



Debates

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Legislative Assembly for the ACT

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Thursday, 12 April 2018

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Thursday, 12 April 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.

**Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee
Report 5**

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (10.02): Pursuant to the order of the Assembly of 26 October 2017, as amended on 22 March 2018, I present the following report:

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—
Report 5—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017*, dated 9 April 2018, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

The fifth report for the Ninth Assembly of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services is now presented. The annual and financial reports were referred to standing committees on 26 October 2017. The following annual reports, or sections of annual reports, were referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, including sport and recreation services and the environmental protection agency; Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, including the ACT Heritage Council and the Conservator of Flora and Fauna; the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment; and Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

The committee held two public hearings and heard from 36 witnesses from the relevant directorates and agencies. Twenty-two questions were taken on notice and 71 questions were placed on notice. Answers are available on the committee's web page. The committee made 16 recommendations in total.

I would like to thank the committee for their patience and understanding through what has been a very unusual reporting period. As members will be aware, our former deputy chair passed away in December. Following Mr Doszpot's passing, the membership of the committee further changed, with the departure of Mr Parton and the addition of Ms Lawder and Miss Candice Burch. The membership changes were not passed in the Assembly until the February sitting, giving the committee limited time to finalise the report by the March sitting. For the first time during this Assembly, the committee had to seek an extension to a reporting date.

Despite the short time between the March and April sitting periods, as well as the hospitalisation of the committee secretary, the committee was able to pass this report.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the committee office, who assisted in the absence of our secretary, and once again thank committee members for their patience and understanding through this unanticipated series of events.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank ACT government ministers and directorate and agency officials for their contribution to this inquiry. I commend the report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Report 3—government response

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.04): For the information of members, I present the following report:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 3—*Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 (No 2)*—Government response.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

I thank the committee for their work in inquiring into these two bills and for the succinctness of their recommendations. The government has agreed with one and noted the other.

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

ACT prevention of violence against women and children strategy 2011-17—second implementation plan Ministerial statement

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Women and Minister for Sport and Recreation) (10.06): Today I am tabling the final report of the second implementation plan 2015-17 under the ACT prevention of violence against women and children strategy 2011-17. The report provides the opportunity to reflect on the solid work done so far to reduce the prevalence of domestic and family violence in our community but also serves as a reminder that there is still much to be done.

The ACT government is committed to ending violence against women and children, recognising that domestic and family violence is a widespread social problem with long-term impacts on our community. This violence often happens behind closed doors and can be a hidden issue. It impacts on people regardless of their beliefs or

social, cultural or economic situation and can have devastating consequences. In Australia, on average, eight women a day are hospitalised following an assault by their partner or spouse, and on average one woman per week is killed by her current or former partner.

The 2016 personal safety survey identified nationwide intergenerational risks, with around one in three women who experienced abuse before the age of 15 experiencing partner violence as an adult. These women were nearly three times more likely to experience partner violence as an adult than women who had not experienced abuse before the age of 15. These statistics are distressing. The response to family violence is complex and relies on law, policy and service delivery. I also acknowledge that attitudinal changes are needed in our community to reduce the incidence of domestic and family violence, and this will take time.

As part of the ACT commitment to the national plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010-22, the ACT developed the ACT prevention of violence against women and children strategy 2011-17. The strategy was applied through two implementation plans and concluded in December 2017. The strategy is a whole-of-government and community response to violence against women and their children. Its four primary objectives focused on developing an anti-violence culture, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children to be safe in their communities, providing joined-up services and systems, and ensuring that men who use violence are held accountable and are supported to change their behaviour.

In 2016, \$21.42 million was committed to the safer families package, which represented the single largest spending and policy commitment to address family violence in the ACT's history. This also was the first time that there was such a dedicated, interconnected whole-of-government and across-community commitment to address domestic and family violence. The 2017-18 budget allocated an additional \$2.2 million to help address family violence, bringing the safer families package to \$23.5 million over four years.

However, we know that funding alone is not the solution. Real changes require strong leadership. Through a whole-of-government approach, a broad reform agenda is underway. It is an agenda that strives to engage the whole community in achieving zero tolerance to domestic and family violence in the ACT.

The reform agenda is supported by the establishment of the first ACT Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the first Coordinator-General for Family Safety. The office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety, with its dedicated safer families team, is uniquely positioned to drive cultural change and lead reform, in partnership with government agencies, non-government services and the Canberra community. Our commitment is to build on a system that is person and family centred, that builds confidence so that more people seek help, and that identifies and supports families at risk early, before the violence escalates.

In the first three years of the strategy, both the government and the community sector progressed actions under the first implementation plan. Key initiatives under that first implementation plan included the continuation of the family violence intervention

program, the completion of the domestic and family violence deaths in the ACT review report, the provision of domestic violence support services by the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, the use of women's safety assessments for ACT government events, and the ACT public service introduction of a special domestic violence leave provision in the EBA.

The work under the second implementation plan saw further progress under the four objectives of the strategy. This work includes the continuation of the family safety grants program, which supports projects that help women and children stay safe. Organisations can apply for funding of up to \$15,000 to support their projects. There is the implementation of respectful relations education in the ACT curriculum. Canberra public schools are implementing social emotional learning programs to help students to develop the knowledge, attitude and skills to manage their emotions, relationships and decisions.

There was the publication of the ACT public service family violence toolkit in August 2016. The toolkit provides guidance materials for employees, delegates and human resource practitioners to support employees who are experiencing domestic and family violence. There is the ongoing development of a skilled and educated workforce who are equipped to respond to the needs of adults and children experiencing family violence. Additional training will be rolled out in 2018, prioritising high volume, first contact areas, including the health, education, community services and justice sectors.

There was the completion of the co-design of the family safety hub. This 12-month process was undertaken by the office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety, which engaged over 50 staff working in front-line services as well as people with lived experience of domestic and family violence. The insights from the co-design have informed the development of the hub, which will progress innovative solutions to address domestic and family violence in the community.

The government funded the Domestic Violence Crisis Service's Room4Change behaviour change program for men who have used domestic and family violence. It provides specific consideration of the needs of diverse groups, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. This innovative program is supporting women and children to stay safely in their homes while providing therapeutic interventions for participating men. In May 2017 the ACT Family Violence Act was amended to provide a broader definition of family violence to protect victims from the full range of coercive, controlling and abusive behaviour.

With the completion of the ACT prevention of violence against women and children strategy 2011-17, the ACT will adopt the national plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010-22 as its overarching strategy. ACT activities and initiatives focused on addressing family and domestic violence, including the safer families package, will be captured in the reporting framework of the national plan as well as through the annual safer families ministerial statement.

As a community and as a nation, we have come a long way in recent years in recognising that domestic and family violence is not just a private matter; it is a crime

that affects all of us and is a community concern that we all need to address. Collaboration and coordination are key and ensure that we put the needs of victims and survivors at the centre of everything that we do. I am appreciative of our community partners, who have continued to work so persistently with the government to address the issue of domestic and family violence, and I look forward to continuing the work across government and the ACT community sector to address this critical issue.

I present the following papers:

ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2011-2017—2nd Implementation Plan 2015-2017—Ministerial statement, 12 April 2018.

Our responsibility: Ending violence against women and children—ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2011-2017—2nd Implementation Plan 2015-2017, dated March 2018.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the papers.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (10.14): I rise today to welcome the minister's statement on the second implementation plan for the ACT prevention of violence strategy against women and children.

It is clear that there has been a new and greater focus on the issue of domestic and family violence, not just since the ACT strategy was developed but particularly after there were four domestic violence homicides in the ACT in 2014, followed by Rosie Batty being recognised as Australian of Year in 2015. It was these tragic events that really drove the change of attitude we needed from government.

I appreciate that much has been done over the past six years, but there is still much more work to be done. I look forward to the further development of the family safety hub and hope that it results in victims of violence getting the supports they need, as well as providing assistance to those who use violence in the home.

We must not forget the children who are affected. Last week's extraordinary meeting of the Domestic Violence Prevention Council was a step in the right direction to ensure that children, who are often forgotten victims of violence, get the support they need. I regret that I could not attend, but I was in Melbourne on another committee business, the inquiry into end of life choices.

I would like use this opportunity here in the chamber to emphasise that there needs to be a greater focus on sexual violence and acknowledge that the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse will bring some of this focus. However, the prevalence of sexual violence in our community is still under-recognised. The #MeToo campaign and the focus on sexual violence on university campuses, combined with the global focus on these issues, should ensure that the ACT government also gives the issue of sexual violence the focus it needs. I note that

this morning the ABC reports regrettable homophobic threats at ANU, which is very disturbing. That was why, yesterday, I tabled a bill to change the definition of consent to a positive affirmation definition. By this simple amendment, we hope that it will be easier for victims of sexual violence to get the justice they deserve.

While I appreciate very much that there has been a \$2.5 million investment in addressing family violence, a level of investment never seen before in Canberra, there are still some glaring gaps. Not least of these, of course, is the need to provide emergency crisis accommodation for women and children who are fleeing violence. The level of investment in crisis accommodation for this cohort has not increased, despite increased awareness and increased rates of reporting. This is an oversight, in my opinion. Whilst I continue to hear about women and children sleeping in cars, I will continue to advocate for further investment in this space: the space of crisis accommodation and the next step on, the exit point from crisis accommodation, which for many people is public housing.

Finally, while I hear that the ACT will now follow the national plan to reduce violence against women and their children, I have to state some concern that this indicates a lack of specified, dedicated ACT focus on the issues. The strategy that spanned 2011 to 2017 was this city's first plan of this nature. It now seems that it may be the only one. It is important that we keep a specific and dedicated focus on a range of responses and means to prevent further violence against women and children here in Canberra.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

A step up for our kids—out of home care strategy update 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) (10.18): I am pleased to present the first of the six-monthly progress, or snapshot, reports on the out of home care strategy 2015-20, A step up for our kids: one step can make a lifetime of difference.

This transformational strategy places a strong emphasis on preventing children and young people from entering care by providing intensive family preservation services and transitioning children and young people out of care and into permanent, stable family settings as quickly as possible. It also aims to improve outcomes for children and young people in the care of the Community Services Directorate—CSD—Director-General by providing more flexible, child-focused services. As Minister Gentleman said in his foreword to A step up for our kids:

This strategy is unabashedly child-focused. The vision for the strategy is
Children and young people in care—growing up strong, safe and connected.

A step up for our kids makes a commitment to hearing the voice of the child or young person, ensuring a better understanding of their needs and providing personalised

therapeutic services that can scale up and down in intensity as the child or young person's needs change over time.

The strategy organises reform activity into three domains, all of which are underpinned by a commitment to a therapeutic, trauma-informed care system. These domains are: strengthening high risk families—increasing investment at the front end to divert children from entering long-term care; creating a continuum of care—a more collaborative system in which support services respond to the individual needs of children and young people who cannot live safely with their birth families; and strengthening accountability and ensuring a high functioning care system—creating a system that operates safely, effectively, efficiently, equitably and sustainably.

The snapshot report provides CSD with quarterly data on service demand and the performance of the out of home care system and compares this with the same period last year. The snapshot report provides point-in-time data on the following headline measures: the number of children and young people entering care in that quarter; the number of children and young people exiting care; a comparison of the number of children being case managed by ACT Together and child and youth protection services—CYPS—to monitor service capacity and to indicate the number of children on short-term orders versus long-term orders; the types of placements children and young people are in at that time and the number of children in each placement type; the number of enduring parental responsibility orders and adoptions completed; the number of utilised carer households; and the number of newly approved carers and number of carers exiting.

Importantly, most data collected includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific information, as we work to reduce over-representation.

Future reports will include the number of families engaging in restoration and prevention programs by type of program. This is an important element of A step up for our kids, and I am pleased to report that the number of families being supported by these services continues to increase. However, due to their relatively recent establishment, robust data was not available for this snapshot report.

This report provides an indication of the service demand and the capacity of the system to respond to this demand, in addition to throughput data. Fluctuations in data can then be examined to determine whether these represent trends that should be responded to or are temporary fluctuations in service demand.

This snapshot report highlights the following matters. Service demand continues to increase but at a slower rate than last year. Between July and December last year, 83 children and young people entered the out of home care system. This is 28 fewer than at the same time in the previous year. This reduction in demand is also reflected in the lower number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering care compared to the same time last year.

The majority of children and young people in out of home care, 69 per cent, are on long-term orders, with more than half of those in care currently with kinship carers.

The majority of children and young people in residential care are aged 12 and above, with only one new entry during the reporting period of July to December.

The number of approved carers continues to increase, with 127 foster and kinship carers approved from July to December last year. Six carers left the system during this time. Eighty-three per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care have a cultural plan in place.

As members would be aware, A step up for our kids is a fundamental shift in the provision of services in the out of home care sector, and reforms of this scale take time to be fully realised. While there has already been evidence of positive improvements since the implementation of the strategy, further evidence of change will continue to emerge over the next 12 to 18 months as implementation continues and the newly established services are further embedded. As the service system matures and more data becomes available, further headline measures will be added to the snapshot report to provide a holistic view of how the out of home care system is performing.

The snapshot report measures the outputs of the out of home care system. However, A step up for our kids has been designed around the achievement of outcomes. The strategy specifies that evaluation will be undertaken at key points to measure whether the objectives and outcomes of the strategy are being met. Specifically, an evaluation will be undertaken midway through the term of the strategy and also at the end of the five-year term of the strategy in 2020.

The ACT government engaged the specialist services of KPMG to develop an outcomes-based evaluation framework, including indicators to measure strategy outcomes, conduct an initial baseline review to determine the suitability of measures and establish a performance benchmark, and perform a mid-strategy evaluation against the agreed outcomes.

I am pleased to inform the Assembly that KPMG delivered the baseline report in February this year. The report documents the progress of the implementation of the strategy as at June 2017 and is now available on the Community Services Directorate website. The baseline report uses the domains of the strategy that I mentioned earlier: a therapeutic trauma-informed care system; strengthening high risk families; creating a continuum of care; and strengthening accountability and ensuring a high functioning care system.

It is not intended to be an evaluation of the strategy. The intent of the report is to establish a working benchmark for the new services established under the strategy, to test and validate the outcome measures against which the mid-strategy evaluation will be assessed, and to ensure the correct information is being captured to enable effective analysis and determine the overall success of the strategy.

The report includes data for services that are newly established and some data that has never before been collected. As a result, a time series to enable detailed analysis and assessment against long-term outcomes is not yet available for these new measures. Due to the relatively small number of children in out of home care in the ACT and the

short period of time that data has been captured for the baseline report, the results in some categories may appear skewed or are too small to be meaningful and carry the risk of being able to identify individuals. This has meant that in-depth analysis of some measures is not feasible at this point in time.

However, the baseline report does identify early progress against key elements of the strategy. In particular, it highlights that the system is maturing and key elements of the strategy have been implemented, including services established and governance mechanisms in place. Initial forecasting of demand did not adequately anticipate the high volume of children entering care in the early stages of the implementation of the strategy, causing initial strain on the system.

The stability of placements is trending upwards, indicating that children and young people are experiencing fewer placement changes. In addition, planning for permanency is happening sooner in children's lives, with a positive increase in enduring parental responsibility orders. Reunification rates are lower than initially forecast, indicating that there are fewer children than expected returning home. Prevention rates are higher than initially forecast, indicating that we are doing well at keeping children and young people with their families. The report shows that 73 per cent of children whose families have completed preservation programs have remained at home after three months, and 56 per cent remained after six months.

Participation rates are rising, indicating that children and young people are having a greater say in decisions and feel that they are being heard. Cultural planning has increased for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the ACT, exceeding the national average.

Lastly, a number of indicators related to the implementation of a therapeutic trauma-informed care system show that the ACT compares positively with national averages. However, it is noted that the delivery of trauma-informed practice training to staff and carers needs to be reviewed to improve completion rates. In reviewing the baseline report, I have asked that the directorate and KPMG explore the development of indicators that can provide more insight into the experiences of foster and kinship carers, who are the backbone of the out of home care system.

As I have said previously, reform of this nature takes time. A step up for our kids aims to create generational change, to break the cycle of intergenerational harm and improve long-term outcomes for families, children and young people. Changes of this nature and scale are not able to be evidenced in the first 18 months of a reform program.

At the time of production of the baseline report, a considerable number of measures remained under development. This was due to the complexity of the measures, the system and practice changes required to develop meaningful indicators and the time required to implement changes necessary to capture the data. Many of these have since been established and data is now being captured.

As I mentioned earlier, a key focus of the strategy has been investment in intensive parenting and family preservation supports. This aims to prevent children and young

people from entering care, and to exit children from the system as early and as safely as possible through reunification services. The baseline report reflects point-in-time data as at June last year. From January 2016 to December 2017, programs under the strengthening high risk families domain, for families who have children at risk of entering or who have entered care, engaged with 194 families and 423 children.

It is expected that the reunification numbers will continue to rise as services are now fully operational, resulting in appropriate referrals, assertively engaging with high risk families, client uptake and engagement, and reunification success. Future snapshot reports will be able to track the efficacy of this vital investment in family preservation.

Another area highlighted by the baseline report was the completion rate for trauma-informed training. The Community Services Directorate continues to explore a range of strategies with our partner agencies, through the A step up for our kids joint governance framework, to review training requirements, increase the completion rates of joint training opportunities and ensure a consistent approach to trauma-informed practice.

The step up reform program does not occur in isolation, and over the first two years of implementation there have been a number of system improvements to the child protection system, including in response to the Glanfield review.

While there has been progress across the ACT government in response to the family safety package, I would like to take the opportunity today of informing the Assembly of recent progress by CYPS to improve the capability to respond to family violence. This includes the implementation of a comprehensive training initiative to ensure that front-line workers can respond skilfully and effectively to the complex needs of clients affected by family violence. The development of training by experienced CYPS practice leaders aims to improve responses to children, young people and their families who are experiencing violence. The training was developed by and is presented in partnership with key agencies, including the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, ACT Policing, Corrective Services and the Office of the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions.

This training package assists CYPS staff to identify the presence of domestic violence in the lives of children, young people and their families, as well as assisting them to support early intervention and inter-service collaboration, analyse risk and identify protective factors, engage with those affected by family violence and work with perpetrators of family violence to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

To complement the face-to-face training, an e-learning program has been developed and launched by the CYPS training and workforce development team. The e-learning program consolidates the learning achieved through the face-to-face five-day training program and concludes with a short assessment. To date, 103 front-line staff have completed this program since its launch in April 2016.

In addition to the working with families affected by family violence training, from January 2016 to February 2018 there have been 32 training programs delivered to CYPS staff, including working with families affected by sexual abuse, cumulative

harm, compliance, and family assessments, with an average of 78 staff completing each program. This equates to 2,497 instances of training course completion and is in addition to the trauma-informed practice training described in the baseline report.

The baseline report provides an opportunity to demonstrate the early progress that is being made towards achieving the strategy's outcomes and the successful implementation of key elements of the strategy. Importantly, the report also offers transparency in the process of building an evaluation framework and demonstrates the ACT government's commitment to the measurement of long-term outcomes. Over the next six months KPMG will work with CSD and its partner agencies to review and rationalise the number of measures to enable improved reporting against the outcomes and develop the mid-strategy evaluation report by late October this year.

I would like to finish by assuring members that considerable data is being captured as part of the evaluation framework for A step up for our kids, which will provide a rich source of information that is pivotal to the ongoing transformation of the out of home care system, and I look forward to sharing this progress with the Assembly in future reports.

Finally, as I often do when speaking about child protection in this place, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the front-line child protection workers, who do very difficult and complex work with some of the most vulnerable families in our community. Workers in CYPS, ACT Together, Uniting and their partner agencies are helping to deliver a major reform while also responding to individual families, children and young people who are often in crisis or otherwise experiencing incredibly difficult circumstances. Their work ensures that the ACT's most vulnerable children and young people have the chance of a good childhood, not one marked by fear, deprivation and insecurity. Their aim is to see these children and young people become happy and healthy adults. On behalf of all Canberrans, I thank them for their commitment to this important work.

I present the following papers:

Out of Home Care Strategy 2015-2020—*A Step Up for Our Kids—One Step Can Make a Lifetime of Difference*—Update—April 2018—Ministerial statement, 12 April 2018.

A Step Up for Our Kids—Snapshot Report.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the papers.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (10.34): Very briefly, I wish to thank the minister for this strategy and report. I note the incredible importance of connecting this with other parts of the government's work—in particular, the work that Minister Berry talked about beforehand, on domestic and family violence. Also, particularly, the carer's strategy is something which clearly needs adequate resourcing to meet its objectives. I thank you for the report.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Land Tax Amendment Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.35): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

This bill, which amends the Land Tax Act 2004, contains two initiatives to improve housing affordability. The first is to broaden the base of land tax to all residential properties except the principal place of residence of an owner, and the second is to introduce a foreign ownership surcharge which will apply to residential property owned by foreign individuals, companies and trusts. Both these initiatives will take effect from 1 July this year

In the states, land tax applies to all residential land except for principal places of residence. In the ACT, however, land tax only applies if a home is rented or owned by a company or trustee. Adopting the principal place of residence test for land tax in the territory will extend that tax to vacant properties as well as rented properties. This clearly creates a financial incentive for owners to make vacant properties available on the rental market. There will be no changes to properties which are currently rented or which are occupied by the owner.

The amendments bring vacant homes into the net for land tax but exclude properties that are occupied for a nil or nominal rent or properties unfit for occupation. Properties being occupied rent free under an arrangement to pay the rates, repairs, maintenance and insurance only will not be liable for land tax in the new system. This recognises that such properties are actively used for residential purposes even though they are not principal places of residence.

Properties will be deemed unfit for occupation and not subject to land tax if they are unavailable for use as a principal place of residence or rental property. This covers situations including construction of a new home, significant renovations and severely damaged properties. This exemption replaces the previous builders' exemption, which provided up to two years of land tax relief for developers. The bill introduces further exemptions for moving into or out of a principal place of residence, deceased estates and life tenancies. The ACT Revenue Office will monitor these new exemptions closely to ensure that they are only applied in appropriate and genuine circumstances.

The second part of this bill imposes a surcharge, under the Land Tax Act, on residential land owned by a foreign person; that is, a foreign citizen residing overseas. The surcharge will also apply to companies and trusts under foreign control. The foreign ownership surcharge aims to improve the ability of local homebuyers to access and compete in the housing market with buyers located overseas. Whilst the

ACT has not yet experienced the overheated conditions of the Sydney and Melbourne markets, it is clear that there is a rising demand for ACT property from foreign investors. This demand may push up house prices, to the detriment of local buyers.

States have introduced surcharges of both land tax and stamp duty. There is a risk that demand will shift to the ACT market unless we take similar measures. However, it would be a backward step to raise duty for foreign purchasers in the ACT when we have made significant progress to cut stamp duty rates under our taxation reform program. In contrast, land tax provides a relatively efficient means to address the influence of foreign investors by increasing the cost of continuing to own ACT property whilst offshore.

As I have indicated, the surcharge only applies to foreign non-residents. Australian citizens residing overseas are exempt, as are foreign citizens who reside in Canberra or elsewhere in Australia. Companies and trusts are not liable for the surcharge unless 50 per cent or more of a controlling interest in the company or trust is held by foreign entities, even if the company or trust is based in Australia. This will prevent foreign entities circumventing the intent of the law by interposing an Australian owner.

With the exception of nil and nominal rent arrangements, all land tax exemptions apply to the foreign ownership surcharge. This includes the exemption for construction of new dwellings, meaning that foreign developers will not be liable for an additional tax during construction. Tax reform is one of the levers by which the government can encourage the availability of housing in terms of both rental supply and housing for purchase.

The amendments made by this bill will encourage the supply of rental housing to the market for prospective renters and will ease the demand from the foreign sector, allowing local buyers to compete on better terms. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.41): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, or PABELAB as it is known. The PABELAB is part of the government's regular program of omnibus amendment bills that make minor policy

and technical amendments to the statute book. Omnibus bills are an effective means of keeping the ACT's legislation up to date and give the government the ability to respond quickly to changing circumstances. The PABELAB is specifically focused on legislation administered by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

This PABELAB contains minor policy and technical amendments to the following four pieces of legislation administered by EPSDD: the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017, the Heritage Act 2004, the Nature Conservation Act 2014 and the Planning and Development Regulation 2008.

I would now like to outline the provisions of the bill. The bill makes two technical amendments to the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017 related to delegations. Section 19 of the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act provides that the City Renewal Authority Board may delegate the board's functions to the authority's CEO. Similarly, section 49 provides that the Suburban Land Agency Board may delegate its functions to the agency's CEO. There is no explicit power to delegate either the authority's or the agency's functions as opposed to their boards' functions. The bill amends the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act explicitly to provide that the authority's and the agency's functions may be delegated to their respective CEOs.

The bill also makes one minor policy amendment to section 65 of the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act related to housing target determinations. As members may be aware, section 65 of the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act requires the relevant minister to determine affordable, community and public housing targets for new residential developments in the territory. While the amendments in the bill seek to preserve the intent of section 65, the section has been redrafted and clarified.

In practice, the wording of section 65 has proved problematic, as it does not specify to which type of development housing targets apply. The requirement that targets are expressed as a percentage of a development rather than an absolute number of dwellings in a development has also proved impractical to administer.

The amendment to section 65 includes a number of improvements so that it will, firstly, clarify that the targets apply to the building of new residential dwellings on unleased or government-leased land, either as a result of urban renewal or in a new suburb; permit the targets to be expressed as absolute numbers rather than percentages, an amendment which is not designed to affect the delivery of public housing in the ACT; provide that a housing target determination for a development must state the maximum number of dwellings anticipated to be built in the development; provide for housing targets to continue until the target is met by the completion of all dwellings in the development that meet the housing target; and provide for the description of a development within a housing target determination.

The bill makes a technical amendment to section 49 of the Heritage Act 2004. Section 49 allows the ACT Heritage Council to make a decision on a proposal to cancel the heritage registration of a place or object. The council can decide either to

end the registration or to not end the registration. Section 49(2) provides that the council may only make a decision under section 49 if satisfied on reasonable grounds that the place or object no longer has heritage significance.

The consideration of whether a place or object no longer has heritage significance is relevant to a decision to end heritage registration. However, it is not relevant to a decision to not end heritage registration. The amendment to the Heritage Act removes the redundant requirement that the council must consider whether a place or object no longer has heritage significance when deciding to continue its registration.

The bill makes minor policy amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 2014 related to the consultation on draft native species conservation plans and draft controlled native species management plans. Section 119 of the Nature Conservation Act provides the consultation requirements for a draft native species conservation plan for stated land. Similarly, section 161 provides the consultation requirements for a draft controlled native species management plan.

The requirements of sections 119 and 161 are similar. For leased land the lessee of the affected land must be consulted, and for unleased land or public land the custodian of the affected land must be consulted. Section 161 has an additional qualification that consultation only needs to occur if a draft controlled native species management plan requires or permits a person to do or not do something.

In practice, draft native species conservation plans and draft controlled native species management plans are likely to cover the whole of the ACT, and the consultation requirements have proved to be onerous. If read literally, sections 119 and 161 could potentially require targeted consultation with every household in the ACT when developing a draft plan. The bill amends sections 119 and 161 to only require consultation with a lessee or custodian if a plan obligates them to undertake activities to either conserve or manage a native species, not merely permits them to undertake such activities.

It should be noted that the amendments in the bill only relate to targeted consultation with relevant parties. The existing requirements under sections 120 and 162 of the Nature Conservation Act to publicly consult on draft plans will continue, as will the requirement that draft plans are notified on the legislation register.

The bill also makes minor policy and technical amendments to section 331 of the Nature Conservation Act which authorise the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to issue a direction to an occupier of land about the protection or conservation of a native species, ecological community or their habitat. Section 331(3) currently provides that the conservator's direction must be consistent with each of the following that applies to the species, community or habitat—that is, a conservation advice, an action plan, a native species conservation plan and a controlled native species management plan.

The requirement that the conservator's direction must be consistent with the documents that I have just mentioned is unrealistic, as it implies a need to ensure uniformity with, or even replication of, all measures in a plan. I believe, however, that the conservator should not have the power to issue a direction that is in direct

contravention of these plans. The bill amends section 331(3) to provide that the conservator's direction must not be inconsistent with a listed plan.

The bill makes a technical amendment to the Planning and Development Regulation 2008 related to consultation notices for draft Territory Plan variations. When preparing a draft Territory Plan variation, the Planning and Land Authority must undertake public consultation, which commences with issuing a consultation notice.

Section 7 of the Planning and Development Regulation prescribes the lessees of sections adjoining the section that is the subject of the draft Territory Plan variation as being required to be provided with a consultation notice or, in the case of rural blocks, the lessee of the adjoining block. Section 7 does not currently require the lessees of adjoining non-rural blocks within the same section to be provided with a consultation notice.

The bill amends section 7 of the regulation so that lessees of all blocks within the same section as a draft Territory Plan variation are prescribed, and the Planning and Land Authority is required to issue them with a consultation notice. The existing requirements to notify the lessees of adjoining sections and rural blocks are retained.

The bill also replaces references to Community Housing Canberra Ltd in sections 130 and 142 of the Planning and Development Regulation with a generic reference to registered community housing providers to account for the fact that in the future there will be other community housing providers operating in the ACT.

In summary, this PABELAB makes a number of amendments that will clarify and streamline the ACT's planning and environment laws. As I have mentioned, the amendments in the PABELAB are wide ranging, from simple delegation powers of the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency to enhanced decision-making for the ACT Heritage Council, clarified consultation requirements for draft native species conservation plans, controlled native species management plans and Territory Plan variations, and a recognition that the ACT will soon have a greater diversity of community housing providers.

While the amendments are minor in nature, the changes they make are necessary and worth while as an improvement to the ACT's statute book. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Standing orders—suspension

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.52): I move:

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent order of the day, Assembly business, relating to the Government response to Report 3 of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, entitled *Inquiry into Appropriation Bill*

2017-2018 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 (No 2), being called on and debated cognately with orders of the day Nos 1 and 2, Executive business, Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 (No 2).

I am moving this motion so that we can consider the two appropriation bills that are before this place. These bills are important and should be considered now, and that is why the standing orders should be suspended. The government is focused on delivering the great services that our growing city needs, and these appropriation bills are an important part of helping make this a reality.

Question resolved in the affirmative, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 (No 2)

[Cognate bill:

Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 (No 2)

Cognate paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 3—government response]

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

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, I understand it is the wish of the Assembly to debate this bill cognately with order of the day No 2, Appropriation Bill (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2107-2018 (No 2), and the government's response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts report on the bills. That being the case, I remind members that they may address their remarks to both bills and the government's response.

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (10.53): The opposition will be supporting both pieces of legislation; that is, the appropriation to the Assembly and also Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 (No 2). One of the key things in the legislation is the significant appropriation in education, especially with regard to the laptop program. We heard in the committee that the devices that are being distributed are Acer Spin 11 Chromebooks, supplied at a unit cost of \$450. Of course, while we support investment in schools and education, there are some concerns about the performance measures that have been used or not used for this particular program.

In responding to the Chief Information Officer, the government response suggested that there are inadequate success criteria in place for this particular program. First, as the committee report states:

The Committee is aware that there has been awareness of the need for these projects over an extended period of time, and that long timelines such as these could provide the basis for smoother transitions in such projects.

Such projects include the Campbell Primary School and Narrabundah College. The report continues:

Second, the Committee notes that it was provided with equivocal answers to its question as to whether money had been expended—in connection with the demolition work at Campbell Primary School—before it was appropriated. The Committee considers that the appropriation process—in which money proposed for expenditure by the government is considered, debated and voted on by the Legislative Assembly—is an integral part of our political system, and is essential to financial probity in government. In view of this the Committee wishes to put the view that future expenditures should clearly follow appropriations for that purpose, rather than the reverse.

In effect, whilst the appropriation did state that the money was needed for the demolition at Campbell Primary School, the demolition at Campbell Primary School had already begun—begun before the vote today—which of course suggests that the underlying reason for the appropriation was not necessarily accurate.

Section 3.52 of the committee report states:

Third, the Committee notes the implementation of a project to provide laptops to ACT public school students from Year 7 to Year 11 inclusive, without clear criteria for review or for what could be considered ‘success’ in terms of the project. The Committee notes that best practice involves formulating success criteria for projects before implementation, and considers that this should be the approach taken in the future.

Section 3.53 says that, in light of this, the committee makes a recommendation. I am pleased that the government’s response has taken that on board.

With regard to the Health spending in this appropriation, in the opening statement the minister for health stated:

... a \$6.4 million funding boost to elective surgery, which will see 600 additional patients receive treatment within recommended time frames this year, and help ACT Health achieve more than 13,000 elective surgeries in this financial year. This will be accomplished by delivering more surgeries in the public and private systems by increasing the allocation of operating sessions to specialties with high demand, such as paediatric and adult general surgery, orthopaedic surgery, urology and gynaecological surgery.

In hearings, the committee asked questions regarding this \$6.4 million funding for elective surgery. In particular, it asked whether this would take place over the following three months, which the minister confirmed. The committee also asked how ACT Health proposed to identify and service the additional 600 surgery patients over that time frame. The committee report states that, in responding to the question, the Deputy Director-General, Canberra Hospital, told the committee:

We will be using all of the private sector that has capacity to assist us in delivering these services. We are using Calvary Public Hospital in Bruce, and, in a small number of cases, TCH, where we have identified that we have the workforce to deliver these services. We have a process in train where we have already started looking at these patients, to get the work undertaken by 30 June.

When the committee asked why a number of the additional surgeries would take place at the Canberra Hospital, the Deputy Director-General told the committee:

We have 13 theatres, and we have one theatre allocated for life or death situations, mainly obstetrics and trauma. We have four theatres allocated to unplanned surgery—the stuff that comes in through the emergency department—and eight theatres allocated for elective surgery. We have very little capacity in those eight theatres for elective surgery between now and the end of the year. Most of the sessions are allocated out. That is why there is only small growth in that area.

That is, of course, of some concern to the opposition. The fact that they have very little capacity in eight theatres for elective surgery between now and the end of year suggests either that we do not have the capacity that we need or that we are not using it as efficiently as possible. This is certainly something that the opposition has raised before, and we will continue to raise.

The opposition has no problems with this appropriation, including that of the Assembly. Of course, more broadly there are still concerns about the level of borrowings that the territory has, in effect the interest-bearing liabilities, and we also have concerns about the net borrowings for this financial year.

I would also like to flag that the Canberra Liberals are very concerned about the government's proposed tax on foreign investment. We believe that the increase in the land tax will have a detrimental impact on the number of units available for rent in the ACT. Particularly with regard to units in Canberra, I do not believe that they are in equilibrium. I do not think we should be turning investors away.

That is a different story, I might add, to freestanding homes, where supply is not keeping up with demand, and that is why we are seeing the skyrocketing prices for land in the ACT. We are not seeing skyrocketing prices for units in the ACT, but we are seeing increases in rent. Any additional charge by way of land taxes or rates is highly likely to be passed on and therefore drive up the cost of rent in the ACT.

In conclusion, the opposition will be supporting the two appropriation bills.

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) (11.00): There are two key items in my ministerial portfolios in this budget review that I would like to raise today, both relating to the Alexander Maconochie Centre. One is integrating Winnunga Nimmityjah's model of care and enhancing justice health services, and the other is security improvements.

This supplementary budget item provides \$8.3 million over 2½ years to enable the government to implement recommendations from the Moss inquiry and enhance justice health services for detainees at the AMC. This includes integrating the Winnunga Nimmityjah model of care to provide holistic health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees within the AMC, as well as providing additional office accommodation for health staff at the Hume Health Centre.

The new Winnunga model of care will provide for better continuation of health care for detainees when they enter custody and on their return to the community. The \$4.3 million which is pledged over three years will enhance health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, with the employment of a dedicated GP and social and emotional wellbeing support staff.

It will provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees with greater choice about their health care, as they will have the option to access health services from either Winnunga or ACT Health. It will also provide improved cultural awareness and understanding for detainees and staff at the AMC. Winnunga have already been working with female detainees, and we look forward to their moving to further delivery of standalone health, social and emotional wellbeing services at the AMC throughout 2018.

This initiative also encompasses a \$4 million capital fund for the design and procurement of a new health unit at the Hume Health Centre at the AMC and the construction of temporary accommodation in the meantime. The additional office space for 25 staff that will be provided as a result of this funding will increase health service delivery space to support the improved delivery of health services for detainees.

The construction of the new Winnunga AMC health centre is expected to reach completion by October this year. In addition to providing holistic care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, these commitments will improve the flow and efficiency of the Hume Health Centre, boost escort services and reduce waiting times for all detainees to access their healthcare needs.

The ACT government is committed to continuing to improve the wellbeing and rehabilitation of detainees at the AMC. Our investment through this year's budget review supports this commitment and will help to meet the health demands of detainees into the future.

The budget review also provides for enhanced security at the AMC. A recent internal review commissioned by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate has made a number of recommendations highlighting the need to improve operational security at the AMC. In response to this review, the government is dedicating \$8.8 million over four years to address the recommendations. This commitment will strengthen AMC leadership through the appointment of three new functional management positions for security, accommodation and offender management.

Detainees' needs will be better served, with two new specialist staff overseeing the management of services for females and Indigenous detainees respectively. A dedicated onsite trainer and new mandatory training requirements in first aid and mental health first aid will enhance staff skill and efficacy.

Intelligence operations at the AMC will be reshaped, with the introduction of a centralised intelligence unit to implement an intelligence cycle across both community and custodial corrections. This new unit will comprise three non-custodial

staff who will work closely with stakeholders to prevent acts being perpetrated which would otherwise compromise the security and good order of the facility. An additional two custodial officers will be rostered per day to assist in implementing intelligence-driven security activities.

There are some other issues that I would like to quickly touch on today from my Greens perspective, as there are a number of investments in this budget review that we think are worth noting and remarking on in the allocation. Members would be aware that the drug and alcohol court is of keen interest to the Greens. It was a key part of our justice election platform and was subsequently included in the parliamentary agreement. We believe that it is another important step in changing the way we treat people coming into our justice system.

The Greens want to see drug and alcohol addiction problems being treated as health issues, not as criminal justice issues. Clearly, community safety must also be an important factor, but as Corrections Minister, where I see the week-to-week arrival of new detainees in our jail, I think it is important that we as a government move away from 20th century or perhaps even 19th century solutions to crime and work harder to address underlying issues. The drug and alcohol court is one solution towards this end, and this funding will take us one step closer by enabling the final necessary stages of development to occur.

Incarceration can have harmful effects on individuals and their families, and often the underlying reasons for using drugs or alcohol to self-medicate are overlooked. This court will provide an opportunity for people to get back on track, get the support they need to do that and hopefully go on to lead a full life, participating positively in the community.

I would also like to remark on the funding for the Reconciliation Day program. The Greens are really pleased that this budget review provides this funding for the ACT's first Reconciliation Day preparations and organisation for what will be an important new commemoration next month. This is an important opportunity to shine a spotlight on reconciliation and to tell the story of the true history of Australia.

I am also pleased to see funding for a supplementary 24 paramedics and two new ambulances for the ACT Ambulance Service. Having more ambulance officers means faster response times and a sense in the community that the service will be there when they need it. It particularly addresses the demand of a growing population in Canberra, which, right across the city, is creating new challenges that the government needs to respond to.

My colleague Ms Le Couteur will make a number of other comments shortly, but, in conclusion, the Greens will be supporting these supplementary appropriation bills today.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (11.07): As my colleague mentioned, the Greens will be supporting this appropriation bill. Mr Rattenbury has spoken on his ministerial responsibilities and some of the crossbench items the Greens have a keen interest in. I will speak on some other important initiatives.

The first is the reportable conduct scheme. I welcome the \$615,000 in additional funding to allow the expansion of the reportable conduct scheme to include religious organisations. I called for this as an inclusion as soon as I became aware of the gap last year, and I am pleased that the government is preparing to implement the expansion from 1 July this year. It is important that all organisations and institutions working with children are child-safe and child-friendly and that any misconduct in relation to children can be appropriately reported and swiftly addressed. I hope the additional funds will improve the scheme's capacity to do so.

Another key item I welcome is the \$293,000 in funding this year to implement the redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions. I hope that the portion of this funding allocated to preparatory work will address some of the broader concerns raised by community stakeholders. These include the approach to a proposed direct personal response to victims, which is divisive amongst stakeholders, for example, a letter of apology. There is the need for broader access to free legal advice on claims against the scheme. Counselling is currently set as "for the life of the scheme", but there are concerns that it is not for the life of the person instead, which is backed up by considerable research. There is the requirement to sign a waiver for "no further legal action", including access to appeal in the Federal Court. And there is the fact that survivors are allowed to submit only one claim against the scheme. This raises issues if the victim was in multiple institutions and/or jurisdictions but not all of them have signed onto the scheme. The scheme needs to address what happens if additional institutions or jurisdictions sign up after the survivor's one claim has been finalised.

I am very pleased to see that additional resources have been allocated to the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre to help meet increasing demands for its services this financial year. However, I hope that there also plans to enable ongoing recurrent funding for this important specialist organisation to continue beyond the end of June. The Canberra Rape Crisis Centre provides the only specialised sexual assault service in the ACT, and it is the only organisation that does this work on a daily—in fact, hourly—basis. The demand for counselling and other services provided by the centre is not going to lessen any time soon, as survivors will continue to come forward as a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. And, of course, there are the ongoing sexual abuse issues which we talked about yesterday in the debate on the consent legislation. We also know that it is not uncommon that survivors may need access to ongoing psychological and emotional support throughout their lives.

As you would expect, Madam Speaker, the Greens are particularly pleased about the funding available for the housing innovation fund. The things that make that up were all key items in the parliamentary agreement. This appropriation is for \$1 million over two years. I see that there has been a call for grant applications already underway and that there are three areas being looked at here.

In relation to the "affordable rental" real estate agency, there clearly are a number of people in Canberra who have houses for rent for whom getting the maximum rental is not the only thing that they are concerned about. For some time, MARSS, Migrant

and Refugee Settlement Services, has operated a scheme which enables people in that situation to have their house rented by a migrant or refugee family at a rent that that family can afford. It is usually based on very low Centrelink income rather than market rent. I believe that that scheme has recently transited to the Red Cross, and I am not as aware of its details there. But having had personal experience with the MARSS scheme, I do know that there is a cohort of landlords in Canberra who would definitely be interested in this.

Another one is home sharing. We see, particularly in the older suburbs of Canberra, many households which are not utilising all the space in their house. There is a real possibility that these houses could be better utilised to the mutual advantage of both the home owner and the potential tenant. These are people where putting an ad for a house share on Gumtree is not appropriate. They will often be older people who have lived in that house for a long time. Their family will have grown up; often their husband has died. Sharing the house would be something which would be positive for both them and a potential tenant. But it is something where some brokerage is needed to protect both the house owner and the potential tenant. It is something that has been done in other places in the world. I had a meeting with a group that is doing this in Melbourne very successfully. It is done to a very small extent in the ACT in the disability sector. There is clearly an opportunity for this to be much larger.

Then there is co-housing. I should say here that I was involved, quite heavily, in a previous attempt to have co-housing happen in the ACT, which failed. And I have some involvement in a group that was set up in Canberra a year or so ago to advance the co-housing cause in Canberra. That is something that I would personally like to see be successful.

I hope that these innovative applications will be part of the way that Canberra solves the current lack of affordable housing in Canberra. We have to do better. Part of it will be around public housing, but that cannot take up all the slack. Part of it is doing things better so that we can use our existing housing stock better. That is what this housing innovation fund is looking at.

I turn to utilities concessions. We have talked about this before, and we welcome the government's changes. There are two improvements in the utilities concession offered in this budget review, although only one is in the bill. I will talk about them both, because they are both important.

The utilities concession is an important way that the ACT government supports low income people. It is delivered through a reduction in electricity bills and can be received by both age pensioners and Centrelink low income healthcare cardholders. These are people who do not have a lot of money, by definition. If they have to skimp on staying warm and showering to save on power bills, it can become a real health risk for them. It is also a social inclusion problem; they may well feel that they cannot have visitors in the winter because their house is simply not warm enough to entertain anybody. The utilities concession helps to address that. It is very good news that the utilities concession will be increased by \$50 in 2018-19. That is an eight per cent increase. It will help low income people to keep up with rising energy costs. I am pleased the government has included this in the budget review.

The second change announced in the budget review is that the utilities concession is going to be expanded to long-term residents of caravan parks and retirement villages which have embedded electricity networks. These people were not able to get the concession through the normal method because they do not get a bill from an electricity retailer; they get it from their accommodation provider instead. This change means that they can get a cash payment equivalent to other people's bill reductions, which is a good thing.

More locally, I am very pleased to see that \$25 million is going to be allocated over two years for the capital costs of expanding the Woden bus depot, which I walk past on a regular basis. It is land which has been empty for a long time. Expanding the no-longer used Woden bus depot will mean that we have sufficient space to store a bus fleet on the south side; it will modernise our facilities; and it will provide future capacity for electric buses, including charging infrastructure, battery space and solar panels. Yesterday in this place we talked about bus timings; I am sure that having a depot on the south side will improve on-time running of our bus fleet. It will have space for charging electric buses, as I said. The next thing, of course, that we need to do is buy a few more electric buses. And as a member for Murrumbidgee, I am also very pleased that it will be happening, because it will improve employment in Woden, which is desperately needed.

Another transport-related innovation that I am very pleased to see is work to improve the rail line between Canberra and Sydney. We are going to be able to offer to work with the New South Wales government to apply for federal funding to speed up the train. The current train line is slow. It is as slow as it was 50 years ago. It is generally too slow for most people. The bus is faster and cheaper, which is a sad state of affairs. If there were a faster train service, I know it would be very popular. It would be more comfortable than the bus, it would be cheaper than flying and it would save many transport emissions. It would be more comfortable, relaxing and convenient. I really, hope to see improvement on our train line to Sydney very soon.

The budget also includes \$630,000 to establish an online panel to improve the community engagement process. I am really interested to see how this is going to work and how it can be used to improve the diversity and quality of community input. Improving the quality and processes of the government's community engagement is an important parliamentary agreement item, and this online panel is one facet of it. It will be fascinating to see how this works, and it is very important for this Assembly to have a good oversight of how community engagement is happening with these new methods. Another part of improving our deliberative democracy process is the participatory budgeting process. We look forward to seeing that commence next year.

The Greens are pleased that all these initiatives have been funded. As I said, and as Mr Rattenbury said, we will be supporting the appropriation Bill.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (11.19), in reply: We see a rare combination of tripartisanship on an appropriation bill. I do not expect that that will be a consistent thing in this place over the balance of this parliamentary term. I thank all members for their support of these bills.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 (No 2)

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

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Report 3—government response

Debate resumed.

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

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Privileges 2018—Select Committee Proposed establishment

Debate resumed from 11 April 2018, on motion by **Ms Cody**:

That the motion be agreed to.

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (11.22): The opposition is, of course, very disappointed that the government is trying to distract the Assembly and Canberrans from having a discussion about rates. Labor's rates regime is unfair. And Labor's rates regime for unit and apartment owners is particularly unfair.

The government has been tweaking the ratings factors for some time now. The marginal ratings factors have been on the move. They have been increasing since 2012, but the revenue from rates has been increasing at a much faster rate than the decrease in stamp duty is happening. In actual fact stamp duty is not really being reduced at all. There is more money coming in today from stamp duty than in 2012, the year in which stamp duty was supposedly going to be abolished.

It is of no surprise that the government do not want to have a discussion about rates. They do not want to have a discussion about how they are slugging families right across the ACT. They do not want to have a discussion about how they are slugging unit and apartment owners right across the ACT. Of course, they certainly do not want to have a discussion about the rents that they are driving up through their rates and land tax regime.

Many thousands of people signed a petition to at least encourage the government to look into this issue. The Assembly looked into it. We commenced an inquiry. Whilst it was a short inquiry, we got some submissions. But members of the Assembly have encouraged more people to submit. We do not regret asking people to make submissions. We do not regret asking people to have their say. We do not regret giving Canberrans a voice.

The rates regime is unfair, and the changes to the regime for unit and apartment owners is particularly unfair. Previously, the methodology was to divide, then calculate. Now, it is to calculate, then divide. That might sound like semantics, but it is not semantics to the people who are seeing huge increases in their cost of living in the ACT.

It is not just the opposition saying this. Many people in the ACT are talking about their concerns. Take, for instance, the *Northside Chronicle*, on 10 April:

Seventy year old pensioner Philip Robertson has lived in his Ngunnawal townhouse for 18 years. In 2016, he paid \$737 ... in rates.

But last year, his rates bill increased to \$1085 ... before the \$100 ... rebate.

Mr Robertson's story is not uncommon. Rates ... are increasing as the Barr government abolishes stamp duty and moves towards a land-based method of taxation.

The only problem is that they are still charging hefty sums for stamp duty as well. Take another story, in the *Canberra Times* of 9 April:

It took them many years and many sacrifices to pay off their three properties, but now they feel their nest egg is being "ransacked" by a government that "refuses to live within a budget".

On 6 April the *Canberra Times* reported:

In a series of stinging submissions to an ACT Legislative Assembly inquiry, landlords and owner-occupiers have lashed the Labor-Greens government for changing the way it calculated rates for apartment blocks and unit complexes.

The story goes on:

However thousands of unit owners signed a petition calling on the ACT government to reverse the recalculation, forcing the Legislative Assembly to set up an inquiry into the changes.

A 91-year-old war widow also wrote to the committee saying she had been forced to cut back on heating, cooling and food to afford her rates.

“I did not expect that at the end of my life, living in this city would be so difficult,” ...

That is what a 91-year-old war widow is saying about this government: “I did not expect that at the end of my life, living in this city would be so difficult.” That is why the Canberra Liberals are fired up. That is why the Canberra Liberals will continue to do everything we can to ensure that these voices are heard, because the Labor Party is not listening. The Labor government is stridently going ahead with its selfish regime, which is all about revenue for pet projects rather than the welfare of Canberrans. We will happily stand up for the 91-year-old war widow who says, “I did not expect that at the end of my life, living in this city would be so difficult.” The ABC reported on 8 April:

Self-funded retirees and pensioners made up a substantial portion of the submissions.

“I am 78 and my wife is 89. We live a modest lifestyle on ... part-pension, plus some basic superannuation ... and my wife is in the early stages of dementia,” ...

These are the victims of this rates regime. Unfortunately, the inquiry that was set up by this Assembly did not have long to report. It did not have long to conduct its inquiry. The Canberra Liberals encourage people to have their say, and that is exactly what I hope all members in this place do. I hope that all members encourage Canberrans to contribute to making submissions. As a result, Miss Burch and Ms Lee put out a letter to many households, saying that, as is well known, the Canberra Liberals do not support this rates regime. In actual fact, let us remember that we voted against this rates regime on every occasion, and we also voted against the change of methodology.

Mr Steel: A point of order, Madam Speaker, on relevance. Mr Coe is talking about the substance of the inquiry. That is not the matter that we are discussing today. We are discussing whether a privileges committee should be formed, and he has not gone to that, and continues to speak about the substance of the inquiry, which is not relevant at all.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Steel. I uphold the point of order. Please go to the substance of the motion that is in front of you.

MR COE: The ACT Labor-Greens government took this action, the change of methodology, without a mandate, without consultation and without recognition being given to the fact that apartment dwellers use fewer local services such as garbage collection, roads, footpaths and nature strips, because many of these services are provided by building management and bodies corporate.

The ACT Labor-Greens government did this without analysing the negative impact that higher rates and taxes would have on young Canberrans trying to save to buy

their first home, on older Canberrans on fixed incomes who have recently downsized, and on young Canberran families who are finding the increasing costs of living a burden.

These changes have an unfair and disproportionate impact on young people, the elderly and lower income tenants. That is all fact, and I commend Ms Lee and Miss Burch for doing their job and encouraging Canberrans to have their say. It is because of the arrogance, apathy and complacency of those opposite that so many people are feeling the hurt and hardship of living in this city. People like the 91-year-old war widow who cannot afford to live in Canberra are the people we should be seeking to hear from in this inquiry.

As a result of soliciting submissions and encouraging people to have their say, we heard comments such as this:

I am recently retired. I am on a small but manageable pension, just on the limit of a Centrelink payment, so my pension is significantly eroded by the increase in rates. My pension is supplemented by a self-managed super fund which relies on income derived from property rental income. This too is significantly eroded by the substantial increase in land tax and rates.

We also heard this from Peter and Thelma:

Upon writing to complain to our member, we felt the answer said, 'Too bad. This is the new methodology, and there will be further rate rises next year.' The over \$600 rate rise in one year was firstly a surprise, secondly a shock, and thirdly exceptionally unreasonable.

These are the voices that came in through have your say. These are the voices that, incidentally, it seems the public accounts committee authorised for publication. I am very pleased that the committee did authorise those for publication because these people are having their voices heard as a result of the have your say website.

Ms Cody's motion yesterday was a pretty cheap shot. The inclusion of (2)(c) and (2)(f) is outrageous, and we all know the slur that it was intended to create. Everybody on that side who signed up to that should be ashamed of themselves. That is totally inappropriate, and you all know it. The only reason it was included was because of the deliberate misinterpretation that would take place. That was known and that was disgraceful.

I find it interesting that Ms Cody is the person who raises this issue. Of course, Ms Cody has had some interesting form in this place in her short time here. It has been well litigated in the Assembly and externally. It is an interesting synergy with the war widow that I mentioned earlier. The Canberra Liberals do not for one moment regret asking people to have their say. What is more, we spoke to the Clerk before doing that. Before setting up the have your say rates inquiry, we chatted with the Clerk.

In addition it is interesting that there is a very strong precedent with regard to the insecure work inquiry by UnionsACT. A quick glance at the submissions on that page shows several submissions that include this end note:

... UnionsACT or any affiliated union of UnionsACT ... does not constitute a submission of UnionsACT. This submission has been made through a tool provided by UnionsACT, and no warranty or representation is made by UnionsACT as to the content, reliability or accuracy of the information provided by the individual named as the author.

In effect UnionsACT is creating a submission tool which is pretty much identical to have your say, yet somehow there is no problem. It is interesting that they are happy to have one set of rules for their union mates and funders but another set of rules for people who are concerned about rates.

There are thousands of people in this city who are hurting as a result of this regime. The Canberra Liberals do not regret this and we hope that all members of this place encourage people to make submissions to Assembly inquiries. I gather that many inquiries and numerous committees have discussed how we can get more submissions to committee inquiries. That should be something that is on the agenda.

If there are lessons to be learnt from this exercise, that is good, and we will take those on board. But we should not be stifling the voices of many Canberrans who are able to contribute because of what the Canberra Liberals members have done here. If we are going to be serious about having inquiries on matters such as rates, we should be willing to take submissions however they come.

It is very disappointing that those opposite—and perhaps the Greens; I do not know how they are voting—will not want to accept or generate more submissions for inquiries. We do not take a backward step on this. We think this is the right thing to do, and of course we will be voting against the establishment of the inquiry.

Debate (on motion by **Mrs Dunne**) adjourned to a later hour.

Emission reduction and renewable energy

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (11.37): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes the:

- (a) ACT is making important contributions to national and global efforts to address climate change, including through its target of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2020, and its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest;
- (b) ACT is on track to achieve the 100 percent renewable electricity target and is currently planning actions to achieve the net zero emissions target; and
- (c) ACT's actions on climate change have resulted in various benefits for ACT residents, including insulation from potential future price rises, and significant new investment and economic opportunities;

- (2) supports the continuation of the ACT's climate change efforts as an important way to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions, support renewable energy technologies, and benefit the ACT's economy and electricity consumers; and
- (3) acknowledges the importance of emission reduction policies that:
 - (a) provide long term policy certainty in line with Australia's Paris climate change commitments, including net zero emissions by 2050, with the electricity sector providing a major contribution to this target;
 - (b) provide a mechanism to recognise additional action by individuals, organisations and sub-national governments—such as the ACT—to reduce electricity emissions;
 - (c) support retail competition and do not entrench retail market power;
 - (d) complement the role of electricity wholesale markets as the primary signaller for infrastructure investment;
 - (e) facilitate flexibility in future market development including through the greater use of demand response and distributed energy systems; and
 - (f) support the development of a reliable and secure electricity supply system.

I would like to start this discussion by emphasising again the seriousness and magnitude of the threat that climate change poses. It is a grave threat to humankind and our way of life, to our societies and economies and to the earth's natural environment and ecosystems. There could not be a stronger imperative for us to act urgently to mitigate climate change and to adapt to the climate change impacts we know are already inevitable.

But even if one were to take a narrow and parochial view of this issue, there is still a great imperative to act. Here in the ACT we are not immune to the impacts of climate change. We are already seeing impacts. Our own local environment will be impacted, as will our local economy and our local way of life. And the impacts will amplify for future generations of Canberrans.

The ACT is taking strong and meaningful steps when it comes to addressing climate change. I am proud to say that the ACT Greens have been integral to these outcomes. We have consistently pushed governments of all persuasions to act on climate change for our entire history in the Assembly, from 1996, when the ACT Greens called on the ACT government to develop a greenhouse gas reduction target specifically for the territory, through the consecutive parliamentary agreements which have resulted in the progressive targets and renewable energy investments that are serving the ACT so well today.

We have talked about these issues several times before in this Assembly, including during the debate yesterday. I had an opportunity to catch up on *Hansard* last night and see some of the comments that were made. What I want to focus on today is the very real threat that the ACT's efforts on climate change will be undone and undermined by policies proposed by the federal government in the form of the national energy guarantee, the NEG.

The reality is that the NEG, if implemented in its current form, would be detrimental to the ACT's efforts on climate change as well as detrimental to ACT electricity consumers. In fact, expert analysis shows that the NEG in its current form is likely to fail each of its key promises. Rather than solve reliability challenges in the electricity grid, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save households money, the evidence suggests that the current iteration of the NEG would do just the opposite. According to expert analysis commissioned by the ACT government to assess the NEG design, the NEG risks "locking in inefficiently low ambition on emissions reductions ... put[ting] upward pressure on power prices" and it "may even fail to improve reliability".

How foolish and negligent it would be for the ACT to automatically sign up to the NEG, as Ms Lee insisted yesterday I should immediately do. She said my comments critiquing aspects of the NEG design were "reckless". What would be really reckless would be to ignore the significant body of evidence showing that the NEG design would have poor outcomes both nationally and for ACT residents. Anyone who cares about a good outcome for the ACT or the climate, a reliable grid and reasonable costs for consumers should closely interrogate the NEG's design. As the ACT's climate and energy minister, I think it is incumbent on me to try to ensure a good outcome on the national energy guarantee.

As well as various specific problems in the NEG's current design, there are key areas of the NEG that remain dramatically undeveloped. The critical detail is not yet available. We have nothing more than the outlines that have been issued by the Energy Security Board. To give just one of many examples, we have no idea how the reliability obligation will work in practice. We do not know what will be categorised as "dispatchable" power. Indeed, as the ACT-commissioned analysis points out:

... there is room at this stage for the levers the NEG introduces to allow specific technologies to be favoured for political ends.

This is troubling because, if one thing is clear, it is that the federal government developed the NEG in an intensely political environment. In fact, it has been designed deliberately to meet the demands of its recalcitrant climate change sceptic backbench. This is the backbench that wants to prioritise coal, build new coal plants and nationalise coal infrastructure, and that thinks that "climate change is crap". The risk, then, that the NEG parameters will operate to artificially prop up dirty, ageing coal plants in Australia is high. This unnatural and uneconomical market intervention would come at an enormous cost to taxpayers and to the environment.

Why would anyone sign up to the NEG without seeing further critical detail to allay these kinds of risks, unless they value their political party over achieving a good outcome for Australian energy consumers? I am not in the business of signing blank cheques and, frankly, this is not *Married at First Sight*. We have time to look at the detail before deciding whether we want to commit.

One of the many energy market experts to have criticised the NEG, Dr Bruce Mountain, wrote in his analysis of the proposed reliability and emissions obligations

that the current proposal is illegal, nonsensical and non-transparent. He said that the only way to make it work is to require massive redesign of the national energy market, requiring huge administrative infrastructure, and make changes that would take many years and cost potentially hundreds of millions of dollars.

The problems with the NEG are many, but since Ms Lee claims that she and her Liberal colleagues are concerned about costs, let me elaborate on some of the ways that the NEG in its current proposal would negatively impact on ACT households. I will quote an opinion piece from yesterday's press, written by several of Australia's most noted experts in energy and environmental economics, including Professor Frank Jotzo from the ANU and local energy expert Dr Hugh Saddler. They write that the NEG "could strongly favour large market participants", and that this means that "Prices could go up and innovation may suffer". They go on to explain how the current design of the reliability obligation "does not bode well for consumers" and that "Billions of dollars of consumers' money might be spent at the behest of regulators" on infrastructure that is unnecessary.

Dr Bruce Mountain supports this, writing that under the NEG:

The incentive to gold plate is huge.

Members may know that the gold plating of infrastructure in the electricity sector has been a key driver in the rise of electricity prices in the last decades. In fact, a recent study showed that infrastructure gold plating by Australia's privatised electricity network was responsible for an almost 200 per cent rise in electricity prices between 1996 and 2016, costing the nation's households up to \$500 per year each. Yet the experts warn that the incentive to gold plate under the NEG is huge. We do not want to reinforce what has happened over the past two decades.

This is the design that the Canberra Liberals yesterday suggested I should blindly sign up to. I note that Ms Lee said yesterday that electricity prices are soaring. It is true that electricity prices have risen, largely due to the gold plating that I just described, but there has also been a recent spike. Why did that happen? The Australian Energy Market Commission, the AEMC, have been very clear that recent price increases were primarily due to the closure of the Hazelwood power station. It is this sudden removal of generation that remains one of the biggest risks to the grid, and risks rises in power prices. How does the NEG address this problem? It does not address the problem at all. I will again quote from the expert analysis done for the ACT, which dissected the NEG's reliability obligation in detail as far as it could. The analysis says very clearly:

The NEG would not have helped in the case of the Hazelwood closure.

What we have currently in the NEG is a scheme that risks putting upward pressure on prices for consumers in several ways. Also, it fails to mitigate a key risk to both reliability and future energy price rises.

In case this was not enough, there are further elements in the design of the NEG that will harm the ACT and ACT electricity consumers. The NEG proposes a regional arrangement whereby emission reductions would need to be reported regionally. As

members would know, the ACT has commissioned its wind farms in other parts of Australia: South Australia, Victoria and northern New South Wales. They would be outside of our region for the purposes of the NEG, meaning they would not count to allow us to acquit energy reduction targets. ACT retailers would have to purchase energy elsewhere, meaning that ACT consumers would essentially end up paying twice. That is right: the NEG design, as currently proposed, is likely to have ACT consumers and residents paying double for the emissions reductions required under the NEG. I think it would be unconscionable to follow Ms Lee's advice and sign up automatically to the NEG, and condemn ACT households to this double cost whammy. That would be impossible to justify.

I note that late yesterday the federal minister, Josh Frydenberg, made some remarks about where he thinks that this matter can be addressed. I welcome that, and I think that is the conversation that needs to happen. This is the exact reason why we are not blindly signing up to the NEG yet. We know there is work to be done. I have indicated publicly that I know there is work to be done. The ACT will sit at the table for as long as it takes to get the deal done. I welcome Minister Frydenberg's observation yesterday that he thinks this matter can be fixed. That is what we are working on: ironing out these glitches before we say, "Sure, we are in."

We also know that householders in the ACT, and in fact all over Australia, want to take advantage of new technologies that give them control over their energy consumption. These are innovative and demand-responsive tools like batteries and the control devices that accompany them, allowing participation in initiatives such as virtual power plants. Research by Energy Consumers Australia shows that financial considerations and the desire to become less dependent on traditional energy companies are the primary drivers for consumers investing in solar and battery technology. One of the key benefits of these technologies is that they save households money.

Unfortunately, again, this is the type of progress the NEG is likely to suppress. The experts are saying that the NEG's design will squeeze out smaller, innovative companies, entrenching the incumbent "gentailers" and reducing competition. Leaders in energy storage like Tesla and Genex have specifically warned that the NEG may delay investment in their technologies. This means that consumers will miss out on technologies that can help save them money, and it means that prices will rise. Just in the latest round of consultation on the NEG alone, the Energy Security Board received over 60 submissions that raised concerns about the impact of the NEG on competition in the national electricity market and more than 60 submissions raising concerns that the NEG risks increasing costs to consumers.

So despite all the political chicanery accompanying the federal government's NEG proposal, there is significant evidence to show that, as currently designed, it will be a poor and detrimental scheme. It does not matter how many times the federal minister or his supporters say that the NEG will help consumers; the analysis and the evidence suggest that it will not. We have more work to do.

As the ACT's energy minister, my approach to NEG negotiations is based on several key principles. I have listed them in this motion for other members to consider and,

hopefully, agree to. This is not some extreme ideological or political position as Liberal politicians have sought to portray it. The ACT's concerns are supported by clear analysis from experts in environmental economics, in climate change, in renewable energy, and in energy markets.

Much of this analysis points out the frightening prospect that implementing the NEG would actually be worse than doing nothing. There is no ideological objection, no insistence that we hold out with some impossible to achieve ideal. No; the starting point for my negotiating principles is to ensure that we do not lock us into something that would be even worse than the business as usual approach.

I think members would agree that these principles are sound and reasonable.

For example, the first principle is that emission reduction policies should provide long-term policy certainty in line with Australia's Paris climate change commitments, including net zero emissions by 2050, with the electricity sector providing a major contribution to this target. The current NEG design does not do this. Its projections are only until 2030, and it pro-ratas a minimal 26 per cent reduction target on the electricity sector, leaving difficult and expensive cuts to be made in other sectors. Again, this is an inefficient and costly exercise that could only be achieved at great taxpayer expense.

Another principle requires that any emissions reduction policy provides a mechanism to recognise additional action by individuals, organisations and subnational governments such as the ACT to reduce electricity emissions. Again, the NEG fails to do this. Not only would it require the ACT to pay twice for emissions, but it would force a low emissions ceiling over the country so that for every extra step the ACT makes to reduce pollution, another less committed state can simply pollute more. This is a model that would undermine the ACT's climate targets and climate actions. Ms Lee was adamant in her speech yesterday that she and her Canberra Liberals colleagues are very supportive of the ACT's climate change targets, so I expect that they would not accept them being undermined in such a fashion.

These are some of the many serious problems with the NEG which have been exposed by a significant body of non-partisan expert analysis. They are some of the many reasons that I am raising concerns about the NEG on behalf of the ACT rather than locking us into a bad deal that will cause a bad outcome for the environment, for consumers and particularly for the territory. I encourage members to support this motion and to support the principles that must be part of any national emissions reduction policy and national energy policy to ensure a good outcome for the climate, consumers and the ACT. I commend my motion to the Assembly.

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (11.52): I do not intend to take up much of the Assembly's time. As I indicated yesterday, I do find it somewhat curious on a couple of levels that the minister has brought on a motion and listed it on the notice paper under executive business when it could easily have been by way of ministerial statement or simply rolled into the speech to Ms Orr's motion yesterday. I note, however, that the minister was not present for much of the debate on Ms Orr's motion and I hope that going to

the National Press Club address by Mr Frydenberg actually was more helpful to this place than being here for that motion.

The other aspect of this motion is the fact that it does not actually hold the government to account on anything and he makes no call to action. But then I suppose calling on yourself to deliver on something is probably a little pointless. I think this highlights the opportunistic approach that Minister Rattenbury takes to his role in this government and his status as both Greens leader and a minister in the Barr government.

If we turn to the intent and content of the motion, as he has stated, the Canberra Liberals have, both before and after the 2016 election, supported the ACT government in its pursuit of a 100 per cent renewable energy by 2020 target, taking into consideration affordability and reliability as priority factors in reaching this target. We have already acknowledged that the ACT government has secured fixed contracts with renewable energy suppliers for an amount of electricity that current modelling suggests will cover the ACT demand to 2020.

We know the importance of retail competition and we certainly understand the importance of a reliable and secure electricity supply system that will provide affordable electricity to the community. Given Minister Rattenbury's previous numerous threats to hold up agreement on the NEG I am not sure that he has fully accepted the importance of a reliable and secure electricity supply system that will provide affordable electricity to the community.

I should not have to point out the obvious. We are the smallest player in the national energy market. We have little to no power generation located here and limited energy distributors. Having a Greens minister turning up at a national energy ministers meeting demanding changes and purporting to have the support of everyone in the ACT is frankly an insult to all Canberrans.

Where is the Chief Minister in all this? Where is his leadership while his Greens minister is making threats to boycott a guarantee that will provide a clear, sensible, nationally consistent energy policy for the entire country? I would have hoped that the minister would have used his privilege to deliver a statement that informed ACT ratepayers and ACT energy users of what is going to happen in the next few years as we embrace additional renewable energy options.

What is going to happen to those households that currently use gas? I know that many people in my—also the minister's—electorate of Kurrajong are worried that they face a very uncertain and potentially expensive future if or when the government decides to remove gas from energy options. We already have the entire Denman Prospect suburb on solar; wood heaters banned in some suburbs and, of course, no gas to Ginninderry. What is next on the agenda?

At an electorate community meeting on Tuesday this week several questions were raised about what residents should be doing about ageing gas appliances. Should they buy another gas stove or heater? Should they scrape together or borrow money for solar? Should they buy it now or wait in the hope the price goes down? They asked

what real value there was in battery investment at this time even with a subsidy, given that batteries have a limited operating time. These are the bread-and-butter issues facing Canberrans. They want to understand the future options for energy supply and what the cost implications are. And ACT consumers do not want to be hoodwinked again like they were on the phoney assurances about rate rises.

Turning to some of the issues that the minister raised in his speech, at no point yesterday or at any other time did I urge the minister to sign up blindly to the NEG. I have never once said that. I think that what we can say for certain is that in this place all of us from all sides of the chamber have the best interests of the ACT and the Canberra people at heart. That is, I think, what we can agree on.

My reference to the minister's being reckless was about his words threatening to boycott this national energy guarantee. If, as the minister says, the energy in its current form is only to satisfy what he says is the recalcitrant backbench who thinks climate change is crap then why are they not jumping up and down for joy about it?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Lee, can you withdraw the word "crap"?

MS LEE: I do realise that but the minister said it as well.

MADAM SPEAKER: I did not hear it and if I had—

MS LEE: I withdraw.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. A warning to you then, Mr Rattenbury.

MS LEE: Sorry, Madam Speaker. I was quoting the minister. I do acknowledge and welcome the minister's words today. I think that in his speech that he has just delivered I have heard more from him in a conciliatory tone when talking about the energy than I have ever heard. I understand that he went on Sky earlier today and said, "The ACT will stay at the table until a deal can be reached." That is a much better position than he has previously stated. This was why, yesterday, before he said those words, I was urging him to ensure that he does what is in the best interests of the ACT and the nation as a whole when it comes to the future of climate change.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (11.58): I rise to make a few points in support of the motion that my colleague Mr Rattenbury has moved. In response to Ms Orr's motion yesterday I set out the long and proud history of the Labor Party's enactments to limit global warming. The reality is that in order for the Turnbull government to meet its Paris obligations we will need to reduce the emissions in our electricity sector, and the cheapest and most efficient way to do this is by supporting renewable energy and by not opposing renewables.

Madam Speaker, you would of course recall Minister Corbell's statement on our climate adaption strategy:

We are already witnessing the impacts of a warming climate, but government cannot respond to this change alone. Together we must prepare for the more extreme changes that lie ahead and increase our resilience in the face of them.

The ACT Government leads Australia in acting to mitigate and reduce the ultimate extent of climate change through its legislation, policy and on-ground works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly through renewable energy.

They were very wise words from Minister Corbell. As we have heard, the government has acted in ensuring that we go to 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2020. I commend the work that my colleagues have done in that space.

One of the concerns that Mr Rattenbury has raised in regard to signing up to the national energy agreement is, of course, the cost to Canberrans as well. We have already set out a program of costs in our move to renewable stationary electricity 100 per cent by 2020. It is programmed in and you can see the price there. The concern with what is proposed in the NEG is that we do not really know what the cost is going to be. I have concerns for Canberrans about the cost that could be placed on them should the agreement go forward.

In regard to the cost that Mr Rattenbury talked about, the cost rise from the closure of one single power station at Hazelwood, if we were to have a look at the PWC paper on the national energy guarantee, it has a graph which looks at coal-fired generators in the national electricity market for the next 50 years and shows a distinct graph of closures over that time. After Hazelwood—Liddell, Vales Point, Gladstone, Yallourn, Eraring, Tarong, Loy Yang A, Bayswater, Callide B, Mount Piper, Loy Yang B and Stanwell are taking us to that point—there are a number of coal-fired generators that will be closing. They are trying to prop some up, of course, at an extreme cost, which we all have to pay for. My concern is the cost to Canberrans. I note in relation to Ms Lee's comments earlier there was not one mention in her entire speech about the cost to Canberrans. That is of concern to me as well.

The ACT, of course, is not alone in being concerned by the NEG as it stands. Experts around Australia have also raised various concerns. Renewable energy is the future that can deliver our energy needs. We know that. We have a program for the ACT. And we need a policy that helps facilitate these energies. I encourage all in this place to support the motion and help achieve sensible outcomes.

In closing, let me remind those opposite that it was their federal colleague who trashed national consensus on climate change and helped create the current instability in the national energy market and, contrary to what Tony Abbott promised, electricity prices have not fallen. They have risen and the rise is because of the actions of the Abbott-Turnbull government.

Let us get the policies right and ensure that the policies help reduce prices and not increase them. Let us get a national policy that helps us achieve Australia's Paris agreement pledge and helps decarbonise the electricity sector.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (12.02), in reply: I thank members for their contribution to the debate. There is going to be a lot of discussion about this in the coming months and I think these principles are an important basis for the ACT to enter into the discussions.

I apologise to Ms Lee for leading her to a position where she was forced to withdraw the term that she used. I was reminded, of course, of the standing orders that, in quoting somebody else—and I was quoting a former Prime Minister there—we should not use unparliamentary words. I forgot that was an unparliamentary word and I also withdraw my use of it.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Rattenbury.

MR RATTENBURY: My apologies to the house for that. It was a quote from a former Prime Minister.

If we are clarifying the use of words, I have never used the word “boycott”. Others have chosen to interpret my remarks. What I have said is that the ACT could not sign up to the NEG in its current form. I expect, through the process of negotiation, it will change and that is what we are pressing for at the moment. I am hopeful, as I have been quoted in various press sources as well, that everybody will come to the table with some degree of flexibility. We have to get an outcome on this but we have to get a good outcome not just any old outcome. And that is where I think these discussions will go in the coming months.

Of course, I note that at the National Press Club yesterday the federal minister said that he intends to work with the states and territories to come to an agreement and then take it back to his party room. Sitting with that statement there is the prospect of a veto in the federal party room even if he manages to get all the states and territories on board. We will see how that turns out. I think there is going to be a lot of policy work, a lot of politics and a lot of posturing on this in the next few months but at the end of the day the bottom line here is that we get an outcome for the national electricity market.

What I can assure members is that I will be advocating for both the ACT’s interests and the national interests in this debate over the coming months and I remain optimistic that we can secure both those interests through this process. I commend my motion to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Visitors

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, I want to welcome to the Assembly students and teachers from the ESL group from the Canberra Institute of Technology. Welcome to your Assembly.

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure. On Thursday, 22 March 2018, the Assembly referred to the committee an exchange between a witness and a committee chair that had occurred in the course of an inquiry into annual reports and certain matters arising from that exchange.

On Monday, 9 April this year the committee considered the referral. The committee noted the discussion in the debate on the referral motion and the withdrawal of offending comments. The committee resolved that no further action be taken.

The committee is mindful that it is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the Assembly's standing orders and continuing resolutions and that the period for lodging submissions concludes next month.

In regard to other matters arising in the reference to the committee, the committee was of the view that it would consider matters relevant to possible changes of standing orders in the context of that upcoming review of standing orders. As I have done before, I strongly encourage all members to lodge a submission to that review.

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (12.06): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism.

At a private meeting on 28 March this year the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into building quality in the ACT. The committee has been discussing the possible scope of this inquiry for some time. On 21 March the Assembly passed a motion that “invites the relevant standing committee/s to consider conducting an inquiry into construction quality, compliance, enforcement and any gaps in the current building regulation reform program”. Accordingly, the committee resolved to inquire into and report on the quality of new buildings in the ACT and any potential or actual causes of poor building quality in the ACT with particular consideration given to:

1. The certification regime for the building and construction industry including:
 - (a) review by certifiers of the initial building plans;
 - (b) compliance by builders with the building's approved construction plans;
 - (c) the adequacy of regulatory mechanisms to ensure compliance with approved construction plans;
 - (d) the role of inspections and audits in the regulatory process; and
 - (e) the appropriateness of current practices for appointing certifiers, including addressing the potential for conflicts of interest.

2. The merits of standard contracts or statutory requirements in contracts covering build quality.
3. Industry skills accreditation and ongoing professional development including:
 - (a) the breadth of the occupational licensing regime in the ACT; and
 - (b) the suitability of ongoing skills education and practices within the industry.
4. Processes and practices for the identification and rectification of defects including:
 - (a) current mechanisms available for defect identification and redress;
 - (b) the effectiveness of those mechanisms to ensure rectification in instances where standards have not been met;
 - (c) the adequacy and accessibility of those mechanisms especially for individuals or body corporates; and
 - (d) the effectiveness of efforts to address “phoenixing”—the transfer of assets from an indebted building company to a new one to avoid paying its liabilities.
5. The cost effectiveness of current building compliance and defect rectification practices for industry, government, individuals or body corporates and the potential for the introduction of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.
6. The role of Access Canberra.
7. The regulatory setting or practices in other jurisdictions that could inform consideration of any of the above.
8. Personal experiences that could inform consideration of any of the above.
9. Any other relevant matter.

The committee discussed the inquiry that the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal has begun on engagement with development application processes in the ACT. We believe that our respective inquiries will not conflict but may usefully complement each other.

The committee will today call for public submissions. The committee has also drafted a discussion paper which the committee hopes will assist submitters in understanding the existing regulatory framework and some of the issues that they may wish to examine. I would like to thank Ms Orr, as a member of the committee, for her role in drafting that paper, although I will be signing it and taking all the credit, of course! I present the following paper:

Inquiry into the quality of recently constructed buildings in the ACT—
Discussion paper, dated 9 April 2018.

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (12.10), by leave: I am very pleased that Canberrans will be able to have their say about building quality in our city. During my time as a member for

Yerrabi a number of residents in my electorate have approached me seeking help to rectify issues they are facing with their property.

Often it has been the same story: the resident has bought off the plan and after moving in there were issues with the building, and they were now having difficulty getting those issues rectified. As time went on, it became clear that it was not one person here or one person there with an issue; actually, a lot of people were experiencing difficulties.

To better understand the difficulties being encountered and to identify the way I could best respond, I undertook a survey. It was a pretty straightforward survey that simply asked two questions and gave people a chance to say what they thought. Even though the survey had the potential to return a broad array of responses, the responses that were received were very consistent. The majority of people surveyed were of the view that the system was not quite working as best it could.

I appreciate that the ACT government is undertaking a number of reforms in this area, and I have no doubt that they will be an improvement on the current system. The feedback I received, however, touched on a range of issues that went broader than what the government necessarily has direct responsibility for. For example, people consistently raised with me that they had concerns with the certification process. People often questioned the role of certifiers in checking plans and making sure the plans were being followed. Certifiers in the ACT are independent and the certification process, while subject to some regulation, is largely self-regulated by industry.

Another example that was often raised with me was the difficulty that owners had in getting developers to rectify identified issues. Often I would be asked what the government can do to help. However, the rectification process is predominantly litigation focused and, as such, would not necessarily include a government-regulated mediation process.

Taking time to talk with people and understand the wider concerns has led me to the conclusion that there is a lot of work to be done here. It is also very clear from the feedback I received that people want to be able to share their views on the approach taken to building regulation.

I would like to note that I say the following with the committee's permission. For this reason I took forward a proposal to the economic development and tourism committee, of which I am a member, for an inquiry into the areas of concern raised with me and which sat outside what was already being done.

I am glad my colleagues on the committee agreed to my proposal, as it is clear that there is a need for deeper discussion and potentially some different approaches. It is also clear that Canberrans need to be able to have their say in that discussion. I would encourage everyone in Canberra with a view on building and construction regulation, whether that regulation be government regulation or industry self-regulation, to share their thoughts by making a submission to the inquiry. I would also like to note that people will be able to submit to the inquiry with the option to redact any identifying information, should that be a concern. With Canberra continuing to grow and building

development increasing, it is important that the building system is right for everyone, and I welcome this inquiry.

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MR PETTERSSON (Yerrabi) (12.13): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs relating to petition No 21-17, safe schools program, as referred to the committee pursuant to standing order 99A on 24 August 2017.

As signatories to petition No 21-17, safe schools program, 998 residents of the ACT have sought to draw to the attention of the Assembly that:

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

The petitioners therefore requested the Assembly to call on the ACT Chief Minister and ACT education minister to stop any and all current and future ACT government support and funding to the Safe Schools Coalition program. The petitioners further requested the removal of the SSP and associated resources from ACT schools where it may already be in use.

The committee notes that the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development responded to the petition, under standing order 100, on 28 November 2017. In her response the minister advised the Assembly that “concerns in this petition are based on inaccurate information and misconceptions on what has been delivered in ACT schools to date”.

In considering this petition the committee requested, and was provided with, a briefing by Education Directorate officials on 3 April 2018. The briefing was aimed at better understanding the ACT government’s safe and inclusive schools initiative and how this differs from the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program.

The committee was advised that the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program ceased operating in the ACT in October 2016. The ACT government also committed in 2016 to developing an ACT-specific initiative which is distinct in many ways from the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program.

The SAIS ACT website provides a “menu” of supports offered to schools that choose to engage with the SAIS initiative. All schools, government and non-government, have access to the material. The committee was advised that there are not curriculum resources for use in the classroom; rather, there are supports to develop capability in staff and school leaders.

In light of the minister’s response to the petition and the information provided to the committee in a private briefing, the committee has decided that it will not inquire further into the matters raised in petition 21-17, safe schools program.

The committee would like to thank the Director-General, Deputy Director-General and Director of Student Engagement of the Education Directorate for assisting the committee at the briefing.

Statement by chair

MR PETTERSSON (Yerrabi) (12.16): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs. At a private meeting on 9 April 2018 the committee resolved to extend the reporting date for its inquiry into the extent, nature and consequence of insecure work in the ACT to the last sitting day in May 2018.

Sitting suspended from 12.17 to 2.30 pm.

Ministerial arrangements

MR BARR: As members would be aware, Ms Fitzharris is away from the Assembly today. For question time, questions for the Minister for Health and Wellbeing will be directed to Minister Rattenbury, questions on Transport and City Services will be directed to Minister Gentleman and questions on Higher Education, Training and Research will be directed to me.

Questions without notice **Taxation—unit rating system**

MR COE: My question is to the Treasurer. I refer to media reports today that a former Treasurer, Ted Quinlan, questioned the fairness of the new rating system for units. Mr Quinlan said that the new system created “inequity which penalises some owners within larger complexes compared to those in an establishment with a few individual units—all other things being equal”. Treasurer, why have you introduced a rates system that penalises some owners within larger complexes compared to those in an establishment with a few individual units, all other things being equal?

MR BARR: I do not believe I have.

MR COE: Treasurer, is the former Treasurer wrong, and is the former Treasurer not well equipped and not sufficiently experienced to make this sort of commentary?

MR BARR: Former treasurers are reasonably well equipped, I would have thought, to comment on a variety of issues. It does not mean that every current treasurer will agree with a former treasurer.

MR PARTON: Will you rethink the rating system that you introduced for units in 2016 now that a former Labor Treasurer has raised concerns about its fairness?

MR BARR: The government makes changes to legislation pertaining to rates and taxes and other matters each year in the budget process and sometimes more frequently. I would not necessarily rule anything in or out. I will look at the comments of former Treasurer Quinlan as I would any other comments from anyone else in the community.

Planning—entertainment precincts

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Urban Renewal and it relates to the urban sounds discussion paper. Minister, at least one night club in Civic has closed recently due to concerns about a hotel being constructed nearby. In your response to a question on notice last year you said that you expected the final package of reforms for the urban sounds paper, including entertainment precincts and noise attenuation requirements, to be announced by the end of 2017. What progress has been made on finalising the paper for public release?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Le Couteur for her question. It is a very important inquiry that we are conducting at the moment for the future of Canberra, particularly around live music venues and urban sounds. We know that we have had, I think, some interesting challenges, particularly for new venues or new residential venues around previous entertainment precincts. I think New Acton is a really good example of that.

We are working through that process. We have not reached the conclusion of the paper yet but hopefully in the not-too-distant future I will be able to update the Assembly on the inquiry.

MS LE COUTEUR: Minister, what is the status of the development and implementation of entertainment precincts and has work commenced to integrate them into the Territory Plan?

MR GENTLEMAN: Yes. Work within the directorate has commenced. We are looking at how we can embed the opportunity for urban sounds in the Territory Plan as a forward planning process to ensure that we can have active, live entertainment across the ACT whilst of course catering for new residential opportunities too.

Taxation—unit rating system

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Treasurer. On 5 April 2018, ABC Online reported that a constituent living in a two-bedroom unit in Kingston had complained that her rates had gone up by 60 per cent in one year. Why is it fair for people living in units to have their rates increased by up to 60 per cent in one year while the CFMEU enjoys a sweetheart deal through the land swap with the ACT government?

MR BARR: An attempt to conflate those two issues is pretty pathetic.

MS LAWDER: Treasurer, why has this change of rates policy caused significant problems for low income earners such as retirees and self-funded retirees?

MR BARR: The government, of course, puts in place a range of measures to protect low income earners, including significant concessions in relation to rates.

MISS C BURCH: Treasurer, what impact has the change in rates had on the disposable income of seniors?

MR BARR: That is a very broad category. Those on low incomes, as I have indicated, are significantly protected by a range of concessions.

Emergency services—staff wellbeing

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the government protecting and supporting our emergency services workers?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Pettersson for his question and his interest in our emergency services. Canberra is a growing city. This government is getting on with the job of planning and delivering the services our city needs both now and into the future. As growth occurs, we know that we need to support our emergency services personnel. These are the people who keep us all safe.

With this in mind, the government made an election commitment that would help improve the safety of emergency services personnel who are working on or near the road. The roadside often makes up the workplace for ESA personnel. Like any other worker, they should be safe while at work. Working on the roadside can leave emergency services workers at high risk of being struck by passing vehicles and debris. Speed is a critical factor in helping minimise the risk.

To help improve safety and to help make sure our emergency services personnel feel safe in their working environment, this government made a commitment to introduce new laws that would limit the speed of cars when passing emergency vehicles stopped by the roadside or moving slowly on the road. I am pleased to advise that we have acted on our election pledge. The new rules will apply from this weekend.

In closing, the government is helping create jobs and opportunity, helping shape the city as we grow, and we are doing it while keeping Canberra and its emergency services personnel safe.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, can you please advise the Assembly about the details of the enhanced protections for emergency services personnel?

MR GENTLEMAN: I can. As I mentioned in my earlier answer, new laws will apply from this weekend or, more precisely, from Saturday the 14th, that will limit the speed

that cars can travel at when passing an emergency services vehicle on the road that has flashing red or blue lights. It is important to note that the new laws apply only when an emergency services vehicle is either stopped on the roadside or travelling slowly and only if it has its red or blue lights on.

If anyone driving a car sees a red or blue flashing light and an emergency services vehicle, for example a fire truck, an ambulance or a police car, stopped by the roadside or travelling slowly on the road, they must firstly approach the emergency services vehicle at a speed that can allow the driver to stop their car if necessary, give way to a stopped or slowed down emergency services vehicle and, when passing the vehicle, they must travel at 40 kilometres an hour or less and do this until they are satisfied that they are sufficiently past the stopped or slowed down emergency vehicle. The new speed limits will not apply if the emergency services vehicle is stopped or parked on a road divided by a median strip and is on the other side.

Through this change we hope to drive a culture change in our territory and, as the CPO said, help create a better working environment for our emergency services workers.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, what other steps are being taken to care for the health and wellbeing of emergency services workers?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Cheyne for her interest in our emergency services personnel. Changing the speed limit for cars passing stopped or slow-travelling emergency services vehicles was just one measure our government committed to prior to the last election to improve the safety, health and wellbeing of emergency service workers. The ESA has also engaged a manager for welfare programs. This new manager will be responsible for peer support programs in the ESA. I am also advised that work is underway by the ESA to develop a training package for this program.

Another important aspect regarding the health and wellbeing of emergency personnel is ensuring that they are recognised for their good work. On Tuesday night I was pleased to attend the ACT Fire & Rescue awards ceremony. The awards saw 44 members of ACT Fire & Rescue recognised for service. One member, Jeff Southwell, was recognised for 40 years of service, and Jason Jones was awarded the chief officer's meritorious services medal for his outstanding contribution to the service. Southie is well-known, of course, for his football coaching prowess. I was also very pleased to present Chris Lind, an old work colleague of mine, with his award.

It was a fantastic evening and showed that we have a great fire and rescue service. Congratulations to each of the 44 members who received an award and to all members of ACT Fire & Rescue who, like our emergency services personnel, work hard and do a fantastic job in keeping our community safe as we grow our city.

Taxation—unit rating system

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Chief Minister and Treasurer. On 7 April 2018, the *Canberra Times* reported that ratepayers were raising concerns about

ongoing changes to the rating system for apartments. A 91-year-old war widow has advised she has been forced to cut back on heating, cooling and food to afford her rates. She said, “I did not expect that at the end of my life, living in this city would be so difficult.” Treasurer, why are your rates policies making it increasingly more difficult for seniors to live in this city?

MR BARR: Of course, the financial circumstances of seniors will vary significantly, from those who have significant assets and income to those who do not. The government puts in place a range of measures to support those on low incomes and who have little or no assets.

MR MILLIGAN: Treasurer, why are Canberrans increasingly losing confidence in the fairness of your changes to the rates system?

MR BARR: I do not believe that is the case.

MS LEE: Treasurer, how many Canberrans are cutting back on heating, cooling, food and medicine because of your rates policies?

MR BARR: That is a question that would be very difficult to answer but the government can certainly do what we have done today—pass the second appropriation bill—to provide more support for those on the lowest incomes through an increase in concessions.

ACT Policing—resourcing

MISS C BURCH: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Minister, on 10 April 2018, ABC News Online reported that armed robberies, home burglaries and car theft have “skyrocketed”. In this report, Australian Federal Police Association President, Angela Smith, is quoted as saying, “I’ve got so many members who are out on stress leave who are suffering from severe PTSD and depression because they feel like they go to so many jobs that are intense, they are violent, there’s not enough backup, there aren’t enough people to help them.” Minister, is your government’s lack of support for ACT Policing harming the health of officers?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Burch for her question. We are supporting police even further every year. We are providing more resources for the ACT police to do their job on the road. Indeed, the AFP have a detailed wellness program within their service to provide an on-the-ground service for their employees. Each year we have been investing in new resources for the ACT police, including protection resources in last year’s budget. And in last year’s budget we invested \$8.8 million in extra resources for the ACT to ensure that they can recruit and provide support for their members on the road.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, why then isn’t there enough backup for front-line police officers?

MR GENTLEMAN: I do not agree with the premise of the question. I believe that there is support for our online police officers. As I have said, not only were we

recruiting last year but we are doing more recruiting this year, to ensure that we have enough numbers on the road. Of course, there is a great deal of support, in both technical capability and service capability, outside our sworn officers as well.

MR WALL: Minister, do you stand by the comments made by the AFPA president and the comments from frontline staff that there simply are not enough resources?

MR GENTLEMAN: I stand by the comments of the Chief Police Officer in the ACT, who says that she is putting full support behind her officers. I think that that is appropriate. I support the Chief Police Officer in the work that she is doing. In fact, she said that the ACT is still one of the safest jurisdictions in which to live. So while obviously there are some concerns among the service regarding the trends—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, no conversation across the chamber, thank you. Mr Gentleman, do you have more to offer?

MR GENTLEMAN: As I said, we continue to invest in our police services across the ACT. As we know, Canberrans recognise that they are in the safest city in Australia. That came forward in the ROGS data last year. This is what officers on the ground are telling me as well. I meet with them regularly not only at station but also at public events. They have my full support.

Justice—resourcing

MR HANSON: My question is to the Attorney-General and relates to the recent appointment of an additional magistrate. Attorney, you are quoted as saying that the new magistrate would increase access to justice and timeliness in the courts system. However, the ACT's Chief Magistrate said that this will not be enough to improve access to justice and will only maintain the status quo because it will merely replace the work of two special magistrates. She said that at least nine magistrates were needed to see even a slight increase in efficiency. Why did you say that there would be an increase in access to justice and timeliness in the courts system when the Chief Magistrate has stated categorically that there will not be?

MR RAMSAY: I thank the shadow attorney-general for his question and for his interest in timely access to justice, which clearly is something that is a high priority for this government. As the shadow attorney-general has referred to, I have announced that the government will be providing significant resources in the upcoming budget for an eighth full-time resident magistrate. That is \$3.1 million over the next four years. In addition, there will be \$1.3 million to Legal Aid and \$987,000 to the Director of Public Prosecutions. In addition to that the government has also reappointed the two special magistrates to continue sitting.

We are most confident that the combination of all of the resources we are providing will increase the access to timely justice. We have heard the Chief Magistrate's comments. We will continue to work with the Chief Magistrate, as we do with the

Chief Justice and as we do across the justice sector, to increase the access to justice for all people here.

MR HANSON: Attorney-General, will you commit to properly funding the courts system to provide an increase in efficiency as has been called for by the Chief Magistrate?

MR RAMSAY: As I think I just said in my previous answer, we will continue to work with the Chief Magistrate to ensure that there is adequate support for the justice system here. We note that there have been significant resources provided and we have appointed two additional special magistrates as well. We are most confident that this will have a positive impact on access to justice here in the ACT.

MS LEE: Attorney-General, did you actually check with the Chief Magistrate about whether the extra magistrate would improve efficiency before you went out and claimed that it would?

MR RAMSAY: Yes.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—motorcycle gang activities

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Corrections. I refer to the 2 April 2018 report in the *Canberra Times* regarding the meeting between a senior manager at the AMC and the ex-boss of the ACT Rebels, an outlaw motorcycle gang. The article reports that the justice directorate conducted an internal investigation and concluded that no further action was required. Minister, do you agree with the directorate's decision that a senior prison officer having close personal ties with a well-known outlaw biker gang figure in fact required no further action?

MR RATTENBURY: I note the level of editorialising in Mr Wall's question in the sense that he seems to have an intimate knowledge of the circumstances of the situation. I did find the report in the paper somewhat colourful, including the fact that they used paragraph four to describe the meal in the photo, the half-eaten meal as the *Canberra Times* tellingly revealed.

On the substance of the matter, it is important to note that the gentleman named in the article, Mr Stefancic, has not been a client of ACT Corrective Services. He has not been in the custody of ACT Corrective Services at any time. The employee in the photograph is not an intelligence officer, as was asserted in some of conversation. Where allegations of potential criminal conduct are identified, these matters are referred to ACT Policing for investigation, as would be expected.

Personal relationships are not generally a matter for the directorate other than where a conflict of interest, be that perceived or actual, is identified. Of course the perception is very important to get to the bottom of if that is the case. These conflicts of interest are managed within the existing employment framework and policies including the Public Sector Management Act and the directorate's conflict of interest (close personal relationships) policy.

MR WALL: Minister, when did you become aware of the meeting between the corrections employee and the well-known bikie figure? Was the employee cleared to meet with that individual or was there previous documentation of a potential conflict of interest because of that relationship?

MR RATTENBURY: I have been aware of this matter for some time. It has been raised with me in a number of different ways. When I was first made aware of it, I undertook a number of steps to ensure that the matter was looked into and that the sorts of procedures I have just described for investigating the potential for a conflict of interest were followed.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, will you undertake to report back to the Assembly about the incident and the activities of bikie gangs in the AMC? And is there an investigation underway into the meeting reported by the *Canberra Times*?

MR RATTENBURY: Madam Speaker, it is a difficult question to answer. What Mrs Dunne actually wants me to report back on is people's TV viewing habits or what else they are doing at the AMC. I do not think that is a—

Mrs Dunne interjecting—

MR RATTENBURY: I do not believe that it is a sufficiently clear question in order for me to be able to respond. I can assure Mrs Dunne and all the members of the opposition that, as I outlined in the budget debate this morning, we have just committed significant new resources to intelligence at the AMC to combat the exact sorts of concerns that Mrs Dunne and others are questioning. It would be, in most cases, I think, unhelpful to reveal the full work that that intelligence team is doing, because it would obviously have the potential to disclose sources, and I do not think that is helpful. In terms of the specific matter, as was reported in the *Canberra Times*, that matter has been investigated and there have been found to be no issues raised by that investigation.

Access Canberra—service enhancements

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Minister, how is Access Canberra helping to better serve a growing community more efficiently, including through increasing its online offerings?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for her question and her dedication to good services for our local Canberrans. I am pleased to say that Access Canberra is continuing to modernise its service to allow Canberrans to interact in the easiest possible way. That is why they now have over 300 services available online. This includes everything from vehicle registration renewals to event planning and the very popular drivers licence renewals. In fact, since it launched, Access Canberra has received over 13,000 drivers licence renewal applications online, which is saving Canberrans a significant amount of time.

Access Canberra will keep rolling out services in online forms into the future. I look forward to announcing another major service that it provides going online in the

coming weeks. It is all about making it easier for people to interact with us at a time that is most convenient for them. This then allows our contact centres and service centres more free time to deal with those who have complex inquiries and applications or those people who need a little extra support.

The Access Canberra's motto is "Easier, simpler, here to help." That is exactly what increasing our online offerings is about. We want to reduce barriers for our routine transactions and have less administrative work for our hard-working public servants to ensure that we can divert our resources to the more complex or high-risk work.

MS CHEYNE: Can the minister update the Assembly on how Access Canberra is helping to better serve the growing community more efficiently through upgrades to the fix my street website specifically?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. The fix my street website is just another way that this government is making it more efficient to deal with government. It is well loved. It is well used by the community. The statistics speak for themselves. Since the launch of the new version of the site, there have been around 234 unique views of a suburb per day. That is around 234 people who are receiving information on the services available in their area each and every day. We also receive, on average, around 93 submissions through the fix my street site each day.

This government is working to ensure the citizens of Canberra have the information that they need at hand. We are also working on ways to help them interact with government in the most efficient way possible. Having a service like fix my street allows members of the public to easily report what it is that they see and hear as they lives their lives in the community without having to wait on the phone. The geolocation in the site helps to pinpoint where the issue is and deploy the government's resources efficiently. Fix my street is just another way that this government is making it easier for the community to interact with it.

MR STEEL: Minister, can you update the Assembly on how Access Canberra is helping to better serve a growing community more efficiently through new options to deal with its contact centre?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Steel for the supplementary question. Access Canberra is increasing the ways that it allows the community to interact with its contact centre to get the help they need. They have expanded the chat function on the website, for those who would rather type than talk. They have expanded from just providing general information to helping individuals with their specific inquiries through the chat service. They have also recently started a trial of a call-back service, so that people do not have to wait on the phone. This allows people who have non-urgent inquiries to leave their details with Access Canberra so that they can call them back, to allow people to get on with the rest of their day.

All of this is in addition to the online complaints reporting that was improved last year, so that people can lodge their regulatory complaints online rather than having to wait on the phone. This is all so that we can free up our talented and highly skilled Access

Canberra operators to be able to speak to those who have particularly curly questions or those who prefer not to transact online. It is all about ensuring that we make things easier and simpler, and are still here to help.

ACT Health—office for mental health

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Mental Health regarding the proposed restructure of ACT Health. Where will the office for mental health fit into the proposed restructure of ACT Health?

MR RATTENBURY: A final decision has not been made on that yet.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, will that uncertainty result in a delay in the commencement of the operation of the office for mental health?

MR RATTENBURY: Work on the office for mental health is proceeding apace. As I think I have updated the Assembly on, and forgive me if I have not, we have recently completed two rounds of public consultation and received extremely valuable feedback from members of the community. There are competing views, as you might anticipate. Some actually suggested that we take longer to establish it, because they wanted more time for discussion. Others have urged us to get on with it as fast as possible. We are trying to meet those various views. Obviously, they are not entirely compatible. The key principles of the office of mental health have been broadly agreed by the community, and I look forward to providing further updates to the Assembly shortly.

MS LAWDER: Minister, how will having staff dealing with mental health in several agencies streamline the delivery of mental health care?

MR RATTENBURY: One of the things I am keen to achieve through the office for mental health is the recognition that it is not just the health department that deals with issues of mental health. Right across the ACT government there are areas where mental health is very relevant. The Education Directorate, Community Services, and, as discussed earlier today, each of our emergency services areas has mental health and mental wellbeing issues for their staff and for their clients, their customers, that we need to deal with. I do not think this is just about the health agency. One of my key agendas is that mental health is about much more than just clinical services and that is what the office for mental health will be seeking to prosecute as part of its agenda.

Homelessness—government funding

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, why has real spending on homelessness services dropped from \$25.3 million in 2012-13 to \$20.7 million in 2016-17?

MS BERRY: It was the commonwealth government that made those cuts, not the ACT government.

MR PARTON: Minister, why, after 17 years of Labor government in this territory, is it that one in three people seeking help are being turned away from housing assistance?

MS BERRY: I remind Mr Parton that we have, still, the lowest rate of rough sleepers in the country, the lowest rate of homelessness per person in the country, the most support for homelessness through our funding of homelessness support services in the country, and we are three-quarters of the way through of an 11 per cent public housing renewal program—\$600 million over four years—renewing 11 per cent of our public housing. That is a considerable amount of money spent on making sure that public housing best meets the needs of our tenants.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why do over 1,000 clients' accommodation needs remain unmet after 17 years of Labor government in this territory?

MS BERRY: I remind members that, with respect to the homelessness funding that goes to support services to support people who have contacted OneLink to get into accommodation or get support in some other different way, people are being supported by a number of different support organisations, including organisations like Havelock, Uniting Care at the early morning centre, St Vincent de Paul in the street to home program, Beryl, Doris and Toora. All of those services provide support to people who are experiencing homelessness and are seeking support from the government. Whilst it is easy to say that there are people languishing on a waiting list, those applications are being very carefully considered and they are being supported in the best possible way for what is often a very complex issue, with a lot of complicated matters going on in those individuals' lives.

Sport—Narrabundah ballpark

MR STEEL: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. Minister, can you update the Assembly on the status of the government's commitment to upgrade the Narrabundah ballpark?

MS BERRY: I am very happy to update the Assembly on the status of the government's commitment to the Narrabundah ballpark. In the 2016-17 budget, the ACT government committed \$4.5 million for the upgrade of Narrabundah ballpark in partnership with Canberra Cavalry. The government worked very closely with Cavalry to develop a design solution that meets the needs of the baseball community. Those upgrade works will include construction of a new clubhouse, an announcers box, a scorers room and a broadcast area as part of an extension to the existing grandstand. On the ground floor, a new commercial kitchen, toilets and storage areas will be provided. The facility will also meet current accessibility standards.

The existing change rooms will be upgraded, and are sure to be more inclusive and female friendly, and batting cages currently located at the entrance to the park will be relocated to the rear of the existing pavilion. Fence realignment on the first and second baseline will create additional space within the ballpark which will improve the spectators' experience as well as provide more commercial opportunities for the Canberra Cavalry.

Some work has already occurred out at the ballpark, including some more parking upgrades on Kyeema Street, an additional upgrade to the PA system, and the provision of some shipping containers. These works were completed before the commencement of the 2017-18 season. A contractor has been engaged, and the additional works that will occur will be completed by November 2018, minimising the impact on the Canberra Cavalry.

MR STEEL: Minister, what will these improvements mean for players and supporters?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Steel for the supplementary. Anyone who has had the chance to get out to a Cavalry game will know what a unique and personal experience it can be to be up close with the players and the supporters. The upgrade to the facility will improve on that and provide benefits to both players and supporters. It is Canberra's own little patch of American culture, and I encourage members of the Assembly to get out and enjoy a game when they can in the upcoming season. Particularly with the upgrades, it will be much more enjoyable and a much better spectator experience.

Players will benefit from an upgrade to the existing pavilion. The change rooms will be larger and more functional and will better meet the needs of the Canberra Cavalry and the baseball community more broadly. The new batting cages that will be constructed will provide upgraded practice and warm-up facilities in proximity to the change rooms. These currently do not exist, so that will be a fantastic improvement for the ballpark.

MS CODY: Minister, how will the upgraded facility elevate Canberra as an international baseball facility?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cody for the supplementary. Upon completion of the upgrades, the Narrabundah ballpark will be among the best in the country. I have already had feedback every time I get to talk with people who attend games out there—whether they are from the ACT or visiting—about what a great experience it is out there, what a great ballpark it is and what a great sports facility it is to play on.

The ACT government is currently discussing opportunities with Baseball Australia to bring elite-level event content to Canberra as a result of the facility upgrade. These discussions are ongoing, with an announcement on additional event provision at the ballpark expected to be made in the coming months.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. Minister, when you were asked in March last year if the staffing levels at Bimberi were adequate, you replied:

In short, the answer is yes.

And when asked again in August, you stated:

I would like to assure the Assembly that Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is appropriately staffed.

We then learnt last sitting that, in the second half of 2017, kids in Bimberi were confined to their rooms 95 times, with insufficient staffing a cause. Minister, why did you tell this Assembly that Bimberi was appropriately staffed when in fact lack of workers was contributing to the occurrence of an operational lockdown every other day, on average?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Kikkert for her question. She is of course referring to the Bimberi headline indicators report that I tabled in March, and that was a report that I commissioned as part of my commitment to an open and transparent youth justice centre and system. This commitment to establish the new report was made in a ministerial statement in this place on 1 August.

Subsequently, in response to a motion and some comments made in this place by Mr Coe and Mrs Kikkert, I wrote to them, among other things reiterating my commitment to this report and advising them that I would seek advice on the possibility of including information on the frequency of lockdowns in the report, which I did, in line with my commitment to transparency.

Subsequent to that, in October last year, on 31 October, I tabled the Official Visitor (Children and Young People) report and at that time I made a tabling statement. The tabling statement said:

In their reports, the official visitors have consistently noted that they are received well by the staff and management at Bimberi and have expressed their satisfaction with the level of care provided to young people. The official visitors have recently raised a concern about operational lockdowns at Bimberi and the potential for this to disrupt young people's participation in education programs at the Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre.

Bimberi management has responded to these concerns by ensuring that, where possible, management of an operational lockdown does not interfere with access to educational services and also by undertaking recruitment to ensure that staffing levels can respond to increases in the number of young people in Bimberi and the pressures of unplanned leave. A period of low numbers in Bimberi has resulted in the depletion of the casual staffing pool and consequently the capacity of Bimberi to respond to a temporary increase in numbers. I am pleased to note that six new youth workers commenced in June and a further four are currently in their last week of training.

Any suggestion that I have not updated the Assembly on this matter since last August is completely false.

Mrs Dunne interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, please; we do not need that.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, are operational lockdowns as a result of insufficient staffing still occurring in 2018?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I do not have the tabling statement that I made or my ministerial statement when I tabled the headline indicators report. At the time I think I indicated a number of things. The decision to undertake an operational lockdown is not taken lightly. It can only be authorised by a member of the senior management team. Lockdowns are structured in a way that still enables the maximum period of time outside cabins for young detainees.

Opposition members interjecting—

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: For the information of the Assembly I still have a minute and a half to go. Lockdowns may be for a period of time of just two hours, to enable staff meal breaks, or in the event that they are for a longer period of time they are rolling, which means young people alternate between spending one hour in their cabins and then one hour out of their cabins. During the time they are in their cabins, young people have access to TV, reading materials and schoolwork whilst the lockdowns are occurring.

As I have said, the increase in young people in the centre during 2017, as well as staff leave and the loss of casual staff from the depleted pool, have increased the need for operational lockdowns. Ongoing and current recruitment is addressing these issues. Eleven new staff commenced induction training on 13 March 2018. A further recruitment round is currently underway, with induction training to commence on 7 May. I am assured that this will result in sufficient additional staff being appointed to minimise the need for future lockdowns.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, will you correct the record to clarify that staffing levels at Bimberi in 2007 were, in fact, not adequate or appropriate?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I am pretty sure Mr Milligan means 2017, and I refer him to my response to the first question.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—accredited training

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Corrections. Minister, since the opening of the bakery at the AMC, how has the uptake of accredited training been going?

MR RATTENBURY: Overall, I can say that the actual bakery has been going extremely well. In terms of actual accreditation, one of the important parts is that people who participate in these industry programs come out of them with formal qualifications. This is about enhancing the rehabilitation process and making sure that the skills that are picked up inside the bakery can potentially be used outside, either directly in that industry or for the detainees to be able to demonstrate their ability to acquire skills and potentially apply that learning in another area.

In terms of the specifics, all of the women employed at the AMC bakery have completed, or are currently in the process of completing, training. Almost half of the women employed at the AMC bakery have successfully completed recognised units of competency, including work health and safety, using hygienic practices in food safety and numeracy foundation skills. The remaining women are in the process of completing these units.

As you can see by the very names of these units, they are the sorts of things that are applicable well beyond the specifics of baking. They could be applied in quite a few areas of the hospitality sector in particular.

MS CODY: Has feedback from those undertaking the bakery apprenticeships been provided? If so, what has the feedback been?

MR RATTENBURY: I have been in the fortunate position to have direct feedback from those working in the bakery during an onsite visit at the AMC. I have to say that it has overwhelmingly been very positive. The women have said to me that they really enjoy working in the bakery. It helps pass the time, which is an important consideration. It also gives them a real sense of purpose and pride in what they are doing.

I was particularly pleased to be at the AMC just before Easter, where the ladies were baking hot cross buns for the first time. They were providing them not only to everybody in the AMC over the Easter period but also providing some to Beryl Women's Refuge as a way of supporting the community. The pride the ladies took in being able to contribute to the community in that way was very welcome.

MS ORR: Minister, is any other accredited training being offered? If so, what units are they?

MR RATTENBURY: One of my agendas as the minister is to ensure that we have a range of industries provided at the AMC, and corrective services are currently working on what other potential industries we can offer and, therefore, what other accreditation and trade training opportunities might be applied. Expanding employment industries is obviously very important for the rehabilitation program and having a broader range of skills available and different trades qualifications only enhances the opportunity for people to reintegrate into the community more effectively when they finish their period of incarceration.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. Minister, when you were asked last year if children had ever been kept in their rooms because of insufficient staffing at Bimberi, you replied, "On occasion young people are required to remain in their rooms for short periods for an operational lockdown to cover staff meetings, training and lunch breaks." Minister, why did you not confirm then, as we know now, that children were indeed being kept in their rooms because of a lack of staff?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I refer Ms Lee to my answers to the previous questions that Mrs Kikkert asked, which I think were quite comprehensive. The summary of what she just said is exactly right. That is generally why young people are kept in their units for operational lockdowns: to cover those exact things that Ms Lee referred to.

MS LEE: Minister, how many times this year have operational lockdowns occurred at Bimberi because of insufficient staffing?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will take the question on notice as to how many lockdowns have occurred this year. I would say in relation to the term “insufficient staffing” that there is a range of operational requirements within Bimberi. Like all workplaces, there are days when staff take unplanned leave, and Bimberi’s operations need to work around that; there are also days when there are a larger number of young people than usual in Bimberi; and there are operational requirements around things like taking young people to court and taking them to other appointments outside of Bimberi. There are times when the behaviour of some young people requires a response that may require other young people to be locked in their units for a period of time. I will take on notice how many lockdowns there have been, but I will not take the premise of the question about insufficient staffing.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, will you correct the record to clarify that insufficient staffing did in fact result in Bimberi detainees being confined to their rooms in 2017?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I refer Mrs Kikkert again to the statement that I made in this place, a tabling statement on 31 October, that did acknowledge that the depletion of the casual pool, as a result of low numbers—it did not go into this level of detail, but—

Mrs Dunne: Just say yes.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I have already clarified in this place, on 31 October, that the low numbers of young people, the very low numbers of young people, in Bimberi in 2016—a fantastic reflection of the success of the blueprint on youth justice—have resulted in a depletion of the casual pool of staff at Bimberi. There was then an increase in the number of young people. One of the reasons that I commissioned the new task force to look into the next five years for the blueprint on youth justice was that increase in the number of young people in Bimberi.

Opposition members interjecting—

Mr Gentleman: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. Resume your seat.

Mr Gentleman: I am having difficulty hearing the minister, as those opposite keep interjecting loudly.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Gentleman. I will bring them to order. Mr Wall, Mr Hanson, please let the minister finish.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: As I was saying, the increase in the number of young people in Bimberi was recognised in my statements in the Assembly a number of times last year. It was one of the things that prompted me to establish the task force looking into the second five years of the blueprint on youth justice, to provide recommendations around that. As I said in statements I made in this place, including on 31 October last year, I acknowledge this issue, and I also acknowledge the work that the Community Services Directorate is doing to undertake rolling recruitment. It is very important that we have the right staff at Bimberi with the right temperament and the right training. We cannot rush getting those staff. We must have the right staff. But we are on track to fully staffing Bimberi to ensure that we minimise lockdowns in the future.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—Reconciliation Day preparations

MS ORR: My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. What is the government doing to support plans for Reconciliation Day celebrations across the ACT?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Orr for her question. First, I begin by acknowledging the significance of the upcoming Reconciliation Day on 28 May. The ACT is the first Australian jurisdiction to gazette a Reconciliation Day public holiday. The ACT government is putting in place arrangements to promote and celebrate Reconciliation Day with funding of \$150,000 for the event and \$50,000 for the 2018 Reconciliation Day grants program.

These one-off grants will assist eligible organisations or individuals to conduct, coordinate and/or participate in reconciliation events in the lead up to and/or during the Reconciliation Day public holiday weekend. A total of 34 applications for funding were received from schools, community groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-controlled organisations.

The 2018 Reconciliation Day grants program closed on 16 March. I will be announcing the successful recipient shortly. The newly appointed Reconciliation Day Council has adopted Reconciliation Australia's theme for the 2018 Reconciliation Week—"Don't keep history a mystery"—as the theme for our own Reconciliation Day.

Events ACT, in consultation with the Reconciliation Day Council, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, and the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs is managing planning for the Reconciliation Day event with the main celebrations to be held in Glebe Park. An inter-directorate working group has also been established to progress initiatives across government and is compiling a calendar of events in support of Reconciliation Day.

The ACT government is also working closely with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body to ensure that community engagement is far reaching and planned activities are culturally safe. Most importantly, Reconciliation Day will keep reconciliation in the public conversation and celebrate the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and connection to country.

MS ORR: Can the minister update the Assembly about the role and membership of the Reconciliation Day Council in the lead-up to Australia's first Reconciliation Day celebrations next month?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Orr for her supplementary question. I announced the membership of the ACT Reconciliation Day Council on 18 March 2018. This volunteer council will oversee preparations for Reconciliation Day, act as community ambassadors and lead community conversations about the importance of reconciliation. This includes supporting the ACT government to develop a program of activities taking place in the lead-up to and on Reconciliation Day; providing high-level strategic direction to the event coordinator; promoting the events; and providing leadership in the community about reconciliation.

The establishment of the council reflects the outcomes of community consultation undertaken in 2016 that highlighted the need for, and I quote, "a council and budget to ensure that the public holiday was not simply a day off but an inclusive celebration and showcase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture".

I am very pleased that the ACT Reconciliation Day Council is co-chaired by Dr Chris Bourke and Ms Genevieve Jacobs. Dr Bourke was, of course, instrumental in pushing for the creation of Reconciliation Day. The council comprises prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans and non-Indigenous Canberrans, including Mr Alan Tongue, Professor Tom Calma AO, Ms Selena Walker, Ms Katrina Fanning, Mr Matt Davies, Ms Samantha Faulkner, Ms Diane Kargas-Bray and Mr Alex White.

These individuals were selected as representative of the broader Canberra community and, due to their prominence in the community, they are also able to act as ambassadors for Reconciliation Day. To date, the council has met twice and will regularly meet in the lead-up to Reconciliation Day. Further, the council will be actively involved in the evaluation of events and activities following Reconciliation Day.

MR PETTERSSON: Could the minister explain the role of ambassadors in promoting Reconciliation Day?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: It is always good to have the last question, and I thank Mr Pettersson for the last supplementary. The ACT Reconciliation Day public holiday will advance the aims of reconciliation by providing opportunities for the whole ACT community to: acknowledge the history of settlement of Australia and its ongoing impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the community; celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people, culture and heritage and the contribution first nations people continue to make to the nation; and allow the

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the ACT an opportunity to collectively celebrate the survival of their cultures.

The role of Reconciliation Day ambassadors is to further this important messaging. That might mean speaking at schools, attending community events or engaging with the media and wider community to promote reconciliation and the opportunities for Canberrans to participate in the ongoing journey of reconciliation in our city and nation. Members of the Reconciliation Day council will take on the role as ambassadors in addition to others who may be approached as part of the community engagement strategy.

The ACT government acknowledges and respects the continuing culture and contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to the life of our region. ACT Reconciliation Day provides the opportunity for all Canberrans to learn more about and celebrate this Ngunnawal country that we live and work on, recognise the connections to country and broaden their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

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

Paper

Mr Barr presented the following paper:

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act, pursuant to subsection 13(2)—City Renewal Authority—Land acquisitions quarterly report—1 January to 31 March 2018, dated 6 April 2018.

Suburban Land Agency—land acquisitions—quarterly report Paper and statement by minister

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Women and Minister for Sport and Recreation) (3.25): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act, pursuant to subsection 43(2)—Suburban Land Agency—Land acquisitions quarterly report—1 January to 31 March 2018.

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

Leave granted.

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

The Suburban Land Agency has demonstrated that it is committed to operating in a transparent, responsible manner in delivering on its responsibilities of managing land available for development and agreed acquisition of privately held leases.

In order to meet its responsibilities, the agency provides me with a report after the end of each quarter on any land acquired by the agency during that quarter, providing any valuations and any other information prescribed by regulation. The Suburban Land Agency has provided me with its quarterly land acquisitions for the period January to March 2018. During the reporting period, the agency did not make any acquisitions. I commend the report to the Assembly.

Canberra Institute of Technology—annual report 2017 Paper and statement by minister

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (3.27): On behalf of Minister Fitzharris, I present the following paper:

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 13—Annual report 2017—Canberra Institute of Technology, dated 6 April 2018.

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

Leave granted.

MR GENTLEMAN: Today I am tabling the Canberra Institute of Technology's annual report for 2017. As the report details, CIT has experienced a year of outstanding achievement and transformation. In 2017, CIT surpassed its performance targets and shone on the national stage.

CIT annual surveys showed a high level of student and employer satisfaction. Ninety-one per cent of students surveyed said they were satisfied with their experience at CIT; that was six per cent above its 2017 target. Employer satisfaction levels exceeded CIT's expectations by seven per cent, with 87 per cent saying they were satisfied with their experience working with CIT.

A major achievement in 2017 was the Australian Skills Quality Authority's re-registration of CIT for the maximum period of seven years. The authority found CIT to be fully compliant against all audited standards, without rectification. This is a rare achievement for a publicly funded registered training organisation, and it highlights the quality of CIT's teaching and training.

CIT being selected as a national finalist in the 2017 Australian training awards for the Australian large training provider of the year also demonstrated the high regard in which CIT is held. This followed CIT's selection for the 2017 ACT large training provider of the year award.

After thorough consultation with staff, in 2017 CIT adopted new executive management, functional and internal governance committee structures. This new structure will ensure that CIT has the breadth and depth of skills, in the right positions, needed to develop a sustainable business model able to succeed in a challenging operating environment.

This transformation was an important step in the implementation of CIT's strategic compass 2020, evolving together. The strategic compass sets CIT's future directions and commitments around four themes: shaping change; growing the ACT region's economy; advancing Canberra's workforce; and transforming CIT's business. The strategic compass includes nine projects designed to deliver tangible, positive changes to CIT operations. Together, they ensure that CIT will remain a contemporary and competitive training organisation.

The projects saw substantial progress in 2017. CIT is now ready to roll out major improvements to its digital infrastructure and operations. New information and communication technology will be installed across campuses in 2018. This will allow CIT to offer more courses and more flexibility and to improve students' experience. CIT is included in the Chief Minister's vision of a world-class innovation precinct of education and research organisations flanking the city. Last year the government announced that the University of New South Wales was interested in establishing a new campus located close to CIT Reid. CIT's leaders have embraced this exciting initiative and are working with UNSW and the government to bring it to fruition.

As the annual report details, in 2017 CIT expanded and strengthened its partnerships with hundreds of ACT private and public sector employees and employers. Leveraging its role in tackling local trade skills shortages, in 2017 CIT brought together more than 50 employers and hundreds of prospective students at two highly successful CIT ApprenticeLink events. This was just one of many events CIT initiated or was involved in based around its partnerships with hundreds of industry, business and community organisations in the region. CIT also continues to deliver courses aligned to the ACT government priority areas of renewable energy, cybersecurity and the growing health sector.

The annual report includes an impressive record of these vital relationships, highlighting the integral, and often underestimated, role CIT plays in the fabric of Canberra's culture and economy. In the past I had quite a bit to do with CIT, both in my role as motor trades executive director and also previously as a CIT student in the welding course. I congratulate them on the year.

***Apollo 11* mission—50th anniversary**

Statement by member

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (3.32), by leave: Yesterday morning, with respect to my motion about the *Apollo 11* anniversary, in my speech I referred to the presentation of a moon rock by US Vice President Spiro Agnew to the Australian Prime Minister, Harold Holt, which would have been immensely newsworthy if not miraculous because Harold Holt had been dead for a couple of years by that time. I misspoke. It should have been Prime Minister Gorton, not Prime Minister Holt.

Office for mental health—multicultural dimensions

Discussion of matter of public importance

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Madam Speaker has received letters from Miss C Burch, Ms Cheyne, Ms Cody, Mr Hanson, Mrs Kikkert, Ms Le Couteur, Ms Lee, Mr Milligan, Ms Orr, Mr Pettersson and Mr Steel proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, the Speaker has determined that the matter proposed by Mrs Kikkert be submitted to the Assembly for discussion, namely:

The importance of making sure that multicultural dimensions are supported in the office for mental health.

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (3.33): I am delighted to bring this matter of public importance in my name to the Assembly today. Australia is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world, exceeding New Zealand, Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom in the proportion of residents born overseas. The nation's capital reflects and, in some measures, even exceeds this national diversity. According to the latest census figures, fully 32 per cent of the ACT's residents were born overseas, with another 15 per cent having at least one parent who was born overseas. A non-English language is spoken in nearly 24 per cent of Canberra's households.

In short, the term "culturally and linguistically diverse", often abbreviated as CALD, certainly applies to our community. This is a term widely used in Australian government policy and service initiatives and specifically refers to people born overseas, people with limited English proficiency, children of people born overseas, refugees and asylum seekers. Research clearly indicates that these communities often face unique cultural and linguistic barriers that may impede their access to services, including health services, resulting in poorer outcomes.

Lower utilisation of health services by multicultural communities in Australia is especially pronounced when it comes to mental health services. Thankfully, data suggests that the prevalence of mental health issues in CALD communities is no greater than in the population at large. In fact the self-reported prevalence of mental illness is slightly lower for people born overseas than for people born in Australia.

Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds do face specific challenges. As a rule, both migrants and refugees choose to travel to a new land because they are hoping to forge new lives, often away from very difficult circumstances. Many refugees and other migrants have experienced and witnessed high levels of traumatic events and violence, including war, persecution, sexual assault, the death and disappearance of loved ones and survival in a range of difficult circumstances. Beyond this, research suggests that the often difficult process of settlement itself may contribute to the incidence of mental illness. This is often linked to the stressful process of acculturation, language and social difficulties, and struggles in finding employment.

For all of these reasons it is essential that multicultural dimensions be included in the design and provision of mental health services. At the very minimum this means that

translation be readily available to clients from linguistically diverse backgrounds. Unfortunately, the existence of interpreter services is often unknown to CALD communities, or severely under-resourced.

Appropriate translation is important because concepts associated with mental health often do not exist in certain languages and cultural backgrounds. For example, psychiatric nurse Sione Vaka has noted that there is no direct translation in some Pacific languages for the word “depression”. As Fatima Mohamed of the Somali Welfare and Cultural Association has pointed out, the term “mental health” does not even occur in Somali. She said, “In Somalia, you’re either crazy or you’re okay.” She added, “Even if they’re sick, they won’t tell you what’s wrong; they keep it in until it’s really bad.”

That last statement helps to illustrate another obstacle. Whilst stigmas surrounding mental illness are common across society, these stigmas are often more pronounced in CALD communities and they need to be specifically targeted in order to help those from multicultural backgrounds understand that it is okay to seek help when they need it. At the same time it is also essential that the help provided is culturally competent, and this goes far beyond just a token access to interpreters. It must incorporate an overarching awareness and recognition of Australia’s cultural and linguistic diversity. Depression, for instance, often presents in different ways in different cultures.

One recommendation is for mental health practitioners to amplify “cultural concordance” between themselves and their CALD patients. For example, psychiatrist Siale Foliaki has referred to his ability as a practitioner with a multicultural background to practise, in his own words, “from a place of intimacy”, where he can be “enmeshed in a client’s world”. For this reason it is important to see increased recruitment and employment of bicultural and bilingual workers to help overcome language and cultural barriers in accessing mental health services.

A perfect match in a truly diverse community is not always an option. Another productive way forward is when mental health practitioners are able to leverage their own ethnicity, religion, experience practising overseas, speaking languages other than English and/or existing cultural knowledge and experience to effectively communicate with their patients. This means that many professionals who come from a non-dominant culture or have picked up experience where they were part of a non-dominant culture often find it easier to relate to patients from a variety of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds even when those backgrounds differ.

As one doctor reported, “Having lived myself in another situation where you don’t understand the language, you don’t understand the culture and everything, I guess it makes me a bit more patient and also makes me try and understand where they are coming from so that I can better communicate with them.”

For this reason, policy in New South Wales states that “diversity in the local population needs to be reflected in the skill base and composition of the mental health workforce”. That is why Mr Vaka, the psychiatric nurse mentioned earlier, actively works to recruit people from CALD backgrounds into nursing.

In supporting such initiatives, there should be a robust program of training in and evaluation of cultural competency across all levels of mental health service provision. Where such competency does not already exist, it must be carefully nurtured in the professional workforce, with visionary and understanding leaders who both see the importance of this and are willing and committed to making it happen.

Much has already been made in this chamber of the long delays that have hindered the promised implementation of an ACT office for mental health. These delays are to be regretted, but I would suggest that they also provide the Minister for Mental Health with an opportunity to make sure that important multicultural dimensions are not overlooked in the creation of this office.

In light of the fact that the adult mental health unit at Canberra Hospital is currently experiencing what has been described by the union as a “crippling shortage” of permanent psychiatrists and that, as a consequence, “ACT Health is continuing to undertake a national and international recruitment activity to fill vacant positions”, I specifically recommend to Mr Rattenbury that professionals with demonstrable cultural competence be specifically targeted as part of this recruitment drive, and that cultural sensitivity be embedded in everything this office does.

I look forward to hearing more on this topic from the 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) (3.41): I am pleased to have another opportunity to discuss the important work we are doing to establish an office for mental health in the territory. I would like to thank Mrs Kikkert for raising this matter of public importance. I certainly agree with her that ensuring that the office is culturally sensitive and is able to consider the specific aspects of mental illness that affect our multicultural communities is important. This is one of the many components that we are considering as the planning and design work for the office is progressing.

I know that the mental health and wellbeing of our multicultural community is something that Mrs Kikkert is passionate about, and this is an interest that we share. I was pleased to hear her speak on this topic in an adjournment speech just a few weeks ago. Mrs Kikkert has also recently written to my office on this issue, and I expect to provide her with a response shortly.

The office for mental health will have a focus on developing an ACT mental health system that is well coordinated and where people receive the care and support that they need at the right time and in the right place. An important part of providing that coordinated and integrated care is ensuring that the service system has a detailed understanding of the population that it serves and its needs. We know that in many healthcare systems around the world groups who have limited proficiency in the majority language or are relatively recent arrivals can struggle to get equitable access to healthcare services.

We are rightfully proud of the vibrant and multicultural community that we have here in the ACT, and the fact that people from anywhere can call Canberra home. As I have noted previously, census data shows that around 32 per cent of people in the ACT were born overseas and around 24 per cent speak a language other than English at home. My ambition as Minister for Mental Health is that our mental health service system is welcoming and accessible for everybody across our whole community, no matter their cultural background.

In an earlier speech Mrs Kikkert rightly noted that while we do not see a greater prevalence of mental health issues in the multicultural community than in the population as a whole, some of the specific challenges that the community faces are unique. These challenges can include language barriers, stigma and a hesitancy in asking for help, as well as limited cultural awareness amongst some health professionals. As minister, I am committed to ensuring that the office has the awareness of and ability to address these kinds of issues to support the mental health and wellbeing of culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans.

We know that a one-size-fits-all approach cannot work to meet the mental health needs of people across our community. Whether it is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans, people with a disability, LGBTIQ people, women, men and many others—each group has its unique needs and its unique perspectives on service provision. Our Canberra community is diverse, and each person's background and experiences need to be taken into account in order to ensure that they receive the right mental health care in the right place at the right time.

I also note that within the multicultural community there is a range of different needs and circumstances that influence people's mental health. We know that refugees, asylum seekers and people fleeing persecution have often experienced trauma both in their country of origin and in their journey to get here. Others may have come here many years ago, and their experience of anxiety, depression, PTSD and other conditions will be different.

It is also important to recognise the mental health and wellbeing needs of the children of immigrants, those born here who make up the next generations. They can also experience stress in finding their identity between their family's traditional culture and the culture of the new society that they now live in. We need to tailor our response to the individual circumstances of each individual and provide services accordingly.

To date ACT Health and our consultant, Synergia, have undertaken a consultation process across the ACT community to inform the proposed model for the office. As part of those consultations, forums were held with a diverse range of consumers, carers and community organisations from across the ACT. I also understand that a number of multicultural organisations were approached to participate in the consultation process, including Companion House and the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum. I expect the multicultural community will continue to be engaged as the office is being established and as the model continues to evolve over time.

In terms of practical steps to be taken moving forward, I expect the office to make early connections and establish early relationships with the culturally and linguistically diverse community in the ACT and to develop an understanding of their experience of services. I would also expect the office to develop an understanding of cultural concepts of mental health and how this can influence early help-seeking behaviour.

Having made the point about help-seeking behaviour, I fully accept that for this to occur all sections of the community need two things: firstly, access to current and understandable information about how to keep yourself as well as possible, what services exist, where they are and how to access them; and, secondly, once someone has made what can be a significant step in putting their hand up and asking for help, they need to be met by a service system that welcomes them, understands them and knows how to help them.

I expect the office to play an important role in ensuring that all people, irrespective of background, receive a friendly, empathetic response when they seek help. We are working towards a situation where every person can experience a system that makes sense and that they can navigate, and where the ability to navigate the system does not depend on where they or their family are from.

It is important to note that the office would not be starting from zero in this respect. I am aware that ACT Health works hard to ensure that all staff have access to cultural competency training, that existing cultural knowledge is shared and that clinical services have access to translators. However, as I have mentioned before, where I see the office having a major role is in bringing all of this together into a coordinated response, from the community to hospital-based services, and all of the steps in between.

I particularly reflect on the observation that Mrs Kikkert made about the international recruitment process that is going on at the moment. It is fair to observe that that obviously results in people from a diverse range of backgrounds—perhaps a more diverse range of backgrounds than is currently the case—moving to the ACT to take up a role. There is, of course, always a dilemma in this regard, in encouraging people to come from countries overseas which may be short of medical professionals, but that is obviously a choice for individuals to make. Through that process it is perhaps more rapidly increasing that cultural understanding in our agency than might otherwise have been the case.

I am confident that the establishment of the office for mental health will contribute to and enhance the provision of timely, accessible and culturally responsive mental health services to culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the ACT. I look forward to providing the Assembly with further updates on the progress of the office, including on the issues that have been raised today.

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (3.49): I want to thank Mrs Kikkert for bringing forward this matter for discussion today. The multicultural dimension of the office for mental health is an important one. I particularly want to thank her because she does open up

the whole area of the challenges that culturally diverse people in this city face when they need to access mental health services.

I have spoken in this place before about people with mental health problems finding the task of navigating a hopelessly complex and disconnected mental health service system in the ACT almost impossible. I have spoken about the paucity of mental health specialists in the city, especially in the fields of child and adolescent psychology and psychiatry. I have spoken about people who have had to resort to accessing expensive private treatment services. I have spoken about people so frustrated by the ACT's mental health system that they have travelled interstate to get the treatment that they need for themselves or their family members. I have spoken about the decline in resources such as beds in the acute mental health wards. We have all heard about cases of mental health patients absconding from confinement. We have heard about cases of mental health patients suiciding out of frustration with a system that fails them.

I do not need to prosecute these matters today. The stories of constituents that underpin those matters speak for themselves. They have been in the media, they have been considered in committee hearings, and I have asked questions about them on and without notice and I have written letters about them.

Minister Rattenbury says in the Assembly, "Do not worry about it. The office for mental health will be the saviour of our mental health system." It was reported in the *Canberra Times* not long ago that the wait for the office for mental health would be worth it. But it is a wait-and-see story and it has gone on for too long. Indeed, a media report of 30 November 2016 told the community that the office for mental health would be established within the first 100 days of the new Assembly. The first meeting of the Ninth Assembly happened on 31 October 2016. Add 100 days to that, and you get 8 February 2017. We are now 428 days beyond that 100-day milestone, that is, 528 days from the first meeting of the Ninth Assembly. And so much for the promise we have been told that the office for mental health will begin on 1 July.

Following the comments made by Mr Rattenbury in this place in question time today—pardon my scepticism—I suspect that the office for mental health will be delayed even further. In any case, no-one knows what will happen to it during the restructuring of the directorate. The minister himself has admitted that.

If you are a person who is new to Australia, whose English is scant at best, who perhaps will not have ready access to interpreter services, who does not know how the health and mental health systems work in this country; if you are a person whose culture or faith is a barrier; if you are completely alone, with no personal or family support networks; if you are someone who is unable to describe how you are feeling and what your symptoms are; if you are struggling to explain the symptoms of your child who is suffering severe depression because of bullying at school, how will you get the mental health services you or your child need when those services are so disconnected, so tied up in bureaucratic processes, so bogged down in a one-size-fits-all treatment program, and all the while you are fighting for a place in a resource-poor service that sometimes does not even exist?

Mr Rattenbury is placing a lot of store in his office for mental health. His reputation and standing as the Minister for Mental Health will rise and fall on it and the government's wisdom in creating a stand-alone Minister for Mental Health will rise and fall on the achievements of this minister. But if it is not the saviour he said it will be, our mental health services will descend even further into the mire. It will become even more difficult for Australian-born citizens to access and navigate, let alone refugees, new migrants and even new Australian citizens.

Mrs Kikkert is right. The office for mental health, in whatever form it takes ultimately and in whichever directorate or directorates or other government agency or agencies it finally sits, needs to be ready to provide services that are tailor made for every individual who walks through its doors. Based on what we have seen to date, I am not confident but I live in hope, for those in our community most in need of help, that Mr Rattenbury will deliver on this commitment.

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) (3.54): I thank Mrs Kikkert for bringing forward this matter of public importance today. I also note her ongoing interest in raising here in the Assembly and, of course, in the wider community the issues of accessible and appropriate services for culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans.

I also note my colleague Minister Rattenbury has already discussed the particular importance of addressing mental health issues in relation to those who have come from a culturally or linguistically diverse background and the broad shape of his vision for the office for mental health. I note Mrs Dunne claimed that Mr Rattenbury's attitude has been, "Don't worry about it." That is not what I heard and it is not what I see in the way Mr Rattenbury does his job.

The health and wellbeing of our community as a whole and individuals within it rely on effective and safe responses to our most vulnerable community members. The ACT government is well aware that treatment, support and access to services for Canberrans with mental health conditions is critically important to facilitate better life outcomes for those members of our community and their families, friends and wider circle.

International and local evidence has shown that people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with low English proficiency may have poorer health outcomes in English-speaking countries and are at greater risk of adverse incidents arising from their health care. We also recognise that some of the most vulnerable members of our community such as refugees and asylum seekers are at greater risk of developing mental health conditions.

Prolonged detention and social and cultural stigma are associated with poorer mental health outcomes in asylum seekers, including among children. The ACT government is committed to reducing the barriers and improving access to mental health services which meet the needs of people from multicultural backgrounds. With more than a

quarter of Canberrans identifying as culturally and linguistically diverse, we have worked hard to ensure all members of the community receive appropriate supports to live a good life.

The ACT government's approach to supporting and working with our culturally and linguistically diverse citizens is laid out in the ACT multicultural framework 2015-2020. The overall vision of the framework is for:

... an inclusive and cohesive society which draws on people's cultural and linguistic diversity to enhance the social, economic, cultural and civic development of the ACT and the wellbeing for all Canberrans.

In order to achieve this vision, the ACT multicultural framework sets out three key objectives in relation to Canberra's multicultural communities. They are: first, accessible and responsive services; second, citizenship, participation and cohesion; and, third, capitalising on the benefits of cultural diversity. As set out by Minister Berry, then Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the accessible and responsive services objective states:

The ACT government is dedicated to the provision of accessible and responsive services for all Canberrans. We must continue to provide targeted initiatives for those doing it tough in our community to ensure that they are able to fully participate in the life of our city.

While this remains an ongoing policy goal, I was pleased to hear Minister Rattenbury outline the ways in which ACT Health is engaging with culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the establishment of the office for mental health. This is a demonstration of the multicultural framework in action.

The ACT Multicultural Advisory Council was established last year to provide a platform for Canberra's culturally and linguistically diverse communities to have their issues heard and to work even more closely with the ACT government in delivering our commitments to the community including those under the multicultural framework 2015-2020. The Multicultural Advisory Council consists of 15 members, including 10 community members appointed in a personal capacity and five representatives of multicultural community organisations. Members were selected to ensure that the overall council reflects a diversity of cultural backgrounds, interests, age, gender and life experience.

I attended the council's first meeting and have subsequently met with the chair and deputy chair to discuss how the council wants to drive the multicultural summit to be held later this year. Planning for the summit is one of the Multicultural Advisory Council's key areas of work in its first six to 12 months. Of course, the summit will build on existing consultation in key policy areas. It will be important for the council, as key individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and as representatives of multicultural community organisations, to shape and lead the important consultations leading up to the summit and on the day.

I expect that this consultation will facilitate important conversations on the appropriate approach to government services such as mental health, to ensure that

they serve the needs of Canberra's culturally and linguistically diverse community. It is important that perspectives reflecting a breadth of backgrounds, faiths and languages are captured in the lead-up to and at the summit.

I was pleased to note that the National Disability Insurance Agency also acknowledges the need to better engage with participants from a culturally and linguistically diverse background. In the recent review of the national disability insurance scheme processes, improving the NDIS participant and provider experience, it was recognised that a number of cohorts need a tailored participant pathway to ensure that their NDIS experience is as good as possible. Culturally and linguistically diverse participants and participants with psychosocial disability were both identified as cohorts requiring tailored participant pathways.

The review noted that culturally and linguistically diverse participants may have particular barriers in accessing appropriate information and engaging and communicating in their preferred language, that NDIA processes and service providers need to acknowledge and understand cultural sensitivities and that an explanation of key NDIS terms and concepts in a culturally sensitive context may be required.

As NDIS participants of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds make up approximately a fifth of all participants, work on ensuring that they have appropriate and accessible services is crucial. This of course includes culturally and linguistically diverse people who experience psychosocial disability.

The ACT Office for Disability will continue working collaboratively with the National Disability Insurance Agency to contribute to the development and delivery of the new pathways, recognising that the categories of people for whom pathways are being developed, including culturally and linguistically diverse communities and people with psychosocial disabilities, are not mutually exclusive. People with psychosocial disability or mental illness may also be culturally or linguistically diverse, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and/or have other complex needs and complexities in their lives.

We are also committed to advocating that the commonwealth government ensures that the supports they are responsible for meet the needs of our community. This includes advocating for those from refugee backgrounds who have fled persecution, have experienced torture, seen their homes destroyed, families killed and fled war and are more likely to be dealing with trauma and mental health concerns.

I would like in that context to acknowledge and thank the tireless efforts of organisations such as Migrant and Refugee Support Services, Multicultural Youth Services, Companion House and Red Cross, as well as interested members of the Canberra community who support those from a migrant, refugee and asylum seeker background to settle in Canberra, including through Canberra Refugee Support.

Multicultural Youth Services assist young migrants and refugees to find their way in their new environment, including finding a job, getting to school, relationship and family matters. I have no doubt that the social connections that MYS helps build,

including through sport, make an absolutely critical contribution to the mental wellbeing of young people arriving in our city, particularly young refugees and asylum seekers.

Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services provide related services for migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants in a caring, supporting and enabling way. Companion House, of course, works with adults and children who have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war-related trauma, things that would inevitably have a negative impact on a person's mental health, and Companion House works very closely with those communities, again not only in responding to their individual needs but in building communities where people are able to support one another.

The Australian Red Cross is funded federally to deliver the humanitarian settlement program in the ACT now, which enables humanitarian entrants to build the skills and knowledge they need to become self-reliant and active members of the Australian community.

All this support is critical in supporting the wellbeing of community members. The work these organisations and their volunteers do is testimony to the generous nature of the Canberra community. And I speak about these because they are our partners, the government's partners, in ensuring multicultural Canberrans get access to appropriate support.

All that said, implementing policies and offering services is only effective if the people who need them most can actually access them. To ensure accessibility of all ACT government services to all Canberrans, translating and interpreting services are available across the sector. Importantly, this means that if Canberrans from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds require access to a health-related service in a language other than English, they can access it.

As I outlined at the start of my speech, I believe the multicultural summit later this year will provide a good opportunity to consider the views of culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans in relation to the services they need, including mental health services, and I look forward to hearing from the community through the multicultural summit and will ensure that officials provide any appropriate feedback to Minister Rattenbury and ACT Health.

Discussion concluded.

Privileges 2018—Select Committee Proposed establishment

Debate resumed.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.04): I move:

Omit all words after "this Assembly notes", substitute:

- “(a) the letter distributed to Canberra residents in the names of Miss C. Burch and Ms Lee titled *Inquiry into the methodology for determining rates and land tax for apartments*;
 - (b) the letter calls upon residents of the Australian Capital Territory to make submissions to an inquiry of an Assembly committee via the haveyoursay.net.au website;
 - (c) the ‘haveyoursay’ website is not operated by the committee secretariat, but by the Liberal Party of Australia ACT Division, with a registrant contact name of Alistair Coe;
 - (d) the letter and the ‘haveyoursay’ website may combine to create a false impression that they are proceedings of the Assembly or its committees;
 - (e) as political parties are not subject to the *Privacy Act 1988* (section 6C), there is no law governing how any information collected by the website will be used, or that all submissions made were accurately forwarded to the committee;
 - (f) there is a possibility that submissions to the ‘haveyoursay’ website were not all submitted to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and hence the course of the inquiry has been corrupted; and
 - (g) a number of other non-Legislative Assembly websites have been established to generate submissions to Assembly committee inquiries, including Unions ACT for the insecure work inquiry and Australian Christian Lobby for the Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT;
- (2) pursuant to standing order 277, a Select Committee on Privileges be established to examine whether there has been a breach of the standing orders by contempt of the committee by Ms Lee, Miss C. Burch or Mr Coe, in relation to matters noted and any other relevant matters, including whether the conduct constitutes:
- (a) interference with the Assembly;
 - (b) obstruction of orders;
 - (c) interference with witnesses;
 - (d) refusal or failure to produce documents, or to allow the inspection of documents; or
 - (e) destruction, damage, forging or falsification of any documents;
- (3) the Committee should also examine whether the third-party websites raised in (1)(g) have raised any issues of breaches of privilege or standing orders, and whether guidelines should be developed for promotion of, and generation of, submissions to committee inquiries;
- (4) the Committee shall report back to the Assembly on the first sitting day of July 2018;
- (5) notes that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts can continue its business relating to the rates inquiry by meeting and holding public hearings on this matter, but should not report to the Assembly prior to the Select Committee on Privileges reporting to the Assembly; and

- (6) the Committee shall be composed of:
- (a) one member nominated by the Government; and
 - (b) one member nominated by the Opposition; and
 - (c) one member nominated by the Crossbench;
- to be notified to the Speaker by 4pm Thursday, 12 April 2018.”.

This is a revised amendment because, as many members would be aware, we have spent quite a lot of time on this issue, both in the chamber and outside the chamber. As I came down I was making a mental note that this is one of the things that we should do in terms of changing standing orders. The idea of privilege motions getting precedence does not work, because it means we all come in here, we are all sitting here, and then we have something to debate where we have no idea what we are talking about. While some people may regard that as the normal state of affairs, it is not normally quite this bad. While it is an aside to this particular issue, it is something that I think we need to look at from the point of view of the standing orders.

Going to the matter at hand, this is a serious issue, but I do not think it is a serious issue in relation to rates. Mr Coe this morning spoke at length about issues to deal with rates. I am not going to talk about that, because I do not think that that is what this motion is about. This motion is about the conduct of an Assembly inquiry and whether there were any breaches of standing orders. Admittedly, the Assembly inquiry was about rates and land tax, but we would be having the same discussion if it was about anything else.

I have had a look at the letter that Miss Candice Burch and Ms Lee circulated. I am not quite sure how widely it was circulated, because I have talked to a number of people who are in their electorate and have not received it. Nonetheless, I assume it was reasonably widely circulated, for the purposes of this discussion. There is only one paragraph in this that I feel anyone could take exception to. It is clearly the work of the opposition to talk about things that they think they disagree with the government on. That is clearly fine. And telling people that the public accounts committee is calling for submissions into a public inquiry is a good thing to do. This is something where, as MLAs, we should all draw people’s attention to inquiries that they might be interested in.

However, where I feel that it is arguable that they have overstepped the line is the second-last paragraph, in which they say:

If you are an owner or a tenant or just think this is unfair, we encourage you to make a submission to the inquiry at haveyoursay.net.au/strata. Submissions do not have to be long, and can simply outline how higher rates and taxes have negatively impacted you or your family.

The issue there is where they are suggesting the submissions go to. That is not in fact an ACT Legislative Assembly website. It is not even an ACT government website, although I imagine quite a few people might think it is, because, as I am sure members are all aware, the ACT government does have a yoursay.act.gov.au website. I assume the fact that the names of these two websites are very similar is not a

coincidence. It is an arguable case that this paragraph could have misled people into thinking that they were putting in a submission to an Assembly website which would actually directly go to the Assembly. I think that is a very important issue, and that is where possibly the major issues of privilege go.

Following on from this—that people may well have thought they were submitting to the Assembly’s website, given that is basically what they were told they were doing—we run into the question of: how has this interfered with the operation of the inquiry? If people lodged submissions at this have your say website, they may or may not have gone to the PAC inquiry; we have no way of knowing that. The PAC inquiry has no way of knowing this.

I am not suggesting what may or may not have happened. All I am suggesting is that the PAC inquiry and the Assembly have no way whatsoever of knowing what happened, so there is at least a real possibility that the inquiry is not getting the information that people in Canberra, or people anywhere, thought was going to it. So there is the real possibility that the inquiry could be, as Ms Cody suggested yesterday, possibly corrupted because of this.

In conjunction with lengthy discussions with colleagues on all sides of the chamber, I have made a revised motion which deals with these issues. It also deals with related issues. In particular, I point to point (3) in this motion, which says that the committee should also examine whether the third-party websites raised in (1)(g) have raised any issues. I list a couple that I am aware of; there may well be others. UnionsACT did something for the insecure work inquiry and the Australian Christian Lobby has done one for the end of life committee.

The point I am making here is that this is not an issue relating simply to this particular website. This is relating to the fact that the Legislative Assembly’s committees have not always moved with the times in terms of providing easy ways for people in the community to relate to us. This is something I have mentioned in a number of forums in the past, in particular, at the committee chairs meetings. It is something that, regardless of this particular unfortunate incident, needs addressing. I am not sure that a privileges committee is the best way of doing it but, nonetheless, I put this on the table because it is a related issue that does need dealing with.

The other thing that my motion has that is different from Ms Cody’s original motion is to make it quite clear that the public accounts committee can continue its business relating to the rates inquiry by meeting and holding public hearings on this matter. Ms Cody’s motion did not say anything about that.

As I said, I do not think this issue is about rates. Whether we think they are too high, too low or whatever, it is not about rates. This is about how Assembly committees communicate to the community and get feedback from the community. It is ensuring that that is done in accordance with standing orders and making sure that all the information that the public want to give committees actually gets to the committees. We have made that abundantly clear in this motion.

Point (4) also gives the date for reporting back as the first day of July 2018. There has been considerable backwards and forwards discussion about an appropriate date for this. There are two things. Obviously, from the point of view of having this as something which can be considered in the context of the budget and the estimates process, we want the committee to report as soon as possible, and the next week would be great. But also we have to look at reality in terms of what the privileges committee, if one is set up, could feasibly do. This seems like the best compromise between the needs of allowing PAC to finalise its report, if it is in a position to do so. Of course, it is possible that it will be found that it is not in that position. I do not know; obviously, I have no idea what the findings of the privileges committee would be. But this is a compromise between that and giving the privileges committee enough time to do its investigative work, as Ms Cody so rightly said yesterday.

In this instance, the privileges committee, I believe, does have a body of work to undertake to determine whether standing orders were breached and what the impact was on the PAC inquiry. None of us here knows the answer to that. I commend my motion to the Assembly. I am hopeful that, given the considerable amount of discussion about it, it will be accepted by members with the amendment which will shortly be moved.

MR WALL (Brindabella) (4.15): This is not the opposition's preference for the way that this matter be dealt with. We feel as though this question could have been addressed through the admin and procedures committee looking at the privilege implications of any possible contempt implications of not just the have your say website tool but also that used by UnionsACT as part of the education, employment and youth affairs committee. However, we are realists in this instance, and we recognise that that is not the direction that the Assembly is going in today. I move the following amendment to Ms Le Couteur's amendment:

Omit paragraph (6), substitute:

“(6) the membership of the Committee is to be Ms Cheyne (Government), Mr Rattenbury (Crossbench), Mr Wall (Opposition).”.

This is an administrative fix-up to make life easier for everyone. The amendment moved by Ms Le Couteur calls for nominations to be notified to the Speaker by 4 pm. However, 4 pm has already passed today. It seeks to appoint the membership of the committee, being Ms Cheyne from the government, Mr Rattenbury from the crossbench and me on behalf of the opposition. That saves the procedural matter where the manager of government business needs to move an amendment once those nominations are put forward, given the likelihood that we will go straight to the adjournment.

Mr Wall's amendment to Ms Le Couteur's proposed amendment agreed to.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question now is that Ms Le Couteur's amendment, as amended, be agreed to.

MR PETTERSSON (Yerrabi) (4.16): I wish to speak to what I consider the two major concerns presented to us today: the letter that was distributed by members of the Assembly and their attempt to interfere in the committee process by advocating one particular view, and the use of the have your say website constructed by the Canberra Liberals and its links to members of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

It is unfortunate that we must debate this topic, but it is important that we do. I know most members of the ACT Legislative Assembly take their responsibilities in the committee process very seriously. What I was not expecting, and what I expect most members were not expecting, was members outside of a committee entangling themselves in the affairs of another committee. The letter of Ms Lee and Miss Burch was an attempt to undermine, to interfere, to subvert the work of the committee, and they should know better.

I want to address an important point about the potential impact of their letter on the work of the committee. I do not know how many households were letterboxed with this material, but I do know a thing or two about letterboxing. You do not letterbox one house, one building or one street. When you letterbox, you letterbox a lot. At a minimum, you cover several postal areas, easily interacting with thousands of people.

The fundamental question is not how effective they were in their attempts to interfere measured by the numbers of letters, but the extent to which they attempted to interfere through the content of their letter. What exactly did Ms Lee and Miss Burch letterbox? How did they think to gain contributions to an Assembly inquiry? Here are some of my favourite quotes. The first is this: "In 2017-18, this ACT Labor/Greens government unfairly changed the methodology used to determine rates and land tax for apartments." Another is: "This ACT Labor/Greens government took this action without a mandate." Another is: If you are an owner or a tenant or just plain think this is unfair, we encourage you to make your submission to the inquiry at: haveyoursay.net.au." Another is even better, my favourite:

Submissions do not have to be long, and can simply outline how higher rates and taxes have negatively impacted you or your family.

I think it is quite clear that both Ms Lee and Miss Burch have consciously sought to interfere with the work of the committee simply by their choice of words.

I wish to raise my concerns with the have your say website and its links into this building. This is not the public accounts committee's website. This is the website of the Canberra Liberals. Further, this is the website of Mr Coe. He has authorised it; he is responsible for it. To add to this mess, he sits on the public accounts committee. It is worth pointing out a very simple fact in this matter: the Canberra Liberal Party, under the direct authorisation of Mr Coe, have set up the have your say web page for two reasons: one, to collect data on Canberra residents; and two, and more sinister, to influence the number and nature of submissions to the ACT Legislative Assembly's committees.

I have several concerns about the have your say website. It does not say what they do with the data collected on the web page. What do they do with it? Further, why do they not have a disclaimer on their website? What makes the lack of disclaimer even more troubling is the important fact that political parties are exempt from the Privacy Act. Put simply, Mr Coe is farming data from submissions to the committee he sits upon with no accountability for the private information he has gleaned.

It is worth talking quite briefly about the use of third-party websites. I am actually quite agnostic on it. I am the chair of the education, employment and youth affairs committee. We had to contend with a third-party submission website for one of our inquiries. We were able to manage it. In that instance the committee accepted the submissions from the third-party website, and they are all freely readable on the committee website. PAC has similarly accepted submissions from the have your say website. You can also read them on the committee's website. As much as Mr Coe may grandstand, no submissions have been blocked; nor would they be.

We are not here to pass judgement in any form on the content of the submissions. This motion is about the actions of members in this place, nothing more. The third-party submission website for the EEYA inquiry was built by UnionsACT. It had disclaimers and warnings about the purpose of that website. Mr Coe's have your say website has no such warnings or disclaimers. One of these third-party sites is, indeed, from a third party. One of these third-party sites is from a member of this place, of that particular committee. If Mr Coe would, indeed, like to become a legitimate third party, he could quite simply resign and run his website. But I suspect he values his position as a member far more, particularly his membership of PAC.

There is an important discussion to be had about the use of third-party submission forms to our committees. This is not that discussion. This motion is about the actions of members of this place. I fully support Ms Cody's motion.

MS CODY (Murrumbidgee) (4.23): Firstly, I thank Ms Le Couteur for her work on her amendment today. As was quite rightly pointed out to me in the *Canberra Times* this morning, there could have been a misunderstanding of the original motion I moved. My idea and my determination for moving this motion was not in any way to stop work from happening on any committee, let alone a committee I sit on. The sole purpose of bringing this motion forward was that I believed that there were some questionable acts that needed further investigation. I think it is fabulous that Ms Le Couteur has amended my original motion to ensure that the PAC can continue its work. It is very important work. I hope that residents feel able to talk about that particular piece of work and able to freely bring forward any submissions, any comments, anything they have regarding the PAC inquiry.

I also thank Ms Le Couteur for including the possibility of looking into some third-party submitters. I know that on some of the other committees on which I sit there have been questions about whether third-party submitters meet the recommendations. As Ms Le Couteur has included in her amendment, the Australian Christian Lobby have also been very robust in their third-party submissions to some

inquiries. So thank you, Ms Le Couteur, for helping make my motion a little more acceptable.

We all know that from time to time in this place we disagree. I think it is really great. It is robust. It means that the people of the ACT and the Canberra community have the opportunity to lay faith in their elected representatives. We can stand in this place and we can have vigorous debate because we honestly and truly believe what we think is right.

This morning, Mr Coe stood up and was talking about all sorts of things not entirely related to my motion. However, one thing I would like to question, query or comment on is that Mr Coe seemed extremely proud that he had possibly done something not quite right. He was very proud to stand up and accept everything he had done, accept how the letter was worded. I hold grave concerns about Mr Coe being quite so proud. However, I will be glad to hope that we all sit here and support Ms Le Couteur's amendment as amended so that we can set up a privileges committee, so that we can look into what has happened here in this particular instance.

Labor supports committee inquiries into every part of government. That is not in question here. However, the Assembly should have zero tolerance for attempted interference in our systems. We should not allow any sort of interference in our committee processes. My concerns are that the letter that was posted out, mailboxed out or letterboxed out to some residents across the ACT may have misled members of the community.

I thank everyone for their work. I particularly thank my colleagues on the crossbench for working to ensure that the PAC committee can continue doing its inquiry into land rates. I think it is a very important piece of work. I look forward to the outcome of this motion and the hope that we form a select committee of privileges to look at some of the matters that I have raised in both my motion and the amended motion, and areas which I brought up in my speech yesterday.

Ms Le Couteur's amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Australian National University—bullying

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (4.28): I rise briefly in the adjournment debate today to welcome what I believe to be a very considered and powerful statement today from the ANU's Vice-Chancellor, Brian Schmidt, responding to reports on the ABC around homophobic bullying by a member of the

ANU community towards a fellow student at Ursula Hall last year. Vice-Chancellor Schmidt is absolutely correct to observe that this type of bullying takes place in the shadows and prospers in silence. I am delighted that the vice-chancellor has made such a strong and powerful statement of the university's values, and I want to endorse that statement and put on the record that Canberra, as Australia's most LGBTIQ-friendly city, shares those values.

This city, like the ANU, holds the principles of equality, inclusion and acceptance at the core of our values, and we should not stand in silence when issues like this are identified. I commend the vice-chancellor and the Australian National University for the work that I know they will do to address this issue on their campus at this time.

Greyhound racing—cruelty reports

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (4.29): I rise to correct the record in regard to a statement that the Minister for Regulatory Services, Mr Ramsay, made in this chamber yesterday.

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you correcting your statement?

MR PARTON: I am correcting him. Yes, I am. I am not going to go as—

Ms Cheyne: That is not correcting the record.

MR PARTON: It is correcting my record. I will not go so far as to suggest that the minister has misled the Assembly, but to me it is very clear that—

MADAM SPEAKER: No, you would do that through a substantive motion, Mr Parton.

MR PARTON: That is correct, Madam Speaker, but to me it is very clear that some statements made by Mr Ramsay in this place yesterday were indeed incorrect. In this place yesterday the minister said:

... if you look at the footage of Mr Parton's syndicate's dog's last race meet in Canberra, a dog in the race immediately prior falls horribly. This dog is trained by the same person as the syndicate dog, and I wonder how long before poor Nugget ... falls, fractures a bone in his leg and no longer has any value to the syndicate that owns him and is also put down.

“Also put down”; that is the quote. Mr Ramsay very clearly implies that this other dog, whose racing name is Vast—his friends call him Cheech—fell, had horrific injuries and was put down.

This afternoon, just before question time, I posted a video of Cheech frolicking around in his backyard, playing with a ball. That video was taken this afternoon. The dog underwent a vet inspection half an hour after his race on Sunday night and no injury was recorded. I would certainly appreciate at some stage in some form, whether it be in here or otherwise, a retraction from the minister on that front.

As with greyhound racing in this region, the rumours of the death of Cheech have been vastly exaggerated. He is alive and well and enjoying life, as most greyhounds in this area do. Again I must thank the minister for contributing to my ever-growing social media traction figures. It is good to see that once the minister's staff have finished trawling through race videos, desperately hoping to find carnage, they can still spend so much time on my Facebook page.

After leaving this chamber, and in discussions with the media, the minister also asserted that the Canberra Liberals have somehow dropped the claim that the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club has an unblemished animal welfare record, which is quite simply not the case. In this chamber I have specifically asked the minister to detail every single animal welfare breach recorded by the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club or at the club in their nearly four decades of operation, and the minister has confirmed that there have been no animal welfare breaches.

The minister made mention of a number of incidents involving the death of dogs at the Canberra track since the announcement of the ban. If the minister believes that there have been animal welfare breaches involved in these incidents, surely as minister he can refer them to Access Canberra. He has not done that. Those incidents are not being investigated and the 100 per cent animal welfare record of the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club remains intact.

The great Community Values is going around again on Sunday night. Again the offer is open to all those in the chamber. He has drawn awkwardly in box 8. He is in the 10th race. We would love to see you there.

ACT Beekeepers Field Day

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (4.33): Would you bee-lieve it, another year has gone by and I have attended my second ACT Beekeepers Field Day. I can confirm that the event was buzzing, and I was on my best bee-hive-iour. But let me not sting you with any more bad jokes. This is quickly turning into a bee-grade speech. I am aware that Mrs Dunne has said in this place, "Mr Steel does not know how to joke," so I will stop these bad jokes and get onto the bees-ness of this adjournment speech because bees are vitally important to the ACT. They are the bee's knees.

Bees are crucial to the natural environment. They pollinate crops and wild flowers as well as support wider biodiversity. Two-thirds of Australian agricultural output is dependent on honey bees, and it has been discovered that bees have a positive impact on yield and quality of our crops. Without pollination by bees, food security is at risk, which means less food and less variety for everyone. There is a critical role played by bees and other pollinators and without a healthy pollinator population the ecological balance of the world is in danger.

In November last year Bunnings announced their plans to remove a pesticide known as neonicotinoids from their stores. There has been some concern about the pesticide, and some research has indicated that neonics may have a negative impact on bee reproduction as well as affecting bees' navigation and immunity and bees not finding

food, resulting in colony death syndrome. This research prompted Bunnings to remove the pesticide from their shelves as a precautionary measure and they received great public support. Nearly 30,000 people signed a petition urging Bunnings to stop selling neonicotinoids, or neonics, with 25,000 signatures being collected in just three days alone.

A spokesperson for Bunnings stated that they came to the decision independent of the petition but decided to remove the pesticide from their Australian and UK stores to err on the side of caution and to ensure the wellbeing of bees. Bunnings is swapping the pesticide for organic and natural pesticides, and it has been positive to see such a large retailer in our community make this proactive decision to protect bees which are so important to our natural environment.

Australian bees are relatively healthy compared to their counterparts overseas. However our bees are increasingly under threat by a range of diseases, pollution and pesticides. Bees also play a vital role in biosecurity for our country.

Going back to the ACT Beekeepers Field Day, I was shown one of the pink hives responsible for capturing bees that may be carrying diseases. These are known as sentinel hives and are placed around Canberra airport and are able to capture and contain any sick bees before the broader population is infected, and that is an initiative supported by the ACT government.

Honey biosecurity is important because, according to the aptly named bee-aware website on biosecurity, if a pest establishes itself in a particular hive or a region of our country the health of our bee population will be put under severe strain. The early detection increases the chance of eradicating potential pests and diseases.

I would particularly like to thank Cormac Farrel, the Vice-President of the ACT Beekeepers Association, for showing me around and also giving me the opportunity to have a hands-on demonstration while inspecting several beehives. I was able to see a natural hive as well as a flow hive extraction demonstration and some of our native bees which act quite differently to the European bees. It was excellent to see many Canberrans attending and I look forward to making a beeline to the next field day next year.

Drugs—pill testing

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Mental Health) (4.37): I am not sure I can quite match Mr Steel's effort but it was a tremendous speech that he just gave. I rise today to reiterate the need for a pill testing trial in Canberra, as we approach one of our major music festivals, Groovin the Moo.

We know that young people across Australia are tragically being hospitalised and some are even dying from adulterated party drugs. The reality is that most drug takers are unaware of the origin and chemical make-up of what they put into their body, and

we must help young people be more informed about these decisions in order to improve health outcomes.

Often it is at music festivals that young people will try these so-called party drugs, drugs such as ecstasy and MDMA, which we know have high contamination and toxicity rates. In 2015 alone, party drugs claimed six lives at Australian music festivals and there were countless overdoses. At Sydney's Stereosonic Festival a young woman died, 120 people were treated for drug-related issues and nine others were taken to hospital.

The last thing we want to see is this kind of thing happening to young Canberrans at this year's Groovin the Moo festival. Pill testing has the potential to save lives, and there is still time to prepare these services for Groovin the Moo this year.

As I have explained before in this place, pill testing involves a simple on-site test by medical experts. The technology that the Greens have advocated for uses portable laboratory-grade equipment, which can provide information about the composition of the pill. The test results take around 15 to 20 minutes to be processed and in this time there is an opportunity for qualified health experts to engage with users to talk about their drug use. This is one of the most important aspects of pill testing—the opportunity to have a conversation with a young person who often would not otherwise engage with health services.

We have to accept that despite all the efforts on enforcement and education some young people do still take illicit drugs. In this situation the right thing to do is to try to minimise the tragic harm and deaths that can result, by treating this as a health issue and putting it in the hands of drug treatment experts.

Pill testing as a harm reduction measure can work hand in hand with other initiatives. Police can still operate at festivals where pill testing occurs, targeting drug suppliers rather than individual users who are accessing the testing service.

An additional benefit is that pill testing services collect extensive data on the types and composition of drugs that are in circulation, which is invaluable to health professionals and police in their broader drug prevention efforts. Pill testing could not only reduce major harm at Groovin the Moo and other festivals but could also reduce overall illicit drug use, and the evidence backs this up.

The case for pill testing is well established. It has been happening in several European countries for years and is proven to lower the level of drug use and keep people alive. In Austria two-thirds of drug users who were informed by a government-funded pill testing service of potential toxic harm—this is Austria—decided not to consume their drugs and told their friends not to either. In Australia—and the two do get confused, Australia and Austria—76 per cent of participants in a hypothetical study reported they would not take a pill with an unknown substance in it.

Just this week we saw the release of another review from Deakin University showing that onsite testing of party drugs could reduce harm and potentially save lives. The authors found that the evidence has clearly identified the inadequacy of existing

punitive, zero-tolerance strategies across several countries. They also noted that there is widespread support for pill testing from the community and practitioners. I reaffirm what the review's author said early this week: the debate must be about reducing harm rather than criminality.

I am calling on the organisers of Groovin the Moo to allow pill testing services at their festival this year. There is still time to put these services in place. With support from ACT Health, ACT Policing, the University of Canberra and the ACT government already in place, we have the potential to prevent harm amongst young Canberrans. I hope that the organisers of Groovin the Moo will grasp the opportunity before then and help to keep Canberra safe.

Anzac Day

MISS C BURCH (Kurrajong) (4.41): On 28 March I was pleased and honoured to represent the Leader of the Opposition at the 15th annual Anzac aged care wreath laying ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. Residents from aged care facilities in the ACT and surrounds—from Cooma to Yass—attended along with students from Jerrabomberra Public School. This ceremony gives aged veterans, war widows and widowers who otherwise may not be able to attend Anzac Day services an opportunity to commemorate their own and others' service and sacrifice.

A hundred and three years ago the legend of Anzac was born, a legend of courage, determination and mateship, values that have transcended time and are now in the very fabric of Australian society. Anzac Day has become a day on which we remember the sacrifice of not only those 8,709 Australians who were killed on that day on the shores of Gallipoli but also the 101,000 men and women from Gallipoli to Afghanistan who have given their lives for our freedom. Their sacrifice has shaped the way we as Australians understand our past and our future.

On Anzac Day we salute the spirit of the Anzacs now carried on by the men and women of the Australian Defence Force. In the face of every adversity, that spirit has triumphed, and every time Australians have been called upon to protect freedom and peace they have done so with tenacity, bravery and generosity.

We must remember today's veterans who are returning from duty in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. We must recognise all those who have served, irrespective of when. Every year thousands participate in the Anzac Day service at the Australian War Memorial and march with veterans to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is a custom that is synonymous with Anzac Day in Australia and the world, but especially in Canberra. Canberra is home to approximately 1,000 army and air force cadets and navy midshipmen currently training at ADFA and another 500 training at Duntroon. It is also home to nearly 8,000 veterans.

While the men who made that fateful landing on 25 April 1915 are all gone we continue to remember and express our gratitude for those who are ready to give their lives for our freedom. I hope I can speak for everyone here in saying that we are especially proud and grateful to all those returned servicemen and women who have

chosen the ACT and surrounds as their home. There is a strong Anzac spirit in the electorate of Kurrajong and throughout Canberra.

Anzac Day has been commemorated at the Australian War Memorial every year since 1942. The importance of the Australian War Memorial is not, however, confined to commemorations for Anzac Day; it acts as an historical touchstone linking our past to our present. It enables us to reflect on the many different meanings of war. The exhibitions and collections that the memorial houses are an important source of inspiration for Australian youth in comprehending and continuing to remember the lives given in order to preserve the gift of peace.

I would like to acknowledge the residents of Bupa, Stirling; Goodwin House at Ainslie, Farrer and Monash; Horton House and Warmington Lodge in Yass; Queanbeyan Legacy Village; Sir Leslie Morshead Manor, Lyneham; Sir William Hudson Memorial Centre, Cooma; and Uniting Mirinjani, Weston. I thank all the staff at these 11 aged care facilities for the wonderful work that they do. I also acknowledge and thank the organisers of the morning who were on hand to assist during the ceremony and for the lovely morning tea that followed.

I was moved by the pride and grief I witnessed on the faces of the frail and elderly as they gathered to remember the fallen. These men and women were born in the aftermath of one terrible world war, and a million of them went on to serve in another. We are indebted to the most extraordinary generation who served their country with courage, selflessness and unwavering loyalty in times of war and peace. It was truly a humbling experience to share with you in a service commemorating our fallen. I thank all those who have fought and continue to fight to protect the freedom that we enjoy.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 4.46 pm until Tuesday, 8 May 2018, at 10 am.

Answers to questions

ACT Health—invoices (Question No 878)

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 778, dated 14 November 2017, about the reasons for late payments of ACT Health supplier invoices, what was the “change in staffing arrangements” that caused “invoices not being tracked and payment delayed”.
- (2) Why were there no backup processes available as an interim measure.
- (3) Why did it take nine working days to process and forward the invoice from Everlight Radiology Limited.
- (4) What processing of supplier invoices is undertaken by ACT Health.
- (5) What is the average time taken to process supplier invoices and send them to Shared Services for further processing.

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

1. The change in staffing arrangements refers to a circumstance where the team had a number of administrative vacancies.
2. As there were a number of administrative vacancies, there were limited resources available to provide additional support. ACT Health can confirm that back up processes are now in place within the business unit to which this issue relates.
3. It took nine business days to process and forward this invoice in part because the invoice was overlooked for a short period of time by the service area. Once the oversight was found, the invoice was checked and cleared at appropriate levels before being forwarded to Shared Services for payment.
4. Since September 2017, invoices are processed through the Accounts Payable Invoice Automation Solution using its embedded electronic workflows and approvals.
5. The total average time taken to process and send supplier invoices to Shared Services for final processing is 21 days. The implementation of the APIAS system will assist in improving processing timeframes.

ACT Health—conferences and seminars (Question No 881)

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

- (1) In relation to the Notifiable Invoices Register for October 2017, why was the invoice for \$108 794.40 from Belconnen Community Services Inc not paid within 30 days of its receipt.
- (2) What services are provided by Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association.
- (3) What services are provided by Assisting Drug Dependents Inc.
- (4) What services are provided by the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League.
- (5) What were the work-related conferences and seminars for which the payments of \$190 348.63 and \$236 887.00 were made to American Express Australia Limited.
- (6) For each conference or seminar, (a) when was it held, (b) where was it held, (c) how many people from the Health Directorate attended, (d) what were the conference or seminar registration fees, (e) what was the cost of travel, (f) what was the cost of accommodation, (g) what were the costs of out-of-pocket and other expenses and (h) what practical and direct outcomes benefitted the directorate.

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

- (1) ACT Health has a Service Funding Agreement with Belconnen Community Services Inc under which a progress payment was due on 13 October 2017. A Recipient Created Invoice was created and approved for payment by ACT Health on the morning of 9 October 2017. As Recipient Created Invoices are not yet able to be processed through the Accounts Payable Invoice Automation Solution (APIAS), they are still required to be entered manually. In order to avoid any delays in processing, therefore, this Invoice, along with others, was hand-delivered to Shared Services on the afternoon of 9 October 2017 for payment.
- (2) ACT Health funds ATODA for the provision of the following services:
 - a. Develops information packages for Alcohol and Drug workers regarding industry delivered assessment and training opportunities every six months;
 - b. Manages production of the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Workforce and Remuneration profile every three years;
 - c. Manages production of the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Training and Professional Development Calendar;
 - d. Develops and implements the ACT Service User Satisfaction Survey every three years;
 - e. Manages the six monthly updates to the ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Services Directory;
 - f. Produces a regular sector e-bulletin;
 - g. Manages a program providing free Nicotine Replacement Therapy for consumers of drug services;
 - h. Convenes and provides support for the relevant groups such as the Alcohol and Other Drug Sector's Workers Group and Drug Services Forum; and
 - i. Participates in relevant committees such as the Evaluation Group - ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy and the ACT Health Tobacco Working Group.
- (3) ACT Health funds Assisting Drug Dependents Inc. for the provision of the following services:
 - a. Withdrawal beds for adults;
 - b. Rehabilitation beds for adults;
 - c. Day rehabilitation places for adults;

- d. Support and case management for young people and adults;
 - e. Alcohol and other drug counselling for young people and adults;
 - f. Information and education for young people and adults; and
 - g. Management of the ACT Needle and Syringe Program, including:
 - i. Two primary service outlets where the services are dedicated to dispensing an extended range of injecting equipment, collecting used equipment and providing education, information and referral;
 - ii. Training for workers supplying equipment from eight outlets; and
 - iii. Supply of equipment to six service outlets, 25 pharmacies, six syringe vending machines and collection of waste.
- (4) Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League auspices the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA). CAHMA provides the following peer based services for people who inject drugs and / or have a history of drug use:
- a. Information and education;
 - b. Training - preventing opioid overdose and take-home naloxone management;
 - c. Oversight of and assistance with the roll-out of programs in the ACT to prevent opioid overdose and facilitate access to take-home naloxone;
 - d. Delivery of training in partnership with Directions to people supplying sterile injecting equipment;
 - e. Input to ACT Health plans and actions to increase the capacity of drug rehabilitation services to effectively engage peer treatment support for those people considering, participating in and leaving drug treatment;
 - f. Facilitates consumer input into local policy and service development; and
 - g. Participation and representation on ACT Government committees.
- (5) The payments relate to two invoices to AMEX for travel expenses (domestic and international flights and accommodation expenses) for specialist medical staff associated with approved Training Education and Study Leave within the Private Practice Fund. The Private Practice fund represents third party money, as it is based on the Private Practice earnings of the staff specialists and the Medical Education Expenses contribution from ACT Health, under Section 105 of the Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement.

AMEX is the centralised invoicing section for the Whole of Government contract and as such all costs are aggregated and paid monthly.

- (6) There were a total of 132 staff specialists and 12 nursing or allied health staff who booked flights and accommodation for approved travel within the two payments of \$190,348.63 and \$236,887.00. Of the two payments, \$383,715.13 relates to flights and \$43,520.50 to accommodation costs.

The expenditure relates to specialist staff attending specialty medical conferences, annual medical congress and seminars, advanced medical specialty courses and to gain insight and knowledge into current research activities on health topics.

Attendance was undertaken between the periods July 2017 to October 2017, with conferences/ events at both national and international locations.

Further analysis of the conferences and seminars would require extensive effort which would have a significant cost and minimal benefit given that appropriate governance processes have already been followed.

**Health—methadone overdose statistics
(Question No 885)**

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

- (1) How many people in the ACT died as a result of a methadone overdose, whether on the ACT methadone program or not for each year from 2010 to 2017.
- (2) For each year from 2010 to 2017, (a) how many deaths due to methadone overdose were the subject of coronial inquests, (b) what coronial recommendations were made, (c) which recommendations did the Government implement, (d) when were they implemented and (e) for any recommendations the Government did not implement, why not.
- (3) For each year from 2010 to 2017, (a) how many people died from methadone overdose who were on the ACT methadone program, (b) how many clinical reviews did ACT Health undertake of deaths of people in the ACT methadone program, (c) what general policy recommendations were made in those clinical reviews, (d) which recommendations did the Government implement, (e) when were the recommendations implemented and (f) for any recommendations the Government did not implement, why not.

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

1. As far as ACT Health is aware, there has been one person who has died as a result of a methadone overdose between 2010 and 2017. This person was on the ACT methadone program.

In the ACT, in accordance with the *Coroners Act 1997*, it is the Coroner who determines if the death is a result of methadone overdose. ACT Health does not collect this data.

The National Coronial Information System is a national database and is the primary data source for all deaths, including causes, in the ACT. It contains data regarding deaths reported to an Australian coroner from July 2000, and from a New Zealand coroner from July 2007. The database is an initiative of the Australian Coroners Society.

The database includes deaths of people both receiving care from ACT Government health services and those not receiving care from ACT Government health services at the time of their death.

2. To the best of ACT Health's knowledge:
 - a. One death due to methadone overdose has been subject to a Coronial Inquest;
 - b. The Coronial Inquest is still ongoing and has not yet been finalised;
 - c. To date, the Coroner has not made any recommendations;
 - d. To date, the Coroner has not made any recommendations; and
 - e. To date, the Coroner has not made any recommendations.
3. As far as ACT Health has been advised by the ACT Coroner.
 - a. One person who died from methadone overdose was on the ACT methadone program administered by ACT Health.

- b. One internal clinical review undertaken for the one person who has died from a methadone overdose.
 - c. Two recommendations were made, one related to a process regarding medical assessments and documentation of follow up appointments.
 - d. ACT Health implemented both recommendations made from the internal review.
 - e. The recommendations were implemented in July 2017.
 - f. ACT Health implemented both recommendations.
-

**Canberra Hospital—bed occupancy rates
(Question No 886)**

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

- (1) How often was The Canberra Hospital (TCH) over 100 percent occupancy during the months of July, August and September 2017 and on how many days in each month was TCH over 100 percent.
- (2) How often were there more than 11 bed booked patients in the Emergency Department of TCH during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (3) How often were all surge beds open in the Emergency Department of TCH during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (4) How often was TCH unable to decant the resuscitation room during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (5) How often was TCH unable to admit patients from other hospitals during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (6) How often were isolation beds unavailable at TCH during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (7) How often was cohorting unable to be implemented at TCH during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (8) How often was TCH Intensive Care Unit over capacity during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (9) How many surgeries were cancelled at TCH during the months of July, August and September 2017 and how many surgeries were cancelled in each month.

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

- (1) Occupancy of Canberra Hospital fluctuates throughout the course of the day due to patient movement. Between July and September 2017 Australia experienced the busiest influenza season since the 2009 pandemic year. Canberra Hospital commenced most days operating near, at, or over 100 per cent occupancy during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (2) There were more than 11 bed booked patients in the Emergency Department of Canberra Hospital for 771 hours in this period who had their care transferred to the accepting physician.

- (3) There are no 'surge beds' in the Emergency Department at Canberra Hospital.
- (4) At no time was the Emergency Department at Canberra Hospital unable to decant the resuscitation room during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (5) Canberra Hospital admitted patients from other hospitals during the months of July, August and September 2017. In conjunction with the requesting hospital, staff at Canberra Hospital clinically triage these patients to determine an appropriate timeframe for the patient's transfer. If the transfer is not required immediately, discussions about the patient's clinical condition occur daily to ensure the patient remains appropriately triaged whilst awaiting transfer. It is important to note that these patients are clinically stable and receiving appropriate care in the requesting hospital until their transfer occurs. If a patient's condition deteriorates and they require urgent transfer, the requesting hospital can notify the Admitting Officer at Canberra Hospital's Emergency Department, or the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and arrange appropriate transfer and admission.
- (6) At no time were isolation beds unavailable at Canberra Hospital during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (7) At no time was cohorting unable to be implemented at Canberra Hospital during the months of July, August and September 2017.
- (8) During July 2017, there were four days during which the ICU at Canberra Hospital operated at over 100 per cent capacity. During August 2017, there were 13 days during which the ICU operated at over 100 per cent capacity. During September 2017, there were nine days during which the ICU operated at over 100 per cent capacity. The ICU employed additional staff to meet this demand.

It is important to note that ICU capacity can change within hours depending on the changing acuity of patients and incoming/outgoing demand, so the ICU may be at capacity in the morning and below capacity by early afternoon. Managing this is routine business for any ICU and the Canberra Hospital ICU has routine practices for managing demand and patient flow through the Unit.

- (9) Over the period July to September 2017, surgery was postponed 44 times due to non-availability of an ICU or ward bed. In July, 23 surgeries were postponed. In August, 13 surgeries were postponed, and in September, eight surgeries were postponed for this reason.

Canberra Hospital—bed occupancy rates (Question No 896)

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

In relation to the answer, dated 20 October 2017, responding to the question without notice, taken on notice on 20 September 2017, about bed occupancy rates, (a) to what does "[t]he occupancy rate ... directly correlate", (b) what are the "overflow arrangements", (c) at what point are "overflow arrangements" activated, (d) what strategies are employed to minimise or mitigate activation of "overflow arrangements",

(e) what was the average occupancy rate for the Emergency Department for each month during 2017 and (f) on what dates in each month during 2017 did the peak occupancy rate for the emergency department exceed 90 percent and what was the actual occupancy rate in each case.

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

- a) Bed occupancy is calculated on funded beds at the Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce that are available to receive admissions from the Emergency Departments.
- b) The hospital's response to capacity requirements at times of high demand is managed under the *Capacity Escalation Procedure*. This states that the Chief of Clinical Operations or the Executive On Call can authorise the opening of additional hospital beds and rostering of additional staff at times of high demand.
- c) The *Capacity Escalation Procedure* outlines three alert levels. If two or more criteria for each level are met, the Chief of Clinical Operations can activate that alert level. The alert levels are:

Alert Level 1 - beds available for new admissions and patient flow being achieved.

- i. Hospital 90-94 per cent occupancy across all Divisions
- ii. Five or below bed booked patients in the Emergency Department (ED)
- iii. Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at capacity (funded beds)

Alert Level 2 - limited availability of beds, patient flow is compromised.

- i. Hospital 95-99 per cent occupancy across all Divisions
- ii. Between six or 10 bed booked patients in the ED
- iii. ED resuscitation room full
- iv. ICU over capacity (funded beds)
- v. Isolation beds unavailable
- vi. Ambulance off loads in ED corridor

Alert Level 3 - bed availability critical services disrupted.

- i. Hospital ≥ 100 per cent occupancy
- ii. More than 11 bed booked patients in ED
- iii. All surge beds open
- iv. Unable to decant resuscitation room
- v. Unable to admit patients from other hospitals
- vi. Isolation beds unavailable and cohorting unable to be implemented
- vii. ICU over capacity (funded beds)
- viii. Considering cancellation of surgery.

- d) Canberra Hospital employs a number of strategies to ensure bed availability each day including focusing on discharging patients who are safe to go home earlier in the day; ensuring continued safe discharges across the weekend; and reducing length of stay. The hospital discharges between 600 and 650 patients each week.

In the winter season of 2017, additional strategies were employed such as:

- 34 additional inpatient beds provided under the winter bed management plan;
- Additional nurses were recruited in paediatrics, as well as permanent and casual positions in the nurse/midwifery relief pool;

- To assist in bed turnover and efficiency of discharge, more Hospital Assistants were added to clean beds and maintain medical stock levels, and the afternoon and evening availability of the central equipment courier was increased, for transporting items medication to and from pharmacy and pathology.
- The Discharge Lounge was opened from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday commencing 19 August 2017, to assist with the weekend patient flow;
- Pathology activated winter testing regime, increasing instrument capacity and staff availability over the weekend, and prioritising ED and inpatient samples; and
- Communications strategies throughout the Canberra Hospital ensured all staff were cognisant of the pressures on ED and CHHS more broadly, and reminded all staff of the daily shared responsibility to ensure safe operating capacity.

e) Bed Occupancy is based on beds able to receive admissions from ED.

f) Bed Occupancy is based on beds able to receive admissions from ED.

Government—commercial lessees (Question No 939)

Ms Lawder asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many government facilities are rented out by the Government on a peppercorn arrangement.
- (2) Can the Treasurer provide a list outlining all of the facilities, including land, that is currently leased out on a peppercorn arrangement including reasons as to why each property has received a peppercorn lease.
- (3) How many properties have had their peppercorn lease not renewed or removed in the last five years including a list outlining why each facility had their peppercorn lease removed.
- (4) Does the Government have any policy direction around the future use of peppercorn leases.
- (5) Does the Government expect that peppercorn leases will continue to be used in the years ahead for community facilities.

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

- (1) and (2) There are 95 government facilities leased on a peppercorn rent:
 - ACTPG – 70
 - CIT – 6
 - SLA – 6
 - Education - 2
 - Health - 11

Refer to attached list of ACTPG 'peppercorn' tenants detailing the name of the building and location (suburb).

Government subsidies are an important contribution to community services across all sectors.

(3) Nil.

(4) 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.

The Joint Community Government Reference Group is looking into the issue related to community facilities. They have established in 2017 a Community Facilities Working Group to examine the issues in more detail working with ACTCOSS, YWCA Canberra, Belconnen Community Services and COTA, with the ACT Government represented by the Community Services Directorate, Environmental Planning and Sustainability Development Directorate and Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

(5) Yes.

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

Municipal services—playgrounds (Question No 944)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

In relation to playgrounds in the ACT, what is the breakdown of funds by suburb or district, if any, of funding allocated to (a) new playgrounds, (b) playground upgrades and (c) playground repairs.

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

2016-17

- a) \$900,000 was allocated in the 2016-17 Budget to upgrade five existing playgrounds in four locations. These included local neighbourhood playgrounds in Gowrie (\$160,000), Florey (\$170,000) and Evatt (\$160,000) and two play areas at Yerrabi Pond District Park in Gungahlin (\$410,000). \$360,000 was allocated in the 2016-17 Budget to design and construct three new natural playspaces. The locations were at Tuggeranong Town Park, Greenway (\$120,000), Barton (\$120,000) and O'Connor (\$120,000).
- b) \$200,500 was allocated in the 2016-17 Budget to undertake minor upgrades on existing playgrounds. The upgrades included bark top ups and minor amendments to existing items of play equipment. The locations included:

Suburb	Amount
Chisholm	\$2,700
Conder	\$2,200
Fadden	\$3,600
Gordon	\$3,000

Suburb	Amount
Kambah	\$25,000
Lyons	\$3,500
Weston	\$32,000
Hackett	\$3,000
Crace	\$4,800
Gungahlin	\$3,500
Page	\$5,000
Evatt	\$5,800
Kaleen	\$4,000
Giralang	\$2,500
Forde	\$6,000
Nicholls	\$3,400
Watson	\$5,500
Dickson	\$5,800
Downer	\$12,000
Griffith	\$5,400
Yarralumla	\$8,600
Greenway	\$4,500
Faddon	\$6,600
Isabella Plains	\$2,600
Monash	\$7,000
Hughes	\$11,500
Rivett	\$8,500
Waramanga	\$5,800
Gordon	\$6,700

- c) \$1.204 million was allocated in 2016-17 Budget on repairs and maintenance. A breakdown of playground repairs by suburb or district is not available.

2017-18

- a) \$100,000 was allocated in the 2017-18 Budget to design and construct a new park in Giralang. The park will include natural play elements and a small bike track. The work has not yet commenced.
- b) \$477,000 was allocated in the 2017-18 Budget to undertake minor upgrades on existing playgrounds. The upgrades will include rubber softfall replacements, bark top ups and additions/modifications to existing play equipment. The locations include:

Suburb	Amount
Gungahlin	\$38,000
Franklin	\$24,000
Lyneham	\$37,000
City	\$66,000
Acton	\$70,000
Belconnen	\$11,900
Macquarie	\$9,925
Melba	\$10,247

Suburb	Amount
Dunlop	\$7,774
Latham	\$7,770
Cook	\$11,600
Fraser	\$8,300
McKellar	\$9,000
Kaleen	\$11,893
Hall	\$6,650
Greenway	\$16,846
Kambah	\$8,896
Gordon	\$31,000
Mawson	\$9,000
Bruce	\$7,096
Page	\$5,696
Giralang	\$5,746
Amaroo	\$5,696
Ngunnawal	\$5,650
O'Malley	\$5,850
Macarthur	\$5,697
Bonython	\$5,696
Isabella Plains	\$5,640
Banks	\$5,696
Narrabundah	\$5,796
Griffith	\$5,596
Hughes	\$5,647
Weston	\$5,697

- c) \$1.235 million from the City Services recurrent budget has been allocated in the 2017-18 Budget for repairs and maintenance. A breakdown of playground repairs by suburb or district is not available.

Municipal services—playgrounds (Question No 946)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

How many playgrounds in the ACT have been constructed since 1 July 2008 that were
(a) co-funded by the government and private sector, (b) wholly funded by government and
(c) wholly funded by the private sector.

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

Since 1 July 2008, 54 new playgrounds have been constructed in ACT as follows:

- a) 11 new playgrounds were co-funded between the government and the private sector. These were constructed in the suburbs of Crace and Forde;
- b) 25 new playgrounds were wholly government funded. These were constructed in the new development areas of Gungahlin and Molonglo (e.g. Bonner, Wright); and

- c) 18 new playgrounds were wholly private funded then gifted to the government. These were primarily constructed in new estate developments (e.g. Casey, West Macgregor).

**Government—men's sheds
(Question No 951)**

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many men's sheds are there in the ACT.
- (2) How many men's sheds receive financial support from the ACT Government.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a list of the men's sheds and what support they receive from the Government.
- (4) What is the value of the support given to men's sheds.
- (5) What advice did Purdon Planning Pty Ltd provide in June 2014 in relation to men's sheds and can the Minister provide a copy of the advice.
- (6) What advice was the Government seeking from Purdon Planning Pty Ltd when they provided this advice.
- (7) What was the brief/scope provided to Purdon Planning Pty Ltd.
- (8) Are there any requirements that men's sheds are required to comply with within the ACT, for example, (a) building, (b) social inclusion and (c) other requirements.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

1. The term 'men's shed' is generally understood as those sheds who are members of the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA). The AMSA website (<https://mensshed.org/>) lists nine sheds located in the ACT, as well as the ACT Model Railway Society Inc. There are also a number of sheds in the surrounding region.
2. In recent years, the ACT Government has provided a number of one off grants to support Men's Shed in the ACT. For example, \$100,000 from the Community Support and Infrastructure Grants Program was provided to fund a one off ACT Men's Shed Support Grants Program. Under this Program, a total of \$90,557.20 was provided to nine successful men's sheds in the ACT.

Additionally in 2014-15, Belconnen Community Men's Shed received \$2,272.50 under a separate stream of the Community Support and Infrastructure Grants Program.

Under the 2016-17 Participation (Veterans and Senior's) Grants, South Canberra Veterans Men's Shed received \$9,330.36.

Under the 2017-18 Participation (Veterans and Senior's) Grants, Belconnen Community Men's Shed received \$1,500 in funding.

ACT Property Group (ACTPG) has allocated capital funding of \$64,000 in 2017-18 as part of its support for men's sheds. Other support has been provided by hosting the Majura Men's Shed in Dickson, managed through Northside Community Services. ACTPG has enabled the Shed to be set up on the site occupied by Northside Community Services, under Northside's existing licence agreement.

3. The Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) website lists the following men's sheds located in the ACT:

- Forrest Men's Shed
- Majura Men's Shed
- Giralang Kaleen Men's Shed
- Belconnen Community Men's Shed
- Melba Men's Shed
- Weston Creek Men's Shed
- Gungahlin Men's Shed
- South Canberra Veterans Men's Shed
- Tuggeranong Men's Shed Inc.

The AMSA website also lists the ACT Model Railway Inc, located in Evatt.

See response to Question 2 for details of financial support provided. ACTPG has also provided support in the form of rent-free accommodation, waiving of development application fees and hosting the Majura Men's Shed in Dickson, as noted above.

4. See response to Question 2.

5. As outlined in the Executive Summary, Purdon Planning provided advice on the men's shed movement in Canberra and potential benefit of government support, possibly in the form of a grants program.

The report also recommended that consideration be given to locating sheds in Woden, Weston Creek and/or Gungahlin, depending on levels of community interest and unmet demand. The report found that in the longer term, based on current levels of provision and demographic trends, additional sheds could be supported in most districts. However, the report stated that because the bottom-up approach to the development of men's sheds was one of their strengths, it was not appropriate for government to determine where they should be located. The number and distribution of future sheds would therefore depend on where individuals and community groups identified a need for a new shed.

A copy of the Executive Summary of the Purdon Planning Pty Ltd report is at [Attachment A](#).

6. Purdon Planning Pty Ltd was engaged to undertake a feasibility and design study to examine current and future demand for men's sheds, including providing advice on suitable locations, taking into account demographics and other community facilities, the size of the sheds and integrating men's sheds with existing community facilities.

7. Purdon Planning Pty Ltd was asked to examine the characteristics of existing men's sheds in the ACT, including the number and location of sheds, membership, the

activities undertaken, types of facilities and management arrangements. Purdon Planning was also asked to identify gaps in the current provision of sheds and to suggest ways the government could support the development of men's sheds.

8. There are no specific government requirements concerning men's sheds.

However, the AMSA have defined Men's Sheds for the purpose of deciding which organisations are eligible for membership. This definition is detailed in AMSA's Membership By-Laws.

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

Municipal services—public libraries (Question No 952)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Are there any plans for any new public libraries to be built in the ACT; if so, where.
- (2) Are there any plans for a public library to be built in the Weston Creek/Molonglo district.
- (3) How is it decided where new public libraries are built.
- (4) What would it cost for the Government to build a new public library in the Weston Creek/Molonglo area.

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

- (1) There are no current plans for any new public libraries in the ACT.
- (2) There are no current plans for a public library to be built in the Weston Creek/Molonglo district.
- (3) New libraries are generally built where a majority of people shop or use other community facilities such as town and group centres. The distance from other libraries is also considered. There are no formal standards relating to where a library is situated.
- (4) This is unknown.

Schools—CCTV trial (Question No 953)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Which ACT public schools have been determined for the closed circuit television (CCTV) camera trial.

- (2) How were these schools determined.
- (3) When will the trial be conducted.
- (4) For how long will the trial be conducted.
- (5) What criteria will be used to determine the success and efficacy of the trial.
- (6) Will these findings be made public.
- (7) What is the trial of CCTV cameras anticipated to cost.

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

- (1) The Education Directorate is in the early stages of scoping a CCTV trial. The government has not yet decided to proceed with it.
- (2) The Directorate will determine which schools will form part of the trial in conjunction with participating school communities. Generally schools with high or recurrent vandalism costs will be considered for the trial.
- (3-6) The criteria for the trial is currently in development.
- (7) Costs of the trial are unknown at this stage. The Directorate will utilise the whole of government approach to procuring the CCTV hardware.

Legislative Assembly—travel by members (Question No 983)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Can the Chief Minister provide, for each occasion of ministerial overseas travel that occurred from October 2016 to date (a) the reason for travel, (b) the destination, (c) duration of the travel and (d) the total number of delegates broken down by (i) ACT Government and (ii) non-ACT Government representatives.
- (2) Can the Chief Minister provide the total expenditure incurred for each occasion of ministerial overseas travel that occurred from October 2016 to date.
- (3) Can the Chief Minister provide, for each occasion of ministerial overseas travel that occurred from October 2016 to date, a breakdown of expenses for each trip by (a) accommodation, (b) travel, (c) hospitality, (d) entertaining, (e) meeting or conference fees, (f) incidentals and (g) any other relevant category of costs.
- (4) Can the Chief Minister provide, for each occasion of ministerial overseas travel that occurred from October 2016 to date, a breakdown of the ministerial and directorate staff present on each trip, including the class of travel for each accompanying staff member.
- (5) Can the Chief Minister provide, for each occasion of ministerial overseas travel that occurred from October 2016 to date, the average accommodation room rate paid for ministerial and directorate staff present on each trip.

- (6) Can the Chief Minister provide a copy of any policy documents or guidelines, including any supplementary internal documents, which govern any (a) requirements, (b) conditions or (c) other relevant considerations regarding ministerial overseas travel, including ministers and ministerial staff and directorate representatives.
- (7) Can the Chief Minister provide a copy of any policy documents or guidelines, including any supplementary internal documents, which govern any (a) requirements, (b) conditions or (c) other relevant considerations regarding the use of public funds on hospitality during ministerial overseas travel.
- (8) Can the Chief Minister provide the date that any policy documents or guidelines, including any supplementary internal documents, which govern ministerial overseas travel were (a) updated, (b) reviewed or (c) scheduled to be reviewed or updated.

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

(1)–(5) The answers to questions 1 – 5 are attached.

- (6) Ministerial travel conditions are set in annual ACT Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (Copy attached). Procedural instructions are contained in the ACT Executive Travel Procedures and Guidelines (Copy attached. Note – some contact/account details have been redacted).

Public service travel conditions are set in the Public Sector Management Standards (copy of relevant section attached). Procedural instructions are contained in directorate travel guidelines (Copy of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate Travel and Related Services Guidelines (Copy attached. Note some contact/account details have been redacted).

- (7) Ministers and ministerial staff are bound by their respective Codes of Conduct (Copies attached).

- (8) The ACT Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2 of 2017 *Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly* commenced on 1 July 2017. The Tribunal is undertaking its annual review of Members' salary, allowances and other entitlements.

The ACT Executive Travel Procedures and Guidelines were updated in September 2016 and will be updated in September 2018.

The Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate Travel and Related Services Guidelines were updated in October 2016. They are currently being reviewed.

(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).

Energy—renewable (Question No 984)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What was the actual percentage of the ACT's electricity usage which was renewable in 2017.

- (2) What is the estimated percentage of the ACT's electricity usage which is renewable in (a) 2018, (b) 2019, (c) 2020 and (d) 2021.
- (3) For each year referred to in parts (1) and (2), can the Minister provide a breakdown of the renewable energy generated and consumed by source, for example, large solar generation; wind generation; rooftop solar, hydro etc.
- (4) What is the total cost of the renewable energy (a) in total and (b) per household for each year referred to in parts (1) and (2).
- (5) Are the costs of the renewable energy solely recovered through electricity bills; if not, how are the costs recovered.
- (6) What was the actual total electricity consumption of the ACT in 2017.
- (7) What is the estimated total electricity consumption of the ACT in (a) 2018, (b) 2019, (c) 2020 and (d) 2021.
- (8) In calculating the estimates referred to in parts (6) and (7), has regard been given to the figures released by the ACT Treasury on the projected population growth in the ACT.
- (9) What electricity prices have been locked-in (or hedged) and for what amount of electricity and for what periods.
- (10) Does the ACT Government need to sign any new contracts in order to reach the 100 percent target.
- (11) As a result of the contracts signed to date, what was the actual percentage of the ACT's electricity usage which was renewable in 2017.
- (12) As a result of contracts signed to date, what is the estimated percentage of the ACT's electricity usage which is renewable in (a) 2018, (b) 2019, (c) 2020 and (d) 2021.

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

- (1, 2, 3 and 4) Refer to Table 1 below.

Table 1: ACT renewable electricity supply key metrics

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Large solar	57GWh	58GWh	75GWh	76GWh	75GWh
Wind	217GWh	826GWh	1,594GWh	2,136GWh	2,239GWh
Rooftop solar	64GWh	73GWh	76GWh	79GWh	83GWh
National renewable target	485GWh	534GWh	568GWh	607GWh	620GWh
Other renewable	44GWh	33GWh	22GWh	11GWh	0GWh
Total electricity supply	867GWh	1457 –1607 GWh*	2191 –2469 GWh*	2720 –3087 GWh*	2832 –3217 GWh*
Total large feed-in tariff cost	\$14,602,000	\$39,115,000	\$32,010,339	\$68,868,603	\$82,340,733
Household cost (per week)	\$0.68	\$1.83	\$1.50	\$3.23	\$3.86
Electricity consumption	3,000GWh	3,003GWh*	3,006GWh*	3,011GWh*	3,017GWh*
Renewables %	29%	51%	78%	97%	100%

* Total electricity supply figures are marked with an asterisk and a range figure is cited due to possible variability in output from renewable electricity sources. In Table 1, electricity supply figures for 2016-17 represent actual generation volumes while the following years are modelled electricity supply figures, hence the ranges cited. Despite the possible variation in renewable electricity supply, electricity consumption is also variable. The 100 per cent renewable electricity target has been flexibly designed to allow for the proportional shares that contribute the target to vary but still ensure the total target is delivered. Cited electricity supply from the component shares and cost figures are based on the medium case supply and consumption scenario.

- (5) The costs of renewable electricity are wholly recovered through electricity bills, Evoenergy pays the large-scale and the small/medium scale feed-in tariff support payments in the first instance, and then passes them on to ACT electricity consumers via the distribution charge that it levies electricity retailers for.
- (6) Refer to Table 1.
- (7) Refer to Table 1.
- (8) Yes
- (9) The large-scale feed-in tariff prices for each wind and solar farm supported by the ACT are listed in Table 2 below, each operates for 20 years from their feed-in tariff start date.

Table 2: ACT large-scale feed-in tariff prices

Generator	Feed-in tariff price: \$/MWh	Feed-in tariff start date
Royalla solar farm	\$186.00	31.03.14
Maoneng Solar Park	\$178.00	1.10.14
Williamsdale solar farm	\$186.00	28.04.15
Ararat wind farm	\$87.00	14.04.17
Coonooer Bridge wind farm	\$81.50	29.02.16
Hornsedale 1 wind farm	\$92.00	16.02.17
Hornsedale 2 wind farm	\$77.00	1.12.18
Sapphire 1 wind farm	\$89.10	1.05.18
Hornsedale 3 wind farm	\$78.00	1.10.19
Crookwell 2 wind farm	\$90.40	17.09.18

- (10) On current forecasts, no additional contracts for new renewable generation projects area needed to reach 100% supply in 2020-21 (target year).
- (11) Refer to Table 1.
- (12) Refer to Table 1.

Community services—mothers' groups (Question No 988)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, upon notice, on 23 February 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing*):

- (1) What is the (a) total number and (b) names of, mother's groups that are either (i) wholly funded or sponsored or run by the ACT Government, (ii) partly funded or sponsored or run by the ACT Government and (iii) receive official endorsements or referrals from ACT Government entities.
- (2) What restrictions or conditions are placed on ACT Government supported mother's groups, including any exclusions on participation.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a copy of any applicable policies or guidelines.
- (4) Do any Territory directorates or entities run internal mother's groups which are exclusive to ACT Government Public Servants; if so, can the Treasurer identify (a) the directorate or entity, (b) the number of groups and (c) any restrictions on who can participate.
- (5) Does the ACT Government provide referrals to mother's groups to women having their (a) first child, (b) second child, (c) third child and (d) fourth or any further children; if so, what groups are available for referral for (i) first child, (ii) second child, (iii) third child and (iv) fourth or any further children.
- (6) Can the Minister provide the total number of times the ACT Government referred mothers to mother's groups during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date in relation to their (i) first child, (ii) second child, (iii) third child and (iv) fourth or any further children.
- (7) Are ACT Government supported mother's groups available to women whose children were born interstate; if not, why not; if so, how many women with children born interstate were referred or utilised the mother's groups during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18.

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

- (1)(a) One parenting group (not limited to mothers) is facilitated by ACT Health. The group is run across 11 sites in Canberra and this year, 98 groups of four sessions will be facilitated. Community Services Directorate (CSD) offers 25 parenting programs, courses and groups.
- (b) Within ACT Health, the Maternal and Child Health (MACH) service facilitates the New Parent Group. This is wholly funded by ACT Health.

CSD run Parents as Teachers home visiting, case management for families with high and complex needs, a range of parenting courses (including Circle of Security which focuses on positive parent child relationships), supported playgroups, and referral to local playgroups auspiced under the ACT Playgroup Association. Poppy is a supported group for parents and carers with mental health issues where parents and carers can meet with other families and share experiences while having fun playing with their children. Poppy is facilitated by ACT Mental Health, the Richmond Fellowship and Child and Family Centres.

Under the Child, Youth and Family Services Program, CSD provides partial funding of \$4,937 (2017-2018, GST exclusive) to Majura Women's Group Inc. (MWG) to support the group to enable women in Canberra at home with young children to live more stimulating and creative lives through the facilitation of

opportunities to meet and participate in activities. The funding is provided via a grant. The funding is provided to assist MWG to undertake the work that they already do.

- (2) The eligibility criteria for MACH New Parent Groups:
 - First time parents (including adoptive parents), or if not the firstborn, the gap between children must be at least seven years, and the older children cannot be brought to the group; and
 - Baby must be four weeks to four months (under four months on date of first session). The Clinical Nurse Manager can be contacted for special circumstances if the baby is over four months of age – exceptions may be negotiated, eg premature baby.
- (3) The Maternal and Child Health Procedures Standard Operating Procedure is at Attachment A and the CSD's Breastfeeding Policy is at Attachment B.
- (4) MACH do not facilitate groups exclusive to ACT Government Public Servants.
- (5) The MACH New Parent Group is aimed primarily at first time mothers however the following exceptions are applied:
 - Fathers may be the primary carer and are encouraged to attend;
 - A mother may be referred if this infant is not firstborn but the gap since the last baby is over seven years;
 - A mother may be referred if new to Canberra, not first time parent and socially isolated. This would be in consultation with the Clinical Nurse Manager; and
 - If clients do not meet MACH eligibility criteria, they are referred to the Child and Family Centre or ACT Playgroups for community support.
- (6) The ACT Government does not refer mothers to mother's groups.
- (7) The MACH New Parent Group as an ACT Government supported mother's group is available to women whose children were born interstate, but priority is given to ACT residents.

(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).

Transport—light rail (Question No 989)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

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

- (5) How much has been budgeted for the recruitment of staff in (a) 2017-18 and (b) 2018-19.
- (6) Of the total number of staff expected to be appointed to the Light Rail Stage 1 project team in (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, and (c) 2019-20, how many will be responsible for communications, stakeholder and community engagement.

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

- (1) The average Full Time Equivalent staff appointed to the Light Rail Stage 1 project in 2017-18 year to date is 25.31.
- (2) I do not intend to speculate on future staffing numbers, other than to note staffing numbers will be appropriate for the project.
- (3) The nature of employment arrangements are made on a case by case basis with consideration to the needs to the project and the available market skill set at the time.
- (4) Through ordinary ACT Government recruitment and procurement mechanisms.
- (5) Costs of recruitment are not specifically identified in the Light Rail Stage 1 budget and are managed within a general overhead budget for administration expenses to recruit staff for vacant positions.
- (6) Please refer to the response provided to question two.

**Transport—light rail
(Question No 990)**

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many contracts have been entered into to date, relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project.
- (2) How many of the contracts in referred to in part (1) have been reviewed by UnionsACT as part of the Government's Memorandum of Understanding with UnionsACT.
- (3) What is the (a) title of the contract, (b) execution date, (c) expiry dates and (d) value for each contract that has been entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project.
- (4) In relation to each contract that has been entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project, was the contract the subject of an open tender, select tender, panel arrangement, multi-use list arrangement, scheme or any other type of arrangement.
- (5) How many other contracts may be entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project for the remainder of the financial year 2017-18.
- (6) How many other contracts may be entered into relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project for the financial year 2018-19.

- (7) In relation to contracts that may be entered into for the remainder of 2017-18 and 2018-19 relating to Stage 2 of the Light Rail project, what is the nature of those contracts and the expected value.

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

- (1) As at 1 March 2018, 17 Contracts have been entered into for services for Stage 2 of the Canberra Light Rail Project, as detailed at table 1 below:

Table 1.

Supplier	Contract Services	Execution Date	Expiry Date	Value	Procurement Method
Verge Advisory	Director, Technical Development	26/10/2017	30/03/2018	\$266,750.00	Panel
Geonosis	General Advisory Services	01/10/2017	01/10/2018	\$340,485.00	Panel
Pricewaterhousecoopers	Microsim. Calibration Study	09/02/2018	08/04/2018	\$16,500.00	Panel
Ernst & Young	Commercial Advisory Services	08/05/2017	07/05/2018	\$1,909,524.10	Public Tender
Turner & Townsend	Cost Estimation Advisory Services	08/06/2017	07/06/2018	\$334,857.36	Public Tender
Arup Pty Ltd	Technical Advisory Services	08/05/2017	07/05/2018	\$8,142,360.60	Public Tender
Veitch Lister Consulting	Strategic Traffic Modelling and Public Transport Integration Advisory Services	19/05/2017	18/05/2018	\$576,642.00	Public Tender
Elton Consulting	Communications and Community Engagement	06/06/2017	05/06/2018	\$53,823.00	Public Tender
Hudson Global Resources	HR Manager Recruitment assistance	31/03/2017	30/03/2018	\$205,250.00	Public Tender
SNC Lavalin	Light Rail Vehicles (Technical review)	28/07/2017	28/07/2018	\$723,702.00	Public Tender
Arup Pty Ltd	Microsimulation Modelling Services	20/07/2017	20/07/2018	\$239,182.35	Public Tender
Clayton Utz	Legal Services	28/03/2017	30/06/2019	\$ 1,650,000.00	Panel
Sparke Helmore Lawyers	Probity Advisor	28/04/2017	30/06/2019	\$44,000.00	Panel
Verge Advisory Pty Ltd	Technical Development Services	25/07/2017	25/10/2017	\$124,960.00	Select Process (3 quotes sought)
BD Infrastructure	EIS Brief Preparation (LRS2 and Parkes Way)	12/02/2018	31/03/2018	\$19,844.00	Single Select
JBS Consult	Project Director (LRS1 and LRS2)	03/01/2017	01/04/2018	\$739,950.00	Single Select Exemption
Struber Pty Ltd	Communications and Stakeholder engagement	13/11/2017	28/02/2018	\$207,856.00	Single Select Exemption

It should be noted that 39 organisations have been accepted to the Panel Deed for Light Rail Stage 2, but Work Orders have been raised for only 5 organisations to date, as described in the table above.

- (2) It is understood that the Tenders pertaining to those contracts listed above as being procured via public tender, were notified to UnionsACT in accordance with the MoU as managed through TendersACT at close of Tender.

- (3) Refer to Table 1 above.
 - (4) Refer to Table 1 above.
 - (5) Contracts may be entered into on an 'as-needs' basis for the project. I do not intend to speculate on the number of future contracts that may be needed.
 - (6) As per 5 above.
 - (7) As per 5 above.
-

**Transport—light rail
(Question No 991)**

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many staff have been appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project team to date.
- (2) How many staff may be appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project team in the (a) remainder of 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, and (c) 2019-20 financial years.
- (3) Will the staff appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project team be permanent ACT public servants or contractors.
- (4) How are the staff required for the Light Rail Stage 2 project team being recruited.
- (5) How much has been budgeted for the recruitment of staff in (a) 2017-18 and (b) 2018-19.
- (6) In relation to the total number of staff expected to be appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project team in (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, and (c) 2019-20, how many will be responsible for communications, stakeholder and community engagement.

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

- (1) The average Full Time Equivalent staff appointed to the Light Rail Stage 2 project in 2017-18 is 12.5, noting there are several staff that work across Light Rail Stage 1 and Stage 2.
 - (2) This is dependent upon how the project develops over time.
 - (3) The nature of employment arrangements are made on a case by case basis with consideration to the needs to the project and the market skill set available at the time.
 - (4) Through ordinary ACT Government recruitment and procurement processes.
 - (5) Costs of recruitment are not specifically identified in the Light Rail Stage 2 budget and are managed within a general overhead budget for administration expenses to recruit staff for vacant positions.
 - (6) Please refer to the response provided to question 2.
-

Transport Canberra and City Services—FOI requests (Question No 993)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many requests were received under the Freedom of Information Act 1989 (FOI Act) by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (formerly the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate) in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) How many of the total number of requests received in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date (i) were finalised within the timeframe as specified by the FOI Act and (ii) are yet to be finalised.

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

- (1)
 - (a) Please refer to the Justice and Community Safety's 2016-17 Annual Report
 - (b) A total of 68 FOI applications have been received by TCCS for 2017-18 (to date).
- (2)
 - i. Please refer to the Justice and Community Safety's 2016-17 Annual Report.
 - ii.

FOIs processed under the FOI Act 1989 (1 July -31 December 2017)	
Response Time	Number Completed
0-30 days	18
31-45 days	13
46-60 days	6
61-90 days	3
Withdrawn	4
Transferred	1
Pending	0
Total	45

FOIs processed under FOI Act 2016 (1 January 2018 – 16 March 2018)	
0-20 days	5
21-35 days	5
Withdrawn	1
Transferred	1
Pending	11
Total	23

Transport Canberra and City Services—employee assistance scheme (Question No 994)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide for each quarter of the financial years (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date, the (i) total headcount of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCSD) and (ii) number of staff who accessed the employee assistance scheme.
- (2) What was the total cost of the employee assistance scheme for each of the financial years listed in part (1).
- (3) What was the average number of (a) personal leave days taken (based on full-time equivalent work days) and (b) the personal leave absence percentage rate for staff of the TCCSD for the (i) 2016-17 and (ii) 2017-18 to date financial years

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

1. The total headcount for each quarter of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years is as follow

a) 2016-17 Financial Year

Quarterly Period	Headcount	Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Usage
July – September 2016	1,784	22
October – December 2016	1,811	17
January – March 2017	1,822	24
March – June 2017	1,882	24

b) 2017-18 Financial Year

Quarterly Period	Headcount	EAP Usage
July 2017 – September 2017	1,868	22
October 2017 – December 2017	1,911	10

2. Total cost of EAP services by quarter by financial year

Financial Year	Expenditure
July 2016 – June 2017	\$18,233.50
July 2017 to 28 February 2018	\$12,409.70

3. (a) The average number of personal leave days taken (based on full time equivalent work days) is;

Financial Year	Average days
2016 -17	14.2
2017 - 18	9.3*

*This figure is to date. Extrapolated to 30 June 2018 the figure is 14.0.

- (b) The personal leave absence percentage rate for TCCS staff is;

Financial Year	Percentage
2016-17	5.7%
2017-18	5.8%

ACTION bus service—staffing (Question No 996)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many new buses are due to be acquired and operational for each year over the next five years.
- (2) How many buses will be retired each year for the next five years.
- (3) How many (a) drivers, (b) bus maintenance staff and (c) other operational staff are currently available for work, broken down by (i) full-time, (ii) part-time and (iii) casually employed.
- (4) How many full-time equivalent (FTE) drivers were employed for each of the last five years.
- (5) How many FTE drivers are expected to be employed over the next five years.
- (6) What is the FTE to bus ratio for (a) drivers, (b) bus maintenance staff or mechanics and (c) other operational staff.

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

- (1) In 2017-18 it is estimated that 25 buses will be acquired and become operational comprising:
 - a. 8 buses from the Better Public Transport – Bus Fleet upgrades program funded in the 2016-17 Budget; and
 - b. An expected 17 buses from the Rapid Bus Network funding provided in the 2016 Pre-Election Budget Update.

In 2018-19:

- a. It is estimated that 23 buses will be acquired and become operational from the Rapid Bus Network funding provided in the 2016 Pre-Election Budget Update; and

The number and timing of additional bus acquisitions from 2018-19 to 2020-22 (inclusive) is yet to be determined.

- (2) Non-DDA compliant buses currently in service are due to be retired prior to December 2022 in order to meet the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. The exact timing and number of future bus retirements is subject to future decisions of Government.
- (3) The number of employees currently available for work as at the last pay period is:

	Driver	Maintenance Staff	Other Operational staff	TOTAL
Full time	462	110	63	635
Part time	262	14	30	306
Casual	61	5	10	76
TOTAL	785	129	103	1017

- (4) Full-time equivalent drivers employed as at 30 June 2017 in the last five years are as follows:

Year	FTE Drivers
2012-13	603
2013-14	598
2014-15	596
2015-16	605
2016-17	639

- (5) Future network design will determine the staffing requirements to which Transport Canberra will recruit.
- (6) The ratio of full-time equivalent employees currently available to work to buses is as follows:

	Ratio
Driver	1 FTE to 0.7 buses
Maintenance Staff	1 FTE to 3.6 buses
Other Operational Staff	1 FTE to 5.1 buses

ACTION bus service—performance (Question No 997)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many ACTION bus trips ran late per week from January 2017 to date, including (a) the average number of minutes the services was late and (b) any significant reason for the lateness if available.
- (2) Which 10 ACTION bus routes have most often run late from January 2017 to date, including the (a) number of trips that ran late for each of the routes from January 2017 to date, (b) average number of minutes each service was late and (c) significant reason for the lateness if available.
- (3) What are the top 10 roadwork sites that have disrupted ACTION bus services in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 to date, including (i) when the road works commenced and when they will be completed, (ii) the routes that have been impacted by the sites and (iii) the average number of minutes the service ran late during the duration of the roadworks.
- (4) How many complaints were received per month from January 2017 to date regarding services running (a) late and (b) early and what are the top 10 routes that have had the most complaints from January 2017 to date about running (i) late and (ii) early.
- (5) What actions have been undertaken since January 2017 to address network punctuality and what further initiatives will be implemented in the remainder of 2018 to improve network punctuality.

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

- (1) Transport Canberra service timeliness is recorded at the trip timing point level. This means that a single trip can be on time, late and early throughout. This method is used

to provide the best outcome for performance management on the network. For the period January 2017 to date (as at 2 March 2018), the Transport Canberra bus network recorded 7,473,585 timing point records. Of the timing points recorded, 1,478,513 timings points were recorded to be later than 4 minutes after the scheduled departure time. A level of late running across the network is expected due to buses mostly being part of the mixed traffic environment.

- (2) The following 10 Transport Canberra bus routes recorded the highest number of late timing records between January 2017 to date (as at 2 March 2018) and the table below displays the periods of late running recorded as a variance from the scheduled timetable:

Route	Timing Record Variance from schedule					Total Late Records
	4:01-6:59 late	7-9:59 late	10-12:59 late	13-15:59 late	16+ late	
200	52,631	21,779	7,967	2,723	2,214	87,314
2	38,000	11,814	3,367	1,044	560	54,785
7	29,697	12,171	4,312	1,460	983	48,623
1	33,539	9,616	2,658	936	855	47,604
4	29,987	10,226	2,967	872	500	44,552
3	28,803	8,227	2,435	697	396	40,558
313	27,416	7,214	1,957	523	278	37,388
5	21,384	8,586	3,078	1,000	459	34,507
58	19,923	7,810	2,424	870	1,001	32,028
343	22,064	5,926	1,536	354	227	30,107
Total	303,444	103,369	32,701	10,479	7,473	457,466

- (3) The specific data requested is not readily available. Disruptions to the Transport Canberra network for 2017 and 2018 have occurred mainly due to the duplication of the Cotter Road and works throughout Gungahlin, including Horse Park Drive duplication, Gundaroo Drive duplication and the ongoing works for Light Rail stage 1. Delays in this area are being managed by Transport Canberra in coordination with stakeholders including Canberra Metro construction. The road network that Transport Canberra bus network operates on is a dynamic environment and service delivery staff work each day to ensure that the service offering can be delivered as close to schedule as possible in a changing environment.
- (4) The table below displays the number of complaints regarding services running (a) late and (b) early from January 2017 to date by month:

Transport Canberra Early and Late Running (1 Jan 2017 to 28 Feb 2018)
SD = Service Delivery.

Jan-17			
SD - Early Running	23	SD - Late Running	26
Feb-17			
SD - Early Running	19	SD - Late Running	53
Mar-17			
SD - Early Running	30	SD - Late Running	51
Apr-17			
SD - Early Running	24	SD - Late Running	35

May-17			
SD - Early Running	29	SD - Late Running	50
Jun-17			
SD - Early Running	26	SD - Late Running	22
Jul-17			
SD - Early Running	29	SD - Late Running	14
Aug-17			
SD - Early Running	32	SD - Late Running	43
Sep-17			
SD - Early Running	37	SD - Late Running	30
Oct-17			
SD - Early Running	28	SD - Late Running	33
Nov-17			
SD - Early Running	45	SD - Late Running	56
Dec-17			
SD - Early Running	31	SD - Late Running	30
Jan-18			
SD - Early Running	27	SD - Late Running	22
Feb-18			
SD - Early Running	45	SD - Late Running	45
TOTAL	425	TOTAL	510

For the same period, the tables below highlight the top ten routes that recorded complaints for (i) late and (ii) early running:

Route	(i) Late Running Complaints	Scheduled Services Over Period	Complaints per 1,000 services
1	42	17,780	2.4
200	34	40,917	0.8
7	26	19,127	1.4
39	18	13,489	1.3
2	16	19,326	0.8
3	14	19,401	0.7
80	14	12,033	1.2
4	12	19,414	0.6
40	12	21,708	0.6
18	11	12,193	0.9

Route	(ii) Early Running Complaints	Scheduled Services Over Period	Complaints per 1,000 services
3	21	19,401	1.1
200	18	40,917	0.4
313	16	20,318	0.8
182	14	16,738	0.8

Route	(ii) Early Running Complaints	Scheduled Services Over Period	Complaints per 1,000 services
4	11	19,414	0.6
1	10	17,780	0.6
2	10	19,326	0.5
40	10	21,708	0.5
343	10	20,228	0.5
27	8	15,593	0.5

- (5) Transport Canberra continually monitors the performance of the network to identify improvements to running times across the network. In October 2017 the timetable for the Red Rapids was revised after it was identified as having a high amount of late timing records.

The revised timetable resulted in an increase of on time performance on this route. Regarding further initiatives, Transport Canberra service planners continue to use performance data from the MyWay and NXTBUS systems to identify problematic running of services and publish revised timetables to deliver an improved service outcome as operational changes allow.

ACTION bus service—breakdowns (Question No 1001)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What is the total number of ACTION bus breakdowns by model of bus for the financial years (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) What is the most common cause of breakdown by model of bus in the ACTION fleet for the financial years (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) What is the average annual maintenance cost per bus for each model of bus in the ACTION fleet.
- (4) What is the total amount spent on bus maintenance during the financial years (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (5) What is the average number of bus breakdowns per model of bus by year for the financial years (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (6) What is the total number of services that were (a) not completed due to a breakdown and (b) completed their service more than four minutes after the scheduled time after a breakdown in (i) 2016-17 and (ii) 2017-18 to date.
- (7) What is the number of breakdowns that occurred during (a) peak and (b) off peak periods in (i) 2016-17 and (ii) 2017-18 to date.

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

- (1) Please see Attachment A.

- (2) The most common causes of in-service breakdowns in the 2016 – 2017 financial year for the entire fleet were electrical system faults (347 occurrences) followed by cooling system faults (243 occurrences) and engine related faults with (229 occurrences).

Year to date the most common cause of in-service breakdowns have been recorded as electrical system faults (208 occurrences) followed by engine related faults (163 occurrences) and cooling system faults (130 occurrences).

Currently in-service data is sorted into categories rather than specific fleet type for analysis, data collected is circulated and discussed during regular Fleet Services Managers Meetings where trends are examined and preventive action proposed.

In service failures due to vehicle faults is currently trending downwards with a significant decrease in failures due to cooling system faults being recorded to date during the 2017 – 2018 financial year.

- (3) Average Annual Maintenance Cost comprising parts and mechanics labour for each model of bus in the Transport Canberra Fleet are as Follows:

2016-2017 financial year parts and mechanics labour:

Renault PR100.2 - \$36 613 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 Renault PR 100.3 - \$44 432 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 Renault Agoriline - \$35 511 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 MAN Diesel – \$35 425 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 MAN CNG - \$67 952 – per In-Service Vehicle.
 Scania CNG - \$55 929 – per In-Service Vehicle.
 Scania Steer Tag Diesel - \$31 268 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 Scania Articulated Diesel - \$33 829 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 Scania EURO 6 Diesel - \$17 203 - per In-Service Vehicle.

2017-2018 financial year to date parts and mechanics labour:

Renault PR100.2 - \$22 205 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 Renault PR 100.3 - \$29 416 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 Renault Agoriline - \$24 252 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 MAN Diesel – \$24 427 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 MAN CNG - \$51 491 – per In-Service Vehicle.
 Scania CNG - \$33 623 – per In-Service Vehicle.
 Scania Steer Tag Diesel - \$24 744 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 Scania Articulated Diesel - \$24 831 - per In-Service Vehicle.
 Scania EURO 6 Diesel - \$16 494 - per In-Service Vehicle.

- (4) The total amount spent on bus maintenance including labour is as follows:

2016-17	\$22.260m
2017-18 YTD	\$14.737m.

- (5) Please see Attachment A.

- (6) The total number of services that were not completed due to a breakdown were (i) 1,820 in 2016-17 and (ii) 1,155 in 2017-18 (year to date as at 2 March 2017) representing 0.19% and 0.17% respectively of total scheduled services. Transport Canberra does not record the services that completed their service more than four minutes after the scheduled time after a breakdown.

- (7) The total number of breakdowns that occurred during (a) peak periods (i) was 909 in 2016-17 and (ii) 551 to date in 2017-18 (as at 2 March 2018) representing 0.26% and 0.24% respectively of total scheduled services (during peak periods). Peak periods are defined as before 9:00am and between 4:30pm-6:00pm weekdays.

The total number of breakdowns that occurred during (b) off peak periods (i) was 1,177 in 2016-17 and (ii) 786 to date in 2017-18 (as at 2 March 2018) representing 0.19% and 0.18% respectively of total scheduled services (during off peak periods). Off peak periods are defined as between 9:00am-4:30pm and after 6:00pm weekdays and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.

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

ACTION bus service—network (Question No 1002)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

Can the Minister outline any anticipated bus network updates between now and the first quarter of 2019 and (a) the expected date of delivery, (b) the nature of the update of the bus network, (c) the budgeted cost of implementing the update, (d) what community consultation has been planned or undertaken with regards to these updates, (e) the expected outcomes of the updates, including predicted patronage or revenue change and (f) how the update will interact with the light rail project during the construction phase and upon completion of light rail.

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

A bus network update is anticipated to occur in 2018. In respect to questions (a) to (f), these are subject to future decisions of Government.

Transport—light rail (Question No 1003)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Have any payments been made since June 2017 for work, including any purchases, associated with Stage 1 of the Light Rail project that is not the responsibility of Capital Metro; if so, can the Minister list those payments and the reason for each payment.
- (2) Have any additional project enhancements been identified since June 2017 for Stage 1 of the Light Rail project; if so, outline the nature of those enhancements and the estimated costs.

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

- (1) The light rail project is an availability payment based Public Private Partnership which uses a 'securitised licence structure' for payment of the project. Under this

arrangement, the Territory does not pay for construction activities over the delivery phase (other than approved Modifications), but it does pay for the GST on these activities as they are considered to be for services provided. As a consequence of using this structure, no cash passes between the Territory and Canberra Metro in this phase (other than in relation to Modifications and GST amounts - which the Territory claims back from the Australian Taxation Office).

The GST invoices processed to date amount to \$22.48 million. The Modification payments processed to date amount to \$1.1 million.

- (2) Yes. The estimated net costs of approved modifications are in the region of \$8.5 million, which is within the project's contingency budget of \$117 million.

Examples of the nature of enhancements associated with the above are:

- stop design;
- vertical elements / street furniture;
- LRV fire suppression system;
- intellectual Property rights for artwork;
- rolling stock HVAC performance;
- EPIC Precinct Design;
- Flemington Road Works; and
- Innovative Design works to Alinga Street stop, Northbourne Plaza and dynamic lighting.

Transport—light rail (Question No 1004)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What is the status of works associated with the construction of Stage 1 of the Light Rail project and is it in accordance with the timeframe set out in the Indicative Construction Timetable 2016-2018; if not, (a) has a revised timeframe been agreed to and (b) what is the revised timeframe.
- (2) What is the current status of works on each zone, and when is each zone due to be completed for (a) Zone 1 – Gungahlin Terminus to Hibberson Street, (b) Zone 2 – Flemington Road North, (c) Zone 3 – Flemington Road South, (d) Zone 4 – Federal Highway, (e) Zone 5 Northbourne Avenue, (f) Civic terminus, (g) Mitchell Depot and (h) overhead wires, cabling and final testing.

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

- (1) The project's construction phase is currently anticipated to be completed in late 2018, as per previous ACT Government statements.
 - (2) The system will be certified as complete in its entirety, rather than in zones. The project's construction phase is currently anticipated to be completed in late 2018, as per previous ACT Government statements.
-

Light rail—infrastructure damage (Question No 1005)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Since work related to the construction of Light Rail Stage 1 has commenced, what (a) is the number of occasions other infrastructure, such as gas, electrical, water and telecommunications infrastructure, has been damaged during the construction, (b) type of infrastructure was damaged during the construction process and (c) was the total cost to repair damaged infrastructure.
- (2) Since the work associated with the construction of Light Rail Stage 1 has commenced how many (a) occupational health and safety (OHS) incidents have been logged, (b) workers reported an injury following an OHS incident, (c) OHS incidents resulted in workers' compensation claims being lodged, (d) work days were lost due to OHS incidents and (e) OHS incidents involved electrical shocks to workers.

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

- (1) The table below identifies the type of infrastructure that has been damaged since the commencement of the Light Rail project.

Costs for rectification of any damage to utility infrastructure is borne by the contractor under the total cost of the project.

Infrastructure Type	Gas	Traffic Light LV	Street Light LV	Street Light	Water Asset	NBN	iiNet
Number of Occasions	1	9	5	3	3	2	1

- (2) The table below identifies the number of OHS incidents, injuries reported, compensation claims and work days lost that have occurred since the commencement of the Light Rail project. The reported injuries capture medical treatment at a medical provider or hospital and alternate work injuries, where a worker due to the injury could not perform his/her normal task. First aid treatments on site have not been included but are included in the number of OHS Incidents. The Project has initiated a project wide stoppage of production to review safety incidents and reset safety on two occasions that resulted in three no-production days.

No of OHS Incidents (including near misses)	213
No of Injuries reported (Medical treated & Alternate Work)	9
No of Workers Compensation Claims	3
No of Work days Lost (Lost Time Injury) Estimate	80
No of Electric Shocks	1

ACTION bus service—free services (Question No 1006)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What has been the cost to date, by financial year, to operate the Free City Loop bus service (Route 101).
- (2) What has been the total cost to date, by financial year, of promoting the City Loop bus service.
- (3) How many drivers are required to operate the City Loop bus service.
- (4) How many other Transport Canberra staff work in support of the City Loop bus service, including standing at the City Bus Station (stop 3002) to monitor the service or to assist passengers.
- (5) How frequently does the service run during its hours of operation.
- (6) What is the total number of people who have travelled on the City Loop bus service to date.
- (7) On average, how many services in a day operate with (a) no passengers travelling on the bus and (b) less than five passengers travelling on the bus.
- (8) How many times have buses operating on the City Loop bus service broken down.

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

- (1) The total cost to date of the service excluding promotions is as follows;
2016-17 \$901,000; and
2017-18 \$529,000.
 - (2) The total cost to date to promote the services is as follows;
2016-17 \$84,000; and
2017-18 Nil.
 - (3) The City Loop bus service requires six drivers to operate. This includes four full time and two part time drivers.
 - (4) Transport Canberra staff from the City Bus Station assist with the City Loop services as required as part of their regular duties.
 - (5) The service is scheduled to run approximately every 10 minutes.
 - (6) As at 2 March 2018, 162,627 people have travelled on the City Loop bus service to date.
 - (7) There are 72 scheduled services each day. From Monday 5 February, there has been an average (a) 21 trips operate with no passengers travelling on the bus (please note that this figure is likely overstated given the nature of this loop service requiring manual validation from each driver) and (b) 12 trips that operate with less than five passengers (1 to 4 passengers) travelling on the bus.
 - (8) From the commencement of service to 2 March 2018, the City Loop bus service has broken down 38 times (excludes service failures due to a previous breakdown).
-

Environment—elm leaf beetle (Question No 1007)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

How does the Government manage Elm Leaf Beetle in ACT Government trees.

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

Elm leaf beetle (ELB) was first identified in the ACT in 2010 and is now present in most suburbs/areas that have elms. Although the effects of ELB can be visually significant, in general ELB does not represent a significant threat to elms. There is consensus among biosecurity agencies in the ACT and other jurisdictions that ELB can no longer be controlled and, as a consequence, the government has no management plans/strategies in place to control ELB.

Transport Canberra and City Services commenced trials to test ELB control measures in 2013-14 and several different methods have been used in each subsequent year. To date, no cost effective controls have been identified in the ACT or interstate.

Trees—protection (Question No 1008)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many tree protection complaints or notifications have been received in each of the last three financial years
- (2) For each financial year referred to in part (1), how many of those complaints have been investigated.
- (3) How many tree protection compliance actions have been undertaken in each of the last three financial years.
- (4) What type of enforcement actions have these been.

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

(1)

2015-16	1979*	29 requests for reconsideration
2016-17	1991*	29 requests for reconsideration
2017-18	1306*	18 requests for reconsideration

* The figures provided are the total number of tree damaging activity applications received.

- (2) All tree damaging activity applications received during the past three financial years have been assessed and notices of decision provided to the applicant within the legislated timeframe.

(3)

2015-16	13
2016-17	5
2017-18	3

- (4) A variety of enforcement actions have been taken after investigation, including issuing a tree direction letter, issuing a caution letter and providing a brief of evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration.

Planning—grants to supermarkets (Question No 1009)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to changes in government requirements for supermarkets, why have two sites been sold, one in Wright and one in Coombs, about 100 metres apart with the Coombs site being limited to 1000 square metres and the Wright site 1500 square metres.
- (2) Is work taking place to address this anomaly.
- (3) What requirements does the Government have to ensure that supermarkets and commercial sites are built on and opened in a reasonable time so as to serve their local community.
- (4) What options does the Government have to ensure that commercial sites which are no longer being used for their lease purpose clauses are required to fulfil their lease purpose clauses.

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

- (1) Planning for new greenfield residential areas is informed by a commercial retail needs assessment to identify the number, type, size and general location of commercial centres. This assessment is based on the suburb or district's projected total population, demographic profile and dwelling type and mix.

The Coombs local centre site was sold in March 2015 for retail development, including a supermarket. There was a mandatory requirement for a supermarket to be provided within the CZ4 zoned Coombs local centre.

The Wright site was sold at public auction in December 2017 having been held back within the Land Release Program to allow the Coombs local centre time to establish. The site was marketed as a mixed residential (106 to 158 apartments) and hotel development opportunity by the Suburban Land Agency. The lease and land use zone permit a number of uses including a shop limited to 1,500m² gross floor area.

- (2) It is expected that the Coombs local centre will soon open to service the needs of the local community. The lease for the Wright site (block 1, section 38) has just commenced and a development proposal has yet to be lodged.

- (3) Under the crown lease, the lessee for the Coombs site has 48 months (or until April 2019) to complete development and obtain a certificate of occupancy. This timeframe acknowledges the scale and complexity of commercial development and the time required for approvals and construction. This timeframe is consistently applied to all commercial land sales. Within this timeframe responsibility for development of the site rests with the lessee.
 - (4) Most Crown leases granted contain a clause stating that if the land is not used for a period of one year for the purpose for which the lease is granted, the lease may be terminated. The *Planning and Development Act 2007* provides that a controlled activity order can be issued to direct a lessee to comply with a lease provision or to comply with the terms of a development approval. Any person who believes that a breach exists in relation to a Crown lease can lodge a controlled activity compliant form online with Access Canberra.
-

Housing—rates (Question No 1011)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) Does Table 2 on the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Housing Target Determination 2018 (No1) list no community housing dwellings in Lawson but CHC Australia tenanted nine properties there before the last Census.
- (2) What data sources is used in determining rates of community, social, affordable rental and affordable sale in each suburb.
- (3) If the Census is used, how does the Government correct for high rates of incorrect self-reporting, ie community housing tenants selecting private residence.
- (4) What methodology does the Government use in calculating these rates.
- (5) Can the Minister provide a table of each Canberra suburb with the percentage rates (as a proportion of total residences in a suburb) of public, community/social, affordable rental and affordable sale housing in each Canberra suburb, in (a) 2013, (b) 2018 and (c) as part of the forward workplan, proposed or estimated rates in 2020.

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

- (1) Yes, according to 2016 Census data, there were no tenanted community housing properties in Lawson at the time of reporting. This is reflected in Table 2 of Schedule 2 of the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Housing Target Determination 2018 (No1).
- (2) For the purposes of Table 2 of Schedule 2 of the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Housing Target Determination 2018 (No1), the ACT extracts data from ABS Census results. Data is accessed through the online ABS application Table Builder Pro.

In the Census data, rented dwellings can be sorted by a set of categories called “LLDD Landlord Type”. This shows the number of dwellings in each suburb rented from a “State or Territory housing authority” (i.e. public housing) and from a “Housing co-operative/community/church group”. This second category does not completely align with the Territory definition of “community housing” and is used only as an indicator.

Housing ACT also supplies data on public housing numbers extracted from their database.

As the Notifiable Instrument makes clear, Table 2 of Schedule 2 is provided for information purposes only.

- (3) As referred to in response to part (2), the information in Table 2 of Schedule 2 in relation to community housing is used only as an indicator. The ACT Government therefore relies on the accuracy of the data provided through the 2016 Census and does not account for incorrect self reporting.

For its own policy development purposes, the ACT Government liaises with ACT registered Community Housing Providers from time to time to identify the quantum of dwellings provided locally by this sector. This information is not reconciled with Census data.

- (4) The ACT Government calculated the current rates of public, community and affordable housing in the suburbs in column 1 of Table 2 of Schedule 2 of the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Housing Target Determination 2018 (No1), by dividing the sum of public, community and affordable housing dwellings in columns 3, 4 and 5 of the table by the total dwellings in the suburb in column 2 of the table and multiplying by 100 to provide a percentage rate in column 6 of the table. The percentages in column 6 have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. The percentage numbers for Taylor, Strathnairn and Throsby were unable to be calculated as meaningful percentages as no dwellings had been constructed in those suburbs as at 2016 census. However, homes have been constructed in those suburbs since that time, therefore explaining why some affordable homes were recorded as being purchased in Throsby and Taylor as at January 2018.

- (5) The ACT Government is unable to provide the data requested in the format requested.

The Public Housing Renewal Taskforce (the Taskforce) and Housing ACT are dispersing public housing across Canberra including in both new and established suburbs, and are continuing to investigate other sites that could be considered suitable for public housing in a range of locations.

Many sites will not have their location made publically available in order to give public housing tenants a better chance to integrate into the community, and to continue the “salt and peppering” approach to public housing throughout Canberra in a socially inclusive way.

Further information about some of these sites is available at www.act.gov.au/housingrenewal and Attachment A provides a district and suburb level analysis as at January 2018.

Community Housing numbers have been based on 2016 Census data and the National Community Housing Collection (reported in Report on Government Services 2017). These reports did not include the full scope of community housing as some Community Housing organisations operate outside the standard definition of Community Housing or have accommodation that may be used for different housing needs, such as crisis accommodation.

Affordable renting data is not currently recorded by the ACT Government.

Affordable home purchase data from the Suburban Land Agency shows that 24.3 per cent (93 dwellings) of land releases between 1 January and 31 December 2013 were sold from ACT Government land releases at the affordable price thresholds. Attachment B shows the breakdown of sites released by the Land Development Agency with an Affordable Housing requirement in 2013.

For the 2018 request, the data is unavailable as sites identified for 2017-18 continue to be sold and released into the market until end of June 2018. Exact figures are unavailable and would result in incomplete reporting.

Data is not available for the 2020 request as Housing Targets for Affordable, Public and Community Housing will be developed alongside the Indicative Land Release Program annually.

Attachment A

The following information offers data from Housing ACT primary Data Base. As at January 2018 there were 11,811 dwellings spread across regions as per Table 1.

Table 1 Housing ACT properties by District

District	Total Property Numbers
Belconnen	2,927
Gungahlin	892
Inner North (Canberra Central)	2,478
Inner South (Canberra Central)	1,063
Hall, Jerrabomberra (Oaks Estate), rural, other	36
Molonglo	180
Tuggeranong	2,513
Weston Creek	767
Woden	955
Total	11,811

Table 2 is the number of public housing dwellings by suburb.

Table 2 ACT Housing dwellings by Suburb

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
BELCONNEN	Aranda	23	951	2.4
	Belconnen			
	Town centre	351	3,308	10.6
	Bruce	6	2,786	0.2

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
	Charnwood	214	1,255	17.1
	Cook	81	1,331	6.1
	Dunlop	160	2,557	6.3
	Evatt	128	2,054	6.2
	Florey	292	1,973	14.8
	Flynn	66	1,254	5.3
	Fraser	29	763	3.8
	Giralang	60	1,281	4.7
	Hawker	74	1,265	5.8
	Higgins	103	1,240	8.3
	Holt	199	2,192	9.1
	Kaleen	166	2,773	6.0
	Latham	110	1,455	7.6
	Lawson	1	65	1.5
	Macgregor	112	2,598	4.3
	Macquarie	175	1,194	14.7
	Mckellar	96	1,027	9.3
	Melba	117	1,260	9.3
	Page	93	1,299	7.2
	Scullin	148	1,258	11.8
	Spence	122	991	12.3
	Weetangera	1	964	0.1
BELCONNEN	TOTAL	2,927	39,094	7.5

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
GUNG AHLIN	Amaroo	84	1,944	4.3
	Bonner	54	2,160	2.5
	Casey	54	2,209	2.4
	Crace	1	1,686	0.1
	Forde	12	1,445	0.8
	Franklin	40	2,441	1.6
	Gungahlin	72	2,330	3.1
	Harrison	6	2,811	0.2
	Jacka	18	245	7.3
	Moncrieff	143	55	N/A*
	Ngunnawal	212	4,158	5.1
	Nicholls	63	2,382	2.6
	Palmerston	133	2,172	6.1
GUNG AHLIN	TOTAL	892	26,038	3.4

*Percentage unable to be calculated due to additional dwellings being constructed in this suburb since the 2016 Census.

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
INNER NORTH	Ainslie	423	2,272	18.6
	Braddon	348	3,037	11.5
	Campbell	20	1,585	1.3
	City	1	1,620	0.1
	Dickson	77	1,065	7.2
	Downer	185	1,555	11.9
	Hackett	88	1,273	6.9

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
	Lyneham	332	2,632	12.6
	O'Connor	294	2,420	12.1
	Reid	208	985	21.1
	Turner	317	2,281	13.9
	Watson	185	2,605	7.1
INNER NORTH	TOTAL	2,478	23,330	10.6

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
INNER SOUTH	Barton/Parkes	0	963	0.0
	Deakin	60	1,345	4.5
	Forrest	11	831	1.3
	Fyshwick	0	6	0.0
	Griffith	293	2,435	12.0
	Kingston	73	2,847	2.6
	Narrabundah	433	2,672	16.2
	Red Hill	26	1,273	2.0
	Yarralumla	89	1,405	6.3
INNER SOUTH	TOTAL	985	13,777	7.1

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
MOLONGLO	COOMBS	152	706	21.5
	DENMAN			
	PROSPECT	24	0	N/A*
	WRIGHT	4	1,260	0.3
MOLONGLO	TOTAL	180	1,966	9.2

*Percentage unable to be calculated due to additional dwellings being constructed in this suburb since the 2016 Census

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
JERRABOMBERRA, HALL, RURAL, OTHER	HALL	8	116	6.8
	OAKS			
	ESTATE*	78	182	42.8
	RURALS, OTHER	39	453	8.6
JERRABOMBERRA, HALL, RURAL, OTHER	TOTAL	125	751	16.6

*The residential block figures for Oaks Estate also includes Symonston and Jerrabomberra

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
TUGGERANONG	Banks	95	1,838	5.2
	Bonython	123	1,550	7.9
	Calwell	68	2,148	3.2
	Chisholm	202	1,954	10.3
	Conder	88	1,829	4.8
	Fadden	0	1,100	0.0
	Gilmore	116	1,004	11.6
	Gordon	192	2,990	6.4
	Gowrie	89	1,155	7.7
	Greenway	48	1,030	4.7
	Isabella Plains	59	1,716	3.4
	Kambah	655	6,051	10.8
	Macarthur	4	503	0.8
	Monash	86	2,204	3.9
	Oxley	86	650	13.2
	Richardson	172	1,170	14.7
	Theodore	104	1,410	7.4
	Wanniassa	326	3,052	10.7
TUGGERANONG	TOTAL	2,513	33,354	7.5

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
WESTON CREEK	Chapman	25	1,013	2.5
	Duffy	106	1,288	8.2
	Fisher	65	1,285	5.1
	Holder	44	1,133	3.9
	Rivett	197	1,353	14.6
	Stirling	70	821	8.5
	Uriarra Village	0	103	0.0
	Waramanga	170	1,159	14.7
	Weston	90	1,435	6.3
WESTON CREEK	TOTAL	767	9,590	8

District	Suburb	Housing ACT Stock	ACT Residential Units 2016 Census	Percentage of Housing ACT Properties
WODEN	Chifley	63	1,129	5.6
	Curtin	104	2,148	4.8
	Farrer	50	1,314	3.8
	Garran	66	1,339	4.9
	Hughes	92	1,214	7.6
	Isaacs	29	983	3.0
	Lyons	187	1,525	12.3
	Mawson	116	1,499	7.7
	O'Malley	0	352	0.0
	Pearce	57	1,118	5.1
	Phillip	122	1,715	7.1
	Torrens	69	887	7.8
WODEN	TOTAL	955	15,223	6.3

TOTAL	11,811	163,305	7.2
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Attachment B

Table 1. Releases with Affordable Housing in 2013 by the then Land Development Agency

Suburb/development with an Affordable Housing requirement	Total release number in 2013	Affordable Housing released	Percentage of Affordable Housing from the development
Franklin	121	24	20
Coombs	176	52	30
Wright	85	17	20
Total	382	93	24

**Homelessness—abandoned belongings
(Question No 1012)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to “homeless stashes” and abandoned materials recovered from areas frequented by rough sleepers, (a) what happens to those materials recovered, (b) are the materials washed and cleaned, (c) are they returned to the location where they were abandoned after washing and cleaning, (d) are efforts taken to locate the owner of the materials to return to them.
- (2) If materials are not returned to their owner, where do they go.
- (3) Has any consideration been given to providing recovered materials to homelessness outreach services to return to rough sleepers.

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

- (1) (a) Where belongings have been abandoned and can be safely retrieved they are retained and stored at a maintenance depot for return to the owner. If items cannot be safely salvaged they are disposed of.
(b) No.
(c) No.
(d) Yes, where it is clear the items are owned, Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) officers make enquires and attempt to contact the owner through ACT Policing or St Vincent de Paul.
 - (2) Unclaimed or non-salvageable materials are disposed of at a waste facility.
 - (3) Yes. TCCS has direct links to St Vincent de Paul and is a partner in the Street to Home program operated by St Vincent de Paul.
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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). The relevant ABS catalogue reference is 3101.0, Table 4.

Health—outreach programs (Question No 1019)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing—

- (1) In relation to outreach services in the ACT, what health services have outreach programs for new parents to support their emotional and mental wellbeing.
- (2) What health services have outreach programs for youth to support their emotional and mental wellbeing?

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

- (1) ACT Health offer the following outreach program for new parents:
 - The Parenting Enhancement Program (PEP) is a program through ACT Maternal and Child Health where nurses provide continuity of care for parents and babies at home for the first 12mths. Parents who require extra support in their parenting are referred to the program either during their pregnancy or shortly after. This support includes maternal wellbeing, development checks, parenting advice and referral to other support services as required.
- (2) ACT Health offers the following outreach programs for youth to support their emotional and mental wellbeing:
 - The Specialist Youth Mental Health Outreach which provides care for young people experiencing first on-set psychosis. This service operates seven days a week and provides an outreach service for those diagnosed with psychosis and are unable to attend office based treatment.

Apart from youth specific programs, 18 to 24 year olds also receive outreach through ACT Health and community organisation programs including:

- ACT Health's Crisis Assessment and Treatment Team which is a seven day, 24 hour outreach service. Their role is to provide a highly accessible and responsive acute mental health assessment and treatment service in the most appropriate setting.

- The Gungan Gulwan StreetBeat Youth Outreach Program which is a tailored health program to reach vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth in the ACT region. It operates on Friday and Saturday nights targeting meeting places and identified “trouble spots”. The program is holistic in its delivery providing intensive immediate support to individuals with a broad range of information, resources and services.
- The Transition to Recovery program which is an intensive community outreach mental health program that aims to assist people to transition to the community following an acute episode of mental illness and to prevent relapse.

Multicultural affairs—community languages (Question No 1020)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How much financial support, in total dollars, was provided by the ACT Government to ACT community language schools in (a) 2013–14, (b) 2014–15, (c) 2015–16, (d) 2016–17 and (e) 2017–18.
- (2) How many community language schools are currently recognised by the ACT Government.
- (3) Of those community language schools referred to in part (2), how many are receiving ACT Government financial support in 2017–18.
- (4) Is funding provided on a per-student basis; if so, how much financial support is provided per student and is this funding annual, per month, or based on some other arrangement; if not, on what basis is financial support divided amongst the ACT’s community language schools.
- (5) What mechanisms exist for the Territory’s community language schools to seek financial support or increased financial support from the ACT Government.
- (6) How many community language schools have been denied ACT Government financial support in (a) 2013–14, (b) 2014–15, (c) 2015–16, (d) 2016–17 and (e) 2017–18.
- (7) For what reasons have community language schools been denied ACT Government financial support.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1)
 - a) \$167,940
 - b) \$171,830
 - c) \$171,830
 - d) \$170,690
 - e) \$201,220
- (2) The ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc. is an umbrella body for community language schools in the ACT. The Association has a membership of 51

language schools and three playgroups. The ACT Government recognises all Association members, and is not aware of any community language schools that are not members of the Association.

- (3) In 2017-18, 42 Community Language Schools received financial support as determined by the ACT Community Languages School Association Inc.
- (4) In 2017-18, \$90 per eligible student was provided as an annual grant to community language schools as determined by the ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc. Additional funding was provided to small language schools to assist with administrative costs. Supplementary funding of \$500 per playgroup was provided to support community language education. To be eligible for an annual grant, students must hold Australian citizenship or be a permanent resident.
- (5) The mechanism for ACT community language schools to seek financial support or to increase financial support from the ACT Government is through their membership of the ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc. In 2017-18, additional financial support was provided following representations by the ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc.

The ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc. promotes a commitment to quality, provides professional development and advocates for the needs of its community language school members, including financial support.

- (6) The Community Services Directorate is not aware of any community language school having been denied financial support in any year from 2013-14 to 2017-18.
- (7) No eligible community language schools have been denied ACT Government financial assistance. To be eligible for financial assistance, a community language school must be a member of the ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc for a minimum of six months and submit their student registration grant form to the Association prior to the registration closing date.

Community services—outreach programs (Question No 1022)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to outreach services in the ACT, what community services have outreach programs for new parents to support their emotional and mental wellbeing.
- (2) What community services have outreach programs for youth to support their emotional and mental wellbeing.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Community Services Directorate funds a range of community organisations to deliver services to help people identify and develop flexible strategies to address their needs and achieve their goals, including new parents. Programs may support all aspects of a person's well-being, including emotional and mental health.

The Child, Youth and Family Services Program (the Program) funds 26 community organisations to deliver holistic, wrap-around services for children, young people and their families, and supports for vulnerable children and young people aged 0 to 25 years and their families.

A significant focus of the Program is to provide outreach where deemed appropriate and of benefit to children, young people and their families, including new parents.

The Family Foundations Program (Family Foundations) delivered under the Children's Services Program by Belconnen Community Service is a free, early intervention program promoting strong, secure, and healthy relationships between children aged 0-5 years and their parents/carers.

The Family Foundations team support parents and carers to strengthen family relationships and bonds during early childhood. Parents gain knowledge, experience and develop strategies to build their parenting skills. Family Foundations provides flexible options and supports that meet individual needs. Home visits through an outreach model are provided to families with barriers to transport.

Outreach is a key component of many funded services and is most effective when different services co-locate, which happens at Child and Family Centres.

New parents can access a range of programs and services delivered at Child and Family Centres. These include programs such as Parents as Teachers; home visiting; case management for families with high and complex needs, a range of parenting courses (including Circle of Security which focuses on positive parent child relationships), supported playgroups and referral to local playgroups auspiced under the ACT Playgroups Association. Poppy is a supported group for parents and carers with mental health issues where parents and carers can meet with other families and share experiences while having fun playing with their children. Poppy is facilitated by ACT Mental Health, the Richmond Fellowship and Child and Family Centres.

A number of ACT Health services are delivered from the Child and Family Centres. These include Child Health Clinics, Drop-In Clinics, immunisation clinics, and groups for new parents about a range of issues, such as settling your baby and nutrition. The Women's Health Service provides nursing and counselling services to support women's health and wellbeing.

For more information about the Child and Family Centres visit:

http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/701639/2017-FINAL-Child-and-Family-Centres-ACT-A-guide-to-our-programs-and-services-2017.pdf

The ACT Government's Child Development Service assists families who have concerns about their child's development. This may include concerns about a child developing skills more slowly than others of the same age, in areas such as speech and language, movement, hand skills, self-care, and social development.

The Child Development Service has an intake service and provides drop-in clinics which provide a way for parents, carers and other referrers to seek advice, find out if further services are necessary and where these services are available. Access to speech pathology, occupational therapy, social work, physiotherapy, psychology, Child

Health Medical Officers and Community Paediatricians is determined through a comprehensive intake and screening process.

More information is available at:

<http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentsservice/about-us>

A number of homelessness services offer case management in an outreach capacity to families, including new parents. Four programs within the specialised homelessness sector provide targeted support to new parents:

- Karinya House and Erin House;
- St Vincent de Paul – Family Service;
- St Vincent de Paul – Young Parents Accommodation Support Program; and
- Toora Women – Family Program.

Karinya House provides supported accommodation for up to 11 women who are pregnant or parenting, along with practical assistance for household goods, baby goods and clothing and maternity requirements. The service provides a range of programs to support pregnant and parenting women including birth preparation support services and prenatal education counselling and support. Support is provided 24/7. Karinya House has a common area where women and their children can come together to share their experiences and support each other.

In addition, the following programs within the homelessness sector provide support to families, including new parents:

- Beryl Women Inc;
- Communities@Work – Reach Home;
- Doris Women’s Refuge;
- Northside Community Service – Women’s Program;
- Toora Women Inc – Coming Home Program;
- Toora Women Inc – Women and Children’s Program;
- Toora Women Inc – Domestic Violence and Homelessness Service; and
- YWCA – Housing Support Unit.

- (2) The Child, Youth and Family Services Program (the Program) funds 26 community organisations to deliver holistic, wrap-around services for children, young people and their families, and supports for vulnerable children and young people aged 0 to 25 years and their families.

A significant focus of the Program is to provide outreach where deemed appropriate and of benefit to children, young people and their families.

The Program provides direct funding to community partners to deliver youth engagement services, focusing on providing outreach supports to young people. Youth engagement services go out to where young people are, providing services and a range of engagement and capacity building activities in these spaces.

Service providers funded to deliver youth engagement activities including an element of outreach under the Child, Youth and Family Services Program are:

- Belconnen Community Service;
- Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated;
- Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation;
- Multicultural Youth Services;

- Northside Community Service Limited;
- The Young Women's Christian Association of Canberra (YWCA); and
- Woden Community Service.

Service delivery models differ across funded providers, in line with the needs of each region. One model focuses entirely on street based youth work by providing opportunities to create community based outreach 'pop up' office spaces.

A number of homelessness services offer case management in an outreach capacity specifically to young people. These include:

- Barnardos – Friendly Landlord Service;
- Barnardos – Our Place: Youth Integrated Education and Accommodation Service;
- Barnardos – Youth Identified Accommodation and Support Program (YIASP);
- CatholicCare – Youth Housing Support Service;
- Salvation Army – Youth Emergency Accommodation Network (YEAN);
- St Vincent de Paul – Young Parents Accommodation Support Program; and
- Ted Noffs – “Take Hold” Mentoring and Living Skills Program.

National Multicultural Festival—service of alcohol (Question No 1023)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to concerning non-commercial liquor permits in the ACT, is there, or has there been, a ban on non-commercial liquor permits for community groups at festivals and other public events in the ACT, excluding the 2018 National Multicultural Festival; if so, which events are affected and what is the reason for the ban.
- (2) What other public events supported by the ACT Government this year and for each year the past five years involve community groups acquiring a non-commercial liquor permit and serving alcohol at the respective event, excluding the National Multicultural Festival.
- (3) How many non-commercial liquor permits were granted for each of the events referred to in part (2) for this year and each year the past five years.

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Access Canberra does not record the difference between public events that are supported, or not supported, by Government when issuing a non-commercial liquor permit.
- (3) The total number of non-commercial liquor permits for this year and previous five years is as follows:
 - i. 2017/2018 – 224 (1 July 2017 to 8 March 2018)
 - ii. 2016/2017 – 348

- iii. 2015/2016 – 298
 - iv. 2014/2015 – 276
 - v. 2013/2014 – 230
 - vi. 2012/2013 – 250
-

Roads—planning (Question No 1024)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) In relation to the feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan for the intersection of Tillyard and Ginninderra Drives, on which date (day/month/year) were the feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan for the intersection of Tillyard and Ginninderra Drives (announced in the ministerial response to petition 2-17 on 9 May 2017) commissioned by Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS).
- (2) What factors prompted TCCS to commission the feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan.
- (3) Which organisation/s were commissioned to complete the feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan.
- (4) What was the total cost to the ACT Government for the feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan.
- (5) On which date (day/month/year) were the completed feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan submitted to TCCS.
- (6) Did the Minister note in annual reports hearings on 17 November 2017 that the feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan for the intersection of Tillyard and Ginninderra Drives had become “one and the same” with the Tillyard Drive: Local Area Traffic Management Study; if so, when did this happen.
- (7) What did the Minister mean by “It has all become one and the same”.

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

- (1) The contract for the feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan was signed by the TCCS delegate on 3 May 2017.
- (2) The community consultation undertaken in December 2016 for the Tillyard Drive LATM study received a significant number of concerns regarding the Tillyard Drive intersections with Ginninderra Drive and Lhotsky Street. These concerns were also validated by the technical analyses of traffic data at these intersections.
- (3) Engineering consultant Calibre Consulting PTY LTD was engaged to undertake the feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan.
- (4) The total cost was \$59,494.

- (5) The study report and preliminary sketch plan was submitted to TCCS on 14 February 2018.
- (6) The Tillyard Drive: Local Area Traffic Management Study informed the need for the study of the Ginninderra Drive intersection. The intersections upgrades feasibility study and preliminary designs were then progressed.
- (7) Refer to answer for Q6.

Roads—accident black spots (Question No 1025)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What is the total number of road accidents located at, and near, the Tillyard and Ginninderra Drives intersection for (a) each year from 1997 to 2002 and (b) 2017.
- (2) What is the total number of road accidents resulting in injuries located at, and near this intersection for (a) each year from 1997 to 2002 and (b) 2017.
- (3) What is the total number of road accidents resulting in property damage, only located at, and near, this intersection for (a) each year from 1997 to 2002 and (b) 2017.
- (4) What is the total number of fatalities located at, and near, this intersection for (a) each year from 1997 to 2002 and (b) 2017.

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

- (1) Refer to table below
- (2) Refer to table below
- (3) Refer to table below
- (4) Refer to table below

Reported crash data for Ginninderra Drive and Tillyard Drive intersection from 1997 to 2002 and from 2017:

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only	Total
1997		2	4	6
1998		2	1	3
1999			5	5
2000		2	6	8
2001		1	7	8
2002			6	6
2017				
(preliminary data)		2	7	9
Total	0	9	36	45

Roads—accident black spots (Question No 1026)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What is the total number of road accidents located at, and near, the Kuringa and Owen Dixon Drives intersection each year from 1997 to 2018.
- (2) What is the total number of road accidents resulting in injuries located at, and near, this intersection each year from 1997 to 2018.
- (3) What is the total number of road accidents resulting in property damage only located at, and near, this intersection each year from 1997 to 2018.
- (4) What is the total number of fatalities located at, and near, this intersection each year from 1997 to 2018.

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

- (1) Refer to table below.
- (2) Refer to table below.
- (3) Refer to table below.
- (4) Refer to table below.

Reported crash data for the Kuringa Drive and Owen Dixon Drive intersection for the period of 1997 to 2018:

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only	Total
1997		1		1
1998			2	2
1999		1	7	8
2000			2	2
2001		1	4	5
2002		1	3	4
2003			2	2
2004			4	4
2005			4	4
2006			2	2
2007			5	5
2008			1	1
2009			1	1
2010		1	3	4
2011			3	3
2012		2	6	8
2013		1	1	2

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only	Total
2014			7	7
2015		2	4	6
2016		3	8	11
2017 (preliminary data)		4	5	9
2018 (preliminary data)		1		1
TOTAL	0	18	74	92

Roads—accident black spots (Question No 1027)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What is the total number of road accidents located at, and near, the Kuringa and Kingsford Smith Drives intersection each year from 1997 to 2018.
- (2) What is the total number of road accidents resulting in injuries located at, and near, this intersection each year from 1997 to 2018.
- (3) What is the total number of road accidents resulting in property damage only located at, and near, this intersection each year from 1997 to 2018.
- (4) What is the total number of fatalities located at, and near, this intersection each year from 1997 to 2018.

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

- (1) Refer to table below.
- (2) Refer to table below.
- (3) Refer to table below.
- (4) Refer to table below.

Reported crash data for the Kingsford Smith Drive and Kuringa Drive intersection for the period of 1997 to 2018:

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only	Total
1997			3	3
1998			1	1
1999		1	7	8
2000			7	7
2001			3	3
2002			4	4

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only	Total
2003			4	4
2004		2	6	8
2005			1	1
2006		1	3	4
2007		2	8	10
2008		1	6	7
2009			5	5
2010			1	1
2011			2	2
2012			0	0
2013			4	4
2014			1	1
2015			1	1
2016			2	2
2017 (preliminary data)			2	2
2018 (preliminary data)			0	0
TOTAL	0	7	71	78

**Environment—golden sun moth habitat
(Question No 1028)**

Ms Lee asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) What total area of Golden Sun Moth habitat will be damaged in the course of the Dudley Street, Yarralumla upgrade works.
- (2) What rehabilitation work will be conducted to restore the damaged Sun Moth habitat.
- (3) What will be the cost of the rehabilitation works.

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

- (1) The Golden Sun Moth (GSM) impact area from construction works is 2.13 hectares. Of this, approximately 1.5 hectares will be temporarily impacted but will be rehabilitated back to GSM habitat. The net impact area will be approximately 0.63 hectares.
 - (2) Rehabilitation involves seeding the previous habitat areas with an appropriate native grass (C3 mix). The GSM larvae feed on the roots of the grass. There will be an ongoing field studies to confirm that these areas have been reinhabited by GSM.
 - (3) The cost to rehabilitate the temporary impact area of 1.5 hectares back to GSM habitat is \$105,000.
-

**ACT Health—FOI requests
(Question No 1032)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Why did the Minister's Directorate fail to upload Freedom of Information (FOI) requests submitted between late 2015 and 2017 to the Open Government website.
- (2) What actions have been taken to ensure this failure does not occur again and when will the relevant documents be uploaded.
- (3) Has the Directorate prepared responses to FOI requests since 2017 that have not been uploaded to the ACT Government website.
- (4) Why was my FOI request of 31 January 2018, regarding health data, returned to sender without anyone from my office being contacted.

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

- (1) ACT Health overlooked the final step of loading responses to FOI requests to the ACT Open Government website.
- (2) ACT Health has implemented procedures around uploading responses to FOI access applications to ACT Health's disclosure log to ensure compliance under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*. Responses were uploaded on 6 December 2017.
- (3) Since 2017 ACT Health has prepared responses to two FOI requests under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* that were not uploaded to the open government website as they were determined by the decision makers as not suitable for publication in line with the Online FOI Publication Policy.
- (4) ACT Health has no record of an FOI access application of 31 January 2018 being received from Mrs Dunne. FOI access applications can be emailed to HealthFOI@act.gov.au or posted to Freedom of Information Unit, Health Directorate, GPO Box 825, Canberra ACT 2601.

**Government—notifiable invoices
(Question No 1034)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) In relation to the notifiable invoices register for January 2018, what is the purpose of the payments made to (a) AGFA Healthcare Australia for \$4 030 855.77, described as "ICT System", (b) Orion Health for \$489 060.00, described as "ICT System" and (c) Westpac Banking Corporation for \$544 706.11, described as "Other Receivables".
- (2) In relation to the payment made to Westpac Banking Corporation, why is it described as "Other Receivables", when it was a payment.

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

- (1) (a) The payment to AGFA Healthcare Australia was for 100 per cent completion milestones of hardware delivery and software licensing for the new ACT Health Integrated Diagnostic Imaging System (IDIS).
 - (b) The payment to Orion Health was for maintenance and support for clinical software used by ACT Health for the period 1 January to 30 June 2018. This software includes Clinical Portal (used by most clinical staff to access clinical applications and provide a summary view of a patient's clinical information) and Rhapsody (an integration engine used to pass data between a range of clinical and administrative systems).
 - (c) The payment to Westpac Banking Corporation was a quarterly bulk superannuation payment for the Visiting Medical Officer's (VMOs) for the period October 2017 to December 2017.
- (2) 'Other receivables' is the title of an account code. In this particular instance, this was a coding error and has been rectified for all future payments.
-

Government—notifiable invoices (Question No 1035)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) In relation to the notifiable invoices register for January 2018, what is the purpose of the grants paid to (a) MRCF Pty Ltd and (b) Wellways Australia Limited.
- (2) What are the contractual arrangements with each company.
- (3) What further amounts are to be paid to each company under its contract.
- (4) What are the expected or anticipated outcomes from these contracts.

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

- (1) (a) The amount paid to MRCF Pty Ltd is part of an agreement between ACT Health and MRCF. The MRCF is an investment collaboration established in 2007 to support Commonwealth and state governments and universities in Australia to commercialise innovations. This agreement provides a mechanism to assist research organisations in the ACT (including universities and ACT Health) to fund early-stage research discovery commercialisation.
- (b) The grant paid to Wellways Australia Limited (Wellways) is for the provision of:
 - A centre-based, sub-acute, 24 hour step up/down supported accommodation and outreach program for adults (five beds) including; a minimum of 1,095 supported occupied accommodation days per annum; and a minimum 150 transitional support hours provided to people exiting the accommodation per annum.

- A centre-based, sub-acute, 24 hour step up/down supported accommodation and outreach program for young people, 18–25 year old, (six beds) including; a minimum of 1,856 supported accommodation days per annum; and a minimum of 150 transitional support hours per annum to young people exiting the accommodation.
 - An outreach based, adult, sub-acute 12 hours daily, seven days/week intensive outreach support service which targets forensic consumers; in particular those exiting Alexander Maconochie Centre (ten places at any one time). This program includes; 365 available support days annually and support for an average of 90 days per consumer.
- (2) ACT Health is a member institute of the MRCF. ACT- based early stage research (including university research) is reviewed by the MRCF for potential commercialisation. The fund is used to support viable research through the commercialisation pipeline and fosters best practice in the commercialisation of medical innovations.

Wellways is funded via a Service Funding Agreement (SFA) with ACT Health. The SFA is for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.

- (3) ACT Health contributes \$75,000 per annum to the MRCF with five years of payments remaining.

Wellways is paid in quarterly instalments. The next payment under the SFA of \$816,145 (GST Inclusive) is due on 12 April 2018. Total funding for the final year of the contract, 2018-19 (not including indexation) is \$3,264,583 (GST Inclusive).

- (4) In regards to the MRCF, an annual report is provided on performance and outcomes. To date, there has been a number of initiatives considered by both the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Canberra. As an example, the most recent review is of a new cancer drug with the ANU that if it passes the commercialisation assessment would see a phase 1 cancer trial run at Canberra Hospital.

The expected outcome of the Wellways agreement is that consumers will have improved mental health outcomes and opportunities to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence to manage future crises, through increased awareness of, and capacity to access, ongoing education, community resources and support networks.

Royal Canberra Show—disability parking (Question No 1041)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) How many disability parking spaces were provided at the 2018 Royal Canberra Show.
- (2) What was the distance between these disability parking spaces and the entrances to the Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) grounds.
- (3) What works were done to ensure the route from disability parking to EPIC was smooth and suitable for wheelchairs or other mobility aids.

- (4) What assessment is necessary to be undertaken for temporary disability parking at events, like the Royal Canberra Show, to ensure it complies with all disability parking regulations.
- (5) Was the disability parking at the 2018 Royal Canberra Show compliant with all disability parking regulations.

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

- (1) There were two disability parking areas available, with approximately 120 disability parking bays provided in total. 90 disability parking spaces were located in the accessible parking area on Flemington Road (across from the main entrance of EPIC); and an additional 30 parking spaces were located at the Gate 7 entrance to the venue.
- (2) From the Flemington Road disability parking area, the maximum distance was approximately 120 metres; and from the Gate 7 disability parking the maximum distance was 50 metres to the secondary entrance for the event.
- (3) Flemington Road disability parking area works included new concrete paths and ramps, cutting and removing debris from edging, blowing and sweeping of existing pathways. Traffic marshals were also located in this area to assist patrons in crossing Flemington Road to the main entrance.

The disability parking area at Gate 7 is hard stand to the venue entrance and required no additional works.

- (4) An assessment for disability parking was completed by the venue and event organiser. Parking spaces for the venue are approximately 2,000. The ACTPLA General Code for Parking and Vehicle Access stipulates a minimum of 3% of the total number of parking spaces for disability parking.

With approximately 2,000 spaces identified, the requirement was to provide 60 disability parking spaces. Compliance AS2890 – *Australian Standard for Parking Facilities* was also taken into account.

- (5) See (4).

Child care—centres (Question No 1042)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

The 2016 Labor election policy included a \$20 million commitment for capacity upgrades to, among others, Franklin Early Childcare School, (a) what is the nature of the works to be delivered, (b) when will consultation with the school communities commence and (c) has consideration been given to extend the Franklin School to Year 6 to address capacity issues across Gungahlin.

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

- a) Options for expansion of the Franklin Early Childhood School are being considered.

- b) The school community will have the opportunity to comment on expansion options in 2018.
 - c) The form the expansion takes will address the needs of the local community.
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**ACT Ambulance Service—crews
(Question No 1046)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

Of the 222 emergency ambulance shifts in 2015-16 which fell below minimum crewing, on what (a) dates and (b) shift types did this occur.

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

The questions asked by the Member is similar to what was asked by the Member in Question on Notice 898. As I advised previously, providing a response to Questions on Notice 1046, 1047, and 1048 would take a considerable amount of staff time and resources to answer, and unreasonably redirect ACT Emergency Services Agency personnel away from important functions. As such, I have determined it is not appropriate to provide a response.

**ACT Ambulance Service—crews
(Question No 1047)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

Of the 303 emergency ambulance shifts in 2016-17, which fell below minimum crewing, on what (a) dates and (b) shift types did this occur.

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

The questions asked by the Member is similar to what was asked by the Member in Question on Notice 898. As I advised previously, providing a response to Questions on Notice 1046, 1047, and 1048 would take a considerable amount of staff time and resources to answer, and unreasonably redirect ACT Emergency Services Agency personnel away from important functions. As such, I have determined it is not appropriate to provide a response.

**ACT Ambulance Service—crews
(Question No 1048)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

Of the 115 emergency ambulance shifts in 2017-18 (to 6 December 2017), which fell below minimum crewing, on what (a) dates and (b) shift types did this occur.

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

The questions asked by the Member is similar to what was asked by the Member in Question on Notice 898. As I advised previously, providing a response to Questions on Notice 1046, 1047, and 1048 would take a considerable amount of staff time and resources to answer, and unreasonably redirect ACT Emergency Services Agency personnel away from important functions. As such, I have determined it is not appropriate to provide a response.

ACT Ambulance Service—crews (Question No 1050)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Which ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) stations are responsible for which suburbs in the ACT.
- (2) On how many occasions were ACTAS crews required to respond to an emergency situation outside their designated area in (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) Are the response times of these out of area responses included in the calculation of the response time statistics as reported by Reports on Government Services (ROGS) and what is the rationale for this.

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

- (1) Based on historical and predictive data analysis and reporting, ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) stations are strategically located to service the needs and expectations of the community in relation to response times. These stations service all of the ACT, and are not restricted to specific suburbs. The nearest available ambulance is always dispatched to an incident. The nearest available ambulance may not necessarily be the one from the nearest ambulance station. Those resources may, for example, be attending to another incident.
 - (2) Not applicable. See response to question (1).
 - (3) Response times in ROGS are not recorded by station. They are recorded as responses across the ACT.
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Icon Water—water prices (Question No 1054)

Ms Lawder asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What was the reason for Icon Water's recent increase in charges.
- (2) Does the Government have any plans to provide support to pensioners who are struggling with the added increase in cost.

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

- (1) The prices for potable water and sewerage services provided by Icon Water to the community are independently determined by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC). The most recent adjustment to Icon Water's prices was effective from 1 July 2017. The table below shows the change in water and sewerage prices between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

	2016-17 Prices \$	2017-18 Prices \$	% change
Water Fixed Charge (per annum)	101.48	104.21	2.69
Volumetric Water Use - Tier 1 0-200 Kilolitres (per kilolitre)	2.61	2.68	2.68
Volumetric Water Use - Tier 2 200+ Kilolitres (per kilolitre)	5.24	5.38	2.67
Fixed Sewerage Charge (per annum)	529.38	537.34	1.5
Additional Sewerage Fixture Charge for Non-residential Customers	517.73	525.51	1.5

The ICRC's report associated with this price adjustment provides significant detail on the underlying reasons for the change in prices from 1 July 2017. This report is publicly available at <http://www.icrc.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Report-5-2017-June-2017-1.pdf>

The primary reasons for the adjustments made to prices by the ICRC were to:

- account for inflation, as measured by changes in the Consumer Price Index; and
- incorporate into prices the effect of approved pass-through events associated with Icon Water's costs, as allowed for under the terms of the current price direction.

- (2) The ACT Government provides support to eligible pensioners in relation to their water and sewerage service costs through the Utilities Concession. In 2017-18, eligible pensioners will receive \$604 per annum through this concession to help offset their utilities related costs.

The Government will increase the value of the Utilities Concession by \$50 from 1 July 2018 to \$654 per annum to reduce the impact of increased utility prices.

Sport—diving (Question No 1056)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Following the recent announcement of the new \$36.6 million Stromlo pool it seems that the sport of diving has been neglected yet again by your Government as this facility does not provide Canberra with a new dive pool. During consultations, did you meet with representatives of the diving community, specifically the Canberra Diving Academy.

- (2) Can you provide details of this consultation.
- (3) How many of the 705 online submissions requested a dive pool or diving facilities be incorporated into this development.
- (4) What is the current status of the Canberra Olympic Pool with regards to leaks and repairs.
- (5) Are you aware that the Canberra Olympic Pool does not meet FINA competition standards for diving.
- (6) Are there any plans to upgrade the existing dive facilities at the Canberra Olympic Pool.
- (7) When will the Government build a new indoor dive pool in Canberra.

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

- (1) Active Canberra, within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, met with the Canberra Diving Academy on 15 December 2016 as part of the community consultation process on potential additional facilities for the Stromlo Leisure Centre. Active Canberra also met with eight other community sport and recreation groups.
- (2) At the meeting with the Canberra Diving Academy, they were advised that it was unlikely that a dive pool could be delivered within the available budget, but the facility would be designed to allow for future expansion at a later stage. They were also asked a series of questions, which were put to all the community sport and recreation groups that were consulted. The questions and a summary of their responses are at Attachment A. The Canberra Diving Academy also provided a submission as part of the community consultation process.
- (3) The community consultation process provided eight different facility components for the community to place in order of preference. Overall, the dive pool ranked fifth with 117 votes as first preference, 70 votes as second preference, 69 votes as third preference, 87 votes as fourth preference, 83 votes as fifth preference, 89 votes as sixth preference, 98 votes as seventh preference and 91 votes as eighth preference.
- (4) The Canberra Olympic Pool continues to leak despite the various attempts to repair the leaks. Each time leak repairs have been undertaken they have temporarily reduced the leaks only for the leaks to increase again over time. The most recent leak repairs were completed whilst the pool was closed for two weeks in September 2016. Based on the water bill from the second quarter of 2017-18, it is estimated that the Canberra Olympic Pool is losing approximately 30kL/day in water.
- (5) Yes. The five metre and 10 metre platforms are only five metres in length and current FINA standards require six metres. The platforms are also only 2.6 metres wide when FINA requirements are 2.9 metres for the five metre diving platform and three metres for the 10 metre diving platform. In addition to this, the pool does not have any form of surface agitation installed.
- (6) Not at this stage.

- (7) The design of the Stromlo Leisure Centre has allowed for future expansion and the provision of a dive pool at a later stage.

**Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—Boomanulla Oval
(Question No 1057)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide an update on the status and plans for Boomanulla Oval.
- (2) What level of consultation and communication with the (a) Indigenous community, (b) local residents and (c) sporting community has been undertaken to date and has there been anything of note recently.

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

- (1) Since the former Indigenous lessee closed the gates of the facility in late 2014, the ACT Government has worked in collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, including through the establishment of an Interim Advisory Group (IAG), with the objective of seeing Boomanulla Oval return to sustainable Indigenous management

This objective underpins a current Request for Tender (RFT) process, following an initial Request for Expression of Interest (REIO). The process was established in consultation with the IAG.

The RFT involves consideration of various complex matters including in relation to a guiding strategy for the site, land tenure, financial and governance arrangements.

While the RFT process is worked through, and in response to community feedback, the ACT Government will soon commence interim work at Boomanulla Oval, enabling the facility to reopen to the community later this year for informal recreation and cultural use.

- (2) ACT Government has worked in collaboration with the Elected Body, including through the former IAG, to inform key stakeholders about progress with Boomanulla Oval. This will continue and stakeholder engagement will increase as progress is made in implementing interim works and on resolving longer term arrangements for Boomanulla Oval. There has also been ongoing engagement with Winnunga Nimmityhah (Winnunga), as the respondent to the current RFT.

(a) Indigenous community

Between February 2015 and June 2016 the IAG informed the community of progress leading up to the RFT via a series of communiques distributed electronically by the Elected Body and the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs as well as on the Elected Body Website. Paper copies were also distributed via Winnunga, who has a good reach into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

A community Discussion Paper for Boomanulla Oval was distributed by the IAG in June 2015, including a Boomanulla Oval survey which was open for submissions between 5 June 2015 and 3 July 2015. While targeted at the Indigenous community the survey was open for anyone to respond. This survey was to gain a better understanding of what Boomanulla Oval meant to the Indigenous community and to seek community input towards creating a viable vision for the facility moving forward. This was done online (with paper copies provided to Indigenous service providers such as Winnunga and Gungan Gulwan). There were a total 150 responses to the survey. The survey findings helped to shape the initial REOI and the current RFT.

(b) Local residents

Local residents have received updates through presentations to the Old Narrabundah Community Council, attended by ACT Government representatives and representatives from Winnunga. Local residents, including the Old Narrabundah Community Council were also among key stakeholders consulted in 2017 during the process of developing a Strategic Plan for Boomanulla Oval.

(c) Sporting community

The Canberra Cavalry and local Indigenous sporting teams were among key stakeholders consulted in 2017 during the process of developing a Strategic Plan for Boomanulla Oval.

Education—cultural integrity program (Question No 1064)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What is the total cost of the cultural integrity program including staff time spent developing resources, implementing and evaluating the program.
- (2) Which schools are involved in the cultural integrity program.
- (3) How many students will participate in each of the schools.
- (4) Are there any gender or age specific resources.
- (5) How many contact hours per week will be required by students who participate in the cultural integrity program.
- (6) Have any success measures for the cultural integrity program been developed; if so, what are they and how are they linked with the self-assessment tool.
- (7) Have these success measures been cross referenced with NAPLAN.
- (8) Was there any consultation with the indigenous community and service providers in the development of this program; if so, who with and when this consultation occurred.

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

- (1) The chief costs of developing the cultural integrity policy direction were approximately equivalent to 2 FTE staff over twelve months to develop and implement the policy direction, supporting resources, training, stakeholder engagement and communications. Additional costs included the time contributed by a wide range of stakeholders and internal advisory bodies during the policy development process.
- (2) All ACT public schools are expected to be building their cultural integrity from 2018.
- (3) Cultural integrity will benefit all students in all schools. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will benefit from seeing more of their perspectives and cultures in their school environments, and embedded throughout the school curriculum. Non-Indigenous students will benefit from learning more about the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures make to Australian society.

Cultural integrity will mean something different for each school, as each school's story and community is unique. Schools have the discretion to respond as best fits their circumstances.

- (4) The resource toolkit developed to support cultural integrity is primarily aimed at supporting school leaders and teachers to build school cultural integrity. The toolkit provides access to a range of resources which support different cohorts of students. This includes resources specific to different ages and subject areas.
- (5) Cultural integrity is not a program approach, but rather a new policy direction: 'schools that meet the needs and aspirations of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students'.
Schools are building their cultural integrity when they are:
 - a) Engaging with their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
 - b) Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, languages and cultures throughout the curriculum;
 - c) Showing leadership, and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievements and dates of significance; and
 - d) Fostering an environment of high expectations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and supporting successful student transitions.
- (6) The Directorate is currently developing evaluation and accountability measures for cultural integrity.
- (7) The Directorate is currently developing evaluation and accountability measures for cultural integrity. All existing data and reporting opportunities will be considered as part of this process.
- (8) Cultural Integrity was developed during 2016 and 2017 in close consultation with a wide range of people and groups, including:
 - a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Group – representatives from across the Directorate with responsibilities or interests in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student support, including school staff and Education Support Office staff.
 - b) Education Directorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff network.
 - c) ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Consultative Group.

- d) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.
 - e) A range of interested groups and individuals to discuss the new policy direction, including the Human Right and Equal Opportunities Commission, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.
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Bushfires—warnings (Question No 1065)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

How many days were classified with a Fire Danger Rating of (a) low-moderate, (b) high, (c) very high, (d) severe, (e) extreme and (f) catastrophic in 2016-17.

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

During the 2016-17 bushfire season, the Fire Danger Rating was:

- (a) low-moderate on 80 days
- (b) high on 67 days
- (c) very high on 4 days
- (d) severe on zero days
- (e) extreme on zero days
- (f) catastrophic on zero days.

Outside the prescribed bushfire season, the Bureau of Meteorology do not provide the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) with fire weather, unless it is specifically requested by the ESA.

ACT public service—overpayment (Question No 1083)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) How many public servants have received overpayments (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) What was the total dollar value of overpayments to public servants identified in part (1), by financial year.
- (3) For each number of overpayments identified in part (1), how many of those overpayments are yet to be repaid, by financial year
- (4) For each amount identified in part (3), what dollar amount is yet to be repaid, by financial year.

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

The answer to (1), (2), (3) and (4) relating to the above is captured in the following table:

Financial Year	Number of public servants that have received an overpayment	Total dollar value of overpayments paid to public servants	Number of overpayments paid to public servants that remain outstanding	Value of overpayments yet to be repaid**
2014-15	1,797	\$ 2,521,434	96	\$ 249,796
2015-16	1,582	\$ 2,757,222	149	\$ 380,579
2016-17	1,247	\$ 2,391,377	237	\$ 509,072
2017-18*	912	\$ 1,283,918	424	\$ 576,157

*2017-18 results reflect the period 1 July 2017 to 21 March 2018.

** The balances provided against the 'Value of Overpayments yet to be repaid' reflect the amounts currently outstanding for each of those years. The figures shown above total \$1,715,604.

Overpayments to public servants occur for a variety of reasons including the processing of paperwork being received late, processing errors (0.4% error rates for current financial year), a change of employment status and entitlements, non-standard work practices and the misinterpretation of applicable legislation.

Overpayments are recovered in accordance with the provisions of the Enterprise Agreements.

Data for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is not available as monitoring of overpayments commenced in 2014-15.

Suburban Land Agency—promotional materials (Question No 1084)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

In relation to the video content produced by the Suburban Land Agency, can the Minister provide, for each video, (a) the nature and/or focus of the content, (b) whether the material was produced wholly internally or third-parties were involved, (c) a breakdown of the cost associated with the content, including production and distribution costs, (d) information relevant to production or distribution, (e) the total number of views or reach of the content and (f) any other relevant information related to the production and distribution of content.

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

Content	Internal/ external	Cost inc GST	Information	Views
Moncrieff Park launch	External	\$1,325 production	Drone footage of park and surrounds	1,300
Molonglo Valley Community Info Night	Internal	\$0	Filming of Info Night content	3,583
Molonglo Valley Community Info Night	Internal	\$0	Promotion of upcoming event	792
Moncrieff Explore and Snap videos	Internal	\$0	Promotional videos to promote community activity	628

Content	Internal/ external	Cost inc GST	Information	Views
Mingle video	External	\$13,332 Production	2 x Mingle event videos and 6 x vox pops	Used at live events and presentations only
Wright Book Box Video	Internal	\$0	Event day coverage	366
Molonglo Valley Mingle Event Sips and Sounds	Internal	\$0	Live stream of event	277
Molonglo Valley Mingle Community Sports Day	Internal	\$0	Video footage of sports activities x promotional messages	2,352
Throsby promotional Television Commercial/ video	External	\$18,260	Promotional flyover video footage	374 (Does not include television reach)
Moncrieff Wagi Bridge opening	Internal	\$0	Footage from bridge opening	609
Red Hill – The Precinct	External	\$7,700	Promotional video	70,000

Suburban Land Agency—promotional materials (Question No 1086)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the promotional materials produced or purchased by, or for, the Suburban Land Agency, and for each item advise (a) the number of items purchased, (b) the total cost of the items, (c) how the supplied was selected, (d) the dates the items were ordered and supplied, (e) where the items were manufactured and (f) the proposed distribution method.
- (2) Can the Minister identify every community engagement or social event, Mingle or otherwise, hosted by the Suburban Land Agency in 2017-18 to date, and detail for each (a) the nature and/or focus of the event, (b) how many people attended the event, (c) a breakdown of the cost of the event, including any promotional material, (d) whether the event featured live music, (e) whether alcohol was offered at the event, either free or for a charge and (f) any other relevant information relating to the event.

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

a) Promotional materials

Item	Quantity	Cost	Selection	Dates	Manufactured	Distribution
USB Pens	1,000	\$7,084	Single quote	Ordered Nov 2017 Delivery Feb 2018	Not available	Sales events
Measuring Tapes/Post it notes	1,000	\$3,086	Single quote	Ordered Dec 2017 Delivery Feb 2018	Not available	Sales events

Item	Quantity	Cost	Selection	Dates	Manufactured	Distribution
Measuring Tapes/Post it notes - reprint	1,000	\$6,093	Single quote	Ordered Dec 2017 Delivery Feb 2018	Not available	Sales events
Balloons	1,000	\$265	Single quote	Ordered Dec 2017 Delivery Feb 2018	Australia	Sales events
Paper Bags	500	\$1,976	Single quote	March 2018	Australia	Sales and other public events
Mingle mascot costume	1	\$6,820	Single quote	Ordered Sept 2017 Delivery Nov 2017	Australia	Community/mingle events
USB Molonglo Valley	1,000	\$6,973	Single quote	March 2018	Not available	Sales events
USB Taylor	1,000	\$6,693	Single quote	March 2018	Not available	Sales events
Pens	1,000	\$631	Single quote	March 2018	Not available	Sales and other public events
Taylor Tote bags	2,000	\$7,791	Single quote	March 2018	Not available	Sales and other public events
Throsby key rings	1,000	\$8,483	Creative Services Panel	July 2017	Not available	Provided to customers who settle land in Throsby

b) Mingle Activities 2017-18

Molonglo Valley 2017-18

Event	Date	Attendees	Live music	Alcohol	Ticketed	Cost inc GST
Tree Planting Day	27-Aug	80	No	No	No	\$1,681
Technology Education Workshop	31-Aug	2	No	No	No	\$0
Morning Mingle Walk	19-Sep	0	No	No	No	\$0
Mingle Activities Session - September	21-Sep	13	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Tour	26-Sep	6	No	No	No	\$0
Play in the Park	04-Oct	150	No	No	No	\$1,880
Communal Composting Initiative	07-Oct	15	No	No	No	\$650
Community Sports Day	15-Oct	250	No	No	No	\$7,370
Community Information Night	26-Oct	60	No	No	No	\$2,563
Mingle Activities Session - October	19-Oct	10	No	No	No	\$0

Event	Date	Attendees	Live music	Alcohol	Ticketed	Cost inc GST
Halloween online promotion - poster	31-Oct	30	No	No	No	\$0
Mingle Activities Session - November	16-Nov	12	No	No	No	\$0
MV Community Carols	02-Dec	300	Yes	No	No	\$1,338
Stromlo Cottage Opening	07-Dec	200	Yes	No	No	\$4,361
Resident Celebration evening	07-Dec	20	No	No	No	\$0
Dad's Playgroup	15-Dec	20	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day	10-Jan	12	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day	17-Jan	10	No	No	No	\$0
Mingle Activities Session - January	18-Jan	15	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day	24-Jan	5	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day	31-Jan	50	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day	07-Feb	3	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day	14-Feb	2	No	No	No	\$0
Mingle Ideas Session	15-Feb	30	No	No	No	\$0
Book Box Launch and coffee	16-Feb	80	No	No	No	\$172
Composting workshop	17-Feb	7	No	No	No	\$0
Stories from Stromlo Cottage	20-Feb	4	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day - Seniors Catch up	21-Feb	2	No	No	No	\$0
Sips and Sounds	24-Feb	300	Yes	Yes - to purchase	Yes - Free	\$18,500
Stromlo Cottage Open Day - Seniors Catch up	28-Feb	6	No	No	No	\$0
Touch Footy Trial Game	28-Feb	6	No	No	No	\$0
Clean up Australia Day	04-Mar	10	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day - Seniors Catch up	07-Mar	4	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day - Seniors Catch up	14-Mar	2	No	No	No	\$0
Mingle Activities Session - March	15-Mar	9	No	No	No	\$0
Book Club	20-Mar	2	No	No	No	\$0
Stromlo Cottage Open Day - Seniors Catch up	21-Mar	6	No	No	No	\$0
Neighbour Day Chocolate Picnic	25-Mar	40	No	No	No	\$0

Moncrieff 2017-18

Event	Date	Attendees	Live music	Alcohol	Ticketed	Cost inc GST
Moncrieff Neighbourhood Safety	23-Aug	12	No	No	No	\$100
Explore and Snap	Sep/Oct	12	No	No	No	\$1,260
Play in the Park	27-Sep-17	200	Yes	No	No	\$3,552
Yoga in the Park	02-Nov	11	No	No	No	\$960
Moncrieff CRIP opening	08-Dec	550	Yes	No	No	\$6,663
Moncrieff Bridge Opening	09-Feb	100	Yes	No	No	\$7,128
Clean Up Australia Day	04-Mar	15	No	No	No	\$0
Recipe Challenge Launch - online	25-Mar		No	No	No	\$0

Throsby 2017-18

Event	Date	Attendees	Live music	Alcohol	Ticketed	Cost inc GST
Brekkie in the Park	17-Feb	35	No	No	No	\$2,457
Actsmart Pre Build workshop	6-Mar	11	No	No	No	\$1,000

**City Renewal Authority—promotional materials
(Question No 1087)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Chief Minister provide a breakdown of the promotional materials produced or purchased by, or for, the City Renewal Authority, and for each item advise (a) any design costs, (b) the number of items purchased, (c) the total cost of the items, (d) how the supplied was selected, (e) the dates the items were ordered and supplied, (f) where the items were manufactured and (g) the proposed distribution method.
- (2) Can the Chief Minister identify every community engagement or social event hosted by the City Renewal Authority in 2017-18 to date, and detail for each (a) the nature and/or focus of the event, (b) how many people attended the event, (c) a breakdown of the cost of the event, including any promotional material, (d) whether the event featured live music, (e) whether alcohol was offered at the event, either free or for a charge and (f) any other relevant information relating to the event.

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

- (1) Promotional materials

The following table includes promotional materials for the period 1 July 2017 to 28 February 2018:

Item	Costs	Qty	Selection	Dates	Manufactured	Distribution
West Basin fence wrap	\$5682	1	Publishing Services	Design 18/8/17 Delivered 13/9/17	New South Wales	Construction site

Item	Costs	Qty	Selection	Dates	Manufactured	Distribution
West Basin naming ground stickers	\$1687	12	Publishing Services	Design 27/9/17 Delivered 29/9/17	Canberra	On ground signage at access locations to Commonwealth Park for Floriade.
Christmas in Glebe Park survey postcards	\$856	4500	Publishing Services	Ordered 4/12/17	Canberra	Distributed at the Christmas in Glebe Park event
Public realm improvement program fence wrap	\$4147	1	Publishing Services	Design 29/1/18	New South Wales	Construction site
CBR light up letters	\$18848	3	3 quotes sought	Ordered 8/2/18 Delivered 2/3/18	Canberra	CRA events as well as other major Government events.
Public realm improvement program signage	\$349	1	Publishing Services	Design 15/2/18	Canberra	Construction site
Gobo projectors	\$9485 design and supply	5	Single select	Ordered 21/2/18 Delivered 23/2/18	Queensland	Promote Enlighten installations in the city. Will have longer term use across CRA projects.
Stencils	\$1151	5	3 quotes sought	Ordered 27/2/18 Delivered 2/3/18	Sydney	Placed in the city precinct for 'Enlighten in the City'.
Social media boosted posts	\$333	11	n/a	Ongoing	n/a	Facebook and Instagram

(2) Community engagement or social events

The following table includes a list of events hosted by the City Renewal Authority from 1 July 2017 to 23 March:

Event	Date	Attendees	Live music	Alcohol	Ticketed	Cost inc GST
Sydney and Melbourne building business breakfast	16 Nov	33	No	No	No	\$544
City Centre Marketing and Improvement Levy drop in event	12 Dec	18	No	No	No	Nil
Long exposure photography workshop as part of Enlighten.	2-3, 9-10 March	Unknown	Yes	Yes – for sale	No	\$3400
The Lawns in Civic Square	26 Feb – 13 Apr	Unknown	Yes	Yes – for sale	No	\$23,983.93 (as of 4/4/18 intervention has not yet concluded)

The above table does not include events hosted by a third party which the City Renewal Authority has sponsored or funded.

**Government—tenders
(Question No 1095)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Further to question on notice No 23 of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism's inquiry into referred 2016-17 annual and financial reports, why was the software fix for the search function of Tenders ACT Contract Register not rolled out by mid-December.
- (2) What date will the software fix for the search function of the Tenders ACT Contract Register be rolled out to the public version.
- (3) When are the typical windows of low use for Tenders ACT and when will the next window occur?
- (4) What actions have the ACT Government taken to prioritise the roll-out of the software fix to the Tenders ACT Contract Register search function to the public version.
- (5) Has the ACT Government set a deadline for a software fix to the Tenders ACT Contract Register search function to be rolled out to the public version; if so, what is the deadline; if not, why not.

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

- (1) The software fix was not rolled out as previously anticipated in mid-December 2017 due to issues with the required migration of the Tenders ACT system and data to the external hosting environment (this was a precursor to the release of the software that contained the fix to the search function), and some unanticipated tender release and closing activity in the lead up to the December 2017 public service shut down.
 - (2) The software containing the fix to contract register search issue was successfully released in the public version of Tenders ACT on 28 February 2018.
 - (3) The quantum of usage of Tenders ACT is in part determined by tender release and closing dates and the nature of open tenders. Traditionally there are relatively fewer tenders closing immediately after public holidays, however, it is difficult to definitively identify future periods of lower use of the system. It should be noted that the Tenders ACT system also holds the publically accessible Contract Register and other information resources that the ACT Government requires to be available.
 - (4) See (2)
 - (5) See (2)
-

**ACT Revenue Office—staffing
(Question No 1098)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total number of staff employed by the ACT Revenue Office by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount and (c) ACT Public Service classification type, during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) Further to question on notice No 6 as part of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' inquiry into referred 2016-17 annual and financial reports, how many officers were taken off-line to work on the design and implementation of the new information technology (IT) system during (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) Further to question on notice No 6 as part of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' inquiry into referred 2016-17 annual and financial reports, how many officers' positions have been backfilled with new staff during (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (4) Further to question on notice No 6 as part of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' inquiry into referred 2016-17 annual and financial reports, how many specialist IT staff have been employed on a short term basis to assist with the IT program during (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 to date.
- (5) Have any of the short term specialist staff, referred to in part (4) been offered long term contracts to date; if so, can the Treasurer provide the number of times this has occurred and the length of the contracts.
- (6) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the current total expenditure on the new IT system to date.
- (7) Can the Treasurer provide an update on the development of the new Self Service Portal for payroll tax customers and when is this new portal due to come online.

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

(1)

Reporting Period	(a) Full-time Equivalent	(b) Head Count	(c) Classifications	
(i) 2014/15	105.8	109	AS01	1
			AS02	3
			AS03	9
			AS04	20
			AS05	23
			AS06	21
			CE	1
			SOA	7
			SOB	3
			SOC	21

(ii) 2015/16	108.4	113	ASO1	1
			ASO2	3
			ASO3	4
			ASO4	21
			ASO5	29
			ASO6	19
			CE	1
			SOA	8
			SOB	5
			SOC	22
(iii) 2016/17	115.7	120	ASO1	1
			ASO3	19
			ASO4	21
			ASO5	23
			ASO6	21
			CE	1
			LG1	1
			SOA	7
			SOB	7
			SOC	19
(iv) 2017/18 (as at 21 March 2018)	107.7	112	ASO1	1
			ASO3	13
			ASO4	17
			ASO5	27
			ASO6	22
			CE	1
			LG1	1
			SOA	7
			SOB	9
			SOC	14

(2) (a) The number of officers taken off-line to work on the design and implementation of the new IT system during 2016-17 was 4.

(b) the number of officers taken off-line to work on the design and implementation of the new IT system during 2017-18 to date is 11.

(3) (a) The number of positions backfilled with new staff during 2016-17 was 2.

(b) The number of positions backfilled with new staff during 2017-18 to date is 6.

(4) The number of specialist IT staff employed on a short term basis during 2016-17 and 2017-18 to date is as follows:

(a) 2016/17	Length of Contract	Number of Contracts
	12 months	5
	6-12 months	2
	Less than 6 months	1
(b) 2017/18 to date	Length of Contract	Number of Contracts
	12 months	2
	6-12 months	5
	Less than 6 months	3

(5) The number of IT specialist staff offered long term contracts is nil.

(6)

2014/15 Actual \$'000	2015/16 Actual \$'000	2016/17 Actual \$'000	2017/18 YTD \$'000
\$2,481	\$10,636	\$12,176	\$6,141

(7) The self-service portal pilot program was launched on 6 March 2018 to a small number of taxpayers. A date for the full roll out of the portal will be determined following the evaluation of the pilot which is expected to be completed in April. The target roll-out date is by the end of the financial year.

Government—tenders (Question No 1100)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) In relation to the Whole of Government Creative Services Panel tender, can the Treasurer advise (a) the dates the tender was open, (b) the number of tenders received, (c) the names of tenders, (d) whether any tenderers were approached or invited to apply by ACT Government officials, including Ministers or Ministerial staff and (e) any prequalification or prerequisite categories or conditions attached to the tender.
- (2) In relation to the development and putting to market the Whole of Government Creative Services Panel tender, can the Treasurer advise (a) whether there was any ministerial involvement in development or scoping, (b) how the value of the tender was scoped, (c) the rationale behind the selection of (i) start, (ii) execution and (iii) expiry dates of the contract and (d) policies or strategies connected to the contract or delivery of services.

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

- (1) The tender for the Whole of Government Creative Services Panel (Panel) was open to the market from 1 December 2016 to 9 February 2017, a period of 71 calendar days. The Panel is comprised of 6 service categories and administered through the Territory's Panel Management Portal (PMP) which is an electronic tendering system that provides the key benefits of streamlining the quotation process, improving supplier performance management and providing detailed reporting.

104 tenders were lodged for the Panel (refer to **Attachment A** for names of the organisations that lodged submissions).

The Territory advised the market of the Territory's intention to conduct a pre-tender consultation process for the establishment of new panel arrangements associated with creative services via notification on the Tender ACT website on 29 July 2016. The consultation period spanned a 4 week period and involved an invitation for interested parties to participate in a series of formal workshops, face-to-face interviews and provide responses to draft tender documentation.

Some 30 creative companies attended these workshops and face-to-face interview sessions. Information and feedback gathered from the consultation process was used to improve the tender documents and determine how the Panel would best work operationally.

In addition to the open consultation process, key internal stakeholders accessing creative services contracts and communications staff from directorates were notified of the Territory's intention to establish a Creative Services Panel.

There were no pre-qualification requirements or mandatory criteria to be addressed by tenderers in their response. The Request for Tender (RFT) documentation included assessment criteria seeking the tenderer's proposed service delivery approach, category specific experience, resource expertise and skills.

- (2) Scoping for the various service categories included in the Panel was undertaken by the Goods and Services SMS Program working in collaboration with the Whole of Government Communications Branch (CMTEDD) and supplemented by information gathered in the pre-tender consultation process. The scope of previous contracts for creative services was used as a starting point in developing the new Panel requirements.

The value projections for the Panel was determined by undertaking an analysis of the annual spend figures for the various creative service types recorded in the General Ledger over the past 2 years.

The contract term for the Panel has been fixed for an initial period of three years with three one year extension options. While the first three year term was set to give successful suppliers confidence of being provided opportunities to submit quotations for work, this period and its extension options are also considered appropriate for providing flexibility in responding to keeping pace with the opportunities for new technologies inherent to the creative services market. The extension options provide opportunity for refreshing membership or scope adjustments in one or more panel categories, or adding new categories into the Panel if required.

In developing and putting to market the Panel tender, all legislation, policies or strategies relevant to procurement activities were considered. This tender process involved the consideration of Small Medium Enterprise (SME) policy which applied when the RFT was released, that is, prior to 1 January 2017 when the Local Industry Participation Policy was implemented. This approach was applied to all procurements released over the same period and is consistent with general procurement practice. Any future process for adding new members or categories will include a LIPP assessment criterion.

Government—procurement policies (Question No 1101)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What is the process undertaken between the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate and other ACT Government directorates or agencies when an authority wishes to procure services under the Whole of Government Creative Services Panel arrangement.
- (2) Can ACT Government directorates or agencies procure external media and communications services outside of the Whole of Government Creative Services Panel contract; if so, can the Treasurer advise (a) why ACT Government directorates

or agencies are not limited to the panel members, (b) any internal processes or tests to determine when services can be contracted outside the panel and (c) any limitations or reporting requirements placed on procurements outside the panel arrangement; if not, why not.

- (3) Are there any limitations or restrictions on how much of the total value of the panel contract can be extended during each year of the contract; if so, what are the limitations and restrictions; if not, why not.

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

- (1) To utilise the Whole of Government Creative Services Panel, the directorate or agency purchasing officer must first register with Goods and Services Procurement for access to the Panel Management Portal (the electronic system that manages procurements for the panel arrangement). This registration includes identification by the purchasing officer of their financial delegate.

Training and a Buyer's Guide are made available for the purchasing officer, as well as provision of support and advice from the panel manager (Goods and Services Procurement) and the contract manager (Whole of Government Communications team).

- (2) In certain circumstances it is permissible for ACT Government directorates or agencies to go outside the Whole of Government Creative Services panel. These circumstances include when the existing panel members can't provide the required specific service, or meet the timeliness or budget considerations.

However, it should be noted that any procurement of such goods, services or works outside the Panel, must comply with the requirements of the *Government Procurement Act 2001*, to obtain value for money including regard to probity and ethical behaviours; management of risk; and open and effective competition.

If ACT Government directorates or agencies need to procure external media and communication services from outside the Whole of Government Creative Services Panel Contract, they must obtain an exemption via their Delegate and the Executive of the Whole of Government Communications team. The request for an exemption must clearly justify the circumstances described in 2(a).

All procurements conducted outside the Panel arrangement are subject to the reporting requirements legislated in the Government Procurement Act 2001; that is notifiable contracts and invoices over \$25,000 are publicly reported.

- (3) Expenditure against all Panel services are monitored for compliance to the approved budget over the full term of the contract. In the event that spend on the Panel is forecasted to exceed the approved budget, a procurement variation to increase the financial threshold would need to be sought from the Delegate.

If the variation involves a proposal to undertake a category member refresh or inclusion of a new category, an open tender process is required.

**ACT Revenue Office—operations
(Question No 1103)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What is the standard timeframe for the ACT Revenue Office to respond to queries in (a) letters, (b) emails, (c) over the telephone and (d) any other method of contact.
- (2) What was the average length of time it took the ACT Revenue Office to respond to (a) letters, (b) emails, (c) over the telephone and (d) any other method of contact during each quarter of (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17 and (iii) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) How are staffing levels managed and deployed during peak quarters to meet the demand of additional inquiries and tasks and can the Treasurer include whether (a) staff members are redeployed, (b) additional staff members are recruited; if so, on what basis and (c) any contractors or external parties are brought in to assist workflow.
- (4) What is the total number of inquiries that have not yet been responded to by (a) method of contact and (b) month received.
- (5) What is the expected timeframe for responses for queries identified in part (4) for each method of contact.
- (6) What is the total number of tasks to be actioned or pending in the Operations area of the ACT Revenue Office by (a) month received or identified and (b) task to be completed.

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

- (1) and (2):

The ACT Revenue Office endeavours to answer telephone queries as they come in and written queries within four business days. The average telephone call time in 2016-17 was 29 seconds and 51 seconds in 2017-18 (year to date). If all lines are busy, customers can leave a message and staff will respond the next business day. The ACT Revenue Office call centre was consolidated on 1 July 2016 and a telephone reporting functionality developed at this time – there was no reporting functionality before that time.

- (3) In order to manage peak times, such as the annual general rates billing period (July to September), the ACT Revenue Office manages its workforce flexibly with additional staff deployed in the Operations area. This involves both redeployments of existing staff and the hiring of contractors. Permanent staff are generally not recruited specifically to assist with peak times.

- (4) (5) and (6):

At any one time, there will always be a number of tasks to be completed within the ACT Revenue Office. Tasks are generally expected to be completed within 28 business days, depending on the level of complexity and information received. Most

tasks are completed well within this timeframe. There are times when tasks cannot be completed as the Revenue Office is awaiting further information from the taxpayer.

The number of tasks yet to be completed by the Operations area of the Revenue Office, by month of arrival, is shown in the following tables. The ACT Revenue Office is unable to make a distinction between 'tasks' and 'queries'. The first table shows the total number of tasks, including the number which cannot be completed as the Revenue Office is awaiting further information. The second table shows the same information in a greater level of detail. Operations staff are also required to undertake work not shown in the table, such as attending staff meetings and training.

ACTRO Operations. Tasks yet to be completed as of 27 March 2018, by month of arrival	Earlier	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Total
Cannot complete as awaiting further information	23	3	9	25	23	48	49	58	155	252	645
Awaiting completion	1	0	2	6	4	2	12	20	75	2463	2585
Total	24	3	11	31	27	50	61	78	230	2715	3230

ACTRO Operations. Tasks yet to be completed as of 27 March 2018, by month of arrival	Earlier	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Total
PPD Inbox										33	33
Email of Notice									4	41	45
Reallocations & Refunds										8	8
Change of address / Coding									3	636	639
Deleting Land Tax									3	80	83
Raising Land Tax										48	48
Inquiries										13	13
Former asbestos blocks - conveyances		1	1	1		1					4
Spectacles Applications										667	667
Eligibilities										16	16
Taxi Applications										3	3
Lease transfers										401	401
Conveyance Cert										22	22
Voluntary Disclosures										4	4
Deferred Rates							1	1	1	1	4
New leases					1	31	28	20	87	183	350
Holding lease	3	1						2		13	19
Awaiting transfers			1	3	4	4	4	25	42	17	100
Pensioner Rebate										19	19
Direct Debit										21	21
Duties Emails										9	9
Territory Revenue (IT system) tasks							5	11	7	254	277
General email tasks and enquiries										37	37

Mail										1	1
Home Buyers Concession				2	2			5	14	6	29
Home Buyer Concession More Information Received	1		1	4	2		5	2	3	28	46
Home Buyer Concession More Information Requested	12		5	17	16	9	13	12	16		100
General Assessments (Smartforms)						1	1		5	80	87
Home Buyer Assistance Schemes Late Lodgements										23	23
Requests for Exemptions, Extensions or Reduction of HBA									2	1	3
Emails (Personal Mail Box)										3	3
Deferral of Duty Folder											0
Deferral – More Information requested Folder -Responded to via Email /Letter				1		2	1			18	22
Not yet in Trev - Waiting on General Assessing									14		14
System Issue - Waiting on work around									7		7
Pensioner Duty Concession Folder											0
Pensioner Duty Concessions – more information requested											0
Over 60's Home Bonus Scheme Folder											0
Over 60's – more information requested											0
Former Asbestos blocks – other tasks										2	2
First Home Owner Grant Folder - Not responded to									4	6	10
More Information Requested - Responded to via Email / Letter				1	2	1	2			4	10
FHOG Mail Box - Not responded to									14	12	26
FHOG Mail Box - Responded to via Email									1	2	3
FHOG paper applications (old system) -More information requested - Responded to via Letter	8	1	2	2							13
Charitable (Payroll and Stamp Duty)										1	1
Landholder											0

Complex - corporate reconstruction			1			1	1		3	1	7
Trust										1	1
Business Asset											0
Total	24	3	11	31	27	50	61	78	230	2715	3230

Access Canberra—working with vulnerable people applications (Question No 1108)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What is the average number of business days a Working with Vulnerable People card application took to process in the (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date financial years.
- (2) What is the number of times a Working with Vulnerable People card application was processed (a) in fewer business days than the average, (b) the average number of business days and (c) in more business days than the average, in the (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date financial years.
- (3) What is the total number of (a) applications for Working with Vulnerable People cards and (b) Working with Vulnerable People cards issued, in the (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date financial years.

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

- (1)
 - (a) 16
 - (b) 15
 - (c) 19
 - (d) 17
- (2)
 - (a)
 - (i) 17615
 - (ii) 19155
 - (iii) 29126
 - (iv) 15095
 - (b)
 - (i) 574
 - (ii) 866
 - (iii) 681
 - (iv) 1075
 - (c)
 - (i) 5313
 - (ii) 10116
 - (iii) 14437
 - (iv) 6609
- (3)
 - (a)
 - (i) 32071
 - (ii) 43131
 - (iii) 56068
 - (iv) 28140

- (b)
 - (i) 23502
 - (ii) 30137
 - (iii) 44244
 - (iv) 22779
-

**Government—communications
(Question No 1112)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) In relation to the development of the Whole of Government Communications and Engagement Strategy, can the Chief Minister advise (a) what ACT Government entities were involved, (b) how ministers or ministerial staff were involved, (c) whether any external contractors or consultants were engaged, (d) if any external contractors or consultants were engaged, the value of the contract and contract number, (e) whether any stakeholders or public consultation was undertaken and (f) if stakeholder or public consultation was undertaken, the names of the stakeholders consulted and the nature of the public consultation.
- (2) Are traditional media avenues and journalists a channel of communication or conveying information to the public under the Whole of Government Communications and Engagement Strategy; if not, why not; if so, can the Chief Minister advise where traditional media and journalists are referenced or included in the strategy document.

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

- (1)
 - a) All ACT Government directorates were involved in the creation of the Whole of Government Communications & Engagement Strategy.
 - b) Ministers and their offices reviewed the strategy and assisted in setting the priority projects.
 - c) The Strategy was created in house but drew on broader engagement advice from Double Arrow Consulting and the University of Canberra Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance. No external contractors were engaged to write or design the strategy.
 - d) 03072017DAConsult, \$99,171
 - e) No public or external stakeholder consultation was undertaken in relation to the strategy.
 - (2) The current version of the Whole of Government Communications and Engagement Strategy identifies engagement techniques but does not identify channels for communication. As stated the document is a living strategy and the next update will include communication channels.
-

**Government—cybersecurity funding
(Question No 1113)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Does the ACT Government currently provide any form of funding or grants to local business for use or improvement of cybersecurity measures; if so, can the Chief Minister provide for the last three financial years to date (a) the names of available funding or grants, (b) a summary of the grant or funding, including the scope, (c) the number grants awarded or instances of funding, (d) the value of grants or funding that has been provided and (e) a breakdown of where the funding or grants have been distributed.
- (2) Does the ACT Government receive any form of funding or grants from the Federal Government for the improving cybersecurity measures for local businesses; if so, can the Chief Minister provide for the last three financial years to date (a) the names of the funding or grants, (b) a summary of the grant or funding, including the scope, (c) the number grants awarded or instances of funding, (d) the value of grants or funding that has been provided and (e) a breakdown of where the funding or grants have been distributed.

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

- (1) No.
 - (2) No.
-

**Government—creative services panel
(Question No 1114)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) In relation to the 8 March 2018 event Meeting the Creative Services Panel, can the Chief Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of attendees and advise (a) names of the attending ministers, (b) names of attending Members of the Legislative Assembly, (c) number of staff attached to offices Members of the Legislative Assembly, (d) number of ACT Government public servants and the name of the directorate or agency to which they are attached, (e) names of panel member businesses in attendance and number of attendees per business and (f) any other relevant categories of attendees including the (i) name of the organisation or business and (ii) number of attendees per organisation or business.
- (2) Can the Chief Minister provide a breakdown of any costs associated with the 8 March 2018 event Meeting the Creative Services Panel.
- (3) Has the ACT Government or any officials made contact with any attendees of the 8 March 2018 event Meeting the Creative Services Panel since the event; if so, can the Chief Minister advise (a) the nature of the contact, (b) who was contacted and (c) the date of contact.

- (4) Has the ACT Government or any officials initiated any investigations, internal or otherwise, into the leaking of audio from the 8 March 2018 event Meeting the Creative Services Panel; if so, can the Chief Minister advise (a) who is conducting the investigation, (b) the nature of the investigation, (c) the scope of the investigation and (d) whether the investigation is contained internally or will it consider external entities.

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

- (1) There were a total of 96 attendees.
 (a) Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA.
 (b) None.
 (c) One staff member from the Chief Minister's office was in attendance.
 (d) 40 ACT Government public servants attended from Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, Community Services Directorate, Education Directorate, Justice and Community Safety, Suburban Land Agency and City Renewal Authority.
 (e) See list below.

Company	Number of Representatives
2B	2
372 Digital	1
Adelphi Digital	2
Balance Advertising	2
Charterpoint	1
Communications Link	2
contentgroup	2
Cox Inall Change	2
Cre8tive	2
Elton	2
Gri.D Communications	2
Inklab	2
Klick Communications	1
Lightbulb Studio	2
NATION	2
OPF Consulting	2
Oxide Interactive	1
Paper Monkey	2
Portable	1
Richard Poulton Photography	1
Rowdy Digital	2
RPS Group	2
Screencraft	1
Silversun Pictures	1
Soda Strategic	2
Spectrum Graphics	2
Squiz	2
Tania Parkes Consulting	1
The Write Path	1
Think Place	1
Threesides Marketing	2
Traction Digital	1
WildBear	2

- (f) None.
 - (2) Expenses consisted of \$1,106.00 for catering and \$296.00 for the hire of room and equipment at the Legislative Assembly.
 - (3) An email thanking attendees for attending, a copy of the presentation slides and an FAQ about the operation of the Creative Services Panel was issued to all attendees on 8 March 2018.
 - (4) No.
-

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—Reconciliation Day Council (Question No 1116)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide an outline of the recruitment process followed when appointing or selecting members of the Reconciliation Day Council, including (a) each stage of recruitment, (b) the number and nature of positions available, (c) whether all positions were advertised; if not, why not; if so, where and when, (d) whether any members were approached or invited directly by the ACT Government or officials to apply; if so, the name of the member, (e) whether any members were chosen through a single-select method or process; if so, the name of the member, (f) whether any members were placed in non-advertised positions; if so, the name of the member and (g) any other relevant matters or considerations.
- (2) What specific selection criteria was used to determine and select members of the Reconciliation Day Council and how did each member fulfil the criteria.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a copy of the selection criteria and any matrix which details how the member met the selection criteria.
- (4) Can the Minister provide an outline of the involvement of the (a) minister and (b) ministerial staff or advisers in the selection or appointment process for the Reconciliation Day Council.
- (5) Are members of the Reconciliation Day Council remunerated for their participation; if so, can the Minister provide a breakdown of the remuneration levels and how they were calculated.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1)
 - (a) The membership of the ACT Reconciliation Day Council (Council) consists of prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans, and non-Indigenous Canberrans.

The individuals were selected as being representative of the broader Canberra community. Due to their prominence in the community, each Council member has

demonstrated their ability to act as Ambassadors for Reconciliation Day and contribute to the development of the program of activities.

Recommendations for Council membership were provided by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (OATSIA). OATSIA consulted broadly across Government about the composition of the Council and, as a result, identified potential high profile individuals. This approach was discussed and supported by Directors-General at the ACT Public Service Strategic Board Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Sub-Committee Meeting on 22 November 2017. The Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body was also consulted on a proposed list of Council members.

I made the final decision on membership and contacted each proposed member directly.

- (b) The Council consists of ten members, including an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Co-Chair. The role of the Council is to:
 - i. Support the ACT Government in developing a program of activities taking place in the lead up to and on Reconciliation Day;
 - ii. Provide high level strategic advice to the event coordinator and promote the events;
 - iii. Provide leadership in the jurisdiction about Reconciliation; and
 - iv. Act as Ambassadors for Reconciliation Day.
 - (c) The Council positions were not formally advertised.
 - (d) Officials discussed the concept of the Council with some potential Council members, particularly while seeking contact details of those individuals. However, those discussions were not formal invitations for individuals to participate on the Council.
- As stated in response to 1(a) I directly invited all Council members to participate.
- (e) Refer to answer 1(a) above.
 - (f) Refer to answer to 1(c) above.
 - (g) Under the current Terms of Reference approaches can be made by Reconciliation Day Council members, by myself (as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs) or by OATSIA to other individuals to act as Ambassadors for Reconciliation Day.

(2) No selection criteria were developed for the positions. Refer to answer 1(a) above.

(3) Refer to answers 1(a) and 2 above.

(4)

- (a) I was consulted and provided feedback to OATSIA, including via my staff, during the process set out at answers 1(a) and 1(d) above.

(b) Refer to answer 4(a).

(5) No remuneration is paid to members of the ACT Reconciliation Day Council.

ACT Revenue Office—objections (Question No 1118)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total number of (a) objections lodged through the ACT Revenue Office by type and (b) appeals lodged through the ACT Revenue Office by type, during the financial years of (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10, (iv) 2010-11, (v) 2011-12, (vi) 2012-13, (v) 2013-14, (vi) 2014-15, (vii) 2015-16, (viii) 2016-17 and (ix) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) Of the number of the objections lodged in each financial year referred to in part (1), can the Treasurer provide the number and type of objections that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, (d) outstanding or (e) any other relevant category.
- (3) Of the number of the appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in part (1), can the Treasurer provide the number and type of appeals that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) outstanding or (e) any other relevant category.

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

- (1)(a) Table 1 shows the number of objections lodged through the ACT Revenue Office by type, during the financial years of (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10, (iv) 2010-11, (v) 2011-12, (vi) 2012-13, (v) 2013-14, (vi) 2014-15, (vii) 2015-16, (viii) 2016-17 and (ix) 2017-18 to date.

Table 1

Year	Duty	FHOG	HBC	Land Tax	Payroll Tax	Rates	UVs	Land Rent	Total
2007-08	21	12	10	13	21	3	60	0	140
2008-09	8	10	7	26	15	2	82	0	150
2009-10	31	14	21	38	19	0	69	0	192
2010-11	24	12	15	39	42	1	82	0	215
2011-12	13	14	19	58	26	0	84	3	217
2012-13	8	8	20	67	23	4	61	2	193
2013-14	13	10	17	109	16	5	124	5	299
2014-15	7	10	10	147	23	6	76	2	281
2015-16	14	13	16	162	28	12	61	7	313
2016-17	7	8	4	127	32	16	77	0	271
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	13	5	23	192	11	14	79	1	338

- (1)(b) Table 2 shows the number of ACAT appeals lodged through the ACT Revenue Office, by type, during the financial years of (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10, (iv) 2010-11, (v) 2011-12, (vi) 2012-13, (v) 2013-14, (vi) 2014-15, (vii) 2015-16, (viii) 2016-17 and (ix) 2017-18 to date.

Table 2

Year	Duty	FHOG	HBC	Land Tax	Payroll Tax	Rates	UVs	Land Rent**	Total
2007-08	2	6	0	0	3	0	4	0	15
2008-09	1	2	1	4	3	1	3	0	15
2009-10	3	3	4	2	0	1	10	0	23
2010-11	15	2	1	4	8	1	10	0	41
2011-12	3	3	2	15	29	0	4	0	56
2012-13	4	1	3	6	4	0	9	0	27
2013-14	4	1	3	3	7	0	24	0	42
2014-15	2	4	2	21	7	2	21	1	60
2015-16	1	2	1	8	3	0	7	0	22
2016-17	3	2	1	7	2	1	4	0	20
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	1	0	0	2	4	0	9*	1	17

*Includes one Lease Variation Charge appeal.

** The Land Rent Scheme commenced on 1 July 2008.

(2) Objections

Table 3 shows the number of Duty objections lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, and (d) outstanding. There are no numbers for (e) any other relevant category.

Table 3 – Duty Objections

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	3	16	2	0
2008-09	2	5	1	0
2009-10	4	26	1	0
2010-11	8	13	3	0
2011-12	3	7	3	0
2012-13	1	4	3	0
2013-14	4	7	2	0
2014-15	3	4	0	0
2015-16	3	6	5	0
2016-17	1	5	0	1*
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	3	1	9

*Awaiting related court matter to be determined.

Table 4 shows the number of First Home Owner Grant (FHOG) objections lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, and (d) outstanding. There are no numbers for (e) any other relevant category.

Table 4 – FHOG Objections

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	1	10	1	0
2008-09	2	8	0	0
2009-10	2	11	1	0
2010-11	2	7	3	0
2011-12	3	11	0	0
2012-13	0	6	2	0

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2013-14	1	8	1	0
2014-15	0	9	1	0
2015-16	3	10	0	0
2016-17	1	6	0	1*
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	1	0	0	4

*Awaiting related court matter to be determined.

Table 5 shows the number of Home Buyer Concession objections lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, and (d) outstanding. There are no numbers for (e) any other relevant category.

Table 5 – Home Buyer Concession Objections

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	3	7	0	0
2008-09	0	7	0	0
2009-10	1	19	1	0
2010-11	2	9	4	0
2011-12	1	14	4	0
2012-13	0	17	3	0
2013-14	1	11	5	0
2014-15	1	8	1	0
2015-16	6	10	0	0
2016-17	0	3	1	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	2	5	0	16

Table 6 shows the number of Land Tax objections lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, and (d) outstanding. There are no numbers for (e) any other relevant category.

Table 6 – Land Tax Objections

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	2	11	0	0
2008-09	2	23	1	0
2009-10	6	31	1	0
2010-11	6	30	3	0
2011-12	6	51	1	0
2012-13	5	60	2	0
2013-14	10	92	7	0
2014-15	14	130	3	0
2015-16	13	148	1	0
2016-17	13	111	3	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	6	65	0	121

Table 7 shows the number of Payroll Tax objections lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, and (d) outstanding. There are no numbers for (e) any other relevant category.

Table 7 – Payroll Tax Objections

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	7	14	0	0
2008-09	5	10	0	0
2009-10	3	15	1	0
2010-11	15	27	0	0
2011-12	0	23	3	0
2012-13	3	20	0	0
2013-14	1	6	9	0
2014-15	4	19	0	0
2015-16	4	22	2	0
2016-17	6	16	10	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	6	0	5

Table 8 shows the number of Rates objections lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, and (d) outstanding. There are no numbers for (e) any other relevant category.

Table 8 – Rates Objections

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	1	2	0	0
2008-09	1	1	0	0
2009-10	0	0	0	0
2010-11	0	1	0	0
2011-12	0	0	0	0
2012-13	0	3	1	0
2013-14	2	2	1	0
2014-15	2	4	0	0
2015-16	7	5	0	0
2016-17	3	10	3	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	3	4	0	7

Table 9 shows the number of unimproved value (UV) objections lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, and (d) outstanding. There are no numbers for (e) any other relevant category.

Table 9 – UV Objections

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	16	44	0	0
2008-09	14	66	2	0
2009-10	22	44	3	0
2010-11	25	49	8	0
2011-12	31	47	6	0
2012-13	23	36	1	1*
2013-14	44	77	2	1*
2014-15	33	37	5	1*
2015-16	8	51	1	1*
2016-17	23	49	3	2
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	24	39	2	14

*Objection on hold pending previous years UV appeal.

Table 10 shows the number of Land Rent objections lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) disallowed, (c) withdrawn, and (d) outstanding. There are no numbers for (e) any other relevant category.

Table 10 – Land Rent Objections*

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Disallowed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2008-09	0	0	0	0
2009-10	0	0	0	0
2010-11	0	0	0	0
2011-12	1	2	0	0
2012-13	1	0	1	0
2013-14	2	3	0	0
2014-15	0	2	0	0
2015-16	4	3	0	0
2016-17	0	0	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	1	0	0

* The Land Rent Scheme commenced on 1 July 2008.

(3) ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Appeals

Table 11 shows the number of ACAT Duty appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) withdrawn or (e) outstanding.

Table 11 – ACAT Duty Appeals

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	0	1	0	1	0
2008-09	0	1	0	0	0
2009-10	0	0	2	1	0
2010-11	2	0	8	6	0
2011-12	1	1	1	0	0
2012-13	1	0	3	0	0
2013-14	0	1	2	1	0
2014-15	0	2	0	0	0
2015-16	0	0	1	0	0
2016-17	0	1	2	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	0	1	0	0

Table 12 shows the number of ACAT First Home Owner Grant (FHOG) appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) withdrawn or (e) outstanding.

Table 12 – ACAT FHOG Appeals

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	0	2	4	0	0
2008-09	0	1	0	1	0
2009-10	0	1	1	1	0
2010-11	0	0	2	0	0
2011-12	0	1	2	0	0

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2012-13	0	0	1	0	0
2013-14	1	0	0	0	0
2014-15	0	2	2	0	0
2015-16	0	0	1	1	0
2016-17	0	0	2	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	0	0	0	0

Table 13 shows the number of ACAT Home Buyer Concession appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) withdrawn or (e) outstanding.

Table 13 – ACAT Home Buyer Concession Appeals

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Set Aside
2007-08	0	0	0	0	0
2008-09	0	1	0	0	0
2009-10	1	0	1	1	1
2010-11	0	0	0	1	0
2011-12	0	0	2	0	0
2012-13	0	1	2	0	0
2013-14	2	0	1	0	0
2014-15	0	0	1	1	0
2015-16	0	0	0	1	0
2016-17	0	1	0	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	0	0	0	0

Table 14 shows the number of ACAT Land Tax appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) withdrawn or (e) outstanding.

Table 14 – ACAT Land Tax Appeals

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	0	0	0	0	0
2008-09	0	2	1	1	0
2009-10	2	0	0	0	0
2010-11	0	2	0	2	0
2011-12	5	0	8	2	0
2012-13	1	0	5	0	0
2013-14	1	0	0	2	0
2014-15	3	10	7	1	0
2015-16	2	0	4	2	0
2016-17	1	3	3	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	0	0	0	2

Table 15 shows the number of ACAT Payroll Tax appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) withdrawn or (e) outstanding.

Table 15 – ACAT Payroll Tax Appeals

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	1	1	1	0	0
2008-09	1	0	0	2	0
2009-10	0	0	0	0	0
2010-11	6	0	0	2	0
2011-12	2	4	16	7	0
2012-13	1	0	1	2	0
2013-14	0	0	2	5	0
2014-15	3	1	1	2	0
2015-16	0	3	0	0	0
2016-17	0	2	0	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	0	0	0	4

Table 16 shows the number of ACAT Rates appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) withdrawn or (e) outstanding.

Table 16 – ACAT Rates Appeals

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	0	0	0	0	0
2008-09	0	0	1	0	0
2009-10	0	0	1	0	0
2010-11	0	1	0	0	0
2011-12	0	0	0	0	0
2012-13	0	0	0	0	0
2013-14	0	0	0	0	0
2014-15	0	1	0	1	0
2015-16	0	0	0	0	0
2016-17	0	0	1	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	0	0	0	0

Table 17 shows the number of ACAT unimproved value (UV) appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) withdrawn or (e) outstanding.

Table 17 – ACAT UV Appeals

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2007-08	1	3	0	0	0
2008-09	0	2	0	1	0
2009-10	2	4	1	3	0
2010-11	3	3	1	3	0
2011-12	1	2	0	1	0
2012-13	2	4	2	1	0
2013-14	1	12	3	8	0
2014-15	0	12	3	5	1
2015-16	3	1	1	2	0
2016-17	1	1	2	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	3	3	0	3*

*Includes one Lease Variation Charge appeal.

Table 18 shows the number of ACAT Land Rent appeals lodged in each financial year referred to in Part 1 that were (a) allowed or part allowed, (b) settled, (c) dismissed, (d) withdrawn or (e) outstanding.

Table 18 – ACAT Land Rent* Appeals

Year	Allowed or Part Allowed	Settled	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Outstanding
2008-09	0	0	0	0	0
2009-10	0	0	0	0	0
2010-11	0	0	0	0	0
2011-12	0	0	0	0	0
2012-13	0	0	0	0	0
2013-14	0	0	0	0	0
2014-15	0	0	1	0	0
2015-16	0	0	0	0	0
2016-17	0	0	0	0	0
2017-18 (to 26/3/2018)	0	0	1	0	0

*The Land Rent Scheme commenced on 1 July 2008.

Questions without notice taken on notice

National Multicultural Festival—consultation

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question by Mrs Kikkert on Tuesday, 13 February 2018*):

- 1) I took on notice to provide details of the community groups represented in the National Multicultural Festival Showcase Coordinators Group (SCG). The SCG consists of representatives from the following groups:

- Celtic Tattoo
- Indigenous Showcase
- Federation of Chinese Community of Canberra
- Pacific Island Showcase
- Belly Dancing Showcase
- Greek Glendi
- African Village
- Latin Quarter
- Chinese AusFeng
- India in the City.

The Parade Organiser is also a member of the SCG. Volunteering and Contact ACT also attend some meetings of the SCG.

- 2) Every year the organisers of the National Multicultural Festival (NMF) seek feedback during and following the festival from a range of sources to ensure that the NMF continues to improve and evolve.

Following the 2018 NMF feedback has been sought from all stakeholders including festival goers, stallholders, community organisations, showcase coordinators and ACT Government agencies.

This feedback is being collected through a range of methods including formal surveys, face to face debrief sessions, emails and phone calls from attendees and staff reports on the event. Specifically:

- a survey facilitated by IER to gather feedback from across the Canberra population to provide information on attendee satisfaction and suggestions for improvement;
- a survey of all stakeholders, including stallholders and those involved in the Event Control Centre operations;
- face to face debrief sessions with contractors, CAT Government partners and showcase coordinators.

Volunteering and Contact ACT, who coordinate the many volunteers who supported the Festival, has also produced an evaluation report that will inform future volunteer engagement.

All of this feedback is now being utilised as part of the 2018 review process to shape the policies and procedures for the 2019 festival.

The participation policy will be updated accordingly for the 2019 festival and will be sent to all stakeholder groups for comment prior to publishing. This process will take place in mid-2018 and the final participation policy will be published at the time applications open for stallholders.

Crime—robbery

Mr Gentleman (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Thursday, 15 February 2018*):

I am advised that ACT Policing records show that the number of incidents reported to Police are less than the number claimed in the question.

Notwithstanding, I can advise that between 1 January 2017 and 28 February 2018, seven offenders have been arrested and charged, with investigations ongoing for other matters.

The Government takes crime seriously and will continue to work with ACT Policing.

*Data sourced from PROMIS

Crime—motorcycle gangs

Mr Gentleman (*in reply to a question by Mr Hanson on Tuesday, 20 February 2018*):

As at 6 April 2018, my advice is that there is no intelligence to suggest another criminal gang is establishing a chapter within the ACT.

The criminal gang's environment can be highly dynamic, with individual members or even entire chapters changing allegiances and joining other criminal gangs at short notice.

ACT Policing actively targets the criminal activities of any criminal gangs, and their members, who are based in Canberra or who come to the ACT with the intention of conducting or planning criminal activity.

ACT Policing works closely with state and territory police sharing intelligence and working together to combat this crime type.

The ACT is not immune to the presence of criminal gangs. ACT Policing actively monitors the activities of criminal gangs formally established in the ACT as well as individuals linked to criminal gangs interstate.

Education—enrolment projections

Ms Berry (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lee on Tuesday, 20 March 2018*):

The information used was consistent with sources listed in QON 895.

Projections are prepared as a part of advice to the government are not “reports”. These documents are internal working documents prepared by the Directorate for the purpose of advising the Minister and Cabinet about matters relevant to school infrastructure investment.

Health—contraception

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question by Ms Le Couteur on Tuesday, 20 March 2018*):

The approximate wait time for this procedure in the public system is currently three months.

Land—Dickson purchase

Mr Barr (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Tuesday, 20 March 2018*):

I have asked the relevant Directorate to check the record, which it has done.

I was not advised of the Economic Development Directorate's intention to purchase, on behalf of the Government, Block 6 Section 72 in Dickson.

The Government Procurement Act does not require government Minister's to be informed of the transaction during its procurement stage.

I was notified of the purchase, appropriately, once the delegate had approved the transaction.

Land—Winslade purchase

Mr Barr (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Wednesday, 21 March 2018*):

No, the Land Development Agency's (LDA) land acquisitions for the 2016-17 financial year did not exceed the cap.

In the longer term, the land could be utilised for urban land development, open space, infrastructure corridors and roads, and areas of future environmental offset.

Health—cancer patients

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Thursday, 22 March 2018*):

1. Support provided by other jurisdictions varies greatly and is determined by individual state and territory government policy.
2. The ACT Government continues to expand on existing ACT Health services and funding for non-government and community agencies. The support provided to people living with cancer and their families includes screening, timely diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, psychosocial services, accommodation, carer and family support.

In the 2017-18 Budget the ACT Government has funded the refurbishment and expansion of the inpatient facilities within Canberra Hospital and Health Services for cancer.

Roads—Ashley Drive

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Thursday, 22 March 2018*):

The Ashley Drive Duplication project required the relocation of approx 800 metres of ActewAGL/Gemena gas line, approx 400 metres of Icon Water main and 150 metres of ActewAGL High Voltage line.

Health—cancer patients

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mrs Kikkert on Thursday, 22 March 2018*):

ACT Health provides a range of supports to people of the ACT who have been diagnosed with cancer or other serious chronic conditions. The choice to seek diagnosis and treatments within the public/private or a combination of both will impact on the out of pocket expenses an individual will experience.

ACT Health provides medical, nursing and allied health services free of charge in the acute and community sector. This includes no cost to the individual for dressings, physiotherapy, nutrition, speech and occupational therapy. There is also free parking at hospitals and care close to home where appropriate.

The co-payment for medications affects patients with a variety of serious and chronic conditions, including but not limited to cancer, and is experienced across all jurisdictions in Australia.

As an outpatient or at a community pharmacy the fees charged for pharmaceuticals are in accordance with the standards set for all pharmaceuticals under the Pharmaceutical Scheme (PBS). The Commonwealth Government sets a price that they assess is fair for patients to contribute to pharmaceutical treatment and an overall cap for the year. The co-payment is currently set at \$38.80 for a general patient and \$6.30 for a concessional patient.

To ensure affordability, the PBS enacts a safety net. The safety net threshold is \$378 for concession card holders and \$1,494.90 for all other patients. After reaching the safety net threshold, general patients pay for further PBS prescriptions at the concessional co-payment rate, and concession card holders are dispensed PBS prescriptions at no further charge for the remainder of that calendar year.

Co-payments for chemotherapy contribute to the calculations of eligibility for the PBS Safety Net. After patients reach the Safety Net threshold, their co-payment contributions are reduced, meaning that a general patient moves to the concessional rate and those who start on the concessional rate do not have to make a co-payment.

ACT Government funds a range of non-government organisations and support groups that provide support to patients and their families and assist with financial aid, group support, information and experiences.

Planning—O'Malley

Mr Gentleman (*in reply to a question by Mr Hanson on Thursday, 22 March 2018*):

The Government has placed the release on hold to undertake further investigation into the issues raised by the community, particularly in relation to the potential parking impacts. The website has been updated to reflect this.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will ensure that the community has an opportunity to provide input into further investigations and to comment on draft reports.

Public housing is not a permissible use under the zoning on the site. In 2012 Territory Plan Variation (TPV) 302 (which included public consultation as part of the process of the TPV), saw a further restriction added to the O'Malley Precinct Code which prohibits the development of residential aged care and supportive housing.

The site has been zoned for community uses for a number of years and given the growth in this area, it was considered appropriate timing to provide a community facility as planned. The site was identified for release in the 2017-18 to 2020-21 Indicative Land Release Program (published in June 2017).

The release is now on hold until further investigation.

Light rail—local employment

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question by Mr Wall on Thursday, 22 March 2018*):

- The ACT Government is not privy to the length of time individual workers on the light rail project have lived in Canberra.
- The ACT Government does not have details of the exact employment arrangements between Canberra Metro and its employees with regard to whether there are fly-in, fly-out arrangements or not. However, it is highly likely that some employees commute from other major metropolitan centres.
- To date 78% of workforce during the construction phase is from Canberra and the surrounding region.