who simply cannot afford it. I have included a fair bit of the detail around the criteria in the motion in order to give members sufficient background to consider this matter, and I believe it speaks for itself.

Our humanitarian intake should be just that—humanitarian. It should not mean that we require people to already have an offer of employment, be within a young working age and have a clear pathway to ensure that they are financially self-sufficient within 12 months of arrival, let alone have access to \$16,444, plus \$2,680 for each other family member, just for visa application fees, as well as funding airfares, medical screening and settlement costs. The fact that you do not even get the \$2,680 back if your visa application is rejected is also appalling in these circumstances. These are not business migration program applications from people who are comfortable in their home country and can possibly afford it; these are people who are desperately seeking asylum.

I also find it disturbing that the program reduces the level of Newstart payment that refugees would receive while they are waiting for their applications to be processed. It is unclear to me why their lifestyles would be any cheaper than any other unemployed person, especially as they are presumably arriving in Australia with basically nothing and Newstart is not a comfortable amount to live on in general anyway. If we want to have a program with these criteria that is one thing, but they should not be in place for people who should be part of our humanitarian intake.

Not only does this program place considerable hardship on families but it shows that it is not necessarily targeting those most in need. It is also becoming clear that the federal government's aim of widening the scope of the program beyond family repatriation, as in the bulk of cases under the pilot program, is not well targeted either.

The community support program allows for community sponsorship of refugees via approved proposing organisations, or APOs, which can be individuals, community groups or businesses. It is intended that these APOs would have the skills and experience to manage the application and settlement process on behalf of visa applicants and their Australian supporters. However, as yet, more than six months into the program, there are still no APOs; yet until APOs have been appointed individual visa applications cannot be lodged.

The government's intention to widen the scope of the program by attracting business support appears to be falling flat. This seems to be backed up with these significant delays in appointing and announcing the necessary APOs. It would be unsurprising if the high application costs were a factor in businesses' hesitation to engage with the

program, which raises a key issue. If the private sector is not keen to pay the high up-front costs then individuals and the community sector are likely to be even more significantly priced out.

The idea that this program seeks to save the federal government an estimated \$26.9 million over four years is contemptuous. This is a considerable cost burden for the community, while for the federal government it is a drop in the ocean. For comparison, this amounts to approximately 0.6 per cent of the Department of Home Affairs' departmental spending on border enforcement. Our local community groups can only do so much. These changes to eligibility for the status resolution support service place increasing pressure on individuals and community groups.

My colleague Ms Le Couteur and I have met with some of the organisations that work so hard to support refugees who come to Canberra. The status resolution support service criteria are not transparent, so it is difficult to determine, but anecdotal evidence tells us that if families have sent more than \$1,000 overseas in the past twelve months they are not eligible for the payment. This seems to be applied to onshore applicants who may have made the payments to family back in their home country well before making an application for asylum.

Increasing numbers of families in the ACT are applying to the Federal Court to appeal the rejection of their applications, but families who appeal to the courts are then ineligible for any federal government income support. This is coupled with increasing delays in Federal Court appeals process. For many refugees the time frames for this are increasing towards two years from the time of lodging an appeal to receiving a verdict. Clearly the courts are overloaded with these applications and it is unreasonable to expect these already vulnerable people to wait out the process without any prospect of eligibility for what is essentially a safety net payment.

These are people who are trying their very best to integrate into the community and support themselves. They are seeking out employment and education opportunities and balancing family caring responsibilities for children. The experience for at least some families is that they are not able to get enough work to support themselves, are working towards qualifications to improve work prospects and are faced with other practical barriers such as going through the process to obtain a drivers licence.

Our community groups, such as Canberra Refugee Support, are endeavouring to support these families, as they have seen the contributions to the community that have been made by those who were supported over previous decades and who now have a tenacious commitment to education and loyalty to the Australian communities who supported them in their time of need. It is clear evidence of the disproportionate contribution made by our community to prop up a system that is failing some of the most vulnerable people on this planet whose only fault is being born in the wrong place at the wrong time;

In New South Wales, St Vincent de Paul's asylum seeker program focuses on providing support to those at judicial review and ministerial intervention stages of their claims for asylum. These refugees are having to rely on charity from neighbours, local churches and community groups to meet their basic living costs. It is a shame

that the federal government is relying on the community to plug holes, as they arise from what we can only assume are ill-thought-out or perhaps—and worse still—deliberately punitive measures to reduce support for asylum seekers.

If we step aside from this Australian program for a moment and look afar to Canada, we can see a model of how we could do things differently. Their model provides a clear example of how community sponsorship can be done without overly burdening communities and at the same time improving mechanisms for refugees to seek safety when their home country cannot provide it.

The Canadian program has been working for 40 years, welcoming over 280,000 people through community-led sponsorship. The Canadian program is in addition to the government-supported humanitarian intake. While the community must still prove its ability to provide financial support to the refugees it sponsors, there is no up-front application cost, and after 18 months of successful program participation applicants have access to social security support payments.

A joint discussion by the Refugee Council of Australia and Settlement Services International illustrates the success of the Canadian model since its inception in the 1970s. They say it is achieved at minimal cost to the Canadian government and provides a model which can be adapted in many other countries as part of global efforts to respond to the pressing need for more resettlement places. They also found the differences in employment and income between privately sponsored and government-assisted refugees are significant in the early years in Canada, but over 10 years, as outcomes for all refugees improve, this gap becomes much smaller. I hope that in writing to the federal government we may be able to influence them to look more closely at the Canadian model and improve the criteria of the community sponsorship program.

In conclusion, I thank Amnesty for bringing this matter to our attention. I understand they have spoken to all parties in this place about this issue over recent weeks. I also thank them for their tireless efforts to uphold the values of inclusion and fairness in our society and for holding governments to account in such important areas as refugee rights and human rights in Australia and overseas.

I also thank Canberra Refugee Support, a lesser-known but very important group of caring and compassionate people who continue to advocate for and support refugees in our local community, not just at the beginning but when they need it most, when many other sources of support have been exhausted.

I have confidence that our Canberra community will continue to support refugees. The Greens would like to see the federal government supporting the goodwill and generosity of Canberrans by implementing a well-targeted, equitable and inclusive community refugee sponsorship program. I hope to see this call echoed in our fellow refugee welcome zones across Australia. I commend this motion to the Assembly.

**MRS KIKKERT** (Ginninderra) (12.22): I stand today to respond to Mr Rattenbury's motion. The Canberra Liberals acknowledge that our nation is built upon migration and the principles of multiculturalism that have grown out of that fact. We are proud

of Australia's multicultural history. This is not an abstract point for me, Madam Speaker. As all in this Assembly know, I am a migrant who found shelter from great difficulties in the welcoming arms of Australia. Without this opportunity, my life would have turned out very differently. I note that this is also the case for my Liberal colleague Ms Lee.

We also take great pride in the generous welcome that our nation gives to new Australians from refugee backgrounds. This topic today inevitably makes me think of my good friend and mentor Steve Doszpot. He understood the importance of Australia's refugee and humanitarian program with an intimacy that none of us in this room will ever be able to equal. Steve and his family escaped the Russian occupation of Hungary in 1957. Their flight to safety and freedom included travel by train, by sled and on foot. It also included time spent in various refugee camps before receiving the almost unbelievably good news that the entire family had been accepted for resettlement in Australia.

The Canberra Liberals stand for the basic freedoms of thought, worship, speech, association and choice. We also believe in the innate worth of the individual and the right to be independent and to seek a better life through initiative, enterprise and personal responsibility. We also stand for a just and humane society where those who cannot provide for themselves can still live in dignity.

I am personally grateful that our nation plays an essential role in helping many people enjoy these basic rights and freedoms by means of our migration program and our refugee and humanitarian program. I am also grateful for the opportunities that we have as community members to individually welcome and support all new Australians, including refugees.

For the past two years I have established my office as a collection point for the Red Cross's annual Christmas food drive for refugees. In addition, I do everything I can to support those who I know personally. Earlier this year I was introduced to a newly arrived refugee family that lives not far from my home. It has been my privilege to meet with this family and to help them find their feet in various ways, including dropping the daughter off to school and, using one of my friends as a translator, speaking to the family so that I may be of greater assistance. Amongst other things, I learned that the father wanted to know more about using the bus timetable. So I returned on a different day to assist the father to learn how to use the bus timetable. It brings me great joy to see others receive the same opportunity as we do here in Australia.

Mr Rattenbury has moved this motion today because he has concerns about some aspects of the refugee and humanitarian program, and rightly so. As I hope I have made clear, the Canberra Liberals wish for this program to work in the best possible way. We see no issue in forwarding the specific concerns raised to the commonwealth government. For that reason, we will not oppose or seek to amend Mr Rattenbury's motion.

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

Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (12.26): I thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing forward the motion before us today. I rise on behalf of the ACT Labor members of this place to indicate our full support for this motion. Ensuring that some of the most vulnerable members of our community have the support they need to find a home, build a life and make a fresh start is a key demonstration of any government's values. Over the years in this place we have debated and discussed appropriate support for refugees, asylum seekers and humanitarian entrants in our city and our nation.

Today I wish to touch on what we do as a jurisdiction, as well as outlining the consequences of some federal government policies and rhetoric in this area. I also wish to concur wholeheartedly with Minister Rattenbury's opening remarks about the contribution that refugees, asylum seekers, humanitarian entrants and other migrants have made to our city and our region. They strengthen our community. I think that is something we all in this place agree on.

As Mr Rattenbury's motion outlines, there are significant limitations on how the federal government supports refugees and asylum seekers. That is a shame for many reasons. It is a shame because these people are vulnerable. It is a shame because it belies the goodwill in the community, the willingness to help refugees and asylum seekers that I see in my fellow Canberrans and in so many of my fellow Australians. And it is a shame because we know it could be so much better. It is not hard for a government to work constructively with our migrant and refugee communities and the community organisations that support them.

The ACT has a strong history of recognising the value that our refugee and migrant communities bring to our city. I have previously remarked that supporting refugees is the just and right thing to do. We have all heard the stories of those who came to Canberra seeking a better, safer life for themselves and their families.

There is probably no greater praise for our city and our nation than that we offer people hope and safety. The ACT government has a longstanding commitment to improving its services and demonstrating its commitment to refugees and asylum seekers. The ACT multicultural framework articulates the ACT government's ongoing commitment to supporting refugees and asylum seekers who settle in our community. We have introduced an ACT services access card to provide smooth access to a suite of ACT government services, to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers do not have to retell their story and experience their trauma again and again.

As Minister Rattenbury notes, we were the first Australian jurisdiction to be declared a refugee welcome zone. Last year we built on those efforts to welcome refugees by hosting members from refugee welcome zones across Australia to a forum in Canberra. In 2016 the ACT also joined the safe haven enterprise visa scheme, again to provide hope and stability to asylum seekers and others who have chosen to make Canberra their home.

We know evidence demonstrates that a lack of English language skills and meaningful employment is a barrier to resettling successfully in a new community.



Because we know that, the ACT government committed almost \$1.4 million over four years in the last budget to support refugees and asylum seekers to improve their language skills and to provide workforce participation assistance to new migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

We also know that the government cannot do this crucial work alone. The ACT government funds a range of support services through partners like Companion House, Multicultural Youth Services, and Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services to work with migrants and refugees to ensure that they can build new and better lives in Canberra. The services these organisations offer support those who are suffering from persecution, torture and war-related trauma. They provide assistance in finding a job, getting to school, relationship and family matters and other settlement and related services.

Many of these organisations come together with ACT government officials every two months in the Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Humanitarian Coordination Committee. The RASH committee, as it is known, is supported by the Community Services Directorate. It provides a conduit for community organisations and governments, both local and federal, to share information, to work together constructively and to provide advice to government where needed on the concerns of refugees, humanitarian entrants and the organisations that work with them.

Of course, the work of these community organisations is a testament not just to our commitment to those in need but also to that of the broader Canberra community. These organisations are supported by volunteers and dedicated staff. Many refugee and migrant Canberrans work for them and with them. The ACT community, alongside the government, supports these organisations because we want to deliver on the hope of people who just want to be safe. It is a terrible thing that the federal coalition government consistently seeks to dash this hope. You do not give people hope by demonising and stereotyping them.

The Red Cross recently released a report about asylum seekers and other humanitarian entrants falling through the gap. I wish to quote briefly from it. The report talks a lot about barriers that people face in accessing services and support. It states:

Compounding the above, the report also finds that a frequently negative public portrayal of migrants, including the broader debate on diversity in Australia, impacts on the ability of migrants to feel safe, to feel like they belong, and to engage with supports and assistance they need from the community.

We do not take that attitude in Canberra. We are a refugee welcome zone and we demonstrate that in the multiple ways that we celebrate our cultural diversity and the contributions that refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants make to our city.

I would say to Minister Dutton, the federal minister, that you do not give people hope by demonising and stereotyping them, and you certainly do not give people hope by reducing their capacity to support themselves, as he has done through changes to the status resolution support payment, and then condemn them when they find it hard to learn English, build new lives and settle in the community.

The federal government needs to provide hope and support. Isn't that what we as a nation are supposed to be about? As Minister Rattenbury has pointed out, I am not sure what Minister Dutton expects of those living in the community on 87 per cent of the Newstart payment, often trying to support their families in education, food, medical assistance and the basic costs associated with establishing a brand-new life in a brand-new country.

I have not experienced what many of our refugee and migrant communities have faced in their struggles to find safety in Australia. I have heard the stories, but the stories only tell you so much. Minister Dutton has not experienced what these people have gone through, either. But we know that Minister Dutton's priorities have been on full display over the past year. From stereotyping members of Melbourne's African community as gangs to paving the way to bring in white farmers from South Africa, he has ignored the very real damage his words have done to our multicultural communities.

On a more positive note, I am very aware of the giving and generous spirit of the ACT community. Charities such as St Vincent de Paul and organisations such as Canberra Refugee Support and Companion House are supporting refugee families that have been stuck in the federal government's limbo as their visa applications are processed or rejected altogether and they make applications to higher courts.

As Mr Rattenbury has noted, these organisations are stepping in to provide temporary accommodation, food and medical assistance to help families and individuals meet the basic cost of living. Allowing members of the Canberra community to sponsor an increased number of refugees through an improved community support program is a way of demonstrating our values and the way we value our migrant and refugee communities.

I am pleased to say that the ACT government was also recently able to provide a one-off grant of \$10,000 to Canberra Refugee Support, a member of the RASH committee—an organisation that Mr Rattenbury talked about—to enable them to continue to support families who have been effectively abandoned by the federal government as they seek to dispute decisions in relation to their refugee status.

We will continue to work with Canberra Refugee Support and other RASH members to see what the ACT government can do further in this space. The government will continue working to establish a consistent approach on this important issue with other states and the federal government to ensure that the basic needs of everyone living in our community are met. But this type of support is really a responsibility of the federal government.

I am pleased that the Canberra Liberals are not opposing this motion. I would encourage them at this late stage to actively support it and to lobby their federal colleagues to do the right thing. It is wonderful to see the giving, concerned spirit of Canberrans. We can see a demonstration of it in the gallery. I hope that this will continue.

As I have said, the ACT has a strong commitment to cultural diversity, cohesion and inclusion—a commitment to ensuring that everyone is able to participate in our community, a commitment to welcoming refugees and asylum seekers in our city. It will be good to see this commitment reflected in the words and actions of each of us in this place. I again thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing forward this motion and I commend it to the Assembly wholeheartedly.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (12.36), in reply: I appreciate members extending the debate into their lunchbreak so that we can finish this matter in a timely way today. I also welcome members' support for this motion. It is important that we raise these views with the federal government. Some might say that it is not a matter for the ACT government, but this is clearly a matter that does affect our community. The presence of so many members of the Canberra community in the public gallery today demonstrates the local passion for this issue.

I think it is quite right that we make this case to the federal government. I implore the federal government, when they receive a letter from us, to reflect carefully on these matters and to make the adjustments to the program that I alluded to earlier to make it easier and more practical for those generous people in Australia who want to support refugees to come here to do so.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**Sitting suspended from 12.37 to 2.30 pm.**

## **Ministerial arrangements**

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events): The Deputy Chief Minister will need to leave question time at 3.15 pm in order to undertake a travel commitment. I will take any questions after 3.15. I also understand that my colleagues will cooperate to ensure that any questions for the Deputy Chief Minister can be asked by the opposition before 3.15.

## **Questions without notice**

### **Land—Dickson purchase**

**MR COE:** My question is for the Chief Minister. Through questioning in this place you have repeatedly stated that you and your government had no input into or influence on the land swap deal in Dickson. However, the Auditor-General's report includes this transcript. The former director said:

The reality was that the Tradies were close allies of the ... government and the Labor Party... the head of the Tradies was very confident that he had the government on side.

The audit office asked:

Which minister was in at that particular stage?

The former director said:

I think it was ... the Minister for Economic Development, and—and he was Treasurer.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* said of this exchange:

The import of the words can hardly escape notice. This is a senior official negotiating a deal to sell prime government land—

**Mr Steel:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker, questions must be brief, under standing order 117(a).

**MADAM SPEAKER:** That is true and I hope you are coming to the point of your question, Mr Coe.

**MR COE:** There is much of the AG's report I would love to read out, to be honest.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** That is not what we are here for, Mr Coe.

**MR COE:** Okay. The quote continues:

This is a senior official negotiating a deal to sell prime government land telling the auditor that he was working on the basis that the government—Barr—wanted the CFMEU-run Tradies to win.

Chief Minister, do you still maintain, despite this evidence in the Auditor-General's report, that you had no influence on or input into whatsoever with regard to this deal?

**MR BARR:** Yes, as the Auditor-General has found.

**MR COE:** Chief Minister, are you asserting that a former director of your own agency fabricated evidence to the Auditor-General?

**MR BARR:** No.

**MR PARTON:** Chief Minister, will you drop this facade and admit that this is a dodgy deal that has granted up to \$2.6 million to the CFMEU?

**MR BARR:** If that question does not contain an imputation, I do not know what does. I do not think I am going to dignify that question with a response.

### **Crime—gangs**

**MR STEEL:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Minister, how are the government and ACT Policing protecting the community from criminal gangs?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Mr Steel for his question. I thank the member for an important and serious question. Criminal gangs do pose a risk to our community and this government takes this very seriously. We are working closely with our law enforcement authorities and, indeed, all agencies to keep our community safe and mitigate the threat posed by these criminal gangs. We are fortunate to have a highly professional and capable police force. This was on display over the past few days.

I have spoken previously about Taskforce Nemesis, the ACT police task force charged with tackling criminal gangs. This task force was expanded in 2016 as a result of \$6.5 million in additional funding provided by this government. This funding is helping to make our city safer. Yesterday, ACT Policing executed seven warrants across Canberra. Because of this action, police were able to take off our streets three firearms; 270 rounds of ammunition; over \$50,000 cash—my advice is that that is suspected to be the proceeds of crime; approximately 28 grams of what I am informed is believed to be methamphetamine; and approximately 12 grams of what is thought to be cocaine. In addition, a 29-year-old man has been charged with firearms-related offences. I am also advised that other investigations are ongoing.

As the deputy chief police officer of crime noted after yesterday's raids, "Taskforce Nemesis continues to focus on serious and organised crime and apply pressure to members of criminal gangs." Yesterday's raids were the latest in a long list of activities that Taskforce Nemesis has been undertaking to prevent and deter criminal gangs. It is important to note that the ACT is not alone in dealing with this challenge. These criminal gangs operate across many Australian jurisdictions. But I want to commend the officers of Taskforce Nemesis and all officers of ACT Policing for their hard work and dedication. (*Time expired.*)

**MR STEEL:** Minister, how are new legislative powers assisting ACT Policing to respond to criminal gangs?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank the member for the supplementary question and the opportunity it provides me to add to my earlier answer. Madam Speaker, you may recall that late last year the government brought a bill to this place to provide police with new powers to help tackle the issue of criminal gangs.

I thank all members for their support in the passage of that bill, which helped create a new offence around drive-by shootings and new crime scene powers. The latter has strengthened the tools that ACT Policing have available to them with respect to investigating and bringing to justice members of criminal gangs.

Madam Speaker, I can inform you and all members that ACT Policing have started using these powers. My advice is that the crime scene powers have been used on two occasions already. Both occasions occurred this month.

On the first occasion, I am advised, ACT police were able to use the crime scene powers to preserve evidence for collection. This occurred by police being able to secure and relocate a vehicle. This vehicle was then able to undergo forensic testing. I

understand that on the second occasion police were able to secure the scene of an incident and undertake investigations.

These new powers are making a difference. As I have already said, the government continues to work with ACT Policing to ensure that our police have the necessary tools to deal effectively with serious and organised crime entities and, wherever possible, to confiscate their criminal assets and put offenders before the courts.

**MS ORR:** Can the minister inform the Assembly about other enforcement actions ACT Policing has taken against criminal gangs?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Orr for the question and her interest in keeping our community safe. Earlier I mentioned that yesterday's raids were just the latest in a number of activities that Task Force Nemesis and ACT Policing have taken to prevent and disrupt criminal gangs. I can advise the Assembly that over the last few years—2014 to 2018—ACT Policing have charged 102 members of criminal gangs and executed more than 88 warrants. ACT Policing are working hard to tackle criminal gangs. They have committed to preventing and deterring these gangs and their activities, and the government will continue working with police and all our agencies to tackle these gangs.

I will keep working with the Chief Police Officer on this issue. Working together, the government and ACT Policing were able to bring to this place a bill that provided the new tools I have already spoken about. As I said, the government works with and listens to all our agencies and we are all committed to tackling dangerous criminal gangs.

### **Municipal services—signage**

**MS LE COUTEUR:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services, and it relates to the enforcement of the signs code. There are clearly many large and non-conforming real estate signs throughout Canberra. What does the government do to enforce the signs code for real estate signs, business signs and, more broadly, billboards of all descriptions?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I thank Ms Le Couteur for the question. Certainly, if they are not displayed according to current regulations, they will be investigated. I am not aware of any specific instances. If they were to be referred to my office, I could ask TCCS to follow up. I will take the remainder of the question on notice.

**MS LE COUTEUR:** I will refer the people opposite me to your office and ask: when was the last prosecution or confiscation of a sign, because we have all seen large real estate signs?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I will take the question as to the last prosecution on notice.

### **Land—Dickson purchase**

**MS LEE:** My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management: in response to the Auditor-General's report on the Dickson land swap deal you stated

that it “puts the matter to bed”. The *Sydney Morning Herald*, amongst others, commented on this:

Planning Minister Mick Gentleman's declaration of nothing to see here after Thursday's audit report into the CFMEU land deal beggars belief ... If that's how dismissively a government minister treats a report as damning as that from Auditor-General Maxine Cooper, the state of Canberra's democracy is dire ... If Gentleman believes he can dismiss this as a report that “puts the matter to bed”, he needs a remedial course in probity and process.

Minister, do you maintain that a report that showed that a deal was pursued contrary to the government's own legal advice and in contravention of its own laws puts the matter to bed?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Lee for the question. Of course, my comments were in relation to the questions before me at the time, and I stand by those comments. I will say that the government has strong plans for section 72 in Dickson. The plan will address land uses, community services, place making, landscaping infrastructure and transport and active travel connections to the wider area. The first stage of community engagement is already underway with a range of methods being used to involve the community and exploring options—

**Ms Lee:** A point of order, Madam Speaker. Can I ask the minister to be relevant? The question is not asking what the plan is for that land; it is specifically asking about whether he still maintains that this report on the deal that was pursued contrary to the government's own legal advice and to its laws puts the matter to bed. He has not answered that.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I think he answered that in the first bit by referencing that to the questions he was being asked on the day, unless you want to clarify that, minister. Do you want to continue?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. No, that is correct, and I want to go on to talk about the plans we have for section 72. The your say project page includes social pinpoint, an online mapping tool for community comments. There is also an information kiosk, and a government planning workshop was held in collaboration with the Community Services Directorate. Meet the planner sessions in conjunction with sessions for the draft city and gateway urban design framework were held in early March and were very popular, and EPSDD with CSD have met with the leaseholders who will remain on the site to discuss their aspirations and concerns for the future of section 72. You see, Madam Speaker, we are moving forward in improving that area and providing social housing for the north Canberra area. I think it is an important plan for the ACT.

**MS LEE:** Minister, do you maintain that a report that showed between \$2.4 million and \$2.65 million handed unnecessarily to the Tradies Club is a report that puts the matter to bed?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I will stand by my earlier comments.

**MR COE:** Minister, how can the people of the ACT trust the integrity of the government of which you are a minister if you continue to state that this matter has in effect been put to bed when in fact there are serious probity breaches that need to be investigated?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** As we know, the government has accepted the Auditor-General's report, and we will be responding to it in the not too distant future. It is important that we, whilst responding to it, move on with the plans that we have for section 72 that I outlined in my previous answer.

### **Light rail—local employment**

**MR WALL:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, what percentage of workers currently working on the light rail project are long-term ACT residents?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I will have to take the question on notice but I ask Mr Wall to clarify what he means by "long-term ACT residents". Of course, the government welcomes all ACT residents, no matter how long they have been living in our great city.

**MR WALL:** Minister, are you aware of fly-in, fly-out arrangements in place for any workers on the light rail project and is there any reporting mechanism from the consortium back to government on the number of local employees employed on construction of the project?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** Yes, there are requirements about local participation and local jobs on the project, as the opposition well know, but I believe that, in some instances, given the state of the infrastructure market around the country, we are fortunate to have some people coming to Canberra, including from right across our border, for example Yass and Queanbeyan. And I welcome those people. I welcome the fact that the ACT government is giving people the opportunity to have employment, to have good, well-paid, secure employment, building the city's biggest infrastructure project.

**MR MILLIGAN:** Minister, what actions has your government taken to ensure that the majority of jobs generated by the light rail project were available to ACT residents?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** We required that in the contract for all those who tendered for this project. That was an important part of the government's requirements for all tenderers—and Canberra Metro, who subsequently won the tender.

### **Government—disability services**

**MS ORR:** My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. Minister, what is the ACT government doing to promote connection and participation within the community for people with disability?



**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Orr for her question. The ACT government believes in inclusion. We are fully committed to ensuring that people with disability have opportunities to participate in society and develop and strengthen connections within our community. Being engaged in the community and connecting with others is important for health and wellbeing and is essential for all people. But it is particularly important that we ensure that this is the case for people with disability, who often experience greater isolation and marginalisation and poorer health outcomes than other Australians.

One way we can do this is through the connect and participate expo, known as CAP expo, which will be held this Saturday, 24 March, at the Old Bus Depot building in Kingston. The CAP expo aims to link people to activities that are happening in their own local community. Now in its fifth year, the expo is a partnership between the Community Services Directorate and non-government organisations, demonstrating a shared commitment to social inclusion.

As a free event, the expo will open doors to new opportunities for all Canberrans. For the convenience of volunteers, stallholders and attendees, Transport Canberra will operate an accessible shuttle bus, allowing people to park at Windsor Walk car park in Brisbane Avenue and travel to the event. Parking will also be available at the venue.

The CAP expo showcases the depth of community activity and connections that make Canberra such an inclusive city. All of these connections are built around what people like, what they are good at and a willingness to get involved. People attending can watch performances, hear live music, participate in “come and try” activities or simply talk with people from a wide variety of groups to find out what they might be interested in. I encourage all members to attend, and look forward to another successful CAP expo on Saturday.

**MS ORR:** Minister, what sort of groups and organisations can we expect to see at CAP expo?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Orr for seeking further information about this wonderful event. With over 100 stallholders, the CAP expo will have something for everyone. There will be a broad range of interest groups and social clubs, including sport, recreation and dance troupes; choirs; art and craft clubs; and special interest groups.

I have heard people refer to CAP expo as O week for adults, although I would like to clarify that political stalls are not invited. If you think of an activity, chances are there is a community group out there doing it together. All the community groups represented would welcome new members and new interest.

Groups on display at the CAP expo on Saturday include Kung Fu Wushu ACT, which will demonstrate concrete and wood breaking; Bellyup Bellydance, a family-friendly performance group that share their love of belly dance with women of all ages and abilities; and the ACT Companion Dog Club, which will perform a choreographed routine by handlers and their dogs.

Other groups represented at the expo include volunteering for the environment; the Canberra Calligraphy Society; 501st Legion Southern Garrison, a Star Wars cosplay group; Jumptown Swing; the Canberra Irish Language Association; the Canberra College of Piping and Drumming, who were playing out in Civic Square earlier, and apologies to those who were inconvenienced by that; Music for Canberra; the Ukulele Republic of Canberra; Table Tennis ACT; Canberra Bike Polo; the Canberra Bulls Motorcycle Speedway Club; and many more.

To keep attendees well satisfied, food and drink will be available at the expo and throughout the day local comedian, disability activist and feminist Laura Campbell will MC the event.

**MS CHEYNE:** Minister, what other support is available to promote and support the inclusion of people with disability in our community?

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I thank Ms Cheyne for her supplementary question and her ongoing interest in this issue. The ACT government provides a range of programs and services to promote and support the inclusion of people with disability in the Canberra community. This is because we recognise and value all Canberrans as part of our unique city.

Members will be familiar with the companion card program which enables people with disability who require assistance to get out and about to more easily participate in events and activities by making two tickets for the price of one concession available at affiliated businesses. This program continues to grow in the ACT, with the recent addition of a significant number of Canberra businesses becoming affiliates.

This year the ACT Inclusion Council, in partnership with the ACT government and the Canberra Business Chamber, is focusing on economic security through increased employment of people with disability. The council aims to expand options for employment in the private sector by addressing and overcoming barriers to employing people with disability.

In 2017 the first disability inclusion grant round attracted half a million dollars worth of applications from business and community to create a better and more inclusive society. We watch the progress of the successful applicants with great interest, and I look forward to announcing the 2018 grant round.

In addition, the new ACT disability commitment will be developed this year in partnership with the community. I look forward to the work, ideas and innovations that come from this space which will take us those next steps to becoming a truly inclusive community where all people belong, connect and fully participate. Watch this space, Madam Speaker.

### **Roads—Ashley Drive**

**MS LAWDER:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, in the 2012 election then Chief Minister Katy Gallagher committed

ACT Labor to upgrading Ashley Drive, scheduling completion for 2015-16. After failing to deliver on this, you again promised to upgrade Ashley Drive during the 2016 election, or at least part of it before finally agreeing to the full duplication. You announced it would be completed in 2017. We are now at the end of March 2018. Minister, is the Ashley Drive duplication on time and on budget?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** Yes, the Ashley Drive duplication is scheduled to be completed in about a month, at around the end of April. I believe, yes, it is on budget.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, were there any ActewAGL pipes that needed to be re-laid as a result of the duplication of Ashley Drive and, if so, who is responsible for the cost of the re-laying?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** Yes, I am aware that there were utilities that needed to be moved. I will clarify and come back to the Assembly on which particular utility. That would be the responsibility of the project. Therefore, it would have been a cost that the government would have borne but of course we are needing to work very closely with the utility owner.

**MR STEEL:** Minister, what are the benefits of the Ashley Drive duplication for people on the south side?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** Like a number of other road projects around the territory, this road duplication provides considerable benefit for motorists and also for those catching public transport, notably buses. The road duplication of Ashley Drive has also included significant pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, including a new pedestrian bridge, noise walls near local residents and upgrading of important intersections, which also significantly improves safety.

### **Health—cancer patients**

**MRS KIKKERT:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, cancer patients in Canberra's hospitals often face large out-of-pocket expenses including for medication, transportation, surgical clothing, braces and special diets. Many patients also quit their work or go on leave without pay while undergoing treatment. What support does the ACT government provide cancer patients and other people with serious conditions to assist with out-of-pocket expenses?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** There is a range of ways that the ACT government assists cancer patients, notably through the Canberra Region Cancer Centre. I will take the specific question on notice.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Minister, does the government have an understanding of what the total out-of-pocket costs are for cancer patients? If so, would you please provide that information to the Assembly?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** Yes, I will.

**MR COE:** Minister, what support do other jurisdictions provide to cancer patients to assist with out-of-pocket expenses, and what plans does the ACT government have to improve the current level of support offered?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I cannot comment on other jurisdictions right now, but I can take the question on notice. I am certainly aware that other jurisdictions have agreements with the commonwealth that assist in this, and that is something the ACT government is also exploring.

### **Planning—O'Malley**

**MR HANSON:** My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. Minister, recently, constituents have raised concerns about the government's intention to amalgamate blocks 23 and 24 of section 31 in O'Malley and the adjacent car park for redevelopment. The planning website states that the land is suitable for CFZ zoning. We have been informed by residents that the proposal has been delayed. The website has not been updated, however, and the community remains uncertain as to the future of the land in their suburb. Minister, can you provide the community an update on this proposal?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I will have to take the details of that on notice. I do not have anything in front of me that would provide an update for the Assembly. But as soon as I can get some information I will bring it back to the chamber.

**MR HANSON:** Minister, in doing so, can you rule out any public housing on this site?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** No.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, is this site part of the asset recycling program used to fund light rail?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** No, Madam Speaker.

### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm**

**MR MILLIGAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, on 13 February I asked you in this chamber to report on the number of clients who have been treated at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm since it opened in August 2017. You took the question on notice and responded in writing on 10 March. In your response you stated that you were unable to report the exact numbers as the clients could be easily identified and that there were risks of exposing confidentiality. Minister, I am not asking for names or any identifying details. Can you state precisely how many clients have been treated at this facility?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I thank Mr Milligan for the question. It is on the advice of ACT Health that I cannot state exactly the number of clients that were part of—

**Mr Coe:** Give us a ballpark, then.

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I think in my reply I indicated that it was up to 10, but I will clarify that and come back to the Assembly.

**MR MILLIGAN:** Minister, why has it been so difficult to get an exact response from the Health Directorate as to the number of clients that have been treated at the facility?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** For the reason outlined in my response to Mr Milligan, which I believe he read out in his first question, which was: to maintain patient privacy.

**MS LEE:** Minister, what has been occurring at the facility since the first and only program ceased in December 2017?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** Ongoing management of the facility and work with the partners who are delivering services there and, in particular, the development of an ACT healing framework, which is an important component of the work that will underpin the ongoing work of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm. Applicants to participate in the second round are currently being sought, and I look forward to ACT Health welcoming them in the very near future.

### **Government—land sales**

**MR PARTON:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, I refer to an analysis by former Chief Minister Jon Stanhope and former senior ACT treasury official Khalid Ahmed in the *Canberra Times* of 5 March 2018. Mr Stanhope and Mr Ahmed said:

The gross profit margin, which is profit on land sales activities after deducting costs, is forecast at 72.7 per cent of the total sales revenue in 2017-18 ... the gross profit margin target was 21.3 per cent in 2009-10 ... The more than threefold increase in profit margin cannot be accidental ...

Why has the ACT government's gross profit margin on land sales more than tripled?

**MS BERRY:** On the actual maths regarding the reasons why it has tripled, it is because the price of housing in the ACT has risen.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MS BERRY:** Well, it has risen, and there are a number of things that the ACT government is doing to develop a housing policy in the ACT that will make a difference around making sure that people can get into homes and that their homes remain affordable.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MS BERRY:** Madam Speaker, this morning there was a very meaningful conversation in this place about bullying, yet the opposition continue to laugh and make snide comments while people are trying to respond in answer to questions.

I know Mr Parton is interested in this. I know Mr Stanhope is very interested in this as well. Mr Stanhope thinks that his plan was the only plan. His plan had some good things in it; it did have some good things in it. We want to build on the work that Mr Stanhope did and make it even better, because things have changed. The ACT government has made some significant changes, particularly around stamp duty, which will make a difference and make housing more affordable.

**MR PARTON:** Minister, why is the ACT government exploiting its monopoly on land by having a gross profit margin of 73 per cent?

**MS BERRY:** I would have to suggest that I would much rather that the profit for land sales in the ACT is owned by the community and not by the private sector. That is my view.

**MR COE:** Minister, how can it be that your government's plan to triple rates, triple the gross profit margin and perhaps triple the AUV—

**Mr Gentleman:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. Preamble. It is a supplementary question.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** The question is in order. It is more than a simple, single question, though. Mr Coe, continue.

**MR COE:** How can it be that the government's method of tripling rates, tripling the gross profit margin and perhaps tripling the AUV is somehow assisting with housing affordability?

**MS BERRY:** The ACT has had a plan for some time under the Chief Minister and Treasurer for making some bold and courageous reforms in tax in the ACT that will make a difference. What the ACT needs, and what the rest of the country needs, is for the federal government to be bold and courageous as well, and make tax reforms around negative gearing which will make a difference to the affordability of housing in the ACT.

### **Childhood sexual abuse—redress scheme**

**MS CHEYNE:** My question is to the Attorney-General. Attorney, what are the next steps for the ACT now that the government is opting in to the commonwealth redress scheme for survivors of childhood sexual abuse?

**MR RAMSAY:** I thank Ms Cheyne for the question. The establishment of a redress scheme was a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. We are working to ensure that the scheme, which will begin operating on 1 July this year, meets the needs of survivors and assists in their long-term recovery.

The ACT opting in means that eligible survivors from the ACT will now have access to counselling and psychological services, as well as monetary payments of up to \$150,000, and will also receive a direct personal response from the institution where the abuse occurred.

Opting in means that survivors of child sexual abuse that occurred in institutions under the responsibility of the ACT, for example in government schools or out-of-home care, are able to access the scheme. Now that the ACT government has committed to the scheme, I urge non-government institutions operating in the territory to follow our lead and opt in as well.

**MS CHEYNE:** Attorney, how has the ACT government contributed to the development of the commonwealth redress scheme?

**MR RAMSAY:** I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. The ACT government has been vocal and very active in recommending a scheme that achieves what the royal commission recommended in terms of redress. We have actively engaged to ensure that appropriate counselling, appropriate support and appropriate monetary payment are available as part of the redress scheme.

Much of the scheme's detail is still to be finalised. This past Monday I met with my state and territory counterparts to work with them on ensuring that the scheme meets the needs of survivors and is broadly accessible to all victims of institutional child sexual abuse.

The ACT government's position has been clear, which is that all survivors should be treated equally under the scheme. Survivors who have criminal records are also survivors who have endured horrible abuse themselves. I wholeheartedly support the view that there should not be two classes of survivor under the scheme. We expect that the position on any exclusions from the redress scheme will be settled within the coming weeks.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Minister, how does the creation of a redress scheme support the government's plans to implement the royal commission's recommendations in other areas?

**MR RAMSAY:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the supplementary question. The ACT's decision to become one of the first jurisdictions to opt in to the national redress scheme is yet another way in which the ACT is leading the way in addressing the findings and the recommendations of the royal commission. The ACT has been a leader in adopting survivor-focused criminal laws.

The use of pre-recorded evidence in child sexual assault trials was introduced in 2008 and it has since been expanded to all sexual assault matters. This important change, one that the royal commission recommended that all jurisdictions should pursue, means that survivors are protected from the further trauma that is often engaged in in the court process. I note that we discussed the importance of this legislation in the Assembly in a motion yesterday.

Today I released material outlining what the ACT now needs to consider in terms of the royal commission's criminal justice report. I look forward to hearing views from a wide range of people in the community to help shape this legislative reform. Our reforms will focus on ensuring that criminal law and processes in the ACT are fair to survivors of sexual abuse, witnesses involved in the court processes and those accused of offences.

Members of the public who would like to be involved in this can access the fact sheets and the questions on which we are consulting from the government's your say website.

### **Health—childhood flu vaccination program**

**MR PETTERSSON:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister provide an overview of the ACT government's recently announced flu vaccination for children aged up to five years?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** I thank Mr Pettersson for the question. The ACT government is introducing a childhood flu vaccination program that will provide a free flu vaccine to all children aged between six months and five years. The free vaccine will be available either directly through general practitioners or through ACT Health early childhood immunisation clinics from next month in time for the start of this year's flu season.

Flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus. It is spread from person to person by virus-containing droplets that are produced during coughing or sneezing. Flu can cause very serious complications, such as pneumonia and even death in otherwise healthy people, although the risk is higher for people with underlying medical conditions and children under the age of five. The flu vaccine reduces the chance of getting the flu and suffering its potentially serious complications.

Flu vaccination in young children under five years has been shown to reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalisation and the potential for death in this group in our community. Young children can also contribute significantly to flu transmission in the community and vaccination of this age group can provide protection to the broader community.

**MR PETTERSSON:** Can the minister outline how this vaccination will be rolled out?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** This program will start next month, just as the seasonal flu vaccines become available to our community. Parents and carers will be able to access the vaccine through their child's usual immunisation provider, whether that be a regular GP or through ACT Health's early childhood immunisation clinics. Children in this age group receiving the flu vaccine for the first time require two doses a minimum of four weeks apart.



Eligible kids attending ACT Health early childhood immunisation clinics for their national immunisation program scheduled vaccinations will be offered the flu vaccine. Specific flu clinics have also been set up to accommodate children in this age group where a scheduled vaccine is due. The clinics will commence offering appointments, including for the vaccine, from 16 April, and the community health intake line is currently taking appointment bookings for these clinics.

From the beginning of April, ACT Health will be delivering a base stock of vaccines for the ACT childhood influenza vaccination program to our general practices. These deliveries will include promotional materials, including posters and information pamphlets. Once GPs have stock in their fridge, they can commence administering the vaccine to kids.

**MS CODY:** Minister, why is this a priority for the ACT government at this time?

**MS FITZHARRIS:** The government is taking very proactive measures this year to protect babies and young children from the flu, and through them the wider community.

Last year's flu season, as we know, was larger and lasted longer than any influenza season in the previous five years and since the 2009 pandemic year. Sadly, we saw deaths in our own community. Children under five were most affected by the 2017 flu season here in the ACT. Two out of every 100 children aged less than five years were notified to ACT Health with the flu during 2017.

A yearly flu vaccine is the best way to reduce the risk of getting sick with the flu and spreading it to others, and the need for hospitalisation and potentially life-threatening pneumonia. This is why the government is making this vaccine available free to children up to five. A number of other Australian state governments have also recognised the need to protect young children and have announced funding for free flu vaccinations for children under five years commencing in 2018, including New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. I also welcome the commonwealth's announcement of providing a special flu vaccination to those Australians over 65.

### **Government—international engagement policy**

**MS CODY:** My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, can you please outline how the ACT government is continuing to grow and develop links with New Zealand, particularly with our sister city Wellington, in line with the international engagement strategy?

**MR BARR:** I thank Ms Cody for the question. I can advise that I attended the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum in Sydney earlier in the month, primarily to promote aviation connections between Canberra and New Zealand. New Zealand is the largest inbound market for visitors to Australia but sits at number five for the ACT. This, along with our shared history, the opportunities for Canberra businesses and cultural exchanges, has driven the ACT government's strategy to form closer links with New Zealand and particularly Wellington. Resuming a Canberra to

New Zealand flight is one of our key economic development priorities in the New Zealand relationship.

**MS CODY:** Chief Minister, how will you continue to develop the sister city relationship with Wellington when the direct Singapore Airlines service ends in May?

**MR BARR:** I met with our incoming High Commissioner, Ewen McDonald, and outlined the ACT government's ongoing priorities. We will continue to engage directly with the Wellington City Council and their Regional Economic Development Agency through the Commissioner for International Engagement and, indeed, with ministerial colleagues directly visiting New Zealand. The Deputy Chief Minister is leaving for New Zealand this afternoon to progress a range of opportunities in her portfolio areas. We will continue to host the very successful Canberra Week in Wellington.

**MR STEEL:** Chief Minister, what role will the Commissioner for International Engagement and other ministers play in continuing to develop the closer relationships with New Zealand and Wellington?

**MR BARR:** The commissioner continues to drive the engagement agenda with our key international partners, hosting inbound delegations, working with the diplomatic community in Canberra and undertaking and supporting trade delegations outbound. The commissioner recently met with a range of key stakeholders in Wellington to continue progressing the actions in our sister city agreement.

The commissioner continues to meet with a range of key stakeholders in the Wellington City Council as well as Wellington airport and New Zealand aviation authorities and a range of key arts organisations to meet the key items of our sister city agreement. Cultural exchanges that connect the arts communities and event development in national institutions are part of that agreement. There is no doubt that the enduring success of this relationship is due in large part to the hard work and enthusiasm of the commissioner.

On that happy note, I ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.

## **Leave of absence**

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

That leave of absence be granted to Miss C Burch for this sitting due to illness.

## **Estimates 2018-2019—Select Committee Membership**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I have been notified in writing of the following nominations for membership of the Select Committee on Estimates 2018-2019: Ms Cheyne, Ms Le Couteur, Ms Lee, Ms Orr and Mr Wall.

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

That the Members so nominated be appointed as members of the Select Committee on Estimates 2018-2019.

## **Rail safety national law national regulations Papers 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) (3.16): For the information of members, I present the following papers:

Rail Safety National Law—

Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees and Returns) Variation Regulations 2017 (2017 No 257), together with an explanatory statement.

Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Miscellaneous) Variation Regulations 2017 (2017 No 258), together with an explanatory statement.

Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Queensland Fatigue Provisions) Variation Regulations 2017 (2017 No 259), together with an explanatory statement—

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

Leave granted.

**MR RATTENBURY:** Today I am tabling the rail safety national law national regulations I just outlined. I will not repeat all the titles. The rail safety national law is adopted in the ACT through the Rail Safety National Law (ACT) Act 2014 and includes the Rail Safety National Law National Regulations 2012.

Section 7 of the Rail Safety National Law (ACT) Act 2014 provides that any amendment to the national rail safety law national regulations must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Regulations under the rail safety national law are agreed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council, passed through the South Australian parliament and published on the New South Wales legislation register. The publication of the amendment regulations on the New South Wales legislation register means that the regulations are also notified on that date for the purposes of their application in the ACT.

The amendments are minor and technical in nature and give effect to annual fee increases and changes to reporting obligations on rail operators to the National Rail Safety Regulator. The National Rail Safety Regulator routinely consults all operators when developing proposed fee variations and changes in reporting obligations.

The Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees and Returns) Variation Regulations 2017 increase the annual fees payable by a rail transport operator in

accordance with the cost recovery model agreed to by the Transport and Infrastructure Council. They also amend the information required to be provided by a rail transport operator to monthly rather than some monthly and some annually.

The Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Miscellaneous) Variation Regulations 2017 increase the application fee for applications for accreditation where the operation is a complex operation. They also introduce a major project fee designed to ensure that regulatory oversight of operations can be properly maintained as the number of major rail projects in Australia increases.

The Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Queensland Fatigue Provisions) Variation Regulations 2017 facilitated Queensland's adoption of the Rail Safety National Law from 1 July 2017 by including specific fatigue provisions for Queensland. These amendments maintained the provisions in place in Queensland before it adopted the rail safety national law. This approach was taken with New South Wales when it adopted the rail safety national law. Inclusion of these provisions in the rail safety national law national regulations allows all provisions relating to fatigue nationally to be in one piece of legislation. Explanatory statements have been prepared for each of the regulations I am tabling.

## Papers

**Mr Rattenbury** presented the following papers:

Heavy Vehicle National law as applied by the law of States and Territories—

Heavy Vehicle (General) National Amendment Regulation (2016 No 261), together with an explanatory statement.

Heavy Vehicle National Amendment Regulation 2017 (2017 No 329), together with an explanatory statement.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—Review of the Opioid Replacement Treatment Program—Report of the ACT Health Services Commissioner, dated March 2018.

**Ms Fitzharris** presented the following paper:

Ginninderra Drive—Tillyard Drive and Tillyard Drive—Lhotsky Street—Intersection upgrades report, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 21 February 2018.

## Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

### Report 4—government response

**MS FITZHARRIS** (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (3.20): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Report  
4—*Management of ACT Cemeteries*—Government response.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

I am pleased to present the government response to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services report 4 of 2017, titled *Management of ACT Cemeteries* which addresses the management of cemeteries in the ACT. The committee's report highlights the diverse community we have in Canberra and the importance of ensuring that the needs and preferences of this diverse community are met when it comes to burial, interment and cremation services and the memorialisation of our loved ones.

We have also listened to community concerns about where cemeteries should be located in our city and the government has decided not to proceed with the expansion of the Woden cemetery. The government will continue to explore the option of southern memorial park to ensure that a full range of burial and interment services can be provided across Canberra. This is consistent with the committee's findings.

The government agrees with the committee that a second crematorium is needed in the ACT to meet demand, provide competition and ensure that all members of our community can have their cremation needs met in line with cultural, religious and other needs and preferences. The government will give further consideration to options for a second crematorium in the ACT that services all members of the Canberra community.

In addition, the ACT government agrees with the standing committee's recommendation to continue to monitor community preferences across a range of burial, cremation and interment practices and consider how to appropriately act on changing trends. The government will continue to take positive action in this regard.

In total the committee made 12 recommendations and the government has agreed to or noted each of these recommendations. Consistent with the committee's findings, the government is committed to providing for the burial, cremation and interment needs of all Canberrans into the future and to a review of the current legislation governing cemeteries and cremations to best achieve this end.

This legislative review will be undertaken with extensive and sensitive community consultation so that people can have their say. The review of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act will include consideration of current tenure arrangements for burials to ensure that we have a sustainable governance model for managing our cemeteries into the future that also meet the needs and expectations of our community. The review will comprehensively cover the matters recommended by the committee.

A legislative review will also be undertaken in conjunction with the ACT Cemeteries Authority, recognising the important role the authority plays in managing and

operating cemeteries in the ACT. I thank the authority for their work contributing to this important process. I also thank the committee and its chair, Ms Orr, for its report, and I commend the government response to the Assembly.

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (3.23): I want to rise as a member for Murrumbidgee and say how pleased I am that the Woden cemetery will not be expanding but, in fact, that the southern memorial park is going to be progressed. There is a very limited amount of open green recreational space in the middle of Woden.

It is anticipated that Woden's population is going to increase considerably. There are quite a number of large multi-unit developments, either recently completed or in the planning, and I think it is very appropriate that that space be reserved for the living, not the dead, in the centre of Woden—I could not miss that, I am afraid. And I look forward to the further discussion about tenure options for cemeteries because I think that it is one of the conversations that Canberra, as we grow, will have to have.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Blueprint for youth justice in the ACT 2012-22—progress report**

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

Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22—Progress Report 2012-17,  
dated March 2018.

I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

**MS STEPHEN-SMITH:** I am pleased to table the five-year progress report on the blueprint for youth justice in the ACT 2012-22, which provides evidence that early intervention, prevention and diversion strategies are leading to better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

As members of the Assembly would be aware, the blueprint is a 10-year strategy that provides a framework for youth justice reform through early intervention, prevention and diversion of young people from the youth justice system. Last year, as we approached the midpoint of the blueprint, I announced the establishment of a new blueprint taskforce comprising key community and government representatives who will use the progress report to consult with the ACT community and advise me on the key priorities for the next five years of the blueprint.

Midway through the blueprint, the progress report shows that we are on the right track to achieve the aim of the blueprint to positively impact on the high rates of youth recidivism, detention and remand and the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system that were previously in place. Since 2011-12, the number of young people coming into contact or being further involved with the youth justice system has significantly reduced and for most of this period we have seen fewer young people in detention.

Overall, headline indicators in the progress report show that since the implementation of the blueprint, the rate of youth offending has reduced by 60 per cent from 2011-12 to 2016-17, to the lowest level nationally; the number of young people apprehended by ACT Policing has decreased by 39 per cent from 2011-12 to 2015-16; the number of young people under youth justice supervision has decreased by 32 per cent from 2011-12 to 2015-16, and by 31 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people; the number of young people in detention has decreased by 42 per cent from 2011-12 to 2015-16, and by 48 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people; and the number of nights young people spent in detention has reduced by 53 per cent from 2011-12 to 2016-17, and by 71 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

This mid-term progress report uses the most recent cleansed and nationally reported data available at time of publication, which is why some indicators are able to include trend data up until 2016-17 while most include data to 2015-16. Alignment with the publication of national youth justice data sets will be a priority for the next progress report.

Contributing to this success over the past five years have been initiatives including the after-hours crisis and bail service, evidence-based practice and single case management in youth services, the integration of child and youth protection services, restorative justice practices and support for young people to transition from detention back into the community, such as Narrabundah house.

I am particularly pleased that the progress report shows that the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the ACT youth justice system has reduced over the past five years, the only jurisdiction in Australia where this has occurred.

These results affirm that the blueprint's focus on early intervention, prevention and diversion is sound policy and practice. But there is more work to do to ensure that children, young people and their families in our community are safe, strong and connected.

As we move into the next five years of the blueprint, I am conscious of the continuing and emerging challenges that need to be addressed. The progress report outlines the emerging challenges identified by the blueprint taskforce, including the need to better support young people with disability and mental health concerns who come into contact with the youth justice system; making sure we turn young lives around at the earliest opportunity; and continuing to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system.

In addition, I note a recent sharp increase in the number of young people in detention that occurred between December 2016 and June 2017 and has since remained well above the 2016 numbers. This is something I noted in announcing the establishment of the blueprint taskforce, and we believe that this development requires close monitoring to determine causal factors and whether this is an episodic fluctuation or an emerging trend.

To address these challenges, evidence supports well-designed early intervention to promote the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. The early intervention by design project currently being undertaken by the human services cluster of directorates aims to establish a more sustainable, flexible and responsive human services system that identifies vulnerabilities, responds early and effectively targets resources based on need.

Over the next phase of the blueprint, I want to ensure that we prioritise early intervention approaches and continue to draw on evidence about what works, including from the experience of other states and territories. In that context, the blueprint taskforce will, of course, consider any relevant recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

We will also learn from our own experiences. As the progress report makes clear in the section entitled “What did we do?” there is significant ongoing reform across government and in partnership with the community. This reflects our commitment to ensuring that we continue to improve outcomes for children and young people who are at risk of involvement with youth justice or who come into contact with the youth justice system.

In the “What are our emerging challenges?” section, the report also highlights work to test new approaches and develop new related strategies. The Community Services Directorate’s pilot of family group conferencing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families is part of our commitment to embedding restorative practice across the child and youth protection system. ACT Corrective Services has co-facilitated the Shine for Kids program at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and parenting programs to help to address the particular challenge of intergenerational transmission of criminal offending. At the same time, the Yarrabi Bamirr justice reinvestment trial, being conducted by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate in partnership with Winnunga Nimmityjah, is supporting at-risk families to co-design family plans to become self-managing, healthy and safe. The government is also committed to the development of a disability justice strategy to ensure that people with disability, including young people, are treated equally before the law.

The blueprint taskforce will use this progress report as the basis for gathering further research and evidence, including through consulting with key stakeholders in the community to confirm our key challenges and priority areas for work over the next five years of the blueprint. I anticipate that the blueprint taskforce will report to me in mid-2018 with their advice, and I look forward to updating the Assembly on the outcomes of this work in due course.



Madam Assistant Speaker, the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is a critical part of the youth justice system in the ACT and will undoubtedly form a critical part of the blueprint taskforce's considerations. I acknowledge the significant interest in Bimberi's operation and performance, and since coming into this role have made a firm commitment to be as transparent as possible in relation the youth justice centre. As part of this commitment, I will be tabling today the first headline indicators report for Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. This is the first of these reports and provides baseline 2016-17 data for measures in three areas: demographics; safety and security; and programs, education and community engagement.

In keeping with my commitment to keeping the Assembly informed about an issue that has been of significant interest over the past year, the report includes data from the first half of 2017-18. It is important to note that the report includes unpublished data which has not been cleansed by an external agency, so it may not be comparable with data from youth justice centres in other jurisdictions, and the numbers may not match up entirely with subsequent national data releases. Caution should therefore be used when interpreting data in this baseline report, particularly in seeking to make comparisons with other data sources. The report also relies on operational data that is extracted through a manual count. A new client information system currently in development will allow for the improved extraction of data in the future.

I anticipate that the regular publication of the indicators report will support analysis of trends over time to continue to drive improved practice in Bimberi and better outcomes for children, young people and their families. As I have said before, I am committed to being as transparent as possible about Bimberi's operation and performance, and this report will enhance the existing mechanisms providing robust oversight of Bimberi.

Currently these oversight mechanisms include the ACT Human Rights Commission and two official visitors, one of whom is a designated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Official Visitor. Within the next two years, Bimberi will also be overseen by the newly established Inspector of Correctional Services through a phased implementation approach which will take account of the unique needs of children and young people.

Keeping children and young people safe while in Bimberi is crucial, so one of the headline indicators included in the report is the number of operational lockdowns. An operational lockdown at Bimberi is when a decision has been made to secure all, or some, young people in their rooms for a period of time. This action is taken to ensure the safety of young people and staff at Bimberi and is based on a number of factors, including the number of young people in Bimberi at the time; cohorts of young people and their risk classification co-offenders, gender, age, victims and social dynamics; and the number of staff on site to accommodate the number of young people.

The decision to undertake an operational lockdown is not taken lightly and can be authorised only by a member of the senior management team. During a lockdown, while in their rooms, young people have access to television, reading and educational material. Lockdowns occur for the minimum amount of time possible to ensure the safe operation of Bimberi. The report shows that 34 operational lockdowns occurred

in 2016-17, with 95 operational lockdowns in the first half of 2017-18. The increase in young people in Bimberi during 2017 and higher staffing needs are certainly one factor that has influenced the number of lockdowns. As members would understand, the very low numbers of young people in Bimberi in 2015 and 2016 led to a reduced call on the use of casual staff. Understandably, some of those staff found other employment and were therefore not available to support the increased numbers of young people that we have seen since the second quarter of 2017.

To reduce the need for operational lockdowns, active recruitment processes for Bimberi have been ongoing. A comprehensive recruitment strategy is assisting Bimberi in recruiting suitable and qualified applicants for youth worker roles. The recruitment process includes a written application, psychometric assessment, comprehensive health screening and an interview. Following the comprehensive induction session, six new youth workers commenced at Bimberi in August 2017 and a further two in November. More recently, the directorate commissioned an extensive advertising campaign. An information session held in early March this year attracted strong interest, with 148 applications received from potential candidates. I am pleased to report that 12 new recruits commenced their seven-week induction program last week. I look forward to Bimberi welcoming new youth workers to these challenging but very rewarding roles.

While the report includes measures relating to safety and security, it also has a strong focus on education, programs and community engagement, because the core purpose of Bimberi is rehabilitation, providing young people with the supports and services they need to turn their lives around. Young people in detention at Bimberi are supported to maintain engagement in education, build and maintain family ties and develop the living skills they need to reintegrate successfully in the community. The Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre at Bimberi provides a range of education and vocational programs, including recognised certificate programs, tutoring and transitional support back into the community through an individualised and tailored approach. Since 2007, 169 young people have received nationally recognised qualifications through the education centre in a variety of areas such as construction, hospitality, business, horticulture and fitness, as well as year 10 and year 12 certificates.

I am passionate about ensuring that we have a youth justice system that is rehabilitative and provides opportunities for young people. I wish to thank all the people who work tirelessly to support some of our most vulnerable children and young people: the youth workers, teachers, health workers, management and many staff of non-government organisations that engage with the young people in Bimberi every week.

I look forward to receiving the report of the blueprint taskforce to guide the direction of our work for the next five years of the blueprint.

## **Paper**

**Ms Stephen-Smith** presented the following paper:

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—Bimberi Headline Indicators Report March 2018.

## Libraries

### Discussion of matter of public importance

**MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER** (Ms Cody): Madam Speaker has received letters from Ms Cheyne, Ms Cody, Mr Hanson, Ms Lawder, Ms Lee, Ms Orr, Mr Pettersson and Mr Steel proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, Madam Speaker has determined that the matter proposed by Ms Lawder be submitted to the Assembly for discussion, namely:

The importance of libraries in the ACT.

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (3.39): I am very pleased to speak about libraries today and the importance of libraries in the ACT. Without wishing to pre-empt any of the discussion, I imagine it is going to be one of those times where we are all in furious agreement about the importance of this particular topic and their place in their community.

We have nine branch public libraries and the ACT Heritage Library. There are a number of school libraries and of course we have the parliamentary libraries located here in the ACT. Our branch libraries are Belconnen, Civic, Dickson, Erindale, Gungahlin, Kingston, Kippax, Tuggeranong and Woden. They vary in size: large ones such as Gungahlin, medium ones such as Belconnen and small ones like Kingston. As far back as 1913 we started library services in the ACT, originally as part of the National Library of Australia and then from 1935 a lending service from a building erected on Kings Avenue.

Our total physical book collection is just under 564,000 books. In a large library like Gungahlin there are about 60,700 books. A medium library like Belconnen may have more or fewer, and a small library will have many fewer, perhaps 10,000 to 15,000 books. In 2016-17, 1,815,010 physical loans were undertaken, and 380,653 electronic loans. The total number of e-books the library holds is 13,273. They also have nearly 7,000 e and audio books. These e-books and audio books allow for accessibility, because they are searchable and downloadable on the library webpage and the mobile app. They allow accessibility for people who may not be able to physically attend a library or choose not to physically attend a library, but this does require that they use some form of technology in order to access them. Libraries also provide computer equipment for the public to use. There are 89 computers; there are 15 at Gungahlin, 14 at Belconnen and five at Kingston. ACT libraries subscribe to 37 databases.

Libraries, of course, are much more than books. They provide services to a wide range of different demographics within our population. An example not everyone may have thought of is the services they provide to people who may be experiencing homelessness. They can be comfortable spaces to be in during the day where it is warm and dry and they do not have to purchase anything in order to stay there. They have access to the library collection to give them things to do during the day. They can also potentially access information about homelessness support services. Over the

winter there was a “take one, leave one” coat rack project run by ANU students where people could leave free coats. They provide learning and interest programs on a range of topics. With increasing awareness of the potential to provide connections and support to people experiencing homelessness, there is more knowledge about them. Libraries are partnering with service providers to help raise awareness of the services and welcome people experiencing homelessness to the library.

For many people experiencing homelessness, the personal connection with someone at a library can be far more valuable than you may imagine. It may be one of their few personal interactions with another human being during the course of that day. I am sure you are all aware that in many instances where you see a person experiencing homelessness, perhaps on the street, the reaction of many people is to look away, not make eye contact and not engage in conversation. It can be a very isolating experience for a person who is already suffering from a range of complex issues.

Another area is the services for parents and babies: for mothers, fathers, grandparents, carers and children generally. The branches have collections including board and picture books, parenting information and resourcing. They have community and parenting information displays and pamphlets. They are welcoming, comfortable and safe spaces with helpful staff. Parent groups can book a visit to the library, including a “giggle and wiggle” session. Giggle and wiggle is an early literacy program for children aged up to two years old and their carers. It is held weekly at seven of our library branches, with a total of 10 sessions per week. The average attendance at each session is 104 people. The total attendance in 2017 was 38,343, which is an excellent result.

Our libraries also offer community engagement, such as family literacy and multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coordinators. They often collaborate with community partners, government and non-government, supporting parents and carers of young children and focusing on parents and families with particular needs, such as those with disability or mental health needs, those who are culturally and linguistically diverse, people who are at risk, and young parents. The partners of the library programs include the child and family centres, the child development service, Kippax UnitingCare, Belconnen Community Service, Playgroups ACT, Navitas, Gudan Gulwan and Winnunga.

School libraries, which I mentioned earlier, are a vital and evolving part of learning. I know that my colleague Ms Lee is going to make some comments about school libraries specifically. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of teacher librarians.

In this place we are very well served by the Assembly library. I make special mention of Jan Bodoni and the rest of the team in our own Assembly library who provide us, the members, with a great range of support, including much of the information in my speech today and information and research relating to motions and bills that we undertake in this place. They are a great resource. Their work is very much appreciated.

In the Civic library a small range of Access Canberra services is available, although—I have written very recently to the minister about this—I have had some comments that there is not enough signage about the Access Canberra services at the library. People use Google Maps. They arrive in Civic Square and then they are not quite sure where to go. A number of those people end up asking at the front entry of the Assembly where the Access Canberra services are. There are some there at the library. It would be good if we made the signage a little more visible or perhaps had better instructions on Google Maps. I am not quite sure how you would go about that.

I would like to mention another thing that perhaps not everyone would think about. The libraries often hold sales of books. This weekend, 24 and 25 March, there is a book sale at the Tuggeranong library. I encourage people to get down there and see if there are some books. I love books. I love physical books. Whilst I also subscribe to e-books and OverDrive from the ACT library service, for me nothing will replace physical books. I have walls of bookcases in my house.

Libraries traditionally have had a unique and vital place in research, education and enlightenment of the modern world. They are steeped in history and tradition. I love those photos you see on the web of fabulous libraries all around the world. There are some absolutely stunning and outstanding libraries. The challenge for us, including here in the ACT, is to be able to evolve to address changes in the modern digital world.

We have seen some of those changes recently here in the ACT Assembly, where we are moving to a more paperless approach. We have Assembly-provided iPads now. More and more that will become the case. In many cases our libraries are successfully embracing and adapting to change but they will need to continue that imaginative thinking.

I have recently written to the minister about the possibility of a new library to service the new Molonglo area in Woden/Weston, and I think I put a question on notice last sitting. I am looking forward to an answer from the minister on that. I am sure many people here utilise our libraries in one way or another, either the parliamentary libraries or more widely in our community. I certainly encourage you to continue to do so.

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (3.49): I stand today as the daughter of a librarian. I was probably one of the very few teenagers in the world whose mother classified all her books by Dewey decimal classification. She had the proper book, not software in her day. I can still remember her doing it. I am a huge fan of libraries and I am a huge fan of books, as Ms Lawder is. I must admit that I was an early adopter of the Kindle but it did not really do it for me; I actually like books. One thing I will say that does not agree with librarians is that I like a small paperback. It is the ideal size for reading in bed. But I know from my mother and other librarians that they wear out more quickly, so I appreciate why libraries support hardbacks, even though it is not my personal preference.

A lot of what I was going to say, Ms Lawder has already said. I agree basically with everything she has said, so I will try to make a few different observations. One statistic Ms Lawder missed out is that apparently about 65 per cent of us are members of the ACT library, which is great. The ACT library does some data cleansing every couple of years, so it is not just that you got a library card 10 million years ago and you are still on there. This is a real, living database of people who actually use the library services. Apparently we borrowed more than 2.5 million books last year, which is great.

I am very pleased that Woden, the library in the middle of the electorate of Murrumbidgee, is the most used public library in the ACT. It is probably going to become even more used. The upstairs which, when I was younger, was available for public use—I remember there were books up there—became the Heritage Library. The Heritage Library has got so big that it is moving down to Fyshwick, which will give more space for both the Heritage Library, which is great, and the library in Woden, which will be good from the point of view of an expanded collection and also expanded community use of the library.

One of the things we sometimes forget is that our libraries do things other than just curate books. Ms Lawder talked about their services for homeless people, which I was going to go into. I will not repeat all of that. But there are services not just for homeless people. The ACT Greens Murrumbidgee group currently meets at Woden library in one of the meeting rooms there. It is quite hard to find a meeting room that is not in a licensed club. I am not trying to enter here into the debate about pokies and licensed clubs, but it is really quite hard for anyone who tries to organise meetings to find reasonable locations. I have been to many meetings in many libraries throughout Canberra. This is one of the very valuable services that they provide.

One of the other nice things about Woden, and I am not sure whether this is true for all the other libraries, is that there is a cafe next to the library. There is an interconnecting door. I was brought up to think that you could never bring your drink or food into the library; that was absolutely verboten. But at Woden library, at any rate, you are encouraged to do this. You can get a cuppa or your lunch or you can take your book into the cafe without borrowing it, which is great if you just want to sit down and have a read for a bit. It is a wonderful service.

Another wonderful service is “little libraries”. Some of them are provided by the ACT government. I recently went to the opening of a little library in Wright, which was provided largely by the SLA’s mingle program. There are apparently 27 little libraries in Canberra. I am confident that that is an understatement. That is what the [streetlibrary.org.au](http://streetlibrary.org.au) website says but I am confident that that is undercounting, because I am aware of some little libraries which are not on it.

For those of you who have not had the privilege of interacting with a little library, these are very little libraries. They sometimes in a public space and sometimes, more frequently, on people’s front lawns. The public can access books there. They can take a book; they can bring a book. It is an informal library. There are no library cards and no periods; you borrow a book and, hopefully, return a book too. I think they are absolutely great fun.

One of the other great things about the ACT library service is that it is really moving with the times, as Ms Lawder has said. It is using IT really well. You can reserve online, you can see a list of new books online and, of course, you can get audio books and e-books. These are things that five or 10 years ago no-one would have thought our libraries would do.

I think that libraries in Australia started off largely as mechanics institutes. All the older towns and villages of Australia have mechanics institutes, which were designed to increase learning, the dissemination of information and community life. Libraries have followed on from that.

Ms Lawder mentioned giggle and wiggle, which is one of the ACT libraries' most loved and most popular programs. I contemplated a recommendation in the estimates report last year that this should be better funded, but it was felt that it was not appropriate to single out one particular program like this. It is a well-loved and massively over-subscribed service of the ACT libraries.

Being a Canberra resident, I should note that the ACT government is only one of the many providers of libraries here. We are very lucky. We have Australia's premier library: the National Library. As we all know, every book published in Australia has to give a couple of copies to the National Library. We could not be much luckier than to have that in the middle of our city. We also have a lot of universities, and every university has one library or, as in the case of ANU many libraries. And there are the school libraries, which are also great, although unfortunately generally not accessible to the public unless you happen to be a student at that particular school.

It is great that we are talking about libraries. They are a wonderful part of our communal life. I wish that they will continue to grow and prosper and that we can all enjoy them.

**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) (3.57): I thank Ms Lawder for bringing this matter of public importance to the Assembly. I think she is right that this is something we can all agree on: the importance of libraries in the ACT. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to talk about some of the great work that our wonderful ACT libraries do with our community, and I would particularly like to take time to highlight their work with children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and our multicultural community.

Libraries host regular visits from schools, childcare centres, disability groups, and community and social groups, as well as, of course, conducting outreach visits. As members would be aware, we are fortunate to have three child and family centres in the ACT, located in Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and west Belconnen. Child and family centres offer free services and support to families during the important early years of a child's life. And child and family centres work closely with Libraries ACT on a range of programs, activities and events for children.

There are some fantastic examples of this I would like to bring to the attention of members, beginning with how Libraries ACT donate books to the child and family centres, and the centres pass these books on to families to encourage home reading and the joy of sharing books. Child and family centres also promote libraries to families and encourage families to engage directly with these wonderful facilities in our community. For example, child and family centre staff share with families information about some of the great programs available at libraries, like giggle and wiggle, which Ms Lawder mentioned and which is aimed at children aged zero to two and their parents and carers, and story time, which is aimed at children aged three to five and their parents and carers. Each week these sessions attract more than 1,400 people to our libraries.

Some of the other programs at libraries for children and families include the nourishing little minds collaboration with Nutrition Australia, focusing on healthy eating and library engagement, and the story dogs program, which is a reading support program for children who are reluctant readers.

Child and family centres also take children to libraries as part of their programs. Children and their families participating in Tuggeranong child and family centre programs, as well as children participating in Koori preschool, regularly attend story time at Tuggeranong Library. Each year, all three child and family centres partner with other organisations to deliver tracks to reconciliation. For the west Belconnen event, the Kippax Library is a key partner. The celebration begins at the Kippax Library where stories are shared with families before moving to UnitingCare Kippax for activities, and then finishing the celebration at West Belconnen Child and Family Centre. Each site hosts an activity relevant to the theme of National Reconciliation Week. The Tuggeranong and Gungahlin child and family centres also have included their local libraries as part of their tracks to reconciliation events.

In May last year the west Belconnen Child and Family Centre Koori kids program participated in a long-term ICT program at the Kippax Library called deadly digital. The project aimed to increase access and promote awareness and use of Libraries ACT resources, especially digital technology, by the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The project successfully engaged children and their families, with the number of participants increasing during the program. Children accessed their local library to borrow books and DVDs, and children who are not members of the library subsequently joined up.

As well as promoting libraries and encouraging attendance at libraries, child and family centres bring libraries to them on occasion. For example, earlier this year child and family centres and Libraries ACT offered storytelling as part of a free holiday program that I was privileged to attend. This was great fun for children and also had the benefit of familiarising parents and carers with their local library and promoting library membership.

Libraries ACT has been attending the young parents group at West Belconnen Child and Family Centre to develop a rapport with the young parents, introduce children and their families to the services of Libraries ACT and promote positive exposure to early



literacy, such as craft-based literacy activities. Libraries ACT also attend a South Sudanese playgroup at West Belconnen Child and Family Centre where they collaborate on Dinka story times and the cyber safety story time programs. There is an Arabic playgroup at the Gungahlin Child and Family Centre. Also in Gungahlin, the library has been facilitating story sessions to playgroups organised by the Gungahlin Child and Family Centre, such as learning, giggle and grow, and one of our multicultural groups. The library also participated in the centre's growing healthy families health expo last year.

In relation to the work of libraries with children and young people, I would finally like to highlight an exciting new ongoing partnership between the child and family centres and libraries to develop the children's sanctuary during the National Multicultural Festival. The children's sanctuary, in its second year this year, provided a safe festival space at the Civic Library and Canberra Museum and Gallery for children and their families to play, create and take part in a range of cultural activities, including bilingual storytelling, multicultural craft and language activities. Both venues of the children's sanctuary were well attended and feedback from children and families was consistently positive. Comments received included:

My daughter loved the craft. The people are lovely. We're going to come next year if it is on. Keep up the good work.

And:

So many activities to choose from and good quality material. Air-con and water. We've been to many kids craft museum events and this was one of the best by far. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, talking about the children's sanctuary is a good way to conclude by mentioning the wonderful work libraries do with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural communities. Libraries regularly celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through lectures, workshops and story sessions, for example, Ngunnawal language story time, lectures on scar trees and their cultural importance, and dot painting and artefact-making workshops. NAIDOC Week later this year will feature an exhibition with photographs and interviews with 18 local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Libraries have developed digital literacy sessions for Gungan Gulwan's young men's group and held information sessions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, including the Murrumbidgee elders group and the Boomanulla Oval committee.

Libraries hold collections in more than 18 languages other than English, for example, an Arabic collection at Woden, a Senegalese collection at Gungahlin, Chinese collections at Dickson, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin, and a Bengali collection in Gungahlin. They also hold newspapers and magazines in community languages.

For people wanting to improve their English, libraries have an English-learning collection, and facilitate and host English language classes with regular sessions that include basic digital literacy. Libraries also hold bilingual storytelling once a month in languages including Mandarin, Hindi, Bengali and a public expression of interest has been realised to recruit storytellers from within other CALD communities.

Libraries also celebrate key days on the calendar, like International Mother Language Day and Harmony Day. Indeed, I recently attended the launch of 2018 Neighbour Day, which is coming up this Sunday, 25 March at Gungahlin Library. It was wonderful to see the students from Gungahlin College so at home in the public library space. And it was also wonderful to hear about the place of Gungahlin Library in the broader community, including a story that was shared by one of the librarians about an older man in the community who wrote a number of times to the library manager before he passed away expressing his thanks to Gungahlin Library and the staff there for providing him a place where he could connect with the community, somewhere he could come every day and feel part of his broader community. I think that echoes what Ms Lawder said about libraries being a place that truly embody social inclusion and community connection.

I thank Ms Lawder again for the opportunity to highlight the wonderful work of our libraries and particularly the work they do with children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and multicultural communities across our city.

**MS LEE** (Kurrajong) (4.06): Libraries are an important fixture in any community; however, they hold a special place in our schools. Libraries can be a portal to another world, a world where dragons guard gold, where gallant kings and queens fight evil warlords, where marvellous mechanical inventions can send you back in time or to another planet. It is where students study for school projects and for school exams. Just as much as it is an escape into a world of fiction, it is an avenue of facts and figures of history and science. It is where students can access the news and access technology to learn new skills and new information. It is a place of focus. It is a place of escape. It is a place of knowledge.

Only yesterday I spoke about my visit to St Bede's Primary School and getting the chance to walk through their terrific library. It is a small library given the small size of the school, but it is so much more than a room full of books. There is a quite space filled with comfortable cushions and blankets where students who feel overwhelmed or exhausted or just need some time out can come and be alone. While at St Bede's I was also able to chat with Elizabeth and Jenny, two library teachers present that day, who were discussing the best way to teach children about cyber security.

Teacher librarians play a vital role in educating our children and young people. As libraries evolve to become more than just a place to borrow books, the role of teacher librarians has become so much more than just to help students with specific research tasks. Like Elizabeth and Jenny at St Bede's, teacher librarians are critical when it comes to teaching our children about cyber safety.

Cyber safety education is vital in today's modern world where we are never far from our phones and feel cut off without a wi-fi signal. Every parent has the right to know that their children are safe when they are at school, and being cyber safe is no different. It is vital for our children and young people to get an early education in safety around computers, whether that be from computer viruses, cyber bullying or other dark and negative influences which may be coming through their computers, such as child grooming.

I also note that the ACT council of P&C associations in their budget submission for the 2017-18 budget put in a request for teacher librarians in every school, and I note that the Australian Education Union ACT branch has also supported this push. I remember with some fondness that my late colleague and former shadow minister for education, Mr Doszpot, was a huge supporter of teacher librarians, as he recognised the important role they play in our children's education.

Madam Speaker, I must confess it has been some time since I have been in a library that was not the ANU law library, the Assembly library or the court library, however, some of my fondest university memories are spending quiet afternoons in the National Library working on assessments on contemporary Asian societies and politics, reading classics by Jane Austen and poems by Janet Frame when I decided to take English literature for a semester, or trawling through obscure law reports because back then, of course, the more obscure your reference, surely the higher your marks would be.

But libraries are not just for teachers or students; my father, who is an almost 70-year-old manual worker with English as a second language is still a keen and regular attendee at his local library, and he is particularly grateful for the section in that library that houses Korean books. As he is not able to easily buy Korean books in Australia, this resource is something he holds very dear to his heart as it allows him to escape into the world of fiction or to broaden his knowledge and keep up to date with the latest news or to continue his self-development by reading non-fiction books that I think popularly are considered self-help books.

One of the best things about libraries is their creativity. One such ingenious idea that was posted on my Facebook wall recently is to get children to pay off any late fees in library fines for unreturned books through reading. This is an initiative that has been rolled out at the Rockford Public Library in Illinois and Delvin-Yorkshire Public Library in the State of New York. My Facebook friend who posted it on my wall wondered whether it might be a good idea for our capital city. This initiative may have started with punishing students with reading, but the reports from these libraries have all been how pleasantly surprised they have been with children actually looking forward to paying their fines through reading. We all know that reading is good for us, and any way that we can encourage our children to do so is worth exploring.

Ms Lawder has spoken already about libraries and the important role they play in our community. They bring together the community and bridge cultural and generational gaps in ways that nothing else can quite do. I thank Ms Lawder for bringing this matter of public importance to the Assembly today.

**MS FITZHARRIS** (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (4.11): I thank Ms Lawder for the opportunity to speak today about the importance of libraries in the ACT. It is a pleasure to address the Assembly today about this important role, as a local member, as a member of the community, as the minister and as the sister of a librarian. Public libraries are one of the cornerstones of free, open democracies, and none more so than here in the ACT. The mission of our libraries is to ensure a literate, informed and lifelong learning community. The vision

of our libraries is literacy and learning for life, and that is why the ACT government delivers this essential service to our community.

There are still some members of our community who need a little more help than others, and this is where a library is for everyone. It is a place that can ensure all Canberrans can access information, learning and technology and it enables everyone to feel part of the community in which they live. Libraries have always been about lifelong learning and self-education, from the time when the predecessors of public libraries in Australia, the mechanics institutes, taught industrial workers to read and write. Libraries have been the source of information and informal learning for all.

Traditionally libraries have held books from which all of this literacy and learning was accessed. But libraries in the ACT have not remained only a “books in, books out” service. Our libraries have adapted to the changing world we live in and now provide learning opportunities through books, digital and online resources, lifelong learning programs, access to technology, social activities and community meeting spaces.

We have nine public libraries in the ACT. The ACT government also provides the very important ACT Heritage Library, which collects, preserves and makes accessible to the community the stories and documentary history of Canberra and Canberrans. Our public library branches are in most cases located with or adjacent to shopping and other community activities. We also celebrate the many other libraries in the ACT, particularly, as noted, in our educational institutions, here in the ACT Assembly, the parliamentary library, and many others housed within organisations which have national representation here in the ACT.

Unlike many other jurisdictions that have one large, central library and small branch libraries dotted around an area, the ACT has large branches in the major town centres, providing large collections, lots of computers and technology and good floor space for learning programs and community activity. Our libraries are generally located in or near shopping precincts, such as at Woden, Dickson, Kippax, Civic, Kingston and Gungahlin, or where other community activities occur, such as at Belconnen, so that busy library members can tie their library visit in with other activities. Three of our public libraries—Tuggeranong, Erindale and Gungahlin—are collocated with senior colleges, which introduces students to the vast opportunities available through public library use.

In the last financial year the library made over 2.5 million loans and had around two million visits. Not everyone who visits our libraries does so to borrow a book. They come to use the library’s spaces to access wi-fi, meet friends, browse and read newspapers, attend a learning program or a meeting. In the ACT we have one of the highest levels of membership in Australia, with 65 per cent of Canberrans registered as library members. The national standard, as set by the Australian Library and Information Association, is 51 per cent.

Our libraries currently offer a collection of about 610,000 items, including hard copy books, e-books and e-audio, hard copy and digital magazines, CDs and audio books. The use of the library’s electronic resources has grown by 20 per cent over the past

five years, showing that the community is really responding to the changes our library service is making to keep up with changes in our society.

Our youngest library users are babies. The early years of a child's life are fundamental to their successful acquisition of language and literacy, and to their success throughout life. Our libraries play a vital role in supporting parents and carers to give our kids the best early start possible.

The very well-known—and often mentioned in this debate this afternoon—giggle and wiggle program is run over 10 sessions each week across library branches to introduce parents and carers to the importance of reading, talking, rhyming and singing with a child, thus ensuring they develop their best possible literacy and language skills early on.

Other programs conducted for children are to further improve their literacy, such as story time, the summer holiday reading challenge and author talks. Increasingly, our library service is supporting children to develop an interest in STEAM—science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics—by offering coding and robotics classes, science workshops and Lego brick clubs. The library also partners with other organisations to support homework clubs directed at those youngsters in the community who might need additional assistance with their reading and learning. It was wonderful to hear Minister Stephen-Smith talk about the partnerships with our child and family centres.

One lovely program which recently commenced in our libraries is the story dogs program. Parents or carers of a child who has difficulty with or a lack of confidence in reading are able to book their child into a session with Dashi the story dog at one of our libraries. Dashi is trained to listen to children read, and he does not, of course, try to prompt the child as an adult human might. Children can read to him without feeling judged and they respond very positively to Dashi and to their reading time together, resulting in more confidence as a reader.

Engaging, celebrating and supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members is a core activity for Libraries ACT. Last year Libraries ACT appointed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liaison officer. His role is to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to ensure that the library is meeting their needs. He also works with library staff to make sure that the library collections appropriately reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history and that these items are accessible to all Canberrans.

The ACT is increasingly becoming a more diverse, multilingual society, and our libraries support these communities through collections in 23 languages other than English and the newly established bilingual story times. Of course, bilingual story times are also for English speakers who want to learn or expand their languages other than English. This supports the ACT government's bilingual agenda.

In a modern world many literacies are needed to thrive. One of them is digital literacy. Our libraries are accredited e-smart libraries, which means that the staff have undergone a rigorous accreditation process to be able to support the community in

being cyber safe. Library staff report that more and more older Canberrans are being given a device by a family member and that they seek library help to be able to engage with the technology and, therefore, with their own family in the digital space. As government, banking and other services go to online channels, it is our library that provides the safety net for those who do not have the resources or the skills to navigate the online world.

Many of the learning programs that our libraries offer are conducted in partnership with other parts of government and the community sector. The bimonthly “what’s on” program for the library demonstrates the huge range of learning opportunities that the library offers. Every week there are justices of the peace at our libraries to provide their free services to the community. In April and May this year the range of learning programs include financial help from professionals, how to care for your precious textiles, early literacy for pregnant families, junior robotics, and little engineers. As you can see, there is a wide and eclectic range of programs to meet the needs and interests of so many in our community.

Good literacy is a vital skill in our increasingly complex world and our libraries play an important role in supporting adult literacy in the community. Our libraries contain many resources to assist adults who want to improve their literacy. I will be making an important announcement about our libraries and adult literacy in the coming weeks.

Our library service belongs to the Australian Public Library Alliance, which is a body under the auspices of the Australian Library and Information Association. In 2013 the Australian Public Library Alliance commissioned some research into the return on investment of public libraries in each Australian jurisdiction. While the national return on investment was \$2.90, for Libraries ACT it was \$4.10. That is, for every dollar that the government puts into our libraries, the community derives \$4.10 in value.

Our libraries also play an important but somewhat hidden role in supporting businesses in the ACT. Library staff report that libraries are often used by people starting up their own business or conducting their small business. Whether it is using the library’s wi-fi, meeting spaces or collections, micro businesses and start-ups are supported by the resources and services of our libraries.

The Heritage Library, as Ms Le Couteur noted, is about to move from its current premises upstairs in the Woden public library to an upgraded facility on Canberra Avenue in Fyshwick. Our Heritage Library collects the documentary heritage of the ACT, collecting and preserving it for current and future generations to research and use in their businesses and pastimes. The heritage collection is full of treasures about life in Canberra and important everyday Canberrans. It holds and preserves the identity of Canberra.

Our libraries in the ACT are dynamic and energised places. They provide vital services and resources to Canberrans and contribute to our economy and our community. I would like to pay tribute to the excellent staff in Libraries ACT and their vision of literacy and learning for life. Our libraries are for everyone in Canberra.

As you can see, and as members have spoken of, the range of programs and essential services in our libraries is wonderful. It is pleasing that we all agree about the important place libraries have in the life and learning of our community.

*Discussion concluded.*

## **Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee Statement by chair**

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (4.21): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal. At a private meeting on 14 March 2018, the committee resolved to undertake an inquiry into development application processes in the ACT.

The committee, noting the high level of public interest in the processes involved in and the outcomes of development application processes within the ACT, resolved to inquire into and report on engagement with development application processes in the ACT, including:

- 1) Community engagement and participation in the Development Application process including:
  - a) the accessibility and clarity of information on Development Applications and Development Application processes, including Development Application signage; the Development Application finder app; and online resources;
  - b) pre-Development Application consultation and statutory notification processes; and
  - c) the availability and accessibility of current and historical Development Applications and decisions in relation to Development Applications, including reasons for Development Application approvals, conditions or rejections.
- 2) The accessibility and effectiveness of Development Application processes, including:
  - a) the information provided in relation to the requirements for Development Applications;
  - b) the current development assessment track system;
  - c) the Development Application e-lodgement and tracking system, e-Development;
  - d) processing times for Development Applications;
  - e) retrospective Development Applications;
  - f) reconsideration and appeal processes; and
  - g) Heritage, Tree Protection and Environmental assessments.
- 3) Development Application compliance assessment and enforcement measures.

- 4) Development Application practices and principles used in other Australian jurisdictions.
- 5) Any other relevant matter.

The committee will report by the last sitting day in November 2018. The committee wishes to note that whilst it will be inquiring into ACT development application processes, it is beyond the remit of the committee to inquire into, resolve or review individual development application matters. Consequently, submitters are urged to be aware that the committee will be unable to intervene in, offer any advice on, or otherwise be involved in individual development application processes.

## **Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee**

### **Statement by deputy chair**

**MS CODY** (Murrumbidgee) (4.24): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety relating to petition No 5-17, revenge porn—criminalisation, as referred to the committee, pursuant to standing order 99A, on 10 May 2017.

As members will recall, advice was provided to the Assembly on 6 June 2017 that the committee would report back to the Assembly as to how it may proceed with regard to further inquiry as it concerns the particulars of the referred petition and its requested action after considering the responsible minister's response to the petition, which was due within three months of the tabling of the petition.

Specifically, as signatories to petition No 5-17, 520 residents of the ACT, sought to:

... draw to the attention of the Assembly that there is no specific criminal offence prohibiting the non-consensual disclosure of a sexual image (the phenomenon colloquially referred to as “revenge porn”).

... petitioners, therefore, request the Assembly to consider filling this gap in the law by criminalising the non-consensual disclosure of a sexual image.

In response, the Attorney-General advised on 20 July 2017, amongst other things, that:

The ACT government takes the issue of intimate image abuse very seriously. The sharing of intimate images without a person's consent is a violation of their privacy. These images are shared to humiliate, harass and traumatise the victim and impacts their privacy and reputation. Section 12 of the *Human Rights Act 2004* provides that everyone has the right not to have his or her privacy interfered with unlawfully or arbitrarily, and the right not to have his or her reputation unlawfully attacked.

On 19 May 2017 the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC), comprising Attorneys-General, Justice and Police Ministers from around Australia, discussed a national approach to intimate image abuse.



The Attorney-General advised that the council:

... agreed to the National statement of principles relating to the criminalisation of the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. These principles were attached to the Attorney-General's response.

The Attorney-General further advised that:

... the principles were developed as best practice principles to be considered as each jurisdiction continues to develop and review its criminal law, policy and practices to suit local needs, and for each jurisdiction to adopt and implement as they see fit.

The ACT government is considering how to best give effect to the national statement of principles, and I anticipate providing further information on the government approach in the August sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will be aware, a private member's bill, the Crimes (Intimate Image Abuse) Amendment Bill 2017, was presented on 7 June 2017. That bill sought to amend the Crimes Act 1900 to create a new offence for people who distribute an intimate image of another person without consent. The bill was agreed to in principle after debate. During the detail stage a number of amendments were moved by the government, which received the support of all parties. The amended bill was passed by the Assembly on 16 August 2017.

In conclusion, the committee reiterates the importance of the right to petition parliament to highlight issues and directly influence the work of parliament. The petition referred to the committee was a request by a group of citizens that asked the Assembly to take action to solve a specific problem.

With the passing of the Crimes (Intimate Image Abuse) Amendment Bill 2017 on 16 August 2017, a new offence for people who distribute an intimate image of another person without consent was created. It is the committee's view that this legislative change addresses the particulars of the referred petition and its requested action. The committee therefore wishes to advise that it has concluded its consideration of petition No 5-17, revenge porn—criminalisation, as referred to it pursuant to standing order 99A on 10 May 2017.

The committee notes that if petitioners have any further concerns regarding the particulars of petition No 5-17 and its requested action to raise such matters with a member of the Legislative Assembly.

## **Privileges 2018—Select Committee Proposed establishment**

Debate resumed.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (4.29): Under standing order 144, I seek leave to withdraw the amendment that I circulated this morning.

Leave granted.

**MR RATTENBURY:** I withdraw the amendment circulated in my name this morning.

**MR WALL** (Brindabella) (4.30), by leave: I brought a motion to the Assembly today to seek to establish a privileges committee to inquire into the actions of the Chief Minister, Mr Barr, during the economic development and tourism committee's annual report hearings in November of last year. The purpose of that was to inquire into whether or not the Chief Minister's comments constituted a breach of the standing orders. But it seems from discussion with colleagues during the day that there is more of an appetite to resolve this matter today than there is to establish a privileges committee. Therefore, I move:

Omit all words after "That", substitute:

(1) Standing order 277(a) states that:

A person shall not, improperly interfere with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority, or with the free performance by a Member of the Member's duties as a Member.

(2) Standing order 277(b) states that:

A person shall not, by fraud, intimidation, force or threat of any kind, by the offer or promise of inducement or benefit of any kind, or by other improper means, influence a Member in the Member's conduct as a Member or induce a Member to be absent from the Assembly or Committee.

(3) At the Committee hearing of Economic Development and Tourism Committee hearing of the following exchange occurred:

Mr Hanson: I am the chair of this committee.

Mr Barr: For the time being, yes.

Mr Hanson: Oh, is that a threat?

Mr Barr: It is, yes.

Mr Hanson: You're making a threat to me?

Mr Barr: I am, yes.

(4) This Assembly finds the Chief Minister in breach of the standing orders.

(5) The Chief Minister withdrew his comments in the Assembly on the 22nd March 2018.

(6) This finding be referred to the Administration and Procedure Committee to consider any further action on this matter.

(7) Administration and Procedure Committee consider all other matters raised in this motion, or any other relevant matters, and that the Committee report back to the Assembly with recommendations on those matters.

The motion seeks to clarify what is expected of members under standing order 277(a) and 277(b). It notes the exchange between the Chief Minister and the chair of the committee. It makes the clear distinction that I think many of us in this place

believe to be accurate, that the Chief Minister did in fact breach this aspect of the standing orders.

It notes that the Chief Minister withdrew these comments today in the Assembly and it refers this matter to the administration and procedure committee to consider any further action on this matter. Likewise, the referral to admin and procedure requests it to consider all other matters that are raised in this motion and for the committee to report to the Assembly.

I believe that this is a cleaner way forward than the original proposal by Mr Rattenbury, as there would have been some issue in referring certain aspects of the standing orders to a select committee whilst a standing committee was currently undertaking an inquiry into the standing orders. It would have required admin and procedure to have suspended its inquiry into the standing orders due to a select committee being tasked to look into the same issue. It is a cleaner way forward and I look forward to members supporting it.

**MR BARR** (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (4.32), by leave: I move the following amendments together:

(1) Omit paragraph (3), substitute:

“(3) At the Committee hearing of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee the following exchange occurred:

Mr Hanson: I am the chair of this committee.

Mr Barr: For the time being, yes.

Mr Hanson: Oh, is that a threat?

Mr Barr: It is, yes.

Mr Hanson: You’re making a threat to me?

Mr Barr: I am, yes.

Mr Hanson: What is your threat?

Mr Barr: I have already made it this morning.

Mr Hanson: What, to take it outside? What does “Take it outside” mean?

Mr Barr: I will be pursuing your defamation of me this morning. You are already in court with someone else on defamation and I will continue to pursue the outrageous slurs that you made against me this morning that you have not withdrawn. I invite you to withdraw now and I will not need to pursue it.

Mr Hanson: Are you threatening me? Are you going to threaten legal action; or what are you threatening?

Mr Barr: I am not going to have that discussion with you right now.

Ms Le Couteur: Gentlemen, can I suggest, we are here—

Mr Hanson: No, sorry—

Mr Barr: If you want to adjourn the committee hearing now and we can have a discussion about how you have defamed me this morning, by all means. But I suspect the rest of the committee may wish to ask questions.

(2) Omit paragraph (4).

(3) Omit paragraph (6), substitute:

“(6) That these matters be referred to the Administration and Procedure Committee to consider any further action on this matter.”.

The amendments I have moved to Mr Wall’s amended motion include the full transcript of the exchange. It was very neat editing from the opposition to cut out the continuation of the particular conversation where Mr Hanson asked me what my threat was, to which I said I had already made it this morning, and that was:

I will be pursuing your defamation of me this morning. You are already in court with someone else on defamation and I will continue to pursue the outrageous slurs that you made against me this morning that you have not withdrawn. I invite you to withdraw now and I will not need to pursue it.

That is a very important bit of context for the admin and procedure committee to have in relation to what the threat was. It contains, I think, the 13th or 14th attempt by me or invitation by me to Mr Hanson to withdraw the comments that I took offence to.

Ms Le Couteur in the end sought to intervene to calm the situation. She was cut off by Mr Hanson again and I concluded this particular exchange by suggesting if the chair wished:

to adjourn the committee hearing now and we can have a discussion about how—

he had defamed me—

this morning, by all means. But I suspect the rest of the committee may wish to ask questions.

The chair did not then take the opportunity to adjourn the committee hearing and the committee hearing continued.

I think it is important, if the administration and procedure committee is to consider this matter further, that the reference include this full element of the transcript and that it is very cute and politically very neat for the opposition to seek to cut the transcript off at that point. But the committee—

*Members interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members opposite, please let the Chief Minister complete his remarks.

**MR BARR:** The committee needs to consider the full context.

It comes as no surprise to anyone in that hearing and subsequently that I have taken great offence at Mr Hanson's comments and I see no other way, no other interpretation of the comment "trousering money", than to suggest that that sort of comment is implying some sort of corrupt or illegal behaviour. I do note, as I have before, that previous Speakers have ruled that out of order, and "hands in pockets" and all of that have been ruled out of order in the past by—

**Mr Hanson:** No, it has not.

**MR BARR:** Yes, "having hands in everyone's pocket" by Speaker Cornwell, a Liberal Speaker.

**Mr Coe:** No, but "trousering", the word "trousering"?

**MR BARR:** No, "having hands in everybody's pocket". "Having your hands in someone's pocket" was withdrawn in 1993 and Deputy Speaker Cornwell required someone to withdraw "having hands in everyone's pockets". There was an apology and a withdrawal.

*Mr Coe interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Mr Coe, please, no interjections. Mr Barr.

**MR BARR:** This suggestion that was made during the hearings that money was going into my pocket, I still take offence to. But I recognise my chance of getting an apology or a withdrawal of that comment is pretty limited, it would seem. This morning I have withdrawn any suggestion that I will pursue defamation action against Mr Hanson, and I withdraw the comments that I have made. There is just no point, absolutely no point, pursuing it any further.

The amendments that I have circulated include the full relevant part of the transcript for the admin and procedure committee to consider. Amendment (3) inserts a new (6):

“(6) That these matters—

“these matters”, plural—

be referred to the Administration and Procedure Committee to consider any further action on this matter.”.

I think, with that, we have canvassed all the issues that we can possibly canvass on this question and it now falls, if this is agreed, to the admin and procedure committee to consider any further action.

**MR HANSON** (Murrumbidgee) (4.37): I rise to make a response to what Mr Barr has said. I think that the *Hansard* record is freely available for people to review. The advice is freely available for people to review. They can watch Assembly on Demand. There is no attempt by anyone, I think, to cut and tail the words that are there. I think

that a look at the full transcript is useful. I think that looking at the whole debate in its context is useful.

But I would refer members to the Clerk's advice with regard to the threat that was made by Mr Barr. As the Clerk says in his advice, the second exchange refers to "a threat to have you removed from your role as Chair". That was what the threat was about, and that is why we are here today. I just want to make it very clear, following Mr Barr's comments, that the threat that he made was to me and the advice on that is that the threat was to remove me from my position as chair. Regardless of the words about taking me outside or defamation or whatever it might be, the advice that we have received is that the threat that was made was to have me removed as chair. And that is the nub of the question and that is the point there.

With regard to the language that was used, context is always important, as you would appreciate, Madam Speaker. I think there was a debate earlier this week where there was a comment about a word—and I think the word used was "bias"—being not in and of itself unparliamentary but, used in certain contexts, it is. The context is very important.

What I would like to do is actually refer to what Ms Le Couteur said before lunch, I think it was, which is very important because Ms Le Couteur was in the room. I do not think Ms Le Couteur would be saying this in my favour or, indeed, in Mr Barr's favour. She was reasonably objective and dispassionate about what she saw. This is her observation that led to Mr Barr's threat to having me removed as committee chair:

In terms of the particular instance, the first part of the exchange involved Mr Hanson saying words around, "You're getting the money." But he was saying this to a person who is the Chief Minister and Treasurer of the ACT. I think that, in that context, what he meant was abundantly clear, particularly as the Chief Minister on a number of occasions asked him to clarify. And when he did clarify, Mr Hanson was clear that he was not suggesting that Mr Barr personally was receiving the money. There was only what I could say was the suggestion or the imputation—but it was not a suggestion or imputation but a clear statement that the ACT government was receiving this money, which, of course, is reasonable. That was what was being talked about.

If there is anybody in the world who could be regarded as the personification of the ACT government, I would have thought that the Chief Minister came pretty close to being that person. Outside this place sometimes people refer to me as a member of the government. It depends a bit on the context as to whether I draw any distinctions with regard to my role. Sometimes when they are talking about some of the more egregious planning decisions, I say that I am a humble crossbencher and that if I had been the planning minister that decision would not have been taken.

Ms Le Couteur continued:

We all know that we are often addressed as "the government", regardless of our actual role in this Assembly. I think that Mr Barr should have been capable of determining that Mr Hanson was addressing him in his role and position as Chief Minister and Treasurer. So I really could not agree with Mr Barr when he said

that threatening the chair was his only option. Very clearly, that was not his only option. It is not appropriate, when you think that someone is not describing you in the way you would like to be described, to threaten them. It is inappropriate. There is no real way around that.

It was particularly inappropriate that when Mr Hanson sought to clarify what Mr Barr was actually saying, Mr Barr doubled down on his threat. Clearly, it was not just a matter of saying, "I've got upset. I don't know how to deal with this." He doubled down on it.

I think that is the point, that there is robust debate in this place. Indeed Mr Rattenbury made some comments regarding me this morning that I think he described as robust or meant as robust. This happens but there is a boundary, there is a line and the standing orders are abundantly clear where that line is. And that is the matter in question.

I would welcome the full context of this debate being examined, as has Ms Le Couteur. She was in the room. When you do that you see two things. The first is that the concocted outrage from the Chief Minister was simply that. The meaning of what was being said was abundantly clear. Indeed it was clarified on numerous occasions. The second is that the threat was not a threat about taking me outside that was the issue, nor about defamation. It was, as the Clerk has identified in his advice, about a threat to have me removed in my role as chair. I think it is important to clarify that following the Chief Minister's words.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Kurrajong) (4.43): Under standing order 133, I ask that Mr Barr's amendment be divided. There are three parts to the amendment and I ask that we proceed with each of them in turn.

*Ordered that the amendments be divided.*

**Mr Barr's** amendment No (1) agreed to.

**Mr Barr's** amendment No (2) negatived.

**Mr Barr's** amendment No (3) negatived.

**Mr Wall's** amendment, as amended, agreed to.

**MR WALL** (Brindabella) (4.46): As I mentioned before, when we brought this motion to the Assembly this morning, it was to highlight what is and what is not acceptable behaviour in the course of Assembly sittings and also committee business. The intent was to have the privileges committee look at these matters to determine whether or not there was a breach of the standing orders. What we have arrived at is in fact a clear case that highlights that the Chief Minister did breach the standing orders, specifically standing orders 277A and 277B which relate to matters of contempt of the Assembly.

These are serious matters but they send a clear message of what level of behaviour is and, more importantly, is not acceptable in the conduct of this business. I hope that this will serve as a reminder for members that threats to other members of this Assembly in the conduct of its committees are not acceptable. I look forward to the final vote on this motion. It has been a fairly tedious process but I think the right outcome has been arrived at at the end of the day.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

## **Statement by Speaker**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Members, I would like to pass on our collective thanks to Mr Mark McCrae, a previous Clerk of this place, who has been beaver away in the chamber lounge offering support to our Acting Clerk, Ms Agostino, who has been with us for a short time only but was Acting Clerk this week. It was an interesting week for her to be here, I believe.

Also, members, for your information, given the noise that we experienced at question time, you will be interested to know we finally signed off this morning a protocol between the Chief Minister's department and the project management team and the Office of the Assembly. If there are any comments or thoughts you have on the level of noise during question time please pass them through to Scott Howard but we will be able to manage that clearly through those protocols as we move forward here.

## **Adjournment**

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

## **International Women's Day**

**MS CHEYNE** (Ginninderra) (4.48): In the wake of International Women's Day we have heard from the Assembly throughout this week about how important gender equality is to the prosperity of our community and the many steps this government is taking to support women and girls to reach their potential. International Women's Day is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of women in our community. We heard from the Minister for Women throughout the week about the incredible achievements of this year's ACT young woman, senior woman and woman of the year, two of whom I am lucky to know personally. These women are tireless in their efforts to improve conditions for all women, and we extend our gratitude to them for the positive change they are creating.

International Women's Day is just one day but it is a reminder of the important roles women play every day. In the spirit of recognising that, I want to use this opportunity to briefly bring to the Assembly's attention some more women who in the past year have made a difference from my electorate of Ginninderra.



Irene at the Belconnen Community Service has served the Belconnen community for over two decades. She first worked for family day care but more recently has been volunteering for the Belconnen energetic seniors on a Tuesday—the BEST Club—and positive links. Irene has helped to shape the future of young Canberrans and been a friend to our more senior community members. I put on the record my thanks to Irene and her colleagues for their dedication to our community.

Georgie King is a successful entrepreneur. At 26 years of age, she has her own flourishing business, GLK Nannies, which is providing care for 150 families in Canberra. Having travelled the path of building a successful business herself, Georgie was struck by the number of young entrepreneurial women making their own way in the business world. She saw an opportunity to build a network to unite these women, and this idea evolved into the women's collective, an online community of over 6,000 people, and the big conference resources that bring together successful businesswomen and budding entrepreneurs to share skills and tips and to learn from each other's mistakes. Georgie is making her mark in Canberra business, and she is also leading the way for other women to do the same.

Madam Speaker, as you know, Canberra is full of passionate people advocating for various important causes. Not many of them can say they have won a Nobel Peace Prize though, but Sue Wareham can. Sue is familiar to many of us in this place, not least my Greens colleagues who have also acknowledged her important work in this place, but why not underline it again. Sue helped found the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, which won the Nobel prize last year. ICAN successfully lobbied the United Nations to negotiate a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, which now has 57 signatories. Closer to home, Sue has led large rallies and campaigns, regularly contributes to public debates and delivers public lectures to raise awareness and promote action to abolish nuclear weapons. In the current political climate, Sue's efforts are to be congratulated and underlined.

These are just three women in Ginninderra who are doing interesting and outstanding things. International Women's Day is a chance to celebrate what women are doing, but it should not be the only time. I encourage all of us to recognise where we can the women who are doing big and also, importantly, the small acts to make Canberra an even better place to live.

### **Seniors Week**

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (4.52): Last week was ACT Seniors Week. It was a great week of events, activities, concerts, sporting events, workshops and much more. It ran from 12 to 18 March and it celebrated past achievements, current successes and the future aspirations of older Canberrans. It was a week where, as a community, we were able to share with and reflect on the achievement and contribution of older Canberrans. I was delighted to be able to attend a range of events that were organised by COTA ACT during the week.

On Tuesday, along with hundreds of others, I attended one of the two Chief Minister's concerts at the Albert Hall, where we were entertained by an eclectic collection of

music presented by the band of the Royal Military College. A feature of the concert were solos by the lead vocalist, musician Rachel Shead, and a flute solo by Lance Corporal Elspeth Forster. I thank the RMC Band and its music director, Major Glenn Rogers, for the concert.

On Thursday 15 March I met hundreds of Canberrans at the Seniors Week Expo at EPIC. It was a wonderful day. It was from 10 to 3 at Exhibition Park in Canberra, and brought together more than 120 exhibitors to inspire, inform and connect older Canberrans to groups, activities, and organisations available to them. Just some of the exhibitors that I was able to talk to throughout the day included: the ACT Deafness Resource Centre; ACT Policing; ACT seniors card; Arthritis ACT; Asthma ACT; Australian Hearing; Australian Red Cross; Australian Skin Cancer Clinic; BaptistCare; Brindabella Hearing and Speech Centre; Cancer Council; Capital Chemist; Carers ACT; CatholicCare; Communities@Work; Community Services #1; COTA ACT—of course; Diabetes New South Wales and ACT; Goodwin Aged Care, Libraries ACT; National Seniors Australia; Probus; RSL LifeCare; Salvation Army Aged Care Plus; SCOA, the superannuation commonwealth officers association; Sleep Apnoea Association; Solace ACT; St Andrews Village; St Basil's; St John's Ambulance ACT; TADACT; UnitingCare; Volunteering ACT; Woden Community Service; and YMCA Canberra.

I also mention that the *Canberra Times* produced a handy lift-out of the events program of Seniors Week and last Friday was one of the highlights of Seniors Week, the presentation of the positive ageing awards. These important awards recognise the outstanding contributions by and for older Canberrans. I was so pleased to have been able to be there for the announcement of the awards, along with my colleagues Minister Ramsay and Ms Le Couteur.

I personally acknowledge the 2018 award winners. The senior achiever award, recognising the outstanding contribution made by an older person to the Canberra community, I was delighted that this was awarded to Beverly Flint from Tuggeranong, who has been a nurse and has committed herself to a lifetime of volunteering.

The intergenerational award recognising a person or group whose work to foster and improve relationships across multiple generations went to Deborah Evans, who is devoting her time to educating Aboriginal people in schools, prisons and in the community.

The age-friendly Canberra award recognising a person or group which works to enhance opportunities for seniors to lead full and satisfying lives went to Philip Piggini, a dance instructor who teaches dance at the Belconnen and Tuggeranong arts centres teaching dance to people living with dementia as part of Dementia Australia's dance group.

The seniors advocate award recognising an outstanding commitment by a person or group in advocating for seniors went to Norma Sumner, who works at Mirinjani. The transport services award recognising a person or group who in their professional capacity has provided outstanding service to older people went to the Canberra

Legacy team. I also recognise all the wonderful finalists who have made great contributions to older Canberrans.

The fabulous success of Seniors Week has been due to the tireless efforts of the organisers, COTA ACT, who have been looking after the needs of older people in the ACT since 1973. I thank the board of COTA ACT, President Ewan Brown, Sue Jordan, Elizabeth Grant, Bruce Shaw, Paul Feldman, Rick Lord, Fergus Thomson and COTA ACT's CEO, Jenny Mobbs. I thank all of the sponsors of this year's Seniors Week and acknowledge the hardworking staff of COTA ACT.

### **Tathra bushfire**

**MS LE COUTEUR** (Murrumbidgee) (4.57): As we are all sadly aware, the small community of Tathra on the south coast suffered a devastating bushfire earlier this week. Homes and livestock were completely destroyed. I know that many of us frequently visit this beautiful part of the south coast and are welcomed by a strong and vibrant community. I speak on behalf of not just the Greens but all Canberrans in sending our thoughts to the people of Tathra at this challenging time.

The ACT, along with countless other communities across Australia, has also been the victim of catastrophic bushfires over the years. The bushfire in Tathra is yet another example of the impacts of climate change. The impacts of climate change and, in particular, the long-term trend towards a warmer climate here in Canberra and across the country are making days hotter and heatwaves longer and more frequent. The warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Climate Council and many others are coming with increasing certainty that it will only get hotter and drier over the coming months. The subsequent increased risk of bushfires in Canberra and across the whole of south-east Australia is a major concern.

Climate change is already increasing the risk of bushfires in New South Wales and the ACT. The 2015-16 summer was Australia's sixth hottest on record and, in the ACT, the mean maximum temperature was 1.9 degrees Centigrade above the average. We also know that in the ACT the fire season is starting earlier and lasting longer and we are now seeing dangerous fire weather extending into spring and autumn. Hot and dry conditions are driving up the likelihood of dangerous fire weather and we must be prepared for the associated risks.

This is why, here in the ACT and nationally, governments must try to cut emissions rapidly and deeply to join global efforts to stabilise the world's climate and to reduce the number of extreme weather events, including bushfires. There is a direct link to climate change increasing the frequency and severity of bushfires in Australia. The Greens are incredibly disappointed in our Prime Minister for completely ignoring that link, and in fact disputing it and continuing to refuse to take adequate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The need to take action on climate is now internationally and locally more urgent than ever. Many members would have seen on the news two nights ago that the largest glacier ever is now free floating on the ocean, and when it melts it is likely to raise sea levels by three metres. This is far higher than previously expected and will have

devastating effects on our planet, not just Australia. In Australia, of course, just think of all our coastal cities with the sea three metres higher. Climate change refugees will increase. We need to take this issue very seriously.

I was pleased to see that the Tathra community understand that more frequent and extreme weather events, including bushfires, are linked to climate change and that they were brave enough to stand up to our Prime Minister on this issue. The community clearly see what our Prime Minister is blindly rejecting, what we as a community and a country, and the world, cannot afford to do.

The people of Canberra, Tathra and other communities across Australia will not be discouraged by the federal government. We will continue to be leaders and do what is necessary to reduce and, hopefully, reverse climate change so as to keep our communities safe, or at least safer, from these kinds of natural disasters.

### **Light rail—Gungahlin**

**MR MILLIGAN** (Yerrabi) (5.02): I rise today to ensure that serious issues in my own electorate are heard by this chamber and that the government is made aware of the real impact of light rail construction on businesses in Gungahlin.

As many of you know, I come from a strong background of small business. In fact, this was one of my motivations for getting involved in politics. I ran a small business, and whilst it was hard work, publishing was a fantastic and rewarding career. It is with this background and my understanding of the sometimes harsh realities that face businesses that I address the Assembly.

Disruptions to trade have a very real impact on the lives of business owners, employees and families in our region. As a direct result of light rail, Gungahlin businesses are reporting losses of between 30 and 50 per cent. Whilst I recognise how capable and resilient small business owners can be, there is only so much they can bear and only so long they can wait for this project to be delivered.

In the last sitting the opposition posed several questions to the government on the impact of light rail construction. The aim was to determine their attitude towards recognising how this affects businesses. We asked about avenues for redress for businesses for the financial impact light rail has had in Gungahlin, Harrison, Franklin and Mitchell. We sought a commitment to provide a stop in Mitchell to support the 300 businesses and more than 4,000 employees that work in the area. Just this week we have seen the submission of a 5,000-signature petition on this very issue.

To be honest, I am extremely disappointed that the government's response took so long and had to be dragged out of them. Any response to date has been verbal. Nothing seems to be in writing. Nor does it represent a meaningful commitment. Their disregard for the business community is shameful.

When plans for light rail were finalised, the people of Yerrabi would never have imagined that one of the major business districts of the region would be left out. Originally Mitchell did have a light rail stop at Lysaght Street. For most people, it

seemed a safe assumption that this would come to the final design. Then the government decided that 15 stops had to be reduced to 13, one can only assume to fit the marketing propaganda of this government rather than the needs and wants of the community. Government may fall back on their usual excuse about public consultation, but how can this be the case when businesses in Mitchell report that no-one has consulted with them? The government can use the excuse of fancy online surveys, and they can employ consultants, but nothing beats walking the streets, knocking on doors and asking people direct questions.

I have been out in the electorate along with my colleagues the leader of the opposition and the shadow minister for small business. We have been pounding the pavement talking to businesses; we have been actively seeking their input; and we have been holding this government to account.

First, government told the businesses of Mitchell not to worry, that they had futureproofed for a light rail stop in Mitchell. Then they told the community that it was highly likely that a stop would be constructed, but without giving a definite time commitment. Now the government are saying that they are committed to opening a light rail stop in Mitchell at the earliest opportunity. What does that exactly mean?

Madam Speaker, this is just political spin and reactive decision-making by a government that is out of touch. The government continues to insult the businesses of Mitchell by refusing to commit to when this stop will be constructed. Knowing this government, it will probably be when construction is finally complete and the area starts to recover from the disruption. Then the businesses of Yerrabi will have to endure more construction, more roads being ripped up, more traffic diversions and temporary parking, more dust and more dirt, more trucks and more noise. The long-term effects of this loss of trade and the impact this will have on the sustainability of the area are issues this government just does not seem to care about.

These are real businesses, real families and real individuals. The government's refusal to provide meaningful support to businesses and their disregard of the impact this has had are shameful. My commitment to the businesses of Yerrabi is that we will keep up the pressure, we will continue to highlight the issues, we will listen and we will act on their concerns.

### **Greyhound racing—government policy**

**MR PARTON** (Brindabella) (5.07): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and well done on surviving today; I know it has been tough for you as well.

I rise to pay tribute to the courage of the local greyhound racing community as they edge closer to this heartless and absurd ban concocted by the Communist coalition. We are a little over a month away from B-day. Although there are still plenty of legal fishing lines in the water, although I believe that community values will win in the end, it is a tough time for those in the industry.

There are individuals facing enormous distress. I must say that many in the industry have come together to give them support and strength in this time of need. I still have

major concerns for a number of individuals when we actually get to the ban time. I wish to pay tribute, though, to the courage of those who participate in this sport in and around the ACT—who have done nothing wrong, Madam Speaker. They have done nothing wrong, and they are being punished by this obsession with far-left ideology. They are going through something that they should never have had to go through.

I understand that the Canberra club will continue to hold its race meetings for an interim period in Goulburn from 1 May until such time as either the ban is overturned or a facility is constructed in Queanbeyan. I want to thank New South Wales Deputy Premier John Barilaro for his work in this space, and also the member for Goulburn, Pru Goward; the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club; Patrick Day and the Goulburn club; Greyhound Racing New South Wales; and all those who have linked arms as a strong community in and around Canberra.

For the record, the greyhound that was syndicated through this chamber has had his first victory. He won in fine style and in close to track record time in Canberra some weeks ago. He has since run second at Bulli. Bulli is just outside Wollongong. Wollongong, a very strong Labor town, is serviced by two greyhound tracks, there being another track at Dapto. Isn't it funny that the hardcore traditional Labor areas of New South Wales and Victoria are such heavy supporters of the sport of greyhound racing? They continue to support it. If Labor members wish to redeem themselves and come and join us out at the track on Sunday night, Community Values is going around again in the 10th race. He has drawn box 6, but we have high hopes for him.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**The Assembly adjourned at 5.09 pm until Tuesday, 10 April 2018, at 10 am.**

## Answers to questions

### Roads—safety (Question No 876)

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) How many instances of road accidents have occurred at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Gozzard Street.
- (2) What is the breakdown of reported causes of road accidents at this intersection.
- (3) Does the ACT Government have any plans to install barriers, lights or any other preventative measure to increase driver and pedestrian safety at this intersection; if so, what are the Government's intentions for this intersection.

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

- (1) 2017 crash data is not yet finalised. Based on the last seven years of available data (2010-2016), there has been a total of 32 reported crashes.
- (2) All reported crashes were "property damage only". 24, were right angle crashes, four rear end crashes, three crashes with one vehicle reversing and one single vehicle crash.
- (3) There are currently no plans for infrastructure upgrades at this intersection.

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### ACT Health—audit report (Question No 877)

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to Report 11/2017 of the ACT Auditor-General, why has the directorate not addressed the audit finding, made in 2012-13, that "[t]he credit card acquittals for some credit card holders were not performed in a timely manner".
- (2) By when will the directorate implement measures to address the finding referred to in part (1).

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

1. The Directorate continues to address the unresolved audit finding by implementing a process of suspending credit cards for two weeks for individuals who have not completed their credit card acquittals.
  2. The Directorate will continue to emphasise the need for card holders to complete credit card acquittals in a timely manner and include the use of suspending or cancelling credit cards for non-compliant individuals.
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**ACT Health—invoices  
(Question No 879)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the answer to question on notice No 786, dated 15 November 2017 concerning the reasons for late payments of ACT Health supplier invoices, why is there no backup plan to enable processing of invoices during staff vacancy transition periods.
- (2) What measures have been adopted to minimise the occurrence of system errors.
- (3) What strategies are being adopted to move away from paper-based processing to electronic processing and tracking of supplier invoices, including but not limited to, scanning of paper documents and employment of email and other electronic technology.

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

1. ACT Government has now implemented an electronic invoice processing system (APIAS) which features an automatic escalation process for overdue invoices.
  2. The roll out of APIAS across ACT Government will minimise system errors.
  3. ACT Government has moved to the APIAS invoicing system.
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**Health—budget  
(Question No 880)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the budget of \$330 million for non-hospital services, what is the purpose for the budget of \$12 115 for the Tuggeranong Health Centre Stage 2.
- (2) What is the purpose for the budget of \$81 523 for the Enhanced Community Health Centre Belconnen.
- (3) Does the budget of \$6 342 595 for the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Residential Alcohol and other – Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm ("NBHF") represent a component of the capital costs of construction.
- (4) Why is the NBHF described as "Residential".
- (5) Does the budget of \$26 641 898 for the Secure Mental Health Unit – DHULWA represent a component of the capital costs of construction.

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

1. The \$12,115 is the actual expenditure (not budget) in the 2015-2016 financial year for construction works for Tuggeranong Health Centre Stage 2.



2. The \$81,523 figure is the actual expenditure (not budget) in the 2015-2016 financial year for construction works for the Enhanced Community Health Centre Belconnen.
3. Yes, the \$6,342,595 figure is the actual expenditure (not budget) in the 2015-2016 financial year for capital cost of construction work for Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF).
4. As a new type of service to the ACT, ACT Health is taking a staged approach to the opening and operation of the NBHF, however it remains the intention to operate a residential program at the NBHF.

Depending on the successful evaluation of the day programs and the identification of a suitable providers, ACT Health hopes to have a residential program operating in 2019.

5. Yes, the \$26,641,898 figure is the actual expenditure (not budget) in the 2015-2016 financial year for capital cost of construction works for the Secure Mental Health Unit – DHULWA.

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### **Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre—closure (Question No 882)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the answer to part (4) of question on notice No 619, dated 27 October 2017, about the future of Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre (BHRC), why did the Minister state that the Government had made “no decision” regarding future use of BHRC and that “[a] decision on future use is anticipated for 2018” when, on 18 November 2017, he made a media announcement that the BHRC would remain open until at least 2021.
- (2) What was the status of the Government’s decision-making in relation to the BHRC when the Minister gave his ministerial statement on 31 October 2017.
- (3) In the ministerial statement of 31 October 2017, why did the Minister make no mention of the status of the Government’s decision-making in relation to the BHRC.

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

- (1) On 31 October 2017, the Minister indicated no decision had been made by the Government regarding the future use of BHRC, because the government was undertaking careful consideration of the issues and community needs going forward. This included consideration of the Supported Accommodation - Market Testing and Options Analysis Study that had been completed in 2017, by external consultants. This study is also being used to inform 2018-19 Budget considerations.

While the Minister has since announced BHRC will not close until appropriate accommodation is found for all residents, a final decision regarding the future use of the BHRC site is still under consideration.

- (2) The Government was still considering the analysis of the Supported Accommodation - Market Testing and Options Analysis Study at the time of the Ministerial statement on 31 October 2017.

(3) See answer to Q2.

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**Health—withdrawal of codeine-based medicines  
(Question No 883)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the withdrawal of over-the-counter codeine-based medicines on 1 February 2018, what studies did ACT Health make in relation to the likely impact on presentations to (a) The Canberra Hospital pain management unit, (b) emergency departments and (c) nurse-led walk-in clinics.
- (2) What were the findings of those studies.
- (3) In what ways did ACT Health respond to those findings.
- (4) If there were no studies, findings or responses, what strategies did ACT Health adopt to mitigate any possible influx of presentations to public health facilities from 1 February 2018.
- (5) What were the average waiting times for appointments at the pain management unit as at (a) 30 June 2017, (b) 31 December 2017 and (c) 31 January 2018.
- (6) What estimate did ACT Health make as to the waiting time from 1 February 2018.
- (7) If no estimate was made, why not.

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

- (1) ACT Health did not undertake studies in relation to likely impact on presentations to The Canberra Hospital Pain Management Unit, emergency departments and nurse-led walk-in clinics in relation to the up-scheduling of codeine.

It is too early to comment on whether patient care or waiting times have been impacted by the rescheduling of codeine. ACT Health anticipates the impact on hospital emergency department or Walk-in Centre presentations will be low as a result of the changes.

The Pain Management Unit (PMU) is not expected to experience a significant increase in referrals as a result of the codeine change.

- (2) As above, ACT Health did not undertake studies.
- (3) As above, ACT Health did not undertake studies.
- (4) The Commonwealth led an extensive awareness and communication campaign for consumers and health professionals through the Nationally Coordinated Codeine Implementation Working Group (NCCIWG). This campaign was undertaken, in part, as a strategy for ensuring consumers could be appropriately managed through the primary care system, and to minimise any unnecessary influx of presentations to the public health sector.

ACT Health is represented on the NCCIWG.

Through NCCIWG, each of these organisations prepared extensive communications material and resources for health practitioners and consumers. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has made a full suite of these resources available on its website [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

The ACT therefore considered the extensive suite of materials developed by the Commonwealth to be adequate for ACT purposes.

The Capital Health Network held an information evening for health practitioners about the changes on 1 February 2018, with ACT Health assistance. ACT Health continues to engage with local stakeholders regarding the codeine changes.

The ACT collects data for schedule 8 (controlled) medicines prescribing and will be monitoring this data for any increases to controlled medicines prescribing which may correlate with the scheduling change.

(5) (a) 30 June 2017

Urgent medical assessment	21 days
Non-urgent medical assessment	403 days

(b) 31 December 2017

Urgent medical assessment	10.5 days
Non-urgent medical assessment	422 days

(c) 31 January 2018

Urgent medical assessment	17 days
Non-urgent medical assessment	500 days

The increased waiting times to access a non-urgent appointment across December and January is related to the Christmas/New Year period where there is traditionally lower levels of activity due to mandatory shutdown, clinician leave and patient availability.

(6) ACT Health did not estimate future waiting times from 1 February 2018.

(7) ACT Health does not anticipate Pain Management Unit waiting times to be significantly impacted as a result of the changes.

### **Canberra Hospital—alert levels (Question No 887)**

**Mrs Dunne** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the response to question on notice No 774, what were the trigger points that caused the declaration of alert level 3 throughout July, August and September 2017.
- (2) If trigger points changed at any time during that period on what dates did they change.

- (3) At the point of change, what were the trigger points, and what did they change to.

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

- (1) The *Capacity Escalation Procedure* (CEP) is an operational tool to assist with bed management and patient flow throughout the hospital. The use of this tool initiates business processes in response to peaks in bed demand. During July, August and September 2017, the Canberra Hospital CEP was activated. A combination factors as outlined in the procedure were triggers for Alert Level 3 being activated. It is important to note that occupancy fluctuates throughout the day due to patient movement, and the other factors at play on any given day can vary.
- (2) The list of trigger points in the procedure did not change during the period.
- (3) As stated above CEP is an operational business process tool and trigger points vary from day to day and within each day.

### **Waste—management (Question No 889)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) How many smart “bigbelly” bins are currently in operation across the ACT.
- (2) Where are the bins located.
- (3) How have the bins impacted on waste collection frequency.
- (4) How is the collection schedule determined.
- (5) How are recyclables retrieved and/ or sorted from the compressed collected through the bins.
- (6) At which locations do the bins and recycling bins exist.
- (7) Does the Government have any plans to introduce the bins at any other location in the future.
- (8) Will an ACT Waste Feasibility Study be undertaken to evaluate the potential future financial and environmental impacts of the bins; if so, when will the study be undertaken; if not, why not.

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

- (1) Three.
- (2) Link Park in Wright, Section 5 Campbell and East Lake Parade Kingston Foreshore.
- (3) The bins in the low use areas at Wright and Campbell resulted in a reduced frequency of emptying as bins were only emptied when approaching capacity, as indicated by

the remote sensor. The bin in the high use area at Kingston required the same collection frequency. Whilst the compacting feature provides an increase of 30% on the capacity of a standard bin, a greater benefit is achieved through the ability to remotely monitor rubbish levels to determine when bins need emptying.

- (4) The bin sensor alerts the service truck operator when the bin is at 70% capacity.
- (5) Nil – the bin is for general waste only.
- (6) No recycling bins are located in the vicinity of the Bigbelly bins.
- (7) Not at this time.
- (8) An assessment of the smart bin trial was conducted internally by TCCS in mid-2017, in close consultation with the Waste Feasibility Study.

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**Waste—recycling  
(Question No 890)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) How many local shops in the ACT have a collection service for waste disposal bins.
- (2) How many local shops in the ACT have facilities to dispose of recyclables separately (either as a separate bin or as a compartmentalised bin).
- (3) What assessment is made in determining which local shops get a facility to dispose of recyclables separately and on what is that assessment based.
- (4) At the local shops that do not currently have separate recycling bins, does the Government have plans to roll them out; if so, when and at which shops.

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

- (1) Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) provides rubbish collection services in public area at 66 local shops.
- (2) There are no local shops with recycling facilities. Recycling bins are provided throughout the City, in Glebe Park and in some high use locations in Braddon.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) There are no current plans to roll out recycling bins to local shops.

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**Roads—resurfacing  
(Question No 892)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) How are roads in the ACT selected and prioritised for resurfacing, including criteria for selection, timeframes for completion and determining which road resurfacing method is appropriate.
- (2) Which roads in Ainslie have been resurfaced since 1 July 2017 to date including (a) what work was carried out, (b) the dates the work was carried out and (c) the cost of the each project.
- (3) What cumulative length of road in Ainslie has been resurfaced since 1 July 2017 to date.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a cost breakdown of the resurfacing works in Ainslie from 1 July 2017 to date, including the cost for each project by (a) materials, (b) equipment, (c) contractor costs and (d) any other relevant categories of cost.
- (5) Are all contracts for road resurfacing works put out to tender; if not, why not.
- (6) For all contracts not put out to tender, how are those contractors chosen.
- (7) Which contractors were engaged to undertake these resurfacing works, including the (a) contract number, (b) contract title and (c) value of contract.
- (8) Why were the stretches of road in Ainslie identified in part (2) chosen for resurfacing.
- (9) Were any of the resurfacing works identified in part (2) the result of requests from the Fix My Street portal; if so, which ones.
- (10) How many Fix My Street requests for road maintenance in Ainslie were received during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (11) Does the Government conduct consultation or letterbox drops to inform residents that nearby roads will be resurfaced; if not, why not and what other forms of consultation are undertaken.

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

- (1) For the arterial road network:
  - Every year one third of the arterial road network is mechanically surveyed. Condition data on skid resistance, cracking, roughness, rutting is collected.
  - A computer based pavement management system is used to plan resurfacing that uses the condition data and optimises the outcome of the available maintenance funding.

For the municipal network:

- Each road in the municipal network is inspected visually once in three years in a separate program. Sites are prioritised for resurfacing in the following year depending on pavement condition and traffic volume.

In relation to treatment selection:

- In developing the resurfacing program, various surfacing treatment types are considered for each site, carefully evaluating their suitability and cost effectiveness.

- The primary objective is to deliver a large, regular preventive resurfacing program using relatively low-cost treatments to maximise the effect of the available budget. Examples of preventative treatments include chip seal and microsurfacing. This approach aims to prevent structural damage to the road and minimise the requirement for relatively high cost corrective treatments.
- Annual reseal programs are required to be delivered in the warmer months between October and April each year.

(2) Between 18 and 23 January 2018 the following streets in Ainslie were resealed.

- Baker Street;
- Campbell Street;
- Leslie Street;
- Quick Street;
- Sutter Street;
- Campbell Street Service Road;
- Suttor Street Service Road 1; and
- Suttor Street Service Road 2.

Where necessary these streets were patched with asphalt in mid-2017 in preparation for the resurfacing. Progress payments total \$138,500 (GST exclusive) in relation to resealing in Ainslie since 1 July 2017. There will be future payments on final completion and acceptance of the work.

- (3) Records are kept by area not by length. 21,809 square metres of road have been resealed in Ainslie since 1 July 2017.
- (4) Resealing is delivered under a contract to provide a complete service. The component costs are not a reporting requirement of the contractor.
- (5) The resealing contract was procured by open public tender.
- (6) The resealing contract is procured by open public tender.
- (7) Downer is currently engaged to undertake resealing, the contract expires at the end of June 2021.

Contract Number: 2016.27122.111  
 Contract title: Resealing of ACT Roads 2016-2021  
 Value of Contract: \$45,436,329.32

- (8) Based on condition assessments, as outlined at 1) above, the roads in Ainslie were prioritised for resealing to prevent water penetration into ageing road surfaces.
- (9) No.
- (10) Number of requests for road maintenance received through Fix My Street (categories included potholes, roads).

Year	Total
2015	0
2016	19
2017	18
2018	2

- (11) Three to four days before resealing works are undertaken, adjoining residents receive a notice in their mailbox providing information on the upcoming works and a brochure about what to expect when the street is resealed.

Each day a media release is issued by Transport Canberra and City Services outlining works programmed on the following day, this is supported by a tweet about where works are to be undertaken and daily updates on the website. Prior to the works commencing, signs are installed in the suburbs notifying motorists and residents of the upcoming reseal works.

### **Environment—elm leaf beetle (Question No 893)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) In how many and what suburbs in the ACT is the elm leaf beetle present.
- (2) What percentage of elm trees in those suburbs are affected.
- (3) In what suburbs is the elm leaf beetle a significant threat.
- (4) What management plans does the Government have for control of the elm leaf beetle.
- (5) What strategies has the Government adopted to preserve those trees that are already affected.
- (6) What is the current annual cost of these management plans.
- (7) In respect to the trial that is currently in operation, (a) when did the trial start, (b) how is it funded, (c) what is the total cost of the trial, (d) what trees/ regions are involved in the trial, (e) who is undertaking the work, (f) who is assessing the results, (g) what has the directorate learnt so far and (h) when will the results be available.
- (8) Who is responsible for pest control on trees located on National Capital Authority land.

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

- (1) Elm leaf beetle (ELB) is now present in most suburbs/areas where elms are present.
- (2) Anecdotally about 80% of elm trees have been affected this year.
- (3) ELB does not represent a significant threat to elms in the ACT context.
- (4) The Government has no management plans/strategies in place to control ELB. There is consensus among biosecurity agencies in ACT and other jurisdictions that ELB can no longer be controlled.
- (5) See response to question 7.



- (6) N/A.
- (7) (a) TCCS commenced trials in 2013-14 and several different methods have been used in each subsequent year.
- (b) TCCS Urban Treescapes' recurrent budget.
- (c) Trials to date have cost approximately \$5,000 each year.
- (d) Trials have been conducted on elm trees in Glebe Park, below Scrivener Dam, Brisbane Avenue, Macarthur Avenue, Moreshead Drive, Benjamin Way and Eastern Valley Way. The National Capital Authority also trialled chemical treatment in the Parliamentary Triangle in 2015-16.
- (e) Urban Treescapes technical staff. A specialist contractor from Melbourne applied diatomaceous earth to wet foliage (a technique trialled in Queensland and Melbourne) in 2016-17.
- (f) Urban Treescapes technical staff.
- (g) Key findings include: some Elm species are not affected; stressed trees are more severely affected; chemical treatment is less effective during a dry spring; there are fewer ELB after a warm and wet winter; to date no effective biological control has been identified; the insecticide Imidacloprid can result in effective control if applied in early spring at a cost of \$50 to \$80 per tree, the effect lasts only 1-2 years and is said to impact negatively on bees which could have long term effects on pollination; TCCS manage more than 10,000 elm trees on public land and there may be just as many on private property, so chemical control is not feasible.
- (h) The ELB management trials are ongoing as TCCS are still monitoring the impact of previous treatments at the treatment sites. The monitoring of results have been based on observations only and at this stage there is no intention to prepare a formal report.
- (8) The National Capital Authority.
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### **Planning—recycling facility (Question No 894)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the proposed Capital Recycling Solutions (CRS) material recovery facility in Fyshwick, will the Minister table the briefing documents he, or his delegate, received for the decision in relation to application 201700053 and approval of Notifiable Instrument NI2018-27.
- (2) Were *the Draft Separation Distance Guidelines for Air Emissions* not included in the Draft Environment Impact Statement; if not, given they have been made a requirement for other, similar proposals, why were they not required for the CRS proposal.

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

- (1) No decision has been made on application 201700053. A scoping document application only commences the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The

EIS process is an information gathering process and is not an approval process. The scoping document application is not published as it only includes enough information to scope the EIS requirements for the proposal. The scoping document issued by the planning and land authority is a Notifiable Instrument and can be found at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2018-27/default.asp>. The draft EIS is then published and made available to the community for comment, as it contains more detailed comprehensive information on the proposal. The applicant is required to address any comments in a revised EIS.

- (2) The Scoping Document for the proposed Fyshwick recycling facility requires the proponent to address climate change and air quality as part of the EIS process. Once the draft EIS is received, the Authority will refer the EIS to relevant agencies, including ACT Health and the Environment Protection Authority. The applicant will need to adequately address any matters raised by these entities in their revised EIS. These entities may consider the proposal against any relevant guidelines and policies which apply.

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### **Education—enrolment projections (Question No 895)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to enrolment projections for ACT schools, what information was used by the ACT Education Directorate in the (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017 calendar years to determine future capacity in each ACT (i) primary, (ii) high and (iii) Kindergarten to Year 12 for the years 2014-2019.
- (2) What reports are prepared by and for the Education Directorate using the information identified in part (1).
- (3) Can the Minister provide a copy of the reports referred to in part (2), including the ACT Public School Enrolment Projections for (a) 2014-2018, (b) 2015-2019 and (c) 2016-2020.

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

- (1) The Education Directorate undertakes student enrolment projection modelling for each ACT public school. Projections for schools at the primary, high and college levels in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were completed using
    - school census and capacities data
    - land release data
    - sales data and occupation dwelling forecasts sources from the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
    - birth data sourced from Births, Deaths and Marriages and
    - population estimates sources from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
  - (2) No reports are prepared from the information listed in response to question 1.
  - (3) Not applicable.
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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—email policy  
(Question No 899)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the current policy pertaining to emailing detainees of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- (2) What is the process for applying for approval to email a detainee.
- (3) How long does it take for these applications to be processed.
- (4) Can these applications be lodged on the AMC/ACT Corrective Services website; if not, why not.

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

- (1) Detainee access to email is managed in accordance with the *Corrections Management (Email, Internet and Legal Education and Resource Network [LEARN] for Prisoners) Policy 2010*, available at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2010-115/default.asp>.
- (2) Detainees request email contact with individuals and all applications are positively vetted in accordance with the *Corrections Management (Email, Internet and Legal Education and Resource Network [LEARN] for Prisoners) Policy 2010*.

Individuals are not able to make requests to email detainees as ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) has identified that this would significantly increase the risk of victim contact as individuals may create an alias.

The current process for approving email contact based on a detainee application mitigates this risk.

For security reasons, only detainees may apply for new email contacts in part due to the vetting and security process necessary for victim protection, in particular for victims of domestic violence.

- (3) Processing of applications is dependent on a number of factors, including the ability of ACTCS to contact the proposed recipient, staffing levels, and the number of applications that may require processing at any one time. Subject to these factors, ACTCS aims to have requests processed within 24 hours.
- (4) ACTCS does not intend to change the policy for security vetting of email contacts due to the risks outlined above. Detainees will need to continue to make the application for email contact with individuals. As a result there is no need to update the website as members of the public are not able to apply to contact detainees.

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**Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee payments  
(Question No 900)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to detainee payments at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), when a detainee payment has been lodged, is (a) an email sent to the payer confirming that their online payment has been received and/ or being processed; if not, why not, (b) a subsequent email sent to the payer confirming that their payment has been successfully processed; if not, why not and (c) a subsequent email sent to the payer confirming that their payment has been accepted into the detainee's account; if not, why not.
- (2) What is the policy regarding the double buy up, that is, the enabling of inmates to purchase more around the Christmas period;
- (3) Is this policy clearly outlined on the AMC/ ACT Corrective Services website; if not, why not.

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

- (1) (a) Online payments to the AMC Trust Account are effected through a link made available by Westpac on the ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) website. On completion of the transaction, Westpac generates an automated payment reference confirming that payment has been received. This is not confirmation that the payment has been successfully processed into the detainee's account.

All online payments are managed in line with Westpac banking process. This is an automated process and ACTCS is unable to view or amend the details of payments, or issue payment advice notices including emails.

(b) Inter banking clearance processes require three business days to ascertain if the payment is fraudulent or if the depositor has insufficient funds in order to process the transaction. If the bank declines the payment, an email is sent to the relevant detainee to inform him/her of the rejected payment.

(c) It is not standard banking practice for banking institutions to send a notice to the depositor that an amount has been accepted into the recipient's account. For this reason, individuals who make a deposit into the AMC Trust Account do not receive notification from Westpac once their deposit has been accepted into the AMC Trust Account.

- (2) Since suppliers close during Christmas ACTCS provides detainees with the facility of a double deposit for the double buy up. This is a practice of ACTCS and is not embedded in policy.
- (3) This practice is not included in a policy.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—visitor policy (Question No 901)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the procedure for making a booking to visit an inmate at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

- (2) How many ACT Corrective Services staff members are responsible for managing bookings at any given time.
- (3) How are current policies designed to ensure that visits are secure as well as an efficient experience for the visitor.
- (4) Is it possible to book a visit (a) online or (b) via email; if not, why not.
- (5) Has the Directorate considered assigning visitor numbers in order to reduce the time and resources of completing and processing the paperwork for visitations.

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

- (1) Bookings must be made at least 24 hours in advance, unless otherwise approved by the General Manager, Custodial Operations. The process for booking visits entails the visitor calling a booking line and providing details of the detainee they wish to visit, a preferred date and their contact details in a recorded message. This process ensures that all visits are booked in the order that they are requested. This information, as well as the hours of operation, is conveyed in the recorded message for visits bookings.
- (2) There is one person dedicated to visits bookings at any given time, shared between three staff members in the AMC Executive Support Unit.
- (3) Policies including the *Corrections Management (Visits) Policy 2016* (Visits Policy) ensure that visits are secure as well as an efficient experience for visitors.

Security is ensured by various barrier controls. All visitors to the AMC are required to undergo an iris scan, pass any items to be brought into the AMC through an x-ray machine and consent to corrections dog searches, as required.

The AMC aims to ensure efficiency for visitors by notifying visitors when their booking is confirmed about what to expect when visiting the AMC, and encouraging visitors to arrive with sufficient time to undergo security checks ahead of the scheduled visit time. This information is also available in the Visitors Handbook and the ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) website.

The Visits Policy, Visitors Handbook and ACTCS website all state that a visitor must provide identification, complete a visitor form and undergo an iris scan (to register on the system) at the initial visit.

To expedite visits, visitors are not required to provide identification on each subsequent visit, they are only required to complete the visitor form (for administration purposes) and to undertake an iris scan. All individuals, including staff, who wish to enter the AMC must undertake an iris scan to prove identity.

The purpose of this is to ensure the security and good order of the AMC is maintained by preventing an individual gaining entry to the AMC under an alias or false identification.

- (4) There is no current capacity to book visits online or via email. The telephone booking system was initially put in place to guarantee equal access to visits by ensuring that visit requests were processed in the order in which they were received.

ACTCS is currently exploring the option of an online visits booking system, as well as the potential to book visits via email.

- (5) The directorate is currently exploring ways to reduce the time and resources needed to book and process visits to the AMC. The new ACTCS database currently under development, known as CORIS, offers the potential to streamline the process further and will be explored as the system is rolled out.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—visitor feedback (Question No 902)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to visitor grievances at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), what is the procedure for visitors lodging written complaints and providing feedback in relation to the AMC.
- (2) Can lodging a complaint or providing feedback be completed solely on the AMC/ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) website; if not, why not.
- (3) Once feedback or a complaint from a visitor has been received by ACTCS, what is the process of investigation.
- (4) Does the process of investigation differ between “feedback” and a “complaint”.
- (5) Once an investigation into a visitor’s feedback or complaint has been completed, what is the policy for responding to the visitor and in what timeframe.
- (6) Does the AMC website clearly display information pertaining to whom the responsible Minister is for ACTCS and how to contact that Minister; if not, why not.

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

- (1) Visitors can provide written complaints or feedback relating to the AMC by completing a visitor feedback form. These forms are provided to the Manager, AMC Executive Support Team to provide a response and are then recorded by the AMC Compliance Team. Visitors can also contact the ACTCS Policy and Government Unit who will provide them with an email address for written correspondence or by writing directly to the Executive Director, ACTCS. The details for both forms of contact are on the ACTCS website ([www.cs.act.gov.au](http://www.cs.act.gov.au)). Visitors are also able to lodge complaints with the ACT Human Rights Commission or the ACT Ombudsman regarding the AMC.
- (2) Individuals are unable to lodge complaints or feedback via the ACTCS website. This is currently under review.
- (3) Each complaint or suggestion received by ACTCS is managed on an individual basis. Where the complaint is received by the ACTCS Policy and Government Unit, a member of the team will action the complaint or suggestion by gathering information and seeking stakeholder input prior to formulating a response. The response is then reviewed by the relevant ACTCS Executive, prior to submission to the Executive

Director, ACTCS. Complaints received at the AMC are responded to by the General Manager, Custodial Operations and logged by the AMC Compliance Team.

- (4) Feedback is acknowledged, with further information provided if appropriate. The feedback may be forwarded to the relevant Manager, the ACTCS Executive or other relevant staff for consideration or appropriate action. All other correspondence is responded to as outlined in the response to question 3.
- (5) Complaints or suggestions received by ACTCS are typically responded to within 20 working days, depending on the complexity of the issue. The individuals are provided with confirmation of receipt and expected time frame of ACTCS response within 5 working days of ACTCS receiving their complaint or suggestion.
- (6) The ACTCS website does not currently provide any information on the ACT Minister for Corrections. ACTCS will update the Corrections website, including Ministerial reporting, as part of the ACT Government's review of agency websites.

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### **Environment—Molonglo nature reserve (Question No 903)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the Molonglo Nature Reserve, did the Government seek an exemption from a full environmental assessment for the Molonglo 3 development; if so, why.
- (2) Why was the area not considered important with respect to its characteristic biological and natural landscape characteristics or other related phenomena.
- (3) Did it take from 2014 to 2018 for the Government to release the Molonglo River Draft Management Plan; if so, why.
- (4) Can the Minister outline the steps taken for the completion of the Molonglo Draft Management Plan and provide the date those stages were commenced and completed.

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

- (1) Yes. Under Section 211 (s211) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* an exemption from requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been sought for Molonglo Stage 3.

The s211 is sought on the basis that sufficient environmental research and studies have been undertaken to identify the potential environmental impacts of the development in Molonglo Stage 3 satisfying both the Commonwealth and ACT legislation. As part of the s211 application, environmental studies were undertaken to address any matters listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act).

The Molonglo area (including Molonglo Stage 3) has also been the subject of a Strategic Assessment under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) which gained approval in 2011. This is referred to as the Molonglo National Environmental Significance (NES) Plan.

- (2) The Molonglo Stage 3 area, including the Molonglo River Corridor, was and is considered important with respect to its environmental characteristics and landscape setting. Urban development in Molonglo 3 was included in the Strategic Assessment on matters of NES approved in 2011 by the Commonwealth under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The approved NES Plan is included in the current s211 EIS exemption application being considered by the planning authority. The approved NES Plan provides for development within the Molonglo Valley area including in Molonglo Stage 3. Among other things, the approval of the strategic assessment established the ACT Government's commitments to adaptively manage and offset important areas including the Kama Nature Reserve, Patch GG and the Molonglo river corridor. Previously in 2008, environmental characteristics and landscape setting were originally considered through the Territory Plan and the National Capital Plan rezonings of parts of the Molonglo Valley area for urban purposes.
- (3) The Molonglo River Draft Reserve Management Plan (the draft plan) was released on 8 February 2018.

The Molonglo Valley NES Plan was approved by the Australian Government Department of the Environment in December 2011. In accordance with this agreement, the reserve management plan was to be finalised by 7 April 2014. A draft plan was prepared meeting this timeframe.

The draft plan was not released for public consultation in 2014 as the new Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the ACT was being released the same year and consequential changes to the draft plan were required to ensure consistency with the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan. Following revision of the draft plan, further consultation was required with key stakeholders to ensure that the proposed revised policy adequately addressed relevant fire management issues.

Additional consultation was also required to resolve whether the Kama Nature Reserve Buffer zone, required under the NES Plan, was a matter to be determined in the draft Plan. This consultation occurred during 2015.

As a consequence of this consultation, an additional section was added to the draft plan providing functional criteria to guide the design and management of the Kama Nature Reserve buffer zone for the mitigation of urban development edge effects.

- (4) The steps taken to complete the Molonglo River Reserve Draft Reserve Management Plan (draft Plan) including dates of when each stage was commenced and completed are outlined below.

Date	Step
July to December 2013	Preparation of Issues Papers and engagement with Community Reference Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of issues paper</li> <li>• Engagement with community and stakeholders</li> <li>• Preparation of Consultation Report to inform development of Draft Plan</li> </ul>



Date	Step
February to December 2014	Preparation of draft Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and refinement of draft Plan of Management – versions 1 to 7</li> <li>• Engagement with Community Reference Group and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
January to December 2015	Consultation and discussion of the Kama Nature Reserve Buffer Zone as part of the draft Plan.
January to July 2016	Development of draft Plan version 8 – circulated for stakeholders for comment and refinements
July to December 2016	Development and delivery of <i>Kama Interface Management Strategy</i>
February 2017	The Conservator endorses draft Plan
March to December 2017	Finalisation of draft Plan version 9
February 2018	Draft Plan version 9 released for public consultation
23 March 2018	Deadline for Submissions on draft Plan version 9

### **Roads—speed limits (Question No 904)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) How many motorists have been booked for speeding or other offences in school zones since the start of the school year and at what schools did these bookings occur.
- (2) How many motorists were booked for speeding and other offences in the same period last year and at what schools did these bookings occur.
- (3) How many, if any, school zones have flashing or other illuminated signs
- (4) At what schools are these flashing or other illuminated signs installed.
- (5) How many schools have lollypop attendants and (a) at what schools are these attendants located, (b) what are their hours, (c) what is the cost of their employment and (d) who employs them.

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

- (1) During the first two weeks of school term 2018 (5 to 18 February 2018), ACT Policing issued four Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs) for speeding in school zones. During the same time period, ACT Policing issued six cautions for speeding in school zones.

ACT Policing is unable to specify the exact schools in which these TINs were issued as some streets have multiple schools on them. However, the TINs were issued in

Franklin, Nicholls, Phillip and Reid, and the cautions were issued in Bonner, Gungahlin (two), Hackett, Harrison and Nicholls.

- (2) During the first two weeks of school term 2017 (30 January to 12 February 2017), ACT Policing issued 25 TINs for speeding in school zones. During the same time period, ACT Policing issued 10 cautions for speeding in school zones.

ACT Policing is unable to specify the exact schools in which these TINs were issued as some streets have multiple schools on them. However, the TINs were issued in Aranda, Bonner, Charnwood (two), Deakin, Dickson (five), Franklin, Hackett, Harrison (four), Kambah, Lyneham, Page (four), Palmerston, Phillip (two). Cautions were issued in Aranda (two), Dickson, Harrison (two), Kaleen, O'Connor (two), Page and Palmerston.

\*These figures do not include speed camera data. ACT Policing's records for school zone offences are limited to speeding offences.

- (3) Nil.

- (4) Nil.

- (5) The School Crossing Supervisor program commenced at 20 crossings, which potentially benefits 23 schools, on 5 February 2018. The schools that directly benefit from the program are Amaroo School, Brindabella Christian College (Lyneham campus), Canberra Girls Grammar School (junior school), Chapman Primary School, Florey Primary School, Forrest Primary School, Garran Primary School, Gold Creek School, Harrison School, Hughes Primary School, Lyneham Primary School, Majura Primary School, Mother Teresa School, Namadgi School, Ngunnawal Primary School, Red Hill Primary School, St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Sts Peter & Paul Primary School, Trinity Christian School and Turner School. The three co-located schools that may also benefit from the program are Good Shepherd Primary School, Holy Spirit School and Malkara School.

The supervisors work for an hour in the morning and afternoon, with the shifts based around the individual school start and finish times. The service will cost approximately \$360,000 to deliver in the first year. HOBAN Recruitment has been engaged to deliver the program in the ACT.

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## **Energy—gas (Question No 905)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 16 February 2018  
(*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) In relation to the use of conventional gas in ACT Property Group operated properties, how many properties use gas heating.
- (2) How many ACT Property Group operated properties use gas stovetops or cooking appliances.
- (3) What proportion of total ACT Government greenhouse gas emissions come from use of conventional gas.

- (4) How many tonnes of greenhouse gas (including breakdown) are emitted by the ACT Government each year as a result of the continued use of conventional gas in ACT Property Group operated properties.
- (5) Which ACT Property Group operated properties consume the most conventional gas.
- (6) What actions are the ACT Property Group taking to transition away from conventional gas in their properties.
- (7) What is the timeline for ACT Property Group operated properties to be entirely gas free.

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

- (1) 36.
- (2) 14.
- (3) In the 2016/17 financial year, conventional gas made up 17% of total ACT Government emissions, as defined under the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004 (Act)*, *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Notice 2017 (Instrument)* and the *Carbon Neutral ACT Government Framework (Carbon Neutral Framework)*.
- (4) In the 2016/17 financial year, 4,640 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e were emitted by ACT Property Group properties reporting ACT Government emissions, as defined under above mentioned Act, Instrument and Carbon Neutral Framework.

The Carbon Neutral Framework defines the ACT Government reporting boundary as all budget dependent entities for which the ACT Government has operational control. As such there are many smaller sites and community centres where ACT Property Group own or operate a property with gas heating, but do not report on emissions as the properties are leased out to non-Government entities. ACT Property Group also does not always have access to consumption data for sites outside the reporting boundary and would be unable to report emissions in any case.

This explains the discrepancy in the number of properties quoted in response to question 1 to those in the breakdown list below:

Location	Gas consumption (MJ)	T CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Mitchell Depot	53,526,807.00	3,443.38
North Building **	4,405,340.83	283.40
Macarthur House	3,650,824.79	234.86
1 Moore Street	2,925,325.41	188.19
255 Canberra Avenue	2,316,138.27	149.00
Village Creek Health Centre	1,322,788.20	85.09
Callam Offices	1,087,418.90	69.95
North Curtin ESA (former school)	959,809.60	61.74

Location	Gas consumption (MJ)	T CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Woden Library	656,426.84	42.23
Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry	619,474.54	39.85
Belconnen Library	609,134.98	39.19
Stromlo Depot	51,344.76	3.30

\*\* North Building HVAC was upgraded to electric in the second half of 2017.

(5) As per the response to question 4.

(6) ACT Property Group pursue opportunities to transition away from natural gas as part of any mechanical services upgrades, in line with the Carbon Neutral Framework. This may include projects under the ACT Government Capital Works program and ACT Property Group capital upgrades and planned works programs.

When new mechanical upgrades are considered, design consultants are briefed on costs of electricity and natural gas, the Carbon Neutral Framework and the 100% renewable electricity target. Consultants then take life cycle costs and carbon emissions into their design recommendations with a preference to transition to electricity where feasible.

(7) There are a number of considerations that need to be taken into account for ACT Property Group properties to be entirely gas free, including:

- technical limitations of current electric heating technology in the Canberra climate will require gas heating to remain at some properties for the foreseeable future;
- the remaining life cycle of gas heating equipment in some ACT Property Group sites is greater than 15 years and it would be uneconomical to replace equipment until the end of its working life; and
- electrical load of existing electric heating units will require significant electrical upgrades and potentially ActewAGL distribution transformer/sub-station upgrades at some sites.

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## Environment—weed trees (Question No 906)

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What are the current restrictions on the sale of weed trees, in particular, non-endemic species, in the ACT.
- (2) What is the current list of weed trees and their status.
- (3) Has the ACT Government considered further restrictions on the sale of the Chinese Elm.

- (4) As the Chinese Elm is often planted as a bird-attractor and is a feeder plant for rosellas and other parrots, are there other local native trees with a similar build/shape to the Chinese Elm that also act as a feeder to parrots.
- (5) Has the Directorate provided advice to garden nurseries on prioritising local native trees over non-endemic species.

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

- (1) Plants declared as pest plants in the ACT are listed in the *Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plants) Declaration 2015 (No 1)* which is available to the public on the ACT Legislation Register at: <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2015-59/current/pdf/2015-59.pdf>. This list provides guidance to nurseries. Species categorised as prohibited in this list cannot be sold or otherwise supplied.
- (2) Invasive tree species with the status of 'notifiable', 'must be suppressed', 'must be contained' or 'prohibited' are listed in the *Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plants) Declaration 2015 (No 1)* at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2015-59/current/pdf/2015-59.pdf>.
- (3) Whilst the Chinese Elm has naturalised in places, it has not displayed the characteristics of a serious invasive plant. Therefore it is a lower priority for action with regard to controlling its sale and is not currently a declared pest plant. The Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate will investigate whether suitable sterile cultivars are available for landscape planting in the ACT. If suitable sterile cultivars are available, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate may consider proposing declaration of non-sterile cultivars of Chinese Elm as prohibited pest plants.
- (4) Yes. Local wattles, eucalypts, kurrajongs, river she oaks and native cypress pines are all examples of bird attractors.
- (5) Information is made available to plant nurseries on suitable plants to grow in the ACT through the Grow Me Instead Program. Grow Me Instead (GMI) is an initiative of the Nursery and Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) promoting a positive change in the attitude of both industry and consumers toward invasive plants. Details of the program specific to the ACT can be found at <http://www.growmeinstead.com.au/public/GMI-brochure-ACT-High-Country.pdf>.

The ACT Government is also participating in a new program called PlantSure. PlantSure is an initiative of the Nursery and Garden Industry Association of NSW and ACT and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The program will be identifying garden plants that should no longer be sold because they are invasive plants. Non-invasive alternatives will be recommended as part of the program and will include local native tree species.

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### **Domestic Animal Services—rangers (Question No 907)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to an article in The Canberra Times dated 14 January 2018 that noted that Domestic Animal Service (DAS) Rangers will be operating in pairs moving forward, what is the current number of DAS Rangers on staff.
- (2) How many more DAS Rangers will be hired as a result of the commitment made by the Minister relating to the dangerous dogs reform in November 2017.
- (3) What analysis has the Directorate done on whether the increase in staff will be offset by the decision to have the Rangers operate in pairs.
- (4) Why will DAS Rangers now operate in pairs.
- (5) Will this result in an overall improvement in responsiveness and service quality, and an increase in enforcement actions, being the stated goals of the increase in the number of DAS Rangers.

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

- (1) Currently there are eight Rangers.
- (2) Eight additional Ranger positions are in the process of being recruited.
- (3) The requirement for Rangers to operate in pairs when required for safety reasons has been in place for approximately two years. The increased Ranger staffing levels will have a positive impact on operational capacity and capability.
- (4) The decision to have Rangers attend these incidents in pairs is primarily operational safety. Dog attack incidents, by their very nature, can be dangerous and unpredictable. When attending dog attacks, DAS Rangers are required to restrain, contain, and if necessary seize potentially aggressive and dangerous dogs. The potential risks associated with managing a dangerous dog are significantly reduced if Rangers operate in pairs.
- (5) Yes.

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### **Municipal services—parks (Question No 908)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the City Renewal Authority (CRA) naming competition for a new park in West Basin in 2017, in which only one of the four choices put to a public vote was a woman, why did the CRA choose those names for the competition.
- (2) Why was there not gender balance in the selection.
- (3) What other names were considered that were not put to the public vote.
- (4) Why were there no Indigenous people or names on the list.

- (5) What grounds does the CRA use for deciding what to name new locations, parks, roads etc, under its jurisdiction.
- (6) Of public parks and roads named in the last three years, what proportion have been (a) democratically chosen, (b) named after a woman, (c) named after a Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual and Queer person, (d) named after a person of colour and (e) named after an Indigenous person.
- (7) Have any public parks and roads named in the last three years been named after individuals known to have (a) perpetrated genocide or acts of war against indigenous people historically and (b) committed acts of violence against civilians.
- (8) What steps is the ACT Government taking to ensure women and Indigenous people in particular, and marginalised groups more generally, are better represented in the naming of public spaces in the ACT.
- (9) What steps is the Government taking to ensure that Marion Mahoney Griffin is equally commemorated to Walter Burley Griffin.

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

- (1) The four naming options were provided by the ACT Place Names Committee, which provides recommendations to the Minister, or his delegate, on place names for public places on Territory land in the ACT. In the spirit of embracing community participation the City Renewal Authority consulted with the committee to undertake community engagement to select a preferred name for the new park from an approved shortlist. There were almost 1500 votes cast in the public poll on the ACT Government's YourSay website.
- (2) The ACT Place Names Committee considered naming options for the new park including an Indigenous name and the names of men and women. Key criteria for consideration included people who had a proven association with the history of the location, and who contributed to the development of Canberra as the National Capital, with particular reference to central Canberra. In this instance, Dame Sylvia Crowe DBE, was identified by the committee as fitting this criteria in recognition of the significant contribution she made to the design of Commonwealth Park on Lake Burley Griffin.
- (3) The ACT Place Names Committee gave detailed consideration to the name 'Bindermarran' but was not included in the final shortlist. It is the Committee's understanding that Bindermarran was the first Aboriginal person to have their name recorded in the English language as being directly associated with Cambray/Canberry. The Committee was unable to substantiate the provenance of the name to ensure the wishes of the relevant Aboriginal community were respected. Importantly, the Committee could not be sure about any cultural sensitivities associated with offering the name to the public. The Committee is intending to further research Bindermarran and to look for suitable opportunities to commemorate his name.
- (4) The ACT Place Names Committee did not include the name of an Indigenous person or Indigenous word in the shortlist as available research did not identify suitable names with an established historical association with the location, or names considered suitable for the type and character of the public park being named.

- (5) The City Renewal Authority is not responsible for the naming of public places within its precinct. The ACT Place Names Committee is responsible for assessing the suitability of eminent Australians and Australian flora, or things characteristic of Australia, for commemoration in ACT nomenclature in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Place Names Act 1989*. The committee provides recommendations to the Minister (or Minister's delegate) for the naming of divisions (suburbs) and public places on Territory land within the ACT.
- (6) Of the public parks and roads named in the last three years under the provisions of the *Public Place Names Act 1989*:
- (a) three public parks were named following community engagement processes;
  - (b) 69 women and 71 men have been commemorated;
  - (c) the number named after deceased people who identified as being part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer community cannot be measured as the ACT Place Names do not capture this information;
  - (d) the number named after deceased people who identified as being 'a person of colour' cannot be measured as the ACT Place Names nomenclature records do not capture this category of information;
  - (e) the names of eleven Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples have been commemorated and also, nine words from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander vocabulary.
- (7) The *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2014* provide that if a public place is to be named after a person, reasonable steps are taken to obtain prior permission from relatives, close colleagues or a relevant professional organisation. This consultation and accompanying research by the ACT Place Names Unit did not identify any individuals commemorated in the last three years known to have;
- (a) perpetrated genocide or acts of war against Indigenous people historically and
  - (b) committed acts of violence against civilians.
- (8) The ACT Place Names Committee seeks to commemorate names which are reflective of diverse cultural situations and to improve the gender balance represented in ACT public place names in accordance with the *Public Place Names Act 1989*. When the committee considers nomenclature themes for new divisions it ensures there is sufficient scope to commemorate names to reflect an inclusive community.
- (9) In 2013 the legacy of Marion Mahony Griffin was commemorated in ACT public place names through the naming of the viewing platform on Mt Ainslie as 'Marion Mahony Griffin View'. The government will consider the further commemoration of Marion Mahony Griffin's contribution to Canberra if suitable naming opportunities are identified.

## **Animals—poultry industry code (Question No 909)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:



- (1) How many consultation activities did the ACT Government contribute to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines Stakeholder Advisory Group during the development of the draft poultry industry code.
- (2) Did the ACT Government provide any written submissions to the Stakeholder Advisory Group; if so, what were the contents of those submissions.
- (3) What policy positions did the ACT Government advance during these negotiations.
- (4) Will the ACT Government make a subsequent written submission to the public consultation on the draft poultry industry code; if so, what will be the recommendations in that submission.

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

- (1) The ACT Government participated in the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) for the development of the National Poultry Standards and Guidelines.
- (2) The ACT Government did not make any formal submissions and supported the position of the majority of other jurisdictions.
- (3) The ACT did not advance any policy positions, however the ACT has strong measures already in place to protect the welfare of laying hens. Amendments to the *Animal Welfare Act* were introduced in 2013 to improve and protect animal welfare by outlawing factory farming practices, namely battery cages for egg production.
- (4) On 26 February 2018, Shane Rattenbury, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety and I provided a joint letter to Animal Health Australia on the proposed Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry. The joint letter indicated the Government's support for promoting high standards for animal welfare as well as opportunities for informed consumer choice.

The joint letter noted that the proposed guidelines no longer refer to criteria evidencing free-range conditions for laying hens. Instead, they introduce generalised requirements for caged and non-caged birds. This change would be inconsistent with the ACT's *Eggs (Labelling and Sale) Act 2001* (The Act) and the proposed *Australian Consumer Law (Free Range Egg Labelling) Information Standard 2017*. The Act and proposed Information Standard require clear labelling of free-range eggs to inform consumer choices.

The joint letter also expressed concern that the absence of free-range criteria had implications for the ability of consumers to make fully informed choices when purchasing eggs.

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### **Children and young people—foster care (Question No 910)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to respite care for carers of children in out-of-home care, what funded respite options exist for foster carers seeking support while providing care for children in out-of-home care.

- (2) What unfunded services exist for foster carers seeking support while providing care for children in out-of-home care and do these same provisions exist for kinship carers.
- (3) If kinship carers are unable to access these funded options, what other funded options are available to them.
- (4) What actions are the ACT Government taking to provide support for kinship carers in the community.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) A range of respite support options are made available to foster and kinship carers through ACT Together as required, and in the best interests of the child and the caring family. ACT Together maintains a pool of respite foster carers who are asked to commit to a 12 month respite placement of one weekend per month. In recognition of the specific needs of some placements, ACT Together funds external referrals for respite, such as camps. Respite for carers in some circumstances can be provided in a therapeutic way that supports the attachment and bond between carer and child. This can include services such as babysitting and house cleaning.
- (2) ACT Together is funded to provide services for both kinship and foster carers. They provide services for all foster carers and for kinship carers who care for children and young people on long-term court orders. These services include case management, debriefing, advocacy, training and referral to other services as needed. Therapeutic supports including counselling and training are provided for both foster and kinship carers through ACT Together's therapeutic service. For kinship carers this includes free family and individual counselling. Both foster carers and long-term kinship carers receive the same level of support and consistent, coordinated case management services.

Carers ACT provides a Kinship and Foster Care Advocacy Support Service to provide independent support and advice to assist carers in their caring role and resolve issues with service providers and/or Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS).

*A Step Up for Our Kids* has also introduced a range of additional supports for carers to assist them in their caring role. These supports include:

- i. training for kinship and foster carers on how to provide trauma-informed care to vulnerable children and young people;
  - ii. ensuring carers are provided with appropriate information and support right from the start of the placement by providing children entering care with a therapeutic assessment; and
  - iii. ensuring that carers have access to key health information about the child or young person in their care through the provision of Health Passports.
- (3) Kinship carers are able to access all services listed in the responses to questions 1 and 2.

For kinship carers caring for children on short-term orders, respite support can be provided by respite carers from ACT Together. This is requested via the CYPS placement coordinator and is dependent on availability of respite carers.

Kinship carers can also identify family or close friends for respite. If support is provided through a family arrangement it is unfunded, but if it is through a formal request for ongoing respite it is assessed and funded by CYPS.

- (4) In addition to the services outlined in the preceding questions, the CYPS Assessment and Support Team (Kinship) provides phone and face to face support to those kinship carers they directly case manage.

In 2018, the Connect Kin Program commenced which is providing a trauma informed, attachment-based 8 week group program for kinship carers with a child in their care aged 8 – 16 years who is displaying complex trauma behaviour. The Connect Kin Program is a joint program between ANU and CYPS and is open to kinship carers supported by both CYPS and ACT Together.

The Australian Childhood Foundation provides training for kinship carers, which includes foundation trauma training and life story work for kinship carers.

Kinship carers are able to access dedicated playgroups and informal networking groups to provide peer support. These are coordinated by both ACT Together and Carers ACT.

CYPS also refers kinship carers to community supports including:

- i. Relationships Australia which provides free family and individual counselling to kinship carers; and
- ii. Support through child and family centres, family support services and youth support services.

The ACT Government has allocated \$250,000 to the ACT Carers Strategy, which is being developed using a deliberative democracy process. A Carers Voice Panel, comprising carers and members of the broader community met in 2017 to deliberate on their vision for a carer friendly Canberra, the outcomes we want to see for carers and what our shared priorities should be. This included Kinship Carers, whose stories were listened to with great interest by other panel members, and informed the Carers Voice Panel Report.

I launched the Carers Voice Panel Report and their Vision, Outcomes and Priorities Statement in December. A three year Action Plan, that will deliver on the vision, outcomes and priorities is currently being developed.

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### **Planning—Manuka Oval (Question No 911)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What was the reason for the use of call-in powers in December 2017 to fast-track the Manuka Oval media and broadcast centre.
- (2) What was the urgency to proceed with the project despite considerable concern and objection from the local community.

- (3) What community consultation and involvement was, and will be, involved in the approval and construction of the Manuka Oval Media Centre moving forward.

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

1. I have used my call-in powers in this instance because I considered the proposal will provide a substantial public benefit, particularly to enhance the facilities at Manuka Oval, but also to benefit the wider Canberra community. The provision of a much needed modern broadcast and media facility will serve our economic sustainability goals by capitalising on economic opportunities that are associated with modern sporting venues that will attract national and international events. The provision of this facility will also serve our social sustainability goals by further enhancing the great place that Manuka Oval already is. The newly enhanced Manuka Oval will continue to meet the diverse recreational needs of our residents, the needs of visitors to our city, but will further connect our city and community to a much wider audience nationally and internationally. The proposed development will promote high quality, creative design, and innovation in an existing urban and landscape setting, while safeguarding the heritage and iconic values it holds for the Territory. The use of my ability to 'call-in' this development application will contribute to the timely and considered construction of the facility, whilst preserving the important heritage and environmental values present at the locality.
2. The urgency to proceed with the project revolved around timely construction of the facility, the need to secure, and the ability to deliver a sports broadcasting facility for Canberra to host international events – particularly international cricket test matches, but also major AFL events. Hosting such events require significant advance planning, commitment and certainty that the venue will be at the required standard during the relevant sporting season. The media and broadcast centre will be an integrated component of the Manuka Oval sport facilities. Representations and objections received from the local community during public notification of the development application were thoroughly considered in the assessment process, and my decision provided a response to key issues.
3. A three-staged community engagement process was undertaken by the applicant prior to lodgement of the development application at the beginning of 2017. Stage 1 involved drafting guiding principles for design of the media centre, and Stage 2 sought feedback on draft designs. These stages included letterbox drops, two community workshops, two drop-in sessions, online feedback, and an opportunity for email and written submissions. Stage 3 involved engaging with the community about final designs and changes made to the design following Stage 2 engagement.

The proposal was then lodged as a development application and publicly notified for three weeks as required under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*. The public notification period was extended for an additional week to provide the community with the best possible opportunity to comment without impacting the statutory timeframes. The proposed design was also presented to the newly formed interim Design Review Panel (DRP) which was co-chaired by the ACT Government Architect and the acting Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority during the course of the development application, and prior to final endorsement.

The development application has now been approved and no further community consultation is envisaged or required. However, targeted notification and consultation

may be undertaken by the contractors or agencies involved in the construction phase, for example for verge works and temporary parking arrangements.

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**Planning—Manuka Oval  
(Question No 912)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Urban Renewal*):

- (1) Did a ministerial media release of 5 August 2016 titled “Government commits to new masterplan for Manuka Oval” state that “A panel of community representatives will advise the Government on a detailed masterplan for Manuka Oval” and that “an expression of interest for panel membership will be advertised within the next six weeks”, if so, what is the terms of reference for the community panel.
- (2) What is/ was the membership of the panel.
- (3) When was the panel established.
- (4) How often has the panel met.
- (5) Does the panel remain active.
- (6) What were the results of its consultation.

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

- (1-6) The Government is committed to a new masterplan for the Manuka Oval precinct. At this stage, the formation of the community panel has been deferred pending the completion of the Manuka Oval media and broadcast facilities. This timing also avoids any confusion arising from the National Capital Authority’s review of the Development Control Plan for the area. Any future development will be guided by the community through the development of the master plan.
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**Director of Public Prosecutions—staff  
(Question No 913)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the current workload for staff, including the Director, for the Office of the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).
- (2) What proportion of staff, including the Director, are routinely working overtime or overloading on casework.
- (3) What proportion of time does the Director spend directly on casework, case management or personal handling of briefs, as opposed to policy, management and oversight tasks.

- (4) What proportion of total briefs are managed directly by the Director compared against delegated to other solicitors or briefed out.
- (5) Given the recent announcement of additional funding and staff resourcing for ODPP, will the new staffing reduce the total work/ caseload on existing solicitors or will the new staff be working on completely separate work.
- (6) How many additional staff and how much additional funding would ODPP require to reduce work/ caseload to an acceptable level.

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

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is managed independently and all information about management, staffing, and workload is available directly through the Director of Public Prosecutions and their annual reports.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the Director of Public Prosecutions is adequately resourced to undertake its important role in the justice system, and that resourcing decisions about the DPP and other actors in the justice system are made coherently and from the perspective that changes to each will affect the entire justice system.

The \$970,000 announced in the Mid-Year Budget Review for the Director of Public Prosecutions will provide for specialist resources to conduct confiscation of criminal assets matters. The Government is currently considering additional funding for the Director of Public Prosecutions as part of the 2018-19 budget process.

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### **Environment—pesticides (Question No 915)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) What is the current regulation of pesticide use in the ACT.
- (2) What are the current obligations on the recording of use of pesticides and are these obligations the same for residents, businesses and government; if not, how do they differ.
- (3) Does the ACT Government's approach to pesticide regulation align with national or international best practice.
- (4) Against what benchmarks does the ACT Government assess the efficacy of its management of pesticides.
- (5) When was the last review of the ACT Government Insecticide Guidelines undertaken.
- (6) What were the results of that review.
- (7) How often are reviews of the Guidelines undertaken.

- (8) Which ACT Government directorates, agencies or services use pesticides, which pesticides do they use and in what (a) quantity, (b) frequency and (c) location.
- (9) Do any ACT Government service, agency or contractor use neonicotinoids or similar chemicals, linked to reductions of bee populations.
- (10) What training is provided by the ACT Government to ACT Government employees on the use of and recording practices for pesticides.
- (11) What training is required of commercial providers in the ACT in relation to the use of and recording practices for pesticides.
- (12) Does the ACT Government have any plans to implement a plant procurement policy which would require suppliers to align with pesticides regulation in the ACT.

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

- (1) Agricultural and veterinary (Agvet) chemicals must be used in accordance with Part 6 of the *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* which specifies they must be used in accordance with their approved label or an off label permit. These conditions are set by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national regulator. It is illegal to use a chemical which is not registered by the APVMA.

The commercial use of Agvet chemicals is a Class A activity under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (the EP Act) and a person must not undertake this activity unless they hold an environmental authorisation issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) (see answer to question 10).

- (2) There are currently no legislative requirements for record keeping in the ACT.
- (3) ACT Government's approach to pesticide regulation aligns with national best practice. Commercial operators licensed by the EPA are required to hold nationally accredited competencies delivered by registered training organisations and it is a requirement for all users, both commercial and non-commercial, to use Agvet chemicals in accordance with their conditions of registration which are set by the national regulator the APVMA.
- (4) The regulation of Agvet chemicals in the ACT is similar to that undertaken in other jurisdictions. Notwithstanding this the ACT, along with all jurisdictions, is participating in a Council of Australian Governments reform project to develop a single national framework to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulation of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines.
- (5) There is no ACT Insecticide Guideline. Agvet chemical use is regulated under the EP Act and associated regulation. As noted in the answer to question 4 the ACT Government is participating in a national reform project looking to develop a single national framework. It is envisaged through this work that there will be changes to the ACT regulatory model.
- (6) N/A
- (7) N/A

- (8) Please see individual Directorate responses at Attachment A.
- (9) Some ACT Government services, agencies and contractors use neonicotinoids or similar chemicals. All neonicotinoids registered for use in Australia have been through the APVMA's robust chemical risk assessment process and are safe and effective provided products are used in accordance with the label instructions. The APVMA uses an evidence based, weight-of-evidence approach to risk assessments, which consider the full range of risks and take into account studies of the environment, including the impact on non-target species, such as bees, and how these risks can be minimised through clear instructions, restricted uses and safety directions.
- (10) All business (including ACT government agencies) who hold a current environmental authorisation must ensure that all personnel using Agvet chemicals are suitably skilled and have successfully achieved minimum competency standards. These competencies are nationally accredited standards which are delivered by Registered Training Organisations and cover weed spraying, urban pest control, timber pest treatment, fumigation, vertebrate pest management and aerial application.
- As part of the Council of Australian Governments reform, work is being undertaken on harmonising minimum competency standards for fee for service providers.
- (11) See answer to question 2. However for quality assurance purposes individual Directorates would require their contractors to keep records.
- (12) As noted in the answer to question 1, all Agvet chemical use (both domestic and commercial) must be in accordance with Part 6 of the *Environment Protection Regulation 2005*.

*(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).*

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### **Clubs—data collection (Question No 916)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

- (1) In relation to clubs collecting personal, private data by scanning drivers licences, what do clubs in the ACT need to collect in terms of identifying data in order to satisfy their legal or regulatory obligations.
- (2) How long is this data retained.
- (3) How secure are these systems.
- (4) Does the ACT Government require a specific or minimum level of encryption or data protection to be in place before clubs can collect this data.
- (5) What safeguards are in place to ensure private or identifying data (a) is not on-sold to commercial data services and (b) are not stored in vulnerable or compromised systems.



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

- (1) Clubs are required to verify identity and membership to meet their obligations under gaming and alcohol regulatory frameworks in the ACT. Only members, temporary members, and signed-in guests may play gaming machines or purchase alcohol at clubs.

Clubs must comply with any applicable requirements of the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) under the *Privacy Act 1988* (the Privacy Act) when collecting, using, disclosing and storing personal information.

The Privacy Act applies only to entities with a gross turnover of more than \$3 million per annum.

However, smaller clubs with gaming machines that are otherwise exempt from the Privacy Act have obligations under the APPs because they are handling personal information as reporting entities under the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* and its Regulations and Rules (AML/CTF obligations).

Under the AML/CTF obligations, clubs with 16 or more electronic gaming machines are required to:

- enrol with AUSTRAC
- adopt and maintain an AML/CTF program
- report suspicious matters to AUSTRAC
- keep transaction records.

Clubs with 15 or fewer electronic gaming machines are exempt from the requirement to have an AML/CTF program, however, they are still required to enrol with AUSTRAC, report suspicious matters and keep transaction records.

Clubs must collect and verify the identity of customers:

- who are paid out prize winnings of \$10,000 or more; or
- about whom the club's enhanced customer due diligence program requires the club to obtain and verify customer information (such as where a customer is high risk or the club has formed a suspicion about certain behaviour or activities).

For AUSTRAC guidance material for pubs and clubs, see <http://www.austrac.gov.au/pubs-and-clubs%20A0-gaming-machines>. This guidance material specifically includes scanning and saving government-issued identification documents as an example of compliance with AML/CTF 'Know Your Customer' requirements (pages 26 and 27, *Preparing and implementing an anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) program: Pubs & clubs*).

- (2) Clubs must comply with any applicable laws about the retention of data but the applicable laws vary. Clubs with gaming machines must retain customer identification records for at least seven years to comply with AML/CTF obligations.

- (3) As with other private and non-government sector entities, the ACT does not regulate the collection and storage of private information by clubs. Where applicable, the Australian Privacy Principles and Commonwealth laws regulate the collection, storage, and use of personal information by entities other than the ACT Government (and its contracted entities).
- (4) The ACT does not set technical specifications for the storage of data by clubs as the privacy rules and regulations that apply to non-government entities are set by the Commonwealth.
- (5) As noted in the responses to the previous questions, the legal and regulatory obligations of clubs in relation to information they collect depends upon the provisions of any relevant legislation that applies to them. There is not a general provision in ACT legislation setting information management standards for clubs. Provisions of the Privacy Act and the APPs, as they apply to a club, or other legislation imposing requirements for the purposes of particular regulatory schemes may be relevant to the treatment of information by clubs, including whether there are any limits on disclosure to third parties.

### **Housing—homelessness services (Question No 917)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the \$100 000 noted in the Community Services Directorate Annual Report 2016-2017 allocated to “fund professional development initiatives for frontline housing and homelessness services to improve organisational capacity and staff capability”, with further notes that funding would be delivered in the 2018-2019 Budget in the context of the closure of Inanna and Capital Community Housing, what form will this training or professional development take.
- (2) Who will provide this training or professional development.
- (3) Which organisations and people will be able to access it.
- (4) Is this training for people with specific roles (eg tenancy managers, property managers, leadership team) or for staff as a whole.
- (5) Will board members and volunteers of participating organisations will be able to access this training or professional development.
- (6) What consultation has been conducted with housing and homelessness services about what they need in terms of professional development.

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

- (1) Following the closure of Inanna and Capital Community Housing in 2016, the ACT Government recognised that frontline housing and homelessness services required additional support to enhance organisational capability and staff capacity.

For that purpose, the 2017-18 ACT Government Budget allocated \$100,000 for the professional development of frontline specialist housing and homelessness workers, and their organisations, to build capability and service innovation.

Housing ACT is working with the Joint Pathways Executive to develop a strategic training and development framework to identify fundamental skills required of the sector. This will inform a dedicated training and professional development program which will be delivered to the sector in 2018-19.

- (2) Housing ACT and the Joint Pathways Executive are currently developing a strategic training and professional development framework for the sector. As this initiative is new in development, it is too early to advise who will deliver the program.
- (3) Organisations and staff within the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector, and organisations registered as ACT community housing providers, will have access to programs within the dedicated training and professional development program in 2018-19.
- (4) As the initiative is in the early stages of development, it is too early to advise if the program will target people in specific roles (for example, tenancy managers, property managers, leadership team) or staff as a whole.
- (5) It is essential that board members have the necessary skills and abilities to administer an organisation. For this reason, board members and volunteers are a specific focus of the ACT Community Services Industry Strategy 2016 – 2026. The \$100,000 Budget initiative will not duplicate activities under Community Industry Strategy. Board members and volunteers will be able to access the dedicated training and professional development program in 2018-19.
- (6) Housing ACT is working closely with the Joint Pathways Executive to deliver this Budget initiative. Together, they are consulting the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector to identify the fundamental skills for the sector. The strategic training and development framework is also a standing agenda item at each Joint Pathways members meeting, which is attended by staff and management from the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector every six weeks.

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### **Public housing—renewal program (Question No 918)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the Public Housing Renewal Program, can the Minister provide the number of apartments, townhouses, and detached houses that have been constructed to date as part of the Public Housing Renewal Program, broken down by the (a) number of bedrooms and (b) number of Class C adaptable dwellings, or compliance with Liveable Housing Design guidelines (none, Silver, Gold, or Platinum).
- (2) Can the Minister provide the final number of apartments, townhouses and detached houses that will be constructed as part of the Public Housing Renewal Program, broken down by the (a) number of bedrooms and (b) number of Class C adaptable

dwellings, or compliance with Liveable Housing Design guidelines (none, Silver, Gold, or Platinum).

- (3) Can the Minister provide the average construction cost per dwelling (not including land value or acquisition) of new public housing stock that has been built to date as part of the Public Housing Renewal Program, specifically, the cost of apartments, townhouses, and detached houses broken down by the (a) number of bedrooms and (b) number of Class C adaptable dwellings, or compliance with Liveable Housing Design guidelines (none, Silver, Gold, or Platinum).

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

- (1) As at 27 February 2018, a total of 379 dwellings have been constructed (excluding the 283 dwellings which have been purchased) for the public housing renewal program as follows:

Category	Apartments	Townhouses	Detached houses	Total
<b>1 bedroom</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>2 bedroom</b>	250	38	6	<b>294</b>
<b>3 bedroom</b>	1	19	63	<b>83</b>
<b>4 bedroom</b>	0	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>379</b>

Category	Apartments	Townhouses	Detached houses	Total
<b>Class C Adaptable</b>	48	38	0	<b>86</b>
<b>Liveable Gold</b>	203	19	71	<b>293</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>379</b>

- (2) As at 27 February 2018, a total of 393 dwellings are programmed for construction for the public housing renewal program (noting that this excludes dwellings completed to date and that a number of these dwellings are subject to planning and development approvals):

Category	Apartments	Townhouses	Detached houses	Total
<b>1 bedroom</b>	8	0	0	<b>8</b>
<b>2 bedroom</b>	236	105	26	<b>367</b>
<b>3 bedroom</b>	0	0	18	<b>18</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>393</b>

Category	Apartments	Townhouses	Detached houses	Total
<b>Class C Adaptable</b>	41	34	0	<b>75</b>
<b>Liveable Gold</b>	203	71	44	<b>318</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>393</b>

- (3) The Public Housing Renewal Taskforce is still undertaking tender processes for the remaining dwellings yet to be constructed. In order to prevent undue influence on the competitive nature of these processes, it is preferred that average construction costs

per dwelling type are not made public at this time. A more detailed analysis can be provided once all tenders have been awarded. The average costs for Tranches 1 and 2 of the public housing renewal program (which are now completed and included the construction of dwellings to replace Owen Flats, Allawah Court, Karuah and the Red Hill Housing Precinct) were \$245,425.75.

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### **Housing—multi-unit complexes (Question No 919)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the current timeframe for releasing the resources to support multi-unit living that have been developed by Access Canberra in consultation with stakeholders including the Owners Corporation Network.
- (2) Will these resources be updated regularly to ensure their currency.

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

- (1) Access Canberra has been working with key stakeholders, including the Owners Corporation Network (the OCN), to develop resources for persons purchasing or living in a units plan, including:
  - a general guide which outlines the legal and other responsibilities of persons living in units plans;
  - a more specific guide supporting understanding around the maintenance responsibilities in multi-unit residential settings; and
  - two pamphlets for people who are considering purchasing a unit title residence.

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 owners corporations and executive committees.

Stakeholder consultation to ensure these resources meet the needs of the ACT community takes time. Access Canberra is currently waiting on input from the OCN to a request for comments on the general guide. Once this input is received Access Canberra will quickly progress further stakeholder engagement with a view to having the suite of resources made available to the public in late March 2018.

- (2) Access Canberra will monitor changes to legislation around multi-unit living to ensure these guides and pamphlets are up-to-date and continue to meet the needs of the ACT community.

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### **Municipal services—tree vandalism (Question No 921)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the ACT Government's policy on the vandalism of trees.
- (2) How many instances of repeated or prolonged vandalism of trees has the ACT Government been made aware of over the last twelve months.
- (3) How many specific instances of repeated or prolonged vandalism of (a) heritage or protected trees and (b) young trees in parks or verges in new suburbs.
- (4) What enforcement actions have the ACT Government taken against tree vandalism in the last twelve months.
- (5) Does the ACT Government undertake targeted education campaigns in tree vandalism hotspots on the repercussions of tree vandalism (for example, a letter to residents on a street with young verge trees on the heat island effect).

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

- (1) Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) replaces vandalised trees that cannot be saved by formative pruning. TCCS will seek to prosecute offenders where sufficient evidence is available. Where vandalism is ongoing TCCS will only replace vandalised trees once.
- (2) Approximately 100 developing trees were damaged by vandals during the past 12 months including several examples involving repeated vandalism.
- (3) a) Nil examples on heritage or protected trees.  
b) Some young trees near the playground in Fadden Pines and some trees in public open space near Griffith and Manuka shops and in Braddon have been repeatedly vandalised during the past year.
- (4) No offenders have been identified so no enforcement action has been possible.
- (5) TCCS has undertaken targeted awareness campaigns previously when vandalism hot spots have been identified. TCCS has used signage and letter box drops to bring issues to the attention of adjacent residents and media releases to bring issues to the attention of the wider community.

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### **Motor vehicles—registration (Question No 922)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) Does the ACT Government offer concessions on vehicle registration renewals to people on low-incomes; if so, what is the eligibility criteria for those concessions; if not, did the ACT Government at any point offer those concessions and why did they discontinue those concessions.
- (2) Do any other states or territories offer concessions on vehicle registration renewals for people with a Centrelink Low-Income Health Care Card.

- (3) What concessions, subsidies or offsets are available for compulsory third party insurance, paid in conjunction with registration fees.
- (4) Has the Government received any concerns or complaints that the cost of compulsory third party insurance remains a barrier for low-income individuals despite vehicle registration concessions.
- (5) What actions has the Government taken to reduce the impact of compulsory third party insurance on low-income individuals.

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

- (1) Yes –
  - Holders of current Centrelink and Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Pension Concession Cards are entitled to 100 per cent discount on registration; and
  - Holders of ACT Seniors Cards are entitled to 10 per cent discount on registration. Seniors with gas or electric powered vehicles are entitled to 28 per cent discount on registration.
- (2) Yes – Low-Income Health Care Card holders are eligible for the following concessions in other states and territories:
  - In Victoria, 50 per cent discount on vehicle registrations; and
  - In Tasmania, specific discounts for registration of motor vehicles (\$49.10), trailers (\$25.50), and motorcycles (\$44.10).
- (3) Compulsory third-party (CTP) insurance is a statutory insurance scheme underwritten by private insurers, designed to cover the at-fault driver to ensure he/she is not personally responsible for compensating injured persons. As such, to ensure that compensation (payable out of premiums) is available to the injured parties, and the scheme is fully funded, concessions are not provided directly to people on low-incomes.

However, the ACT's CTP insurance scheme is a 'community rated' scheme, with all motorists for each vehicle class paying the same amount for CTP insurance regardless of their individual risk profile.

'Community rated' schemes provide equality and affordability, and reduce the cost of CTP for drivers with differing circumstances (such as young and older drivers), a number of whom may also be low income individuals:

- Individual circumstances, such as the age of the driver, the driving record, the age of their vehicle, and the vehicle's location, do not vary the premiums payable by individuals.

Since competition was introduced to the CTP scheme on 15 July 2013, CTP premiums have fallen on average by \$40.23, or 6.8% - the consumer price index has increased by 7.0% over the same period. Competition has also delivered a better range of products and enhanced coverage, such as, at-fault driver cover being offered by most insurers. The benefits from competition have flowed to all motorists, including low-income individuals.

- (4) The public makes contact with the CTP Regulator on a range of CTP insurance matters, with a number of complaints / queries raising the cost of CTP insurance.

Over the period 2015-16 to 2017-18 (to date), 20.0% of the complaints / queries received by the CTP Regulator (6 out of 30 complaints / queries) raised concerns with the cost of CTP insurance.

- (5) The Government has reduced the impact of CTP insurance on low-income individuals by:
- Providing motorists with the option of paying a vehicle registration and CTP insurance for 3, 6 or 12 months;
  - Ensuring the CTP insurance scheme is a 'community rated' scheme; and
  - Introducing competition, which has resulted in CTP premiums falling on average by \$40.23, or 6.8% since 15 July 2013.
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### **Budget—playgrounds (Question No 923)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the total funding allocation for (a) new playground construction and (b) playgrounds repair in the 2017-18 Budget.
- (2) How does this figure change over the forward estimates.

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

- (1) (a) \$100,000 for a new community park at Giralang and (b) \$477,000 for high priority playground upgrade (repair) work that includes rubber softfall replacements, bark installations and minor modifications to playground elements.
  - (2) Forward year estimates for capital funding are unavailable for (a) new playground construction and (b) playground upgrades (repairs).
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### **Municipal services—playgrounds (Question No 924)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

Are there any plans to provide the Waramanga community with a playground or nature based playground; if not, what is the rationale for this.

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

The Government is considering a range of feedback from residents across Canberra regarding additional playground facilities, and this includes feedback from the Waramanga community.



I note that there are four existing playgrounds within the suburb and another four located close by in the neighbouring suburbs of Stirling and Fisher.

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**Municipal services—nature strips  
(Question No 925)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the status of the proposed new guideline on the use of nature strips in residential areas.
- (2) What is the status of the ACAT's consideration legislation relevant to the proposed new guidelines and when is ACAT due to hand down a decision.
- (3) When will the new guidelines be released publically.

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

- (1) Finalisation of the Nature Strip Guidelines is pending the findings of the ACT Administrative and Civil Appeals Tribunal (ACAT) relating to the *Public Unleased Land Act 2013* (PULA) and unapproved verge developments.
  - (2) ACAT's decision is pending. No update on the timeframe has been provided for handing down a decision.
  - (3) The Nature Strip Guidelines will be publically released following ACAT's decision and findings and subsequent updates to the Guidelines as required.
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**Transport—provisional drivers licence review  
(Question No 926)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety*):

- (1) What are the full terms of reference for the review into provisional driver licences in the Australian Capital Territory.
- (2) What will be included in the review into provisional driver licences, including (a) which other jurisdictions will be examined, (b) criteria that the Australian Capital Territory and other jurisdictions will be measured against, (c) What sources of information will be relied upon and (d) any other relevant factors or key components of the review.
- (3) Who will be conducting the review into provisional driver licences, if (a) an ACT Government body, identify the responsible body and (b) third-parties or external contractors will be involved in any capacity, outline (i) the nature of their involvement, (ii) the contract name, contract number, and value of any contracts

undertaken, (iii) the method of procurement or selection for participation and (iv) any other relevant information regarding selection or participation.

- (4) Will the review into provisional driver licences involve any public consultation; if so, (a) what form will the public consultation take, (b) how will it be advertised, (c) the length of the consultation period and (d) whether it will be run through the ACT Government or through an external entity, and if an external entity the supplier and the cost; if not, why not.
- (5) When is the review into provisional driver licences scheduled to be completed.
- (6) Will the results and findings of the review into provisional driver licences be made public; if so, where will they be published; if not, why not.

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

The review of the ACT Graduated Licensing Scheme is an action item under the ACT Road Safety Action Plan 2016-20 (Action 21). The review is being conducted internally by the Road Safety Policy team within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. No third parties or external contractors have been engaged.

The review has been guided by the Australian Graduated Licensing Scheme Policy Framework (the national framework), endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2014. The national framework is based on an extensive review of evidence and incorporates a tiered approach to best practice, and is designed to encourage and guide improvements to Graduated Licensing Schemes for all states and territories.

The ACT discussion paper will incorporate an analysis of best practice evidence, ACT crash data and community feedback in proposing a range of reforms.

Public consultation will include an invitation for public submissions. It is anticipated to commence in the coming months, coordinated and funded by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, with use of the ACT Government's social media accounts, the 'Yoursay' consultation website and Our Canberra newsletters. Following the consultation period, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate will assess outcomes and make recommendations to me about planning and timing of implementation.

## **Canberra—flags and banners (Question No 927)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) How much revenue was received from the hire of flags and/or banner poles under the Flags and Banners Operational Guidelines in the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) Who hired flag and/or banner sites and what was the purpose for the hire in the financial years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) When were the Flags and Banners Operational Guidelines issued.

- (4) Who approved the Flags and Banners Operational Guidelines.
- (5) When were the costs for hiring flags and/or banner poles last revised, who was involved in the last revision and were there provisions for community input in revising the costs.
- (6) On average, how many people are required to undertake a flag and/or banner installation.

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

- (1) The answer to question (1) is provided in the attached table.
- (2) The answer to question (2) is provided in the attached table.
- (3) The guidelines were first issued in 2006 and were updated in 2012 to the current version.
- (4) ACT Property Group.
- (5) The hiring fees are reviewed at the beginning of each financial year by ACT Property Group. There is no provision for community input, the fees are based on cost recovery.
- (6) Two.

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

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### **Asbestos—management issues (Question No 928)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What steps is the Government taking to maintain the asbestos dump at the old Mugga Quarry.
- (2) Is the Government providing any funding to maintain the asbestos dump at the old Mugga Quarry; if so, provide a breakdown of this funding; if not, why not.
- (3) Were the costs of the ongoing maintenance of the asbestos dump considered in the 2017-2018 Budget.
- (4) Has the Government provided funding for any maintenance work at the asbestos dump; if so, outline and breakdown how this funding has been used; if not, why not.
- (5) What are the short term and long term implications of maintaining the asbestos dump.
- (6) Does the presence of the asbestos dump pose any health concerns for people in the old Mugga Quarry or surrounding regions; if so, outline the Government's plans to address these concerns; if not, outline the steps the Government has taken to ensure that the asbestos dump does not pose any health concerns.

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

- (1) In accordance with established health and environmental protection requirements the asbestos-contaminated material from the old Canberra hospital that was interred within the Mugga 2 quarry was capped with soil and a retention dam installed to capture runoff within the quarry void. Since this time the site security fencing has been upgraded to secure the site from public access.
- (2) Frequent monitoring of the Mugga 2 quarry occurs following rain events to inspect the quarry area and surrounding infrastructure. The cost of the monitoring is negligible—less than \$1,000 per month.
- (3) Refer to question 2 response.
- (4) Funding is allocated for necessary site maintenance which includes monitoring and stormwater controls as required. Less than \$1,000 per month is required for monitoring. Stormwater controls have recently been maintained at a cost of approximately \$4,000.

Capital funding of \$2.939m was allocated in 2014-15 for progressive rehabilitation of the quarry over the next 15-25 years.

- (5) The Mugga 2 quarry in its current form requires minimal maintenance. The Mugga 2 quarry will be rehabilitated through the progressive landfilling of inert material, as approved by the NCA, including clean soil, non-friable asbestos impacted soil and other inert waste materials. Environment Protection Authority (EPA) approval will be required for the acceptance of these materials.

At the completion of the filling of the quarry void, the area encapsulating the quarry will be incorporated into the Mt Mugga Mugga Nature Reserve. By this time the asbestos material from the old Canberra hospital will be at least 30m below final surface levels.

- (6) No, the dumped asbestos is currently covered with soil which protects the quarry area and surrounding regions.

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### **Municipal services—mowing (Question No 929)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What were the total costs associated with wild grass cutting in the financial years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) What action does the Government take to continuously keep wild grass levels at a minimum.
- (3) Does the Government consult with Fire Services on what areas are given priority to be cut.

- (4) Has the Government varied the frequency of wild grass cutting in the financial year 2017-18 in comparison with previous years; if so, outline the Government's reasoning behind this decision and does the Government seek to reduce costs associated with the cutting of wild grass every financial year.
- (5) What is the amount and the proportion of the total recurrent budget for Transport Canberra and City Services allocated for urban mowing services in (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (6) What proportion of urban mowing was undertaken by (a) public servants and (b) external contractors in (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17 and (iii) 2017-18 to date.
- (7) What is the total number of complaints or queries received in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (8) How many of the complaints or queries referred to in part (7)(a) and (b) were from (a) Belconnen, (b) Gungahlin, (c) Inner North, (d) Inner South, (e) Tuggeranong and (f) Woden Valley and Weston Creek.

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

- (1) The following response relates to grass mowing in open space across the urban area, excluding irrigated sportsgrounds:
- Actual expenditure in 2015-16 was \$7.274m;
  - Actual expenditure in 2016-17 was \$7.430m; and
  - Actual expenditure in 2017-18 to end January 2018 was \$4.929m.
- (2) Grass within suburbs is mown on a four weekly program and arterial roads are mown on a five weekly schedule, weather permitting and at times when the grass growth is sufficient to require mowing.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.

(5)

<b>Budget</b>	<b>(a) 2015-16</b>	<b>(b) 2016-17</b>	<b>(c) 2017-18 Jan YTD</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
General Urban Mowing	7,173	7,557	4,751
Sportsground Mowing	1,606	1,675	1,002
<b>Total Mowing</b>	<b>8,779</b>	<b>9,232</b>	<b>5,753</b>

  

Total Urban Place Management Budget (GPO only)	24,628	25,949	15,235
<b>Proportion of mowing budget vs total budget</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>38%</b>

(6)

	<b>(a) Public servants</b>	<b>(b) External contractors</b>
(i) 2015 – 2016	70%	30%
(ii) 2016 – 2017	70%	30%
(iii) 2017 – 2018 to date	75%	25%

Estimates provided based on hectares mown by the respective labour source.

(7) The scope of this question is unclear can you please clarify.

(8) The scope of this question is unclear can you please clarify.

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### **Health—anti-smoking measures (Question No 930)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) How many inspectors are employed by the Government for the purpose of enforcing the *Smoke-Free Public Places Act 2003* (the Act).
- (2) On average, how many inspectors are on duty in smoke-free public areas at any given time in the ACT and what enforcement powers do inspectors have to encourage compliance with the Act.
- (3) How many people have been issued (a) cautions or warnings or (b) fines for smoking in smoke-free public areas.
- (4) What is the value of fines issued to individuals who are found smoking or vaping within smoke-free public areas.
- (5) How many complaints has the Government received from members of the public regarding individuals smoking or vaping within banned areas, how were these complaints made and what steps the Government has taken to address these complaints.
- (6) What are the (a) Government's plans to reduce or prevent individuals from smoking in public areas, (b) specific strategies these plans will employ, (c) costs of enforcing these plans and (d) specific target areas of these plans.

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

- (1) There are presently 19 appointed Officers within Access Canberra whose role is to enforce the provisions of the *Smoke-Free Public Places Act 2003* and a number of other laws regulated by Access Canberra. Members of ACT Police are also authorised persons for enforcement purposes.
- (2) Access Canberra officers are not solely appointed as investigators for the purpose of enforcing the smoking laws within the ACT. Investigators respond to complaints and also check for 'smoke-free' compliance when undertaking other regulatory functions such as liquor licence inspections.

In terms of enforcement powers under the *Smoke-Free Public Places Act 2003* officers can direct a person to stop smoking if they suspect on reasonable grounds that the person is in contravention of the Act. They can also issue an infringement notice, or refer a matter to Court.

- (3) Since the inception of Access Canberra in 2014, two formal written warnings have been issued for breaches of the Act. These were both issued to businesses and related to one instance of not having the appropriate "No Smoking" signage in place and one instance of allowing smoking in an outdoor eating area.

Access Canberra has not issued any infringement fines. Issues have been dealt with through education, engagement and written warnings. Most people will stop smoking when directed to do so.

- (4) Nil fines have been issued.

Infringement amounts payable by an individual found to be contravening the provisions of the Act are detailed in Schedule 1 of the *Magistrates Court (Smoke-Free Public Places Infringement Notices) Regulation 2010*.

- (5) A total of Fifteen (15) complaints have been received by Access Canberra since its inception up until 9 March 2018. Typically these related to smoking in or around eating areas and allegations of people smoking within transport areas that are designated as being smoke-free. Access Canberra has not received any complaints about vaping.

Complaints are received through the Complaints Management Team. In response to complaints, Access Canberra officers will conduct inspections in the area to which the complaint relates (shopping centres, playgrounds and bus stops again being the typical areas). Access Canberra applies its Engage, Educate and Enforce philosophy in response to matters of non-compliance and therefore will attempt to resolve these issues through engagement and education in the first instance.

- (6) The ACT Government has introduced several initiatives over the past several years to reduce smoking rates, including introducing new smoke-free public areas across the Territory.

An updated National Tobacco Strategy Action Plan, which sits under the new National Drug Strategy 2017–2026, is currently being developed by the Commonwealth. ACT Health is actively engaged with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in the review process for this Strategy. ACT Health is also currently undertaking targeted consultation on the new ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan, which encompasses alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The new Drug Strategy Action Plan will align closely with the Government's preventive health agenda and relevant clinical service plans. The Plan will include actions for further reducing the harms of tobacco smoke in the community.

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## **Government—expenditure (Question No 931)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the total number of invoices paid by the ACT Government in the 2017-18 financial year to date.
- (2) For invoices paid by the ACT Government in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2017-18 to date, what is the total number of invoices to the value of (i) under \$10 000, (ii) between \$10 000 to \$12 499, (iii) between \$12 500 to \$24 999, (iv) between \$25 000 to \$49 999, (v) between \$50 000 to \$99 999, (vi) between \$100 000 to \$149 999, (vii) between \$150 000 to \$199 999 and (viii) over \$200 000.

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

- (1) The total number of invoices paid by the ACT Government in the 2017-18 financial year to date (from 1 July 2017 to 31 January 2018) is 180,991.
- (2) Invoices that were paid by the ACT Government in the following years by categories:

Financial Year	<\$10,000	\$10,000-\$12,499	\$12,500-\$24,999	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$149,999	\$150,000-\$199,999	>=\$200,000	Grand Total
2014-15	319,027	4,857	11,689	6,275	3,642	1,109	597	3,117	350,313
2015-16	319,206	4,638	12,118	6,882	3,641	1,188	705	3,034	351,412
2017-18 (July to January)	164,081	2,908	5,877	3,331	2,056	785	390	1,563	180,991

### Transport—bike racks (Question No 932)

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the amount of funding that has been used for new bike racks to date.
- (2) What is breakdown of the number of bike racks installed by the ACT Government for the previous three financial years by (a) suburb and (b) type of bike rack.
- (3) Why has the Government installed bike racks primarily in Braddon despite receiving an equal amount of requests for new bike racks from Watson, City, Greenway and Hall in 2016-17.
- (4) Does the Government have plans to address the requests for new bike racks from suburbs other than Braddon in the ACT; if so, what are these plans and will any extra funding be allocated for the provision of these bike racks; if not, why not.

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

- (1) As part of the Transport Canberra and City Services Minor New Works program the following bicycle racks were provided:

#### 2015 -2016

Suburb	Rack Type	Number of Racks	Cost
Macquarie	Hoop type	2	\$1,500
Greenway	Hoop type	4	\$3,000
City	City type	3	\$2,250

#### 2016-2017

Suburb	Rack Type	Number of Racks	Cost
Crace	City type	2	\$1,500
Mawson	Hoop type	2	\$1,500
City	City type	8	\$6,000
Braddon	City Type	4	\$3,000



**2017-2018**

Suburb	Rack Type	Number of Racks	Cost
Braddon and City	Parliament type	24	\$11,000
Molonglo Valley	Parliament type	2	\$1,500
Arboretum	Parliament type	3	\$1,500

- (2) See response above.
- (3) Braddon is an attractive cycling destination as it has good linkages to high use on and off-road active travel networks. The bicycle racks were provided in locations that were observed to have high demand and the numbers of bicycles locked to street furniture such as sign posts.
- (4) The provision of bicycle racks is evaluated against requests received from the community or where demand is observed. Bicycle racks are also provided as part of developments or capital works projects.

### **Education—school crossing supervisor program (Question No 933)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What specific requirements in the School Crossing Supervisor program are needed for a crossing to be deemed “located on road network adjacent to a school”.
- (2) What is the minimum distance away from a school with a close proximity crossing, for a second school to be deemed to benefit from that crossing.
- (3) What guidelines are followed when asserting whether a school benefits from a school crossing under the program and can the Minister provide a copy of these guidelines.

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

- (1) All school and pedestrian crossings on public roads that provide direct access to schools used by infant, primary and special needs children were considered to receive a supervisor as part of the program.

Crossings in school car parks or at traffic signals were not considered as part of the program.

- (2) The School Crossing Supervisor program selection committee agreed that co-located schools will potentially both benefit from the introduction of crossing supervisors. This selection committee included representatives from the Education Directorate. Schools were also consulted to develop the program.

Rather than distance, pedestrian and traffic movements, desire lines, the proximity of shopping precincts, access to public transport and car parking facilities were all considered when assessing the potential benefit of the program.

In addition to assisting children to cross roads safely, supervisors will improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, providing a greater benefit to the local school communities in the vicinity of a supervised crossing.

- (3) A number of factors were considered by the selection committee when determining whether a school will benefit from a crossing supervisor, including the location of amenities like shopping centres and access to transport facilities.

The criteria used to select the priority sites is available on the Transport Canberra website (<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/active-travel/active-travel-for-schools/school-crossing-supervisors>).

### **Schools—transportable classrooms (Question No 934)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) How many transportable classrooms are currently in use in ACT public schools, (a) what schools are they located in and (b) when were they installed.
- (2) What additional transportable classroom are to be installed this calendar year and in what schools are they to be located.
- (3) How much has been spent on the purchase and installation of transportable classrooms for the financial years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18.

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

- (1) There are currently 81 transportable buildings in ACT public schools that provide 145 class room spaces including pre-school spaces across the ACT public school system. This includes the buildings installed at Aranda Primary School, Campbell Primary School, Garran Primary School, Neville Bonner Primary School and Telopea Park School for the commencement of the 2018 school year.

1a and b)

Table 1 shows the schools and the installation years of the transportable classrooms.

<b>School (1a)</b>	<b>Year of installation/relocation (1b)</b>
Amaroo School	2005, 2007 & 2014
Aranda Primary School	2001 & 2017
Black Mountain School	2000, 2008 & 2009
Bonython Primary School	2009
Calwell High School	1994
Calwell Primary School	1990
Campbell Primary School	2018
Carolyn Chisholm School	1980s
Charles Conder Primary School	1990's

School (1a)	Year of installation/relocation (1b)
Cranleigh School	2014
Fadden Primary School	1980's
Farrer Primary School	2001
Florey Primary School	1990's
Franklin Early Childhood School	2013
Fraser Primary School	1981, 2005 & 2007
Garran Primary School	2002, 2016 & 2018
Gold Creek School	2001 & 2017
Gordon Primary	1995
Gowrie Primary School	1980's
Harrison School	2001 & 2009
Lanyon High School	1990's
Miles Franklin Primary School	1984
Monash Primary School	1985
Neville Bonner Primary School	2016 & 2017
Ngunnawal Primary School	2001 & 2014
Palmerston Primary School	2003
Stromlo High School	2007
Telopea Park School	2001 & 2018
Theodore Primary School	1990's
The Woden School	1988

These transportable buildings have been refurbished and upgraded as and when required.

- (2) There will be 22 transportable buildings installed at Narrabundah College in the next six months that will provide classroom spaces, speciality teaching spaces, teacher spaces and associated infrastructure while significant infrastructure redevelopment of the school site is undertaken.

There are currently no other transportable buildings scheduled to be installed at ACT public schools in the remainder of 2018.

All of the transportable classrooms at The Woden School will be removed in 2018 as a result of constructing the new permanent classrooms for the year 11 and 12 students.

- (3) The cost of transportable building is variable depending on:
- The market conditions;
  - If it is a new or relocated building;
  - The number of transportable buildings that are being procured or relocated at any one time;
  - The level of refurbishment required for relocated buildings;
  - The access to the school sites;
  - The topography and access to required services at the school site.

For the above reasons the cost of delivering a two classroom transportable building at a school site can range from \$600,000 (excl GST) to \$1,000,000 (excl GST).

- a) In 2015-16 there was no transportable buildings installed under the capital upgrades program.
  - b) In 2016-17 a budget of \$2.6 million (excl GST) was provided for the provision of transportable buildings.
  - c) In 2017-18 a budget of \$1.8 million (excl GST) was provided for the provision of transportable buildings.
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### **Schools—New South Wales students (Question No 935)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) Does the Federal Government contribute to the funding arrangements for NSW students in ACT schools; if so, what is the breakdown of how this funding is allocated.
- (2) How much funding did the ACT Government contribute for NSW students enrolled in ACT schools in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017 18 to date.
- (3) How will NSW students be allocated to schools under the recent changes to the rules surrounding NSW students in ACT schools and what guidelines will be followed when allocating NSW Students to ACT schools.
- (4) Will these changes affect any previous funding arrangements; is so, how.

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

- (1) The Commonwealth Government provides specific purpose payments (direct grants) to the ACT Government for the education of public school students. The funding is provided on the basis of all students attending ACT public schools including students that reside in NSW.

In addition, the ACT Government receives funding for all services, including education, from the Commonwealth Government through the allocation of GST revenue under the 'Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation' process. The method for determining the funding allocation, administered by the Commonwealth Grants Commission, factors in many considerations and education is only one driver used to allocate funding to all states and territories.

ACT Government funding for all students attending ACT public schools, including students that reside in NSW, is allocated using the Directorate's Student Resource Allocation model which is a needs based funding model.

- (2) ACT public schools are funded based on a holistic approach using a needs based funding model. The funding is provided to meet the needs of the school and student cohort as a whole rather than individual students.

- (3) NSW students will be allocated to schools in the ACT in a similar manner to which ACT students are allocated to ACT schools. The region surrounding the ACT has been divided into a northern and a southern zone. Families living in the northern zone have access to schools located in Belconnen. Families living in the southern zone have access to schools located in Tuggeranong. More detailed advice as provided to parents can be found on the ACT Education Directorate website at the address below:

*[https://www.education.act.gov.au/school\\_education/enrolling\\_in\\_an\\_act\\_public\\_school/nsw-resident-enrolments](https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school/nsw-resident-enrolments)*

These arrangements are intended to ensure certainty for NSW families enrolling children in ACT public schools during a period of rapidly rising enrolments in the ACT public education system. Families enrolling from NSW in the schools identified in each zone will be subject to the same guidelines as ACT students. However, the ACT government will review the zones if required.

- (4) No. The recent changes to the guidelines regarding NSW residents attending ACT public schools will not impact funding.

### **Schools—New South Wales students (Question No 936)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 16 February 2018:

- (1) How many students considered NSW residents are enrolled in the ACT in (a) preschools, (b) primary schools, (c) high schools, (d) secondary colleges, (e) special schools and (f) mainstream schools' student with a disability.
- (2) How many students considered NSW residents are enrolled in the ACT Belconnen school network in (a) preschools, (b) primary schools, (c) high schools, (d) secondary colleges, (e) special schools and (f) mainstream schools' student with a disability.
- (3) How many students considered NSW residents are enrolled in the ACT North/Gungahlin school network in (a) preschools, (b) primary schools, (c) high schools, (d) secondary colleges, (e) special schools and (f) mainstream schools' student with a disability.
- (4) How many students considered NSW residents are enrolled in the ACT South/Weston school network in (a) preschools, (b) primary schools, (c) high schools, (d) secondary colleges, (e) special schools and (f) mainstream schools' student with a disability.
- (5) How many students considered NSW residents are enrolled in the ACT Tuggeranong school network in (a) preschools, (b) primary schools, (c) high schools, (d) secondary colleges, (e) special schools and (f) mainstream schools' student with a disability.

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

The table below provides the distribution of NSW resident persons enrolled in ACT public schools and disaggregated by schools network as at the Canberra Public Schools Census August 2017. Please note that there may be slight differences in totals from previously reported figure for 2017 due to different extraction dates for the data.

Question part	Region	Pre-school	Primary school	High school	Secondary college	Specialist School	Students with a disability in mainstream schools <sup>1</sup>
1	ACT public schools	98	630	603	444	27	55
2	Belconnen Schools Network	17	135	65	56		18
3	North Canberra/Gungahlin Schools Network	43	235	391	228	17	21
4	South Canberra/Weston Schools Network	29	159	88	64	10	9
5	Tuggeranong Schools Network	9	101	59	96		7

<sup>1</sup> Includes students who meet the ACT Student Disability Criteria, including those students not formally assessed at the time of the census.

### Planning—zoning and lease conditions (Question No 937)

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 16 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) Under what arrangements does the YMCA occupy the building in Yarralumla Bay.
- (2) What zoning and lease conditions apply to the building.
- (3) Have there been any breaches of these conditions noted by the directorate.
- (4) What penalties does the breach attract in the event of building owners being in breach of terms of the lease conditions.
- (5) What advice, if any, has been provided to the building owners in respect of any breach.
- (6) What action does the government intend to take should these breaches not be rectified.

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

- (1) The land is privately owned by the YMCA under the ACT's leasehold system.
- (2) A Crown lease was granted on 17 August 2004 to the YMCA over Blocks 1, 2 & 3 Section 18 Yarralumla, commencing on 17 August 2004 and terminating on 16 November 2027. The purpose reads as follows:

To use that part of the premises known as Block 1 only for the purpose of a club house for occupation exclusively by the YMCA Sailing club as its base of sailing operations on the adjacent Lake and within these premises affording areas for recreation instruction light refreshment management locker room and toilet facilities storage for ministration to and fabrication of members' club and visitors' craft and for associated light boat handling facilities and vehicular parking;

To use that part of the premises known as Blocks 2 and 3 only for the purpose of a boatshed and associated activities of the Lessee PROVIDED THAT the boatshed shall only be constructed or located on Block 2 and it is FURTHER PROVIDED THAT the Lessee shall permit members of the public to use Block 3 for the purposes of rigging and launching of sailing boats and activities associated therewith.

Blocks 1, 2 & 3 Section 18 Yarralumla is located within Designated Land of the Territory Plan.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) A controlled activity order may be issued under the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (PDA). A breach of a controlled activity order is a further 60 penalty unit offence.
- (5) The YMCA Canberra has advised Access Canberra that they are a part of a national review of their corporate structure, the outcome of which may fundamentally change the nature of their operation in Yarralumla Bay, and requested permission to continue to occupy the premises until the outcome of the review is known. In response to their request, the YMCA has been advised that they can continue operating as they have been until the outcome of their national review is completed or until 31 December 2018 whichever comes first.
- (6) Access Canberra is currently working with the YMCA to ensure that they will be compliant with their lease conditions after the review is completed.

In order to work with this organisation which has a long standing relationship with the community, Access Canberra is allowing them this period of time while the national review of their organisation is undertaken. Access Canberra is committed to regularly liaising with the YMCA to ensure that they achieve full compliance as soon as is practicable. The Government will consider any other enforcement under the PDA should they not cease the use within the identified timeframe.

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### **Planning—COTA men's shed (Question No 938)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) What was the building and site cost associated with the requirement for development approval for the COTA men's shed.
- (2) How many quotes or cost estimates did the directorate receive and did these quotes differ in scope.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a copy of any estimates or quotes received.
- (4) How did the plans that were costed differ from COTA's original plans.
- (5) Did the Government undertake any review looking at how to lower this cost.

- (6) Will the Minister seek funding in future Budgets to provide COTA with an appropriate men's shed.
- (7) When will COTA be able to erect a men's shed.

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

- (1) The Council on the Ageing (COTA) agreed in 2015 to host a men's shed on a site immediately adjacent to the Hughes Community Centre and provided their requirements in 2016 to the ACT Property Group (ACTPG). After extensive consultation with COTA and taking account of available budget of \$133,000, a design was completed for a traditional men's shed. However the requirements for approval for the facility estimated \$0.5m in building and site costs.
- (2) These estimates were based upon the architect advice.
- (3) The estimate is referred to in response (1) above.
- (4) The COTA agreed in 2015 to host a men's shed on a site immediately adjacent to the Hughes Community Centre. Subsequently the requirements for Development Approval included a carpark, this added considerably to the cost.
- (5) In consultation with the COTA, the ACTPG proposed an extension to the Hughes Community Centre building in the form of a multi- purpose meeting room, to meet the wider needs of the local community, including the needs of men in the older age group. This proposal is consistent with advice provided to the Government by Purdon Planning Pty Limited in June 2014, that men's sheds can and do serve wider purposes, such as recreational "talking sheds", virtual sheds, and special interest groups as well as a workshop. The COTA rejected the proposed additional multi-purpose meeting room.
- (6) The Government does not comment on future budget deliberation.
- (7) This is a matter for COTA.

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### **National disability insurance scheme—worker screening policy (Question No 940)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Has the ACT agreed to become a part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Worker Screening Policy; if so, (a) how will the policy be implemented across the ACT, (b) when is the implementation of the National NDIS Worker Screening Policy intended to be completed and (c) what gaps in the ACT legal framework will the National NDIS Worker Screening Policy address.
- (2) How will the National NDIS Worker Screening Policy compliment or alter the current ACT worker screening arrangements.
- (3) What, if any, legislative changes will the ACT need to implement to comply with the National NDIS Worker Screening Policy.



- (4) Has there ever been any examples in the ACT where workers engaged by registered NDIS providers to deliver high-risk support and services, or services that involve more than incidental contact with a participant, have not been required to undergo background check.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT has agreed-in-principle to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
  - (a) Implementation of Nationally Consistent Worker Screening (NCWS) will be undertaken with close reference to current ACT legislative and policy settings. Details regarding implementation will be decided upon finalisation of the Intergovernmental Agreement and subsequent policy.
  - (b) NCWS is to become operational in New South Wales and South Australia on 1 July 2018. It is intended that it will become operational in the ACT, Northern Territory, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania on 1 July 2019. Western Australia is to commence NCWS on 1 July 2020.
  - (c) The ACT currently has a rigorous background checking system. The NCWS model will complement current systems by including continuous monitoring for a subset of screened workers.
- (2) NCWS will complement current systems such as the Working with Vulnerable People Background Checks by including a continuous monitoring of workers employed by NDIS registered agencies.
- (3) Until finalisation of the detail surrounding NCWS, it is not possible to be specific about legislative changes. It is likely that some legislative changes will be required for the harmonisation of the worker screening and working with vulnerable people background checking. These will largely be around data and other information sharing and some modifications to the decision making framework to accommodate the requirements of the NDIS.
- (4) Workers delivering such services are required to obtain a Working with Vulnerable People card. Under the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011*, the delivery of such services by a person who has not obtained a card (except for a family member) is an offence committed by the worker and the employer.

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### **Tourism—event funding (Question No 941)**

**Mr Wall** asked the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many applications have been received to date for grant funding through the Major Event Fund.
- (2) What is the total value of funding applied for within each application referred to in part (1).

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

The following tables detail the applications that have been approved to date for grant funding through the Major Event Fund and the total value of funding applied for within each application.

Under the Major Event Fund (replaced Special Event Fund in 2017), a total of 7 applications have been received for support. Of those 6 applications have been assessed and approved to receive funding, as outlined below. Two recipients (National Gallery of Australia and Summernats) receive funding under multi-year MOU arrangements.

**Major Event Fund – Funding request summary**

The tables below provide a summary of applications received or pending to date, against the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 Major Event Fund:

2017-18

<b>Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Funding requested</b>	<b>Funding approved</b>
NGA – Hyper Real and Cartier	Approved – multi year	\$500,000	\$500,000
Summernats 2018	Approved – multi year	\$200,000	\$200,000
NMA - Songlines	Approved	\$200,000	\$100,000
NMA – <i>Rome: City and Empire</i>	Approved	\$500,000	\$100,000
Night Noodle Markets	Approved	\$300,000	\$100,000
<b>Total provisional requests / commitments to date</b>		<b>\$1.8 million</b>	<b>\$1.0 million</b>
<b>Total available funds for the 2017-18 MEF</b>			<b>\$1.0 million</b>

2018-19

<b>Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Funding requested</b>	<b>Funding approved</b>
NGA	Approved – multi year	\$500,000	\$500,000
Summernats 2019	Approved – multi year	\$200,000	\$200,000
NMA – <i>Rome: City and Empire</i>	Approved	\$500,000	\$100,000
AWM – Remembrance Day	Approved	\$151,700	\$150,000
Major Theatre Fund	Application yet to be received	\$100,000	-
<b>Total provisional requests / commitments to date</b>		<b>\$1,451,700</b>	<b>\$950,000</b>
<b>Total available funds for the 2018-19 MEF</b>			<b>\$1.0 million</b>

2019-20

<b>Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Funding requested</b>	<b>Funding approved/suggested</b>
NGA	Approved – multi year	\$500,000	\$500,000
Summernats 2020	Approved – multi year	\$200,000	\$200,000
Major Theatre Fund	Application yet to be received	\$100,000	-
<b>Total provisional requests / commitments to date</b>		<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>
<b>Total available funds for the 2018-19 MEF</b>			<b>\$1.0 million</b>

**Tourism—event funding  
(Question No 942)**

**Mr Wall** asked the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to funding for National Attractions in the ACT, what is the total amount of ACT Government funding provided for the (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 financial years to the (i) National Library of Australia, (ii) National Gallery of Australia, (iii) Museum of Australian Democracy, (iv) National Archives of Australia, (v) National Museum of Australia, (vi) National Film and Sound Archive, (vii) Questacon, (viii) Old Parliament House and (ix) Royal Australian Mint.
- (2) How much of the funding for each institution referred to in part (1), was allocated for a special exhibition or event.

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

- (1) Calculating the total funding provided across the whole of the ACT Government for the listed National Attractions, for the stated financial years potentially requires collation of an extensive amount of information ranging from investment in a major event to hiring of a meeting room, across a diverse range of departments. It is anticipated the majority of engagement occurs through the Economic Development Directorate through Tourism and Events. The information relating to these business units is detailed in question 2 below.
- (2) The following information is collated with reference to funding provided by VisitCanberra through the Major Events Fund and from data provide by Events ACT in delivering major events such as Enlighten.

**2015/16**

- (i) National Library of Australia - \$200,600
- (ii) National Gallery of Australia - \$200,000
- (iii) Museum of Australian Democracy - \$5,000
- (iv) National Archives of Australia - \$0
- (v) National Museum of Australia - \$200,000
- (vi) National Film and Sound Archive - \$0
- (vii) Questacon - \$0
- (viii) Old Parliament House - \$0
- (ix) Royal Australian Mint - \$0

**2016-17**

- (i) National Library of Australia - \$0
- (ii) National Gallery of Australia - \$500,000
- (iii) Museum of Australian Democracy – \$5,000
- (iv) National Archives of Australia - \$0
- (v) National Museum of Australia - \$200,000
- (vi) National Film and Sound Archive - \$0
- (vii) Questacon - \$0
- (viii) Old Parliament House - \$0
- (ix) Royal Australian Mint - \$2,000

**2017-18**

- (i) National Library of Australia - \$6,000
  - (ii) National Gallery of Australia - \$500,000
  - (iii) Museum of Australian Democracy - \$4,500
  - (iv) National Archives of Australia - \$0
  - (v) National Museum of Australia - \$200,000
  - (vi) National Film and Sound Archive - \$0
  - (vii) Questacon - \$1,200
  - (viii) Old Parliament House - \$0
  - (ix) Royal Australian Mint - \$2,000
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**Transport—light rail  
(Question No 943)**

**Mr Wall** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How much ACT Government funding has been allocated to the Light Rail Business Link (LRBL) program in the (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 financial years.
- (2) How many businesses have been recipients of funding through LRBL in the (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 financial year.

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

- (1) ACT Government's allocated funding for the Light Rail Business Link Program in 2015-16 was \$500,000 and in 2016-17 allocated funding was \$500,000.
  - (2) The Canberra Business Chamber (CBC), manager of the Light Rail Business Link program, does not provide direct funding to businesses through the program. It provides support to local business and industry sectors to maximise business opportunities generated by Light Rail construction and future operation. The program also assists individual traders and business precincts that maybe impacted by light rail construction. Support provided by the program to individual businesses includes tailored one-on-one business strategy advice, free places in customised business development programs and representation on specific issues to Canberra Metro and Transport Canberra. The Light Rail Business Link program also provides support to business precincts and industry sectors through promotion, collaboration, communication and advocacy.
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**Schools—New South Wales students  
(Question No 947)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to NSW students attending ACT public schools, when and how were new and continuing students' parents informed about the restrictions on NSW student enrolments.

- (2) Who within the Education Directorate made the decision as to which schools would accept NSW student enrolments.
- (3) Will these restrictions have any impact upon currently enrolled NSW students to continue studying at their current ACT public school.
- (4) Will the restrictions inhibit NSW students continuing from their current ACT (a) primary school to a nearby ACT high school or (b) high school to a nearby ACT college.
- (5) In which ACT public schools are NSW parents able to enrol their children to study.
- (6) Why were these schools selected to allow NSW student enrolments.
- (7) Was the geographic position of the schools taken into consideration prior to the decision to limit NSW student enrolments; if not, why not; if so, was the proximity to the NSW/ACT border or to major employment hubs considered.
- (8) Was school performance taken into consideration prior to the decision to limit NSW student enrolments.
- (9) Which, if any, of the permitted schools, perform above the ACT average in NAPLAN, ATAR or other academic performance measures.
- (10) What were the student numbers and capacity statistics for the schools NSW students were permitted to attend for the academic years of (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016 and (d) 2017.
- (11) Which, if any, of the schools where NSW students are permitted to enrol are now, or have in the past four years, been operating at or below 80 percent capacity.

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

- (1) Students that were going to be subject to the new arrangements from NSW families enrolling in ACT schools for the first time were advised by email and letters on 22 November 2017 of the new arrangements. Continuing students were not immediately impacted and were consequently not separately informed.
- (2) The Director General has responsibility for establishing priority enrolment areas.
- (3) The answer to this question is available in the Frequently Answered Questions on the Directorate's website at:  
[https://www.education.act.gov.au/school\\_education/enrolling\\_in\\_an\\_act\\_public\\_school/nsw-resident-enrolments/frequently-asked-questions](https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school/nsw-resident-enrolments/frequently-asked-questions)
- (4) The answer to this question is available in the Frequently Answered Questions on the Directorate's website at:  
[https://www.education.act.gov.au/school\\_education/enrolling\\_in\\_an\\_act\\_public\\_school/nsw-resident-enrolments/frequently-asked-questions](https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school/nsw-resident-enrolments/frequently-asked-questions)
- (5) Schools identified to accept NSW students can be found on the ACT Education website through the link below.  
[https://www.education.act.gov.au/school\\_education/enrolling\\_in\\_an\\_act\\_public\\_school/nsw-resident-enrolments](https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school/nsw-resident-enrolments).

- (6) The pathway schools were selected on the basis of their ability to provide the greatest possible confidence of continuing capacity to accept NSW students, providing clarity and stability for NSW families.
- (7) The principle factor in considering schools to accept NSW students was their likely continuing capacity over time to accept these out of area enrolments. Geographic position of and transport routes to the schools was considered in determining the zones within NSW for each school pathway. For example, schools in the southern zone were selected towards the north east of Tuggeranong as being closer to the NSW border and to the direction of travel for NSW students. Also taken into account was the fact that the majority of NSW students (over 3,000) receive free bus transport from NSW to schools in the ACT. ACT schools adjacent to major employment hubs, and along principal transport routes, have significantly less capacity to accept out of area students and, over the medium term, no capacity to accept NSW students in preference to ACT students.
- (8) School performance is not a relevant factor in considering the location of schools with sufficient capacity to accept NSW students. All ACT public schools provide access to a great education.
- (9) Every ACT public school provides students with high quality learning opportunities, facilitated by knowledgeable, skilled teachers, with access to excellent resources and learning environments. Mean NAPLAN scores are poorly understood and often misapplied. These scores are a poor indicator of the quality of teaching and learning occurring at a school because they reflect a moment in time and fail to account for key factors like the starting achievement level of students. Many knowledgeable experts, such as Professor John Hattie of the University of Melbourne, who is also the Chair of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, recognise that a much better measure of a school's quality is its ability to facilitate robust learning progress for all students ('gain'). A measure of student gain is shown on the *My School* website alongside mean achievement scores. Information on colleges can be found at the Board of Senior Secondary Studies website at the following link [http://www.bsss.act.edu.au/year\\_12\\_and\\_vocational\\_data/year\\_12\\_study](http://www.bsss.act.edu.au/year_12_and_vocational_data/year_12_study).
- (10) Student numbers for all ACT schools between 2007 and 2017 can be found on the ACT Education Directorate website through the following link. [https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications\\_and\\_policies/publications\\_a-z/census](https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/publications_a-z/census). School capacity for each ACT public school for 2016 can be found on the same website by following the link below. <https://www.education.act.gov.au/search?query=capacity>.
- (11) All of the NSW pathways schools have been operating below 80 percent capacity over the past the past four years. This provides some assurance that the NSW pathway schools will be able to guarantee places for NSW students for the duration of their schooling.

## **Roads—Coppins Crossing (Question No 948)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) In relation to the William Hovell, Coulter Drive and Coppins Crossing intersection, was a business case undertaken prior to the redevelopment of the Coppins Crossing redevelopment; if so, can the Minister provide a copy of the business case.
- (2) Was the design for the redevelopment an external design; if so, who was the designer.
- (3) How many people/companies tendered for the design process.
- (4) What was the scope of the design.
- (5) Were any other options considered; if so, what were the other options,
- (6) Was a fly over option considered.
- (7) What consideration was undertaken in relation to the future traffic congestion and traffic flow.
- (8) Was any future modelling undertaken; if so, can the Minister provide a copy.
- (9) Who approved the design and development of this intersection redevelopment and what level are they employed at.
- (10) Did the design of the intersection redevelopment go to cabinet; if so, on what date.

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

- (1) Yes, a business case for "Improving our Suburbs – New Molonglo Valley Infrastructure" was prepared for Cabinet and subsequently, appropriation was approved in the 2016/17 budget. That business case is "Sensitive: Cabinet" and I am not inclined to release it.
- (2) The new layout of the intersection of William Hovell Drive and Coppins Crossing Road (to be renamed John Gorton Drive) was chosen following feasibility studies by engineering consultants SMEC (in 2008 and 2013) and Aecom (in 2015). Aecom's 2015 study involved detailed traffic modelling and reconfirmed SMEC's earlier findings. Calibre Consultants were appointed in 2016 to undertake the detailed design of the intersection, based on the recommendations from the earlier SMEC and Aecom studies. All three of these companies are internationally based consultants with extensive experience in the Canberra region over many years and have been involved with numerous other traffic modelling studies and intersection designs.
- (3) Five design consultancies tendered for the detailed design phase of the intersection, which was subsequently awarded to Calibre Consulting.
- (4) The scope of the design phase services was to review the earlier Feasibility Study, prepare Preliminary Sketch Plan drawings, undertake Value Management and Safety in Design reviews of the design, produce Final Design drawings and prepare tender documents for the construction phase.
- (5) Intersection types which were examined as part of the earlier Smec and Aecom studies included realigning Coppins Crossing Road (John Gorton Drive) to provide a typical 4-way at-grade signalised intersection and also a grade separation of Coppins Crossing Road (John Gorton Drive) and William Hovell Drive. The proposed layout

(currently under construction) also includes an ultimate future northward extension of John Gorton Drive, linking back to Coulter Drive a few hundred meters to the north.

- (6) Yes, a grade separation (ie a fly-over) was considered. However, the traffic modelling indicated that the proposed layout (currently under construction) together with the future northern connection to Coulter Drive mentioned above, would continue to operate satisfactorily beyond 2041 without the need for a grade separation. A requirement of the Development Application process was to demonstrate and ensure that a grade separated intersection could fit within the footprint of the intersection (which it does) if it were ever required in the future.
- (7) Traffic modelling of the various options out to 2041 was undertaken.
- (8) According to that modelling, the proposed layout (with the future northern connection to Coulter Drive) would continue to operate satisfactorily beyond 2041, without the need for grade separation. Should a grade separation be required some time beyond that, it could be constructed within the footprint of the intersection currently under construction.
- (9) The Director Capital Works, Transport Canberra and City Services approved the design. The Development Application Notice of Decision was approved by an authorised delegate of the ACT Planning and Land Authority within the (then) Environment and Planning Directorate.
- (10) No.

### **Government—commercial lessees (Question No 949)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What 16 community halls are included in the announcement made by the ACT Greens on 12 February 2018 that the Labor Government would be renewing peppercorn leases of 16 community halls across the ACT.
- (2) Can the Treasurer provide a list of which organisations are the recipients of the leases.
- (3) What was the reason for the decision to increase their rates to begin with.
- (4) What are the reasons for the decision to offer five year peppercorn leases.
- (5) What will be the financial cost of the decision to grant these peppercorn leases and has this cost been calculated in the 2017-18 Budget or budget review.

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

- (1) and (2) See list below.

<b>Community Hall</b>	<b>TENANT</b>
Tharwa Community Precinct	Under Offer - Tharwa Community Association Limited
Causeway Hall	Causeway Residents Association
Oaks Estate Community Hall	Under Offer - Oaks Estate Progress Association
Palmerston Community Centre	Northside Community Service Inc



Community Hall	TENANT
Kaleen Community Hall	Kaleen Community Association Inc
Nellie Hall	North Belconnen Community Hall Association Inc
Corroboree Park Community Hall	Northside Community Service Inc
Griffith Neighbourhood Hall	Southside Community Services Inc
Torrens Community Hall	Torrens Community Hall Association Inc
Bonython Neighbourhood Hall	Tuggeranong Link of Community Houses and Centres
Chisholm Community House	Tuggeranong Link of Community Houses and Centres
Downer Community Centre	Downer Community Association
Nicholls Community Centre	Community Services of Gungahlin
Humpy Hall	South Belconnen Community Association Inc
Ginninderra Community Hall	The Gospel Salvation Assembly Inc
Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club Centre	Tuggeranong 55 plus Club Inc

- (3) The Community and Other Tenancies, Application and Allocation Policy 2007 is the existing policy that can be found at [https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/act\\_property\\_group](https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/act_property_group). The Government has recently determined that Community Halls will continue under peppercorn arrangements.
- (4) The five year term is consistent with the *Leases (Commercial & Retail) Act 2001* that these tenancies fall under.
- (5) The cost for ACT Property Group to maintain the 16 standalone community halls over the past three years averages out at \$4,965.63 per year per property, excluding capital costs. This is a community service obligation and will be reported in the 2017/2018 Annual Report.

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### **Government—men's sheds (Question No 950)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Why has there been no funding or site allocated for the South Canberra Veterans' Shed.
- (2) Have there been discussions between the South Canberra Veterans' Shed and the ACT Property Group about acquiring land for a men's shed.
- (3) When did these conversations begin.
- (4) What requirements did the South Canberra Veterans' Shed have/request.
- (5) What options did the ACT Property Group provide to the South Canberra Veterans' Shed.
- (6) Are there any plans for future funding of a Veterans' Shed in South Canberra; if so, when will this be finalised.
- (7) When will South Canberra Veterans' Shed get a permanent home location.

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

- (1) The South Canberra Veterans Shed (SCVS) met with Minister Gentleman on 8 March 2017, seeking assistance to find land to build or relocate their 'Shed' and obtain temporary storage. They were advised at that time to contact ACT Property Group (ACTPG) to discuss their requirements so that a suitable facility could be identified. That contact has not yet been made nor has the SCVS submitted an application to ACTPG to register on the Accommodation Register. Consequently they have not been notified or shown any suitable properties that may have become available over the past 12 months.

SCVS was also encouraged to contact the Government's Direct Sales Team for information about their eligibility to apply for land that is designated for 'community activity'. As at 5 March 2018 there has not been an application submitted by the group.

The Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation ACT Inc in Page is an example of an organisation who obtained their land through the aforementioned process.

- (2) – (7) Refer to response (1).

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### **Schools—transportable classrooms (Question No 954)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many transportable classrooms have been installed at Amaroo School.
- (2) How many students can be accommodated in a transportable classroom.
- (3) When was the installation of transportable classrooms commissioned.
- (4) What is the cost of installing each transportable classroom.
- (5) What is the estimated lifespan of a transportable classroom.
- (6) What was the criteria for determining a transportable classroom was needed.
- (7) What data or information is examined prior to the decision to install transportable classrooms.

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

- (1) There are currently seven transportable buildings at Amaroo School providing 12 learning spaces as follows
  - a) Two transportable buildings for the preschool providing two learning spaces;
  - b) Three transportable buildings, each providing two learning spaces for the primary students providing six learning spaces; and
  - c) Two transportable, each providing two learning spaces for secondary students providing four learning spaces.

- (2) For capacity planning purposes an average of 25 students are nominally accommodated in each primary learning space and 19 students accommodated in each secondary school learning space. Standard transportable classrooms are designed to accommodate up to 30 students.
  - (3) The first transportable classroom at Amaroo School was provided for the commencement of the 2005 school year. The other transportable classroom buildings have been progressively added since that time.
  - (4) The cost of installing a new single level two learning space transportable classroom building is generally in the range of \$0.6 - \$1.0million. However the cost is variable and is influenced by:
    - a) Number of buildings being purchased and market conditions at the time of procurement of the buildings;
    - b) Whether the building is new or being relocated from another site;
    - c) Whether the building is single or double storey;
    - d) If the building is being relocated, the level of building refurbishment required;
    - e) The extent of other works required such as infrastructure services augmentation and associated works including supplementation of existing parking provision, and additional shade structures and outdoor play areas.
  - (5) The estimated lifespan of a transportable classroom building is 15-20 years. This is largely dependent on building use, level of maintenance and the number of times the building is relocated.
  - (6) Transportable classroom buildings are provided where short to medium term school capacity is insufficient to meet student enrolment demand from within the school Priority Enrolment Area (PEA).
  - (7) The major information sources considered leading up to the decision to install a transportable classroom buildings are:
    - a) Enrolment projections prepared annually by the Directorate which give a forward indication of enrolment demand for all schools;
    - b) School Census data with particular attention paid to the PEA status of current and prospective enrolments; and
    - c) School site information to ensure adequate space for buildings, outdoor play and capacity of building services.
    - d) School community feedback.
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### **Schools—transportable classrooms (Question No 955)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many transportable classrooms have been installed at Aranda School.
- (2) How many students can be accommodated in a transportable classroom.

- (3) When was the installation of transportable classrooms commissioned.
- (4) What is the cost of installing each transportable classroom.
- (5) What is the estimated lifespan of a transportable classroom.
- (6) What was the criteria for determining a transportable classroom was needed.
- (7) What data or information is examined prior to the decision to install transportable classrooms.

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

- (1) There are two transportable buildings at Aranda Primary School.
- (2) For capacity planning purposes an average of 25 students are nominally accommodated in each learning space. Standard transportable classrooms are designed to accommodate up to 30 students.
- (3) Transportable class rooms were installed at Aranda Primary School in 2001 and in 2017 for the start of the 2018 school year.
- (4) The record of the cost of the delivery of the transportable building 2001 is not available.

The total project budget for the delivery the transportable building in 2017 was \$1.0 million excluding GST.

- (5) The estimated lifespan of a transportable classroom building is 15-20 years. This is largely dependent on building use, level of maintenance and the number of times the building is relocated.
- (6) Transportable classroom buildings are provided where short to medium term school capacity is insufficient to meet student enrolment demand from within the school Priority Enrolment Area (PEA).
- (7) The major information sources considered leading up to the decision to install a transportable classroom buildings include:
  - a) Enrolment projections prepared annually by the Directorate which give a forward indication of enrolment demand for all schools;
  - b) School Census data with particular attention paid to the PEA status of current and prospective enrolments; and
  - c) School site information to ensure adequate space for buildings, outdoor play and capacity of building services.
  - d) School community feedback.

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### **Schools—transportable classrooms (Question No 956)**

**Ms Lee** asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to transportable classrooms in all ACT public schools, which schools have had transportable classrooms installed in the academic years of (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016, (d) 2017 and (e) 2018.
- (2) For each of the schools outlined in Part (1)(a) to (e), when were the transportable classrooms installed.
- (3) For each of the schools outlined in Part (1)(a) to (e), what was the school's additional student enrolment for (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016, (d) 2017 and (e) 2018.

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

- (1) See Table 1
- (2) See Table 1
- (3) See Table 1

Table 1. Shows the schools and the installation years of the transportable classrooms and the total student enrolment count of the year prior installation, total enrolment count of the year installation of the transportable and the total change from year to year.

School (1a-e)	Year of installation/ relocation (2a-e)	Enrolments in prior year as at Feb Census	Enrolments in installed year as at Feb Census	Change in enrolment (3a-e)
Amaroo School	2014	1606	1677	71
Aranda Primary School	2017	608	620	12
Campbell Primary School	2018	382	Not available <sup>1</sup>	n/a
Cranleigh School	2014	108	128	20
Garran Primary School	2016	599	596	-3
Garran Primary School	2018	624	Not available <sup>1</sup>	n/a
Gold Creek School	2017	664	707	43
Neville Bonner Primary School	2016	486	588	102
Neville Bonner Primary School	2017	588	756	168
Ngunnawal Primary School	2014	592	656	64
Telopea Park School	2018	Primary 560 High 856	Not available <sup>1</sup>	n/a

<sup>1</sup> Note. February 2018 Student Enrolment Census data is currently being collated.

### **Municipal services—fix my street portal (Question No 957)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) How many requests in total for the ACT were received via Fix My Street in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 respectively.

- (2) How are residents who report issues via Fix My Street communicated with and informed of the action taken, or not taken, on their requests.
- (3) Are there standard timeframes in place for providing updates to residents following the initial contact and prior to closing an incident or report.
- (4) What are the final actions taken once a request has been completed or finalised.
- (5) Are there processes in place to analyse the data from Fix My Street to inform future planning and decision making.

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

- (1) The ACT Government has received the following number of requests through the Fix My Street Web form:
    - (a) 2017: 27515 requests
    - (b) 2018: 7353 requests (until 15 March 2018)
  - (2) Residents who provide their contact details are contacted by the responsible business unit.
  - (3) The timeframes depend on the nature of the selected topics.
  - (4) The final actions are for the line area responsible to reply to the resident where appropriate.
  - (5) Yes.
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### **Sport—powerboat permits (Question No 958)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) Under the provisions of the Lakes Act 1976 is a permit required to use a powerboat on Canberra's urban lakes and ponds; if so, how many requests for a powerboat permit have been received in the past five years.
- (2) How many requests for a powerboat permit have been approved in the past five years.
- (3) What are the conditions placed upon the ACT Water Ski Association Inc for their license to operate in ski areas.

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

- (1) A permit or licence is required to use a powerboat on Canberra's urban lakes and ponds.

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) issues permits for electric powered boats which include small size low powered craft. This type of powerboat poses little risk to other users and the environment. TCCS has received 610 applications for this type of permit in the past five years.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) issues licences for the use of petrol powerboats as it involves consideration of wider issues (e.g. noise pollution). EPA has received 20 applications for this type of licence from 2013 to 2018.

- (2) There have been 610 electric boat permits issued since 1 December 2012 by TCCS and 17 licences for petrol powerboats issued by the EPA over the past five years, with 12 of these licences remaining in force.
- (3) The licence to operate a powerboat issued to the ACT Water Ski Association Inc by the EPA is attached which contains all the conditions.

### **Municipal services—Amaroo (Question No 959)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Amaroo via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Amaroo in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Amaroo in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Amaroo resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Amaroo that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1)
  - (a) Please see Attachment A.

(b) Please see Attachment B.

(2)

(a) Please see Attachment A. This response is restricted to requests submitted through the standard categories available to the public within the Fix My Street web form on the Access Canberra website. To be able to provide a report with the non-standard categories mentioned in the question would require the manual interrogation of each individual request, by Access Canberra staff, which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

(b) Please see Attachment B. This response is restricted to requests submitted through the standard categories available to the public within the Fix My Street web form on the Access Canberra website. To be able to provide a report with the non-standard categories mentioned in the question would require the manual interrogation of each individual request, by Access Canberra staff, which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

(3)

(a) Please see Attachment A. This response is restricted to requests submitted through the standard categories available to the public within the Fix My Street web form on the Access Canberra website. To be able to provide a report with the non-standard categories mentioned in the question would require the manual interrogation of each individual request, by Access Canberra staff, which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

(b) Please see Attachment B. This response is restricted to requests submitted through the standard categories available to the public within the Fix My Street web form on the Access Canberra website. To be able to provide a report with the non-standard categories mentioned in the question would require the manual interrogation of each individual request, by Access Canberra staff, which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

(4) Due to the extensive scope of the requests that fall into the category of “other”, this information would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide an answer to this question.

*(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).*

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### **Municipal services—Belconnen (Question No 960)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Belconnen District North via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Belconnen District North in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Belconnen District North in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v)



damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

(3) How many requests for Belconnen District North resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

(4) What were/are the nature of requests for Belconnen District North that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Belconnen District North is not a category supported by Fix My Street.

### **Municipal services—Bonner (Question No 961)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Bonner via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Bonner in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Bonner in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

- (3) How many requests for Bonner resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Bonner that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

### **Municipal services—Casey (Question No 962)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Casey via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Casey in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Casey in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Casey resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic

lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Casey that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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### **Municipal services—Crace (Question No 963)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Crace via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Crace in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Crace in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Crace resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Crace that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Municipal services—Evatt  
(Question No 964)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Evatt via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Evatt in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Evatt in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Evatt resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Evatt that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Municipal services—Forde  
(Question No 965)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Forde via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Forde in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

- (2) How many reports were made for Forde in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Forde resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Forde that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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### **Municipal services—Franklin (Question No 966)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Franklin via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Franklin in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Franklin in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

- (3) How many requests for Franklin resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Franklin that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

### **Municipal services—Giralang (Question No 967)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Giralang via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Giralang in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Giralang in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Giralang resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Giralang that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Municipal services—Gungahlin  
(Question No 968)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Gungahlin via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Gungahlin in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Gungahlin in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Gungahlin resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Gungahlin that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Municipal services—Hall  
(Question No 969)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Hall District via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Hall District in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Hall District in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Hall District resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Hall District that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Hall District is not a category supported by Fix My Street. Details in relation to Hall have been provided in response to QON 959.

**Municipal services—Harrison  
(Question No 970)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Harrison via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Harrison in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.



- (2) How many reports were made for Harrison in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Harrison resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Harrison that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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### **Municipal services—Jacka (Question No 971)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Jacka via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Jacka in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Jacka in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes,

sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

- (3) How many requests for Jacka resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Jacka that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

### **Municipal services—Kaleen (Question No 972)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Kaleen via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Kaleen in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Kaleen in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Kaleen resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix)

election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Kaleen that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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### **Municipal services—Lawson (Question No 973)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Lawson via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Lawson in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Lawson in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Lawson resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Lawson that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

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

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Municipal services—McKellar  
(Question No 974)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for McKellar via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning McKellar in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for McKellar in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for McKellar resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for McKellar that fall into the category of "other" for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

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

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Municipal services—Mitchell  
(Question No 975)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Mitchell via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Mitchell in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Mitchell in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Mitchell resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Mitchell that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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### **Municipal services—Moncrieff (Question No 976)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Moncrieff via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Moncrieff in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Moncrieff in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi)

illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

- (3) How many requests for Moncrieff resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Moncrieff that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

### **Municipal services—Ngunnawal (Question No 977)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Ngunnawal via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Ngunnawal in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Ngunnawal in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Ngunnawal resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds,

(vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.

- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Ngunnawal that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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### **Municipal services—Nicholls (Question No 978)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Nicholls via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Nicholls in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Nicholls in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Nicholls resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Nicholls that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

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

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Municipal services—Palmerston  
(Question No 979)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Palmerston via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Palmerston in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Palmerston in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Palmerston resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Palmerston that fall into the category of "other" for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

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

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Municipal services—Throsby  
(Question No 980)**

**Mr Milligan** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):



- (1) In relation to the number and response to resident requests for Throsby via Fix My Street, how many requests were received from residents concerning Throsby in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.
- (2) How many reports were made for Throsby in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (ivx) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (3) How many requests for Throsby resulted in action being taken by the ACT Government to rectify the issue in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 for (i) abandoned shopping trolleys, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) air pollution, (iv) damaged bicycle paths, footpaths, shared paths and on-road cycle lanes, (v) damaged/dangerous trees, (vi) damaged recreation facilities such as public barbeques, parks and playgrounds, (vii) damaged survey infrastructure (survey marks), (viii) domestic garbage and recycling collections, (ix) election campaign signage, (x) graffiti, (xi) illegal parking, (xii) litter and dumping, (xiii) mobile speed camera location suggestion, (xiv) nature strips, (xv) noise pollution, (xvi) overgrown grass in public places, (xvii) pot holes, sign damage, traffic lights and other road related issues, (xviii) road safety and traffic concerns, (xix) stormwater drains, (xx) street lights, (xxi) street sweeping and (xxii) other.
- (4) What were/are the nature of requests for Throsby that fall into the category of “other” for (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

**Mr Ramsay:** The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

Please see response to QON 959.

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**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—  
workplace bullying  
(Question No 981)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Can the Chief Minister provide for (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date, a breakdown by agency or authority under the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) the total number of (i) informal complaints or issues raised regarding workplace bullying, (ii) formal complaints submitted regarding workplace bullying, (iii) informal complaints which resulted in a formal intervention, (iv) formal complaints which resulted in a formal intervention, (v) informal complaints which have not been resolved and (vi) formal complaints which have not been resolved.

- (2) Did any agency or authority fail to provide regular information to work safety committees on the number of reports regarding workplace bullying during (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date; if so, can the Chief Minister provide the name of the agency or authority and any reasons given for the failure to provide information.
- (3) Were any common factors identified in the informal or formal complaints received by the CMTEDD during (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date; if so, can the Chief Minister provide what factors were identified, and what strategies have been implemented to specifically address each factor.
- (4) Can the Chief Minister provide the retention and separation rates for the CMTEDD during (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date, including transfers to other agencies or authorities in the ACT Public Service.
- (5) Can the Chief Minister provide the total (a) number and (b) value of payments made to CMTEDD employees for end of employment related reasons, including termination, redundancy, or any other reason.

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

- (1) Refer to table below:

<b>COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18 YTD</b>
informal complaints or issues raised regarding workplace bullying	24	8
formal complaints submitted regarding workplace bullying	8	8
informal complaints which resulted in a formal intervention	1	0
formal complaints which resulted in a formal intervention	8	8
informal complaints which have not been resolved	0	0
formal complaints which have not been resolved	0	2

- (2) CMTEDD provides regular de-identified accident/incident reports, including reports of bullying and harassment received through Riskman, to the Directorate Work Health Safety Committee.
- (3) Of the **informal reports** of bullying and harassment in 2016/17, 17 of the 24 reports were from Parking Inspectors regarding members of the public harassing and/or intimidating them. Seven of the eight reports in 2017/18 have also been of the same nature.

CMTEDD is undertaking a review of occupational violence that occurs for Parking Operations employees. This includes consultation with workers in the development of an occupational violence risk register aimed at identifying and mitigating potential levels of risk that parking operations employees face. Parking Inspectors are currently provided with training in personal communication which includes de-escalation techniques.

- (4)

<b>RETENTION AND SEPARATION</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18 to date</b>
Retention rate	91.31%	92.16%
Separation rate	8.69%	7.84%
Number of transfers to other agencies*	61	55

\*This figure is not included in the separation rate.

(5)

SEPARATION VALUES	2016-17	2017-18 to date
Total Number of Final Payments	352	180
Total Value of Final Entitlements Paid	\$7,927,004.17	\$4,448,998.17

### Icon Water—meter reading (Question No 982)

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many complaints have been received in relation to incorrect or faulty water meter readings in the financial years of (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, (d) 2016-17 and (e) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of complaints made in relation to incorrect or faulty water meter readings by suburb during (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, (d) 2016-17 and (e) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) Can the Treasurer provide a detailed explanation of the process that is undertaken by the (a) ACT Government and (b) Icon Water after a water meter reading inaccuracy complaint is received to determine whether the meter readings were incorrect.
- (4) Can the Treasurer provide a detailed explanation of what (a) reporting and (b) dispute processes are in place under Icon Water's shared services agreement with ActewAGL in relation to meter reading.

**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) There were 496 queries from customers regarding incorrect or high bills over the financial years of 2013-14 (102), 2014-15 (75), 2015-16 (83), 2016-17 (130) and 2017-18 (106) to date. Of these, a total of 14 complaints were confirmed to be due to incorrect or faulty water meter readings.
- (2) The response to this question is attached.

- (3a) If the ACT Government receives a constituent complaint regarding Icon Water, the correspondence is referred to Icon Water for investigation and response.

Customers may also lodge a complaint with the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission or the ACT Government Utilities Technical Regulator. The complaint is then referred to Icon Water for investigation and response.

- (3b) Upon receipt of a complaint, Icon Water will arrange for the meter to be re-read. Icon Water will also accept a photograph from the customer which clearly shows the water meter number and reading dials. If the meter has been misread, the correct reading is entered into the system and a new bill generated.

Icon Water's Standard Customer Contract includes provisions for the management of complaints, meter readings and the testing of metering equipment in accordance with the Water Metering Code 2000, under the *Utilities Act 2000* (ACT).

- (4) As advised in Icon Water's response to a question taken on notice (QTON 5) in the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 10 November 2017, the specific details of the contractual arrangements between Icon Water and ActewAGL in relation to incorrect meter readings are commercially sensitive.

As advised to the Select Committee on Estimates 2017-18 on 3 July 2017, every quarter there is reporting that occurs between Icon Water and ActewAGL through two committees. There is a standard reporting of KPIs that is scheduled under the terms and conditions of the contract, and those KPIs and any other matters, are discussed in those forums (p1047 of Estimates Transcript 03 July 2017  
<https://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2017/comms/estimates12a.pdf>)

The Customer Services and Community Support Agreement and the Corporate Services Agreement are available on Icon Water's website at  
<https://www.iconwater.com.au/About/Who-are-we/Service%20contracts/Contracts.aspx>

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

## **Government—tourism policy (Question No 985)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Tourism and Major Events*):

- (1) Further to question taken on notice No 23 during the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism's inquiry into referred 2016-17 annual and financial reports, can the Minister provide a breakdown of the 37 media and 12 influencers or travel bloggers by (a) organisation, (b) dates, (c) hosted, (d) value of travel, (e) value of accommodation and (f) value and category of any other associated costs or payments.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the value of (a) travel, (b) accommodation and (c) any other relevant category of investments made for media and influencers or bloggers by VisitCanberra during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) What is the total number of times VisitCanberra has been approached by (a) journalists, (b) influencers and (c) travel bloggers during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.
- (4) What is the total number of times VisitCanberra has been approached by (a) journalists, (b) influencers and (c) travel bloggers that have deemed investment to be of merit in during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.
- (5) Can the Minister outline what requirements or guidelines are followed in order to determine the merit of a proposal in the cases where VisitCanberra is approached by journalists, influencers, or travel bloggers about promotional opportunities.

- (6) If available, can the Minister provide a copy of these requirements or guidelines and any additional supplementary material.
- (7) What is the total number of times VisitCanberra has successfully pitched story ideas to (a) journalists, (b) influencers and (c) travel bloggers during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.
- (8) Can the Minister outline what requirements or procurement guidelines are followed in the cases where VisitCanberra pitches story ideas to journalists, influencers, or travel bloggers.
- (9) If available, can the Minister provide a copy of these requirements or guidelines and any additional supplementary material.

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

- (1) The average cost to the ACT Government of each visit in 2016-17 was \$332 per domestic visit and \$1270 for international media/influencers visit.
- (2) A summary of visit costs for the requested financial years is as follows:

**2014-15**

Domestic visits	\$14,893 for 27 media/influencers (average \$552 pp)
International visits	\$16,991 for 9 visits (20 people – average \$850 pp)
Additional industry contribution was \$16,8651	

**2015-16**

Domestic visits	\$22,916 for 27 media/influencers (average \$848 pp)
International visits	\$220 for 2 visits (average \$110 pp)
Additional industry contribution was \$16,012	

**2016-17\***

Domestic visits	\$5653 for 17 media/influencers (average \$332 pp)
International visits	\$47,000 for 37 media/influencers (average \$1270 pp)
Additional industry contribution was \$26,492	

\*Singapore Airlines flights commenced 21 September 2016

**2017-18 to date**

Domestic visits	\$4977 for 10 visits (average \$497 pp)
International visits	\$14,103 for 15 visits (average \$940 per visit)
Additional industry contribution was \$14,478	

It has not been possible to confirm with every journalist/influencer about their willingness to publicly release information about their visit to Canberra. As a result a detailed breakdown of information for every visit has not been provided.

- (3) VisitCanberra receives approaches by media and influencers each week. Requests range from Canberra images or footage, editorial, story ideas and angles, interview

subjects, media contacts at tourism attractions or a quote/response from the ACT Government on a tourism-related matter. Some may be visit requests to visit Canberra to experience the city first-hand under the Visiting Journalist and Influencer Program.

- (4) It has not been possible to confirm with every journalist/influencer about their willingness to publicly release information about their visit to Canberra. As a result a detailed breakdown of information for every visit has not been provided.
- (5) VisitCanberra evaluates approaches based on a number of factors including:
- relevance to target markets of consumers we are trying to influence to visit (see Destination Marketing Strategy 2015-20),
  - reach and audience of the publication/program/digital channel to determine Return on Investment.

Having a commissioned piece/guaranteed placement for a story is a condition of assistance under the Visiting Journalist and Influencer Program. Financial assistance can cover domestic travel, accommodation or product experience fees. VisitCanberra provides story lead ideas, information and access to our free online image library to those we cannot assist financially.

VisitCanberra works cooperatively with Tourism Australia on international media and influencer visits through its International Media Hosting Program. On these visits, VisitCanberra shares ground costs with Tourism Australia. Tourism Australia covers international and domestic travel fares to Canberra.

- (6) VisitCanberra and Tourism Australia's guidelines are available online as content on web pages. Screen shots are provided at Attachment A.

These guidelines can also be viewed at the following websites  
<https://tourism.act.gov.au/marketing/media-centre/> or  
<http://www.tourism.australia.com/en/media/resources-for-media/international-media-hosting-program.html>

VisitCanberra's visiting journalist media program is based on a program established by Tourism Australia and of which all state and territory tourism organisations have their own program.

When hosting media, VisitCanberra complies with the ACT Government's Travel and Hospitality Guidelines which require approval of the delegate (Director General of Economic Development).

- (7) VisitCanberra pitch stories or content to travel media and influencers on a weekly basis. VisitCanberra uses the Travmedia media release system (for travel and lifestyle media) to send out information as well as individual pitches or contact.

VisitCanberra also attends events such as the annual Travmedia International Media Marketplace (25 individual appointment with editors, freelancers, broadcasters and digital influencers) as the Canberra tourism industry representative. They pitch new destination products and experiences and attend networking sessions.

VisitCanberra also attends the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) Media Marketplace each year which is a similar format to the Travmedia event.

(8) Pitching story ideas to journalists is undertaken by VisitCanberra's media team and has no cost associated with it. When a Public Relations company is required to undertake media outreach services, this is procured under the ACT Government's Creative Services Panel. VisitCanberra currently has a PR Services contract until the end of June 2018 procured through this panel.

(9) Refer to the documentation at **Attachment A**.

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

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### **Asbestos—property sales (Question No 986)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of blocks identified as containing Mr Fluffy loose fill asbestos by suburb, including the (a) number of residential blocks identified with Mr Fluffy loose fill asbestos, (b) number of properties where the owners eradicated or are expected to eradicate the loose fill asbestos independent of the Government's scheme, (c) number of properties vacated by the previous owners, (d) number of blocks purchased by the Government, (e) number of properties where the owners have agreed to vacate the properties, (f) number of vacant properties owned by the Government but are yet to be demolished, (g) number of blocks that are in the process of being sold and their status, such as listed, and contracts exchanged, (h) number of blocks sold by the Government and the average sale price, (i) total amount expended by the Government to purchase the properties, (j) total amount expected to be expended by the Government to purchase all the properties, (k) total amount received for the Government's sale of the blocks, (l) total amount expected to be received for the Government's sale of the blocks, (m) number of blocks where the previous owners have purchased back the block including the total value of these blocks and (n) number of blocks where the stamp duty was payable on the transfer of vacant blocks and the amount of money received by the Government from stamp duty.

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

Acquisition and sales statistics are regularly reported in the *Quarterly Report: Implementation of the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme*. The Scheme has continued to report regularly to the Assembly, through the website <http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/> and as required via media requests.

The Taskforce has been mindful both of the accountability expected by the community, but also the privacy of the affected householders. The most up to date information is available at [http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/1176385/ARTDemolitionSchedulemap-20180309-ProgressMap.pdf](http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1176385/ARTDemolitionSchedulemap-20180309-ProgressMap.pdf)

Further, I have attached a spreadsheet of data in response to your questions. This data has been broken down to a suburb level where available.

With respect for the privacy of homeowners, information requested under questions b, e and m, this has been provided as a total only and has not been provided at a suburb level.

Similarly for questions j and l, data is unable to be provided at a suburb level.

All data provided is accurate as at 28 February 2018. For further updates, please continue to monitor the quarterly reports and the website.

### **Taxation—payroll tax waivers (Question No 987)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Further to question taken on notice No 9 on 10 November 2017 as part of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' inquiry into referred 2016-17 annual and financial reports, can the Treasurer provide in relation to \$746 523.41 payroll tax write off (a) a breakdown of which companies were liquidated, resulting in outstanding payroll tax being written off and (b) the amount of outstanding payroll tax written off per liquidated company.
- (2) Further to question taken on notice No 9 on 10 November 2017 as part of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' inquiry into referred 2016-17 annual and financial reports, can the Treasurer provide in relation to \$746,523.41 payroll tax write off (a) a breakdown the total number of companies by industry area where the companies liquidated resulting in outstanding payroll tax being written off and (b) the total amount of outstanding payroll tax written off per industry area.
- (3) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of all debt written off by the ACT Revenue office during (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date by (i) category, (ii) amount and (iii) reason for write off.

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

- (1) and (2)

As noted in the answer to question taken on notice No 9 on 10 November 2017 as part of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' inquiry into referred 2016-17 annual and financial reports, a write off of payroll tax debt in 2016-17 of \$746,523.41 was due to the liquidation of a number of related companies grouped for payroll tax purposes.

Under the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*, the disclosure of information that either does, or is likely to, directly or indirectly, identify a particular taxpayer is not permitted. Providing further details, such as company names or industries, would contravene these privacy provisions.

- (3) A breakdown of debt written off by revenue line is in the following table. The amounts in each tax line relate to multiple taxpayers. It is not possible to provide a reason for each write-off as to do so would breach the privacy provisions of the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*.



Revenue line	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (YTD to February 2018)
Payroll tax	752,267.71	457,158.35	905,768.67	58,614.74
Duties/Other	9,666.63	17,406.27	75,510.16	9,847.32
First Home Owner Grant	1,739.60	0.00	7,000.00	0.00
General rates	10,753.17	5,268.79	110,574.64	130,534.87
Land rent	72,615.90	0.00	451,345.12	120,908.48
Land tax	0.00	6,742.84	21,599.12	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>847,043.01</b>	<b>486,576.25</b>	<b>1,571,798.12</b>	<b>319,908.41</b>

### Transport—light rail (Question No 992)

**Miss C Burch** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

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

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

- (1) Three Deeds of Amendment have been agreed with Canberra Metro to incorporate minor changes to the Project Agreement. The nature of those changes is as listed below:
  - a. Topographical errors.
  - b. Clarifying the definition of insurance component.
  - c. Defining the process for reviewing Project Plans.
  - d. Amending the access date to Constitution Avenue and Coranderrk Street.
  - e. Amending the access date for Land Access at Flemington Road changing the access date to the Area 1 and Area 2 of the intersection of Manning Clark and Flemington Road.
  - f. Commencement of review period to accommodate rostered days off (RDO's).
  - g. Amending the provisions of landscaping items.
  - h. Amendments to clause 10.9 of the Project Agreement.
  - i. Defining the process for the timing, submission and certification of design documentation.
  - j. Amending the name and address of the Project Co Representative
  - k. Amending the contract Project Co entity name under the Project Agreement.

- l. Amendment to the operation of the LRV radio system.
- m. Amendment to the tolerances of traction power reticulation.
- n. Defining the process for the progressive accreditation of the Safety and Systems Assurance plan.
- o. Amending the vertical and horizontal platform alignment parameters.

(2) Yes.

(3) The subcontractor forum was established in May 2017 and is held at least quarterly. It is convened and chaired by Canberra Metro, as required under the Project Agreement. There have been 3 subcontractor forums to date.

(4) The IR Forum was established by Canberra Metro in September 2016 and is generally held monthly. There have been 13 Construction IR Forums and 3 Operations and Maintenance IR Forums to date.

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### **ACTION bus service—fleet (Question No 995)**

**Miss C Burch** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many new buses have been (a) purchased or (b) leased for the Transport Canberra fleet in the financial years of (i) 2016-17 and (ii) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) How much has been spent on (a) purchasing or (b) leasing the buses listed in part (1).
- (3) How many more buses does the ACT Government expect to (a) purchase or (b) lease for the remainder of the 2017-18 financial year.
- (4) What is the estimated cost of (a) purchasing or (b) leasing the buses listed in part (3).
- (5) What is the age of the Transport Canberra bus fleet, broken down into five-year brackets.
- (6) How many buses in the Transport Canberra fleet do not feature air conditioning or climate control systems.
- (7) When will the buses listed in part (6) be replaced.

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

- (1) A total of 27 buses have been purchased for the Transport Canberra bus fleet in the financial year 2016-17 and 8 buses have been purchased in 2017-18 to date. Two buses were leased in 2017-18.
- (2) A total of \$12.1million (Ex GST) has been spent of purchasing the 27 buses delivered in 2016-17 and \$3.6 million (ex GST) was spent on purchasing the buses delivered in 2017-18. To date \$153,000 has been spent on the currently leased buses in 2017-18

- (3) The ACT Government expects to purchase 17 buses for the remainder of the 2017-18 financial year.
- (4) It is estimated that the total cost to purchase these buses will be \$7.9 million (ex GST)
- (5) The age of the operational Transport Canberra bus fleet of 434 buses at 1 March 2018 is as follows:

Age	Models	Number in Fleet
0 - 5 years	Carbridge Toro Electric, Volvo Hybrid, Scania K320UB, Scania K360UA	128
5 - 10 years	Scania K360UA, MAN A69 18.320, Scania K320UB, MAN A69 18.310 CNG,	140
10 - 15 years	Scania L94UB CNG, Irisbus Agoraline	74
15 - 20 years	Dennis Dart SLF	4
20 - 25 years	Dennis Dart SLF, Renault PR100.3,	24
25 - 30 Years	Renault PR100.2	64

- (6) Currently 94 buses operating in the Transport Canberra fleet do not have climate control comprising of:
- 64 Renault PR100.2 - Average age 26 years
  - 24 Renault PR100.3 - Average age 24 years
  - 6 Dennis Dart SLF - Average age 19 years
- (7) It is expected these 94 buses will be replaced by December 2022 to comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

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### **ACTION bus service—fares (Question No 998)**

**Miss C Burch** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What was the process leading to the decision to increase public transport fares in the ACT as from 20 January 2018.
- (2) Have public transport fares in the ACT increased above the inflation rate; if so, why.
- (3) Who approved the increase in public transport fares.
- (4) Why was the announcement about the increase in public transport fares delayed until mid-January 2018.
- (5) How much additional revenue is expected to be generated by the increase in public transport fares.
- (6) When will the public transport fares in the ACT next be reviewed.

- (7) Why has the 12 month trial of free off peak MyWay travel for seniors and concession card holders been extended.
- (8) What was the total cost of the 12 month trial of free off peak MyWay travel for senior and concession card holders.
- (9) What is the expected annual cost of continuing the trial of free off peak MyWay travel for senior and concession card holders.
- (10) How many cash transactions were made on public transport in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (11) Is any consideration being given to phasing out cash transactions on public transport in the ACT.

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

- (1) The fares were increased by CPI only and were approved by the Minister for Transport and City Services.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Minister for Transport and City Services approved a routine increase to public transport fares from 20 January 2018, following advice from the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.
- (4) The announcement of the fare change was not delayed. Transport Canberra widely publicised this routine fare change ahead of time, including providing information online, at major bus interchanges and through the media. It is expected that the changes will generate around \$0.5 million in additional revenue over 12 months.
- (5) It is yet to be determined when public transport fares will again be reviewed, though generally they occur on an annual basis.
- (6) This trial is continuing while Transport Canberra continues to evaluate the scheme.
- (7) The estimated revenue forgone from the first 12 months of the scheme was around \$800,000. The estimated revenue forgone for future years is \$800,000 in current values, adjusted for changes in patronage and fare levels over time.
- (8) See Question 8.
- (9) a) 1,291,618 (excluding transfers)  
b) 754,471 (excluding transfers), as at 1 March 2018.
- (10) No plans are currently in place to phase out cash fares.

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**ACTION bus service—staffing  
(Question No 999)**

**Miss C Burch** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What was the number of staff employed under the ACTION Enterprise Agreement 2013-17, as at 15 December 2017.
- (2) In relation to the staff identified in part (1), what is the number of staff employed by ACTION on a continuous basis for the time frames of (a) 1 day to 1 year and 264 days, (b) 2 years to 4 years and 364 days, (c) 5 years to 9 years and 364 days, (d) 10 years to 14 years and 364 days, (e) 15 years to 19 years and 364 days, (f) 20 years to 24 years and 364 days, (g) 25 years to 29 years and 364 days, (h) 30 years to 34 years and 364 days, (i) 35 years to 39 years and 364 days, (j) 40 years to 44 years and 364 days, (k) 45 years to 49 years and 364 days and (l) 50 years or over.
- (3) In relation to the staff identified in part (1), what is the number of staff broken down by the grades of (a) Administrative Services Officer class, (b) Senior Officer, (c) General Services Officer, (d) Technical Services Officer, (e) Senior Officer (Technical), (f) ACTION Transport Officer, (g) Bus Operator (Training), (h) Bus Operator, (i) APS Store Staff, (j) GSO Workshop Staff, (k) Workshop Staff (TO), (l) Workshop Apprentice, (m) Special Needs Service, (n) GSO Stores Staff and (o) Graduate Administrative Assistant.
- (4) What is the number of staff employed by pay point listed from pages 200 to 210 of the ACTION Enterprise Agreement 2013-2017, for each of the grades listed in part (3).

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

(1) 977.

(2)

<b>Length of Service Range ACTION Employees as at 15 Dec 2017</b>	
180	Under 2 years*
163	Over 2 years & under 5 years
277	Over 5 years & under 10 years
143	Over 10 years & under 15 years
67	Over 15 years & under 20 years
21	Over 20 years & under 25 years
35	Over 25 years & under 30 years
54	Over 30 years & under 35 years
19	Over 35 years & under 40 years
15	Over 40 years & under 45 years
2	Over 45 years & under 50 years
1	Over 50 years
977	Total Headcount ACTION

\* Transport Canberra has interpreted the question to be the number of staff employed by ACTION on a continuous basis for 1 day to 1 year and 364 days, rather than 264 days.

(3)

<b>Q3 Staff Numbers by Grade</b>	
<b>Classification Category</b>	<b>Number of Staff</b>
(a)-Administrative Services Officer class	0
(b)-Senior Officers	0
(c)-General Service Officer	0
(d)-Technical Services Officer	0
(e)-Senior Officer (Technical)	4
(f)-ACTION Transport Officer	37
(g)-Bus Operator (Training)	66
(h)-Bus Operator	708
(i)-APS Store Staff	2
(j)-GSO Workshop Staff	101
(k)-Workshop Staff (TO)	6
(l)-Workshop Apprentice	10
(m)-Special Needs Service	38
(n)-GSO Stores Staff	5
(o)-Graduate Administrative Assistant	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>977</b>

Number of Staff by Increment Point							
Salary Classification	FTE	Annual Salary	Total	Salary Classification	FTE	Annual Salary	Total
BGSO72		\$75,812	1	GSO5B4		\$56,375	8
BGSO74		\$78,741	3	SGSO64		\$73,093	4
BO		\$73,448	705	SOB.3		\$133,197	1
BOT		\$66,212	68	SOCT.1		\$100,462	1
EAPY11		\$26,879	3	SOCTA2		\$108,140	2
EAPY2		\$39,427	1	TGSO62		\$73,145	1
EAPY3		\$48,838	2	TGSO64		\$75,102	9
EAPY4		\$58,248	4	TGSO72		\$78,488	5
EASO53		\$78,711	2	TGSO73		\$79,812	2
EGSO41		\$61,170	1	TGSO74		\$81,212	35
EGSO42		\$61,964	23	TGSO84		\$87,553	2
EGSO43		\$62,748	1	TGSW71		\$80,070	1
EGSO44		\$63,587	3	TGSW74		\$84,219	4

Number of Staff by Increment Point							
Salary Classification	FTE	Annual Salary	Total	Salary Classification	FTE	Annual Salary	Total
<b>EGSO54</b>		\$67,829	2	<b>TO2.1</b>		\$59,230	1
<b>EGSO96</b>		\$91,925	1	<b>TOA36</b>		\$82,205	1
<b>EGSO97</b>		\$93,924	4	<b>TOA41</b>		\$83,842	1
<b>EGSW42</b>		\$64,449	1	<b>TOA42</b>		\$86,134	2
<b>EGSW52</b>		\$68,275	2			\$89,294	1
<b>GSO2B1</b>		\$49,228	6	<b>TOA45</b>		\$95,083	1
<b>GSO2B4</b>		\$51,173	13	<b>TRAN2</b>		\$85,587	5
<b>GSO4A2</b>		\$50,070	1	<b>TRAN3</b>		\$95,201	28
<b>GSO5.1</b>		\$52,198	1	<b>TRAN4</b>		\$104,101	4
<b>GSO5B1</b>		\$52,573	1				
		\$53,362	5				
<b>GSO5B2</b>		\$54,395	1				
		\$54,395	2				
<b>GSO5B3</b>		\$55,431	1				
Grand Total				977			

### **ACTION bus service—disability access (Question No 1000)**

**Miss C Burch** asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What percentage of the Transport Canberra bus fleet is currently Easy Access, wheelchair accessible.
- (2) Was the target of 80 percent of the fleet being Easy Access, wheelchair accessible by 31 December 2017 achieved; if not, (a) why wasn't the target met and (b) when does Transport Canberra expect that the target level of 80 percent will be achieved.
- (3) When will 100 percent of the Transport Canberra bus fleet be Easy Access, wheelchair accessible.
- (4) What factors influence whether an accessible bus is assigned to a particular route when determining rosters for daily bus routes.

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

- (1) As at 1 March 2018, 80 percent of the Transport Canberra bus fleet is wheelchair accessible.

- (2) The target of 80 percent of the Transport Canberra bus fleet being wheelchair accessible by 31 December 2017 was achieved in accordance with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.
- (3) It is expected 100 percent of the Transport Canberra bus fleet will be Easy Access, wheelchair accessible by 31 December 2022 in accordance with the target requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.
- (4) There are no routes that guarantee wheelchair accessible buses, however, priority is given to routes that service hospitals and aged care facilities. Customers are able to request wheelchair accessible buses on select services, which are then assessed on a case by case basis.

### **Housing—rates (Question No 1010)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What was the annual cost of administering the residential rates system for each of the last three financial years, including costs of valuations, issuing of rates notices etc (a) in dollars and (b) as a percentage of residential rates revenue.
- (2) With regard to appeals of the valuations used for levying residential rates, how many appeals were lodged each year for the three most-recent financial years.
- (3) What percentage of appeal rates do these represent, as a percentage of rateable residential properties.

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

- (1) It is not possible to separate the cost of administering the residential rates system from total cost of administering the ACT Revenue Office. Total expenses for the ACT Revenue Office for the past three financial years are in the table below.

	<b>2014-15 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2015-16 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2016-17 (\$'000)</b>
<b>ACT Revenue Office Expenses</b>	15,082	15,824	17,669

- (2) and (3) The number of appeals lodged with the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (both as a number and as a percentage of residential properties) in relation to land values for residential properties for the past three financial years, are shown in the table below.

	<b>Appeals</b>	<b>Percentage of total properties</b>
2014-15	2	0.001
2015-16	0	0
2016-17	0	0
2017-18 (YTD to February 2018)	3	0.002



**Housing—land tax  
(Question No 1013)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Is land tax currently payable on a residential property occupied free of charge by a family member of the owner.
- (2) How long has this arrangement been in place.
- (3) Are there any plans to change this arrangement.
- (4) Is land tax currently payable on a residential property occupied by a family member of the owner, where rent is paid.
- (5) How long has this arrangement been in place.
- (6) Are there any plans to change this arrangement.

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Since 30 June 1995.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The *Land Tax Act 2004* and predecessors have never contained an exemption for this arrangement.
- (6) No.

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**Canberra Hospital—accreditation  
(Question No 1014)**

**Ms Le Couteur** asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What accreditations does The Canberra Hospital (TCH) currently hold as an accredited health service.
- (2) Are any of these accreditations up for review in this calendar year; if so, which ones.
- (3) Are there any further accreditations TCH is seeking to be accredited under; if so, which ones.
- (4) What are the consequences for non-accreditation.

- (5) Is the Minister satisfied that TCH is on track to pass all accreditations checks this year.
- (6) What concerns does ACT Health have over TCH's ability to pass these accreditations.
- (7) What tracking and reporting mechanisms are in place to ensure ongoing compliance with any accreditations.
- (8) After reports in The Canberra Times over concerns at TCH, what areas of improvement are there to ensure meeting or exceeding expectations in the lead up for reaccreditation moving forward.
- (9) How are fridge temperatures monitored and maintained in accordance with accreditation.

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

- (1) ACT Health, inclusive of Canberra Hospital, holds current accreditation against the:
  - National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards
  - Home Care Common Standards
  - BreastScreen Australia National Accreditation Standards
  - Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS)
  - ACT Pathology Laboratories AS4633:200 ISO15189"2003
  - National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)/Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) accreditation scheme

ACT Health is also a currently Accredited Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace.

- (2) Canberra Hospital is undergoing re-accreditation against the following in 2018:
  - National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (National Standards)
  - Home Care Common Standards, developed by the Australian Government and state and territory governments – assessed by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency
- (3) Canberra Hospital is seeking no further accreditations at this time.
- (4) Canberra Hospital is currently accredited against the National Standards until 13 July 2018. Re-accreditation is occurring through an organisation wide re-accreditation survey 19-23 March 2018 by the accreditation agency Australian Council on Health Care Standards (ACHS). ACHS will assess ACT Health's implementation of the 10 National Standards. Assessment involves awarding either a 'satisfactory met' or 'not met' to the actions within the National Standards. If ACT Health receive a 'not met' against any of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards actions, ACT Health has 90 days to take corrective action at which time re-accreditation is awarded.
- (5) Canberra Hospital has undertaken a range of preparatory works to ensure the organisation will be re-accredited against the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and Home Care Common Standards.
- (6) Canberra Hospital underwent a re-accreditation assessment 'mock survey' from 4-15 December 2017 to prepare the organisation for the reaccreditation survey in March 2018. ACT Health has initiated weekly meetings to oversee the progress of activity in preparation for reaccreditation against the National Standards.

- (7) The Tier 1 ACT Health Governance Committee, Executive Directors Council Safety and Quality (EDCSQ) oversees accreditation compliance against the National Standards. The National Standards Governance Committee (NSGC) reporting to EDCSQ was refreshed in May 2017 to provide governance, leadership and support specific to implementation of the National Standards.
  - (8) ACT Health is committed to the delivery of person-centred safe, effective quality care maintaining a cycle of continuous improvement in the delivery of health care. ACT Health has a strong culture of quality improvement evidenced by the soon to be launched Quality Strategy and annual ACT Health Quality Awards. A number of service improvements are occurring to further improve the safety and quality of care.
  - (9) Canberra Hospital has a policy which outlines how medication fridge temperatures are to be monitored and maintained in accordance with National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards requirements. The process includes daily review of medication fridge temperature range and compliance reporting. Recognising the importance of continued quality improvement, ACT Health is implementing a range of work which will further improve compliance with the National Safety and Quality Standards through implementation of an organisation wide automated fridge temperature monitoring system.
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### **Housing—rates (Question No 1015)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide, for each financial year since 2012-2012 and for each year of the forward estimates, the (a) number of dwellings that paid the fixed charge of the ratings system and (b) total amount of revenue generated through the fixed charge, broken down by (i) houses, (ii) rural properties, (iii) units and (iv) commercial properties.
- (2) What are the residential conveyance duty rates for each year since 2011-12 and across each of the forward estimates, broken down by each threshold in Table 6.2.6 in 2017-18 Budget Paper 3.
- (3) How many transactions are expected to occur for each year of the budget estimates and how many took place each financial year since 2011-12 to date
- (4) Can the Treasurer provide the population of Canberra for each year since 2001 to date.

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

- (1) (a) The number of private residential properties that paid the fixed charge between 2011-12 and 2017-18 is shown in Table 1 below. It does not include forward estimates as the Government does not forecast growth in rateable dwellings. General rates revenue is set in aggregate which takes into account the expected growth in overall population.

**Table 1: The number of properties paying the General Rates fixed charge (2011-12 to 2017-18)**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
ACT residential	136,813	140,657	144,685	150,414	152,551	155,355	158,198
- Units	32,430	34,083	36,329	38,906	41,164	44,035	45,796
- Houses	104,383	106,574	108,356	109,679	110,499	110,417	111,452
Rural	178	174	175	171	168	173	172
Commercial	5,697	5,731	5,784	5,997	6,018	6,033	6,053

Note: Units and houses may not sum to ACT residential due to minor exclusions and reporting variations.

Figures are estimates based on properties in the general rates database and may differ to actual outcomes.

- (b) The total amount of revenue generated through the fixed charge, broken down by category, is presented in Table 2 for the years 2011-12 to 2017-18. As the Government does not forecast growth in rateable dwellings, forward estimates by category of dwelling cannot be provided.

**Table 2: Fixed charge revenue, by category (\$ '000, 2011-12 to 2017-18)**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
ACT residential	75,931	78,065	90,573	101,529	111,362	118,847	121,021
- Units	17,999	18,916	22,742	26,262	30,050	33,687	35,034
- Houses	57,933	59,149	67,831	74,033	80,664	84,469	85,261
Rural	22	22	24	25	25	26	27
Commercial	7,167	6,952	10,116	11,484	12,818	13,484	14,406

Note: Units and houses may not sum to ACT residential due to minor exclusions and reporting variations.

Figures are estimates based on properties in the general rates database and may differ to actual outcomes.

- (2) Residential conveyance duty rates for each year since 2011-12, and for the forward estimates period are listed in Table 4 below.

- (3) The number of residential property transactions which took place from 2011-12 to 2016-17 is presented in Table 3 below. The Budget and forward estimates of residential conveyance duty take a number of factors into consideration including economic conditions, annual growth in the Wage Price Index and the population, the turnover to stock ratio, house price growth and judgement. As these factors are applied at an aggregate level it is not possible to provide the forecast number of residential property transactions.

**Table 3: Number of residential property transactions, 2011-12 to 2016-17**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Residential property transactions	12,762	11,642	11,891	12,368	13,438	14,107

Source: ACT Revenue Office

- (4) The Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data for the ACT can be found on the ABS website ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)). The relevant ABS catalogue reference is 3101.0, Table 4.

## **Housing—rates (Question No 1016)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) For each year in the current Budget's forward estimates, what (a) are the ratings factors and underlying assumptions for each threshold level of residential and commercial properties, (b) is the estimated number of residential dwellings and (c) is the estimated number of commercial properties.

- (2) For each financial year from 2011-12 to date, what is the number of (a) rateable units, (b) rateable houses, (c) non-rateable units, (d) non-rateable houses and (c) commercial properties.
- (3) For each financial year since 2011-12 to date and across the forward estimates, what was the total average unimproved value for (a) units, (b) houses and (c) commercial properties.

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

- (1) With regard to general rates, revenue is set in aggregate taking into account expected growth in overall population.
- (a) Rating factors, number and value of properties by threshold are adjusted to achieve the required revenue outcome.
- (b) The Government does not forecast growth in rateable properties in determining general rates.
- (c) See response to (1)(b).
- (2)
- (a) See Table 1.
- (b) See Table 1.
- (c) Data on non-rateable units is not readily available for these periods.
- (d) Data on non-rateable houses is not readily available for these periods.
- (e) See Table 1.
- (3) See Table 2. No values are provided beyond 2017-18 as the Government does not forecast growth in rateable properties in determining general rates.

Table 1: Number of rateable properties from 2011-12 to 2017-18

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Residential							
Units	32,430	34,083	36,329	38,906	41,164	44,035	45,796
Houses	104,383	106,574	108,356	109,679	110,499	110,417	111,452
Commercial	5,697	5,731	5,784	5,997	6,018	6,033	6,053

Note: Figures are estimates based on properties in the general rates database and may differ to actual outcomes.

Table 2: Total average unimproved value from 2011-12 to 2017-18 (\$m)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Residential							
Units	3,997	4,463	4,903	5,119	5,333	5,543	5,728
Houses	34,285	37,347	39,049	39,605	40,271	41,040	42,987
Commercial	3,770	3,682	3,377	3,335	3,394	3,522	3,540

Note: Figures are estimates based on properties in the general rates database and may differ to actual outcomes.

Average unimproved value for units for all years is as defined in the *Rates Act 2004* (R29, 1 September 2016).

## Housing—rates (Question No 1017)

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What are the number of residential unit dwellings, in each financial year from 2011-12 to date and across the each year of the forward estimates, where the residential

average unimproved value was (a) less than \$150 000, (b) between \$150 001 and \$300 000, (c) between \$300 001 and \$450 000, (d) between 450 001 and \$600 000 and (e) more than \$600,001.

- (2) Can the Treasurer provide the total (a) number of residential properties that had a discount rates applied for on time payment and (b) value of the discounts during (i) 2011-2012, (b) 2012-2013, (c) 2013-2014, (d) 2014-2015, (e) 2016-2017 and (f) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) Can the Treasurer provide (a) the total number of residential properties that incurred interest for late rates payments and (b) the total value of the interest accrued during (i) 2011-2012, (b) 2012-2013, (c) 2013-2014, (d) 2014-2015, (e) 2016-2017 and (f) 2017-18 to date.

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

- (1) Under the *Rates Act 2004*, if a parcel of land is a unit subdivision, the land making up the parcel is taken to continue to be a single parcel of land. Average unimproved values are determined for this single parcel of land. As such, individual residential unit dwellings do not have unimproved land values. The table below shows the number of dwellings within each value category, calculated by multiplying the residential proportion of the average unimproved value of a unit subdivision parcel of land by the unit entitlement of the unit. Figures are correct as of 1 January each year.

Residential proportion of AUV of parcel of land multiplied by unit entitlement	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
\$0 to \$150,000	25,698	24,576	24,921	26,909	28,682	31,312	32,783
\$150,001 to \$300,000	5,526	8,047	9,770	10,282	10,699	10,898	11,002
\$300,001 to \$450,000	869	1,052	1,185	1,237	1,271	1,284	1,378
\$450,001 and \$600,000	234	279	304	327	352	373	433
\$600,001 and above	103	129	149	151	160	168	200

- (2) The table below shows the number of residential properties that received a general rates early payment discount and the value of the discount.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (YTD to Feb 2018)
No. of properties	53,008	54,020	55,377	56,365	54,888	53,291	49,821
Value of early payment discount (\$'000)	2,151	2,422	2,729	3,034	3,327	2,296	1,194

- (3) The table below shows the number of residential properties that incurred interest for late general rates payments and the value of the interest incurred.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (YTD to Feb 2018)
No. of properties	31,113	31,709	33,072	33,297	36,462	37,079	32,763
Value of interest incurred (\$'000)	1,400	1,432	1,518	1,638	1,793	1,604	524

## Housing—utility pricing (Question No 1018)

**Mr Coe** asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

Can the Minister provide data on how (a) water, (b) sewerage and (c) electricity prices have increased in the ACT since 2007-08 to date.

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the member's question is as follows<sup>1</sup>:

### a) Water Prices

Table 1 outlines the water prices that applied in the ACT in 2007-08, under an inclining block tariff structure, incorporating a fixed charge and three volumetric tiers.

**Table 1:** ACT Water Prices – 2007-08

	<b>2007-08</b> \$
Fixed Water Supply Charge - per annum	75
Tier 1 Price (0 – 100 kilolitres (kL) usage per annum) – per kL	1.145
Tier 2 Price (101 – 300 kL usage per annum) - per kL	2.31
Tier 3 Price (301+ kL usage per annum) – per kL	3.21

From 1 July 2008, the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) reformed the water tariff structure to two volumetric tiers and daily pricing<sup>2</sup>. Table 2 outlines prices from 2008-09 to 2017-18.

**Table 2:** ACT Water Prices – 2008-09 to 2017-18

	<b>2008-09</b> \$	<b>2009-10</b> \$	<b>2010-11</b> \$	<b>2011-12</b> \$	<b>2012-13</b> \$	<b>2013-14</b> \$	<b>2014-15</b> \$	<b>2015-16</b> \$	<b>2016-17</b> \$	<b>2017-18</b> \$
Fixed Water Supply Charge – per annum	85	89.55	92.08	95.63	99.83	100.00	102.56	101.14	101.48	104.21
Tier 1 Price (0 - 0.548 kL of usage per day) - per kL	1.85	1.95	2	2.33	2.43	2.55	2.64	2.60	2.61	2.68
Tier 2 Price (0.549 kL+ of usage per day) – per kL	3.70	3.90	4.01	4.66	4.86	5.10	5.29	5.22	5.24	5.38

<sup>1</sup> The price data provided in all tables is nominal. That is, prices as published for the relevant year.

<sup>2</sup> Under daily pricing, the allocation of water in each consumption tier is determined as a daily allowance, rather than on an annual basis as per the approach until 2007-08. The daily allowance of 0.548 kL for tier 1 pricing equates to 200 kL of usage per annum.

### b) Sewerage Prices

Table 3 below outlines the sewerage fixed supply charge in the Territory from 2007-08 to 2017-18.

**Table 3:** ACT Sewerage Prices – 2007-08 to 2017-18

	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	2009-10 \$	2010-11 \$	2011-12 \$	2012-13 \$	2013-14 \$	2014-15 \$	2015-16 \$	2016-17 \$	2017-18 \$
Fixed Sewerage Supply Charge - per annum	413.76	443.82	484.25	516.11	555.39	600.65	492.02	505.41	523.18	529.38	537.34

c) Electricity prices

Tables 4 and 5 below outline electricity prices from 2007-08 to 2017-18 in the Territory for the two most common ActewAGL Retail Standing Offers – being for those small customers with Single Rate meters (Table 4) and those customers with Time of Use Meters (Table 5). These standing offer tariffs are subject to price regulation by the ICRC.

It is important to note that customers are free to negotiate market offers directly with ActewAGL Retail or other electricity providers active in the ACT. This may result in unit prices paid by consumers that differ significantly from those outlined below.

**Table 4:** ACT Electricity Prices - 2007-08 to 2017-18 (Single Rate Meter including GST– Actew AGL Standing Offer)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Supply charge - Cents/day	48.84	51.70	53.13	53.90	56.10	66.55	73.48	75.79	75.79	80.41	96.14
All usage - Cents/kWh	13.31	14.19	15.246	15.598	16.665	19.69	20.13	18.304	17.27	18.282	21.758

**Table 5:** ACT Electricity Prices - 2007-08 to 2017-18 (Time of Use Meter including GST – ActewAGL Retail Standing Offer)

	2007-08 3	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Supply charge - Cents/day	N/A	51.70	53.13	53.90	56.10	66.55	73.48	75.79	75.79	80.41	96.14
Peak usage - Cents/kWh	N/A	17.82	19.25	19.69	21.23	24.42	24.86	21.868	23.375	24.926	28.688
Shoulder usage - Cents/kWh	N/A	13.86	14.3	14.465	15.40	18.70	19.25	17.16	15.785	16.775	20.515
Off-peak usage - Cents/kWh	N/A	10.78	10.593	10.736	11.154	13.75	14.08	12.793	11.55	12.606	16.126

<sup>3</sup> The first Time of Use based plans were introduced 1 July 2008, following metering reforms that required all new or replacement meters to report consumption on the basis of peak, off-peak and shoulder usage.

## Questions without notice taken on notice

### Schools—composite model

**Ms Berry** (in reply to a question by Ms Lee on Tuesday, 13 February 2018):

Mawson Primary School has seen a rapid expansion in enrolment numbers over the past three years. Classes at the school are structured according to a number of factors,



including enrolment in the school's Mandarin language immersion program, current enrolments and class sizes.

In previous years, classes for students in years 3-6 have been composite. There have previously been composite classes in years 1-2, particularly for students not enrolled in the immersion program.

In 2018, classes in years 1 and 2 have been made composite to keep class numbers smaller and to ensure that students enrolled in the bilingual program can be taught separately to the students who do not study in the immersion classes.

The new principal, Ms Elizabeth Courtois, held a meeting on 14 February 2018 attended by more than 30 parents. The main issue raised on the evening was communication regarding the changes, however overall the meeting was positive.

Multi-age classes provide students with the opportunity to interact with a wider group of peers to allow for greater collaboration and social development.

The differentiated approach to teaching and learning in composite classes also ensures that students are taught according to their stage of development and ability, rather than their age.

### **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Tuesday, 13 February 2018*):

1. We are unable to report the exact numbers as the clients can be easily identified and there are risks of exposing the clients' confidentiality.
2. There have been no delays in accepting clients for the next program. ACT Health is currently examining the delivery of the first program and engaging with future service providers and consumers. It is anticipated that a second program will commence in April 2018.

### **Business—Local Industry Advocate**

**Mr Barr** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Wall on Tuesday, 13 February 2018*):

The Government's approach to local industry engagement is set out in *Canberra Region: Local Industry Participation Policy (2017)*, developed with guidance and input from the Local Industry Advocate.

That policy describes a range of measures and requirements to support and encourage local industry participation in ACT Government procurement.

I am advised that the procurement of the green waste service was conducted in strict accord with this policy.

I also note that a local Canberra company was chosen to deliver the Green Bins Pilot in Weston Creek and Kambah, and the subsequently expanded service across Tuggeranong.

### **Canberra Hospital—patient safety**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question by Mrs Jones on Wednesday, 14 February 2016*):

1. ACT Health upholds a strong duty of care to patients at all times. It would not be appropriate to comment on the particular circumstances which gave rise to the Court's judgment.

ACT Health acknowledges his Honour's findings, a determination based on his view of the evidence as presented to the Court.

### **ACT Health—hospital capacity**

**Ms Fitzharris** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 14 February 2018*):

1. Yes.
2. Calvary Hospital does not use the Alert Level scale to initiate processes to assist with bed management and patient flow throughout the hospital, rather uses the recognised colour nomenclature 'Code Yellow'. The threshold criteria for a 'Code Yellow' at Calvary Hospital for bed management and patient flow aligns with the criteria of Alert Level 3 at Canberra Hospital.
3. Between 1 October 2017 and 14 February 2018, the Canberra Hospital was over 90 per cent capacity on 58 days.

### **Education—enrolment projections**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lee on Thursday, 15 February 2016*):

Neither Aranda Primary School nor Palmerston District Primary School are exceeding their capacities. A small number of schools operate close to capacity however all of these schools have enrolment management plans in place. These schools are always able to accept in-area enrolments. 2018 school capacity information will be published alongside school census data in April 2018.

### **Education—enrolment projections**

**Ms Berry** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Thursday, 15 February 2018*):

The Education Directorate publishes a school census document annually. The 2018 Census document will be available from the Education Directorate website by the end

of March 2018. Following the school census each year, enrolment projections are undertaken, generally around the middle of the year, and are reviewed following feedback from principals and following the August school census. Enrolment projections are not tabled in the Assembly.

### **Health—adult mental health unit**

**Mr Rattenbury** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Hanson on Thursday, 15 February 2018*):

1. Yes, during 2017-18, the Adult Mental Health Unit has been over 100 per cent bed occupancy.

The Adult Mental Health Unit has 40 physical beds. 100 percent occupancy is measured on 37 beds. The additional beds are utilised at times of high clinical demand.

Year to date for 2017-18, the average bed occupancy for the Adult Mental Health Unit is 104 per cent.

In 2016-17 the average bed occupancy for the Adult Mental Health Unit was 105 per cent.

In 2018-19, all 40 beds will be used to measure occupancy rates.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—drugs**

**Mr Rattenbury** (*in reply to a question by Mr Milligan on Thursday, 15 February 2018*):

1. The following substances are known to have caused overdose at the Alexander Maconochie Centre in late 2017:
  - Benzodiazepines and metabolites
  - Cannabinoids and metabolites
  - Opiates and metabolites

### **Mental health—acute care capacity**

**Mr Rattenbury** (*in reply to a question by Mrs Dunne on Tuesday, 20 February 2018*):

#### **1. Beds**

The Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2018 in chapter thirteen on mental health services, shows that in 2005–06 the ACT had 15.0 beds per 100,000 people in acute hospitals with psychiatric units or wards. In 2015-16, the number of beds increased to 18.6 beds per 100,000 people, an increase of 24 per cent. ACT Health was unable to establish where the decrease of 17.6 per cent Mrs Dunne referred to, has come from.

## 2. Staffing

ACT Health acknowledges that staffing is an ongoing issue and has expanded staff recruitment across other States and Territories. The rate of full-time equivalent direct care staff employed in admitted patient specialised mental health services increased by 16% over the last 10 years, from 28.2 per 100,000 people in 2006–07 to 32.7 per 100,000 people in 2015–16.

The ACT also had the highest rate of full-time equivalent direct care staff employed in ambulatory specialised mental health services in 2015–16 at 60.1 staff per 100,000 people, far above the national rate of 45.3 per 100,000 people. This represents a 19% increase over the last 10 years.

This demonstrates the ACT's commitment to a community model of mental health services with a focus on prevention and continuity of care. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's publication, *Mental health services Australia—community mental health care 2015–16* shows that the ACT had by far the highest rate per 1,000 population of community mental health care service contacts.

## Light rail—infrastructure damage

**Mr Barr** (*in reply to a question by Miss C Burch on Tuesday, 20 February 2018*):

Under the Public Private Partnership contract for the delivery of the project all costs for rectification of any damage to the utility or public infrastructure for the construction of the light rail are borne by the contractor.

## Government—ex gratia payments

**Mr Barr** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Tuesday, 20 February 2018*):

Under Section 130 of the *Financial Management Act 1996*, if the Treasurer considers it appropriate to do so because of special circumstances, the Treasurer may authorise the payment by a directorate or territory authority of an amount to a person although the payment of that amount would not otherwise be authorised by law or required to meet a legal liability.

The number of Act of Grace payments approved in each financial year are published in the notes to the Territory's annual consolidated financial statements.

The Government does not release details of individual recipients for privacy reasons.

Please note that on the 2 August 2017, the Act of Grace payments assessment framework was tabled in the Legislative Assembly for the ACT. This document has been attached for reference. (*A copy of the attachment is available at the Chamber Support Office*).

### **Government—Fyshwick land sale**

**Mr Gentleman** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Parton on Wednesday, 21 February 2018*):

The proponent sought consolidation of the blocks for the purpose of a recyclable materials freight hub.

On 7 April 2017 a development application (DA201630668) was approved for the construction of a hardstand structure and associated works on Block 11 Section 8 Fyshwick (parallel to the existing railway line). There have been no other recent approvals in relation to the subject site.

### **Planning—recycling facility**

**Mr Gentleman** (*in reply to a question by Ms Le Couteur on Wednesday, 21 February 2018*):

The planning and land authority issued a scoping document on 15 January 2018 for a materials recovery facility intended to process 300,000 tonnes of waste per annum. The proponent has indicated that the facility has the potential to divert 90% of municipal solid waste and commercial and industrial waste from the ACT waste stream. However, the proposal is only in the early stages of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and more details of the proposed operation including waste movements will be required to be addressed in the actual EIS.

The proponent has informed the Authority that a draft EIS is currently being prepared based on the scoping document which was issued in January 2018 for a materials recovery facility only.